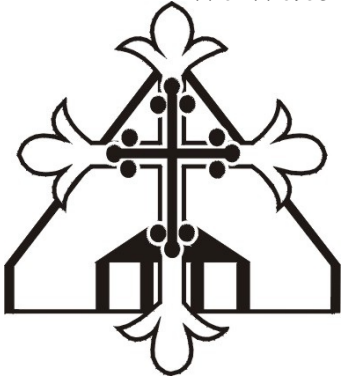


We Welcome You to St. Matthew!



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 Kaitlyn Christie
- 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 19 – Advent IV – The Scriptures clearly declare the liveliness our Lord brings even when unborn (Luke 1:41). Not only does He bestow this love explicitly upon every embryo, but He makes it a reason for rejoicing (Luke 1:44). Let the whole world think us fools (Psalm 80:6) – only let us still leap, delight, and speak loudly in celebration of the sanctity of life!

Stewardship Every Sunday

Luke 1:45 - “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” The Lord always fulfills what He promises. We can be certain of that, and He has proven it over and over again. This faith in the Lord’s own faithfulness is what gives us the courage to follow the Lord’s commands in the face of the world’s anger and resistance. Mary’s faith also gave her the courage to carry on in her seemingly embarrassed circumstances.



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.



Last day to order poinsettias. If you would like to order please sign up and submit payment in the narthex.

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.

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 Line Screening

Life Line Screening will be here at St. Matthew on Tuesday, February 1st. They will be performing advanced ultrasound to detect peripheral arterial disease and other vascular conditions. Life Line is offering a complimentary screening certificate and you can find those in the narthex. Pre-registration is required so please call 1-800-772-8260 or register online at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle.

Attendance for Last Week (12/12)

Adult Bible Class - 18 Galatians Class - 12

Sun. Divine Service - 91 / \$5564 (12/8 & 12/12)

Wed. Morning Bible Class - 8 Wed. Evening Bible Class - n/a

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

Praise the Lord! ~Psalm 117:2

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

- ✘ **Family of Mary Gibbs-her brother Mark passed away Wednesday 12/15**
- ✘ **Family of former member Almeda Springer-passed away Tuesday 12/14**

Strength & Healing

- ✘ **Karren Radcliff-paraplegic needing prayers for healing of wounds (college friend of Nancy Baeza)**
- ✘ **Chris Pirk-receiving cancer treatment (friend of David & Mikaela Reese)**
- ✘ LaVerne Theiss-hospitalized w/pneumonia (cousin of Jane McElroy)
- ✘ 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-recovering from a broken lumbar
- ✘ Linda Olsteen-Covid
- ✘ Alex Altaro-hospitalized (friend of Pastor Mendez)

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✘ Paul Kron-receiving cancer treatment
- ✘ 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 Corey 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 Langley’s 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: 12/20 Marcia Carr, 12/20 Sharon Gace, 12/21 Louise Simmons & 12/25 Joel Musgrove

Baptism Anniversaries: 12/19 Jim Holland, 12/20 Marcia Carr, 12/22 Ashley Christy, 12/24 Chad Lilley, 12/24 Jane McElroy, 12/25 Ronald Bogs, 12/25 Rebecca Mendez & 12/25 Lester Sentesi

Confirmed Anniversaries: 12/19 Jim Holland, 12/22 Rick Arimond, 12/22 Charles Baumgartner, 12/22 Jessica LaShomb & 12/23 Bob Langley

The Candy Cane



It is shaped like a shepherd's crook to remind us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Turned upside down it forms the letter "J" for Jesus. The color white stands for the purity and sinlessness of Christ. The color red for the blood which He shed to save His people from their sins. Some candy canes have three thin stripes of red along with the wider stripe. These stand for the Trinity. Some also have a green stripe and these stand for the everlasting life which He secured for His people. Tradition has it that when eating a candy cane, you break it as a reminder that Jesus offered His broken body for sinners. When you share it with a friend, you share the sweetness of Christ. The candy cane is said to have come about during a time of persecution of Christians, and it was a way to remind people of the truth of Scripture.

Life Quotes

"In carols of Christmas, you'll sometimes hear more than gladness that the Child is born on Christmas. You'll hear of deliverance: 'Born that man no more may die. Born to raise the sons of earth ...' There is much to ponder before, during, and after Christmas. Let the meaning of Christmas fill our hearts with anticipation, wonder, and thanksgiving for many days! For death's days are numbered because of a birth—the birth of the Key of David." James M. Kushiner, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



KFUO Radio



KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on KFUO.org via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music.

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUO.org: Hear "Advent with the Apostles" on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study Matthew 5-7 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and hear the final midweek Advent service from Village Lutheran Ladue at 12:00 p.m. CT on 12/22. Special "Twelve Days of Christmas" programming begins December 24 with sacred music, scripture, and prayer for the Christmas season!

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

WEEK 3: THE MAJESTY OF JESUS

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

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 will not be meeting again until January 5th 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