

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..... Steve Roberts & David Honerkamp
Greeters..... Dave & Tiffany Cowger
Ushers..... Joshua & Noah Montemayor
Counters..... Robert & Melissa Sindlinger
Acolyte..... Isabella Vaz
Altar Guild..... Gayle Bogs

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

September 17 – Pentecost XVI (Proper 19A) – Surprise pregnancy often comes with complications and difficulties. Terminal diagnosis can involve suffering and sorrow. But our God brought Jesus back from the dead. He makes it His way to wring blessings out of burdens (Genesis 50:19-20). Are we in the place of God, to let abortion or assisted suicide judge (Romans 14:4) someone else's life as hopeless?

Stewardship Every Sunday

Romans 14:7 – “For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.” We just don't belong to ourselves — we belong first of all to God, and through Him, we belong to our neighbors. We are here to serve God in our service to one another. God has called you to this service through your vocation: as a Christian you serve others in the church, as a neighbor you serve others in society, and as a son or daughter, husband or wife, father or mother, you serve your family.

Attendance for Last Week ~ 09/10/2023
Adult Bible Class - N/A Galatians Class - 12
Sun. Divine Service - 84 Spanish Service - N/A
Offering - \$16,554.00
Wed. Morning Bible Class - 8 Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 12
For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2



CANCELED ~ 3rd Annual St. Matthew Arts & Crafts Festival

Due to very few vendor registrations, we unfortunately will not be having our Craft Festival as planned on Saturday, October 14. However, you will still be able to browse and shop these vendors at our Reformation Festival after church on Sunday, October 29. Watch for details and make out that Christmas list!

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.

Board of Evangelism

A Board of Evangelism Meeting will be held on Sunday, 9/17 right after church.



WANTED: Conscience - Dead or Alive 4th Annual Conference

Saturday, October 14, 2023 - 10 AM - 5 PM
St. Paul Lutheran (LCMS) 3501 Red River St, Austin, TX 78705 -- Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller is the main teacher for college students and young adults ages 18 - 35ish. Teaching, preaching, singing, worship, games, food. Pre- and post conference social events for Friday and Saturday nights. The conference does not provide housing. The 2023 conference schedule will be emailed to you after the registration deadline.

Please register now, the conference registration deadline is Sunday, October 8, 2023. Thank you. Please contact Vera Sweet for questions:

txlutheranya@gmail.com

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/aQXZb7taBnjLkxVH9>

ESL Classes

ESL classes are every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm and began again on August 15th. If you need more information, please see Pastor Mendez or contact him at pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com.



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

- ✘ Ronnie Dacus - fell and broke his back and is currently in ICU (former member)
- ✘ Healing, comfort & strength for Brett & his wife, Robyn who has been diagnosed with cancer (Amanda Goss co-worker of Robyn)
- ✘ David Nahrwold - has been put into hospice care (Michael & Jeanne Held's daughter-in-law's father)
- ✘ Patricia LaShomb - recovering from a successful oral cancer surgery
- ✘ Denise Berry - ongoing test for undiagnosed health issues, also took a fall and fractured her wrist (cousin of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Joshua Montemayor - prayers for good medical test results
- ✘ Martha Paz - recovery from health complications (Mother of Pastor Mendez)

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✘ Eda Nitz - Comfort and peace as she deals with skin cancer, leukemia, and macular degeneration
- ✘ Justin Street - found a facial tumor (friend of Shawn Goss)
- ✘ Toby Turley - Cancer (Curtis & Sharon Gace's Niece)
- ✘ Carolyn Nitche - Lymphoma has returned with no treatment plan (aunt of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Sharon Anderson - metastatic colon cancer & is undergoing chemotherapy (twin sister of Karen Hartl)
- ✘ Angela Wilkins - undergoing treatment for breast cancer (Gayle Bell's daughter)
- ✘ 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 Alvarez - cancer (brother of Elaina Alvarez)
- ✘ 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 Alvarez)
- ✘ Matthew Piserelle - no treatment (brother of Phillip Williamson)

