

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 & Luke Tusing
 Greeters
 Ushers Jordan Christy & Yair Mendez
 Counters
 Acolyte
 Altar Guild Sylvia Christy & Becky Reyes

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 MinistryRev. Arturo Mendez ~ 832-883-1705
 Organist
 Parish Secretary Amanda Hobbs

Board Chairpersons:

Elders
 Trustees Craig Hooper
 Education Kathleen Montemayor
 Evangelism Lester Sentesi
 Stewardship Nicole Poppenhusen

Congregational Officers:

President Scott Christy
 Vice Pres David Honerkamp
 Secretary Becky Reyes
 Treasurer Oscar & Anna Hernandez
 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

January 12 – Epiphany I/Baptism of Our Lord – With the sacrament of Baptism, the Lord Jesus makes childbirth central to the Christian Gospel. The coming forth of new life always provides cause for celebration because the Savior has sanctified it. Human beings as helpless and dependent as gestating babies have His blessing: “You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased” (Luke 3:22).

Attendance for Last Week ~ 01/05/2025
 Adult Bible Class - 11 Galatians Class - 11
 Sun. Divine Service - 94 Offering - \$5717.00
 Wed. Morning Bible Class - 8 Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 6
For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2

Stewardship Every Sunday

Luke 3:21 – “Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying . . .” We know why the people were baptized, but why was Jesus baptized? He didn’t need repentance or forgiveness. The answer is that He did it for us. The reason God sent His Son into the world is to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. The whole of Jesus’ life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us

Picnic Chairman Needed

The Anniversary Committee is in need of someone to fill the role of "Picnic Chairman". If you are interested in this position and/or know somebody that would be please see Lester Sentesi.



February Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the February 2025 newsletter. Please submit them to office.smlcw@gmail.com by Monday, January 20th.

Celebrations

Birthdays: 1/19 Scott Christy & 1/19 Joshua Montemayor
Baptism Anniversaries: 1/14 Aaron Bogs & 1/18 Marc McIlhany



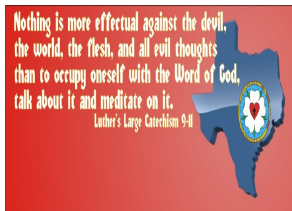
Questions for reflection...

Read Acts 4:8-21. What compelled Jesus' followers to keep sharing the Gospel? How does this influence you and your congregation to do the same?
Prayer starter: Ask God to help you remember your Gospel purpose.



Texas Confessional Lutherans

Brothers and sisters, please plan to attend the quarterly meeting of Texas Confessional Lutherans scheduled for Thursday January 16 at Grace Lutheran Church in Brenham. Coffee will be available around 10. Opening devotion will be at 10:30. We will take a break for lunch at the Cannery. Business should conclude by 2 pm.



The agenda will include electing officers for 2025; adjusting meeting dates for 2025; considering any resolutions you would like proposed at the June 5-7 District Convention; narrowing down speaker and topic choices for the Fall Free Conference; other reports.

Meetings include a discussion of a topic of theological importance. You are encouraged to suggest topics. For this meeting we will be responding to the September 2018 CTCR document The Royal Priesthood: Identity and Mission. A PDF file of the report can be found online at the LCMS website in the CTCR library. The report has 4 sections and a conclusion. Please take time to download and review the report, and print out a copy so you can join in the discussion.

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

✘ For the Family of Jim Musgrove who passed away on Tuesday, 1/7. His funeral will be here at St. Matthew on Monday, 1/13 at 11am with the committal following at St. Matthew Cemetery.

Strength & Healing

- ✘ Audrey Black - (wife of Pastor Black at Trinity Downtown) has gone on hospice
- ✘ Jeanette Mittelstedt Nauman - has been hospitalized due to a fall (friend of Janie McElroy)
- ✘ Angela Wilkins - healing from ulcerative colitis (daughter of Frances Bell)
- ✘ Cindy Henderson - diagnosed with lymphoma (friend of Sharon Gace)
- ✘ Tawnya Jackson - healing from oral surgery (BJ Jacksons daughter)
- ✘ Renee Joyce - healing, comfort & strength after her breast cancer diagnosis (family friend of Shawn & Amanda Goss)
- ✘ Jan Stayton - fell and hurt her knee
- ✘ Matthew McDevitt - he is in the hospital with unknown medical issues (friend of Marie Fischer)
- ✘ Healing for Joe & Pam Hibler who were in a car accident (parents of a close friend of Amanda Goss)
- ✘ Kayden - tried to take her life due to being bullied at school (daughter of a friend of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Ray Reed - thanksgiving to God for the blessing of finding the vocal cancer & strength for the treatments

