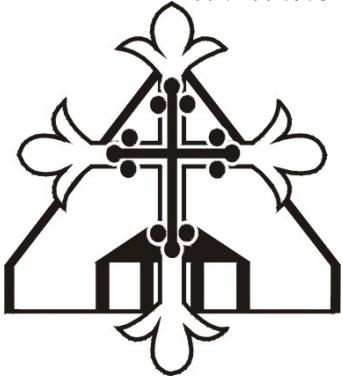


We Welcome You to St. Matthew!



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 Steve Roberts & Curtis Gace
- Greeters..... Jim & Mary Gibbs
- Ushers Luke Tusing & Jordan Christy
- Counters Joe & Shirley Michka
- Acolyte..... Lily Williamson
- Altar Guild Hannah Bogs & Becky Mendez

At St. Matthew, we encourage families to worship God together – it is a part of His plan. 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, we invite you to take advantage of the **Nursery** located in the Sunday School wing north of the Sanctuary which is equipped with a speaker so mom and dad can attend to their child’s needs and still participate in the service. Or you may visit 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.

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

- Pastor..... Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs
- Organist..... Michael Held
- Assoc. Pastor of Hispanic Ministry Rev. Arturo Mendez
- Parish Secretary ... Amanda Hobbs
- Board Chairpersons:**
- Elders Jason Christy
- Trustees..... Eugene Meyer
- Education..... Vacant
- Evangelism Vacant
- Stewardship Vacant
- Congregational Officers:**
- President..... Scott Christy
- Vice Pres. David Honerkamp
- Secretary Christina Cross
- Treasurer..... Dan Cross

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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 16 – Epiphany II – God chose humankind in Christ Jesus. God chose you with the celebration of a wedding (John 2:11). God chose you with the love a husband has for his bride (Isaiah 62:4-5). God chose you and all offspring of Adam and Eve (Psalm 128:3). God chose you and every variety of human being, chose us into existence, chose us with forgiveness, chose us for making a difference (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

Stewardship Every Sunday

John 2:5 - “His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ What must Mary have thought when Jesus replied, ‘What does this have to do with Me?’” But she knew whatever her Son said to do would be a blessing, so she knows what advice to give to the servants: Do whatever He tells you! That’s still good advice for us in every aspect of our lives - including in our generosity toward the Lord’s work in the Church.



Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.

ESL Classes

ESL classes are every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm. Pray for this mission of St. Matthew that God will bless it to continue strongly in reaching out to our community not only teaching English but also sharing the Gospel of the Lord. Of you need more info, please see Pastor Mendez.

LED Light Improvement Fund

A fund for a gradual upgrade of all building lights to LEDs exists to help reduce our utility cost in the future. Any dedicated donations towards this fund please specify "LED Light Improvement Fund."

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will be here at St. Matthew on Tuesday, February 1st. They will be performing advanced ultrasound to detect peripheral arterial disease and other vascular conditions. Life Line is offering a complimentary screening certificate and you can find those in the narthex. Pre-registration is required so please call 1-800-772-8260 or register online at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.

KFUO Radio



KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUO.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music.

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: Hear specials on the sanctity of life leading up to the March for Life on The Coffee Hour (weekdays at 9:00 a.m. CT), study Luke 2-4 on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and study Matthew 10-11 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Listen live or on demand at kfuo.org and the KFUO Radio app!

Attendance for Last Week (01/09)

Adult Bible Class - 16 Galatians Class - 13

Sun. Divine Service - 86/\$2791

Wed. Morning Bible Class - 6 Wed. Evening Bible Class - n/a

Wednesday classes have resumed in Room #2

*For great is His steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.*

Praise the Lord! ~Psalm 117:2

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. Most requests will be listed for **THREE** Sundays unless updated. **BOLD FONT** indicates request is new or has been updated this Sunday.

