

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 & Steve Roberts
 Greeters..... Sylvia Christy
 Ushers..... Jordan Christy & Aaron Bogs
 Counters..... Nancy Baeza
 Acolyte..... Logan Reed
 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..... 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 Christy
 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



July 2 – Pentecost V (Proper 8A) – Far from freedom and the opposite of autonomy, death-dealing measures like abortion and assisted suicide hold hearts captive to sinful passions (Romans 7:5-6) such as pride and lust. The sanctity of life Gospel brings the sword that truly liberates (Matthew 10:34) “so that you may belong to another” (Romans 7:4). The Heavenly Father holds every human life as His own precious treasure.

Stewardship Every Sunday

Mark 10:42 – “And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.” The tithes and offerings you give to the Lord’s work in His church go toward supporting all manner of discipleship. They provide for a minister of the Gospel to preach, teach and conduct the Sacraments; they provide for our missionaries and ministries of mercy here and abroad; and they make sure that the folks in your area have a place to go to worship the Lord. The Lord is pleased with this work, and He wants to bless you through your support of it.



Attendance for Last Week ~ 06/25/2023

Adult Bible Class - 17	Galatians Class - 12
Sun. Divine Service - 95	Spanish Service - N/A
Offering - \$4912.25	
Wed. Morning Bible Class - 10	Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 14

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

ESL Classes

ESL classes are every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm beginning again on August 15th. 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.

4TH FRIDAYS!!!!

The Board of Evangelism and Fellowship is excited to announce the beginning of our "4th FRIDAYS." This will be a fun evening of fellowship and movie watching. We will be providing popcorn, snacks and drinks. All we are asking is that you come out and enjoy the fun and bring a friend!



So far we have only received 1 request and that is for the Harry Potter series. If you have a suggestion for a movie that you would like to see let Lester know. Just keep in mind that they need to be family friendly so all of us can enjoy. We are so excited!!! Can't wait to see you all (and your invited friends).

Trumpeter Offering

We thank John Lisius for sharing his gift of music with us every Sunday. Not only does he accompany the organist during the hymns and liturgy with his trumpet and flute, but he writes a song each week to go with the sermon text for the choral anthem as well as plays the organ for our Spanish services. If you would like to show him your appreciation, there is a freewill offering every first Sunday of the month just for John. Please place your donation in the basket in the narthex.



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

✘ The Arnold Family - their mother passed away on June 24th (family friend of Jarod Christy)

Strength & Healing

- ✘ Arlene & Victor Schultz - God's provision when a tree fell on their house
- ✘ Patricia LaShomb - diagnosed with stage 2 Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma she will be undergoing more testing before surgery
- ✘ Eda Nitz - is in rehabilitation at Encompass Rehab
- ✘ Linda Ristow - heart surgery is scheduled for July 7th (Lester Sentesi's sister-in-law)
- ✘ Sharon Anderson - metastatic colon cancer & is undergoing chemotherapy (twin sister of Karen Hartl)
- ✘ Angela Wilkins - undergoing treatment for breast cancer (Gayle Bell's daughter)
- ✘ Eddie Cross - having test for possible lymphoma (cousin of Dan Cross)
- ✘ Justin Street - found a facial tumor (friend of Shawn Goss)
- ✘ Susan Baumgartner - 3cm aneurysm in her artery - undergoing treatment (cousin of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Carolyn Nitche - Lymphoma has returned with no treatment plan (aunt of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Denise Berry - ongoing test for undiagnosed health issues, also took a fall and fractured her wrist (cousin of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Tonya Michka-Adrion & her daughter Cadi - Cadi's cancer has returned (Daughter & Granddaughter of Joe & Shirley Michka)
- ✘ 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)

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✘ 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
- ✘ Gladys Banewski - cancer (friend of Curtis & Sharon Gace)
- ✘ Jake Fodderie - brain tumor (nephew of Christina Cross)
- ✘ 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 Albarez - cancer (brother of Elaina Albarez)
- ✘ Chris Pirk - cancer treatment (friend of the Reese 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 - cancer (aunt of Elaina Albarez)
- ✘ Matthew Piserelle - no treatment (brother of Phillip Williamson)

Our Shut Ins

Gladys Barton, Marcia Carr, Dixie Garrett, 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: 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: 7/3 Shirley Kuhlman
Baptism Anniversaries: 7/3 Devon Cowger, 7/5 Kaitlyn Christie & 7/8 Paul Nitz
Confirmation Anniversaries: 7/5 Ean Cowger
Wedding Anniversaries: 7/2 Steve & JoAnn Robert ~ 52 Yrs & 7/5 Marc & Anne McIlhany ~ 27 Yrs.

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. 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.



Life Quotes

"We may think our prayers are small in relation to the magnitude of the problem of abortion. Not so! ... Educate yourself, your children, and the people you know ... Support leaders who embrace these words, 'All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness' ... We have the most hopeful message the world has ever heard. You know it. God does big things with small stuff. How can we be so sure? Shiphrah and Puah, Jochebed, Miriam, and Moses ... and especially Jesus. Amen." Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

St. Matthew Lutheran Church ~ 2024 Picnic Committee/Volunteers

We at St. Matthew are looking forward to our 125th Anniversary Celebration in 2025. We want to re-launch our Annual May BBQ starting in May 2024 to ensure that it is up & running smoothly for that big celebration we would like to start planning now.



With that in mind we will be needing lots of volunteers. What we are needing right now is a volunteer to be "Kitchen Chairperson." This person will be available to supervise both on Saturday and Sunday of Picnic Weekend for setup, supervision of all aspects of the serving on that Sunday, to just generally make sure everything runs smoothly and clean-up.

We are also getting our Picnic Planning Committee together to plan, set-up & get everything ready to go. If you would like to serve as we plan for the re-launch of this iconic event see Lester Sentesi.

HELP WANTED for Eda Nitz

Looking for one or more persons to occasionally clean my mother's house (near Houston NW Medical Center) and/or drive her to doctor appointments. \$20/hour. Please contact Paul Nitz (281) 250-9509 if interested.



Prayer Request Updates

If you have submitted a prayer request for the church bulletin please update the church secretary on the condition and/or whether the prayer recipient has recovered and may be removed from the list. Thank you!

Independence Day Concert

We are pleased to announce the return of our annual Independence Day concert, "One Nation Under God," and invite all to join us as we celebrate the birthday of our nation.

The concert will be held on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, at 4:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church-Downtown, 800 Houston Avenue. Admission is free, there will be a free-will offering.



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 from the Growing in Christ series. The Sr. & Jr. High School class is led by Pastor Mendez in Room #3.

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 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!



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 Minor Prophets.

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 of Matthew led by Pastor Bogs meets at 7:00 pm 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 July 8th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

21434 East Hardy Rd., Houston, TX 77073
www.stmatthewlcms.com

281- 443-2304 or 281-443-8463
office.smlcw@gmail.com