



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield



June 2020

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,

Child: Daddy, I'm scared.

Daddy: Honey, sometimes it's okay to be scared. Sometimes it is natural to be scared. What are you scared of?

Child: I'm not sure. I'm just scared.

Daddy: Well, think about it this way. What is the worst thing that can happen?

Child: I don't know. I guess that I could die.

Daddy: And if you die, what happens?

Child: I go to heaven.

Daddy: And is that a bad thing? Isn't heaven a wonderful place, filled with God's glory and grace? Don't we want to go to heaven?

Child: Well, of course, but maybe not yet.

Daddy: What I mean is that there is really nothing to be afraid of because God is with us, and ultimately we will be with Him.

Death is not a natural thing. It is a result of the fall into sin of Adam and Eve and the curse, yet it is now a part of our lives in this world. For those outside the faith, for those with no hope of eternal salvation, death can be and is a frightening thing. After all, their only options are eternal obliteration, or facing the fact that it might be true that you will suffer eternal damnation. For us Christians, death is not something we need to fear. As a matter of fact, the older one grows the more one has a desire to reach their home in heaven. I remember thinking after we lost our daughter and after my dad passed away that I was beginning to know more and more people in heaven. For a person growing older and older and losing more and more friends on this earth, the natural desire would be to move on to where one's friends are, heaven.

For young people their desire to live and not die is often because they want to experience more of their life in this world. As we grow older, our fear is more often than not a fear of death, but of the "how" we will die. In the movie, *Grumpy Old Men*, when the information that someone had died was offered, the question was, "How did he die?" And after the answer the response was, "Well, I guess that wouldn't be such a bad way to go."

As a world, a country, a city, a congregation, as individuals, we have been working through what we have been told is a horrific pandemic and for some this may be the worst thing they have ever faced in their lifetime. As these events pan out, we will see how this pandemic fits in with the annals of history as far as its devastation and importance. Until then, we have decisions made for us by our government officials, and we try to be respectful of the decisions they make. At the same time, we make decisions for ourselves and what we believe to be the best for us, and we try to

balance the two of what is best for others and what is best for ourselves, always being respectful of and caring for ourselves and others. Above all else, as Christians, our faith and trust is in our Lord who promises to be with us, to care for and protect us. My hope and prayer is that as we begin moving back to some sense of normalcy in this country from the pandemic which has plagued us, it will be the normal with which we have all been accustomed, not some new normal in which we are afraid of every little germ that may be ready to bring us to meet our Maker.

Our church doors remains open, and we will continue to deliver the gifts of God to those who physically come to church and those who watch via their computer, tablet, phone or whatever other electronic device they may use. We continue to respect and encourage those who remain at home especially for health reasons. We would never ask anyone to do anything they believe would not be beneficial for themselves. At the same time, to we do offer and make ourselves available to attend the spiritual needs of any in any way and in the best way we can.

For those concerned about not being able to partake of the Lord's Supper and for those who have read or heard about the aberrations and abuses being carried out with the distribution of the Lord's Supper, let me assure you. Unlike Holy Baptism which is a necessity (understanding that the ultimate condemnation of Holy Baptism is its refusal), the Lord's Supper is not a necessity. Nowhere does Jesus say nor imply, "He that believes and is communed will be saved." Certainly our desire is to be given the Lord's body and blood as He gives it, in celebration with the saints and through the one He has called and ordained to distribute His gifts, which is mete, right and salutary. So with that understanding, if you strongly have that desire or if you would like to request the Lord's Supper, please call on of the pastors to make arrangements.

If you have not been back to the sanctuary, we would encourage you, while not coercing you, when you are ready and believe you are able, to return to gather with the community of believers so that you might be encouraged, uplifted and consoled as we worship together as God's people in this place. Until then, may God continue to watch over you and keep you in His grace and mercy.

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>.

Happy Birthday to You!



06-01 Lily Williamson
06-03 Dixie Garrett & Kaitlyn Chistie
06-05 Brandy McCorquodale
06-07 Jenny Turner
06-08 Joe Michka
06-14 Mary Gibbs & John Tautenhahn
06-15 Daniel Pederson & Steve Roberts
06-17 Brent Harvey
06-20 Bob Langley
06-24 Justin LaShomb
06-26 Clay Lilley

Baptismal Birthdays

06-01 April Harvey & Leon Lilley
 06-03 Eda Nitz
 06-05 Dalhardt Goebel
 06-12 Robert Sindlinger
 06-13 Lily Williamson
 06-14 Jan Stayton
 06-21 Naatah Mollel
 06-28 Mary Gibbs



