

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..... Sonny French & Scott Christy
 Greeters..... Dave & Tiffany Cowger
 Ushers Dillon Mosier & Noah Montemayor
 Counters
 Acolyte..... Ruby Montemayor
 Altar Guild..... Marie Fischer & Vita Malloy

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.....
 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

March 3 – Lent III – The Lord God closely associates life and family. He stands commands about parenting and marriage on either side of the prohibition against killing (Exodus 20:12-14). He holds human life as highest priority and will not accept any other creatures as replacement (John 2:15-16). Body and sexuality serve to enrich life – our own as well as one another’s – and not to eliminate it.

Stewardship Every Sunday

John 2:16 – “And he told those who sold the pigeons, ‘Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.’” The Lord’s house is not a place to sell, but a place to receive and a place to give. It’s not a place for our schemes and plans. Instead, the church is a place for the Lord’s gracious giving and our faithful sacrifices in response.

Attendance for Last Week ~ 02/25/2024
 Adult Bible Class - N/A Galatians Class - 13
 Sun. Divine Service - 102
 Offering - \$5740.00
 Wed. Morning Bible Class - 8 Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 5
For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2

Life Quotes

"[W]e were made for light and life. God's Word and Sacraments cast darkness aside in our lives; they draw us closer to Him and make us strong unto salvation ... cling to the promises of Christ. May we recognize that we are blessed For Life even when we are surrounded by darkness, and may we in our darkest seasons, through the work of the Holy Spirit, lean toward the Son for light and for hope." Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Board of Evangelism Monthly Meeting

The Board of Evangelism & Fellowship will be meeting every 3rd Sunday of each month after church service. The next meeting will be Sunday, March 17th. 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.



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 Marcia Carr - who passed away Friday 2/23. Her service will be held at Calvary Hill Funeral Home on Monday 3/4. Viewing is at 9am, Service 10am & committal at 11am.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- ✘ Angela Wilkins - In recovery from breast cancer (daughter of Gayle Bell)

Strength & Healing

- ✘ Vita Malloy - fell and is sore and bruised. (Friend of Marie Fischer)
- ✘ Ruben Alvarez - health challenges (father of Elaina Alvarez Christy)
- ✘ Jean Hinz - recovering from hernia surgery
- ✘ Marie Fisher - Having a heart valve replacement
- ✘ Jose Galvaz - recovery from 3rd 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)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ 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, Laverne Theiss & Betty Carter

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/USC Roosevelt (son-in-law of Nicole Poppenhusen), Timothy & Benjamin Menz - Marines (sons of Paul Menz), Steven & Robert Hailey - Marines (nephews of the Haileys)

April Newsletter Deadline

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

Monday, March 25th.

dates
Remember

Celebrations

Birthdays: 3/5 Aileen Mercer & 3/5 Jarrod Musgrove

Confirmed Anniversaries: 3/7 Kim Christy

125th Anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

The Anniversary Committee had their 1st 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 125th 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.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

There will be a Congregational Assembly meeting on Sunday, March 3 immediately after Divine Service.

- Agenda
Call to Order
Opening Prayer
Approve minutes from 11-12-2023 CAM
Pastor's Reports
Treasurer's Report
Board Reports
Old Business:
- Constitution Review Committee update
New Business:
- Congregational Secretary vacancy
Motion to Adjourn
Closing Prayer

*Save
the
Date*

2024 Special Service Lent Schedule
March 6th, 13th & 20th

Noon Service
7:15pm Hymn Sing
7:30pm Worship
10am w/Lord's Supper

March 24th Palm Sunday
/Confirmation
March 28th Maundy Thursday

Noon Service
7:30pmw/Lord's Supper
Noon Service
7:30pm/Cemetery
7:00am no Lord's
Supper
8:45am Sunday School
10:00am w/Lord's Supper

March 29th Good Friday

March 31st Easter Sunday



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 John 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 2nd.

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 March 9th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.

