

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield*

Messenger

November

2022

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Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we come to the close of another Church Year's readings, the new Church Year beginning the last Sunday in November (27) remind us of the temporariness of our world and our time here on this earth. From Genesis One we learn that the very first thing God created was time. Because God is eternal and outside of time, He created time for us. In the beginning God created light, and He separated the light from the darkness. And the light He called day, and the darkness He called night. We are told there was evening and morning, the very first day (Gen. 1:3-5), a twenty-four hour day for those of us He would create on the sixth day so that we would have time for work, play and rest. We can be assured that the day God created was a twenty-four hour day because it was not until the fourth day that God created the Sun, the moon, the stars and the planets, and He put them into the time-frame He created on the first day, that is a twenty-four hour time cycle (Gen. 1:14-19).

God's love can also be seen in the fact that our Galaxy and our Earth are the center of His creation, and our earth is the only planet in the universe which is capable of sustaining life, the life God created on the other days of creation including plants, animals and humans (Gen. 1:20-28). What a great loving God we have!

Of course, when God created the world, He already knew what was going to happen. Adam and Eve would sin, God would have to step in, that is He would have to enter His creation as a human in order to reconcile the sin of His creation, and yet His love is seen in that He created the world and us anyway (Gen. 3:15).

God's creation was intended from the beginning to be an eternal creation, but with sin and the curse, that perfect creation now would experience a time of termination at least in the cursed earthly realm. Thanks be to God that His desire to give us an eternal life did not cease. Thus, although our lives in this world are temporary and are actually very short, the blink of an eye, our real life in heaven is forever, and ever, without end, living with God in His eternal presence.

Thus, as we approach the end of our Church Year we are reminded once again of the temporariness of our time in this world and that the most important part of our lives in this world is being prepared for our time in heaven. The reading we hear are readings which remind us of the importance of always being ready to meet the Lord because it will happen, either at His return or at our own passing. Either way we will meet the Lord and that moment will be sooner than we know and sooner than we might imagine. So we are encouraged to take our

eyes off the mundane and unimportant things of this world, while certainly not neglecting what we need to do while living in this world, but most importantly we are to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and creator of our faith (Heb. 12:2). In other words, we are encourage to not spend so much time being about the business of this world, which most of our time is just busyness, and instead spend our time being about the Lord's business, being in Divine Service and Bible class, reading God's Word and having personal and family devotions, and always being ready to give an answer for the hope that we having in Jesus (1 Pet. 3:15).

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>.

Church Planting, the Confessional Lutheran Way

Last month in September the Texas Confessional Lutherans met for our Free Conference which is offered every year the second Friday and Saturday of September at Grace Lutheran Church, Brenham, TX. This year our conference theme was Church Planting. The purpose for the conference this year was to expose the misdirection and non-theological moorings of some church plants which are happening and to give a solid confessional doctrinal pinning for church planting.

Back in the 1980s the Lutheran Church and the Texas District bought into the Chuck and Win Arn Institute for American Church Growth program which was not taken from any Biblical perspective or doctrinal stance, but came from a sociological understanding of how to grow a church. Unfortunately, because of the lack of any theological or doctrinal underpinnings, what was grown was a social club. The main problem with the "church growth" movement was that it intended to grow a church without using the means with which God has given His Church to grow, the Means of Grace. Although the Word was included in the Arn program the Sacraments (Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution and the Holy Supper) were excluded because they are not agreed upon by all denominations. The new means of grace was people. The rule of the movement was "build it and they will come" or "give the people what they want, their felt needs." Thus, the importance of Confession and Absolution were set aside for one's own feelings and emotions.

As of recent times, a new movement referred to as "missional" or "glocal" and "church planting" has as its underpinnings a business model, again with no regard for theology or doctrine. There are those who would also espouse the APEST (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds (Pastors), Teachers) model attempting to initiate new offices into the Church, other than the one Office of Holy Ministry. In these models the pastors are seen as the ones who get in the way of growing the church.

From doctrine to practice (mamma always said, "practice what you preach") a Confessional Lutheran approach to church planting consists of Colonizing or Pioneering. Colonizing starts with a local congregation sending a group of people to begin a new congregation. Pioneering starts from scratch and is usually at a further distance from the providing congregation.

Here at St. Matthew we have a more unique opportunity, that of a Cross-Cultural planting. There are three options with such an opportunity.

