



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
 Greeters..... Lester Sentesi & Shirley Coyle
 Ushers Dillon Mosier & Cody Williamson
 Counters Nancy Baeza
 Acolyte..... Isabella Vaz
 Altar Guild..... Robert & Melissa Sindlinger

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

Appointments for counsel, home visits or hospital calls
 may be requested with Pastor by phone at any time.

Senior Pastor..... Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs
 Associate Pastor of Hispanic Ministry..... Rev. Arturo Mendez
 Organist..... Michael Held
 Parish Secretary..... Amanda Hobbs

Board Chairpersons:

Elders..... Jason Christy
 Trustees..... Eugene Meyer
 Education Vacant
 Evangelism..... Vacant
 Stewardship..... Vacant

Congregational Officers:

President..... Scott Christy
 Vice Pres David Honerkamp
 Secretary..... Christina Cross
 Treasurer..... Dan Cross

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

December 4 – Advent II – Our sinfulness once left us lifeless as stones, but God has taken us for His own beloved children (Matthew 3:9) by becoming a little one among us Himself (Isaiah 11:6). Now we get to welcome others as Christ has welcomed us. We proclaim the sanctity of every human life to defend the cause of the poor, and we put it into practice to give deliverance to the children of the needy (Psalm 72:4).

Stewardship Every Sunday

Romans 15:5 – “May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus.” All of our good works are indeed granted to us from our heavenly Father. We live in complete dependence upon His grace and mercy. What do we have that we have not received as a gift from His hand? And knowing that, how can we not be thankful?



Attendance for Last Week ~ 11/27/2022

Adult Bible Class - 12 Galatians Class - 11

Sun. Divine Service - 84

Offering - \$17,239.00

Wed. Morning Bible Class - 10 Wed. Evening Bible Class - 6

For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2

Life Quotes

"Christmas is also a time to contemplate the gift of mortal LIFE through the miracle of birth. Christmas is the gift of LOVE that moms and dads shower on their children by saying yes to life—sometimes under very difficult circumstances. Regardless of the challenges, God has a perfect plan for each life that He brings into the world, and His will for them is to out-sparkle and out-shine any ornament."

Helping Hands Fund

Our Helping Hands Fund is designated to help members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield and from time to time we do have members who have a need for some financial assistance. Because God reminds us that we help those in need when we are able so that others might help us when we are in need (2 Cor. 8:13-15), if you are so moved, the Helping Hands fund could use any donations you wish to give. Please mark your offering as "Helping Hands Fund."



ESL Classes

ESL classes are resuming every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm. Pray for this mission of St. Matthew that God will bless it to continue strongly. If you need more information, please see Pastor Mendez.



LED Light Improvement Fund

A fund for a gradual upgrade of all building lights to LEDs exists to help reduce our utility cost in the future. Any dedicated donations towards this fund please specify "LED Light Improvement Fund." Each light cost about \$80. Please consider "adopting" a light or two.



Advent Schedule

Advent Services: November 30 & December 7, 14 & 21 - 12:00pm Worship for those who cannot attend the evening service, 7:15 pm Hymn Sing, & 7:30 pm Worship

Christmas Eve: December 24 - 6:30 pm candlelight with The Lord's Supper

Christmas Day: December 25 - 10:00 am with The Lord's Supper

New Years Eve: December 31 - 6:30 pm with The Lord's Supper



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. Most requests will be listed for *THREE* Sundays unless updated. **BOLD FONT** indicates request is new or has been updated this Sunday.

Comfort

✠ **For the Family of Shelby Cole III - who passed away on Nov. 28th (Uncle of Daniel Cross)**

Strength & Healing

- ✠ Oakley Rose Simmons - Born 2 months premature on Nov. 11th weighing 2lbs. 11oz. (Randy & Kathy Bogs)
- ✠ Mariela Guerra - pray for healing (friend of Pastor Mendez)
- ✠ Dave Nahrwold - recovery from complications of cancer surgery (father of Elisabeth Held)
- ✠ Jackie Purcell - recovering from bypass surgery (mother of The Helds son-in-law)
- ✠ Eda Nitz - prayers for new leukemia treatment she is undergoing
- ✠ Carol Ainsworth - Under hospice care with alzheimers (neighbor of Arlene Schultz)
- ✠ LaVerne Theiss - hospitalized due to a mini-stroke (cousin of Janie McElroy)
- ✠ Debbie Blanton - suffered a stroke (daughter of Shirley Coyle)
- ✠ Carol Gentes - has shingles
- ✠ Richard Mavus - In rehabilitation

