

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 Scott Christy & Jason Christy
 Greeters Melissa Sindlinger & Lillian Hill
 Ushers Randy Bogs & Nathan Cross
 Counters Carolyn McCorquodale
 Acolyte Ruby Montemayor
 Altar Guild Sylvia Christy & Angie 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	Assoc. Pastor of Hispanic Ministry
Organist..... Michael Held Rev. Arturo Mendez
Board Chairpersons:	Parish Secretary ... Amanda Hobbs
Elders..... Jason Christy	Congregational Officers:
Trustees..... Eugene Meyer	President..... Scott Christy
Education..... Vacant	Vice Pres. David Honerkamp
Evangelism..... Vacant	Secretary..... Christina Cross
Stewardship..... Vacant	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



February 20 – Epiphany VII – The Lord Jesus Christ means to destroy all that threatens any human life (1 Corinthians 15:26). This absolutely includes those who participate in abortion. Almighty God finds their lives just as precious as the ones that were lost. His Fatherly love removes their transgressions just as far as ours (Psalm 103:12-13). What better way to bless them (Luke 6:27-31) than to speak of it courageously and compassionately?

Stewardship Every Sunday

Luke 6:30-31 - “Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.” Is it really possible to live like this? Would it really work to be so open-handed and generous? Our conscience often reminds us of our failures, and the Lord knows our frailty, that’s for sure! But a life of faith is a life lived in imitation of Jesus, and every follower of Jesus knows that yes, indeed, it is better to give than to receive.



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.

PRISM – Precious Rubies In St Matthew

Please find information for this month's ladies PRISM meeting on Saturday, February 26th in the Fellowship Hall at the bottom of the Opportunities to Studies God Word section of your bulletin. 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 "Augsburg Confession Article VI: New Obedience" on Concord Matters (2/26 at 10:00 a.m. CT), worship with us in Daily Chapel weekdays at 10:00 a.m. CT, and study Luke 10-11 on Sharper Iron's "The Beloved Physician's Orderly Account" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs live and on demand at kfu.org or on the KFUO Radio app!

Life Quotes

"Jesus Christ has made every human life indispensable." Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Attendance for Last Week (02/13)

Adult Bible Class - 19 Galatians Class - 14

Sun. Divine Service - 99 /\$5543

Wed. Morning Bible Class - 8 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.

Comfort

✘ **For the Family of Florentino Castillo-passed away (father-in-law of Pastor Mendez brother-in-law)**

Strength & Healing

✘ **Jim McKay-In the hospital (brother of Carol Clark)**

✘ **Susan-Being Treated for Cancer(co-worker of Amanda Goss)**

✘ Erica Vogt-long term Covid complications (granddaughter of Michael & Jeanne Held)

✘ Elizabeth Posey-Still fighting Covid & Flu but has been moved out of the hospital and back to her nursing home (mother of Sharon Gace)

✘ Carolina Villarreal-Cancer and surgery (friend of The Mendez Family)

✘ Jan Stayton-healing from back surgery this past Wednesday

✘ 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)

✘ 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)

Cancer/Long Term Healing

✘ Andrué Barnwell-terminal cancer has been moved to hospice care (cousin of Gayle Bogs)

✘ Leon Lilley-Leukemia (father of Troy Lilley)

✘ Chris Pirk-receiving cancer treatment (friend of David & Mikaela Reese)

✘ Sherry Adams-radiation for 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)
- ✘ 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: 2/21 Cathy Smith, 2/22 Richard Maximus LaShomb, 2/23 Gary McCorquodale, 2/25 Chris Aikman & 2/26 Carol Clark
Baptism Anniversaries: 2/24 Troy Lilley

Memory Bricks



We are taking orders for new Memory Garden bricks in the Narthex now. The Memory Garden outside of the sanctuary leading to the bell tower was built as an American Heritage Girls' Stars & Stripes project in 2021 for a place of fellowship after services, as well as, to remember and respect life from the unborn to the elderly. Engraved bricks with names of loved ones who have gone to see Christ in heaven

were donated for the project. Since the project was completed, some have requested new bricks of their loved ones who have gone to their eternal home. Once we have at least ten bricks ordered, we will make a church order. Bricks are now \$20 each (since it's not a project fundraiser), and there is a \$5 extra charge to add a symbol to your brick. The symbols available are next to the order form in the Narthex. 21 characters (including spaces) are allowed per line. Only 18 characters per line for those bricks with symbols. Please fill out the information for each brick separately on the form in the Narthex. You may combine your payment if ordering multiple bricks. Make checks payable to St. Matthew. If paying by credit card, go to <https://www.stmatthewlcms.com/giving.html> and click on the "donate" button. If using a credit card, please add \$1 per brick to cover Paypal fees. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Congregational Assembly Meeting

Agenda

March 6, 2022
 Opening Prayer
 Approve CAM minutes from 11-21-2021
 Pastor's Reports
 Board Reports
 Treasurer's Report
 Old Business N/A
 Closing Prayer

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 "Revelation."



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