

Messenger

December
2023

21434 East Hardy Road
Houston, Texas 77073



Church Office
281-443-2304



E-Mail
office.smlcw@gmail.com



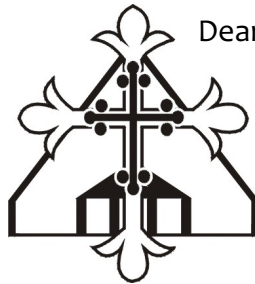
Website
www.stmatthewlcms.com



Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the LORD!’” (Psalm 122:1). With these words King David begins Psalm 122. December is the month we rejoice in that we have so many opportunities to “go to the house of the LORD” with so many extra opportunities to be in Divine Service and be given the gifts the Lord has to give through His Word (and Sacraments). And with so many extra opportunities comes the added benefit of extra opportunities to invite our family and friends, those churched as well as those unchurched. And as we invite them, we explain our Divine Service so that they will be even better prepared to be given the gifts the Lord has to give.

In my reading of the Concordia Commentary on the book of Joel, the writer (Thomas P. Nass) wrote an excursus titled, “The Religious Training of Children in the Old Testament,” and he makes note that as the Old Testament Children of Israel would celebrate the Passover every year, the children were highly involved in asking questions so they would understand that great deliverance event. He makes note that when he asks groups if they can think of anything similar in our churches today the answer is usually, “Our children’s Christmas program,” in which our children (and adults) act out the great events of the birth of our Savior. Certainly over the past few years putting on such a program has not always been easy, yet it is with joy that we do, to whatever extent we can, continue such a tradition here at St. Matthew. Come Sunday, December 10 to continue that tradition.

Let me remind you as I have done and will continue to do, the Advent season is the time to prepare for our Christmas celebration. Contrary to what some do in our secular world, the twelve days of Christmas do not count us down to Christmas. Rather the twelve days Christmas and our Christmas celebration do not begin until the evening of December 24 and then lasts for twelve days, until January 6, the day we celebrate Epiphany and the visit of the Magi.

My prayer is that you will desire to and actually take advantage of all the extra opportunities during this Advent season not only to attend, but also to invite others so they too may hear the Good News of the birth of our Savior, of His love for them.

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>.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Four years ago an attempt was started to get ready to celebrate our congregation's 120th anniversary. That attempt was thwarted by Covid. In one year an eight months we will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield. In order to assure a proper celebration the congregation has authorized an Anniversary Celebration fund. Because a committee has not yet been set for this celebration there is not yet a goal as for how much we would like to collect, but please do not let that stop you from beginning the giving so that we might indeed have a grand celebration.



Happy Anniversary!

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ 2024 PICNIC COMMITTEE/VOLUNTEERS



Picnic Committee will be meeting on Sunday, January 7, 2024 immediately following church service. Anyone interested in helping should attend. If you have any questions please contact Lester Sentesi, Phillip Williamson or Melissa Sindlinger. Thank you to everyone in advance for your help in making our 2024 picnic a wonderful success.

CHURCH RE-PIPE FUND

At the August 27 Congregational meeting of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield, the voters voted to begin a fund to re-pipe all our facilities. The cost estimated at around \$40,000. This fund is to be funded by any member wishing to make a contribution above their normal tithe. At the same time we will pursue financing the amount over what is contributed. However, if the contributions amount to more than the cost all extra monies will then be put in the general fund.

CHURCH TELEPHONE INFORMATION

Just a quick note that if you are trying to call the church during office hours (8am - 1pm) you will receive a message stating that "the person that you are trying to reach is unavailable to reach another extension press *8 or press 0 for the receptionist." If you press 0 it will direct you back to the secretary. The voicemail is currently not working so you are unable to leave a message outside of office hours. You can also communicate with the church office by email office.smlcw@gmail.com. Thank you for your patience while we work to get the phones back up and running.



PLANNING FOR 2024

The Board of Evangelism & Fellowship will be meeting Sunday, January 14, 2024 to plan our activities for 2024. If you have an activity you would like to see us do, please see Lester Sentesi or any board member.



PASTOR BOGS FAMILY CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Pastor Bogs and his family invite you for their annual Open House on December 10. Come enjoy fellowship and festivities from 4-8pm at 1510 Anvil Drive, Houston, TX 77090.

