

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 Jordan Christy & Steve Roberts
 Greeters
 Ushers . . . Dillon Mosier/Noah Montemayor/Logan Reed & Heston Reed
 Counters
 Acolyte Dalton Reed
 Altar Guild Rose & BJ Jackson

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
 Music John Lisius & Gayle Bogs
 Parish Secretary Amanda Hobbs

Board Chairpersons:

Elders Luke Tusing
 Trustees Craig Hooper
 Education
 Evangelism Lester Sentesi
 Stewardship Nicole Poppenhusen

Congregational Officers:

President Scott Christy
 Vice Pres David Honerkamp
 Secretary Becky Reyes
 Treasurer Oscar & Anna Hernandez
 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.

Stewardship Every Sunday

Luke 15:12 – “And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.” This prodigal son only sees the father as a source of wealth. “Give me my inheritance now!” he says, which is really to say, “You are better off dead in my eyes.” This is the sin at the heart of all greed: valuing things over people. This parable calls us to come to our senses as well, and to see God as the loving Giver of all good, the true Father to be valued above and beyond all the things of this world.

Life Thoughts

Lent IV - The prodigal's father kept watching every day for his wayward son's return. He had to have in order to spot him “while he was still a long way off” (Luke 15:20). Our Gracious God never gives up on a human life, no matter what size, skills, circumstances, or sins it involves. We need not let surprise pregnancies, chronic conditions, or terminal diagnoses steal our hope or anyone else's!

Attendance for Last Week ~ 03/23/2025
 Adult Bible Class - 11 Thessalonians Class - 17
 Sun. Divine Service - 94
 Offering - \$2808.25
 Wed. Morning Bible Class - 9 Wed. Evening Bible Class - 6
 For great is His steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord ~ Psalm 117:2

St. Matthew Senior Group "Saved Silvers"

Last Sunday the Saved Seniors had their 1st monthly lunch and get together. We had 18 people there and PLENTY food. This will now be a monthly event, the 3rd Sunday each month so all those 50 and up mark your calendars. And remember your cards or dominoes. We are also looking for someone or a couple who would like to coordinate the group. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 20th. If you would like to step up and serve see Lester.



2025 Special Service Lent Schedule April 2 & 9

April 13th Palm Sunday
April 17th Maundy Thursday

April 18th Good Friday

April 20th Easter Sunday

Noon Service
7:15pm Hymn Sing
7:30pm Worship
10am w/Lord's Supper
Noon Service
7:30pmw/Lord's Supper
Noon Service
7:30pm/Cemetery
7:00am Sunrise
8:45am Sunday School
10:00am w/Lord's Supper

Church Choir

We are wanting to put together a choir and/or a handbell choir for Easter, Pastors retirement service & the rest of the Anniversary celebrations. YOU DO NOT NEED TO READ MUSIC! If you are interested there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. We will need to practice either on Sunday after church or another week night so figure that into your decisions. See Lester with any questions.



Adopt A Brisket

The 125th Picnic is coming up in May. Plus Pastor Bogs will be preaching his last sermon as Sr. Pastor here at St. Matthew. With the budget situation we are initiating an Adopt A Brisket campaign.

Brisket

There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please write your name, phone number and number of briskets you will provide. You can either purchase a brisket and donate it or you can donate money for the church to purchase the briskets. If you write a check or give cash you can put it in the offering plate in an envelope marked Anniversary Brisket. Let's "Make our Picnic Great Again!" Thanks so much!!

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

- ✂ Update ~ Shirley Kuhlman - has moved to 230 Cofer Rd. Leonard, TX 75452
- ✂ Aurora Acevedo - baby Auroras brain is not developing (the mother is a co-worker of Nicole Poppenhusen)
- ✂ Dan Ealson - for a successful open heart surgery on 3/25 and speedy recovery (Katie Ealson-Clark's Dad)
- ✂ Larry Harvey - cancer diagnosis
- ✂ Jo Marie Miller - recovering from knee surgery (Vita Malloys daughter)
- ✂ Harold Hough - recovering from a stroke (friend of Nancy Baeza)
- ✂ Jeffrey Otto - recovering from a stroke (Nancy Baezas brother)
- ✂ Angela Wilkins - ulcerative colitis (daughter of Frances Bell)

