

# Messenger

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
of Westfield*

December  
2022

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Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor  
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

December, what a wonderful month! We just ended one church year and have begun another. The secular has already jumped to Christmas, which we wait to celebrate until December 25, Christmas Day. We are in the season of Advent meaning the season of preparation, of getting ready to celebrate. We do not celebrate yet. As is the case, in order to have a great and grand celebration, planning and preparations have to take place, and so during the season of

Advent we plan and prepare to celebrate the *advent* of our King, Christ the Lord, on Christmas Day. And then, again contrary to our secular society, especially the business world, we begin our celebration on Christmas Day for the full twelve days of Christmas until our celebration of the day of Epiphany and the visit of the Magi, the wisemen, the first not Jews, Gentiles to visit the child Jesus, reminding us once again that Jesus was born for all people, all nations, all ethnicities.

As you read, or hopefully had the opportunity and time to read (in the Advent-Christmas planning brochure), this Advent season and all the way through New Year's Day brings many more opportunities to be in Divine Service and to be given the gifts of God through His means of grace, as well as, the Wednesday evening opportunities for fellowshiping with our brothers and sisters in Christ. As Luther reminds us, we are giving mutual consolation to the saints. I most certainly do pray that each and everyone will make use of and take the time and opportunity to come and be given the gifts of God through the means that He has given to give to us, to pour out on us and to lavish us with His good gifts and blessings (His means of grace: His Holy Word, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, and His Holy Supper).

Finally, as we had our Congregational meeting and have passed a new budget and have elected new members to serve on boards and committees, I first thank you to all who agreed to serve. Second, I would encourage anyone not serving to give serious thought to where you might serve and then volunteer. Indeed, as Luther so well pointed out in his teaching on vocation, we serve God best by being in service and of service to others. With that bit of encouragement, I would also invite not only those elected but anyone interested or curious to attend the training workshop on Saturday Jan. 21.

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 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
<b>Those Serving the Lord this Month:</b> <b>Elders</b> ~ Jarod Christy <b>Greeters</b> ~ Lester Sentesi & Shirley Coyle <b>Ushers</b> ~ Dillon Mosier & Cody Williamson <b>Counter</b> ~ Nancy Baeza <b>Altar Guild</b> ~ Robert & Melissa Sindlinger <b>Acolytes</b> ~ Isabella Vaz, Heston Reed, Alex Vaz, Logan Reed, Lily Williamson, Heston Reed, Aaron Montemayor, Ruby Montemayor & Kaitlyn Christie						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		7 pm ESL classes	10am Bible Class 12:00 Service 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Dinner 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm worship	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service		7 pm ESL classes	10am Bible Class 12:00 Service 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Dinner 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm worship	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed 7:30pm ESL Christmas Service	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service LAST DAY TO ORDER POINSETTIAS!!!	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!!	7 pm ESL classes	10am Bible Class 10 am Newsletter Deadline 12:00 Service 5:30 Confirmation Class 6:30pm Dinner 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm worship	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class	Office Closed	6:30pm Divine Service w/Lord's Supper
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service w/Lord's Supper		7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 12:00 Service 5:30 Confirmation Class 7:30pm service w/Lord's Supper		Office Closed	6:30pm Divine Service w/Lord's Supper
Jan. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service		7pm ESL Class	10am Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Class	Office Closed	

## *Holy Days & Holidays in December*

December 21<sup>st</sup> St. Thomas, Apostle  
December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve  
December 25<sup>th</sup> The Nativity of our Lord  
December 26<sup>th</sup> St. Stephen, Martyr  
December 27<sup>th</sup> St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
December 28<sup>th</sup> The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
December 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve