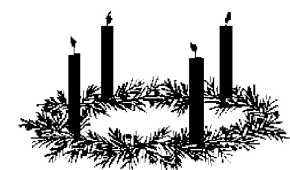
POINSETTIA ORDERS

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 \$10.00 per poinsettia and money should be placed in the envelope when you place your order. Please make checks payable to "St. Matthew." The last day to order will be DECEMBER 17.



2023 ADVENT SCHEDULE

Advent Services: December 6, 13 & 20 -12:00 pm Worship for those who cannot attend the evening service, 7:15 pm Hymn Sing, & 7:30 pm Worship
Christmas Eve: December 24 - 10 am Divine Service & 6:30 pm Candlelight Divine Service with The Lord's Supper
Christmas Day: December 25 - 10 am with The Lord's Supper



New Years Eve: December 31 - 10 am Divine Service & 6:30 pm New Year's Eve Divine Service with The Lord's Supper
* Please check your mailboxes for a copy of the Schedule of Services Advent - Christmas 2023 and New Year's Eve

December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
Those Serving the Lord this Month: Elders ~ BJ Jackson & David Honerkamp Greeters ~ Lester Sentesi & Shirley Coyle Ushers ~ Dillon Mosier & Aaron Bogs Counter ~ Carolyn McCorquodale Altar Guild ~ Melissa & Robert Sindlinger Acolytes ~ Ruby Montemayor, Heston Reed, Aaron Montemayor, Logan Reed, Alex Vaz, Isabella Vaz, AJ Parsalaw						9 am - Church Decorating
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service 12pm ESL Service		7pm ESL Classes	10am Bible Class 12pm Service 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Service	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service ESL Service 4pm Bogs Open House		7pm ESL Classes	10am Bible Class 12pm Service 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Service	9am Pastors Circuit Meeting 10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Potluck	Office Closed	10am Trustee Meeting
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service 12pm ESL Service 4pm Christmas Program			10am Bible Class 12pm Service 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Service	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service 12pm ESL Service <u>6:30pm Candlelight Divine Service</u>	Merry Christmas! 10am Divine Service	GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IN!!!	10am Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey	10am Bulletin Deadline	Office Closed	
31	January 1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Matins w/ Lord's Supper 12pm ESL Service 6:30 pm New Year's Eve Divine Service	Happy New Year!	7pm ESL Classes	10am Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Bible Study w/Larry Harvey 7pm Luke Bible Class	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed	

Opportunities to Study God's Word

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

SUNDAY Preschool - Elementary Classes begin at **8:45 am** in Room #5. The children are learning Biblical accounts from the Growing in Christ series.



SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE CLASSES

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

Join our
**BIBLE
STUDY**



WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

The Wednesday morning Bible study group will be meeting at **10:00 am** in Room #2. We invite everyone to join us to study God's Word. We are studying The Minor Prophets.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

There are two Wednesday evening Bible classes. The study on Baptism led by Larry Harvey meets at **6:30 pm** in Room #4. The study of Luke 1 & 2 led by Pastor Bogs meets at **7:00 pm** in Room #2 but will not meet during Advent.

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY

Join us for the Men's Breakfast & Bible Study on the **2nd Saturday of every month at 8:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is December 9th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



Wishing You A Very Happy Birthday

December 6th ~ Richard LaShomb
December 8th ~ Rick Arimond
December 10th ~ Jami Gause
December 11th ~ Christina Cross
December 12th ~ Pastor Bogs
December 12th ~ Lester Sentesi
December 20th ~ Marcia Carr
December 20th ~ Sharon Gace
December 25th ~ Joel Musgrove
December 26th ~ Luke Tusing
December 26th ~ Cadence Wells



Holy Days & Holidays in December

December 21st ~ St. Thomas, Apostle
December 24th ~ Christmas Eve
December 25th ~ Christmas Day
December 26th ~ St. Stephen, Martyr
December 27th ~ St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
December 28th ~ The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
December 31st ~ New Year's Eve

it's the
**MOST
WONDERFUL**
time of the
year



Wedding Anniversaries

December 2nd ~ David & Kristyn Christie ~ 17 Yrs.
December 10th ~ David & Tiffany Cowger ~ 20 Yrs.
December 17th ~ Gary & Virginia Lawrence ~ 42 Yrs.
December 31st ~ Arturo & Angelica Mendez ~ 16 Yrs.

Confirmation Anniversaries

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