



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield



September

2020

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

September is the month that usually brings beginnings, the beginning of the school year, the beginning of Autumn or Fall, the beginning of confirmation and so on. September 11 is remembered as the day the United States of America was attacked by terrorist. And September is the month we celebrate Labor Day, which usually means a day off to enjoy one last bit of fun with family and friends before the activities of the rest of the year begin. Unfortunately, because of the current state of the world, because of the pandemic, larger gatherings are discouraged. And one of my favorite activities of September, the Texas Confessional Lutheran Free Conference in Brenham has been canceled as well. Yet, not to be discouraged, I am reminded that God is still God and as long as He desires the world will continue to carry on.

While there are those who do venture out even attending Divine Service in person, there are those who continue to remain safe at home and follow the Divine Service through the internet. Just saying that people are following the Divine Service through the internet is quite a statement because it has not been that long since we have had such capabilities. As with just about all inventions, so it is with the internet. Although it was designed for good, the devil uses it for evil, but we rejoice and give thanks for the good.

While we muddle through with adjusting to airing our services over the internet, we appreciate the patience of all those who tune in. I would remind you that your pastors are not the most tech savvy, but we try and we learn and try again. And we thank you for bearing with us.

Finally, I would like to say thank you for those who attend in person and for those who attend online. I would like to say thank you to all who have been remembering the congregation and responding with your continued financial support. It warms my heart to know that so many of our members understand and practice good stewardship thanking the Lord for all His good gifts and blessings by responding in their offerings. With that said, I would encourage you to go back and read the Stewardship articles from this year and the ones that will be in the bulletin during the Sundays of September. And finally, as planned by the Stewardship board since January, I would encourage you to participate in the Stewardship Sunday pledging so that we might be better stewards as a congregation.

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!



09-02 Steve Nitz
09-06 James Pierce
& Mary Pierce
09-10 Edna Ehrhardt

09-13 David Honerkamp
09-17 Dan Pierce
09-20 Carol Gentes
09-23 Virginia Lawrence
09-24 Leon Lilley

Baptismal Birthdays

09-01 Mikaela Reese
09-03 Lorna Sentesi
09-07 Addison Christie
09-09 Joshua Bogs
09-16 Jordan Christy

09-18 Lillian Hill
09-19 Aaron Lilley
09-20 John Tautenhahn
09-25 Daniel Pedersen
09-29 Sonny French



Confirmation Anniversaries



09-12 Christina & Daniel Cross
09-29 Sonny French

Wedding Anniversaries

09-15 Ernest & Isabell Pali – 54 years
09-20 Jim & Marilyn Holland – 34 years



Holy Days and Holidays in September

September 7th - Labor Day
September 11th - Patriot Day
September 13th - Grandparents Day
September 14th - Holy Cross Day
September 21st - St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
September 22nd - 1st Day of Autumn
September 29th - St. Michael and All Angels

Stewardship Under the Cross: Putting It All Together

[This Newsletter Articles draws together much information from the previous five by way of summary.]

Over the past several months we have set out as a congregation to learn what God's Word has to say about stewardship. One thing we learned is that faithful stewardship is a lifestyle. So here is a review of God's Word for you to study with the year ahead in mind. No matter where you are at in your stewardship – tithing, going beyond a tithe, or still considering the concept of tithing – let this study lead you to think about pray about stewardship based on the Word.

Your heart will always go where you put God's money. Jesus said that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also and as we sing each Sunday morning at the Offering: 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 at least a tithe of their income (10% of whatever "comes in") back to Him at their place of worship.

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 Corinthians 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 following questions 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.

From Pastor Mendez

We Need words of Encouragement: — 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

We are facing times of struggle and uncertainty in our lives and things in our daily plans to living as you now we are having E.S.L. classes (English as Second Language) with the community here in church at the beginning of the year we had register around 70 people plus some of their kids coming at church for the E.S.L. program offering here, and in the brake time we had a Devotional with them and share small part of the Catechism of Martin Luther so we can share the Word of God and Proclaiming the Good news of Salvation to those who doesn’t know Jesus Christ, unfortunately we being facing this world pandemic Covid-19 and we have to suspend the program for this season of the year until we have more advise of treatments of this Virus, we pray God of this situation will go pass soon, and we come back together again to providing the knowledge of the Language but the most important the Knowledge of His Salvation throw Faith in Jesus Christ. Let us pray together to come back stronger in the Lord and give them that words of encouragement and Faith and the Lord who has all in Control Help us keep Strong Together as Brother and Sisters in Christ.

Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Loving others includes encouraging one another. In Romans 12:7-8, Paul lists encouragement among the gifts of grace. When people accomplish a common objective together, all are encouraged. Fellow believers encourage one another to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

The Thessalonian Christians faced struggles and an uncertain future. Paul wrote to encourage them, reminding them of their faith and love and hope in Christ, all of which prepared them to be ready for the Lord's return. And with these assurances they could keep encouraging one another and building each other up.

The gift of encouragement is important in our lives. Encouragement is a gift in the home, the workplace, the church—wherever we find ourselves. We can come alongside others and be there for one another. We can listen, comfort, console, affirm. It's a way of living out the command to love one another.

Take time to recall the people who've been encouragers in your life. They're the ones who were there when you thought you'd never laugh again. They were the ones who listened to you; whereas others just talked. Then ask yourself, "When was the last time I encouraged someone?" It's not difficult, and the people you encourage are so blessed by it.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to recognize the struggler or the lonely—anyone who needs your encouragement of love and hope today. In your name, Amen.

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