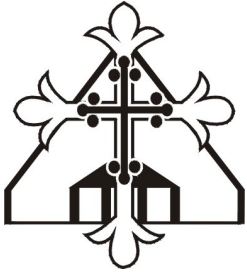


# We Welcome You to St. Matthew!



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 ..... Nancy Baeza  
 Acolyte..... Isabella Vaz  
 Altar Guild..... Tiffany Cowger & 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 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

November 26 – Pentecost XXIV (Proper 29A) – Guilt and grief can devastate those who abort their own children (Matthew 25:37-38). The Lord God longs to relieve their wounds with His forgiveness (Ezekiel 34:16). If Jesus overcomes death for us, He can also subdue it for them (1 Corinthians 15:25-26). May our mouths make the joyful noise (Psalm 95:2) of explicitly applying His atoning grace to every sin!

## Stewardship Every Sunday

Matthew 25:44 – “Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’” With this parable Jesus once again emphasizes that our good works come from who we are, not the other way around. Sheep do sheep works, and goats do goat works. So first things first: if we want to live more faithfully, let us come to Jesus, receive His gifts and ask Him to increase our faith!

Attendance for Last Week ~ 11/19/2023  
 Adult Bible Class - 9 Galatians Class - 13  
 Sun. Divine Service - 79 Spanish Service -  
 Offering - \$  
 Wed. Morning Bible Class - 4 Wed. Evening Bible Classes -  
*For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2*

## Life Quotes

“Being For Life is right in line with God’s plan of creation! YOU are the missing element that is needed! Don’t be satisfied to sit back and wait because now is the time! Don’t stop praying as you ponder your next step. Ask God for His guidance and be ready for more than you asked for, as we have a loving and merciful God who loves life. Please consider being a part of a life-affirming ministry in your congregation. Help protect lives and serve God in this special calling.” Virginia Flo, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

## Planning for 2024

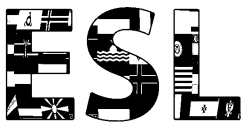
The Board of Evangelism & Fellowship will be meeting Sunday, January 14, 2024 to plan our activities for 2024. If you have an activity you would like to see us do, please see Lester Sentesi or any board member.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com).



## KFUO Radio

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org) via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org): Look ahead to the First Sunday in Advent on The Coffee Hour (11/29 at 9:00 a.m. CT), study 1 Corinthians 6-9 on Sharper Iron's "Nothing but Christ Crucified" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and finish the Gospel of Mark and begin the book of Micah on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or the KFUO Radio app!



## 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

- ✘ Family of Steven Hart - passed away 11/19 (father-in-law of Paul Menz)
- ✘ Family of Randy Stratton - passed away 11/18 (former member) Funeral service will be held at Addison Funeral Home on December 2. Viewing at 10 am with Service at 11:30 am. Reception will be held following the service at his home at 607 Magic Oaks Dr., Spring, TX 77388.

### Strength & Healing

- ✘ Hunter Baty - Fhar’s disease (friend of Marie Fischer)
- ✘ Henry Brauchle - recovering from heart attack (uncle of Gayle Bogs)
- ✘ Barbara Newbould - shingles
- ✘ Gladys Barton - recovering from surgery
- ✘ Karren Radcliff - hospitalized for wound healing (friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ Patricia LaShomb - radiation treatments
- ✘ Rose Ortiz - stage 2 pancreatic cancer (friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ Comfort & Protection for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Israel
- ✘ Denise Berry - ongoing tests 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 - hospitalized for possible stroke (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 - facial tumor (friend of Shawn Goss)
- ✘ Toby Turley - cancer (niece of Gaces)
- ✘ Carolyn Nitche - lymphoma, no treatment plan (aunt of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Angela Wilkins - breast cancer (daughter of Gayle Bell)
- ✘ Michael Held - strength after Covid and pancreatic cancer
- ✘ Jan Stayton - healing from back surgery
- ✘ Leon Lilley - leukemia
- ✘ Paul Kron - cancer
- ✘ Bill Pali - Alzheimers
- ✘ Anne McIlhany - heart failure, myasthenia gravis, systemic sclerosis

- ✘ Gladys Banewski - cancer (friend of Gaces)
- ✘ Stephanie Nixdorf - stage 4 melanoma (friend of the Helds)
- ✘ 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 - prayer of thanksgiving that cancer is in full remission (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 - prayer of thanksgiving that cancer is in remission but other undiagnosed medical issues are under testing (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

- ✘ Sisilie and Chris Lawrence - healthy pregnancy & baby due May 2024 (son & daughter-in-law of Gary & Virginia Lawrence)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ 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)

Celebrations

Birthdays: 11/26 Chad Lilley, 11/27 John Lisius & 11/30 Jane McElroy  
 Baptism Anniversaries: 11/29 Patsy Hodges, 12/1 Jami Gause & Joe Michka  
 Wedding Anniversaries: 11/29 Werner & Karen Hartl ~ 36 Yrs. & 12/2 David & Kristyn Christie ~ 17 Yrs.

January Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the January 2024 newsletter. Please submit them to office.smlcw@gmail.com by Tuesday, December 26.



Poinsettia Orders

The Altar Guild is taking orders for poinsettias to beautify the altar for the Advent and Christmas season. If you would like to order, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex and place your payment in the envelope provided. Please make sure you indicate "in memory of" or "in honor of" if you wish to designate the flowers in that way. All others will be given to the "glory of God." The cost is \$10.00 per poinsettia and money should be placed in the envelope when you place your order. Please make checks payable to "St. Matthew." The last day to order will be DECEMBER 17.



125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Four years ago an attempt was started to get ready to celebrate our congregation's 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary. That attempt was thwarted by Covid. In one year an eight months we will be celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> 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.



Pastor Bogs Family Christmas Open House

Pastor Bogs and his family invite you for their annual Open House on December 10. Come enjoy fellowship and festivities from 4-8pm at 1510 Anvil Drive, Houston, TX 77090.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
 2024 Picnic Committee/Volunteers

Picnic Committee will be meeting on Sunday, January 7, 2024 immediately following church service. Anyone interested in helping should attend. If you have any questions please contact Lester Sentesi, Phillip Williamson or Melissa Sindlinger. Thank you to everyone in advance for your help in making our 2024 picnic a wonderful success.



Questions for Reflection

Read 1 Cor. 15:51-58 ~ How do these verses provide hope and encouragement as you await Jesus' return?  
 Prayer starter: Give thanks for five blessings in your life and let God know why His grace gives you joy.



### 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. You can also communicate with the church office through email at [office.smlcw@gmail.com](mailto:office.smlcw@gmail.com). Thank you for your patience while we work to get the phones back up and running.



### The Month of Thankfulness

We are taking the month of November to emphasize a heart of THANKFULNESS. So often our prayers are focused on the "asking" rather than the "thanking". We will speak to those in church and industry leadership who can help us to uncover the joys of THANKFULNESS in a culture that seems to emphasize greed over need.

November 26, 2023: 7 p.m. - Rev. Michael Newman –

“THANKFUL TO LEAD”; 7:30 p.m. – Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz – “LIBERTY ACTION ALERT”

Engaging Truth is broadcast each Sunday evening at 7 p.m. on KKHT-100.7FM [kkht.com](http://kkht.com) with all of our programs available post-broadcast on our website at [elmhouston.org](http://elmhouston.org) and wherever you find your favorite podcast content. You can also find our content on Facebook and YouTube. Listen immediately following Engaging Truth for The Liberty Action Alert hosted by Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C.

### 2023 Advent Schedule

Advent Services: December 6, 13 & 20 -12:00 pm Worship for those who cannot attend the evening service, 7:15 pm Hymn Sing, & 7:30 pm Worship

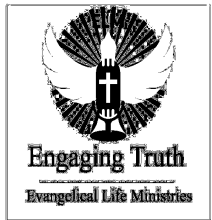
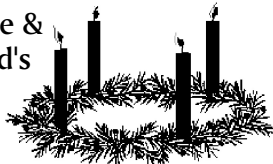
Christmas Eve: December 24 - 10 am Divine Service & 6:30 pm Candlelight Divine Service with The Lord's Supper

Christmas Day: December 25 - 10 am with The Lord's Supper

New Years Eve: December 31 - 10 am Divine Service & 6:30 pm

New Year's Eve Divine Service with The Lord's Supper

\* Please check your mailboxes for a copy of the Schedule of Services  
Advent - Christmas 2023 and New Year's Eve



## Opportunities to Study God's Word

### Sunday School for All Ages

**SUNDAY** 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

Join our  
**BIBLE  
STUDY**

**SCHOOL** 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 Luke 1 & 2 led by Pastor Bogs meets at 7:00 pm in Room #2 but will not meet during Advent.

### 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 9th. 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](http://www.stmatthewlcms.com)

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