

# 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..... Jarod Christy & Jason Christy  
 Greeters..... Sonny & Joyce French  
 Ushers ..... Luke Tusing & Jordan Christy  
 Counters ..... Becky Reyes  
 Acolyte ..... Alex Vaz  
 Altar Guild..... Tiffany Cowger & Carol Clark

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..... Craig Hooper  
 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

November 24 – Pentecost XXVII (Proper 29B) – The Scriptural Ancient of Days has gray hair (Daniel 7:9). The Word of the Lord pictures Him as aged. And while the world idolizes youthfulness, the Bible speaks flatteringly of getting old. “Elder” is a compliment, long life is blessing, and advanced years embody wisdom and honor, even though they often also entail weaknesses. The Gospel of everlasting life in Christ leaves no room for physician-assisted suicide.

## Stewardship Every Sunday

Isaiah 51:6 – “For the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment.” The things of this earth that hold our attention, that cause us worry, that tempt us away from the Lord, are all passing away. They will vanish like a garment. They are not for us to worry over, but rather to use for the Lord’s purposes. The things of this world are not ends in and of themselves, but only means to be used wisely by the children of the kingdom that has no end.

Attendance for Last Week ~ 11/17/2024  
 Adult Bible Class - 12 Galatians Class - 13  
 Sun. Divine Service - 77 Offering - \$2188.00  
 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*

## 125th Anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

We have several different items to finalize. T' minus 79 days until Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> and we kick off the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Matthews "Eyes Always on the Lord".



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"

### 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.



### ATTENTION St. Matthew Members

The Anniversary Committee is asking for anyone that was married and/or has friends or family that were married at St. Matthew to please submit photos with names and dates to a member of the Anniversary Committee by November 1<sup>st</sup>. They will be creating a display for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and would love your help. So please dig through all those photo boxes/albums and help everyone take a walk down memory lane.

### 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. If you have an activity you would like to see us do, please see Lester Sentesi or any board member.

### 125th Anniversary T-Shirts

Special t-shirts have been designed celebrating St. Matthew's 125th Anniversary. We look forward to everyone wearing theirs at all the celebrations throughout the year. A mockup print of what they will look like is in the narthex along with a signup sheet. Please write your name, phone number, and what size(s) you would like and place your payment made to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church" in the envelope provided. Shirts are \$10 each. Please add \$1 for every "X" after XL. (So 2XL=\$11, 3XL=\$12, etc. up to 5XL.) The last day to be a part of this first order and to get yours by Christmas will be Dec. 8.

## 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.

### Comfort

✘ Prayer of Comfort for the Family of Danny Shelby who passed away Sunday evening (neighbor of Jane McElroy & Richard & Pat LaShomb)

### Thanksgiving

✘ Trent Clark - thankful for my road to residency & pray that I enter the one that will let me serve the Lord to the best of my abilities.

### Strength & Healing

✘ 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 his life due to being bullied at school (daughter of a friend of Nicole Poppenhusen)

✘ Virginia Lawrence - for healing from spinal surgery

✘ 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 - battling breast cancer (friend of Elizabeth & Yair Mendez)

✘ Eugene Meyer - receiving cancer treatments

✘ Wanda Wood - recovering from a massive heart attack (friend of the McCorquodales)

✘ Ronnie Ethridge - diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (co worker of Yair Mendez)

✘ Joyce Bolinger - recovering from hip surgery

✘ John Aikman - has been diagnosed with small cell lung cancer (husband of Sharol Aikman)

✘ 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, Jim Musgrove, 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/USC 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

#### Celebrations

Birthdays: 11/25 Vita Malloy, 11/26 Chad Lilley, 11/26 Sharon Schubert, 11/27 John Lisius, 11/30 Jane McElroy & 11/30 Victor Schultz  
 Baptism Anniversaries: 11/25 Caroline Christy & 11/29 Patsy Hodges  
 Wedding Anniversaries: 11/29 Werner & Karen Hartl ~ 37 Yrs.

