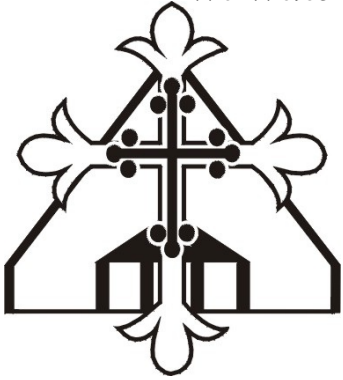


We Welcome You to St. Matthew!



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, B.J. Jackson & David Honerkamp
 Greeters Lester Sentesi & Shirley Coyle
 Ushers Dillon Mosier & Cody Williamson
 Counters Nancy Baeza
 Acolyte Alex Vaz
 Altar Guild Hannah Bogs & Becky Mendez

At St. Matthew, we encourage families to worship God together – it is a part of His plan. 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, we invite you to take advantage of the **Nursery** located in the Sunday School wing north of the Sanctuary which is equipped with a speaker so mom and dad can attend to their child's needs and still participate in the service. Or you may visit 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.

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.

Pastor Rev. Dr. Ronald Bogs	Assoc. Pastor of Hispanic Ministry
Organist Michael Held Rev. Arturo Mendez
Board Chairpersons:	Parish Secretary . . . Amanda Hobbs
Elders Jason Christy	Congregational Officers:
Trustees Eugene Meyer	President Scott Christy
Education Vacant	Vice Pres. David Honerkamp
Evangelism Vacant	Secretary Christina Cross
Stewardship Vacant	Treasurer Dan Cross

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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 12 – Advent III – Our Savior embodies a God who does not just tolerate us in our physical weaknesses. He favors those who need Him the most (Luke 7:22), and that makes the Gospel the opposite of abortion and physician-assisted suicide. Is there any reality in which we may rejoice more than this (Philippians 4:4)? Why would we find this message offensive (Luke 7:23)? And why should we deny anyone else the delight by staying silent about it?

Stewardship Every Sunday

Philippians 4:5-6 - “The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Wouldn't you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn't it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous life God has called us to? St. Paul contrasts anxiety with prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving in making our requests known to God. In other words, when you are tempted to anxiety and worry, pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and pour out your supplications before Him.



Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.



*Chancel Flowers are Given to the Glory of God
 by the Bogs Family in honor of
 Pastor Bogs' Birthday today*





Christmas Around the World Carry-In Dinner

Right after Divine Service on December 19, bring your favorite “Christmas” food from around the world to share. We will eat and do crafts and play games celebrating Christ’s birth from other countries. **Sign Up in the Narthex!**

Christmas Program

Then at 1:00 pm that same day, we will go back to the sanctuary where we will have our annual Christmas program singing hymns from other countries, sharing scripture, and enjoy watching the children act out the Christmas account.

Pastor Bogs Open House

All are invited to the Bogs Home for fellowship at their Open House on December 12 from 4-8 pm. Their address is 1510 Anvil Drive, Houston, TX 77090.

ESL Classes

ESL classes are every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm. Pray for this mission of St. Matthew that God will bless it to continue strongly in reaching out to our community not only teaching English but also sharing the Gospel of the Lord. Of you need more info, 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.”

Life Quotes

“The birth of Christ is the ultimate solution to the loneliness that began in the Garden of Eden. Jesus came because God cares about lonely people, and so should we. Find opportunities to give lonely people gifts—not merely physical items, but the gift of your time, presence, and encouragement. May the glorious Gospel that is preached to you in the birth of Jesus be the gospel that you preach to yourself and your family this month.” Paul David Tripp, pastor, author, conference speaker – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



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

✘ **Sisilie & Chris Lawrence-stillborn Henry G. Monday 12/6**

Strength & Healing

- ✘ **LaVerne Theiss-hospitalized w/pneumonia (cousin of Jane McElroy)**
- ✘ Paul Kron-having a scan on Tuesday 12/7 (husband of Marilyn Kron)
- ✘ Sherry Adams-has started radiation to help treat her cancer (co-worker of Lester Sentesi)
- ✘ Henry Keefhaver-newborn in NICU with serious complications (great nephew of Curtis Gace)
- ✘ Jan Stayton-hospitalized for broken lumbar
- ✘ Linda Olsteen-Covid
- ✘ Alex Altaro-hospitalized (friend of Pastor Mendez)

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✘ Carmen Arnold-cancer returned (friend of Jarod Christy)
- ✘ Carl Holmes-dementia (former member)
- ✘ Bill Pali-Alzheimers
- ✘ Anne McIlhany-heart failure, myasthenia gravis, systemic sclerosis
- ✘ Deitra Johnson-Was in a major car accident (daughter-in-law of Shirley Coyle)
- ✘ Debbie Blanton - Health complications (Daughter of Shirley Coyle)
- ✘ Joan Mikecz-recurrent lung infections (sister of Jeanne Held)
- ✘ Ceci-kidney issues (great niece of Jim Gibbs)
- ✘ Dave Nahrwold-bladder cancer (father of Elisabeth Held)
- ✘ Jeanie Cowger-cancer (step-family of Cowger family)
- ✘ Clarence Meal-lung cancer (friend of Bettye Carter)
- ✘ Sandra Randolph-chronic fatigue syndrome (cousin of Sharon Gace)
- ✘ Rev. David Oberdieck-kidney cancer (classmate of Pastor Bogs)
- ✘ Andrué Barnwell-terminal osteosarcoma (cousin of Gayle Bogs)
- ✘ Phyllis Smith-cancer (cousin of Bryce Koslan)
- ✘ Kevin Clark-broken neck & back (brother of Korey Clark)
- ✘ Eugene File-lung cancer (friend of B.J. & Rose Jackson)
- ✘ Clarence Bourgeois-plaque on the brain & heart problems (father of Sean Bourgeois-Shirley Coyle’s great grandson)
- ✘ Marian Martens-cancer (mother of Nadine Reed)
- ✘ Marian Piracci-compromised neuro system (niece of Langleys’ son-in-

law)

