

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..... Ruby 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 3 – Advent I – Surprise pregnancy intimidates, and terminal diagnosis terrifies because they darken the future. But Jesus the Savior looks through walls and sees around corners (Mark 11:2-3). He has promised abundant and everlasting life as the one who both secures the ends and supplies the means. God is faithful and will sustain (1 Corinthians 1:9); can we confirm it with our testimony (1 Corinthians 1:6)?

Stewardship Every Sunday

1 Corinthians 1:9 – “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” The faithfulness of God is our great comfort. He has made promises to us, and He will keep them. He is kind and loving toward us and will not break faith with us. This gives us the confidence to step out in faith, to leave fear behind. So, when it comes to following the Lord’s commandments for our daily lives, we know His will is best for us because He is faithful.

Attendance for Last Week ~ 11/26/2023
Adult Bible Class - 16 Galatians Class - 13
Sun. Divine Service - 79 Spanish Service - N/A
Offering - \$4946.00
Wed. Morning Bible Class - 7 Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 13
For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2

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. The ESL Christmas Potluck will be held on Thursday, December 14th.



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. Thank you for your patience while we work to get the phones back up and running.



*Altar Flowers are being
Given by the Bogs Family
celebrating with Thanksgiving
Pastor Mendez
5th Anniversary of Ordination*



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

- ✘ 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
- ✘ Patricia LaShomb - radiation treatments
- ✘ Comfort & Protection for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Israel
- ✘ Denise Berry - ongoing tests for undiagnosed health issues, also took a fall and fractured her wrist (cousin of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ 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

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/USS 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: 12/6 Richard LaShomb & 12/8 Rick Arimond
 Baptism Anniversaries: 12/3 Nancy Baeza, 12/5 Holly Williamson,
 12/9 Shirley Kuhlman & 12/9 Shirley Michka
 Confirmation Anniversaries: 12/6 Patsy Hodges

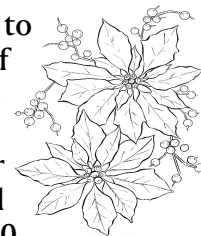
January Newsletter Deadline

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.



125th Anniversary of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Four years ago an attempt was started to get ready to celebrate our congregation's 120th anniversary. That attempt was thwarted by Covid. In one year an eight months we will be celebrating the 125th 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.

Pastor Bogs Family Christmas Open House
 Pastor Bogs and his family invite you for their annual Open House on Sunday, December 10th. Come enjoy fellowship and festivities from 4–8pm at 1510 Anvil Drive, Houston, TX 77090.

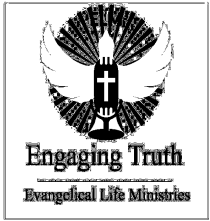
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
 2024 Picnic Committee/Volunteers

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 JOYOUS SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas -- that wonderful celebration of Christ's birth filled with stories of angelic choirs and heavenly hosts singing Alleluias! What can match the musical majesty of the celebration of Jesus' birth?

Whether it's celebrated with a simple service of carols, a contemporary cantata, or the performance of the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah," the music of Christmas is as much a part of Christmas tradition as the reading of the second chapter of Luke's gospel. This month's theme for our Engaging Truth broadcasts is the music surrounding the Advent and Christmas seasons. We'll hear from Houston area choir leader, musician, and teacher Mary Mountford and we'll also hear from former worship leader and Christian counselor Kathy Baker. Ashley Phelps, a director of music for Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and an employee of a firm that assists the astronauts preparing to go to the moon, will offer her unique perspective. Also joining us will be N.J. Malenke, a former choir director whose passion for Christmas music has led to the production of one of the area's most elaborate multimedia displays. Finally, we'll be joined by Van Glynn, organist at St. John Lutheran Church in Cypress, who is a multi-talented musician who is equally at home behind a keyboard or plucking the strings of a mandolin. Join us each Sunday evening at 7 p.m. on KKHT-FM 100.7 (kkht.com) for Engaging Truth.

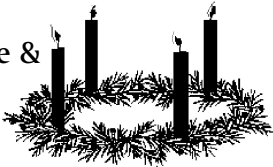
2023 Advent Schedule

Advent Services: December 6, 13 & 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



Rehearsals for Family Christmas Service

Rehearsals for the St. Matthew Family Christmas Service being held on Sunday, December 17th will be held on Saturday, December 9th & Saturday December 16th at 12pm (noon).

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.



SCHOOL

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!

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 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our next class is December 9th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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