

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield



December 2020

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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have ended our Church Year and began another, and so the time of our lives in this world moves steadily forward with the reminder that our lives in this world are transient, here today and gone tomorrow. The Church Year calendar reminds us that God created time for us. It was not until the fourth day when God created the Sun, moon and stars, and when He created them He set them, into the predetermined time frame that He created on day one, evening and morning.

At the end of the Church Year we are reminded that this world is transient and our time in this world is short compared to our real lives of forever in heaven. We are reminded of our need to be ready to meet our Maker, to stand before God because we do not know the day nor the hour of His second coming. And we are reminded, that even if the Lord does not return while we are still alive, we will return to Him at our passing. Either way we will stand before the Lord, and we are to be ready because that day will come sooner than we know and sooner than we might imagine.

Here at the beginning of the Church Year we are reminded to get ready to celebrate Jesus first coming as a baby in Bethlehem, as a human being, as God in flesh. Jesus was true God begotten of the Father, and He had to be true God in order to be born in perfection. And Jesus was true man, born of the human woman, the Virgin Mary. He had to be truly human in order to be our substitute, to live for us perfectly in our place, to take our sins and suffer the eternal punishment of hell for us in our place, and to die and rise again, defeating sin, death and the devil.

The end of one Church Year and the beginning of another also reminds us that everything we have in this world in one way or another has its beginning in our good and gracious Lord. What we are born with and what we take with us is truly ours, meaning nothing. From the parable of the talents we are then reminded that God's desire is that we use the gifts, talents and abilities He has given to us, through our vocations, to serve Him by serving others. In so using our talents we are acknowledging that the Lord is the Giver and that we trust He will continue to give to us. And so, we serve Him best by serving others.

As we celebrate, once again, the gift of the Christ-child, God in flesh, we celebrate God's greatest gifts, faith, forgiveness, life and salvation. And we rejoice and say, "To God be the glory, for Jesus' sake."

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!

12-06 Richard LaShomb & Gloria Meyer
 12-08 Rick Arimond & Jack Lutsch
 12-10 Jami Gause
 12-11 Christina Cross
 12-12 Pastor Bogs & Lester Sentesi
 12-14 Junah Arimond
 12-16 Olivia Getschmann



12-20 Marcia Carr & Sharon Gace
 12-21 Louise Simmons
 12-25 Joel Musgrove
 12-26 Luke Tusing, Jr.
 12-29 Jim Gibbs

Baptismal Birthdays

12-01 Jami Gause & Joe Michka
 12-03 Nancy Baeza
 12-05 Holly Williamson
 12-09 Shirley Kuhlman & Shirley Michka
 12-10 John Lisius
 12-13 Sylvia Christy
 12-15 Bill Pali

12-16 Kenneth Lilley
 12-19 Jim Holland
 12-20 Marcia Carr
 12-22 Ashley Christy
 12-24 Chad Lilley & Jane McElroy
 12-25 Pastor Bogs, Rebecca Mendez, & Lester Sentesi
 12-28 Justin LaShomb & Sharol Aikman



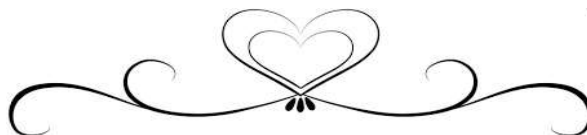
Confirmation Anniversaries



12-06 Patsy Hodges
 12-17 Joe Michka
 12-19 Jim Holland
 12-22 Rick Arimond, Charles Baumgartner, & Jessica LaShomb
 12-23 Bob Langley
 12-30 Isabell Pali & Phillip Williamson

Wedding Anniversaries

12-02 David & Kristyn Christie 14 Years
 12-10 David & Tiffany Cowger 17 years
 12-17 Gary & Virginia Lawrence 39 Years
 12-29 Jim & Mary Gibbs 30 years
 12-31 Arturo & Angie Mendez 13 years



Holy Days and Holidays in December

- December 21st** - St. Thomas, Apostle & Winter Begins
December 24th - The Nativity of our Lord (Christmas Eve)
December 25th - The Nativity of our Lord (Christmas Day)
December 26th - St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
December 27th - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
December 28th - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
December 31st - New Year's Eve (Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus)
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From Pastor Mendez

The Prayer of Faith

¹³Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

How many times we are on trouble? I guess so many times and what it is the right thing to do? Well James tell us about to pray. Pray it is important in times of difficulties, because we received the gifts and blessings from God our Father and strengthen us in time of trouble. It give us the right word in the time of necessity, and comfort our soul and spirit, but we know that, some many people forget about to pray and fail in the sinfulness to trust on themselves, and do whatever they please in his own, unfortunately, that is the first mistake, when we take off God or put it aside of us, we commit sin because we are trusting in ourselves and not in the providence of God's will, so we need to repent and turn to God's Grace upon us, and He will take control over the situation on His Will, but also tell us about the Elders of the Church of God, to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. It is really important to understand the importance of this task and not only to the Elders it is also for the whole body of Christ The whole Church, James tell us the whole Church pray for them in Faith. Pray for for each other.