Strength & Healing

- ✘ **Brandon Pate-diagnosed with partial scerosis of the liver(Friend of Nicole Poppenhusen)**
- ✘ Dale Cowger-Recovering from Covid (father of Dave Cowger)
- ✘ Rosie Hildebrandt-shingles (sister of Curtis Gace)
- ✘ Jan Stayton-Had back surgery of Wednesday 1/5
- ✘ Mr. Castillo-suffering Alzheimer having surgery(father-in-law of Pastor Mendez brother-in-law)
- ✘ Rosemary McElroy-hospitalized in San Antonio for leg amputation (sister-in-law of Janie McElroy)
- ✘ Karren Radcliff-paraplegic needing prayers for healing of wounds (college friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ LaVerne Theiss-hospitalized w/pneumonia (cousin of Jane McElroy)
- ✘ Henry Keefhaver-newborn in NICU with serious complications (great nephew of Curtis Gace)

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✘ Andrué Barnwell-terminal cancer advanced, no more treatment (cousin of Gayle Bogs)
- ✘ Chris Pirk-receiving cancer treatment (friend of David & Mikaela Reese)
- ✘ Sherry Adams-has started radiation to help treat her cancer (co-worker of Lester Sentesi)
- ✘ Paul Kron-receiving cancer treatment
- ✘ Carmen Arnold-cancer returned (friend of Jarod Christy)
- ✘ Carl Holmes-dementia (former member)
- ✘ Bill Pali-Alzheimers
- ✘ Anne McIlhany-heart failure, myasthenia gravis, systemic sclerosis
- ✘ Debbie Blanton - Health complications (Daughter of Shirley Coyle)
- ✘ Joan Mikecz-recurrent lung infections (sister of Jeanne Held)
- ✘ Ceci-kidney issues (great niece of Jim Gibbs)
- ✘ Dave Nahrwold-bladder cancer (father of Elisabeth Held)

- ✘ Jeanie Cowger—cancer (step-family of Cowger family)
- ✘ Clarence Meal—lung cancer (friend of Bettye Carter)
- ✘ Sandra Randolph—chronic fatigue syndrome (cousin of Sharon Gace)
- ✘ Phyllis Smith—cancer (cousin of Bryce Koslan)
- ✘ Kevin Clark—broken neck & back (brother of Korey Clark)
- ✘ Eugene File—lung cancer (friend of B.J. & Rose Jackson)
- ✘ Clarence Bourgeois—plaque on the brain & heart problems (father of Sean Bourgeois-Shirley Coyle’s great grandson)
- ✘ Marian Piracci—compromised neuro system (niece of Langleys’ son-in-law)
- ✘ Vic Vaz—Lukemia (husband of Sheila Vaz)
- ✘ Leon Lilley—Leukemia
- ✘ Chryssa Sharp—ovarian cancer (cousin of Karen Mavus)
- ✘ JoAnn Roberts—chronic Leukemia Stage 1 (wife of Steve Roberts)
- ✘ Miranda Rodriguez—bipolar disorder (friend of Shirley Coyle)
- ✘ Betty Carroll—cancer w/dementia (friend of Cathy Coyle’s aunt)
- ✘ Odet Mendez—possible breast cancer (sister of Arturo Mendez)
- ✘ Matthew Piserelle—no treatment (brother of Phillip Williamson)
- ✘ Charlie Garton—child w/ brain cancer (friend of Mark Johnson)
- ✘ David Saville—MS (nephew of Louie Pali)
- ✘ Christina Cross—multiple health issues (sister of Dan Cross)

Our Shut Ins

Louise Simmons, Richard & Karen Mavus, Bill Pali, Aileen Mercer, Mario Reyes, Marcia Carr, Dixie Garrett, Arlene Schultz & Gladys Brandt

General Prayer

- ✘ The family of Ali Lowitzer—strength & understanding during difficult times & for her safe return home (granddaughter of Mary Davis)
- ✘ For a safe and healthy pregnancy for Amanda Tusing (due in February), Mikaela & David Reese (due in May)
- ✘ For the safety of those serving in the military: Greggrie O’Garro (Navy) - Bahrain (son of Claire O’Garro); Anthony Valles (Army) - Ft. Hood (grandson of Nancy Baeza), Chris Crowley (Navy) - USS Roosevelt (son-in-law of Nicole Poppenhusen); Timothy & Benjamin Menz (sons of Paul Menz)

Celebrations

Birthdays: 1/19 Scott Christy, 1/19 Joshua Montemayor, 1/20 Cody Williamson, 1/21 Jack Christy & 1/21 Troy Lilley

Baptism Anniversaries: 1/18 Marc McIlhany & 1/22 Jack Lutsch

Wedding Anniversaries: 1/17 Mark & Anamarie LaShomb ~ 19 yrs & 1/17 Joel & Rene Musgrove ~ 24 yrs

