

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 & Jason Christy
 Greeters..... Daniel & Christina Cross
 Ushers Joshua Montemayor & Aaron Bogs
 Counters Carolyn McCorquodale
 Acolyte..... Kaitlyn Christie
 Altar Guild..... BJ & Rose 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..... 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



April 9 – Resurrection of Our Lord – “Do not be afraid,” both the Easter angels and the risen Savior assure us (Matthew 28:4, 10). His everlasting and overcoming love (Jeremiah 31:3) means our whole being, body and soul, may rest secure (Psalm 16:9). We need fear neither surprise pregnancy nor terminal diagnosis, suffering nor death, because Christ Jesus mysteriously but mightily safeguards every human life (Colossians 3:3).

Stewardship Every Sunday

John 20:16 – “Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’” Jesus is risen from the dead, is the Victor over sin, and even calls us by name. He still calls us His friends and brothers and means to bring us through death to join Him in His resurrection. Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!



Attendance for Last Week ~ 04/2/2023
 Adult Bible Class - 14 Galatians Class - 17
 Sun. Divine Service - 214 Spanish Service - N/A
 Offering - \$5666.00
 Wed. Morning Bible Class - 7 Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 10
For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord

Life Quotes

“Our true identity turns us back toward our Creator, the one who not only made us but also defines us in His Word. So, permit me to remind you of that truth once more: You are a created child of God. You are handmade by Him, loved by Him, redeemed by Him, and sustained by Him. The gifts you possess are gifts He’s given you; all that is good comes from Him. Your identity and your value are, always were, and always will be, found in Him.” Michelle Bauman, Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

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.

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."



Board of Evangelism

There will be a Board of Evangelism meeting held on Sunday, April 23rd right after church services.



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

- ✘ Kathy Lee - hospitalized after a serious car accident (Lester Sentesi's son-in-laws grandmother)
- ✘ Toby Turley - Cancer (Curtis & Sharon Gace's Niece)
- ✘ 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 - blood clot in his lungs & cancer throughout his entire body (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: 4/9 Katie Clark, 4/10 Barbara Ellis &

4/10 Mary Garrett

Baptism Anniversaries: 4/9 Marilyn Kron, 4/9 Aileen Mercer, 4/13 Rachel Paulsel, 4/14 Kelly Gentes & 4/15 Peg Munson

Confirmation Anniversaries: 4/9 Hannah Bogs,

4/9 Jordan Christy, 4/9 Nathan Cross, 4/9 William Gentes, 4/9 Aaron Lilley, 4/9 Rebecca Mendez, 4/9 Dillon Mosier, 4/11 Larry Harvey, 4/14 Barbara Ellis, 4/14 Barbara Newbould, 4/14 Cody Williamson & 4/15 Ronald Bogs



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.



Easter Lillies

Mentioned many times in the Bible, the white lily symbolizes purity, rebirth, new beginnings and hope and is most often associated with the resurrection of Jesus Christ as observed on Easter.



It's thought that Easter lilies came to symbolize Christ not only because they embody purity—the trumpet-shaped blooms recall the horns that heralded the resurrection of Christ. And the life cycle of Easter lilies, which grow from a bulb for several years beneath the earth before blossoming into magnificent flowers, recalls Jesus' death and resurrection.



The Easter Lilies beautifying the Chancel are given to the Glory of God by:

- † Lorna Sentesi in memory of Alex Sentesi.
- † Lester Sentesi in memory of Cindy Sentesi.
- † Eda Nitz in memory of Robert Nitz.
- † Gordon & Peg Munson in memory of their parents & daughter.

- † Becky Reyes in memory of Mario Reyes.
- † Joe & Shirley Michka in memory of their parents.
- † Claire O'Garro in memory of her parents.
- † Steve Nitz in memory of Robert Nitz.
- † Nicole Poppenhusen in memory of her grandparents.
- † Werner & Karen Hartl in memory of their parents.
- † Michael & Jean Held in memory of their parents.
- † Gary & Virginia Lawrence in memory of Henry Lawrence & Evelyn Haude.
- † Chris & Sisilie Lawrence in memory of Henry Lawrence.
- † Eda Ehrhardt in memory of Clarence Ehrhardt & other loved ones.
- † Cathy Smith in memory of Tommy Smith.
- † Richard & Pat LaShomb in memory of our loved ones in Heaven.
- † Marie Fischer in memory of Karl Fischer.

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 James.

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 15th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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