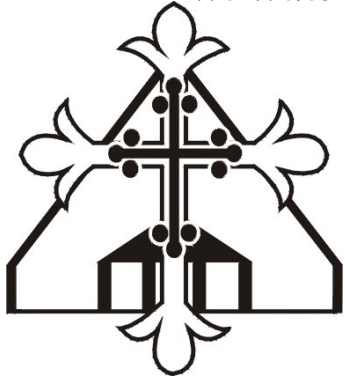


We Welcome You to St. Matthew!



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 David Honerkamp & Jarod Christy
- Greeters..... Dave & Tiffany Cowger
- Ushers Dillon Mosier & Noah Montemayor
- Counters Melissa Sindlinger
- Acolyte..... Mackenzie Gentes
- Altar Guild Marie Fischer & Nancy Baeza

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.

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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



March 27 – Lent IV – Psalm 32 speaks to the relief, the healing, and the outright glee in having sins forgiven. When we neglect to address abortion, we deny that delight to consciences guilty and grieving over their part in it. And we deny ourselves the exhilaration of serving as ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). Let our advocacy for the sanctity of life be invitation to celebrate for the prodigal – and his brother (Luke 15:32)!

Stewardship Every Sunday

John 6:5 – “Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?’” Why does Jesus ask Philip this question? Of course, Jesus knows the answer already - He knows how He means to care for His people. The Lord provided, and He still provides. But we need to know this - and so Jesus gets Philip thinking about it. The knowledge that the Lord provides frees us for generosity without fear.



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." Each light cost about \$100. Please consider "adopting" a light or two.



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: Study Repentance in the Augsburg Confession Article XIII on Concord Matters (4/2 at 10:00 a.m. CT), study Luke 19-20 on Sharper Iron's "The Beloved Physician's Orderly Account" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), hear Lenten Midweek Recital and Worship Service 3/30 at 11:00 a.m. CT, and study Psalm 129-131 and Psalm 19-20 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org or on the KFUO Radio app.

Life Quotes

"I cannot ponder every day the full life of Christ in the Gospels. But I can during the year on various days celebrate and ponder His Annunciation, Nativity, Presentation, Baptism, Temptation, Transfiguration, Triumphal Entry, Last Supper, Agony in the Garden, Arrest, Trial, Passion, Carrying of the Cross, Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Resurrection, Great Commission, or Ascension." James M. Kushiner, executive director, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Attendance for Last Week (03/16 & 03/20)

Adult Bible Class - 19 Galatians Class - 14

Sun. Divine Service - 105/\$5413.25

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

- ✘ **For the Family of Vernon Sindlinger-He Passed away this past week (Father of Robert Sindlinger)**
- ✘ **For the Family of Holly Vine-whose life was tragically taken(grandniece of Shirley Coyle)**

Strength & Healing

- ✘ **Stephanie Nixdorf - diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma(friend of the Held family)**
- ✘ Craig Johnson - broken neck from a fall (father of Christina Cross)
- ✘ Jean Ogletree-receiving chemotherapy on her gall bladder(friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✘ Mauro Gonzalez-praying for a quick recovery from a collapsed lung(boyfriend of Hannah Bogs)
- ✘ Aileen Mercer-Failing Eye Sight(Marilyn Krons Sister)
- ✘ Susan-Being Treated for Cancer(co-worker of Amanda Goss)
- ✘ Erica Vogt-long term Covid complications (granddaughter of Michael & Jeanne Held)
- ✘ Carolina Villarreal-Cancer and surgery (friend of The Mendez Family)
- ✘ Jan Stayton-healing from back surgery
- ✘ Sue Wright-Cancer Diagnosis (Elaina Alvarez Aunt)
- ✘ Benny Alvarez - Cancer (Elaina's Brother)
- ✘ Brandon Pate-diagnosed with partial scerosis of the liver(Friend of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✘ Dale Cowger-Recovering from Covid (father of Dave Cowger)
- ✘ Rosie Hildebrandt-shingles (sister of Curtis Gace)
- ✘ Karren Radcliff-paraplegic needing prayers for healing of wounds (college friend of Nancy Baeza)

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✘ Leon Lilley-Leukemia (father of Troy Lilley)
- ✘ Chris Pirk-receiving cancer treatment (friend of David & Mikaela Reese)
- ✘ Sherry Adams-radiation for cancer (co-worker of Lester Sentesi)
- ✘ Paul Kron-receiving cancer treatment

- ✘ Carmen Arnold—cancer returned (friend of Jarod Christy)
- ✘ Bill Pali—Alzheimers
- ✘ Anne McIlhany—heart failure, myasthenia gravis, systemic sclerosis
- ✘ Debbie Blanton - in the hospital (Daughter of Shirley Coyle)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ Phyllis Smith—cancer (cousin of Bryce Koslan)
- ✘ Kevin Clark—broken neck & back (brother of Korey Clark)
- ✘ Marian Piracci—compromised neuro system (niece of Langleys' son-in-law)
- ✘ Vic Vaz—Lukemia (husband of Sheila Vaz)
- ✘ 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, Dixie Garrett, Arlene Schultz & Gladys Brandt

