

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 ..... Scott Christy & Curtis Gace
- Greeters..... Cathy Smith & Mary Davis
- Ushers ..... Will Gentes & James Pierce
- Counters ..... Carolyn McCorquodale
- Acolyte..... Joshua Montemayor
- Altar Guild ..... Sylvia Christy & Becky Reyes

At St. Matthew, we encourage families to worship God together – it is a part of His plan. 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, we invite you to take advantage of the **Nursery** located in the Sunday School wing north of the Sanctuary which is equipped with a speaker so mom and dad can attend to their child's needs and still participate in the service. Or you may visit 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.

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-2:00 pm  
Appointments for counsel, home visits or hospital calls may be requested with Pastor by phone at any time.

- Pastor. .... Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs
- Organist..... Michael Held
- Board Chairpersons:
- Elders ..... Jason Christy
- Trustees..... Eugene Meyer
- Education..... Vacant
- Evangelism ..... Vacant
- Stewardship ..... Vacant
- Assoc. Pastor of Hispanic Ministry ..... Rev. Arturo Mendez
- Parish Secretary . Amanda Hobbs
- Congregational Officers:
- President ..... Scott Christy
- Vice Pres. .... David Honerkamp
- Secretary ..... Christina Cross
- Treasurer ..... Dan Cross

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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**



September 12 – Pentecost XVI (Proper 19B) – Even Christian lips can dishonor God and endanger neighbors (James 3:9). When we permit assisted suicide or promote abortion, we cause more destruction than forest fires (James 3:5). But words also serve the Lord's gracious purposes. Gospel promises have delivered us. Even our sinful tongues can become instruments of His miracles. When we proclaim how God treasures every human life, He changes hearts and saves lives more than any laws or elections.

**Stewardship Every Sunday**

Mark 9:24 - "Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, 'I believe; help my unbelief!' ". Haven't we often felt like this! And notice that Jesus does not throw the man out because of his weakness of faith. He still has pity, and He still blesses the man as His Lord. But neither does Jesus leave people in weakness of faith. He blesses us and calls us to a deeper faith - as He did to the disciples in the boat on the storm-tossed sea. How does our faith grow? By hearing the Word Of God. What does our faith lead to as it grows? It leads to a godly life lived in thanksgiving to our Lord.



**Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.**



# Truth in a Post-Truth World

A HIGHER THINGS RETREAT

September 25, 2021

Zion Lutheran Church in Tomball, TX

## About this topic . . .

We no longer live in a post-modern society in which everyone has their own truth. Truth is no longer a subjective reality. We live in a post-truth world. What does this mean? Let Dr. Adam Francisco of Concordia University Chicago tell you what it means to declare, define, and defend the absolute truth of the Gospel in a post-truth world so that we may give a reason for the hope that is within us.

## Things to know . . .

**When:** September 25, 2021

**Where:** Zion Lutheran Church, Tomball, TX

**Cost:** \$30 per person

**Contact:** See *Gayle Bogs* if you want to go with the group from our church. Otherwise you may contact Lynea Sander, retreat coordinator, at (832) 722-3170 or lynealeia@gmail.com

**RSVP:** either tell Gayle or you may go online yourself and register at [www.higherthings.org/events/retreats](http://www.higherthings.org/events/retreats)

## About this retreat . . .

Picture the sanctuary filled with teenagers, eager for the organ to begin the opening lines of the liturgy or their favorite hymns, listening intently as they learn how their Lutheran faith applies to their lives and relationships, and laughing as they horse around playing games and getting to know other youth from the area. This retreat will give youth and adults a glimpse of a typical Higher Things youth conference. The \$30 cost covers three meals in addition to the retreat activities, running from 9am to 7pm.

Register for this retreat online at [www.higherthings.org/retreats](http://www.higherthings.org/retreats). Groups are encouraged to register online, however, you may bring your payment with you to Zion Lutheran Church when you arrive for the retreat. Please RSVP for this retreat by September 17.

## About Higher Things...

Higher Things is a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The mission of Higher Things is to support the church in passing on the Faith by teaching the next generation the Gospel of Jesus Christ: that they are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, as revealed in Scripture alone. For more information about Higher Things, please visit [www.higherthings.org](http://www.higherthings.org) or email [info@higherthings.org](mailto:info@higherthings.org).

## 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

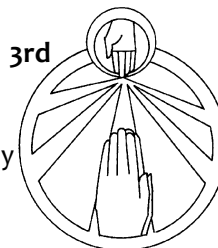
Please remember those whose needs have been reported with prayers, cards and visits. Most requests will be listed for *THREE* Sundays unless updated. **BOLD FONT** indicates request is new or has been updated this Sunday.

