



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..... Lily Williamson
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 18 – Advent IV – Surprise pregnancy once redeemed the whole world. Joseph would have aborted the undertaking, but the Lord explicitly forbid it (Matthew 1:19-21). Even human limitations could not prevent the Heavenly Father from keeping His promises (Romans 1:2-3). So, every surprise pregnancy we encounter—along with our lives and everyone else's (Psalm 24:1)—belongs to Almighty God, and we may rejoice to say so.

Stewardship Every Sunday

Matthew 1:21 – “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God's Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus' love has done!



Attendance for Last Week ~ 12/11/2022

Adult Bible Class - 12 Galatians Class - 9

Sun. Divine Service - 83

Offering - \$5963.00

Wed. Morning Bible Class - 8 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

Life Quotes

“Unlike Christmas ornaments, each baby is a unique life never to be replicated in all of history. Each life brutally snuffed out by abortion will leave the world a lesser place for it.” Bradley Mattes, president of Life Issues Institute – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

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 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 or contact him at pastormendez.smlcw@gmail.com.



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: December 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 Ken Harvey - who passed away (Larry Harvey's brother)**

Strength & Healing

- ✠ Nicole Poppenhusen - tested positive for Covid
- ✠ Peggy Berry - diagnosed w/Covid & has Afib (Nicole Poppenhusen Aunt)
- ✠ Gayle Berry - has pneumonia, bilateral pleural effusions, severe DSD, spinal stenosis & some spondylosisthesis (Nicole Poppenhusen Uncle)
- ✠ 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)
- ✠ Eda Nitz - prayers for new leukemia treatment she is undergoing
- ✠ Carol Ainsworth - Under hospice care with alzheimers (neighbor of Arlene Schultz)
- ✠ Debbie Blanton - suffered a stroke (daughter of Shirley Coyle)
- ✠ Carol Gentes - has shingles
- ✠ Richard Mavus - In rehabilitation

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✠ Michael Held - pancreatic cancer
- ✠ 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 - in rehabilitation and will hopefully be moved to skilled nursing soon (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 - undergoing neurological treatment (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: 12/20 Marcia Carr, 12/20 Sharon Gace & 12/21 Sandra McGuire

Baptism Anniversaries: 12/20 Marcia Carr, 12/22 Ashley Christy, 12/24 Chad Lilley & 12/24 Jane McElroy

Confirmation Anniversaries: 12/22 Rick Arimond & 12/22 Jessica LaShomb



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. 8th. Also, mark your calendar and plan to attend an informative and instructive training workshop on Saturday, Jan. 21st from 9 am 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 8:30 am.



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 (Last Day to Order)

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 TODAY, December 18th from 4-8 pm. Their address is 1510 Anvil Drive, Houston, TX 77090.



Opportunities to Study God's Word



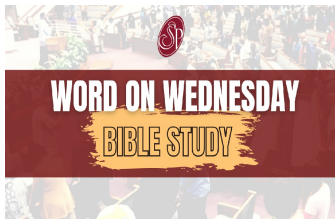
Sunday School for All Ages

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 every Sunday at 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 "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 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 8:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is January 14th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after 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.



INTO ABBA'S ARM

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. 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