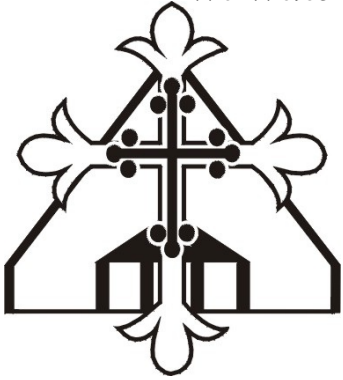


We Welcome You to St. Matthew!



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

St Matthew News & Notes

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 26 – St. Stephen, Martyr –Any message that only placates the culture cannot lay claim to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 23:34). The power of His Word will have consequences for us and stir up passionate reactions in those who hear it (Acts 6:54, 57). But our insistence that they know of His grace and forgiveness (Acts 6:60)—especially applied to life issues—will capture attention to how He loves and saves every human being.

**Stewardship Every Sunday**

Luke 2:38 - “And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.” Notice here how giving thanks to our Lord leads to good works. Thankfulness toward God for all He has done for us is the foundation of a Christian life lived in godliness. For if we know all that the Lord has done for us, how can we not strive to honor Him with what we think, say, and do?



*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.*

### 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](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle).

### PAYPAL Payments

"When COVID hit in early 2020, many of us began utilizing our PayPal service for tithing as we were unable to meet in person for a period of time. Since then, many of you have continued to utilize this service. Please be aware that PayPal does charge SMLC a transaction fee ranging from 2.99% to 7.80%. If you are able to remit checks in lieu of PayPal, please prayerfully consider this as an alternative. SMLC is currently on track to exceed 1,000 in PayPal fee's for 2021. Many thanks for your continued support! Thank you Dan Cross ~ Treasurer

#### Attendance for Last Week (12/19)

Adult Bible Class - 14 Galatians Class - 9

Sun. Divine Service - 100 / \$6,684.36 (12/15 & 12/19)

Wed. Morning Bible Class - 10 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 Melodie Dodic-passed away Friday 12/17 (Aunt of Gayle Bogs)**

#### Strength & Healing

✘ **Andrue Barnwell-hospitalized with a collapsed lung from cancer (cousin of Gayle Bogs)**

✘ **Mr. Castillo-suffering Alzheimer having surgery(father-in-law of Pastor Mendez brother-in-law)**

✘ **Rosemary McElroy-hospitalized in San Antonio for leg amputation (sister-in-law of Janie McElroy)**

✘ 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

#### 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)
- ✠ 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:** 12/26 Luke Tusing & 12/29 Jim Gibbs

**Baptism Anniversaries:** 12/28 Sharol Aikman, 12/28 Justin LaShomb, 01/01 Bob Langley, 01/01 Jeanne Langley, 01/01 Brenda Pali, 01/01 Louise Simmons & 01/01 Luke Tusing

**Confirmed Anniversaries:** 12/30 Phillip Williamson, 01/01 Ricky Gause & 01/01 James Musgrove

**Wedding Anniversaries:** 12/29 Jim & Mary Gibbs (31 Years) & 12/31 Arturo & Angelica Mendez (14 Years)

#### **Life Quotes**

“Where are your eyes today? ... Gaze at the baby Jesus in the manger—born into humanity for you. Watch as Jesus teaches, heals, comforts, and calls lost people to Himself. Fix your eyes on Him as He hangs on that cross for you. And look joyfully at Him as He meets you after the resurrection—loving you, forgiving you, and sending you out into His world to share His love with others ... Let’s fix our eyes on Jesus!” Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



#### **KFUO Radio**

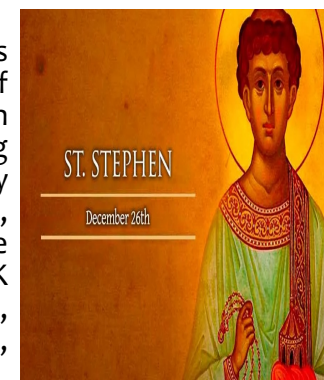


KFUO Radio, a media ministry extension of LCMS congregations, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org) via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music.

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on [KFUO.org](http://KFUO.org): We celebrate the season of Christmas by taking a hiatus from our regular programming to bring you special Twelve Days of Christmas programming, including Scripture readings, sacred music for the season, and special greetings from our missionaries and military chaplains serving around the globe. Enjoy this programming through Epiphany, January 6! Regular programming returns January 7.

#### **St. Stephen’s Day**

In Western Christianity, December 26 is called "St. Stephen's Day", the "feast of Stephen" [St Stefanus Day] mentioned in the English Christmas carol "Good King Wenceslas". It is a public holiday in many nations that were historically Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran: Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, UK (where it is also called "Boxing Day"), Ireland, Italy, Germany, Finland, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.



Readings: Epistle: Titus. 3: 4-7 / Acts 6: 8-15 & 7: 55-60; Gospel: Matthew 23: 35-39 / Luke 2: 15-20

Musical Context of Bach Cantatas: Motets & Chorales for Christmas

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday** of the month at **8:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is January 9<sup>th</sup>. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.



### PRISM - Precious Rubies In St Matthew

Ladies' PRISM meetings usually take place the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Lutherans For Life 2022 Texas State Essay Contest



Sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents

For Students in Grades 6 through 12

Any Lutheran student in a Lutheran school or church is eligible. Lutheran students may also enter through a home school or congregation, e.g. confirmation class or youth group, when validated by a pastor or teacher.

### Contest Guidelines

Students will write a life-affirming essay based on the theme: Blessed For Life with the Bible verse: "... the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies." Psalm 41:2.1. Not incorporating the theme and verse in the essay will disqualify the entry.

2. Examples of topics the essay could deal with are, but are not limited to abortion, the handicapped, adoption or foster care, infanticide, cloning, stem cell research, physician assisted suicide or euthanasia etc.

3. Essays should include student's name, grade (school or church), and email address. This information should be submitted on the rubric page used in grading the essay.

4. All sources for references, statistics and quotes should be incorporated within the essay and then included in a bibliography at the end.

Grades 6 - 8 should submit essays up to 400 words

Grades 9 - 12 should submit essays up to 750 words

Entries should be submitted digitally using Microsoft Word or Google

Docs to [bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org) by **April 1, 2022**.

5. There will be a \$100 first place award and \$50 second place award for each of the two categories. The two first place category winners will advance to the national contest. Email [bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:bgeistfeld@lutheransforlife.org) with any questions.

6. Grand prize for the national winning entry at each level: \$250 plus free conference registration to the 2022

Lutherans For Life National conference and one night stay at the conference hotel.

7. All entries become the property of Lutherans For Life.

8. For questions or resources on the sanctity of life, see [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)