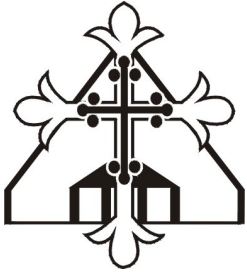


We Welcome You to St. Matthew!



We are so glad to share with you the blessings of God's Holy Word today. If you have no church home, we invite you to consider membership at St. Matthew. Please fill out the Record of Fellowship book found at the end of the pew and sign our guest book in the Narthex (entryway). We hope to see you again soon. Come often to be given the gifts our Lord has to give!

Worship Information

Elders..... Jason Christy & Steve Roberts
 Greeters.....
 Ushers..... Robert Sindlinger & Jordan Christy
 Counters.....
 Acolyte..... Isabel Vaz
 Altar Guild..... Becky Mendez & Hannah Bogs

At St. Matthew, we encourage families to worship God together – it is a part of His plan. We love the sound of children. This shows a growing church. We do recognize, however, the special needs of our youngest church attendees. While we encourage children to be present in worship, if they are a distraction to you or others, you may take advantage of the Cry Room located on the south side of the narthex where the Restroom is located as well, which is equipped with a changing table and a rocking chair for the times you may just need to step out for a brief moment. Please do come back in the sanctuary to continue in the Divine Service.

Any prayer requests may be made using the prayer request card on the shelf in the Narthex or in the pews. Place them in the offering plate or give to a pastor or elder.

We're Here to Assist You

Church Office Hours: Monday–Thursday – 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
 281-443-2304 or 281-443-8463

Appointments for counsel, home visits or hospital calls may be requested with Pastor by phone at any time.

Senior Pastor..... Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs ~ 832-515-4830
 Associate Pastor of Hispanic Ministry... Rev. Arturo Mendez ~ 832-883-1705
 Organist..... Michael Held
 Parish Secretary..... Amanda Hobbs

Board Chairpersons:

Elders.....
 Trustees..... Eugene Meyer
 Education... Kathleen Montemayor
 Evangelism..... Lester Sentesi
 Stewardship... Nicole Poppenhusen

Congregational Officers:

President..... Scott Christy
 Vice Pres..... David Honerkamp
 Secretary..... Elaina Alvarez Christy
 Treasurer.....
 Financial Secretary.. Nicole Poppenhusen

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield is a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) which is a denomination that confesses the historic, orthodox Christian faith, a faith built on “the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone” (Eph. 2:20).



The LCMS, headquartered in St. Louis, Mo., is mission-oriented and Bible-based. LCMS doctrine reflects the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther, as summarized in *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Today, the LCMS has nearly 2 million baptized members in more than 6,000 congregations and some 9,000 pastors. Two seminaries and nine colleges and universities operate under the auspices of the LCMS, and its congregations operate the largest Protestant parochial school system in America.

Life Thoughts

January 7 – Epiphany I/Baptism of Our Lord – Nothing and nobody comes into existence apart from the will and the Word of the Lord God Almighty (Genesis 1:3). This means God desires the survival of every human life from fertilization to forever. We court great danger if we go against this intent or counsel others to do so (Psalm 29:7-8). Instead let us receive neighbors as blessings and enjoy our Father's favor (Mark 1:11)!

Stewardship Every Sunday

Matthew 3:14 – “John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’” John is right — what Jesus is doing makes no sense! But this is the upside-down, outlandish grace of God: the innocent Jesus takes our sinner's place. This is the greatest act of giving the world has ever known or will know: the Father gives His Son to die in the place of sinners.

Attendance for Last Week ~ 12/31/2023
 Adult Bible Class - N/A Galatians Class - 20
 Sun. Divine Service - 113 Spanish Service - N/A
 Offering - \$5848.00
 Wed. Morning Bible Class - 7 Wed. Evening Bible Classes -
For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2

Life Quotes

“What is it that is essential for your life this New Year? What gifts do you cherish? Certainly, Jesus is the most precious gift we have! Let Him shine through your whole life this year. Take Him with you everywhere. Remember whose family you belong to! Cling to Jesus, our Father’s Son this New Year! Our Father goes with you and promises His blessings, now and forever!” Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Planning for 2024

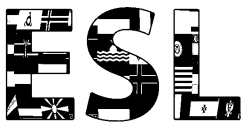
The Board of Evangelism & Fellowship will be meeting Sunday, January 14, 2024 to plan our activities for 2024. If you have an activity you would like to see us do, please see Lester Sentesi or any board member.

Church Re-pipe Fund

At the August 27 Congregational meeting of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield, the voters voted to begin a fund to re-pipe all our facilities. The cost estimated at around \$40,000. This fund is to be funded by any member wishing to make a contribution above their normal tithe. At the same time we will pursue financing the amount over what is contributed. However, if the contributions amount to more than the cost all extra monies will then be put in the general fund.

