

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..... Ruby Montemayor
 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 26 – Lent V – Almighty God wondrously and abundantly brings forth life where we only behold despair and darkness (Ezekiel 37:3-6). How much more dear does He hold embryonic neighbors, impaired persons, and aging ones than piles of bones? And would we not witness—and deliver!—miracles in voicing it to them and for them, especially amid surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis?

Stewardship Every Sunday

Romans 8:1 – “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” This is the joy of the Gospel! There is no condemnation for us before the throne of God because in His love He has provided salvation for us in Christ. We have been set free. We are His children once again, and coheirs with Christ of all the blessings of heaven. If this does not make us thankful, nothing will!



Attendance for Last Week ~ 03/19/2023

Adult Bible Class - 18	Galatians Class - 6
Sun. Divine Service - 92	Spanish Service - 13
Offering - \$N/A	
Wed. Morning Bible Class - 8	Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 5

For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord



Easter Lilies

The Easter Lily Sign-Up sheet is in the narthex. Lilies are \$9 a plant. Please make your checks payable to St. Matthew and state if you would like them in honor or in memory of someone. Thank you!

ESL Classes

ESL classes are every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm. 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.



Easter Breakfast Help

Our Youth will once again be preparing and serving Easter Breakfast for the church this year. All of the money donated will go to our kids trip to Higher Things. This year the kids will need as much help as we can give them since we only have 2 families with kids going to Higher Things. So they are



asking the congregation for assistance.

We will need help on **Saturday, April 8th** setting up and preparing the food. As well as **Sunday, April 9th** with final preparation, serving and clean up. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Please sign up if you are able to help on Saturday and/or Sunday along with your phone number. We are also asking for donations and you can sign up to donate on the same list as the volunteers. **All donations must be at the church by 9am on Saturday, April 8th.** If you have any questions please contact Lester Sentesi. Let's show our youth that we love and support them!

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

- ✘ John Stayton - recovering from gall bladder surgery
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ Dave Nahrwold - recovery from complications of cancer surgery (father of Elisabeth Held)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ Aileen Mercer - failing eye sight



- ✠ 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)

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 & Amanda McCarthy due in October (Rachel Sentesi's sister-in-law)
- ✠ 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: 3/27 Aurora Franks, 3/28 David Cowger, 3/29 Tiffany Cowger & 3/29 Pamela Lilley
 Baptism Anniversaries: 3/26 Jarrod Musgrove
 Confirmation Anniversaries: 3/26 Jeanne Held, 3/26 Steve Nitz, 3/28 Aaron Bogs, 3/28 Mackenzie Gentes, 3/29 Junah Arimond, 3/29 Joshua Bogs, 3/29 Shirely Kuhlman, 3/30 Michael Held, 3/30 Marilyn Kron & 4/1 Jonathan LaShomb
 Wedding Anniversaries: 3/23 Phillip & Holly Williamson ~ 21 Yrs.



Lent Service Schedule

Lent Services March 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



St. Matthew Education Board

The St. Matthew Education Board wishes to announce that we will actively begin Sunday School classes on April 16, 2023. The Sunday School children will be singing on Matins Sunday, April 30, 2023. Our goal is to have the children sing every Matins Sunday.

125th Anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Four years ago an attempt was started to get ready to celebrate our congregation's 120th anniversary. That attempt was thwarted by COVID. In one year an eight months we will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield. In order to assure a proper celebration the congregation has authorized an Anniversary Celebration fund with the understanding that following the celebration any funds remaining will be put into the general fund. Because a committee has not yet been set for this celebration there is not yet a goal as for how much we would like to collect, but please do not let that stop you from beginning the giving so that we might indeed have a grand celebration.



Chancel Flowers are Given to the Glory of God by Lester Sentesi in memory of Cindy's Birthday



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  LOVE
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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