

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 & Scott Christy
 Greeters..... Shawn & Amanda Goss
 Ushers Robert Sindlinger & Aaron Montemayor
 Counters Becky Reyes
 Acolyte..... Ruby Montemayor
 Altar Guild..... Marie Fischer

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

October 1 – Pentecost XVIII (Proper 21A) – Remaining silent about the sanctity of life enslaves us to selfishness just like abortion does. But God's grace and forgiveness in Christ Jesus free us from looking out only for ourselves. We get to speak His truth and show His love to every one of our neighbors—not out of “selfish ambition or conceit,” but in service to “the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4).

Stewardship Every Sunday

Matthew 21:26 – “But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd...” Foolish Pharisees! They fear men more than they fear God, and so they miss out on the great blessing of knowing Jesus and His love. All our sins are like this: we fear something more than we fear God. And how foolish that is! Just think of the blessings we miss out on whenever we place our fear or trust in something other than God.

Attendance for Last Week ~ <u>09/24/2023</u>	
Adult Bible Class - 9	Galatians Class - 11
Sun. Divine Service - 79	Spanish Service - 23
Offering - \$4893.55	
Wed. Morning Bible Class - 5	Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 10
<i>For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2</i>	

Life Quotes

“The science is conclusive: Human life starts at fertilization. The Bible is conclusive: Life is from God, it begins at fertilization, and God’s commandment of ‘You shall not murder’ (Exodus 20:13) certainly applies to the slaying of an innocent child in the womb. Because that little baby in the womb IS a human being.” Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

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.

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.

4TH FRIDAYS!!!!

Our next 4th Friday will be held on October 27st 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.



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

- ✘ Rose Ortiz - prayers for a speedy recovery from surgery (friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ 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)



November Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the November 2023 newsletter. Please submit them to office.smlcw@gmail.com by Monday, October 23rd.



Celebrations

Birthdays: 10/1 Nancy Arimond, 10/1 Brenda Pali, 10/2 Korey Clark & 10/3 Peg Munson
 Baptism Anniversaries: 10/1 Sharon Gace, 10/1 Rebecca Pfennig & 10/7 Phillip Williamson
 Wedding Anniversaries: 10/2 John & Janis Stayton ~ 52 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.



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.



Church Telephone Information

Just a quick note that if you are trying to call the church during office hours (8am - 1pm) you will receive a message stating that "the person that you are trying to reach is unavailable to reach another extension press *8 or press 0 for the receptionist." If you press 0 it will direct you back to the secretary. The voicemail is currently not working so you are unable to leave a message outside of office hours. Thank you for your patience while we work to get the phones back up and running.

The Concordia Symphony Orchestra

The Concordia Symphony Orchestra, from Concordia University Irvine, will be making appearances in Texas under the direction of Dr. Jeff Held (son of our organist, Michael Held). The CSO plays music of the professional orchestra repertoire, tailored for excellent church acoustics. Following the symphony pieces, the musicians will be supplemented by a local high school ensemble in a hymn setting of "Splendor and Honor" for 2 orchestras, organ, soprano, and congregation. Please join us live in Cypress, and Houston. The CSO is featured on annual PBS Christmas broadcasts across the nation, and is one of the most engaging collegiate ensembles in Southern California. Admission to each concert is free.

Saturday, Oct. 14 4:00 PM - St. John Lutheran Church, Cypress

Sunday, Oct. 15 2:30 PM - Trinity Lutheran Church, Downtown Houston

St. Matthew
Lutheran Church
of Westfield



Reformation Festival

Sunday, October 29, 2023 @ Noon

Chili Cookoff

Craft Market

Games

Food

Fun

Fellowship

Sign up in the Narthex, bring a dish & a dessert,
and BRING a FRIEND!

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!

WE  LOVE
WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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@stmatthewwestfield