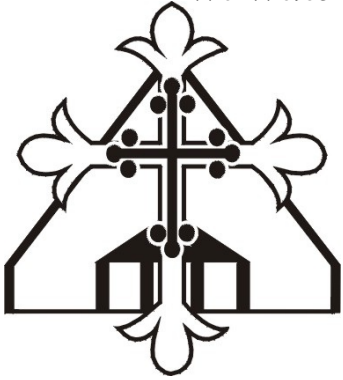


We Welcome You to St. Matthew!



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..... Aaron Montemayor
- 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
- Board Chairpersons:
- Elders Jason Christy
- Trustees..... Eugene Meyer
- Education..... Vacant
- Evangelism Vacant
- Stewardship Vacant
- Assoc. Pastor of Hispanic Ministry Rev. Arturo Mendez
- Parish Secretary ... Amanda Hobbs
- 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 30 – Epiphany IV – Physician-assisted suicide prizes autonomy. Abortion prioritizes “my body, my choice.” But Christlike love “endures all things” and “does not insist on its own way” (1 Corinthians 13:5, 7). Only this love, which speaks truth, shows hope, and shares joy, can unshackle hearts from the demonic deception of using death as a solution (Luke 4:35). The Gospel love of Him who knows all before any are born (Jeremiah 1:5) changes minds and saves lives.

Stewardship Every Sunday

Matthew 8:26 - “And he said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?’ Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.” Jesus often contrast fear and faith. Fear indicates a lack of faith, and faith drives out our fears. This is because to have faith in God means to trust Him and to know that we have a Father in heaven who loves us and cares for us. If we know this, what is there to be afraid of? Our fears often hold us back from godly living - but why be afraid? We know the Lord and His sacrificial love for us, so we do not need to be afraid to follow in His footsteps.



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.

****Attention Members ****

Your End of Year Statements are in the Narthex in front of the mailboxes. Please make sure that you pick those up as soon as possible. Thank you so much!

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."

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: Study Luke 6-7 on Sharper Iron's "The Beloved Physician's Orderly Account" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study Matthew 13-14 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and worship with us in Daily Chapel services (weekdays at 10:00 a.m. CT). Listen live or on demand at kfu.org and the KFUO Radio app!

Welcome New Member

On Thursday, Jan. 26, we welcomed Gladys Barton, a shut-in, into membership through the waters of Holy Baptism. We rejoice in her being added to the number of saints.

Attendance for Last Week (01/23)

Adult Bible Class - 21 Galatians Class - 12

Sun. Divine Service - 89 /\$4,085

Wed. Morning Bible Class - 9 Wed. Evening Bible Class -n/a

*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

- ✘ Sue Wright-Cancer Diagnosis (Elaina Alvarez Aunt)
- ✘ Benny Alvarez - Cancer (Elaina's Brother)
- ✘ Brandon Pate-diagnosed with partial sclerosis 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

- ✘ Andrue 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)
- ✘ Bill Pali-Alzheimers
- ✘ Anne McIlhany-heart failure, myasthenia gravis, systemic sclerosis
- ✘ Debbie Blanton - Health complications (Daughter of Shirley Coyle)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ Marian Piracci—compromised neuro system (niece of Langleys' son-in-law)
- ✘ Vic Vaz—Lukemia (husband of Sheila Vaz)
- ✘ 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 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) - Japan (grandson of Nancy Baeza), Chris Crowley (Navy) - USS Roosevelt (son-in-law of Nicole Poppenhusen); Timothy & Benjamin Menz (sons of Paul Menz)

Celebrations

Birthdays: 1/31 Ricky Gause, 2/3 Michael Nelson & 1/4 James Musgrove

Baptism Anniversaries: 2/2 Amina Lesso, Joshua Montemayor & 2/4 John Stayton

Life Quotes

“Because of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, our Father now holds His hand out to each and every human being: perfect inclusion, perfection belonging—no exceptions! You are chosen! You are a branch who has received the Life of the Vine!” Marie MacPherson, author – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



Women's Renewal Retreat

February 25th-27th, 2022

Sisters in Christ!

Join us for our Women's Renewal Retreat on February 25th-27th. Experience physical and spiritual rejuvenation, as well as a fun and loving community of women. The Women's Renewal Retreat is time set aside for ladies to reflect on Christ and His Word, be in fellowship with other sisters in Christ, and spend time in His creation. Each year this fun weekend includes opportunities for hiking, archery, tomahawk throwing, crafts, canoeing, star gazing, a prayer walk around the lake, campfire devotions, quiet meditation outside, and conquering the climbing tower.

This year's retreat is lead by author Ruth Meyer, who will lead us in studying Biblical examples of our 2022 theme, Refuge. Ruth graduated from Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with a degree in church music and currently lives in rural Texas with her husband, who works as a Pastor, and their five children, two dogs, and cat. It is her hope that through her writing, readers are assured of God's grace through His Son, Jesus.

Join us at Camp Lone Star and experience the love Christ offers! Register before February 14th at www.camplonestar.org

Cost: \$162/per person



Save the date!

Epiphany Hymn Festival
3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6
in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus

Featuring Dr. Stephen Starke, commentator, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and the Seminary String Ensemble

Celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ with us this Epiphany season! Join us in person or via livestream at csl.edu/live. Find details on our events calendar and learn more about the Concordia Seminary Concert

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 26 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