

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield**

Messenger

December
2021

21434 East Hardy Road
Houston, Texas 77073



Church Office
281-443-2304



E-Mail
office@stmatthewlcms.com



Website
www.stmatthewlcms.com



Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

December is probably one of the busiest of months. The church Year season of Advent is in full swing meaning we have extra opportunities to be given the gifts of God on Wednesdays (noon and 7:30pm, with the added benefit of a hymn sing at 7:15pm). People are doing their Christmas shopping. Groups are having Christmas parties, perhaps doing some Christmas caroling. There are

family gatherings, baking extra special treats, decorating houses and trees. Indeed, a lot is happening in the month of December.

With so much happening in December we often rush through the season, either jumping to Christmas and failing to prepare, which is what the season of Advent is all about, and we forget the reason for the season. Advent and Christmas are not about the wrapping, the presents, the decorations. Advent is about getting ready to celebrate. And Christmas is about the One to whom we point to so that we know we are getting it right, Christ. Remember it is Christ-mas.

Let me encourage you, not by seeking to add to your ever so busy schedule, but by exhorting you to stop for a moment, even in the middle of the chaos, to focus your attention on the One whose birth we are preparing and celebrating. As the Psalmist so encourages, "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!" (Psalm 37:7). And "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" (Psalm 46:10). So I would encourage you, take the time to sit and be still and know that God is the Lord.

I would also encourage you to take advantage of the extra opportunities to be given the gifts of God in the extra services. God loves you and He has shown His love in the days we are celebrating. He has given you all things, life at conception, new life through the waters of Holy Baptism, forgiveness of sin through Holy Absolution, His body and blood in His Holy Supper and He has so much more and so many more gifts and blessings He desires to pour out on you. Come and be given the gifts of God, gifts earned for and given to you.

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>

December 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
<i>Those Serving the Lord this Month:</i> Elders ~ Sonny French & B.J. Jackson & David Honerkamp Greeters ~ Lester Sentesi & Shirley Coyle Ushers ~ Dillon Mosier & Cody Williamson Counter ~ Nancy Baeza Altar Guild ~ Hannah Bogs & Becky Mendez Acolytes ~ 12/1-AJ, 12/5 Mack, 12/8-Kaitlyn, 12/12-Alex, 12/15-AJ, 12/19-Kaitlyn, 12/24-Lily, 12/25-Noah, 12/26-Aaron M, 12/31-Aaron B			10am Corinthians Bible Class 12pm Service of Prayer & Preaching 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Carry-In Dinner 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Evening Prayer	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service		7pm ESL Classes	10am Corinthians Bible Class 12pm Service of Prayer & Preaching 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Carry-In Dinner 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Evening Prayer	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service 4pm Pastor Bogs Open House		7pm ESL Classes	10am Corinthians Bible Class 12pm Service of Prayer & Preaching 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Carry-In Dinner 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Evening Prayer	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed 7pm Youth Lock-In	10am Youth Caroling 10 am Trustee Meeting
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service 11:45am Christmas Around the World Carry-In Dinner 1:00pm Christmas Program			10am Corinthians Bible Class	10am Bulletin Deadline	Christmas Eve Office Closed 6:30pm Candlelight Divine Service	Christmas Day 10am Divine Service
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service			10am Corinthians Bible Class	10am Bulletin Deadline	New Year's Eve Office Closed 6:30pm Divine Service	

Holy Days & Holidays in December

December 21 - St. Thomas, Apostle

December 21 - Winter Begins

December 24 - The Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Eve

December 25 - The Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Day

December 26 - St. Stephen, Martyr

December 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

December 28 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

December 31 - The Eve of the Circumcision and Naming of Jesus

December 31 - New Year's Eve

All Is Bright! A Concordia Christmas

Monday, December 20, 10:00 pm on PBS

The annual Christmas concert tradition at Concordia University Irvine returns to the Segerstrom Concert Hall. CUI's critically acclaimed choirs, handbells and orchestra will share glad tidings of great joy: Christ was born to save! Under the theme "Repeat the Sounding Joy!" this year's concert showcases more than 200 performers from eight vocal and instrumental ensembles under the direction of Dr. Michael Busch and **Dr. Jeff Held, son of our own organist, Michael and Jeanne Held.**

The celebration continues with a new made-for-TV episode of "A Concordia Christmas," which will be filmed for PBS in CUI's Borland-Manske Center and air during the week of Christmas. The special combines concert footage from the Christmas concert at Segerstrom Concert Hall with additional numbers recorded especially for TV. According to our Local PBS website, "All Is Bright! A Concordia Christmas" will air Monday, December 20, 10:00 pm on PBS KUHT Channel 8.

Thank You

The Bogs Family and especially Hannah would like to thank all those who have supported her through her American Heritage Girls Stars and Stripes Project of our Memory Garden out front of the church and also for coming and celebrating with her as she received her Stars & Stripes Award. Your encouragement was greatly appreciated!

