

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
of Westfield

Messenger

March
2022

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



Associate Pastor
Rev. Arturo Mendez



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Lenten Season of the Church Year begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. The season of Lent last for forty days, not counting the Sundays because Sundays are resurrection celebration days. The liturgical color for the season of Lent is purple, the color of penitence. That is the color reminding us to be repentant of our sins and our part in putting Jesus on the cross, the reason we celebrated Christmas and His birth. We put away our alleluias, a word meaning "praise the Lord" because the word is a joyous word, and since Lent is just about the opposite of a celebration, it makes sense that we would omit a word like this as part of a penitential practice.

The seasons of Lent and Advent, for us here at St. Matthew, give us more opportunities to be given the gifts of God. As we have been doing over the past few years, during the season of Lent we will be having our mid-week, Wednesday services. Our noon service is the Service of Prayer and Preaching and begins at noon. Our evening service is Evening Prayer, the Service of Light. You should have received a brochure and letter about our Lent service planning. As we have in the past, so we will be having a carry-in dinner at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. We will have our hymn sing at 7:15pm. If you hardly ever hear or get to hear and sing your favorite hymn, come to the hymn sing and we will sing it. What a wonderful opportunity to sing your favorite hymn and perhaps hear others you have not heard and learn new hymns. Our evening service begins at 7:30pm.

In April we will conclude our Lenten Season beginning with Palm Sunday and Holy Week, which includes our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services concluding with our joyous Easter Sunrise and Easter morning services.

Again, the season of Lent brings with it many more opportunities to come and be given the gifts that God has to give. And so I would encourage you to come and be given the gifts of God and invite others and encourage others to come as well.

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>

May The Lord Bless you all

I'm so excited to communicate to all of you, that we have finally resumed E.S.L. Class in our church, what a great Joy to serve the Lord by serving others, and to share with them the Good News of Salvation, it is a great opportunity to meet new people from our community, and present Christ to them. As you know since Covid hit all over the world a lot of things have changed, so many people are struggling with this difficult situation, so many are losing members of their families, so this difficult time has brought a lot of stress and suffering into their lives, so what a great opportunity to spend time with them in the E.S.L. Program we offer here at St. Matthew. Let's Pray together as a family in Christ to bring the best from Christ to their lives, it's a good time to share with them that peace who surpasses all understanding, that we only find in Christ our Savior. What a great Privilege to be a part of this opportunity that the Lord has given us.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask myself, Pastor Bogs or the Church secretary.

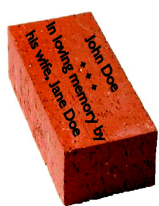
Blessings to all of you and the Lord our Savior Helping us to be His Witness to The People

In christ.
Rev. Arturo Méndez

New Members

Please welcome Jessi, Jennifer & Hanah Hailey to the church through a reaffirmation of faith.

Memory Bricks



\$35
Standard

Includes 21 characters/spaces



\$45
with Symbol

Includes symbol of your choice
and 18 characters/spaces

We are taking orders for new Memory Garden bricks in the Narthex now. The Memory Garden outside of the sanctuary leading to the bell tower was built as an American Heritage Girls' Stars & Stripes project in 2021 for a place of fellowship after services, as well as, to remember and respect life from the unborn to the elderly. Engraved bricks with names of loved ones who have gone to see Christ in heaven were donated for the project. Since the project was completed, some have requested new bricks of their loved ones who have gone to their eternal home. Once we have at least ten bricks ordered, we will make a church order. Bricks are now \$20 each (since it's not a project fundraiser), and there is a \$5 extra charge to add a symbol to your brick. The symbols available are next to the order form in the Narthex. 21 characters (including spaces) are allowed per line. Only 18 characters per line for those bricks with symbols. Please fill out the information for each brick separately on the form in the Narthex. You may combine your payment if ordering multiple bricks. Make checks payable to St. Matthew. If paying by credit card, go to <https://www.stmatthewlcms.com/giving.html> and click on the "donate" button. If using a credit card, please add \$1 per brick to cover Paypal fees. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

March 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Those Serving the Lord this Month:</i> Elders ~ David Honerkamp & Jarod Christy Greeters ~ Dave & Tiffany Cowger Ushers ~ Dillon Mosier & Noah Montemayor Counter ~ Dave & Tiffany Cowger Altar Guild ~ Marie Fischer & Nancy Baeza Acolytes ~						
		1	2	3	4	5
		7pm ESL Classes	ASH WEDNESDAY 10am Corinthians Bible Class 12:00 Service 5:30pm Confirmation Class 7:30pm Divine Service w/Lord's Supper	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed	Happy Birthday Aileen Mercer!
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service CAM Meeting		7pm ESL Classes	LENT 10am Corinthians Bible Class 12:00 Service 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm carry in dinner 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Worship	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Justin Parsalaw!	Office Closed Happy Birthday Shirley Coyle!	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		7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Marie Fischer!	LENT 10am Corinthians Bible Class 12:00 Service 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm carry in dinner 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Worship	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Noah Montemayor!	Office Closed Happy Birthday Marilyn Kron!	Happy Birthday Jeanne Langley!
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service		7pm ESL Classes	LENT 10am Corinthians Bible Class 12:00 Service 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm carry in dinner 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Worship Happy Birthday Bryce Koslan!	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes	Office Closed Happy Birthday Barbara Newbould!	Ladies PRISM Meeting 9am in The Fellowship Hall
27	28	29	30	31		
8:30am Fellowship 8:45am Sunday School 10am Divine Service Happy Birthday Aurora Franks!	Happy Birthday David Cowger!	7pm ESL Classes Happy Birthday Tiffany Cowger & Pamela Lilley!	LENT 10am Corinthians Bible Class 12:00 Service 5:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Carry in dinner 7:15pm Hymn Sing 7:30pm Worship	10am Bulletin Deadline 7pm ESL Classes		

