

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield**

Messenger

February

2022

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Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On December (24) 25, we celebrated Christmas and the birth of the One promised back in the Garden of Eden, the One reiterated to Abraham, the One promised to save the world, even God in human flesh.

On January 1, we celebrated the circumcision and naming of Jesus. Indeed we celebrated His fulfilling the Law for us, in our place.

On January 2, we celebrated Jesus' first Jewish festival, the Passover and perhaps His bar mitzvah. I believe it is interesting that Jesus' first festival was the Passover because one of the last things He will do before going to the cross is that we will give to us His Holy Supper, the Lord's Supper from this Passover. I very often use this connection to help people understand the Real Presence of Jesus' body and blood in the Lord's Supper.

On January 9, we celebrated Jesus' Baptism and again, His fulfilling of all that is necessary for salvation, for us.

On January 16, we celebrated Jesus' first miracle, the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana. This miracle is one of the signs, wonders and miracles the Gospel writer especially John points out proving that Jesus is truly God along with being truly human.

So, in four to five weeks we have celebrated 30 years of Jesus' life. For us Lutherans, the Church year and the events of the Church year are very important. As we walk through the Church year and these events we are taught, we are strengthened, we are given the gifts the Lord has to give so that we are always ready to give an answer for the hope we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I must say, maybe a bit tongue in cheek, that I am usually in awe of my "Bible-Believing" Christian friends because when I am asked and when I am able to give an answer especially concerning the means of grace, they do not seem to have an answer as to the "where", the "why" and the "what for" of Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution and Holy Communion.

Because even among the members of our own congregations there are many who have not learned or have forgotten the importance of the means of grace, I am constantly placing this wonderful gift before them. Our own sanctuary bears witness of what we believe, teach and confess. As you enter our sanctuary, your eyes are drawn to the cross. Hopefully the cross reminds us of our sins and our need to repent, but also of our Savior who had to be a human in order to be our substitute, trading His perfect human life for our imperfect, sinful human life.

From the cross our eyes move down and to the left where we see the baptismal font, and we are reminded, as well as through the invocation, that we have entered into the Church through the waters of Holy Baptism. Jesus, using the pastor's hand, puts water on our heads, and using the pastor's mouth, speaks His name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit on us, claiming us and making us His child.

From the baptismal font our eyes move down to communion rail where our pastor kneels in confession and then rises allowing God to speak through him the most precious words we can hear, that our sins are forgiven because we know that with forgiveness is life and salvation. We know those are the most precious words because with forgiveness is life and salvation.

From the rail our eyes move up and to the right where we see the pulpit. From the pulpit our pastor reads and preaches God's Word, the heart and power of Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution and the Holy Supper.

Finally, our eyes move to the center of the altar area where we see (not a band set up) the altar and the Holy Supper of our Lord where-in He gives us His body to eat and His blood to drink, not in any symbolic manner, but in a real way so that our Lord becomes a physical part of us. His perfect life becomes our perfect life, His suffering becomes our suffering, His death becomes our death and His resurrection becomes our resurrection.

Why am I Lutheran? Because we get justification right, we get sanctification right, we get Law and Gospel right, we get salvation right. Indeed, I cannot say it enough, we get it right when we point to Jesus, and our means of grace, Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, the Holy Supper and the power of these of grace is the Holy Word which gives the gifts God has to give and we can rest assured we have the certainty that we are given to. Thanks be to God.

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>

Women's Renewal Retreat

February 25th-27th, 2022

Cost: \$162/per person

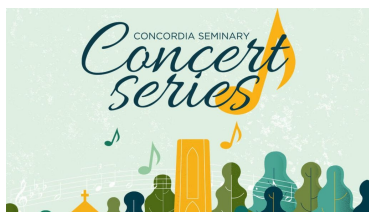
Sisters in Christ!



Join us for our Women's Renewal Retreat on February 25th-27th. Experience physical and spiritual rejuvenation, as well as a fun and loving community of women.

The Women's Renewal Retreat is time set aside for ladies to reflect on Christ and His Word, be in fellowship with other sisters in Christ, and spend time in His creation. Each year this fun weekend includes opportunities for hiking, archery, tomahawk throwing, crafts, canoeing, star gazing, a prayer walk around the lake, campfire devotions, quiet meditation outside, and conquering the climbing tower.