### *Happy Birthday to You!*

December 6<sup>th</sup> Richard LaShomb  
December 7<sup>th</sup> Renita Haude  
December 8<sup>th</sup> Rick Arimond  
December 8<sup>th</sup> Jack Lutsch  
December 10<sup>th</sup> Jami Gause  
December 10<sup>th</sup> Matthew Pali  
December 11<sup>th</sup> Chase Barta  
December 11<sup>th</sup> Christina Cross  
December 12<sup>th</sup> Ronald Bogs  
December 12<sup>th</sup> Lester Sentesi  
December 14<sup>th</sup> Junah Arimond  
December 20<sup>th</sup> Marcia Carr  
December 20<sup>th</sup> Sharon Gace  
December 21<sup>st</sup> Sandra McGuire  
December 25<sup>th</sup> Joel Musgrove  
December 26<sup>th</sup> Luke Tusing  
December 26<sup>th</sup> Cadence Wells  
December 27<sup>th</sup> Danny Newbould-Hawkins  
December 29<sup>th</sup> Jim Gibbs  
December 30<sup>th</sup> Kaleb Young

### *Baptismal Birthdays*

December 1<sup>st</sup> Jami Gause  
December 1<sup>st</sup> Joe Michka  
December 1<sup>st</sup> Sharon Schubert  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> Nancy Baeza  
December 5<sup>th</sup> Holly Williamson  
December 9<sup>th</sup> Shirley Kuhlman  
December 9<sup>th</sup> Shirley Michka  
December 10<sup>th</sup> John Lisius  
December 13<sup>th</sup> Sylvia Christy  
December 15<sup>th</sup> Bill Pali  
December 16<sup>th</sup> Kenneth Lilley  
December 20<sup>th</sup> Marcia Carr  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> Ashley Christy  
December 24<sup>th</sup> Chad Lilley  
December 24<sup>th</sup> Jane McElroy  
December 25<sup>th</sup> Ronald Bogs  
December 25<sup>th</sup> Rebecca Mendez  
December 25<sup>th</sup> Lester Sentesi  
December 28<sup>th</sup> Sharol Aikman  
December 28<sup>th</sup> Justin LaShomb  
December 30<sup>th</sup> Scott Christy

### *Confirmation Anniversaries*

December 6<sup>th</sup> Patsy Hodges  
December 13<sup>th</sup> Karen Hartl  
December 17<sup>th</sup> Joe Michka  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> Rick Arimond  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> Jessica LaShomb  
December 30<sup>th</sup> Phillip Williamson

### *Wedding Anniversaries*

December 2<sup>nd</sup> David & Kristyn Christie ~ 16 Yrs.  
December 10<sup>th</sup> David & Tiffany Cowger ~ 19 Yrs.  
December 17<sup>th</sup> Gary & Virginia Lawrence ~ 41 Yrs.  
December 29<sup>th</sup> Jim & Mary Gibbs ~ 32 Yrs.  
December 31<sup>st</sup> Arturo & Angelica Mendez ~ 15 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*

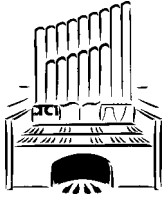
There are two Wednesday evening Bible Classes. The study on *Word & Sacrament* led by Larry Harvey meets at **6:30 pm in Room #4**. The study on *Psalms* led by Pastor meets at **7:00 pm in Room #2**.

### *Men's Breakfast Bible Study*

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



# 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 16<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:office.smlcw@gmail.com). Thank you!



### Poinsettias

It's time to order Poinsettias again! There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. This year they will be \$9 each. Be sure to write who you are buying them in memory of or in honor of on the sign up sheet. You have until December 18th to get your orders in!

### Advent Schedule

Advent Services: November 30 & December 7, 14 & 21 -12:00pm Worship for those who cannot attend the evening service, 7:15 pm Hymn Sing, & 7:30 pm Worship  
Christmas Eve: December 24 - 6:30 pm candlelight with The Lord's Supper  
Christmas Day: December 25 - 10:00 am with The Lord's Supper  
New Years Eve: December 31 - 6:30 pm with The Lord's Supper



### Pastor Bogs Open House

All are invited to the Bogs Home for fellowship at their Open House on December 8th from 4-8 pm. Their address is 1510 Anvil Drive, Houston, TX 77090.

### Grant Awarded to St. Matthew

We at St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield recieved a grant in the amount of \$7500.00 from the Faith Lutheran Church of Plano. This grant was made possible by The Roy D. And Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.



*Wishing you a very*  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

