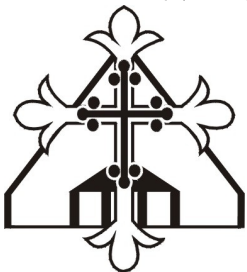


We Welcome You to St. Matthew!



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 Dalton Reed
 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 MinistryRev. 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 29 – Christmas I – The Old Testament ritual of redeeming firstborns clearly declares that the Lord lends us our children, but they belong to Him (Exodus 13:11-12). Little ones are gifts and privileges, not property, preferences, accessories, or rights. The coming of Christ extends this designation to every neighbor, including those of advanced age (Luke 2:25-26, 36-38). Let us not neglect to teach and admonish one another about it (Colossians 3:16)!

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 God leads to good works (speaking about Jesus, in this case). Thankfulness towards 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?

Attendance for Last Week ~ 12/22/2024
 Adult Bible Class - 15 Galatians Class - 10
 Sun. Divine Service - 70 Offering - \$N/A
 Wed. Morning Bible Class - N/A Wed. Evening Bible Classes - N/A

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

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.



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.

Advent Service Schedule

New Years Eve: December 31 – 6:30 pm with The Lord's Supper



February Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the February 2025 newsletter. Please submit them to office.smlcw@gmail.com by Monday, January 20th.



Celebrations

Birthdays: 12/30 Scott Christy, 1/1 BJ Jackson & 1/2 John Stayton

Baptism Anniversaries: 1/1 BJ Jackson, 1/1 Bob Langley, 1/1 Jeanne Langley, 1/1 Brenda Pali & 1/1 Luke Tusing

Confirmed Anniversaries: 12/30 Phillip Williamson, 1/1 Paul Guinn & 1/1 James Musgrove

Wedding Anniversaries: 12/31 Arturo & Angelica Mendez ~ 17 Yrs.



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

- ✘ Jeanette Mittelstedt Nauman - has been hospitalized due to a fall (friend of Janie McElroy)
- ✘ Angela Wilkins - healing from ulcerative colitis (daughter of Frances Bell)
- ✘ Cindy Henderson - diagnosed with lymphoma (friend of Sharon Gace)
- ✘ Jim Musgrove - is in Tomball Hospital
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ 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



Extension Cords

Please do not use extension cords inside the church. The insurance adjuster has said it is a safety/fire hazard. Thank you so much for your understanding as we make some changes in trying to comply with insurance and safety regulations.

Annual Mailbox Clean Out ~ January 30th

On January 30th all mailboxes in the Narthex will be cleaned out. If there is anything in your mailbox that you would like to keep please make sure that you have removed it from your mailbox before this date. Also if you are a current member and do not have a mailbox and would like one please contact the church secretary, office.smlcw@gmail.com or by phone and we will make sure that you receive one.



Volunteer Schedule 2025



If you are in charge of coordinating any of the church volunteer schedules please make sure to get those in to the church secretary of the end of the year, so that she can get those posted. Schedules are Ushers, Greeters, Elders, Counters & Altar Guild. If you would like to volunteer for any of these monthly positions please contact the church secretary and she will pass it on to the appropriate person. Thank you!

Update on Sunday Morning Study

Sunday, December 29, 2024 will be the last Sunday where Galatians is the subject being studied during class in Room 4. Beginning Sunday January 5, 2025, First Thessalonians will be the book being studied in room number 4.



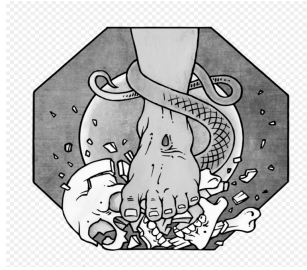
St. Matthew Senior Group

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.

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.



The one who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Jesus promises that just as He is risen, we will rise. The last great enemy has been destroyed. Everlasting life belongs to all who believe...one day. But for us, some days, that day feels far away. Like it'll never come... like it's been made for someone other than you.

Dear one, hear the promise for you today, too. "Behold, I am making all things new."...right now. It doesn't just mean that one day, everything will be fixed. It means that things are allowed to be broken today. Nothing can be so damaged that it can't be made new. Nothing broken will stay that way. There is a resurrection of all flesh. We can look forward with hope, even when everything falls apart around us. The promise isn't held at arm's length. When today is still broken, He who sits on the throne wants you to cling to the promise now. You are already a child of God, and so you are already a child of the resurrection. Call the sin that destroys what it is. Call death the last great enemy. It has already been defeated. Live a steadfast faith today no matter what things look like because you rest on a yesterday that was made whole on the cross. Realize that God hates the same things you war against too, but he has already won the victory... the victory that makes All Things New.

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.

Life Quotes

"We long to hear those words from the master, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! Come! Share your master's happiness!' Someday you will hear them as He welcomes you into eternal dwellings. But for now, there is much to do for Jesus. So, as you go to live for Him, let those words echo in your mind and spur you on to be faithful and fruitful servants in His kingdom." Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life
• lutheransforlife.org

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. This will be the last Sunday for Galatians. Beginning Jan. 5th the Book of Study in room #4 will be First Thessalonians. 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.