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✠ Gladys Banewski - Diagnosed with Cancer (friend of Curtis & Sharon Gace)
- ✠ Jake Fodderie - brain tumor has returned (nephew of Christina Cross)
- ✠ Samantha Brown - being treated for cancer (daughter of Eda Nitz niece)
- ✠ Stephanie Favreau - Breast cancer (friend of the Gace and Goss families)
- ✠ Colin Brogan - recovering from heart surgery (friend of Sonny French)
- ✠ Stephanie Nixdorf - stage 4 melanoma (friend of The Helds)
- ✠ Craig Johnson - broken neck from a fall (father of Christina Cross)
- ✠ Brandon Pate - scerosis of the liver (friend of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✠ Aileen Mercer - failing eye sight
- ✠ Jan Stayton - healing from back surgery
- ✠ Erica Vogt - Covid complications (granddaughter of The Helds)
- ✠ Carolina Villarreal - cancer & surgery (friend of Mendez Family)
- ✠ Sue Wright - cancer (aunt of Elaina Albarez)
- ✠ Benny Albarez - cancer (brother of Elaina Albarez)

- ✠ Leon Lilley - Leukemia
- ✠ Chris Pirk - receiving cancer treatment (friend of The Reese Family)
- ✠ Paul Kron - receiving cancer treatment
- ✠ Carmen Arnold - cancer returned (friend of Jarod Christy)
- ✠ Bill Pali - Alzheimers
- ✠ Anne McIlhany - heart failure, myasthenia gravis, systemic sclerosis
- ✠ Jeanie Cowger - cancer step-family of The Cowger Family)
- ✠ Kevin Clark - broken neck & back (brother of Korey Clark)
- ✠ Marian Piracci - improving (niece of Langley's son-in-law)
- ✠ Vic Vaz - Leukemia (husband of Shelia Vaz)
- ✠ Chryssa Sharp - ovarian cancer (cousin of Karen Mavus)
- ✠ JoAnn Roberts - chronic Leukemia Stage 1 (wife of Steve Roberts)
- ✠ Miranda Rodriguez - bipolar disorder (friend of Shirley Coyle)
- ✠ Betty Carroll - cancer w/dementia (friend of Cathy Coyle's aunt)
- ✠ Odet Mendez - possible breast cancer (sister of Pastor Mendez)
- ✠ Matthew Piserelle - no treatment (brother of Phillip Williamson)
- ✠ Charlie Garton - child w/brain cancer (friend of Mark Johnson)
- ✠ David Saville - MS (nephew of Louie Pali)
- ✠ Christina Cross - multiple health issues (sister of Dan Cross)

Our Shut Ins

Gladys Barton, Marcia Carr, Dixie Garrett, Richard & Karen Mavus, Aileen Mercer, Bill Pali, & Arlene Schultz

General Prayer

- ✠ The family of Ali Lowitzer - strength during difficult times & for her safe return home (granddaughter of Mary Davis)
- ✠ Julie Saunders - for a healthy pregnancy & baby (friend of Gayle Bogs)
- ✠ For the safety of those serving in the military: Bradley Shipes (US Airforce) (former member), 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 (sons of Paul Menz, Steven & Robert Hailey (Marines) - (nephews of The Haileys)



Birthdays: 12/6 Richard LaShomb, 12/7 Renita Haude, 12/8 Rick Arimond, 12/8 Jack Lutsch, 12/10 Jami Gause & 12/10 Matthew Pali

Baptism Anniversaries: 12/5 Holly Williamson, 12/9 Shirley Kuhlman, 12/9 Shirley Michka & 12/10 John Luis

Confirmation Anniversaries: 12/6 Patsy Hodges

Wedding Anniversaries: 12/10 David & Tiffany Cowger ~ 19 Yrs.

New Board and Committee Training

All those elected to serve beginning in January of 2023, we will have our installation in the Divine Service on Sunday, Jan. 7th. Also, mark your calendar and plan to attend an informative and instructive training workshop on Saturday, Jan. 21st from 9am to noon. We will learn about electing a chair for the board, planning and carrying out meetings including preparing agendas, and setting goals for 2023. Coffee and refreshments will be provided and ready by 8:30am.



