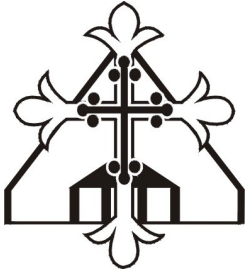


We Welcome You to St. Matthew!



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..... Dave & Tiffany Cowger
 Ushers Dillon Mosier & Noah Montemayor
 Counters Nancy Baeza
 Acolyte..... Alex Vaz
 Altar Guild..... Nancy Baeza & Marie Fisher

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..... Jarod Christy
 Trustees..... Eugene Meyer
 Education... Kathleen Montemayor
 Evangelism..... Lester Sentesi
 Stewardship... Nicole Poppenhusen

Congregational Officers:

President..... Scott Christy
 Vice Pres..... David Honerkamp
 Secretary..... Elaina Alvarez
 Treasurer..... Dan Cross
 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 5 – Lent II – Father Abraham was justified (Romans 4:2-3); that is, he had a reason for coming into being and continuing to live. Abraham was not justified by works, that is; this reason arose from elsewhere than his own origin, appearance, or ability. Abraham was justified by grace; that is, God's creating, redeeming, and calling defined his identity. The Gospel proclaims the sanctity of life to all Abraham's offspring (Romans 4:16)!

Stewardship Every Sunday

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” This is perhaps the most well-known and beloved verse in the New Testament, for good reason. This simple Gospel message is the foundation for our whole life, including our new life in Christ. This new life is characterized by thankfulness and devotion to our Father who has provided for us so lavishly in Christ.



Attendance for Last Week ~ 02/26/2023
 Adult Bible Class - 12 Galatians Class - 10
 Sun. Divine Service - 102 Spanish Service - N/A
 Offering - \$5721.00
 Wed. Morning Bible Class - 7 Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 6
For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord


Life Quotes

“But death isn’t a part of the life for which we were created—for we were created. You didn’t morph from pond scum into an intelligent hairless monkey; you were handcrafted by the Lord of the Universe.” Hannah Nissing, Bulldogs4Life, the Y4Life team at Concordia, Nebraska – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Wednesday Evening Bible Class Important Announcement

Due to the Lenten Services the study on Psalms led by Pastor Bogs will resume meeting the Wednesday *after* Easter, April 12 at 7:00 pm. However, the study on Word & Sacrament led by Larry Harvey will continue to meet at the regular time and place: 6:30 pm in Room #4.

Helping Hands Fund




Our Helping Hands Fund is designated to help members of St. Matthew and from time to time we do have members who have a need for some financial assistance. Because God reminds us that we help those in need when we are able so that others might help us when we are in need (2 Cor. 8:13-15), if you are so moved, the Helping Hands fund could use any donations. Please mark your offering as “Helping Hands Fund.”

ESL Classes

ESL classes are every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm. Pray for this mission that God will bless us to continue reaching out to our community strongly. If you need more information, please see Pastor Mendez or contact him at pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com.



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.” Each light cost about \$80. Please consider “adopting” a light or two. We are also in need of volunteers to install lights. So if you would like to donate your time to help install lights please contact the trustees.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING (CAM)
There will be a CAM meeting on Sunday, March 19 immediately after Divine Service.



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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

- ✘ The Paulsel Family tested positive for Covid
- ✘ Debbie Blanton - is going home from the hospital after having a stroke (daughter of Shirley Coyle)
- ✘ Joshua Montemayor - prayers for good medical test results
- ✘ Martha Paz - recovery from health complications (Mother of Pastor Mendez)
- ✘ Cora Berry - recovering from eye surgery (mother of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Betty Burr - in ICU (cousin of Jan Stayton)
- ✘ Karen Radcliff - surgery to promote wound healing (college friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ Mariela Guerra - pray for healing (friend of Pastor Mendez)

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- 
- ✘ Gayle Berry - pneumonia, bilateral pleural effusions, DSD, spinal stenosis & some spondylosisthesis (uncle of Nicole Poppenhusen)
 - ✘ Eda Nitz - new leukemia treatment
 - ✘ Michael Held - pancreatic cancer
 - ✘ Jan Stayton - healing from back surgery
 - ✘ Leon Lilley - leukemia
 - ✘ Paul Kron - cancer treatment
 - ✘ Bill Pali - Alzheimers
 - ✘ Anne McIlhany - heart failure, myasthenia gravis, systemic sclerosis
 - ✘ Rev. Bruce Nathan - in town for cancer treatment@MD Anderson
 - ✘ Gladys Banewski - cancer (friend of Curtis & Sharon Gace)
 - ✘ Jake Fodderie - brain tumor (nephew of Christina Cross)
 - ✘ Stephanie Favreau - Breast cancer (friend of the Gace & Goss families)
 - ✘ Colin Brogan - recovering from heart surgery (friend of Sonny French)
 - ✘ Stephanie Nixdorf - stage 4 melanoma (friend of the Helds)
 - ✘ Craig Johnson - rehab/skilled nursing soon (father of Christina Cross)
 - ✘ Brandon Pate - sclerosis of the liver (friend of Nicole Poppenhusen)

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
 Congregational Assembly Meeting (CAM) Agenda
 March 19, 2023