Confirmation Anniversaries



06-01 Leon Lilley
 06-02 Jami Gause & Jim Gibbs
 06-03 Gayle Bogs
 06-04 Marilyn Holland
 06-05 Shirley Coyle & Shirley Michka

06-09 Shawn Goss
 06-14 Nancy Baeza
 06-21 Steve Roberts
 06-22 Aileen Mercer & Lorna Sentesi
 06-24 Annie Mae Byars & Lillian Hill

Wedding Anniversaries

06-01 George & Carol Gentes (52 years)
 06-05 Rick & Nancy Arimond (50 years)
 06-10 Troy & Pamela Lilley (31 years)
 06-12 Larry & April Harvey (49 years)
 06-20 Chad & Dodie Lilley (28 years)
 06-24 Paul & Jane Nitz (3 years)



Holy Days and Holidays in June

June 7 ~ Holy Trinity Sunday
June 11 ~ St. Barnabas, Apostle
June 14 ~ Flag Day
June 20 ~ Summer Begins

June 21 ~ Father's Day
June 24 ~ The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
June 29 ~ St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles

From Pastor Mendez

“In times of uncertainty “

see 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:1-13; Ephesians 4:1-16

In times of uncertainty, certainly as human beings we worry that we do not know what awaits us, and our tendency is always to trust in our own strengths and to do what we think is most convenient, than to trust in God who is the One who has control of all things, and we forget the gifts of God and the gifts of God that He has given us.

I remember the month of August 2017 approached land a Hurricane called Harvey, devastated the entire city of Houston, with multiple floods and lost, people lost their homes, their jobs, etc. there was a lot of devastation in our city Houston, now in these times We are also going through a terrible global pandemic with a virus that has been affecting us all over the world , people have lost their lives, other people have lost their jobs and because of that many have lost hope, and perhaps they have come to wonder why God allows all this, if He is a God of love, why He allows bad things to the people? many other people don't even turn to see God's hand in all this, and we certainly don't understand because our mind is so limited to God's that we can't see beyond what God is doing even in the midst of all these difficulties and adversities but it is there in the midst of all these tragedies where God manifests himself through other people, in different ways.

God manifests himself in people who work daily in Hospitals, doctors and laboratories trying to find a remedy to be able to solve this pandemic, for it is He who gives them the wisdom and knowledge to be able to perform with their talents and gifts that the Lord has given to each of them. the leaders who represent us are also used by God to be able to direct the Nations in a wise and prudent way, through each public servant doing their labors, for they are used by God by the means of their talents and Gifts that He has entrusted to them, so we too can make a difference by helping more people who are in need , we can use our gifts and talents that the Lord has entrusted to us in order to glorify his Name, we can help many people who are in need right now, in different ways, we just have to let ourselves be guided by God in our talents and gifts and discover that we too can be useful to the community, maybe we can be useful by calling them, to our loved ones friends , working partners etc. Pray for them bring them a help of a pantry, etc., and that is when God manifests his love through each of us towards the other people, let God use the talents and gifts he has given us, so that his Glory manifests among us and more souls can see to the living God in us.

The experience reminded me of the gifts of the Spirit, which are listed in Scripture in several places (see 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12:1-13; Ephesians 4:1-16). We all come with God-given gifts and abilities. We may know what they are beforehand, or sometimes it may take some time to discover them. Regardless of that, however, they can be used to accomplish great things—in our communities, in our churches, in our neighborhoods, and in our loves ones, ask to God the Father to give you the abilities to use the Gifts and talents of the Holy Spirit to use with love and kind for others.

THE PRAYER: Heavenly Father, You have equipped us wonderfully to serve You and others. May we always use our gifts to do so. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

Stewardship Under the Cross: Why Should I Tithe?

A Bible Study on Money Offerings

We do not make God poor when we fail to give money to Him properly, but we do make ourselves poor if we do not give according to the standards He sets for us in His Word, the Bible. God does not need

our money, but we need to give the way the Bible tells us to in order to overcome the negative influence money and the things of this world can have on us.

Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” Matthew 6:24

Some of the teachings of the Bible are more difficult than others. For many the teachings about money, possessions and offerings are among the most difficult. But God’s instructions are for our good, not for our harm. If we follow His instructions, we will be free and content. Jesus said in John 8:36 “If the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free.” We also read in 1 Timothy 6:6 that “...godliness with contentment is great wealth.” That is God’s desire for His people: freedom, godliness, and contentment. That is also the desire of this church for its members and associates. That is why this Bible study is presented to you. Please pray for the Lord to make you open to His message, then go through the study. If you live in a family setting, it would probably be good to do the study together.