- ✠ Vic Vaz–Lukemia (husband of Sheila Vaz)
- ✠ Leon Lilley–Leukemia
- ✠ 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 Arturo 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

Louise Simmons, Richard & Karen Mavus, Bill Pali, Aileen Mercer, Mario Reyes, Marcia Carr

General Prayer

- ✠ The family of Ali Lowitzer–strength & understanding during difficult times & for her safe return home (granddaughter of Mary Davis)
- ✠ For a safe and healthy pregnancy for Amanda Tusing (due in February), Mikaela & David Reese (due in May)
- ✠ For the safety of those serving in the military: Greggrie O’Garro (Navy) - Bahrain (son of Claire O’Garro); Anthony Valles (Army) - Ft. Hood (grandson of Nancy Baeza), Chris Crowley (Navy) - USS Roosevelt (son-in-law of Nicole Poppenhusen); Timothy & Benjamin Menz (sons of Paul Menz)

Celebrations

Birthdays: 12/12 Ronald Bogs, 12/12 Lester Sentesi & 12/14 Junah Arimond

Baptism Anniversaries: 12/13 Sylvia Christy, 12/15 Bill Pali & 12/16 Kenneth Lilley

Confirmed Anniversaries: 12/13 Karen Hartl & 12/17 Joe Michka

Wedding Anniversaries: 12/17 Gary and Virginia Lawrence ~ 40 years

Attendance for Last Week (12/5)

Sunday School - 17

Adult Bible Class - Galatians Class - 8

Sun. Divine Service - 103 / \$6852

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

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

Praise the Lord! ~Psalm 117:2

KIDS IN THE
DIVINE SERVICE



What is Advent?

Advent marks the beginning of the Church Year. Advent is made up of the four Sundays that come right before Christmas. In other words, the deeper into Advent you go, the closer you get to Christmas Day. For Christians, the First Sunday in Advent is kind of like the “New Year’s Day” of the Church Year calendar.

Why do we celebrate Advent?

The word Advent means “coming.” During Advent, we prepare for the coming of the One who was born that first Christmas in a stable. We prepare for the One who saved us from sin, death and the power of the devil: our Lord Jesus Christ! What a wonderful and exciting time of preparation!



At home, in order to help your children better prepare for the birth of Jesus, try using an Advent devotional booklet provided by the church for family devotions.



24 DAYS in SCRIPTURE

ADVENT READING PLAN

*"For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Savior, who
is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11*

WEEK 1: THE CREATION, THE FALL, AND THE PROMISE OF JESUS

December 1	Genesis 1-2:3
December 2	Genesis 2:4-24
December 3	Genesis 3
December 4	Genesis 6-7:5
December 5	Genesis 8; 9:8-19
December 6	Genesis 11:10-26
December 7	Matthew 1:1-17

WEEK 2: OUR NEED FOR JESUS

December 8	Romans 3:9-4:8
December 9	Psalms 106
December 10	Titus 3:3-7
December 11	Ephesians 2:1-10
December 12	Romans 6
December 13	Psalms 73
December 14	Romans 8

WEEK 3: THE MAJESTY OF JESUS

December 15	Mark 1:1-8
December 16	Isaiah 44
December 17	Psalms 8
December 18	Matthew 21:1-11
December 19	Psalms 93
December 20	Psalms 18
December 21	Revelation 22

WEEK 4: THE BIRTH OF JESUS

December 22	Luke 1:1-25
December 23	Luke 1:26-56
December 24	Matthew 1:18-25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

December 25	Luke 2
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And/Or

Beginning on December 1,
read one chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve, you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life
and wake up Christmas morning knowing more of Who He is
and Why we celebrate Him!

Opportunities to Study God's Word

Sunday School for All Ages

Preschool - Elementary Classes begin at 8:45 am
in **Room #2**. They 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 which is now studying "Angels."



Sunday Adult Bible Classes

All members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church are invited
to attend the Adult Bible Classes each Sunday at 8:45 am. **Revelation**
led by Pastor Bogs meets in the Fellowship Hall (gym). And **Galatians**
led by Larry Harvey meets in **Room #4**. Please join us. Bring a friend!

Wednesday Mornings

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group
meets at **10:00 am** in **Room #2**. We invite everyone
who is available to join us to study God's Word. We
are studying **Corinthians**.



Wednesday Evenings

Wednesday evening Bible Class meets at **7 pm**
in **Room #2**. We are studying the **Psalms**. Bring a
friend for an enjoyable evening!

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 11. The Board of Elders
will meet following study at 10:00am.



PRISM - Precious Rubies In St Matthew

Ladies' PRISM meetings usually take place
the **4th Saturday** of the month where we begin with
Breakfast and a Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am. However,
since the Covid break we have not met. If you are interested in starting
to meet again, please let Tiffany Cowger, Melissa Sindlinger or Gayle
Bogs know and watch here for more information.

Visit our website
www.stmatthewlcms.com