

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 & Steve Roberts
 Greeters Lester Sentesi & Shirley Coyle
 Ushers Dillon Mosier & Jarod Christy
 Counters Nancy Baeza
 Acolyte Aurora Franks
 Altar Guild Melissa & Robert 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
 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

December 15 – Advent III – Gospel-motivated voices For Life bring reasonableness to the cultural conversation about life issues (Philippians 4:5). It means a message of joy and hope instead of just another angry and fearful demeanor. The sanctity of life proclaims good news to neighbors made poor (Luke 7:22) by pressures toward abortion and physician-assisted suicide. God remains mighty to save (Zephaniah 3:17), even in surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis.

Stewardship Every Sunday

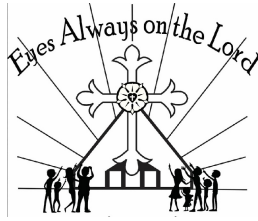
Philippians 4:5–6 – “The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Wouldn't you like to be free from worry and anxiety? Isn't it worry and anxiety that often keep us from living the generous 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.

Attendance for Last Week ~ 12/08/2024
 Adult Bible Class - 13 Galatians Class - 12
 Sun. Divine Service - 78 Offering - \$8473.00
 Wed. Morning Bible Class - 5 Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 8

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 will be having an **Anniversary Committee meeting on Sunday, December 22nd** following Divine Service. Please plan to attend this meeting as we have several different items to finalize. T' minus 24 days until Jan. 1st and we kick off the 125th 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 1st. They will be creating a display for the 125th 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 3rd 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.

Strength & Healing

- ✘ Keith Baker - is at home on hospice care (friend of John Lisius)
- ✘ Tawnya Jackson - healing from oral surgery (BJ Jacksons daughter)
- ✘ Renee Joyce - healing, comfort & strength after her breast cancer diagnosis (family friend of Shawn & Amanda Goss)
- ✘ 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 her 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
- ✘ 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/USS 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: 12/20 Sharon Gace

Baptism Anniversaries: 12/15 Bill Pali & 12/16 Kenneth Lilley

Confirmation Anniversaries: 12/17 Joe Michka

Wedding Anniversaries: 12/17 Gary & Virginia Lawrence ~ 43 Yrs.



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.

Pastor Bogs Family Christmas Open House

Pastor Bogs and his family invite you for their annual Open House on Sunday, December 15th. Come enjoy fellowship and festivities from 4-8pm at 1510 Anvil Drive, Houston, TX 77090.



Advent Service Schedule

Advent Services: December 18 – 12:00pm Worship for those who cannot attend the evening service, 7:15 pm Hymn Sing, & 7:30 pm Worship

Christmas Eve: December 24 – 10:00 am Divine Service & 6:30 pm candlelight with The Lord's Supper

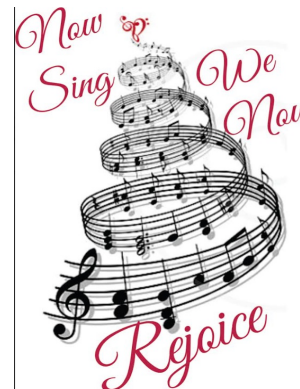
Christmas Day: December 25 – 10:00 am with The Lord's Supper

New Years Eve: December 31 – 10:00 am Divine Service & 6:30 pm with The Lord's Supper



ESL Christmas Potluck

The ESL Program is having their annual Christmas Potluck on Tuesday, December 17th at 7pm. All are welcome to join us for food & festive fellowship.



Now Sing We, Now Rejoice Christmas Program

All are invited next Sunday, Dec. 15, to recount the events of Christ's birth at our annual Christmas Program "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice." A light luncheon will take place in the Fellowship Hall immediately following Divine Service as we setup for the program in the sanctuary. When all is ready, everyone will be invited to come back over to sing hymns and watch the young ones in the Best Christmas Pageant Ever this year. The celebration will continue at the Bogs Open House later that afternoon from 4 - 8 pm.

January Newsletter Deadline

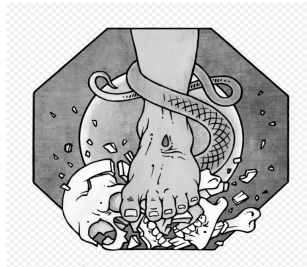
If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the January 2025 newsletter. Please submit them to office.smlcw@gmail.com by Monday, December 23rd.



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.



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.

St. Matthew Senior Group

Thank you to everyone that attended our Seniors Thanksgiving Lunch. We had 19 members attend. Starting in January 2025 will be having a meeting to set up and finalize the calendar for upcoming events. So please keep an eye out in the bulletin for the time and date of this meeting.

CONNECTION



Engaging Truth December lineup

December 15 ~ 7 p.m. Jon Schultz - "BLESSINGS LEARNED AT CHRISTMAS" 7:30 p.m. - Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz - "LIBERTY ACTION ALERT"

December 22 ~ 7 p.m. Rev. Chris Pavola - "BLESSINGS AT CHRISTMAS"

7:30 p.m. - Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz - "LIBERTY ACTION ALERT"

December 29 ~ 7 p.m. Rev. Ben Meyer - "BLESSINGS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS TIME"

7:30 p.m. - Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz - "LIBERTY ACTION ALERT"



Trinity Lutheran Klein German Christmas Service

Join Trinity Lutheran Church for a special German Christmas Service at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 22nd, in the Sanctuary. This service will be primarily in German, with only the message delivered in English. We hope you and your family can join us!

You're
Invited

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. 20th 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 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is January 11th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.

