

# 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..... BJ Jackson & David Honerkamp  
Greeters..... Melissa Sindlinger & Lillian Hill  
Ushers ..... Aaron Montemayor & Joshua Montemayor  
Counters ..... Carolyn McCorquodale  
Acolyte..... Isabel Vaz  
Altar Guild..... Sylvia Christy & Becky Reyes

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.....  
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

February 11 – Transfiguration of Our Lord – We proclaim not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord (2 Corinthians 4:5) of body and sexuality. We proclaim not personal choice, but Jesus Christ as Lord of marriage and procreation. We proclaim not popular opinion, but Jesus Christ as Lord of hurts and healing. We proclaim not political debate, but Jesus Christ as Lord of life and death. Listen to Him who makes us beloved children of God (Mark 9:7).

## Stewardship Every Sunday

Mark 9:6 – “For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.” Soon enough, the disciples’ terror turned into joy, for when Jesus is with us, there is no need to fear. He loves us and cares for us and will never abandon us. That assurance is the basis of all generosity — for only those who are set free from worry can learn the joy of giving.

Attendance for Last Week ~ 02/04/2024  
Adult Bible Class - N/A Galatians Class - 8  
Sun. Divine Service - 114  
Offering - \$5617.00  
Wed. Morning Bible Class - 10 Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 12  
*For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2*

## Life Quotes

“We live dripping with the promise of Baptism. We live fueled by the fire of God’s Word. We live created on the sixth day and recreated by God’s grace to be followers of Jesus seven days of the week until that great eighth day, called eternity, when we will sing praise in His presence forever. We live and we love and we are loved in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, sin forgiven, shame erased, status: all very good.” Rev. Dr. John Nunes, guest speaker on “The Lutheran Hour” – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

## Board of Evangelism Monthly Meeting

The Board of Evangelism & Fellowship will be meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month after church service. The next meeting will be Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. So mark your calendars and plan to attend. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### Strength & Healing

- ✘ Jarod Christy - tested positive for Covid
- ✘ Marie Fisher - Having a heart valve replacement
- ✘ Jose Galvaz - recovery from 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns
- ✘ Mario Deleon - Personal Issues (friend of Scott Christy)
- ✘ Butch Edmonds - under going brain surgery (friend of Gary & Carolyn McCorquodale)
- ✘ Werner Hartl - fell and broke his hand among many other injuries
- ✘ Dale & Kerri McLeod - In critical condition after a plane crash (friends of John & Jan Stayton)

### Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✘ Hunter Baty - Fhar’s disease (friend of Marie Fischer)
- ✘ 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

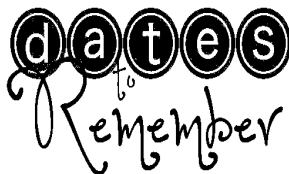
#### General Prayer

- ✘ 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)

March Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the March 2024 newsletter. Please submit them to [office.smlcw@gmail.com](mailto:office.smlcw@gmail.com) by

Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.



#### Celebrations

Birthdays: 2/13 Jess Clark, 2/16 Mackenzie Gentes & 2/17 Amanda Goss  
 Baptism Anniversaries: 2/8 Kristyn Christie, 2/11 Jessica LaShomb & 2/11 Sandra Pedersen  
 Wedding Anniversaries: 2/12 Gordon & Peg Munson ~ 69 Yrs. & 2/14 Korey & Carol Clark ~ 34 Years

#### 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

The Anniversary Committee had their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting and we are excited. The Grand Celebration will be held on May 18, 2025. We have invited Dr. Harrison to be our guest Preacher that day as we celebrate not only 125 years as a congregation, but also our 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic.

We have a lot to do and time is going to fly by. We need your help. If you want to be part of the planning for this awesome year of celebration please see Lester Sentesi. "Growing Together In Christ for 125 Years!"

#### St. Matthew Lutheran Church 2024 Picnic Committee/Volunteers

The Picnic Committee met and we are excited. There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for side dishes, desserts & for people to sign up to work. We need potato salad, coleslaw, pies & cakes. As well as lots of people to help out. 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.



#### Hymn Sing Requests for the Lenten Services

Your favorite hymn, that hymn that we never get to sing, can be requested now to be sung at our Hymn Sing at 7:15 pm on Lenten Wednesdays before Vespers. Put the hymn number and title on the sheet in the Narthex, and it will be played at Hymn Sing. "First come, first sung!"

#### 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.

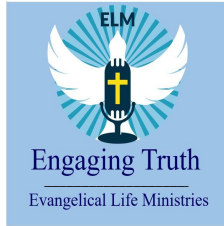




Attn: Senior Congregation Members!  
Fellowship wants to re-establish our 55+ Seniors Ministry. We are looking for an excited 55+ person and/or couple to head up the program. If interested please see Lester. This is a Fellowship Group for our 55+ members.

**FEBRUARY 2024 PROGRAMMING**

The month of February is often considered “The Month of Love” because Valentine’s Day occurs mid-month and the thoughts of many turn to romance. But love has multiple meanings. Of course, there’s the romantic attraction that is so often thought of on Valentine’s Day, but here at Evangelical Life Ministries we seek out examples of “agape” love, the kind exemplified by the unmatched sacrificial love of Jesus for the people of His creation.



The question for us then is, how is that love reflected in our homes and churches? Can it be seen by those closest to us? This month on our Engaging Truth broadcasts we’ve captured the essence of that “agape” love in four couples whose lives and ministries showcase the lasting love that binds couples together for a lifetime.

To start the month, host Bill Prewitt welcomes Pastor Steve and Jamie Wiechman, whose Breathe Life Ministry helps clerical couples’ recharge when they find themselves in need of a boost in spiritual and physical renewal. On February 11th, host Pastor John Cain welcomes Pastor Ralph Hobradschk and his wife Lynn to discuss their service to God’s kingdom and their community, and on February 18th host Pastor Doug Krengel welcomes Pastor Mauricio Franco and his wife Gladys, who are serving the Rio Grande Valley community of Harlingen at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Finally, on February 25th host Pastor Jeff Doria welcomes Pastor Grayson “PG” Albers and his wife Kimberly, currently serving Immanuel Lutheran Ministries in Temple, TX.

February 11, 2024  
7 p.m. - Pastor Ralph and Lynn Hobradschk  
7:30 p.m. – Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz – “LIBERTY ACTION ALERT”

February 18, 2024  
7 p.m. – Pastor Mauricio and Gladys Franco  
7:30 p.m. – Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz – “LIBERTY ACTION ALERT”

February 25, 2024  
7 p.m. – Pastor Grayson (PG) and Kimberly Albers  
7:30 p.m. – Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz – “LIBERTY ACTION ALERT”

**Opportunities to Study God’s Word**

**SUNDAY**



**Sunday School for All Ages**  
Preschool - Elementary Classes begin at 8:45 am in Room #5. The children are learning Biblical accounts to go with Sunday’s Readings from “God’s Hand in Our Lives” series from the Church of the Lutheran Confessions.

**SCHOOL**

**Sunday Adult Bible Classes**  
All members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church are invited for coffee and donuts every Sunday at 8:30 am. Then our Bible Classes begin at 8:45 am. The study of Judges 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 will resume meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Men’s Breakfast Bible Study**  
Join us for the Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is March 9<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.