General Prayer

- ✘ The family of Ali Lowitzer—strength during difficult times & for her safe return home (granddaughter of Mary Davis)
- ✘ For a safe and healthy pregnancy for 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) - Japan (grandson of Nancy Baeza), Chris Crowley (Navy) - USS Roosevelt (son-in-law of Nicole Poppenhusen); Timothy & Benjamin Menz (sons of Paul Menz); Steven & Robert Hailey - Marines (nephews of The Hailey Family)

Celebrations

Birthdays: 3/27 Aurora Franks, 3/28 David Cowger, 3/29 Tiffany Cowger & 3/29 Pamela Lilley

Confirmation Anniversaries: 3/28 Aaron Bogs, 3/28 Mackenzie Gentes, 3/28 April Harvey, 3/29 Junah Arimond, 3/29 Joshua Bogs, 3/29 Shirley Kuhlman, 3/30 Marilyn Kron, 3/30 Bill Pali, 4/1 Jonathan LaShomb & 4/2 David Cowger

Memory Bricks



We are taking orders for new Memory Garden bricks in the Narthex now. The Memory Garden is outside of the sanctuary leading to the bell tower. Engraved bricks with names of loved ones who have gone to see Christ in heaven have been donated. The Memory Garden project was completed but some have requested new bricks of their loved ones who have gone to their eternal home. Once we have at least

ten bricks ordered, we will make a church order. Bricks are now \$20 each and there is a \$5 extra charge to add a symbol to your brick. The symbols available are next to the order form in the Narthex. 21 characters (including spaces) are allowed per line. Only 18 characters per line for those bricks with symbols. Please fill out a separate form for each brick in the Narthex. You may combine your payment if ordering multiple bricks. Make checks payable to St. Matthew. If paying by credit card, go to <https://www.stmatthewlcms.com/giving.html> and click on the "donate" button. If using a credit card, please add \$1 per brick to cover Paypal fees. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

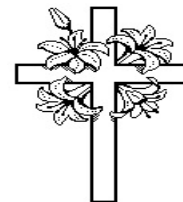
Easter Breakfast

This year's breakfast will be by the S.M.A.R.T. Youth Group as they ask for your support for their Higher Things Youth Gathering trip this summer to Valparaiso, Indiana. We appreciate any donations you can make for them while enjoying great food and fellowship! Thank you!



Easter Lilies

The Easter Lily Sign-Up sheet is in the narthex. Lilies are \$9 a plant. Please make your checks payable to St. Matthew and state if you would like them in honor or in memory of someone. Thank you!



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 "Revelation."



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 be meeting at **10:00 am** in **Room #2**. We invite everyone who is available to join us to study God's Word. We are studying **Our Divine Service**.



Wednesday Evenings

Wednesday evening Bible Class will **resume meeting on April 20th**. 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 April 9th. The Board of Elders will meet following study at 10:00am.



PRISM - Precious Rubies In St Matthew

PRISM is going to meet on April 23rd at 9 a.m. Ladies of all ages are invited to enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and Bible study. We will be diving into "Living a Chocolate Life" by Deb Burma. "Living a Chocolate Life" invites women to savor God's rich and endless supply of grace in Christ. This study reminds readers that the Holy Spirit fills them with sweet faith in the Savior and it is only He who can truly satisfy.

American Heritage Girls

AHG is a scout-like organization dedicated to the mission of building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country. Since 1995, AHG's vision has been to become the premier national character development organization for young women that provides a Christian program which embraces time honored moral standards while encouraging each member to grow in their faith in God, personal integrity, citizenship and community service. We have been blessed to have a troop in our area for over 10 years. Three of our St. Matthew girls are in AHG Troop TX0355 at St. James Catholic Church on Aldine Westfield, and we would like to invite all girls in Kindergarten through 18 years of age to come to St. James and check us out. Pass the word to your daughters, granddaughters, nieces, friends! For more information on the meetings, please contact Gayle Bogs. For more information on American Heritage Girls, go online to americanheritagegirls.org.



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Journey through John: 2022 Lenten Devotions



"Abide in my word." God commands us to gladly hear his word, eagerly learn it, and fervently follow it. Yet our fallen human nature always receives these words as a burden of responsibility. But if we perceived reality with God's wisdom, we would more readily see his word as the gracious invitation to life which Jesus gives. Bo Giertz, a Swedish pastor and author, once wrote, "People often think they are free when they put themselves above God's commands and don't do what He wants. Actually, they only stop serving one power and begin serving another."¹ This is what Jesus explains in our reading today. The "father of lies," the devil, "was a murderer from the very beginning... There is no truth in him." Putting ourselves above God's commands is sin. Sin does not free us from God's holy commands; it only makes us a slave to itself. When we are slaves to sin our father is the devil, and if the devil is our father, than there is no chance of life, for he was (to come full circle) a murderer from the beginning. But Christ gives life. Being God, his word has the power to set us free and bring us to eternal life. This is why he so passionately commands us to hear his word. "Abide in my word... and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.... If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." True freedom is found only in remaining in his word. That is the reason for his command to us. The word itself makes us receptive as God's new creation (John 3), so that our ears, minds, and hearts are opened to cheerfully hear God's consolation, diligently study its truth, gladly receive its reproof, willingly invite its correction, and eagerly welcome its instruction.