



SAINT MATTHEW

April
2022
Newsletter

Holy Week

From Saturday, April 9 to Easter Sunday on April 17, we will celebrate the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with many worship opportunities.

April 9 - Children's Easter Celebration

The Children's Easter Celebration is **Saturday, April 9** at 1:00 pm in the Vine Café (for 4th grade and under). Please join us for story time & music, crafts, snacks, tons of goodies and an Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your family!

April 10 - Palm Sunday

Worship times: **9:00 am & 11:00 am.**

Church Wide Movie Night: **6:30 pm - Risen**

April 14 - Maundy Thursday

The Joy Of Easter at 7:30 pm.

April 15 - Good Friday

The Joy Of Easter at 7:30 pm.

April 17 - Easter Sunday

It is time to celebrate Jesus' victory over the grave. The tomb is empty! Jesus is alive! Let's come together for adoration and praise! Join us for worship at **9:00 am & 11:00 am.**

The Joy Of Easter

The Joy of Easter is **Thursday, April 14 and Friday, April 15** at 7:30 pm.

The Joy of Easter presents the gospel through a musical drama depicting the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Live animals, beautiful costumes and amazing sets accompany the cast of over 200 that includes choir, orchestra, a drama team and our technical support staff and crew. If you have faithfully attended this production every year, we ask that you bring someone new with you this year. **Have you invited your family or friends?** A production like this is the perfect opportunity for us to become fishers of men. Help us cast the net wide to bring new people to St. Matthew ... and to the Lord.



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Years ago, Gina and I were in a musical called Jekyll & Hyde, a musical production loosely based on Robert Louis Stevenson's story. In the musical, there is a woman named Lucy who falls for Jekyll. After realizing that Hyde is too unpredictable, Jekyll tells Lucy to leave and forget she ever met him. As a result, she sings the song, "A New Life."



As one listens to the song, it's easy to hear the angst of what it must be like for one who does not know Jesus. There is a desperate inner cry for meaning in life magnified by the life-long experience of not finding it. Imagine searching for meaning in your life and never being able to find it. Throughout the song, Lucy shares what she wants out of life: a new start, a new hope, a new chance, a new dream... a new life. Of course, without Jesus, these are all empty dreams on which the world can never deliver.

But as we celebrate Easter this month, it is a great time to be reminded that we have been given a new life in Jesus. In fact, all of our longing for meaning, for hope, for a new dream, a new chance at life *are* met in the resurrection of Jesus from the grave! Our hopes and dreams can be magnified by our experience of the Risen Christ because He has given us His Spirit. As Romans 8:11 says, "And, if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who lives in you."

Think of that! The same Spirit that raised Jesus back to life – is living in you! Your hope for a second chance at life is now possible: your chance at new hope is possible; your desire for a new world; your ability to dream a new dream with God – all are possible because Jesus lives! He is alive! The grave would be the last obstacle for any of us. Death would seem to bring all possibilities to a screeching halt. But at the resurrection, God put an exclamation point on life! And you and I can be a part of it.

Are you experiencing a new life in Christ? Does your life today look more like Jesus' life? Or more like your old self? I hope you will be able to spend some time this month in Scripture looking at the Bible accounts of the resurrection. Spend some time in prayer, asking God to bring you new life. Meditate on the resurrection and where you might be experiencing it in your own life. And as you do, allow your heart to be filled with praise.

Our God is amazing!

Celebrating the New Life in Christ with You,
Bob

Kentucky Mountain Bible College

The Kentucky Mountain Bible College invites you to attend an inspiring service of worship at St. Matthew on **Sunday, April 24**. The 26-voice College Choir, consisting of students from various places throughout the United States and under the direction of Mr. Jay Wisler, will lead worship in both services this day. This outstanding vocal ensemble will bless you with their songs of praise and God-exalting testimonies.

Joy Of Easter Production News

Cast practice continues on Wednesday nights at 7:35 pm in the Sanctuary. Check the Rehearsal Schedule and Production Outline for a list of practices you will need to attend. Contact Lindsay for more info.

We are looking for help on **Saturday, April 16** at 8:00 am to strike the Easter production set, clean the church and prepare for Easter Sunday. We will also be staying Friday night after the production to clear the stage and move props if that time works better for you. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Souders Scholarship

The Edward and Evelyn Souders Scholarship is awarded to one college student each year. The recipient should be an active participant in St. Matthew and not a child, spouse or dependent of a St. Matthew staff member. Preference will be given first to a student preparing for full-time ministry, second to one with financial need, and third to one enrolled in a Christian college or university. If you would like to apply simply email Casey at cskelton@stmatthewumc.org for an application. Or you can pick up a hard copy in the church office. Please return it to the church office no later than **May 30**.

