

# 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..... BJ Jackson & David Honerkamp  
Greeters..... Lester Sentesi & Shirley Coyle  
Ushers ..... Dillon Mosier & Aaron Bogs  
Counters ..... Carolyn McCorquodale  
Acolyte..... Aaron Montemayor  
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  
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

December 17 – Advent III – Those who believe cannot help but speak. God's love for every human life has filled our mouths with shouts of joy (Psalm 126:2). We have His permission to give voice to this Gospel in all circumstances and without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18). Our time has come to bear witness to the Light (John 1:6-7). Confess and do not deny (John 1:20) the sanctity of life!

## Stewardship Every Sunday

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Christians express their thanks to God in many ways: in prayer, in giving to the Lord's work, in acts of service to others, in faithful living in their daily callings. Everything we do to honor God in our lives is a means of returning thanks for the Lord's many gifts to us.

Attendance for Last Week ~ 12/10/2023  
Adult Bible Class - 16 Galatians Class - 13  
Sun. Divine Service - 83 Spanish Service - N/A  
Offering - \$4937.00  
Wed. Morning Bible Class - 9 Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 2  
*For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2*

## Life Quotes

"I don't know what exactly you expect this Christmas. But I can tell you to set your expectations high as you listen to God's Advent call. Listen to His promises. Look in the manger. And you'll find hope and unity now and into eternity." Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – 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).



## 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.



## 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

- ✘ Jacob Christy - admitted to the hospital with RSV (son of Jason & Kim Christy)
- ✘ Patricia LaShomb - has completed radiation treatment and has more test and treatments scheduled for the future. Pray for strength and healing during this continued recovery process
- ✘ Brad - healing of lung cancer, good health, happiness & love (uncle of Tony Agar)
- ✘ Denise Berry - diagnosed with ALS (cousin of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Helena Goss - prayer for healing as she goes through cancer treatments (Aunt of Shawn Goss)
- ✘ Keith Wells - in the hospital for problems related to AFIB (Dad of Troy Wells)
- ✘ Tash Hoyumpa - prayers for his recovery from surgery (friend of BJ & Rose Jackson)
- ✘ 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
- ✘ Comfort & Protection for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Israel
- ✘ Joshua Montemayor - prayers for good medical test results

### Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✘ Karren Radcliff - hospitalized for wound healing (friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ Rose Ortiz - stage 2 pancreatic cancer (friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ 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 & Sherry Betz

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/USC 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: 12/20 Marcia Carr & 12/20 Sharon Gace  
 Baptism Anniversaries: 12/20 Marcia Carr & Ashley Christy  
 Confirmation Anniversaries: 12/17 Joe Michka, 12/22 Rick Arimond & 12/22 Jessica LaShomb  
 Wedding Anniversaries: 12/17 Gary & Virginia Lawrence ~ 42 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. 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.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church

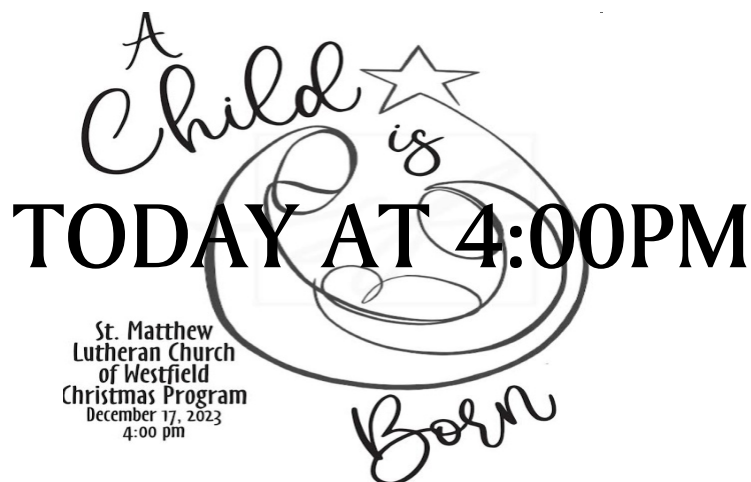
2024 Picnic Committee/Volunteers

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.



## Calendar Changes/Updates

Please note that Pastor Bogs 7pm Wednesday Bible Study has been postponed due to the evening services. The class will resume on Wednesday, January 3rd studying "End Times".



The Christmas Program is TODAY!

Next Sunday, December 17, a simple presentation of the Christmas Story will be at 4:00 pm which will include some of your favorite Christmas hymns not scheduled to be sung this year in our services. A sweet reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall so bring your favorite treats to share.

Anyone wanting to participate in the presentation, please show up early that day at 2:00 pm.

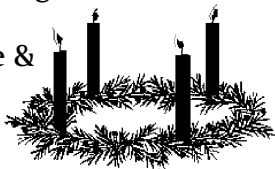
### 2023 Advent Schedule

Advent Services: December 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



## 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 8:30 am. Then our Bible Classes begin at 8:45 am. The study of Joshua 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!



**SCHOOL**

Join our  
**BIBLE  
STUDY**

### 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 Luther's Large Catechism.



### 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 End Times 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 January 13<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



*St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield*

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