



# St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield



## July 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,

On July 4 we will celebrate the 244<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of the United States of America. Over the past few months we have dealt with a pandemic as well as riots and some protests. Over the past 244 years we have dealt with wars, drought, stock market crashes, other pandemics, riots, protests and the like. There are those who seek to look at our history and suggest that our nations' less than stellar history means we are too flawed, we need to apologize and make reparations. There are those who seek to destroy monuments of our flawed history. There are those who seek to delete or remove words from our language. There are those who seek to rewrite our history.

Is the United States of America a perfect country? Most certainly not. In God's Word our Bible, God does not delete the sinful marred history of His people. No, God lays out the awful sins for what they are, sin. No amount of rewriting history will change history. We cannot change history, and it is our history, good, bad or indifferent that brought us to this point in our lives. Perhaps rather than lamenting our history, although we can lament our sins, would it not be better to remember our history, with its flaws? As the saying goes, "Unless you remember your history, you are doomed to repeat it."

It has been suggested or stated, the United States of America is the last bastion of freedom, of democracy (a republic, actually) in the world. If we lose our democracy, where will we go? Where will those people being abused around the world turn?

No, we are not a perfect country. Indeed, there is no perfect country in the world. Yes, we do have flaws, but even with all our flaws, we as Christians rejoice that we continue to have the freedom, not only to worship as we see fit, but also to share God's Word with others, which is not the case in too many nations around the world. And this freedom, I believe, is why we can see Satan's hand working feverishly to undermine and destroy our country. Remember, he is the father of lies. He is the one who is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He hates God, he hates us, and he hates our country and freedom to worship. He knows he has been defeated, and yet he will work with every last bit of effort until the Lord returns.

So, as we celebrate 244 years of freedom, I would encourage you to continue to pray for our country. Pray that we may continue to have the freedom to worship and share the Gospel. Continue to pray for our leaders and government officials (whether you like them or not, they need our prayers). Pray for truth, for true (real) justice, and for peace. And give thanks to the Lord for all the years we have had independence as a country while still being dependent on Him.

God's richest blessings.  
In His Service,

Pastor Bogs  
1 Cor. 15:3-5

## ***Happy Birthday to You!***



07-03 Shirley Kuhlman  
 07-09 Caroline Christy  
 07-15 Jason Christy & Jennifer Cornman  
 07-16 Carolyn McCorquodale  
 07-24 Jordan Christy & Mikaela Odom  
 07-27 Randy Bogs  
 07-28 Addison Christie & Dale Haude  
 07-30 William Gentes & Aaron Lilley

## ***Baptismal Birthdays***

07-05 Kaitlyn Christie  
 07-08 Paul Nitz  
 07-14 Clay Lilley  
 07-25 AJ Parsalaw



## ***Confirmation Anniversaries***



07-01 Brenda Pali

## ***Wedding Anniversaries***

07-02 Steve & JoAnn Roberts 49 Years  
 07-21 Scott & Sylvia Christy 41 Years



---

## ***Holy Days and Holidays in July***

---

**July 4<sup>th</sup>** - Independence Day

**July 22<sup>nd</sup>** - St. Mary Magdalene

**July 25<sup>th</sup>** - St. James the Elder, Apostle

---

## ***Stewardship Under the Cross: Overcoming The Fear of Tithing***

---

**Your heart will always go where you put God's money.**

Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. As the hymn verse has it: "We give Thee but Thine own." God is the ultimate giver of our incomes: all these gifts come from him. To acknowledge this gift and our dependence on the Lord, God calls us to give a portion of our income back to Him for the maintenance of His Church. Indeed, the Scriptures are very clear: God calls His people to give generously to the work of the Church. As we have seen, God commanded Israel to support the Word and Sacrament ministry of the Levites in the Temple with a tithe (10%) of their income. Can we call ourselves generous by doing less?

This calls for faith. Do we trust God's Word? Do we trust that what He says is for our benefit, not our harm? **If you have never tithed before, it can be a scary proposition.** Give 10% of my income away!? You've got to be kidding. But God doesn't ever kid us in His Word. Instead, He tells us how to live holy and blessed lives full of peace and contentment. Consider these Scriptures:

*Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:19-21).*

*"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse-- the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" (Malachi 3:8-10) .*

*On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as each one of you may prosper (1 Cor. 16:2) .*

*But just as you excel in everything-- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us - -see that you also excel in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7) .*

*The point is this: he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work (2 Cor. 9:6-8) .*

**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.

God will never tell us to do something that will be to our harm – He loves us too much for that. Jesus gave His life on the cross for me. He loves me and knows what is best for me – so I can know that what He says about stewardship is meant for my benefit. He wants my heart to be with Him – and my heart will always follow where I put God's money. **Tithing is not easy: it is godly. It will change your life.** Stepping out in faith always does. You may have to change your lifestyle to accommodate following God's Word in this matter. But tithing will change your life in other ways too: it will give you a peace and contentment that can only come from actually putting yourself in the hands of the Lord.

So read through those Scriptures again. Pray through the questions below. And step out in faith this year with giving that is in accord with God's Word. And just see if you are not blessed in it.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Y | N | The Lord loves me and gave Himself for me on the cross.  |
| Y | N | All that I have comes from the Lord.   |
| Y | N | The Lord blessed me to live in the richest land in the world.  |
| Y | N | If I had to start living on 90% of my current income tomorrow, I or someone in my family would starve.                                       |
| Y | N | I / We have been making first-fruit, regular, proportionate and generous (at least 10%, a tithe) money offerings to the Lord from the heart. |
| Y | N | If "Yes", the Lord gets all the glory for that.  |
| Y | N | If "No", the Lord wants me to change the way I make money offerings to him.  |
| Y | N | If the Lord wants me to change, I should change now, not later.  |
| Y | N | It is the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ that changes me for the better.  |

---

## COVID-19 Update Concerning St. Matthew's

---

- Elder, Greeter, Usher, Altar Guild, & Acolyte schedules will resume 07/05
- Sunday Bible Study will resume 07/05
- Wednesday Bible Studies will resume 07/08
- We will not have VBS this year.



Pastor Bogs ☎ 832-515-4830  
 Pastor Mendez ☎ 832-883-1705  
 www.stmatthewlcms.com  
 office@stmatthewlcms.com

# July 2020

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
 21434 E. Hardy Rd.  
 Houston, TX 77073  
 281-443-2304

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	3 Church Office Closed	4 Independence Day
5 8:45am - Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	6	7	8 10am - Bible Class 7pm - Evening Bible Class	9 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	10 Church Office Closed	11 8am - Men's Brkfst 10am - Elder's Mtg
12 8:45am - Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	13	14	15 10am - Bible Class 7pm - Evening Bible Class	16 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	17 Church Office Closed	18
19 8:45am - Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	20	21	22 10am - Bible Class 7pm - Evening Bible Class	23 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	24 Church Office Closed	25 9am - PRISM
26 8:45am - Sunday School & Bible Class 10am - Divine Service w/ Lord's Supper	27	28	29 10am - Bible Class 7pm - Evening Bible Class	30 10am - Bulletin Cutoff	31 Church Office Closed	