James is inviting us to pray for each other. To remain in prayer for your brother and sister in Christ when we pray for each other we are knowing that the Lord is Hearing our Prayer and He will do as His own will according to His Purpose. And all things are for Good to God's Glory

So the importance to know that the grace of God alone Upon in us it is Sufficient that means a lot to every believer in Christ. His Grace which is upon us through the Faith in Christ Jesus Alone is the one who makes us secure in the arms of Christ, that Confidence the all believers rest in His arms and Grace it is Sufficient.

This Words of encouragement remember me to the Apostle Paul he was suffering some condition he was sick and he Pray to God for this suffering condition, and His answer was my Grace upon you is Sufficient, so Brother and Sisters of Christ. We need to rest in the Grace Alone upon each of us, and Rejoice in this Grace wich is sufficient to be Happy and Sing praise of Joy to God's Glory Amén !!

Offering

During the continuation of this pandemic you can continue to give by dropping off your offering in the plate as you enter the sanctuary doors, by submitting your offerings online at <https://www.stmatthewlcms.com/giving.html> or sending them in by mail.

Poinsettia Orders



The Altar Guild is taking orders for poinsettias to beautify the altar for the Advent and Christmas season. If you would like to order, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex and place your payment in the envelope provided. Please make sure you indicate "in memory of" or "in honor of" if you wish to designate the flowers in that way. All others will be given to the "glory of God." **The cost is \$8.00 per poinsettia.** Please make checks payable to "St. Matthew." The last day to order will be **DECEMBER 20th**.

Lutheran Hour Ministries



KHCB FM 105.7	Sun	12:30 PM
KKHT FM 100.7	Sun	6:30 PM
KSEV AM 700	Sun	6:30 AM

December 6

"Seek My Face"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We sometimes hear the voice before we see the face that goes with it. Seek God's face where you hear God's Word.
(Daniel)

December 13

"The Prophet's Paradox "

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The prophet Daniel illustrates how to face the facts while never losing faith in how the story ends.
(Daniel: 10, 11 and 12)

December 20

"Experience God "

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We will never fully grasp the idea of God, but that doesn't keep us from experiencing God's love for us in Christ.
(John 1:1-18)

December 27

"Welcome to the Family!"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook

The book of Galatians gives us a glimpse inside the family of God. It describes the Christian family as one that stands firm in Christ's freedom, walks united in the Spirit, and bears one another's burdens in love.
(Galatians 4:4-7)

You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on ...



Offering Envelopes



As we approach the end of the 2020 calendar year, please note that any contributions you wish to have included on your 2020 financial statement **must be received** by December 31, 2020. The computer program we now use for recording contributions automatically rolls over and will not allow me to make new entries for 2020 after the December 31st entry. Furthermore, it is a violation of the law to receive credit on your 2020 statement for any contributions you make in 2021. Finally, I would like to suggest that you discard any unused 2020 envelopes **after the New Year's Eve service**. Almost everyone's envelope number changes each year, and the accidental using of the previous year's envelopes could possibly prevent your receiving proper credit on your financial statement.

- Carolyn McCorquodale

Mailbox Clean Out

It's that time of year again...time to do a little cleaning! Please check you mailboxes in the Ushers room, just off the narthex, and take home any important papers. I will be clearing the boxes the week of December 30th. If you don't want to lose it, please take it with you.



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December 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 10am – Bible Class 12pm – Advent Service 5:30pm – Confirmation Class 7:15pm – Hymn Sing 7:30pm – Advent Service	3 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	4 Church Office Closed	5
6 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	7	8	9 10am – Bible Class 12pm – Advent Service 5:30pm – Confirmation Class 7:15pm – Hymn Sing 7:30pm – Advent Service	10 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	11 Church Office Closed	12 8am – Men's Brkfst 10am - Elder's Mtg
13 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	14	15	16 10am – Bible Class 12pm – Advent Service 5:30pm – Confirmation Class 7:15pm – Hymn Sing 7:30pm – Advent Service	17 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	18 Church Office Closed	19
20 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	21	22	23 10am – Bible Class 12pm – Advent Service 7:15pm – Hymn Sing 7:30pm – Advent Service	24 Christmas Eve 10am - Bulletin Cutoff 6:30pm – Service w/ Lord's Supper	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed 10am – Service w/ Lord's Supper	26
27 8:45am – Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	28	29	30 10am – Bible Class	31 New Year's Eve 10am - Bulletin Cutoff 6:30pm – Service w/ Lord's Supper		