

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield



August 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,

This too shall pass. That is what I say when talking about COVID-19. As all plagues and pandemics of the past have come and gone, so this too will eventually pass. One of the things that astounds and frustrates me the most with this pandemic is that amount of contradictory information and misinformation that is being broadcast to the general public. It is getting harder and harder to know who or what to believe in our world. This fact should not come as a surprise, however, as we know that Jesus is the way, the *truth*, and the life and that apart from Jesus there is and can be no truth. So, as our world becomes less and less a Christian world, we find truth becomes less and less seen.

One politician suggested that he was more interested in truth than fact. What does that mean? When truth become relative, that is when what may be true for me may not be true for you and what is true for you may not be true for me, then facts do not matter. Rather one's interpretation of the facts is what matters. And as one interprets the facts, that is what is true to them. As we do live in a world where truth has become relative for many, as Christians we still seek the truth and believe the truth which is found only in Jesus.

The same may be said about the cry for justice. Everyone wants justice, but is justice really what everyone wants? The answer is no. What everyone wants is what they believe to be their own justice. As Christians, we know that justice is that we are guilty and deserve eternal death. Thanks be to God that He does not give us the justice we deserve, rather He gives us the forgiveness that Jesus earned for us on the cross. This declaration is true, is a fact and is what we will continue to believe, teach and confess. This is where our focus is (should be).

In the mean time, we continue to sort through the information we are given. We continue to pray to God for healing, both from the pandemic as well as cultural struggles. We continue to be His Church in this place offering and delivering His gifts through Word and Sacrament. Pastor Mendez and I are ready, willing and able to work with you in just about any way you may desire in order to deliver God's gifts to you as you feel comfortable and safe, but you need to let us know. And just as a note, at my last blood donation I tested negative for COVID-19.

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!



08-02	Elsie Brett	08-11	Bill Pali
08-05	Sylvia Christy	08-12	Lorna Sentesi
08-07	Gayle & Hannah Bogs	08-14	Angie Mendez
08-09	Lillian Hill	08-19	Becky Mendez
08-10	Jessica LaShomb	08-25	Brandon Shipes
		08-29	Alicia Bogs
		08-31	Joshua Bogs

Baptismal Birthdays

08-02	Elsie Brett	08-17	Ernest Pali
08-03	George Gentes	08-19	Richard LaShomb
08-06	Carolyn McCorquodale	08-24	Chris Aikman
08-10	Hannah Bogs	08-25	Dale Haude
08-11	David Reese	08-26	Dixie Garrett
08-15	Brent Harvey, Jonathan LaShomb, & Richard Maximus LaShomb	08-30	Gayle Bogs
		08-31	Will Gentes



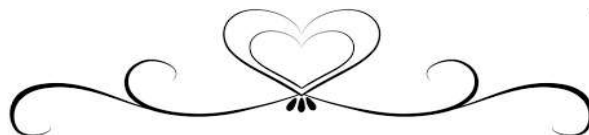
Confirmation Anniversaries



08-07	Jarod Christy
08-11	Elaina Albarez & David Reese
08-25	Don Cornman

Wedding Anniversaries

08-05	Dan & Marsha Pierce	21 Years
08-06	John & Mary Tautenhahn	43 years
08-13	Richard & Pat LaShomb	60 years
08-17	Dalhardt & Rose Goebel	35 years
08-20	Gary & Carolyn McCorquodale	43 years
08-25	Curtis & Sharon Gace	47 years



Holy Days and Holidays in August

August 15th - St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord

August 24th - St. Bartholomew, Apostle

August 29th - The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

Stewardship Under the Cross: Luther on Tithing and Stewardship

Martin Luther had much to say about being a good steward of God's gifts. Below are a series of quotations from the great Reformer about faithful, Biblical stewards.

