

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

The Rev. Dr. Ronald A. Bogs, Pastor

The Rev. Arturo G. Mendez, Associate Pastor

21434 East Hardy Road Houston, Texas 77073

Office Phone: (281) 443-2304 Fax Number: (281) 443-8463

Church Website:

www.stmatthewlucms.com

Pastor Bogs' Email:

pastorbogs.smlcw@gmail.com

Pastor Mendez's Email:

pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com

Office Email:

office.smlcw@gmail.com

Pastor Bogs' Mobile:

(832) 515-4830

Pastor Mendez's Mobile:

(832) 883-1705

New Year's Eve

December 31st, 2023

Color of the Day: White - the festival color of the Church. It is reserved for celebrations that reflect themes of purity, light, innocence, holiness, and redemption, including special events in Jesus' life as His Birth, Baptism, Transfiguration, and Resurrection.



Opening Hymn #732 – All Depends on Our Possessing
Confession and Absolution Page 184

Service of the Word

Introit Page 186

Ps. 98:1–3; antiphon: Ps. 124:8

Our help is in the name | of the LORD,*
who made | heaven and earth.
Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.
The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**
Our help is in the name | of the LORD,*
who made | heaven and earth.

Kyrie Page 186

Gloria in Excelsis Page 187

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 189

Eternal God, we commit to Your mercy and forgiveness the year now ending and commend to Your blessing and love the times yet to come. In the new year, abide among us with Your Holy Spirit that we may always trust in the saving name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading Page 190

Isaiah 30:(8-14)15–17

⁸And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book,
that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. ⁹For they are a rebellious people, lying children, children unwilling to hear the instruction of the LORD; ¹⁰who say to the seers, “Do not see,” and to the prophets, “Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions, ¹¹leave the way, turn aside from the path, let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel.” ¹²Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, “Because you despise this word and trust in oppression and perverseness and rely on them, ¹³therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse, whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant; ¹⁴and its breaking is like that of a potter’s vessel that is smashed so ruthlessly that among its fragments not a shard is found with which to take fire from the hearth, or to dip up water out of the cistern.” ¹⁵For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, “In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” But you were unwilling, ¹⁶and you said, “No! We will flee upon horses”; therefore you shall flee away; and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. ¹⁷A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

Gradual Page 190

Ps. 90:12, 14

Teach us to num- | ber our days*
that we may get a heart of | wisdom.
Satisfy us in the morning with Your | steadfast love,*
that we may rejoice and be glad | all our days.

Epistle Reading Page 190

Romans 8:31b-39

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Alleluia & Verse (Common) Page 190

Holy Gospel Page 190

Luke 12:35-40

³⁵[Jesus said:] "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! ³⁹But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Creed Page 191/192

Hymn of the Day . #899 – *Across the Sky the Shades of Night*

The Sermon Holy Absolution

Text: Matthew 6: 14-15

Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), check out Pastor's blog at: <http://rabswritings.blogspot.com/> or Pastor Mendez's blog at: <https://pastormendez.blogspot.com/>

Offertory Page 192/193

Offering Page 193

Our First Fruits & Tithes are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the Gospel. Our Offerings are special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes. This is an act of worship for members and friends of St. Matthew who are moved by God's love to respond to the Gospel. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.

Prayer Of The Church Page 193

Service of the Sacrament

Preface Page 194

P:It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus Page 195

Lord's Prayer Page 196

The Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini Page 197

Agnus Dei Page 198

Distribution Page 199

Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you read our communion statement on the pew insert behind the Bible. Thank you.

Distribution Hymns . . . #733 – *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*
#917 – *Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*

Nunc Dimittis Page 199

Thanksgiving Page 200

Salutation & Benedicamus Page 201/202

Benediction Page 202

Closing Hymn #878 - *Abide with Me*

In Memoriam

As 2023 draws to a close this evening we are mindful of all of God's mercies to us. We remember on this night those members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church whom God in His infinite wisdom has called from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant:

Richard Mavus ~ 82 Years, 6 Months, 7 Days

Dixie Garrett ~ 95 Years, 3 Months

Jack Lutsch ~ 77 Years, 8 Months, 19 Days