- ✘ Erica Vogt - Covid complications (granddaughter of the Helds)
- ✘ Carolina Villarreal - cancer & surgery (friend of the Mendez Family)
- ✘ Benny Alvarez - cancer (brother of Elaina Alvarez)
- ✘ Chris Pirk - cancer treatment (friend of the Reese family)
- ✘ Carmen Arnold - cancer returned (friend of Jarod Christy)
- ✘ Jeanie Cowger - cancer (step-family of the Cowger family)
- ✘ Kevin Clark - broken neck & back (brother of Korey Clark)
- ✘ Marian Piracci - neurological treatment (niece of the Langleys' son-in-law)
- ✘ Vic Vaz - leukemia (husband of Shelia 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)
- ✘ Sue Wright - cancer (aunt of Elaina Alvarez)
- ✘ Matthew Piserelle - no treatment (brother of Phillip Williamson)

- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Approve minutes from 11-13-2022 CAM
- Pastor's Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- Board Reports
- Old Business: N/A
- New Business: N/A
- Closing Prayer
- Motion to Adjourn

Our Shut Ins

Gladys Barton, Marcia Carr, Dixie Garrett, Richard & Karen Mavus, Aileen Mercer, Bill Pali, & Arlene Schultz

General Prayer

- ✘ The family of Ali Lowitzer - strength during difficult times & for her safe return home (granddaughter of Mary Davis)
- ✘ Healthy pregnancies & babies for: Julie Saunders (friend of Gayle Bogs) & Ashlyn Frizzel due in June
- ✘ For the safety of those serving in the military: Bradley Shipes - Airforce/Washington DC (former member), 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)

Celebrations

Birthdays: 3/5 Aileen Mercer, 3/5 Jarrod Musgrove & 3/11 Shirley Coyle
 Confirmation Anniversaries: 3/7 Kim Christy



Chancel Flowers are Given to
 the Glory of God
 by the Vaz Family
 in honor of Shelia Vaz's Birthday



Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening will be here at St. Matthew on Thursday, March 30th. They will be performing advanced ultrasound to detect peripheral arterial disease and other vascular conditions. Pre-registration is required so please call 1-800-772-8260 or register online at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.

Lent Service Schedule

- Lent Services March 8, 15, 22 & 29
- 12:00pm for those who cannot attend the evening service
- 7:15pm Hymn Sing, & 7:30pm Worship
- Palm Sunday/Confirmation April 2nd ~ 10am w/Lord's Supper
- Maundy Thursday April 6th ~ 12pm & 7:30pm w/Lord's Supper
- Good Friday April 7th ~ 12pm & 7:30pm/Cemetery
- Easter Sunday April 9th ~ 7:00am No Lord's Supper
 8:45am Sunday School
 10:00am w/Lord's Supper



Elders Call List

- Jason Christy: Aikman-Christy
- Sonny French: Clark-Garrett
- Scott Christy: Gentes-Koslan
- David Honerkamp: Kuhlman-McCorquodale
- B.J. Jackson: McElroy-Newbould
- Steve Roberts: Nitz-Reyes
- Jarod Christy: Roberts-Williamson



Beyond Reasonable Doubt

2023 Higher Things Youth Conference

“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.”

~1 Corinthians 15:14



Doubt. We confess to being poor miserable sinners every week but it can be hard to confess to wondering if there's even a God who exists to listen at all. Doubt crept into the apostles' hearts but we're afraid of what it means if we find it in our own. The devil sets a trap to leave you feeling alone, cut off from the Christians around you who don't seem to struggle like you. What if it's not real?

Jesus isn't just some guy. He died and then didn't stay dead. That's our hope. You can even prove it. God gives us verifiable scripture that can be traced and upheld through history. You just can't by your own reason or strength believe it. So He speaks to us, doubting hearts and minds that can't quite help but question.

The same thing is the core of our hope and our worldview: the resurrection. Because it's real. The gospel proclaimed by the Spirit to our hearts is something God dares us to question with our minds. If Christ has not been raised from the dead, we are above all to be pitied. So test it. There is evidence. This is the defense of the faith that defends you. It's called "apologetics." Your hope is rooted in a historic event, not in your own reason and strength.

O Ye of little faith, why did you doubt? It isn't a challenge. It's a call to be the one Jesus pulls from sinking waters. Like Peter. This is where you start to find your identity and belonging. You're not cut off from Christ in this doubt...If you must doubt, doubt boldly.

In the July 2023 youth from all over the world will tackle a faith that isn't a fairytale, and we'll prove it. Beyond Reasonable Doubt.

Five Youth, two Adult Leaders, and our two Pastors have registered to go to San Antonio July 25-28 with a possibility of more youth. If you would like to financially help them with their registration costs (\$475 each) as they tackle such an important issue for our youth in this day and age, please place your donations in the offering plate marked "Higher Things." We greatly appreciate any support and prayers you can give.

Also, our Penny Wars collection is still going on. These monies go to help fund the College Conference Volunteers (CCV) for which two of our previous attendees have applied! Just grab the coins out of your pockets, bottom of your purse, or underneath your car seats and place them in the bucket in the narthex. Many thanks!!

And if YOU want to attend (youth or adult), please see Gayle Bogs.

Opportunities to Study God's Word

SUNDAY



SCHOOL

Sunday School for All Ages
Preschool - Elementary Classes begin at 8:45 am in Room #5. The 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.

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 Pentetuch 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!



WE
WEDNESDAY

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 the Book of Hebrews.

Wednesday Evenings

There are two Wednesday evening Bible classes. The study on Word & Sacrament led by Larry Harvey meets at 6:30 pm in Room #4. The study on Psalms led by Pastor Bogs which normally meets at 7:00 pm in Room #2 will resume meeting the Wednesday after Easter.

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 April 8th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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