

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..... Alex 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 5 – Pentecost XXIII (Proper 26A) – The Lord our God has given us sexuality for relationship, family, and community. These matters cannot become merely private choices or personal preferences. What we do with our bodies also affects our neighbors (1 Thessalonians 4:3-6). Abortion reveals that lust always leads to destruction. Marriage and parenting prove we do not need abortion – indeed, these gifts leave us no room for it!

Stewardship Every Sunday

Matthew 5:7 – “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” This is one of many Bible passages that remind us that we reap what we sow. Likewise, what God puts into us (His own love, mercy, kindness and generosity) — flows back out of us. It all starts with His self-giving.

Attendance for Last Week ~ 10/29/2023
 Adult Bible Class - 19 Galatians Class - 12
 Sun. Divine Service/Spanish Service - 76
 Offering - \$N/A
 Wed. Morning Bible Class - 8 Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 10

For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2

Life Quotes

“Our comfort and motivation do not derive from laws. We neither live only according to the body nor labor for this world alone. No matter who holds office or how they decide and lead, the Lord our God reigns.” Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – 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.

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.



KFUO Radio



KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUO.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at 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: Study Hebrews 12-13 on Sharper Iron's "The New Covenant in Christ" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study Mark 7-9 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and study Monastic Vows in Article 27 of the Augsburg Confession on Concord Matters (11/11 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at 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.

Strength & Healing

- ✘ Gladys Barton - had surgery to treat an infection
- ✘ Karren Radcliff - hospitalized for wound healing (friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ Patricia LaShomb - having radiation treatments
- ✘ Rose Ortiz - has been diagnosed with stage 2 pancreatic cancer (friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ Comfort & Protection for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Israel
- ✘ Healing, comfort & strength for Brett & his wife, Robyn who has been diagnosed with cancer (Amanda Goss co-worker of Robyn)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ 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 - 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)
- ✘ 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 December 2023 newsletter. Please submit them to office.smlcw@gmail.com by Monday, November 20th.



Celebrations

Birthdays: 11/6 Kenneth Lilley, 11/10 Kate McIlhany, 11/11 Don Cornman, 11/11 Paul Guinn, 11/11 Carine Pierce & 11/11 Nadine Reed
Baptism Anniversaries: 11/11 Mackenzie Gentes

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



Picnic Committee will be meeting on Sunday, October 22nd 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.

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. 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 5, 2023

7 p.m. - Elizabeth Killinger – “INSPIRED TO THANKFULNESS”

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

November 12, 2023

7 p.m. - Gary Huddleston – “THANKFUL FOR OUR DAILY BREAD”

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

November 19, 2023

7 p.m. – Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz – “TRUE THANKFULNESS”

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

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 with all of our programs available post-broadcast on our website at 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.

Great Ideas to Practice “Thankfulness”

The practice of thankfulness helps us to focus on the positive parts of our lives. Thankfulness also helps us to see the great ways God blesses us every single day.

1. Keep a Gratitude Journal. Write down one or two things each day you’re thankful for.
2. Share a book. After you’ve read a good book, share it with someone who will also appreciate it.
3. Take a walk. Leave your phone behind and get outside. Appreciate the view when you aren’t staring at a screen.



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



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.

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 November 11th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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