ESL Classes

ESL classes are every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm and began again on August 15th. If you need more information, please see Pastor Mendez or contact him at pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com.



Church Telephone Information

Just a quick note that if you are trying to call the church during office hours (8am - 1pm) you will receive a message stating that "the person that you are trying to reach is unavailable." If you press 0 it will direct you back to the secretary. You can also communicate with the church office through email at office.smlcw@gmail.com. Thank you for your patience while we work to get back up and running.



Prayers for Our Church Family & Friends

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people. . . . This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ~1 Timothy 2:1-4

Please remember those whose needs have been reported with prayers, cards and visits. BOLD FONT indicates request is new or has been updated this Sunday.

Comfort

✘ For the Family of Selma Baumgartner - who passed away

Strength & Healing

- ✘ Eugene Meyer - respiratory problems
- ✘ Dale & Kerri McLeod - In critical condition after a plane crash (friends of John & Jan Stayton)
- ✘ Barbara Newbould - shingles & a blood clot in her lung
- ✘ Keith Wells - hospitalized for problems with AFIB (Dad of Troy Wells)
- ✘ Tash Hoyumpa - prayers for his recovery from surgery (friend of BJ & Rose Jackson)
- ✘ Hunter Baty - Fhar’s disease (friend of Marie Fischer)
- ✘ Joshua Montemayor - prayers for good medical test results

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✘ Patricia LaShomb - has completed radiation treatment and has more test and treatments scheduled for the future. Pray for strength and healing during this continued recovery process
- ✘ Denise Berry - diagnosed with ALS (cousin of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Helena Goss - prayer for healing as she goes through cancer treatments (Aunt of Shawn Goss)
- ✘ Karren Radcliff - hospitalized for wound healing (friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ Rose Ortiz - stage 2 pancreatic cancer (friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ Eda Nitz - comfort and peace as she deals with skin cancer, leukemia, and macular degeneration
- ✘ Justin Street - facial tumor (friend of Shawn Goss)
- ✘ Toby Turley - cancer (niece of Gaces)
- ✘ Carolyn Nitche - lymphoma, no treatment plan (aunt of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Angela Wilkins - breast cancer (daughter of Gayle Bell)
- ✘ Michael Held - strength after Covid and pancreatic cancer
- ✘ Jan Stayton - healing from back surgery
- ✘ Leon Lilley - leukemia

- ✘ Paul Kron - cancer
- ✘ Bill Pali - Alzheimers
- ✘ Anne McIlhany - heart failure, myasthenia gravis, systemic sclerosis
- ✘ Gladys Banewski - cancer (friend of Gaces)
- ✘ Stephanie Nixdorf - stage 4 melanoma (friend of the Helds)
- ✘ Brandon Pate - sclerosis of the liver (friend of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Aileen Mercer - failing eye sight
- ✘ Carolina Villarreal - cancer & surgery (friend of the Mendez Family)
- ✘ Jeanie Cowger - cancer (step-family of the Cowger family)
- ✘ Marian Piracci - neurological treatment (niece of the Langleys' son-in-law)
- ✘ Vic Vaz - leukemia (husband of Shelia Vaz)
- ✘ JoAnn Roberts - chronic Leukemia Stage 1 (wife of Steve Roberts)
- ✘ Sue Wright - prayer of thanksgiving that cancer is in remission but other undiagnosed medical issues are under testing (aunt of Elaina Albarez)
- ✘ Matthew Piserelle - no treatment (brother of Phillip Williamson)

Our Shut Ins

Gladys Barton, Marcia Carr, Karen Mavus, Aileen Mercer, Bill Pali, Arlene Schultz, Eda Nitz & Sherry Betz

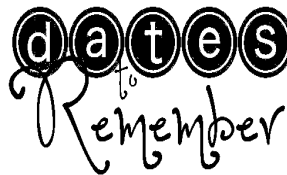
General Prayer

- ✘ Comfort & Protection for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Israel
- ✘ Jason & Kim Christy - healthy pregnancy & baby
- ✘ Sisilie and Chris Lawrence - healthy pregnancy & baby due May 2024 (son & daughter-in-law of Gary & Virginia Lawrence)
- ✘ Susie Wells - seeking employment after 9 years with Microsoft
- ✘ The family of Ali Lowitzer - strength during difficult times & for her safe return home (granddaughter of Mary Davis)
- ✘ For the safety of those serving in the military: Greggrie O'Garro - Navy/Bahrain (son of Claire O'Garro), Anthony Valles Army/Japan (grandson of Nancy Baeza), Chris Crowley (Navy/USS Roosevelt (son-in-law of Nicole Poppenhusen), Timothy & Benjamin Menz - Marines (sons of Paul Menz), Steven & Robert Hailey - Marines (nephews of the Haileys)

February Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the February 2024 newsletter. Please submit them to office.smlcw@gmail.com by

Monday, January 22nd.