On Vowing to Support the Church with Tithes

Thus it is said (Prov. 3:9): "Honor the Lord with your substance." This must be understood not only of words and of the worship of the mouth or genuflection but of the deed itself.... Gal. 6:6: "Let him who is taught in the Word share all good things with him who teaches." Therefore when God wants to be honored, then He wants sacrifices to be offered, not only sacrifices of the mouth but also the reverence of the heart, yes, the deed itself. He wants us to help the ministry, and He wants everyone to contribute for the purpose of supporting the studies of the pupils and of propagating the doctrine. Then God is truly praised and glorified there. Make a vow there, and say: "I promise that I am willing to contribute something for the assistance of the churches." That is St. Jacob's vow. Therefore this example should be diligently inculcated, namely, that Jacob vows tithes, not in order that God Himself may eat or be enriched; but he gives them to the poor ministers and to those who are always the least of the brethren or disciples of Christ on earth. For all other arts are gainful and have their profits. This profession alone is in need of bountiful giving. We must live from the altar, as Paul says (1 Cor. 9:13). Accordingly, he who is godly and loves the Word of God contributes something. He who hates the doctrine along with those who teach and learn it robs and despoils.

Otherwise God has so ordained that we should live from the vows, sacrifices, and alms that are owed to us by divine right. When the godly see the poverty and need of the ministers of the church and the school, they make vows and obligate themselves to give tithes, as Jacob gave them. (LW v.5)

On Tithing to Support God's Work in the Church

Therefore this text shows that Jacob did not make such a foolish and godless vow, but that it was a vow of thanksgiving. For he says: "If I come again, etc." It is as though he were saying: "I shall now obligate myself to pay a debt, and I shall make satisfactory reparation when I return. What? I shall build a school and a church here, and I shall give a tithe of bulls and goats and fruits for its establishment and upkeep, likewise a tenth part of the milk and the butter." Of course, God does not need these things. For He does not eat bread or drink wine, as He says in Ps. 50:13: "Do I eat the flesh of bulls?" What, then, are you doing? I answer that Jacob is already righteous. Accordingly, he does not make a vow to placate God by making it; but he wants to do this to give thanks, to glorify God, in order that He may conduct him and bring him back according to the promise. Who will receive these tithes? Not the angels, not the sun, not the moon. But he will perform that extraordinary and glorious work for the purpose of preserving the ministry and founding churches and schools. . . . This is how Moses should be understood when he says (Deut. 23:21): "When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not be slack to pay it." What does it mean to make a vow to God, or

whom is Moses addressing when he says: "The Lord your God"? It means to give tithes to the disciples, sons, and wives of the prophets, to the poor and needy. These are the ones who are to be supported by the tithes offered to God, and through these tithes God is supported. For God says: "Whatever you give to the children of the priests and prophets through whom the doctrine is propagated you must regard as given to Me, not that I may justify you through this work, but it should be a thanksgiving and a sacrifice of praise because I have justified you and have also blessed you in temporal matters. In addition, I shall bless you even more if you give ear to, support, and cherish the poor sons of the prophets." (Luther's Works, vol. 5)

On Abraham's Stewardship

This was not the first time that Abraham gave tithes of these to the priest Melchizedek; he did so every year. Even before that victory Abraham conducted himself humbly, acknowledged Shem as a priest of the Most High, and gave him tithes, as did Lot and the other fathers who lived at that time. (LW vol. 2)... To be sure, Abraham had property; but he did not love it, since he showed that he was a manager and knew that by God's will he had been appointed a steward of his goods. (LW vol. 30).

Will's Eagle Project

My name is Will Gentes and I am a member of the youth group here at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. I am fundraising for my Eagle Scout Project. I plan to rebuild all of the swing sets in the church playground area. I have almost reached my goal of \$2100. With your help, we can get there. All of the excess funds will go back to the church. Donations by check should be made out to the church and have "wills eagle project" in the memo line. Thank you very much.

Bible Classes and Sunday School To Resume

We will once again attempt to return to normalcy depending on the circumstances as was the case when we made the attempt for July. On Sunday, August 2 we will offer our Sunday morning Bible Classes and Sunday School at 8:45 am and Divine Service at 10 am. On Wednesday, August 5 we will offer our Wednesday 10 am and 7 pm Bible Classes as well. We are offering these classes for those who want to attend. If you are of a high risk, we would encourage you to do what you believe you need to do for your own health and safety. Because there are those who have been attending the regular Bible Classes, and we do not want anyone to miss the continuation of those studies (Sunday - James; Wed. am - Revelation; Wed. pm - Worship), we will begin something new or use one topic studies. If you have something in mind you would like to study, please let the pastors know.

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

August 2020

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

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