## Comfort

- ✠ **Family of Tommy Morrison - passed away Sept. 3rd (uncle of Holly Williamson)**

## Thanksgiving

- ✠ Loraine Lambert - Healing of cancer (Friend of Shirley Coyle)



## Strength & Healing

- ✠ **Victor & Arlene Schultz - Positive for Covid**
- ✠ **Pastor Otto Brillinger - hospitalized for Covid & broken ribs**
- ✠ **Larry Blanton - Having surgery (stepson of Shirley Coyle's daughter)**
- ✠ **Rusty - Severe covid complications in ICU (friend of Goss family)**
- ✠ **Curtis Gace - Future surgery for carotid arteries**
- ✠ Richard Mavus - stroke
- ✠ Michael and Shaynee (friends of Christina Cross)
- ✠ Kerri Bogs Harvard - skin cancer (cousin of Pastor Bogs)
- ✠ Lindsey Busby - hospitalized with Covid (friend of Goss family)
- ✠ Carol Rubio - multiple health issues (cousin of Jane McElroy)
- ✠ **Paula Southworth - Afib (friend of Arlene Schultz)**
- ✠ Brothers and sisters in Christ in Afghanistan
- ✠ All of those, especially those in our congregation, suffering from Covid

## Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✠ **Anne McIlhany - Systemic Sclerosis**
- ✠ **Deitra Johnson - Was in a major car accident (Daughter-in-law of Shirley Coyle)**
- ✠ Debbie Blanton - Health complications (Daughter of Shirley Coyle)
- ✠ Joan Mikecz- recurrent lung infections (sister of Jeanne Held)
- ✠ Anne McIlhany- oxygen issues
- ✠ Ceci - finished chemo & radiation, now on quarterly monitoring, still tired and having kidney issues (great niece of Jim Gibbs)
- ✠ Dave Nahrwold- beginning chemo for bladder cancer (father of Elisabeth Held)
- ✠ Jeanie Cowger- recently re-diagnosed with cancer (step-family of Cowger family)
- ✠ Clarence Meal- lung cancer diagnosis (friend of Bettye Carter)
- ✠ Sandra Randolph- chronic fatigue syndrome (cousin of Sharon Gace)
- ✠ Rev. David Oberdieck- diagnosed with kidney cancer (seminary classmate of Pastor Bogs)
- ✠ Christina Cross- multiple health issues (sister of Dan Cross)

- ✘ Andruw Barnwell- osteosarcoma now in lungs (cousin of Gayle Bogs)
- ✘ Isdell Birnbaum- stage 4 cancer, under hospice care
- ✘ Phyllis Smith- cancer (cousin of Bryce Koslan)
- ✘ Kevin Clark- broken neck & back (brother of Corey Clark)
- ✘ Nellie Vick- inoperable cancer (friend of Lester Sentesi)
- ✘ Eugene File- lung cancer (friend of B.J. & Rose Jackson)
- ✘ Clarence Bourgeois- plaque on the brain & heart problems (father of Sean Bourgeois-Shirley Coyle's great grandson)
- ✘ Marian Martens- cancer (mother of Nadine Reed)
- ✘ Brenda Pali- arthritis pain
- ✘ Marian Piracci- compromised neuro system (niece of Langley's son-in-law)
- ✘ Lani Henderson- cancer treatment (friend of Marie Fischer)
- ✘ Vic Vaz- leukemia (husband of Sheila Vaz)
- ✘ Leon Lilley- Leukemia
- ✘ Chryssa Sharp-ovarian cancer (cousin of Karen Mavus)
- ✘ Paul Kron- cancer treatments (husband of Marilyn Kron)
- ✘ JoAnn Roberts- chronic Leukemia Stage 1 (wife of Steve Roberts)
- ✘ Miranda Rodriguez- bipolar disorder (friend of Shirley Coyle)
- ✘ Betty Carroll- cancer w/dementia (friend of Cathy Coyle's aunt)
- ✘ Mary Ellen Zwahr- seizures (cousin of Brenda Pali)
- ✘ Odet Mendez-possible breast cancer (sister of Arturo Mendez)
- ✘ Dan-immune disorder (neighbor of Steve Roberts)
- ✘ Aileen Mercer-macular degeneration, back pain, shingles
- ✘ Matthew Piserelle-no treatment (brother of Phillip Williamson)
- ✘ Charlie Garton-child w/ brain cancer (friend of Mark Johnson)
- ✘ David Saville-MS (nephew of Louie Pali)