Also thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the Reformation Festival especially Tiffany and Dave Cowger and the S.M.A.R.T. Youth Group. We all had so much fun and wonderful full tummies!! God bless!

Trustees' Report

LED Light Improvement Fund

There is also a fund for a gradual upgrade of all building lights to LEDs to help in reducing our utility cost in the future. Any dedicated donations towards this fund please specify "LED Light Improvement Fund."

Happy Birthday to You!

12-6 Richard LaShomb
12-8 Rick Arimond
12-10 Jami Gause
12-11 Christina Cross
12-12 Ronald 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

12-1 Jami Gause & Joe Michka
12-3 Nancy Baeza
12-5 Holly Williamson
12-9 Shirley Kuhlman
12-10 John Lisius
12-13 Sylvia Christy
12-15 Bill Pali
12-16 Kenneth Lilley
12-20 Marcia Carr
12-22 Ashley Christy
12-24 Chad Lilley & Jane McElroy
12-25 Pastor Bogs, Becky Mendez, & Lester Sentesi
12-28 Sharol Aikman & Justin LaShomb

Confirmation Anniversaries

12-6 Patsy Hodges
12-13 Karen Hartl
12-17 Joe Michka
12-19 Jim Holland
12-22 Rick Arimond, Charles Baumgartner,
& Jessica LaShomb
12-23 Bob Langley
12-30 Phillip Williamson

Wedding Anniversaries

12-2 David & Kristyn Christie ~ 15 Years
12-10 David & Tiffany Cowger ~ 18 Years
12-17 Gary & Virginia Lawrence ~ 40 Years
12-29 Jim & Mary Gibbs ~ 31 Years
12-31 Pastor & Angie Mendez ~ 14 Years

Christmas Around the World

Carry-In Dinner

Right after Divine Service on December 12, bring your favorite “Christmas” food from around the world to share. We will eat and do crafts and play games celebrating Christ’s birth from other countries.

Christmas Program

Then at 1:00 pm that same day, we will go back to the sanctuary where we will have our annual Christmas program singing hymns from other countries, sharing scripture, and enjoy watching the children act out the Christmas account.



Opportunities to Study God’s Word

Sunday School for All Ages

Preschool - Elementary Classes begin at 8:45 am in **Room #2**. They 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 “Angels.”



Sunday Adult Bible Classes

All members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church are invited to attend the Adult Bible Classes each Sunday at 8:45 am. **Revelation** led by Pastor Bogs meets in the Fellowship Hall (gym). And **Galatians** led by Larry Harvey meets in **Room #4**. Please join us. Bring a friend!



Wednesday Mornings

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group meets at **10:00 am** in **Room #2**. We invite everyone who is available to join us to study God’s Word. We are studying **Corinthians**.

Wednesday Evenings

Wednesday evening Bible Class meets at **7 pm** in **Room #2**. We are studying the **Psalms**. Bring a friend for an enjoyable evening!

Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Join us for the Men’s Breakfast and Bible study on the **2nd Saturday** of the month at **8:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is November 13. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.



PRISM — Precious Rubies In St Matthew

Ladies’ PRISM meetings usually take place the **4th Saturday** of the month where we begin with Breakfast and a Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. However, since the Covid break we have not met. If you are interested in starting to meet again, please let Tiffany Cowger, Melissa Sindlinger or Gayle Bogs know and watch here for more information.

Another Idea to Be in the Word

Beginning on December 1, read one chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve, you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life and wake up Christmas morning knowing more of Who He is and Why we celebrate Him!

24

DAYS *in* SCRIPTURE

ADVENT READING PLAN

*"For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Savior, who
is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11*

WEEK 1: THE CREATION, THE FALL, AND THE PROMISE OF JESUS

December 1	Genesis 1-2:3
December 2	Genesis 2:4-24
December 3	Genesis 3
December 4	Genesis 6-7:5
December 5	Genesis 8; 9:8-19
December 6	Genesis 11:10-26
December 7	Matthew 1:1-17

WEEK 2: OUR NEED FOR JESUS

December 8	Romans 3:9-4:8
December 9	Psalms 106
December 10	Titus 3:3-7
December 11	Ephesians 2:1-10
December 12	Romans 6
December 13	Psalms 73
December 14	Romans 8

WEEK 3: THE MAJESTY OF JESUS

December 15	Mark 1:1-8
December 16	Isaiah 44
December 17	Psalms 8
December 18	Matthew 21:1-11
December 19	Psalms 93
December 20	Psalms 18
December 21	Revelation 22

WEEK 4: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

December 22	Luke 1:1-25
December 23	Luke 1:26-56
December 24	Matthew 1:18-25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December 25	Luke 2
-------------	--------