This year's retreat is lead by author Ruth Meyer, who will lead us in studying Biblical examples of our 2022 theme, Refuge. Ruth graduated from Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with a degree in church music and currently lives in rural Texas with her husband, who works as a Pastor, and their five children, two dogs, and cat. It is her hope that through her writing, readers are assured of God's grace through His Son, Jesus. Join us at Camp Lone Star and experience the love Christ offers! Register before February 14th at www.camplonestar.org



Save the date!


Epiphany Hymn Festival

3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6

in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus

Featuring Dr. Stephen Starke, commentator, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and the Seminary String Ensemble Celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ with us this Epiphany season! Join us in person or via livestream at csl.edu/live. Find details on our events calendar and learn more about the Concordia Seminary Concert

February 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Those Serving the Lord this Month:</i> Elders ~ Scott Christy & Jason Christy Greeters ~ Melissa Sindlinger & Lillian Hill Ushers ~ Randy Bogs & Nathan Cross Counter ~ Carolyn McCorquodale Altar Guild ~ Sylvia Christy & Angie Mendez Acolytes ~ 2/6 Mackenzie Gentes, 2/13 Kaitlyn Christie, 2/20 Ruby Montemayor, 2/27 Alex Vaz</p>						
		1	2	3	4	5
		Lifeline Screening 7pm ESL Classes	10am Corinthians Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 7pm Bible Class	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Michael Nelson!	Office Closed Happy Birthday James Musgrove!	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service	Happy Birthday Curtis Gace!	7pm ESL Classes	10am Corinthians Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 7pm Bible Class Happy Birthday Yair Mendez!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed	8am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10am Board of Elders Meeting
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Jess Clark!		7pm ESL Classes	10am Corinthians Bible Class 5:30 Confirmation Class 7pm Bible Class Happy Birthday Mackenzie Gentes!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Amanda Goss!	Office Closed	Happy Birthday Jake McIlhany!
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service	Happy Birthday Cathy Smith!	7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Richard LaShomb!	10am Corinthians Bible Class 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7pm Bible Class Happy Birthday Gary McCorquodale!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed Happy Birthday Chris Aikman!	Ladies PRISM Meeting 9am @ The Fellowship Hall Happy Birthday Carol Clark!
27	28					
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Joyce French!	Happy Birthday Tess Clark & Trent Clark!!					

Holy Days & Holidays in February

Feb. 2 The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord
Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
Feb. 21 Presidents Day
Feb. 24 St. Matthias, Apostle
Feb. 27 The Transfiguration of our Lord

Happy Birthday to You!

Feb. 3 Michael Nelson
Feb. 4 James Musgrove
Feb. 7 Curtis Gace
Feb. 9 Yair Mendez
Feb. 13 Jess Clark
Feb. 16 Mackenzie Gentes
Feb. 17 Amanda Goss
Feb. 19 Jake McIlhany
Feb. 21 Cathy Smith
Feb. 22 Richard Maximus LaShomb
Feb. 23 Gary McCorquodale
Feb. 25 Chris Aikman
Feb. 26 Carol Clark
Feb. 27 Joyce French
Feb. 28 Tess Clark
Feb. 28 Trent Clark

Baptismal Birthdays

Feb. 2 Amina Lesso
Feb. 4 Joshua Montemayor
Feb. 4 John Stayton
Feb. 6 Cody Williamson
Feb. 7 Ricky Gause
Feb. 8 Kristyn Christie
Feb. 11 Jessica LaShomb
Feb. 11 Sandra Pedersen
Feb. 18 Jean Hinz
Feb. 24 Troy Lilley
Feb. 27 Annie Mae Byars
Feb. 27 James Musgrove

Confirmation Anniversaries

Feb. 19 Ashley Christy
Feb. 19 Edna Ehrhardt

Wedding Anniversaries

Feb. 12 Gordon & Peg Munson ~ 67 Years
Feb. 14 Korey & Carol Clark ~ 32 Years
Feb. 17 Bob & Jeanne Langley ~ 49 Years

New Member

On Thursday, Jan. 26, we welcomed **Gladys Barton**, a shut-in, into membership through the waters of Holy Baptism. We rejoice in her being added to the number of saints.