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✘ Aileen Mercer - prayers for her failing eye sight
- ✘ Erica Caballero - has breast cancer (friend of Elizabeth & Yair Mendez)
- ✘ Wanda Wood - recovering from a massive heart attack (friend of the McCorquodales)
- ✘ Ronnie Ethridge - diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia(co worker of Yair Mendez)
- ✘ Brad Ratliff - has an inoperable brain tumor (friend of Lester Sentesi)

- ✘ Paul Kron - prayers for recovery from kidney failure & cancer treatments
- ✘ Robbie Barton - diagnosed with cancer (brother of Jennifer Hailey)
- ✘ Ruben Alvarez - health challenges (father of Elaina Alvarez Christy)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ 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, Jean Hinz, Shirley Coyle & Marilyn Kron

General Prayer

- ✘ For the victims of Hurricane Helene & Milton
- ✘ For Christians being persecuted around the world
- ✘ Prayers for a healthy baby for Jarod & Elaina Christy
- ✘ The family of Ali Lowitzer - 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) & David Cowger - Basic Training for the Army in Georgia

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Extension Cords



Please do not use extension cords inside the church. The insurance adjuster has said it is a safety/fire hazard. Thank you so much for your understanding as we make some changes in trying to comply with insurance and safety regulations.

Annual Mailbox Clean Out ~ January 30th

On January 30th all mailboxes in the Narthex will be cleaned out. If there is anything in your mailbox that you would like to keep please make sure that you have removed it from your mailbox before this date. Also if you are a current member and do not have a mailbox and would like one please contact the church secretary, office.smlcw@gmail.com or by phone and we will make sure that you receive one.



Volunteer Schedule 2025



If you are in charge of coordinating any of the church volunteer schedules please make sure to get those in to the church secretary of the end of the year, so that she can get those posted. Schedules are Ushers, Greeters, Elders & Counters. If you would like to volunteer for any of these monthly positions please contact the church secretary and she will pass it on to the appropriate person. Thank you!



St. Matthew Senior Group

Thank you to everyone that attended our Seniors Thanksgiving Lunch. We had 19 members attend. Starting in January 2025 will be having a meeting to set up and finalize the calendar for upcoming events. So please keep an eye out in the bulletin for the time and date of this meeting.

Life Quotes

“From the moment you were being knitted together in your mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13), God’s began His careful construction of His chosen jewel of redemption.” Rev. Adam Osier, Dean, Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

2025 Special Service Schedule

Ash Wednesday	March 5 th	7:30pm w/Lord's Supper
Lent (+ noon services)	March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9	7:15pm Hymn Sing & 7:30pm Worship
Palm Sunday	April 13 th	10am w/ Lord's Supper
Maundy Thursday	April 17 th	12pm & 7:30pm w/Lord's Supper
Good Friday	April 18 th	12pm & 7:30pm Cemetery
Easter Sunday	April 20 th	7:00am no Lord's Supper 8:45am Sunday School 10:00am w/Lord's Supper
Thanksgiving Eve	November 26 th	12pm & 7:30pm w/Lord's Supper
Advent	Dec. 3, 10 & 17	12pm Service, 7:15pm Hymn Sing & 7:30pm Worship
Christmas Eve	Dec. 24 th	6:30pm w/Lord's Supper
Christmas Day	Dec. 25 th	10:00am w/Lord's Supper
New Years Eve	Decr 31 st	6:30pm w/Lord's Supper

2025 Church Office Holiday Schedule

Good Friday*	April 18 th (Friday) ~ Floating Holiday
Memorial Day	May 26 th (Monday)
Independence Day	July 4 th (Friday)
Labor Day	September 1 st (Monday)
Thanksgiving Day	November 27 th (Thursday)
Christmas Day	December 25 th (Thursday)
New Years Day	January 1 st (Thursday)



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 to go with Sunday's Readings from "God's Hand in Our Lives" series from the Church of the Lutheran Confessions.

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 Epistles of Paul led by Pastor Bogs meets in Room #2 and First Thessalonians 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 Formula of Concord.



Wednesday Evenings

There are two Wednesday evening Bible classes. The study on The Lord's Supper led by Larry Harvey meets at 6:30 pm in Room #4. The study of How We Got the Bible 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 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is February 8th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.