#### **Our Shut Ins**

Louise Simmons, Richard & Karen Mavus, Bill Pali, Aileen Mercer, Olivia Getschmann, Arthur Bolinger, Mario Reyes, Marcia Carr

#### **General Prayer**

- ✘ Sean Bourgeois & Garrett Johnson – personal guidance
- ✘ The family of Ali Lowitzer -- strength & understanding during difficult times & for her safe return home (granddaughter of Mary Davis)
- ✘ Georgiann & Ron Mallory & Barry Rosenberg – continued strength
- ✘ Michael & Guy Johnson – continued healing (sons of Shirley Coyle)
- ✘ For a safe and healthy pregnancy for Sisilie & Chris Lawrence, due in December
- ✘ For the safety of those serving in the military: Greggrie O'Garro (Navy)- Bahrain (son of Claire O'Garro); Anthony Valles (Army) - Ft. Hood (grandson of Nancy Baeza), Chris Crowley (Navy)- USS Roosevelt (son-in-law of Nicole Poppenhusen); Timothy & Benjamin Menz (sons of Paul Menz)

#### **Celebrations**

**Birthdays:** 9/13 David Honerkamp, 9/17 David Cowger & Dan Pierce, 9/18 Aaron Montemayor & Ruby Monyemayor

**Baptism Anniversaries:** 9/16 Jordan Christy, 9/18 Lillian Hill

**Confirmed Anniversaries:** 9/12 Daniel Cross & Christina Cross

#### **ESL Classes Postponed**

ESL classes are currently postponed until October. Pray for this mission of St. Matthew that God will bless it to continue strongly in reaching out to our community not only teaching English but also sharing the Gospel of the Lord. If you need more information, please see Pastor Mendez.

#### **A/C News**

The trustees have designated the A/C fund to replace the South Meeting Room unit. We are currently getting several bids and will update the congregation as soon as all have been submitted. If you choose to give towards this fund please specify "St. Matthew Dedicated A/C Fund" on the donation.

#### **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."

#### **Life Quotes**



"God has taken away your sins. He has changed your heart. He gives you the ability to put yourself last so that you can humbly serve others. That's greatness and a great life in God's eyes. That humble serving attitude values and serves every life whether that life is a few cells old or a gene short of worldly greatness."

Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Lutheran Church Redwood Falls, MN

- A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

#### **Attendance for Last Week (9/5)**

Wed. Morning Bible Class - 8      Wed. Evening Bible Class - 11  
 Sunday School - 13  
 Adult Bible Class - 18      Galatians Class - 10  
 Sun. Divine Service - 84

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

#### **We have a New Secretary!!**

Please join us in welcoming our new Church Secretary,  
 Mrs. Amanda Hobbs

Amanda has started learning what goes on in St. Matthew's church office and will begin working her regular hours (8 am - 1 pm) on Sept. 13. Stop by, say "Hi!", and introduce yourself. We ask God's blessings on her new employment with us!

*Opportunities to Study God's Word*

**Sunday School for All Ages**

**Preschool - Elementary Classes** begin at 8:45 am in **Room #2**. They 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 to attend the Adult Bible Classes each Sunday at 8:45 am. **Answers in Genesis** led by Pastor Bogs meets in the Fellowship Hall (gym). And **Galatians** led by Larry Harvey meets in **Room #4**. Please join us. Bring a friend!

**Wednesday Mornings**



The Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group meets at **10:00 am** in **Room #2**. We invite everyone who is available to join us to study God's Word. We are studying **Romans**.

**Wednesday Evenings**

Wednesday evening Bible Class meets at **7 pm** in **Room #2**. We are studying the **Psalms**. Bring a friend for an enjoyable evening!

**Men's Breakfast Bible Study**

Join us for the Men's Breakfast and Bible study on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday** of the month at **8:00 am** in the **Fellowship Hall**. **Our next class is October 9** where we will be studying **Nehemiah**.

**The Board of Elders meet following study at 10:00am.**



**PRISM – Precious Rubies In St Matthew**

Ladies' PRISM meetings *usually* take place the **4<sup>th</sup> Saturday** of the month where we begin with Breakfast and a Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. However, since the Covid break we have not met. If you are interested in starting to meet again, please let Tiffany Cowger, Melissa Sindlinger or Gayle Bogs know and watch here for more information.