Holy Days & Holidays in March

Mar. 2 Ash Wednesday
Mar. 19 St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus
Mar. 25 The Annunciation of our Lord

Happy Birthday to You!

Mar. 5 Aileen Mercer
Mar. 10 Justin Parsalaw
Mar. 11 Shirley Coyle
Mar. 15 Marie Fischer
Mar. 17 Noah Montemayor
Mar. 18 Marilyn Kron
Mar. 19 Jeanne Langley
Mar. 23 Bryce Koslan
Mar. 25 Barbara Newbould
Mar. 27 Aurora Franks
Mar. 28 David Cowger
Mar. 29 Tiffany Cowger
Mar. 29 Pamela Lilley

Baptismal Birthdays

Mar. 12 Curtis Gace
Mar. 14 Dillon Mosier
Mar. 20 Amanda Goss
Mar. 21 Nathan Cross
Mar. 22 Joyce French
Mar. 24 Brandy McCorquodale

Confirmation Anniversaries

Mar. 2 Patricia LaShomb
Mar. 7 Kim Christy
Mar. 12 Gary Lawrence
Mar. 13 Richard LaShomb
Mar. 14 Jessica Nelson
Mar. 17 Michael Nelson
Mar. 20 Jason Christy
Mar. 20 Kenneth Lilley
Mar. 21 Jean Hinz
Mar. 22 Curtis Gace
Mar. 22 Paul Nitz
Mar. 24 Chris Aikman
Mar. 24 Kelly Gentes
Mar. 24 Brandy McCorquodale
Mar. 26 Steve Nitz
Mar. 28 Aaron Bogs
Mar. 28 Mackenzie Gentes
Mar. 28 April Harvey
Mar. 29 Junah Arimond
Mar. 29 Joshua Bogs
Mar. 29 Shirley Kuhlman
Mar. 30 Marilyn Kron
Mar. 30 Bill Pali

Wedding Anniversaries

Mar. 13 Scott & Kelly Gentes ~ 23 Years
Mar. 23 Phillip & Holly Williamson ~ 20 Years



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 "Revelation".



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



PRISM — Precious Rubies In St Matthew

PRISM is going to meet on March 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.

Congregational Assembly Meeting

Agenda
March 6, 2022
Opening Prayer
Approve CAM minutes from 11-21-2021
Pastor's Reports
Board Reports
Treasurer's Report
Old Business N/A
Closing Prayer

Join us for a Laudamus concert this spring!



Laudamus is a select choir of seminarians preparing for full-time service as pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Under the direction of Dr. James Marriott, the Seminary's director of musical arts, the choir delights in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ through music.

Each year, the choir schedules tours throughout the country, one in the fall and another in the spring.

Concordia Seminary's choir of seminarians, Laudamus, will tour Oklahoma and Texas before holding a homecoming performance in St. Louis.

Please join us at a performance close to you!

- Saturday, March 19, 7 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Broken Arrow, Okla.
- Sunday, March 20, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Grace Lutheran Church, Tulsa, Okla.
- Sunday, March 20, 3 p.m. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmond, Okla.
- Monday, March 21, 7 p.m. Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Flower Mound, Texas
- Wednesday, March 23, 7 p.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, Klein, Texas
- Sunday, April 3, 4 p.m. Hope Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Mo.

All of the concerts are free and open to the public. Freewill offerings can be given to support the music arts programs at the Seminary.

Lutherans For Life 2022 Texas State Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents

For Students in Grades 6 through 12

Any Lutheran student in a Lutheran school or church is eligible. Lutheran students may also enter through a home school or congregation, e.g. confirmation class or youth group, when validated by a pastor or teacher.

Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: Blessed For Life with the Bible verse: "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies." Psalm 41:2.

1. Not incorporating the theme and verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.
2. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but are not limited to abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia etc.
3. Essays should include student's name, grade (school or church), and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay.
4. All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.

Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words

Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs to bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org by

April 1, 2022.

5. There will be a \$100 first place award and \$50 second place award for each of the two categories. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org with any questions.

6. Grand prize for the national winning entry at each level: \$250 plus free conference registration to the 2022 Lutherans For Life National conference and one night stay at the conference hotel.

7. All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.

8. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see lutheransforlife.org