Cancer/Long Term Healing

- ✂ Cindy Henderson - diagnosed with lymphoma (friend of Sharon Gace)
- ✂ Werner Hartl - has been diagnosed with cancer
- ✂ Shawn Mena - treatment for breast cancer (friend of David Honerkamp)
- ✂ Carolina Villareal - diagnosed with cancer (friend of Mendez Family)
- ✂ Renee Joyce - breast cancer diagnosis (family friend of Shawn & Amanda Goss)
- ✂ Aileen Mercer - prayers for her failing eye sight
- ✂ Erica Caballero - has breast cancer (friend of Elizabeth & Yair Mendez)
- ✂ Wanda Wood - recovering from heart attack (friend of McCorquodales)
- ✂ Ronnie Ethridge - chronic lymphocytic leukemia (co worker of Yair Mendez)
- ✂ Brad Ratliff - inoperable brain tumor (friend of Lester Sentesi)
- ✂ Paul Kron - prayers for recovery from kidney failure & cancer treatments
- ✂ Robbie Barton - cancer (brother of Jennifer Hailey)
- ✂ Ruben Albarez - health challenges (father of Elaina Albarez Christy)
- ✂ Rick Hamitt - diagnosed with ALS (son-in-law of the Staytons)
- ✂ Patricia LaShomb - prayers during her 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)
- ✘ 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)
- ✘ 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, Jean Hinz, Shirley Coyle & Marilyn Kron

General Prayer

- ✘ 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)

Celebrations

Birthdays: 3/31 Paul Menz & 4/3 April Harvey

Confirmation Anniversaries: 3/30 Marilyn Kron, 3/30 Kristen McManus, 3/30 Bill Pali, 4/3 Mary Garrett & 4/5 Caleb Bogs

Baptism Anniversaries: 4/1 Paul Menz, 4/3 Carol Clark, 4/3 Jake McIlhany & 4/3 Kate McIlhany

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 First Thessalonians 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 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 How We Got the Bible led by Pastor Bogs meets at 7pm in Room #2. Pastor Bogs will not be having his Wednesday evening class during Lent and will resume the Wednesday after Easter, 4/23.

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 April 12th. The Board of Elders will meet immediately after at 10:00am.



VBS 2025



Plans are being discussed for bringing back Vacation Bible School this July. Volunteers will definitely be needed so if you would like to help in any way, please see Rose Jackson.

Picnic Committee Meeting

The Picnic Committee will be meeting today after church services. We have about 7 weeks and we need help. If you would like to help "Make Our Picnic Great Again" see Lester or plan on attending the meeting.



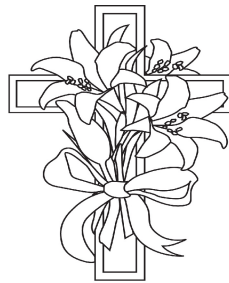
Board of Evangelism

The Board of Evangelisms next meeting will be on April 20th immediately following Divine Service. We will be meeting regularly now on the 3rd Sunday of each month. We have a lot to discuss so please plan to be there.



Easter Lilies

The Easter Lily Sign-Up sheet is in the narthex. Lilies are \$10 a plant. Please state if you would like them in honor or in memory of someone. The lilies are \$10 each. Please make checks payable to St. Matthew and place your payment in the envelope provided. The last Sunday to sign up is Palm Sunday, April 13. Thank you!



125th Anniversary T-Shirts

Another order will be made for Picnic Sunday of the special t-shirts designed celebrating St. Matthew's 125th Anniversary. We look forward to everyone wearing theirs at all the celebrations throughout the year. A sample shirt is in the narthex along with a signup sheet. Please write your name, phone number, and what size(s) you would like and place your payment made to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church" in the envelope provided. Shirts are now \$12 each. Please add \$1 for every "X" in size. (XL=\$13, 2XL=\$14, etc. up to 5XL.) The last day to be a part of this order and to get yours by the week before the picnic will be the last Sunday in April, 4/27.



Easter Breakfast



This year the youth group will again be offering breakfast on Easter morning right after the Sunrise service. Although they will not be attending a Higher Things Youth Gathering this year they are beginning to fund raise for next year. If you would like to attend the breakfast (to make sure we have enough food), please sign up on the Easter Breakfast Sign Up sheet in the narthex. If you would like to help by donating some of the ingredients for the breakfast, please sign up on the Donation Sign Up sheet. Thank you.

May Newsletter Deadline

If you have anything that you would like to see and/or add to the May 2025 newsletter. Please submit it to office.smlcw@gmail.com by Monday, April 21st.



Life Quotes

"Our Lord dwelt among us for quite some time without anyone seeing or meeting Him. Yet in this span, He consecrated and sanctified every human life from its very beginning at the moment of fertilization. And He demonstrated that neither age nor appearance nor ability—nor any lack thereof—improves or impairs anyone's worth. God creates, redeems, and calls each one as His own to start with." Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read John 20:21-23 and Luke 24:47. Pieper notes that these commands are for all Christians. Who brought you this Good News and with whom can you share it this month?

Prayer starter: Thank God for His grace, the free gift of forgiveness in Christ Jesus

