

# 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 . . . . . Jason Christy & David Honerkamp  
 Greeters . . . . . Sylvia Christy  
 Ushers . . . . . Jordan Christy & Jarod Christy  
 Counters . . . . . Becky Reyes  
 Acolyte . . . . . Aaron Montemayor  
 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

July 28 – Pentecost X (Proper 12B) – Fatherhood embodies the gift and the work of God Himself (Ephesians 3:15). In bringing forth life from their very bodies, our Heavenly Father makes men into His instruments and agents. He expects a strong love from them because He has endowed them with His own. Let us encourage them to protect their children even when inconvenient and provide for mothers even if difficult.

## Stewardship Every Sunday

Ephesians 3:20 – “Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think ...” We often shortchange God by failing to remember what Paul says here: God can do far more than what we can think or ask. His power, and His love, are without bound and without measure. So why do we fear to follow His Word? Isn't it in fact fear that keeps us back from a life of joyous generosity and open-handedness? But God is able to do everything far more abundantly! So let us not be afraid to take the Lord at His Word and live according to it.



## September Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the September 2024 newsletter. Please submit them to [office.smlcw@gmail.com](mailto:office.smlcw@gmail.com) by Monday, August 26.

Attendance for Last Week ~ 07/21/2024  
Adult Bible Class - 16 Galatians Class - 15  
Sun. Divine Service - 91  
Offering - \$N/A

Wed. Morning Bible Class - 7 Wed. Evening Bible Classes -

*For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2*

### Life Quotes

“Let’s get back to the basics and drown out the ugly message that death is the solution to life issues. God loves life and His creation. He has no desire for any of us to take our own life or the life of someone else. Our days are in His hands, not our own. May your For Life work be blessed, and may you be filled with the joy that comes with doing the Lord’s work as a faithful servant.” Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

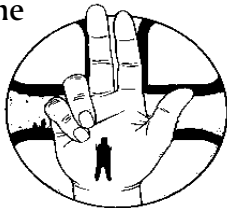
### Board of Evangelism Monthly Meeting

The Board of Evangelism & Fellowship will be meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month after church service. The next meeting will be, Sunday, August 18. 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.



### A GREAT BIG “THANK YOU” from our Youth!!!!

The youth group would like to thank all who supported them on their journey to Higher Things - “Who Am I?” at The University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas. They grew in the faith God gave to them. The conference pointed to Jesus who makes us HIS! Our identity is in Christ as a Baptized Child of God! Our tetramorph (team) Aquilla won the Penny Wars thanks mostly to the gifts of YOU here at St. Matthew as our contribution was almost half of what was given. Please continue to pray for our youth who are the future of this congregation and continue to support them and Higher Things. If you would like to see our pictures from this year’s HT, go to <https://photos.app.goo.gl/qQJmSKso2WQDEwSZA>



## 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.

### Prayer of Comfort

- ✘ Prayers for the family of Autry Burns who passed away Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> (brother of Shirley Kuhlman)

### Strength & Healing

- ✘ Art Mowad - undergoing cancer treatments (acquaintance of the Langleys)
- ✘ Miles Lindenberg - newborn baby diagnosed with aggressive blood disease (son of Chrissy & Donnie Lindenberg, friends of Pastor & Gayle)
- ✘ Paul Kron - prayers for recovery from kidney failure & cancer treatments
- ✘ Cindy Dewbre McClure - complications with her third knee replacement surgery on the same knee (friend of Elaina Alvarez Christy)
- ✘ Robbie Barton - diagnosed with cancer (brother of Jennifer Hailey)
- ✘ Jim Musgrove - fell at home. He has been released from the hospital and is recovering at home
- ✘ Patsy Hodges - recovering at home from cataract surgery
- ✘ Jean Hinz - recovering from hernia surgery
- ✘ Werner Hartl - fell and broke his hand among many other injuries

### Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✘ Ruben Alvarez - health challenges (father of Elaina Alvarez Christy)
- ✘ Jose Galvaz - recovering from 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns
- ✘ Rick Hamitt - has been diagnosed with ALS (son-in-law of the Staytons)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ Justin Street - facial tumor (friend of Shawn Goss)
- ✘ Toby Turley - cancer (niece of the Gaces)
- ✘ Carolyn Nitche - lymphoma, no treatment plan (aunt of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Jan Stayton - healing from back surgery
- ✘ Leon Lilley - leukemia

- ✘ 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

### General Prayer

- ✘ Comfort & Protection for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Israel
- ✘ 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: Daemon Metcalf - Navy (friend of Hanah Hailey), Victor & Andrew Guinn - Airforce (sons of Paul Guinn), 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), Robert Hailey - Marines (nephew of the Haileys)

### Celebrations

Birthdays: 7/28 Addison Christie, 7/30 William Gentes, 7/30 Aaron Lilley & 8/3 Ray Reed

Baptism Anniversaries: 8/3 Sharon Schleicher

Confirmed Anniversaries: 8/1 Sharon Schubert

### 125th Anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

The 125th Anniversary Committee is well underway for next year and we need your help. We have 6 subcommittees that need help.