Right Now Media

Don't forget about this **free gift** from St. Matthew. From this site you have access to literally thousands of Bible study options, videos, testimonies, and more. It is the Netflix of Bible study! If you still need to set up your free profile you can visit the invite link at: <http://bit.ly/stmatthewumc>. Or text "RIGHTNOW STMATT" to 41411 for the link.

Celebrate Recovery: *Aaron Oplinger - 618-406-0287 - aoplinger@stmatthewumc.org*

As we watch the seasons change during the month of April and witness the new life springing up all around us, our hearts warm to possibilities of our new life in Christ and the new season of life He brings to us when we center everything around Him. We are excited to celebrate Christ's gift of salvation through the cross at Easter and with the special set-up involved with "The Joy Of Easter" taking place this month, we will be having CR in the Sanctuary for the first three weeks of April.

Here is what is happening in CR this month:

April 1st - Join us as we start off from square one in the recovery process looking at and facing our "Denial". This is a critical lesson for anyone who wants to move forward in life!

April 8th - Bob Madewell, from Granite City "Restoration" church CR, will join us to share his story of recovery that includes how God has helped him deal with trauma from a violent assault he suffered while working. You won't want to miss Bob's story of pushing into the storm and coming through it stronger.

April 15th - We will be joining together for "The Joy of Easter" in the sanctuary.

April 22nd - The Ministry Leader from Granite City "Restoration " CR, Rick Burnes, will come and explain how God brought him out of addiction into a new life and is now using his past to help others.

April 29th - We will be working through the next step in our life recovery by admitting that without Jesus Christ as our only true source of power, we are "Powerless".

Mark your calendars, our **Children's Easter Celebration** will be Saturday, April 9 at 1:00 pm (the Saturday before Palm Sunday) in the Vine Café. For 4th grade and under, join us for story time & music, crafts, snacks, tons of goodies and an Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your family!

Candy donations for Children's Easter Celebration! We are looking for store bought, small, individually wrapped candy donations. Candy can be donated to the Welcome Center or in Kids Town and please mark it as "kids".

Would you be able to help in the Joy of Easter Kid's Room or Nursery? We are looking for several people on Thursday, April 14 or Friday, April 15 that would be able to spend some time with our kids and little ones. Contact Lindsay if you are interested. (Background check included).

"Knights of the North Castle" Vacation Bible School is June 13 – 17 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for 3 year olds through finishing 6th graders. Child & Volunteer Registration is now available at vbspro.events/p/stmatthewchurchvbs. Join us on this epic adventure as we journey into a frozen land in search of the King's Armor. It's free, so bring your friends as our brave knights learn how to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power! (V.B.S. Work Week is June 6 – 9.)

Wednesday Night Kids' Club continues from 6:00 – 7:00 pm in Kids' Town. Nursery will be available from 5:45 – 7:15 pm for parents attending classes. Contact Lindsay if you'd be interested in helping! Our last day of club for the semester will be May 4.

We love new friends in Children's Ministry and have plenty of opportunities for you to serve. Let God use you in a mighty way by investing in the spiritual formation of our amazing kids! Not sure where your "sweet spot" would be? Meet with Lindsay and we'll find you a perfect place!

Email Updates & Activities. If you have a child or grandchild in the Children's Ministry and do not receive our emails, please send your email address to lvollmar@stmatthewumc.org. We will continue to provide your kids and families with opportunities to know, grow & go in the name of Jesus!

Youth Ministry: *Matt Vollmar - 618-795-6250 - mvollmar@stmatthewumc.org*

Sunday Night Youth - Sundays at 5:00 pm in the Youth Room.

Youth Band - Wednesday Nights at 5:30 pm in the Youth Room.

Youth Bible Study - Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm in the Youth Room.

April 1 - 3 - Branson/Young Christians Weekend - Our trip to Branson is back and has limited space left. Cost this year is free except for a couple of meals you'll need to cover. We leave on Friday at 5:30 pm, back Sunday by 6 pm. Concerts, speakers, rides and more! See Matt for more info!

College Ministry: *Andy Black - 217-725-5079 - ablack@stmatthewumc.org*

College Ministry - Every Wednesday Night at 6:00 pm in the College Ministry Center (accessible through Door 7)

LifeGroup 50/60 is a "drop-in" discipleship group that is available to 50 and 60 year olds. This group meet the fourth Thursday of the month: **Thursday, April 28 at 6:30 pm**. We gather together around a meal at 6:30 pm in the Vine Cafe for fun and fellowship. Then we gather around God's Word from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the Side Chapel Room (Side Vine Cafe). It is open to all who would like to be a part of it.

