

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..... Aaron Montemayor(AM) & Logan Reed (PM)
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 31 – Christmas I/New Year’s Eve – Christmas – and a new year – offers opportunity for the joys of looking forward. Simeon and Anna exemplify and inspire faith that finds strength and celebration in anticipating. The Heavenly Father who escorted us thus far will also usher us ever onward. Neighbors facing surprise pregnancies or suffering terminal diagnoses need to know. For their sake, please do not keep silent (Psalm 62:1)!

Stewardship Every Sunday

Luke 2:39 – “And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned ... to their own town of Nazareth.” The Law of God is good. Of course, it always shows us our sins, but that is good, too! We need to be driven back to the forgiveness of Christ. And the Law also shows us the truly blessed way to live. As Mary and Joseph found their joy in a godly life, so should we see the Law as a guide for Christian living and as the roadmap for saying thank you to the Lord for all His grace and mercy to us.

Attendance for Last Week ~ 12/24/2023
Adult Bible Class -13 Galatians Class - 12
Sun. Divine Service - 83/80 Spanish Service - N/A
Offering - \$3655.00
Wed. Morning Bible Class - 8 Wed. Evening Bible Classes - 5
For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2

Life Quotes

“While it is true that we need to be good stewards of God’s earthly gifts, it is sinful to think that we are in full control of preserving this world. It is sinful to fret about the destruction of this world before the Last Day. This world will not run out of natural resources. We will not be wiped out by climate change, a worldwide pandemic, or a meteor shower if and when those things happen. God says that as long as this earth endures—until Judgment Day—seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. God is in control. God will protect, provide, and preserve this world. Trust in God and see His grace and mercy, especially when sin affects this world. Trust that He gives you what you don’t deserve and more than you could imagine.” Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

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.



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." If you press 0 it will direct you back to the secretary. 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 back up and running.



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.

Comfort

- ✘ The Family of Alexis - who died in a car accident (friend of Tony Agar)

Strength & Healing

- ✘ Carol Clark - recovering from a blood clot
- ✘ Dale & Kerri McLeod - In critical condition after a plane crash (friends of John & Jan Stayton)
- ✘ Barbara Newbould - shingles & a blood clot in her lung
- ✘ Jacob Christy - admitted to the hospital with RSV (son of Jason & Kim Christy)
- ✘ Patricia LaShomb - has completed radiation treatment and has more test and treatments scheduled for the future. Pray for strength and healing during this continued recovery process
- ✘ Denise Berry - diagnosed with ALS (cousin of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Helena Goss - prayer for healing as she goes through cancer treatments (Aunt of Shawn Goss)
- ✘ Keith Wells - hospitalized for problems with 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)
- ✘ Gladys Barton - recovering from surgery
- ✘ Comfort & Protection for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Israel
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ 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 Albarez)
- ✘ 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 & Sherry Betz

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: 1/1 BJ Jackson, 1/2 John Stayton, 1/3 Mark LaShomb & 1/5 Aaron Bogs
Baptism Anniversaries: 1/1 BJ Jackson, 1/1 Bob Langley, 1/1 Jeanne Langley, 1/1 Brenda Pali, 1/1 Luke Tusing & 1/5 Larry Harvey
Confirmation Anniversaries: 11/1 Ricky Gause, 1/1 Paul Guinn, 1/1 James Musgrove & 1/1 Todd Pfenning
Wedding Anniversaries: 1/4 Ricky & Jami Gause ~ 50 Yrs.

February Newsletter Deadline

dates Remember **Monday, January 22nd.**
If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the February 2024 newsletter. Please submit them to office.smlcw@gmail.com by

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. 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.



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".



FELLOWSHIP HALL CONSTRUCTION

Repairs to the fellowship hall floor will commence the first week of January 2024. Be advised the building will be unavailable for use from January 2 through February 10 or until repairs are completed. Amanda has blocked out these dates on the church calendar so please do not request to schedule any events during this time. Once repairs are completed the congregation will be notified.

St. Paul Lutheran Church ~ Kawai Piano Dedicatory Recital

When & Time: 4:00 PM Sunday, January 14, 2024
Where: St. Paul Lutheran Church
3501 Red River Street Austin, TX
What: Recitalist Dr. Elizabeth Grimpo
Professor of Music
Concordia University-Nebraska
3:00 Pre-Concert Presentation
Jim Watson, Piano Rebuilder
Reception following the recital



In addition to her teaching at Concordia, Dr. Grimpo has been featured in a live performance for Nebraska Public Radio's "Classics by Request" broadcast, appearances with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, UNL's "Lisztomania", UNL Symphony Orchestra as winner of of the graduate concerto competition as well as solo recitals. Dr. Grimpo is a main contributor for the Hymns of the Season piano series published by David's Harp Music.

Thank you from Pastor Bogs & Family

Thank you to everyone for your Christmas thoughts, words, cards, and gifts of encouragement especially during this Advent and Christmas season. Your care and concern for myself and my family are greatly appreciated. May the Lord continue to bless you as you continue to be a blessing to myself, my family and others. Pastor Bogs and family.



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.



Sunday Adult Bible Classes

All members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church are invited for coffee and donuts every Sunday at



SCHOOL 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.

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 13th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

21434 East Hardy Rd., Houston, TX 77073
www.stmatthewlcms.com

281- 443-2304 or 281-443-8463
office.smlcw@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @stmatthewwestfield