Board Of Evangelism

The Board of Evangelism will once again be meeting starting in January 2023. We have some things planned and want to do more but we can't do it without your help. We aren't asking anyone to serve on the Committee, just help out. Anyone interested in helping out or if you have a Fellowship Activity you would like us to do see Lester Sentesi. We are looking forward to a year full of Fun & Fellowship.



Poinsettias

It's time to order Poinsettias again! There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. This year they will be \$9 each. Be sure to write who you are buying them in memory of or in honor of on the sign up sheet. You have until December 18th to get your orders in!



Pastor Bogs Open House

All are invited to the Bogs Home for fellowship at their Open House on December 18th from 4-8 pm. Their address is 1510 Anvil Drive, Houston, TX 77090.



Grant Awarded to St. Matthew

We at St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield received a grant, for the Hispanic Ministries, in the amount of \$7500.00 from the Faith Lutheran Church of Plano. This grant was made possible by The Roy D. And Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.



Opportunities to Study God's Word

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. The Sr. & Jr. High School class is led by Pastor Mendez in Room #3.



Sunday Adult Bible Classes

All members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church are invited for coffee and donuts at 8:30 am each Sunday at 8:30 am. Then our Bible Classes begin at 8:45 am. *The Pentetuch* led by Pastor Bogs meets in the Room #2. And *Galatians* led by Larry Harvey meets in Room #4. Please join us. Bring a friend!

Wednesday Mornings



The Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group will be meeting at 10:00 am in Room #2. We invite everyone who is available to join us to study God's Word. We are studying the "What about" series. They can be downloaded at: <https://resources.lcms.org/reading-study/what-about-pamphlets/>

Wednesday Evenings

There are two Wednesday evening Bible Classes. The study on *Word & Sacrament* led by Larry Harvey meets at 6:30 pm in Room #4. The study on *Psalms* led by Pastor meets at 7:00 pm in Room #2.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Join us for the Men's Breakfast and Bible study on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is December 10th. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.



Into Abba's Arms

Into Abba's Arms works to change the lives of orphans in Africa by bringing them the love of Christ.



Lord has been blessing us with so many children since we finished the building that it seems that God is sending us a new child every week. Build it and they will come! We are thankful that the Lord has provided so that we are able to take them in as they have all come from very deplorable and sad conditions. If you have been following us on Facebook you will have seen some of the stories, but there are some we haven't even had the chance to announce.

We desperately need your prayers as we are growing in a time when many people are struggling themselves to make ends meet. We know God will provide and we have been through these seasons of times before, so we will hold onto our faith and trust as we continue to grow. It's hard for me to turn any child away that needs hope and a future.

Prayer requests:

- ✠ Please pray for the new baby Prince who arrived just yesterday. We aren't sure if we will keep that name, but maybe! Wink. He also comes from a very sad situation of which I will not give to many details, but his mother abandoned him and the family. Then the father and his mother (the baby's grandmother) committed suicide.
- ✠ Please pray for Lucy, our new 3-year-old girl. She was defiled by her father and who has a mother that is mentally ill. Pray that we can minister to her and bring healing to this little innocent girl. Lillian has reported that she is doing much better after only a week with us. I give God the glory for the answered prayers for her, but she still needs a lot of healing.
- ✠ Continue to pray for the other new children: George - 7 years old, the twins David and Daniel, Baby Paul and Baby Jane. They are all improving so much.
- ✠ All of our children are now at home for two months. Our staff really needs prayers for strength and patience as this is a very long time to have that many children along with the new babies we have received.
- ✠ Please pray for the Lord to send us a gifted servant to work alongside our team here in the US as our Director of Operations.
- ✠ Continue to pray that our children continue to grow in the Lord and respect the staff that is caring for them.
- ✠ Pray for us to find a new house to rent for our Woodsedge Home for our young adults that are soon graduating from high school and will attend universities and technical schools in the city. We will have 20 students that need to live in the home in the next few years, so we need a larger home to house them.
- ✠ Paul, my husband, and I will be leaving for Kenya this Friday. Please pray for safety and strength, and for us to be able to accomplish all that God has for us while we are there. I'm so excited to meet all our new children.

Follow us on Facebook to see and here more of all that's happening: <https://www.facebook.com/intoabbsarms/>. We covet and are truly thankful for all your prayers! I pray that each and every one of you has a very blessed holiday season. Jane Nitz, aka "Mama Jane", Founder