1. Kick Off Celebration - 1/19/25
2. Banner Committee
3. Collectible or Memento Committee (work on a collectible souvenir)
4. Entertainment
5. School/Alumni Sunday
6. Reformation Celebration

Sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Please sign up. Also think and pray about a monetary donation to the Anniversary Account to help take care of the cost. "Growing Together in Christ for 125 years"

### Free conference August 30 and 31 in Brenham

Brothers and sisters, I assume you are busy with summer activities. I thought it good to send out a friendly reminder of the upcoming Free Conference hosted by Texas Confessional Lutherans at Grace Lutheran Church in Brenham, Texas on Friday evening and Saturday morning, August 30-31, 2024. Our presenter will be historian and theologian, Rev. Dr. Schurb. His presentation will review and analyze several of the chief theological and political issues and events that led to divisions in the Synod including the "Walk-out" at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis fifty years ago. Dr. Schurb's presentation will provide additional perspective to treat some of the conflicts still evident in our Synod. Dr. Schurb's presentation is designed for both rostered workers and laymen. Please share this notice with your friends and others in your congregation and circuit.

Rev. Schurb currently serves as Administrative Assistant to the President for Missions, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Human Care in the Central Illinois District of the LCMS. He has degrees from Concordia Teachers College, Seward (B.A., B.S.Ed.), Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne (M.Div., S.T.M.), and The Ohio State University (M.A., Ph.D.). For 19 years he served as a parish pastor in two congregations: Peace Lutheran Church, Berne, Indiana and Zion Lutheran Church, Moberly, Missouri. He also served as a theology professor at Concordia College, Ann Arbor and has occasionally taught on an adjunct basis for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Presently, he is Book Review Editor of the Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly.

On a more national Synod level he has served as a member of the Board for Youth Ministry, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, the Committee for Convention Nominations, and the Board of Governors of Concordia Historical Institute. He is now chairman of the Synod's Commission on Handbook. During the 1990s he worked for seven years as an assistant in the office of synodical President A. L. Barry. While a parish pastor in Missouri, he also served as a Vice-President of that District. He is a frequent guest and occasional host of the radio and podcast program, Issues, Etc.

More conference information will be forthcoming early in July. Please mark the dates August 30-31 on your calendars. God bless you. Pastor Kory Boster Christ Lutheran Church in Pattison, Texas phone 918-208-9425

## Evangelism ~ Why Me?

Last month we discussed what Evangelism is. This month let's take a look at why Evangelism is the privilege of every Christian. Most people run for the hills whenever a Pastor teaches or preaches about Evangelism. After all, that's not 1 of my gifts. That is someone else's job. **WRONG** In the Great Promise Jesus instructs His Disciples to "as you are going make disciples (those who desire to learn) of all nations" Matthew 28:19. Was that just directed at the 12 Disciples? No. Like everything else Christ taught and said these words were meant for us as well as the 12. Does that mean that we give up our

### Witness Workshop

Saturday, August 24, 2024  
9:00am-Noon @ St. Matthew

chosen vocations, sell our worldly possessions and dedicate our lives to the teaching and witnessing of the Gospel to the world? Also no. While there are those men and women who God calls into Ministry as Pastors, Teachers, Deacons, Deaconesses, DECs or other areas of full time church work these words were spoken by Christ to all believers. You may ask yourself, "What can I do? I am no good at talking to people, especially people I don't know?" No problem. There are many ways to "evangelize" and most of them have nothing to do with knocking on doors.

Most importantly is our "lifestyle Evangelism" that we exhibit on a daily basis. Visiting a shut in. Helping our neighbors even when they don't ask. Being in Sunday School and Bible Class and bringing our kids with us (what an awesome example to set.) Whenever we reach out in Christian love to help, aid, assist and/or correct or admonish we are exhibiting our faith in and our love for Christ and all he has done for us. We must remember however, that the reverse is also true. When we step outside our faith and do something that is contrary to God's word we are also witnessing. Getting frustrated and yelling at people in traffic especially when there are friends and/or family members in the car with us. Getting mad at the person ahead of us in the grocery line because they have 22 items in the 15 item or less aisle, the music we listen to and the shows and movies we watch all give testimony to the Witness we put forth to the world. How do you want to be perceived by those you come into contact with? Remember what Saint Paul tells us: "we are in the world, not of the world." We are chosen redeemed children of God. Does our daily witness show that? To that end Pastor Bogs will be leading us in a Witnessing Workshop on Saturday August 24th from 9 till Noon. Make plans to be there and find out what Witnessing is all about.

Lester Sentesi  
Board of Evangelism



## 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 Acts 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is August 10<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.