Celebrations

Birthdays: 1/19 Scott Christy, 1/19 Joshua Montemayor & 1/20 Cody Williamson

Baptism Anniversaries: 1/14 Aaron Bogs & 1/18 Marc McIlhany

Wedding Anniversaries: 1/17 Mark & Anamarie LaShomb ~ 21 Yrs. & 1/17 Joel & Rene Musgrove - 26 Yrs.

125th Anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Four years ago an attempt was started to get ready to celebrate our congregation's 120th anniversary. That attempt was thwarted by Covid. We will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield. In order to assure a proper celebration the congregation has authorized an Anniversary Celebration fund. Because a committee has not yet been set for this celebration there is not yet a goal as for how much we would like to collect, but please do not let that stop you from beginning the giving so that we might indeed have a grand celebration.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

2024 Picnic Committee/Volunteers

Picnic Committee will be meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2024 immediately following church service. Anyone interested in helping should attend. If you have any questions please contact Lester Sentesi, Phillip Williamson or Melissa Sindlinger. Thank you to everyone in advance for your help in making our 2024 picnic a wonderful success.



Texas Confessional Quarterly Meeting

The Texas Confessional Lutherans meet at Grace, Brenham, January 18. Coffee should be available a little after 10 am. We open with a brief devotional service at 10:30. Topical presentation and discussion begins around 10:45. If time allows, we will begin the business meeting before lunch. We break for lunch at 12:30, traveling to the "Cannery" restaurant in downtown Brenham. (I think they recently raised their rates to \$12). We will conclude the business meeting before 2 pm. For the topical discussion I would like attendees to Professor Joel Okamoto's article in the Fall 2003 Concordia Journal. (Vol 49. Number 4, pages 9-26) Making Sense of Confessionalism Today. Your input would be valuable to the discussion so please take time to locate and read the article. An online "flip-book" version can be found on the Concordia Seminary website Concordia Journal | Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (csl.edu). We will be making plans for a free conference presentation in September. Please send me your suggestions for a topic and/or speaker.

FELLOWSHIP HALL CONSTRUCTION

Repairs to the fellowship hall floor will commence the first week of January 2024. Be advised the building will be unavailable for use from January 2 through February 10 or until repairs are completed. Amanda has blocked out these dates on the church calendar so please do not request to schedule any events during this time. Once repairs are completed the congregation will be notified.



Yearly Housekeeping for 2024!!

Mailboxes in the Narthex: Your mailbox is in the narthex in the Ushers room against the back wall. The monthly newsletter, offering envelopes, schedules and any other information that the church needs to get out to you is delivered here. If you do not have a box please notify the church secretary. These boxes will be cleaned out February 1st, so please take home whatever papers that you wish to keep.



Prayer Requests: Please take a look at the prayer requests list. If you have an update for someone please let Pastor know or email/call the office so that we can get the update posted.

Michael Held Retirement

Michael Held has announced his retirement as organist of St. Matthew. His multiple health issues have made it too difficult for him to continue. Here are his thoughts to all of you:

"It has been an honor and a joy to serve as your organist and to help lead you in worship for the past 23 years. I greatly appreciate your faithful singing each Sunday. We have shared many great hymns and liturgy together in praise to the Lord. Serving in ministry together with Pastor Bogs, Pastor Mendez, and John Lisius has been such a blessing. Gayle Bogs and David Honerkamp have also supported me in so many ways the past several months. I thank you all for your prayers, as well as for your patience and concern for me during my illness. May God continue to bless the ministry here at St. Matthew."

"Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day." Psalm 96:1-2



Opportunities to Study God's Word

Sunday School for All Ages

SUNDAY Preschool - Elementary Classes begin at 8:45 am in Room #5. The children are learning Biblical accounts from the Growing in Christ series.



Sunday Adult Bible Classes

All members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church are invited for coffee and donuts every Sunday at



SCHOOL 8:30 am. Then our Bible Classes begin at 8:45 am. The study of Joshua led by Pastor Bogs meets in Room #2 and Galatians led by Larry Harvey meets in Room #4. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend!

Wednesday Mornings

The Wednesday morning Bible study group will be meeting at 10:00 am in Room #2. We invite everyone to join us to study God's Word. We are studying Luther's Large Catechism.



Wednesday Evenings

There are two Wednesday evening Bible classes. The study on Baptism led by Larry Harvey meets at 6:30 pm in Room #4. The study of End Times led by Pastor Bogs meets at 7:00 pm in Room #2.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Join us for the Men's Breakfast & Bible Study on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is February 10th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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