Life Quotes

“You are not and never have been simply a number, a blob of tissue, or an invisible nobody. Rather, you are now and always have been God’s handcrafted gift to the world.” Michelle Bauman, director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Texas Confessional Lutherans

The next quarterly meeting of the Texas Confessional Lutherans is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2022 at Grace Lutheran in Brenham. Our speaker/topic(s): Rev. Arturo Mendez will be speaking about his involvement with LINC. We will take up the topic of Rev. Toby Byrd's "State of Confessional Unity" and discuss this year's free conference on "Confessional Lutheran Church Planting." We are still in need of a Program Chairman, and thus also volunteers to present topics at our regular meetings. Please contact Dr. Bogs if you have ideas or input toward this. We will meet Jan.20 beginning at 10:30am. After devotions and the morning topic, we will commute to the Cannery at 12:30 for lunch (\$10) followed by our business meeting. Please plan on joining us and consider inviting a friend, or two. See you in Brenham!

SUNDAY NIGHT ON KKHT 100.7 FM "THE WORD"

January 16, 2022 7:30 - 8 p.m. Engaging Truth II
"THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION"

How does the Reformation of 500 years ago help me today? A look at one of the most important statements of faith from the Reformation era will guide us. We will hear from President Mike Newman, of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, as he helps us apply the Augsburg Confession to our life in Christ, (specifically Articles 4 and 5). About a dozen years after Martin Luther nailed his "95 Theses" against corruption to the Castle Church door (October 31, 1517, in Wittenberg, Germany), a powerful presentation was made to Emperor Charles V. That 1530 presentation, called the "Augsburg Confession," restored the Bible as the Christian's ultimate authority and Christ as the One who has fully earned your forgiveness. Pastor John Cain hosts this discussion.

Listen to past broadcasts of Engaging Truth on elmhouston.org

PRISM - Precious Rubies In St. Matthew Resuming!

Please make sure that you mark the 27th of February on your calendars because the PRISM meetings are starting back up. You can find more information about this in the “Opportunities to Study God’s Word” section of our announcements.



Opportunities to Study God's Word

Sunday School for All Ages

Preschool - Elementary Classes begin at 8:45 am in **Room #2**. They children are learning Biblical accounts from the Growing in Christ series. **The Sr. & Jr. High School class** is led by Pastor Mendez in **Room #3** which is now studying "Angels."



Sunday Adult Bible Classes

All members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church are invited to attend the Adult Bible Classes each Sunday at 8:45 am. **Revelation** led by Pastor Bogs meets in the Fellowship Hall (gym). And **Galatians** led by Larry Harvey meets in **Room #4**. Please join us. Bring a friend!

Wednesday Mornings

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group will be meeting at **10:00 am** in **Room #2**. We invite everyone who is available to join us to study God's Word. We are studying **Corinthians**.



Wednesday Evenings

Wednesday evening Bible Class meets at **7 pm** in **Room #2**. We are studying the **Psalms**. Bring a friend for an enjoyable evening!

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Join us for the Men's Breakfast and Bible study on the **2nd Saturday** of the month at **8:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is January 9th. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.



PRISM – Precious Rubies In St Matthew

PRISM is going to meet on February 27 at 9 a.m. Ladies of all ages are invited to enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and Bible study. We will be diving into "Living a Chocolate Life" by Deb Burma. "Living a Chocolate Life" invites women to savor God's rich and endless supply of grace in Christ. This study reminds readers that the Holy Spirit fills them with sweet faith in the Savior and it is only He who can truly satisfy. Please let Tiffany Cowger (call or text 815-719-1435) if you will be in attendance, so she can order enough books and food!

Lutherans For Life 2022 Texas State Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents

For Students in Grades 6 through 12

Any Lutheran student in a Lutheran school or church is eligible. Lutheran students may also enter through a home school or congregation, e.g. confirmation class or youth group, when validated by a pastor or teacher.



Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: Blessed For Life with the Bible verse: "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies." Psalm 41:2.

1. Not incorporating the theme and verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.
2. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but are not limited to abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia etc.
3. Essays should include student's name, grade (school or church), and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay.
4. All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.
Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words
Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words
Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google Docs to bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org by **April 1, 2022**.
5. There will be a \$100 first place award and \$50 second place award for each of the two categories. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org with any questions.
6. Grand prize for the national winning entry at each level: \$250 plus free conference registration to the 2022 Lutherans For Life National conference and one night stay at the conference hotel.
7. All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.
8. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see lutheransforlife.org