1. Nesting, when two or more ethnic congregations share a facility. One owns the other nests.
2. Umbrella, the multiethnic church is similar to the "nesting" plant except the pastoral leadership and administration duties are housed under one umbrella.
3. Multiethnic, one church represented by those in which the various ethnicities are a part of every aspect of the congregation.

When we called Pastor Mendez as our Associate Pastor for Hispanic Ministries, we were not completely sure of what direction we needed to go, but we knew we had an opportunity here in this place to spread the Gospel to those who may not have heard the Good News. After several years, after several English as Second Language (ESL) classes, and after surviving a pandemic, we believe we now know the direction we should take. Pastor Bogs and Pastor Mendez, in consultation with the elders, believe we should pursue the nesting approach, that is, working to bring in those who have been through the ESL classes, as well, as Adult Instruction in the teachings of the Lutheran Church, into our congregation by beginning with a Spanish Service, until as such time they may be fully integrated into our English Service.

Is this the best approach? Is there a better approach? What might be the result? We do not know. Just as we did not know which was best at the start but began in faith to do something, so now we believe it is time to continue moving forward doing whatever we can to be about the business God has put us here to do, spreading the Good News of salvation for all who believe. We will do the seed planting and watering, and God will give the harvest. As we continue to reach out to the community sharing the Gospel, please keep the endeavor in your prayers so that God's Church may grow according to His will and be encouraged to be an active part of this incredible mission of St. Matthew.

Peace and Grace from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ ~ Pastor Mendez

I'm so excited to announce that we are planning to have two services in Spanish for the E.S.L Class. We would like to have a Thanksgiving service on Friday, November 18th and Christmas Service on Friday, December 16th in Spanish. We are planning on having regularly scheduled Spanish speaking Divine Services beginning in January of 2023 for our E.S.L community.

Yes we know that we are going to have some challenges but I trust in the Lord, please keep us in your daily prayers to see what God is going to do in His Church St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield. And how we can serve God and our Community, in Fellowship, Love, and Kindness.


We have been working since Feb 2018 with the E.S.L Group sharing the Good News of Christ for Salvation, and it is also a great blessing to have our Brothers and Sisters in Christ that lovingly are willing to participate in this opportunity to work together with the E.S.L. So keep us in your prayers and let us see what the Lord is going to do in His Church to bring more people into His Kingdom.

Help for Hurricane Ian Victims

Pastor Bogs & Gayle would like to give our church family the opportunity to help another church be able to share Christ's love to their community. Pastor & Gayle attended Faith Lutheran in Dunedin while in Florida after Pastor's Doxology Retreat, and that congregation is collecting gift cards for the victims of Hurricane Ian. The devastation just south of Tampa where they are reminds us of when our community was in need after Hurricane Ike and Harvey. A church up north sent us gift cards to help our community then, and we would like to do the same for Florida. If you would like to be a part of this opportunity to give, please bring gift cards to Walmart, Home Depot, Lowes, or Target and place in the basket in the narthex. **We will collect through November 13 so that we can get these cards to them by the holidays.** Thank you for sharing Christ's love!



November 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ Jarod Christy & Jason Christy Greeters ~ Sonny & Joyce French Ushers ~ Luke Tusing & Jordan Christy Counter ~ Altar Guild ~ Tiffany Cowger & Becky Reyes Acolytes ~ AJ Parsalaw, Aaron Montemayor, Ruby Montemayor, Heston Reed, Kaitlyn Christie & Logan Reed</p>						
		1	2	3	4	5
		7 pm ESL classes	10am Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation class 6:30pm & 7 pm Evening Bible Class	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Kenneth Lilley!		7 pm ESL classes	10am Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm & 7pm Evening Bible Class	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Kate McIlhany!	Office Closed Happy Birthday Don Cornman, Carine Pierce & Nadine Reed!	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Claire O'Garro!		7 pm ESL classes Happy Birthday Rose Goebel & Holly Williamson!	10am Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm & 7pm Evening Bible Class	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class	Office Closed 7:30pm ESL Thanksgiving Service	Happy Birthday Patsy Hodges!
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!! Happy Birthday Rose Jackson!	7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 10 am Newsletter Deadline 12:00 Service 5:30 Confirmation Class 7:30pm service w/Lord's Supper Happy Birthday Nathan Cross!		Office Closed	9 am Prism Meeting Happy Birthday Chad Lilley & Sharon Schubert!
27	28	29	30	Dec. 1	2	3
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday John Lisius!		7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 12:00 Service 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Dinner 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm worship Happy Birthday Jane McElroy!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class	Office Closed	

Holy Days & Holidays in November

November 1st All Saints' Day
November 11th Veterans Day
November 25th Thanksgiving Day
November 27th Advent Begins
November 30th St. Andrew, Apostle

Happy Birthday to You!