Our Shut Ins

Gladys Barton, Marcia Carr, Karen Mavus, Aileen Mercer, Bill Pali, Arlene Schultz & Eda Nitz

General Prayer

- ✘ Susie Wells - seeking employment after 9 years with Microsoft
- ✘ The family of Ali Lowitzer - strength during difficult times & for her safe return home (granddaughter of Mary Davis)
- ✘ Healthy pregnancies & babies for: Amanda McCarthy due in October (Rachel Sentesi's sister-in-law)
- ✘ 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)



October Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the October 2023 newsletter. Please submit them to office.smlcw@gmail.com by Monday, September 25th.

Celebrations



Birthdays: 9/17 David Cowger, 9/17 Dan Pierce, 9/18 Aaron Montemayor, 9/18 Ruby Montemayor, 9/19 Jacob Christy & 9/23 Virginia Lawrence
 Baptism Anniversaries: 9/18 Lillian Hill, 9/19 Aaron Lilley, 9/20 Christian Paulsel, 9/20 John Tautenhahn, 9/21 Aaron Montemayor & 9/21 Ruby Montemayor

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.



4TH FRIDAYS!!!!



We had a great time at our 4th Friday Family Movie Night. Our next 4th Friday will be held on September 22nd at 7pm. We are looking forward to seeing you and that friend you invited. 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.

Youth and Young Adults Swim Party

Thank you to Peg & Gordon Munson for allowing us to come to your home and enjoy your beautiful pool! We are blessed they have offered for us to come one more time before the "cooler" weather. September's activity will be a Pool Day at the Munson's home on Sunday, September 17 from 12:30 - 3:00 pm.



New Wednesday Evening Course

Beginning September 13, 2023, the Wednesday Evening Class that meets at 6:30 p.m. will begin a study of Baptism, with particular attention to Infant Baptism. Join us for an in-depth study of this Sacrament.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church
2024 Picnic Committee/Volunteers

We at St. Matthew are re-launching our Annual May BBQ starting in May 2024 and 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. We would like to extend a huge thank you to Phillip Williamson for volunteering to chair the picnic again & to Melissa Sindlinger for volunteering to be the kitchen chairperson. They will be meeting soon to get going. Watch the bulletin & newsletter for all of the fun to come. And be ready to say "Yes" when asked to help. If you would like to serve as we plan for the re-launch of this iconic event see Phillip or Melissa.



Higher Things Retreat - Zion, Tomball Sept. 22 & 23

It's easy to get lost looking for yourself. It can feel impossible to find a person that you love and respect in the mirror. To find one who lives up to the expectations of your parents, your friends, your church. Vaguely religious calls to hand it over to God don't help much because the deeper we dive into God's word, the more we realize we have two identities that are at war with each other. Sinner. Saint. And that's not a sign something is broken. It's a sign it's working. It feels terrible to have a losing war fought inside you every day, but that identity crisis isn't yours to sort out. In your baptism, old Adam is drowned. Every day. And the new man arises. Every day. It feels like a losing war, but it's already won.

The theme this year is "Identity Crisis," and the main speaker is Pastor Harrison Goodman of Higher Things. The retreat will begin at 7pm Friday evening and end at 4 pm Saturday afternoon. The cost is \$50 per person and includes meals (supper Friday, breakfast and lunch Saturday) as well as overnight accommodations at Zion. We're looking forward to great catechesis, worship, and fun times! See Mrs. Gayle or Mrs. Kathleen if you're interested in going. Adults can come as well.

All singers and lovers of church music — Make plans to attend

Hymn Festival -The Life of Christ in Song

Monday, September 25 at 7 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Houston Heights at 15th & Cortlandt St.

Sam Eatherton, organist

Rev. John Berg, commentator



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.

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 Baptism 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 October 14th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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