



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield



November 2020

21434 East Hardy Road
Houston, Texas 77073



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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!" (Ps. 105:1; 106:1; 107:1; 118:1, 29) Notice how in four Psalms the Psalmist rejoices and gives thanks to the Lord and in Psalm 118 he does so at the beginning and the end of the Psalm. Perhaps we were raised using one of these verses as our after dinner, returning thanks prayer. Indeed, it is good to give thanks to the Lord.

Yet, how often do we think about the words we speak of thanks following our meal? How often do we actually give thanks in our prayers? Some have given the model for prayer as "ACTS" meaning Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving and Salutation. Some have suggested that our prayers should be filled with more words of thanks than petitions for blessings, and yet, as we think about our own prayers, how much of our prayers are asking and how much are giving thanks? Of course, we are reminded in the explanation to the Second Commandment, "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God." "What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and *give thanks*." Indeed, God rejoices when we call upon His name especially in times of trouble, but even when we give thanks.

As we celebrate the secular or social holiday of Thanksgiving this year, Nov. 26, perhaps, as Christians even more so we might set aside a bit of time to actually give thanks, to think about and name the many gifts and blessings our Lord has given. From time to time our family has taken the time before our meal to go around and name one, two or three blessings for which we are thankful. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication *with thanksgiving* let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

Even in times of struggles, in difficult times, in times of disaster, natural or manmade, there is always a reason to give thanks. God is good. God is love. God is gracious, compassionate and merciful. How can we not, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good and His mercy does endure forever.

God's richest blessings.
In His Service,

Pastor Bogs
1 Cor. 15:3-5

Don't forget, if you miss a Sunday, you can read the sermon on my blog:
<http://rabswritings.blogspot.com>.

Happy Birthday to You!



11-06 Kenneth Lilley
 11-11 Don Cornman & Carine Pierce
 11-13 Claire O'Garro
 11-15 Rose Goebel & Holly Williamson
 11-19 Patsy Hodges & Jim Holland
 11-23 Nathan Cross
 11-26 Chad Lilley
 11-27 John Lisius
 11-30 Jane McElroy

Baptismal Birthdays

11-11 Mackenzie Gentes
 11-14 Ali Lowitzer
 11-19 Charles Baumgartner
 11-21 Gary Lawrence
 11-24 Carol Gentes

11-25 Caroline Christy
 11-29 Patsy Hodges



Confirmation Anniversaries



11-20 Louise Simmons
 11-21 Scott & Sylvia Christy & Ashley Massuda
 11-23 Jeanne Langley

Wedding Anniversaries

11-01 Marilyn & Paul Kron 51 years
 11-05 Isdell & Olivia Birnbaum 9 Years
 11-13 Don & Jennifer Cornman 27 Years



Holy Days and Holidays in November

November 1st - All Saints' Day

November 3rd - Election Day

November 10th - Martin Luther's Birthday (1483)

November 11th - Veterans Day

November 22nd - Last Sunday of The Church Year

November 26th - Thanksgiving Day

November 30th - St. Andrew, Apostle

From the Board of Elders

On November 15, St Matthew will hold its annual Congregation Assembly Meeting immediately following Divine Service. The Elders strongly encourage your attendance and participation at the meeting as we will be discussing the 2021 budgets and nominations of new members to the various boards. 2020 has been unlike any year we've experienced in the past with the COVID virus affecting virtually everyone and everything. It has significantly impacted the financial resources of our church.

The BOARD OF ELDERS will be presenting two different budgets, a 6-month and a 12-month. We are recommending passing the 6-month budget so we can reevaluate and make adjustments (if warranted) at mid-year based on church tithes. PLEASE NOTE.....this recommended budget is one time only for year 2021.

If you have any questions or concerns please see any one of the elders.....Jason Christy (chairman), Scott Christy, Curtis Gace, Steve Roberts, Jarod Christy, Sonny French or David Honerkamp.

Jason Christy
Chairman, Board of Elders



Office of the President
The Reverend Doctor Matthew C. Harrison
President of the Synod

All Saints Day, A.D., 2020
November 1, 2020

Dr. Ronald Bogs
Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield
21434 E Hardy Road
Houston, Texas 77073-2200

Dear Members of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield,

God is faithful. As He promised, God has blessed His Word! It has not returned to Him empty but has gathered by the Holy Spirit's power a congregation of forgiven sinners at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield for 120 years. Today and always your congregation joins in raising a mighty song of praise and thanks to Him for His faithfulness.

From Easter evening, the Church has prayed: "Abide with us, Lord." And abide He has. He has made His dwelling among you as He washed away your sins in the waters of Holy Baptism. He has made His dwelling among you as His saving Words sounded forth and were heard, rejoiced in, and treasured. He has made His dwelling among you as He has caused his Gospel to be preached to you in order to nurture and strengthen your faith. He has made His dwelling among you as His holy absolution wiped out your sin and His body and blood imparted to you a share in His own divine life. "Abide with us, Lord" the Church prays, and the Lord of the Church answers: "I have and I will."

Whenever an anniversary rolls around, it provides a wonderful opportunity to look back and offer thanks for the blessings that God so richly bestows on and through His Church. As you think back on the history of your congregation, you will be able to thank the Lord not only for the blessings all churches share in common of His abiding presence, but also for the unique blessings of your own parish family. God never does the same thing twice, and so no congregation is ever exactly the same. Just like each of you is a unique child of God, so each congregation witnesses to God's grace in the way that only it can.

Know, beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, that your fellow members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod celebrate this anniversary with you, joining you in giving thanks to the Lord of the Church for your community of faith and asking with you His great blessing upon Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield in the days to come.

In Jesus, our living and reigning Lord,

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



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5

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	2	3	4 10am – Bible Class 5:30pm – Confirmation Class 7pm – Evening Bible Class	5 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	6 Church Office Closed	7
8 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	9	10	11 10am – Bible Class 5:30pm – Confirmation Class 7pm – Evening Bible Class	12 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	13 Church Office Closed	14 8am – Men's Brkfst 10am - Elder's Mtg
15 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	16	17	18 10am – Bible Class 5:30pm – Confirmation Class 7pm – Evening Bible Class	19 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	20 Church Office Closed	21
22 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	23	24	25 10am - Bulletin Cutoff 10am – Bible Class	26 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28
29 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	30					