1. To whom does my money belong?

‘The silver is mine, and the gold is mine,’ says the Lord Almighty. Haggai 2:8

King David said to God, “But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you have already given us!” 1 Chr. 29:14

So everything I have really belongs to God. I am merely His manager of those things.

2. What 5 requirements does God make on every Christian regarding money offerings?

- a. 2 Corinthians 9:7 “You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives *cheerfully.*”

So the Lord wants me to make my money offerings willingly.

- b. Proverbs 3:9-10 “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first part of everything your land produces. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with the finest wine.”

The Lord wants me to make my money offerings to Him first. He is not pleased when I give Him leftovers.

- c. 1 Corinthians 16:2 “On the first day of every week, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering. Don’t wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.”

This tells me that the Lord wants me to make my money offerings to Him regularly, that is, whenever I have income, whether I am able to go to church that week or not.

- d. 1 Corinthians 16:2 “On every Lord’s Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering. Don’t wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once.”

Deut. 16:17 “Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.”

Luke 12:48 “Much is required from those to whom much is given, and much more is required from those to whom much more is given.”

The Lord tells me that it is not the amount itself that is important. What is important is that I make my money offerings proportionately. In other words, I should give a generous percentage of the income the Lord enables me to earn through my work and investments.

e. 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 “Now I want to tell you, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done for the churches in Macedonia. Though they have been going through much trouble and hard times, their wonderful joy and deep poverty have overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the gracious privilege of sharing in the gift for the Christians in Jerusalem.”

Luke 7:47 Jesus said, “I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.”

*So my money offerings to the Lord should also be made **generously**.*

Here’s the list of Biblical principles when it comes to making money offerings:

1. **Willingly**
2. **First**
3. **Regularly (whenever I have income)**
4. **Proportionately (percentage)**
5. **Generously (Faithful Christian giving starts at a tithe)**

3. What if I serve the Lord faithfully, even exceptionally, in other areas? Does that mean I don’t need to follow these directions about money offerings?

2 Corinthians 8:7 “Since you excel in so many ways—you have so much faith, such gifted speakers, such knowledge, such enthusiasm, and such love for us—now I want you to *excel also in this gracious ministry of giving.*”

Matthew 23:23 Jesus once compared offerings with “the important things of the law—justice, mercy, and faith.” And he said, “*You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things.*”

So no matter how well or faithfully I may serve in some areas, the Lord expects me to follow His directions regarding money offerings, also, and even to excel in this area.

4. What exactly is “tithing” and what does God say about it.?

“To tithe” literally means “to give 10%.” The command about tithing was part of the Old Testament laws for the nation of Israel. So what God said in the Law is no longer a requirement, although the principle remains. (The principle in the Bible is that offerings begin at 10%.) But the Lord’s promises never change. And consider this promise about tithing:

Mal. 3:10-11 “‘Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not shrivel before they are ripe,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

5. Is it true that some people have tried tithing and it didn’t work for them?

If that’s true, then God’s Word is not true. We should remember that the Bible does not say that tithing can be done without sacrifice. But God does say that the blessings will far outweigh any hardship if the tithing is done consistently and from the heart.

6. Is getting a blessing from God my motivation for tithing?

No, the motivation is His amazing love for me. Consider these three Scriptures:

Galatians 2:20 “I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

2 Corinthians 8:9 “You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus Christ was. Though he was very rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.”

2 Corinthians 5:15 “He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them.”

7. Please prayerfully consider the following statements. If you live in a family setting, please talk and pray about them together.

- The Lord has blessed us with all we need for this body and life.
- Have we been making first-fruit, regular, proportionate and generous (at least 10%, a tithe) money offerings to the Lord from the heart?
- If so, what other needs in our church and community can use our attention?
- If not – what steps can we take to move in a faithful direction?

COVID-19 Update Concerning St. Matthew's

- At this time we are looking to start back up with Wednesday Bible studies in July, depending on the continuing improvement with the pandemic here in Texas.
- VBS will not be taking this year.



Pastor Bogs ☎ 832-515-4830
 Pastor Mendez ☎ 832-883-1705
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	5 Church Office Closed	6
7 10am - Divine Service	8	9	10	11 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	12 Church Office Closed	13 10am - Elder's Mtg
14 10am - Divine Service	15	16	17	18 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	19 Church Office Closed	20
21 Father's Day 10am - Divine Service	22	23	24	25 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	26 Church Office Closed	27 9am - PRISM
28 10am - Divine Service	29	30				