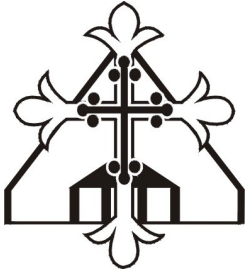


We Welcome You to St. Matthew!



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..... David Honerkamp & Jason Christy
 Greeters..... Daniel & Christina Cross
 Ushers Joshua Montemayor & Jarod Christy
 Counters
 Acolyte..... Alex Vaz
 Altar Guild..... Rose & BJ Jackson

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..... Becky Reyes
 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

April 28 – Easter V – It is anxiety and fright that drive folks to pursue abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and other measures that view death as a solution. Fear likewise bullies the sanctity of life into silence. But the Lord's perfect love puts all fear to flight (1 John 4:18). In surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis, we and our neighbors need not independence and empowerment but the presence, promises, and compassion of the Father Almighty.

Stewardship Every Sunday

John 15:2 – “Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” God is interested in the fruit that we bear in good works, and He even prunes us so that we may bring forth more fruit. Trusting in our Lord's work for us, being grafted by grace into His vine, we desire to be more like Him, to grow into His image. That's growth in fruit bearing — and it always comes with some pruning.

Attendance for Last Week ~ 04/21/2024
 Adult Bible Class - 21 Galatians Class - 12
 Sun. Divine Service - 93
 Offering - \$N/A
 Wed. Morning Bible Class - 6 Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 13
For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2

Life Quotes

“Scripture and prayer are our strongest weapons to change hearts, and we must persist and never give up, no matter how disappointing things get with evil laws being enacted or evil intent coming our way.” Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life – 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, May 26th. 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. If you need more information, please see Pastor Mendez or contact him at pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com.



Lutheran Witness Subscription

If you have requested and been receiving a subscription to the Lutheran Witness and have not submitted payment for your subscription. Please bring your envelope with the subscription cost of \$22.50 as soon as possible. Thank you



**Altar Flowers are being
Given by Karen French
celebrating the 70th
Anniversary
of Sonny & Joyce French**



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

- ✘ Frances Casper - recovering from open heart surgery (friend of Dave Cowger)
- ✘ Sylvia Christy - for recovery after surgery
- ✘ Rick Hamitt - has been diagnosed with ALS (son-in-law of The Staytons)
- ✘ Don Cornman - healing from sciatica
- ✘ Vita Malloy - recovering from surgery
- ✘ Patsy Hodges - recovering at home from cataract surgery
- ✘ Ruben Alvarez - health challenges (father of Elaina Alvarez Christy)
- ✘ Jean Hinz - recovering from hernia surgery
- ✘ Jose Galvaz - recovery from 3rd degree burns
- ✘ Werner Hartl - fell and broke his hand among many other injuries

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✘ Patricia LaShomb - prayers during her continued treatment and healing from cancer
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ Rose Ortiz - stage 2 pancreatic cancer (friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ Justin Street - facial tumor (friend of Shawn Goss)
- ✘ Toby Turley - cancer (niece of Gaces)
- ✘ Carolyn Nitche - lymphoma, no treatment plan (aunt of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ Brandon Pate - sclerosis of the liver (friend of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ 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)

Our Shut Ins

Gladys Brandt, Karen Mavus, Aileen Mercer, Bill Pali, Arlene Schultz, Sherry Betz & 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)
- ✘ 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)

Celebrations

Birthdays: 4/28 Arrip Parsalaw
 Confirmed Anniversaries: 4/28 Robert Sindlinger, 4/30 David Christie, 5/1 Sharol Aikman, 5/1 Tess Clark, 5/1 Trent Clark, 5/1 Dale Haude, 5/1 Mark LaShomb, 5/1 Troy Lilley, 5/2 Chad Lilley, 5/2 Holly Williamson, 5/3 Jarrod Musgrove, 5/3 Joel Musgrove, 5/3 Lester Sentesi, 5/3 Megan Williamson & 5/4 Amanda Goss
 Baptism Anniversaries: 5/3 Gary McCorquodale



June Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the June 2024 newsletter. Please submit them to office.smlcw@gmail.com by **Monday, May 20th**.

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 this past Sunday 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.



Dear Members of St. Matthew,



My family and I were overwhelmed by your generosity - the gift that was meant for Michael's retirement celebration was given to us at his committal service instead. He felt so blessed to be your organist for 23 years. During the last 2 years, as his abilities declined, playing the organ continued to give his life meaning - I thank you for your patience with him. Your prayers for him, and now for me and my family it means so much. May God continue to bless your ministry in the years ahead.

Much Love,

Jeanne Held & family ~ "Because I live, you shall live also" John 14:19

P.S. I neglected to say that the gift from St. Matthew would be split between the two music memorials set up for Michael at his sons schools - Concordia University Irvine organ fund and Concordia Lutheran High School - Tomball instrumental music program. Thank you so much!



Engaging Truth

Here at Engaging Truth the Easter message resounds throughout the month of April as we examine the four critical aspects of the Gospel of the Christ:

- The Sacrifice of Christ
- The Cross of Christ
- The Reconciliation of Christ
- The Resurrection of Christ

On April 7th, Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann joins host Rev. John Cain to discuss the sacrifice made in order to save mankind from sin and death, then on April 14th, host Bill Prewitt welcomes Rev. Nader Hanna for a discussion of the Cross as the Power of God. On April 21st, familiar guest Rev. Tim Carter joins host Rev. David Schultz for a close look at the Reconciliation of Christ, and finally on April 28th Rev. Dr. David Bahn joins Rev. Cain for a discussion of Christ's Resurrection.

Engaging Truth is produced by Evangelical Life Ministries, P.O. Box 568, Cypress, TX 77410. Join us each Sunday evening at 7 p.m. on KKHT-FM, 100.7 The Word, (kkht.com) for Engaging Truth followed each week by the Liberty Action Alert hosted by Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C.

Our programs are also available as podcasts on our website at elmhouston.org or anywhere you get your podcasts by searching for Engaging Truth.

The April Lineup:

April 28, 2024 7 p.m. – The Resurrection of Christ - Rev. Dr. David Bahn & Rev. John Cain
7:30 p.m. - Liberty Action Alert with Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty

~ A Message from the Family of Eda Nitz ~

The Nitz Family would like to thank everyone who attended the service of celebration of the life of our loved one, Eda Nitz. She loved her church family and friends and it was apparent that she was loved as well. We will all miss her, but we also have many special memories to hold on to. Your efforts shine brightly as a beacon of selfless service

for all of you who worked behind the scenes. You bring to life the words of Christ, serving others with a joyful heart and willing hands. Your dedication, love, and support to make Eda's strong request and desire that her memorial service be a celebration of life, was truly a blessing to our family. We know she would have been very pleased and would be so thankful. The Nitz Family (Steve, Paul and Jane)



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 The Augsburg Confession.

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 The Passover Sader Haggada led by Pastor Bogs meets at 7pm in Room #2.

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 May 11th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.