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 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 February 12th. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.



PRISM — Precious Rubies In St Matthew

PRISM is going to meet on February 26 at 9 a.m. Ladies of all ages are invited to enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and Bible study. We will be diving into "Living a Chocolate Life" by Deb Burma. "Living a Chocolate Life" invites women to savor God's rich and endless supply of grace in Christ. This study reminds readers that the Holy Spirit fills them with sweet faith in the Savior and it is only He who can truly satisfy. Please let Tiffany Cowger (call or text 815-719-1435) if you will be in attendance, so she can order enough books and food!

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."

ESL Classes

ESL classes are every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm. Pray for this mission of St. Matthew 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. Of you need more info, please see Pastor Mendez.

** ATTENTION MEMBERS **

Your End of Year Statements are in the Narthex in front of the mailboxes. Please make sure that you pick those up as soon as possible. Thank you so much!

2022 Serving Schedule

Elder's Schedule

January ~ Steve Roberts & Curtis Gace
February ~ Scott Christy & Jason Christy
March ~ David Honerkamp & Jarod Christy
April ~ Sonny French & BJ Jackson
May ~ Curtis Gace & Steve Roberts
June ~ David Honerkamp & Scott Christy
July ~ Jarod Christy & BJ Jackson
August ~ Jason Christy & Curtis Gace
September ~ Steve Roberts & Sonny French
October ~ Scott Christy & David Honerkamp
November ~ Jarod Christy & Jason Christy
December ~ BJ Jackson & Sonny French

Greeter Schedule

January ~ Jim & Mary Gibbs
February ~ Melissa Sindlinger & Lillian Hill
March ~ Barbara Newbould & Luke Tusing, Jr.
April ~ Daniel & Christina Cross
May ~ Patricia LaShomb & Shirley Kuhlman
June ~ Carolyn McCorquodale & Shirley Coyle
July ~ Sylvia Christy & Jean Hinz
August ~ Curtis & Sharon Gace
September ~ Cathy Smith & Mary Davis
October ~ Shawn & Amanda Goss
November ~ Sonny & Joyce French
December ~ Lester Sentesi & Shirley Coyle

Usher's Schedule

January ~ Luke Tusing, Jr. & Jordan Christy
February ~ Randy Bogs & Nathan Cross
March ~ Dillon Mosier & Noah Montemayor
April ~ Joshua Montemayor & Cody Williamson
May ~ Robert Sindlinger & Nathan Cross
June ~ Luke Tusing, Jr. & Noah Montemayor
July ~ Jordan Christy & Cody Williamson
August ~ Dillon Mosier & Robert Sindlinger
September ~ Joshua & Noah Montemayor
October ~ Robert Sindlinger & Nathan Cross
November ~ Luke Tusing, Jr. & Jordan Christy
December ~ Dillon Mosier & Cody Williamson

Counting Schedule

January ~ Joe & Shirley Michka
February ~ Carolyn McCorquodale
March ~ Barbara Newbould & Luke Tusing, Jr.
April ~ Robert & Melissa Sindlinger
May ~ Nancy Baeza
June ~ Joe & Shirley Michka
July ~ Robert & Melissa Sindlinger
August ~ Marie Fischer
September ~ Carolyn McCorquodale
October ~ Marie Fischer
November ~ Barbara Newbould & Luke Tusing, Jr.
December ~ Nancy Baeza

Altar Guild Schedule

January ~ Hannah Bogs & Becky Mendez
February ~ Sylvia Christy & Angie Mendez
March ~ Marie Fischer & Nancy Baeza
April ~ BJ & Rose Jackson
May ~ Hannah Bogs & Becky Mendez
June ~ Sylvia Christy & Angie Mendez
July ~ BJ & Rose Jackson
August ~ Tiffany Cowger & Becky Reyes
September ~ Robert & Melissa Sindlinger
October ~ Nancy Baeza & Marie Fischer
November ~ Tiffany Cowger & Becky Reyes
December ~ Robert & Melissa Sindlinger



thank you

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