November 6th Kenneth Lilley
November 10th Kate McIlhany
November 11th Don Cornman
November 11th Carine Pierce
November 11th Nadine Reed
November 13th Claire O'Garro
November 15th Rose Goebel
November 15th Holly Williamson
November 19th Patsy Hodges
November 21st Rose Jackson
November 23rd Nathan Cross
November 26th Chad Lilley
November 26th Sharon Schubert
November 27th John Lisius
November 30th Jane McElroy

Confirmation Anniversaries

November 21st Scott Christy
November 21st Sylvia Christy
November 21st Ashley Massuda
November 23rd Bob Langley
November 23rd Jeanne Langley

Baptismal Birthdays

November 11th Mackenzie Gentes
November 15th Nadine Reed
November 16th Kathleen Montemayor
November 21st Gary Lawrence
November 25th Caroline Christy
November 29th Patsy Hodges

Wedding Anniversaries

November 13th Don & Jennifer Cornman ~ 29 Yrs.
November 29th Werner & Karen Hartl ~ 35 Yrs.



Opportunities to Study God's Word

Sunday School for All Ages

Preschool - Elementary Classes begin at 8:45 am in **Room #5**. The children are learning Biblical accounts from the Growing in Christ series. **The Sr. & Jr. High School class** is led by Pastor Mendez in **Room #3** which is now studying "For You" to prepare for their trip to Higher Things Youth Gathering.



Sunday Adult Bible Classes

All members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church are invited for coffee and donuts at 8:30 am each Sunday at 8:30 am. Then our Bible Classes begin at 8:45 am. *The Pentetuch* led by Pastor Bogs meets in the **Room #2**. And *Galatians* led by Larry Harvey meets in **Room #4**. Please join us. Bring a friend!

Wednesday Mornings

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group will be meeting at **10:00 am in Room #2**. We invite everyone who is available to join us to study God's Word. We are studying the "What about" series. They can be downloaded at: <https://resources.lcms.org/reading-study/what-about-pamphlets/>



Wednesday Evenings

There are two Wednesday evening Bible Classes. The study on *Word & Sacrament* led by Larry Harvey meets at **6:30 pm in Room #4**. The study on *Psalms* led by Pastor meets at **7:00 pm in Room #2**.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

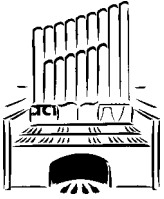
Join us for the Men's Breakfast and Bible study on the 2nd Saturday of the month, November 12th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.



PRISM – Precious Rubies In St Matthew

PRISM is going to meet on November 26th at 9 a.m. Ladies of all ages are invited to enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and Bible study. We will be diving into "Living a Chocolate Life" by Deb Burma. "Living a Chocolate Life" invites women to savor God's rich and endless supply of grace in Christ.

St. Matthew News!



Organ Music Operators Needed

Due to the extended absence of Michael Held we are in need of volunteers to play the computerized program which is playing our organ during Divine Service. No special skills are needed, just plug and play. If you are interested, please see Dave Cowger or Gayle Bogs for further information.

Helping Hands Fund

Our Helping Hands Fund is designated to help members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield and from time to time we do have members who have a need for some financial assistance. Because God reminds us that we help those in need when we are able so that others might help us when we are in need (2 Cor. 8:13-15), if you are so moved, the Helping Hands fund could use any donations you wish to give. Please mark your offering as "Helping Hands Fund."



ESL Classes

ESL classes are resuming on Tuesday, August 16th. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm here at St. Matthew. Pray for this mission that God will bless it to continue strongly in reaching out to our community not only teaching English but also sharing the Gospel of the Lord. If you need more information, please see Pastor Mendez.

ENGLISH
as a
SECOND LANGUAGE



LED Light Improvement Fund

A fund for a gradual upgrade of all building lights to LEDs exists to help reduce our utility cost in the future. Any dedicated donations towards this fund please specify "LED Light Improvement Fund." Each light cost about \$80. Please consider "adopting" a light or two.

**Let Us
Know!**

If there is anything that you think you or your fellow parishioners would like to see in our monthly newsletter please email the church secretary at office.smlcw@gmail.com. Thank you!