#### Seniors Thanksgiving Lunch

Those of you who have been members of St. Matthew for some years will recall that we used to have a very active Seniors (50+) Group. One of the things they did was a Seniors Thanksgiving Lunch the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We are going to get this Group back together again. It will start on Sunday 11/24 immediately after Divine Service in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a lunch to celebrate Thanksgiving and to also put together the Seniors Ministry once again.



We will provide the turkey and drinks and we just ask that each person or couple bring a side dish and a dessert. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please! Please sign up so we can know how much turkey to buy. If anyone 50 or up would like to head up this awesome and much needed Ministry here at St. Matthew please see Lester Sentesi. So, if you are 50 or older, plan on being with us on 11/24 as we celebrate the more "seasoned and experienced" members of our congregation.

#### St. Matthew Lutheran Church ~ Congregational Assembly Meeting Agenda for December 8, 2024

- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Approve minutes from September 15, 2024 CAM
- Pastor's Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- Board Reports
- Old Business:
  - Constitution Review Committee update
- New Business:
  - Nomination of Oscar & Anna Hernandez for Treasurer, Yair Mendez for Board of Trustees
  - 2025-2026 Officer/Board nominations
  - 2025 Budget
- Closing Prayer/Motion to adjourn

#### Poinsettias

It's already time to sign up for your Poinsettias to beautify the chancel area on Christmas Eve & Day! There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. This year they will be \$10 each. Carefully write "in memory of" or "in honor of" whom on the sign up sheet and place your payment made to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church" in the envelope provided. Last day to sign up will be Wednesday, December 18.



## Higher Things Youth Gathering 2025 ~ All Things New



Please consider financially supporting our youth going to Higher Things. Prayers are always appreciated, but the registration price has increased significantly. Please know we are being good stewards of what is donated and always keep costs as low as possible.

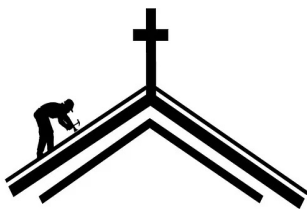
The one who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Jesus promises that just as He is risen, we will rise. The last great enemy has been destroyed. Everlasting life belongs to all who believe...one day. But for us, some days, that day feels far away. Like it'll never come... like it's been made for someone other than you.

Dear one, hear the promise for you today, too. "Behold, I am making all things new."...right now. It doesn't just mean that one day, everything will be fixed. It means that things are allowed to be broken today. Nothing can be so damaged that it can't be made new. Nothing broken will stay that way. There is a resurrection of all flesh. We can look forward with hope, even when everything falls apart around us. The promise isn't held at arm's length. When today is still broken, He who sits on the throne wants you to cling to the promise now. You are already a child of God, and so you are already a child of the resurrection. Call the sin that destroys what it is. Call death the last great enemy. It has already been defeated. Live a steadfast faith today no matter what things look like because you rest on a yesterday that was made whole on the cross. Realize that God hates the same things you war against too, but he has already won the victory... the victory that makes All Things New.

Join us July 8-11, 2025 at Concordia University Nebraska for All Things New. If you would like to attend (youth and adults), please let Gayle Bogs know ASAP as Seward will fill very quickly being the closest conference in proximity to the southern states. The cost of registration is \$565 and will need to be paid by Jan. 31.

### SANCTUARY ROOF FUND

The board of trustees has established a dedicated fund to replace the sanctuary roof which was damaged during hurricane Beryl. If you wish to make a contribution to the fund please write "SANCTUARY ROOF FUND" on the memo line of your check or if contributing cash please specify on the offering envelope.



### December Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the December 2024 newsletter. Please submit them to office.smlcw@gmail.com by Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.



## 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 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 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 Prayer led by Pastor Bogs meets at 7pm in Room #2. PLEASE NOTE: Wednesday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> will be the last Bible study class with Pastor Bogs until Wednesday January 8th.

#### 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 December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.