***LifeGroup 30/40** is now part of Wednesday Night Discipleship and will meet weekly at 6:00 pm in the Park Room. Brian Caringer will lead this class most weeks; however, Bob & Gina Swickard will lead it the 4th Wednesday of the month.*

Senior Ministry: Jeanie Lively - 618-979-7434 - jlively@stmatthewumc.org

New Life Club Meeting - Our April 21st New Life Club meeting will begin at noon in the Vine Cafe. You may want to be there much earlier to get a seat. This is our Spring Fashion Show presented and sponsored by our Thrift Shop "Redeemed Again." Our devotion will be given by Meredith Goodwin, past president. Our lunch, for a donation of \$5.00, will be prepared and served by Jack Lampe. We have a CRAFT AND FLOWER-A-RAMA going on as well. Come for a great afternoon of fun, food, Christian fellowship and shopping.

New Life Club Bible Study with Larry Patton - Our Thursday Bible Study this month is April 14 and 28 at 9:30am. Come have coffee and donuts for a time, then join us for a great Bible Study.

"Redeemed Again", The Thrift Shop of St. Matthew - We still have a need for earrings and other jewelry as well as all things spring and summer. We are blessed daily by your generosity.

New Life Club Choir meets at 4:00 pm in the Park Room on Wednesdays. It's never too late to join in. God loves a cheerful "singer."

St. Matthew Senior Travels

"Jesus" at Sight And Sound Theatre, Branson, MO - Thursday, May 26, 2022 - \$110.00 payable at booking
This phenomenal performance will be leaving for good at the end of summer. We are going again this year so that folks that missed it lastspring can attend. Yes, we are doing it in one long day. See the promo at the "Welcome Desk" or call me.

Frankie Vallie And The Four Seasons - Stifel Theatre - April 8, 7:30 p.m. - \$135.00

NEW - Tulip Festival In Pella, IA / Field Of Dreams, Dyersville, IA - May 4-6, 2022

NEW - Lion King, Fox Theatre/Dinner - June 14, 2022

Coming Soon:

HGTV Southern Road Trip- October 3-11, 2022

Fireside Dinner Theatre - Wisconsin - "White Christmas" - Nov. 3-4, 2022

Branson Christmas - Nov. 15-19, 2022

December ---- TBA

We are happy to see so many new faces working in this ministry and worshipping with us! Get involved. God has something for you to do.



St. Matthew Youth and sponsors at Fire -Up 2022!

The Fire-Up Conference is a weekend discipleship event for students in 9-12th grade. It's hosted in Troy, IL the last weekend of February. The students participate in the conference and stay in host homes for the weekend. It's a great time of worship and fellowship!

The Ash Wednesday spaghetti dinner and communion and anointing service was a great success. We served 268 dinners and had 274 in attendance for the service. Thanks to everyone for participating in this great night of fellowship and healing as the Holy Spirit was moving at St. Matthew! And thanks to the kitchen staff for the amazing food and organized service lines (both of which were very friendly!).



The long awaited College Ministry Center is finally complete! This space has really been transformed into a warm and welcoming place for the college ministry to call home. We are extremely grateful to everyone who helped bring this vision to reality including: our St. Matthew Trustees Committee and its members, Phillips Company and the sweat equity of the college ministry members themselves! Thanks for all your hard work and dedication.

* * Church Wide Movie Night * *

Everyone is invited to attend a church wide viewing of *Risen* on Sunday, April 10 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Let's kick off Holy Week together with this powerful adaptation of the resurrection.

According to the IMDB website this movie: "Follows the epic Biblical story of the Resurrection, as told through the eyes of a non-believer. Clavius, a powerful Roman military tribune, and his aide Lucius, are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to [Jesus] in the weeks following the crucifixion, in order to disprove the rumors of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem."

This movie is rated PG 13 for Biblical violence.

We hope to see you, and your family there!



National Day Of Prayer

Join with us, along with other Americans all over the United States, as we gather for praise and prayer here at St. Matthew at 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 5.

The theme of the 2022 National Day of Prayer is: "Exalt The Lord, Who Has Established Us", based on Colossians 2:6 - 7. "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

Although the National Day Of Prayer was officially signed into law in 1952 by President Harry S. Truman, the practice of praying for our country was really nothing new. Ever since our nation's founding, our leaders have always called for days of prayer, thanksgiving and fasting.

The National Day of Prayer takes place every year on the first Thursday of May. In fact, over 40,000 prayer gatherings are held every year at churches, court houses, temples, synagogues and schools - which means millions of people are in prayer on that day. We invite you to join us to be one of them at St. Matthew on Thursday, May 4 at noon in the Sanctuary.

The Wednesday Night Meal Preview

Meal service is from 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Dine in or carry out!

You can order a meal by: calling the church office at 618-397-5994, signing up in the foyer on Sunday mornings, through the St. Matthew App or through an order form on our website at: <http://stmatthewumc.org/wed-meal>.

April 6

Roasted Pork Loin
Dressing
Orange Glazed Carrots
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

April 13

Taco Wednesday
Tacos
Enchiladas
Chips & Salsa
Salad Bar
Dessert (Empanadas)

April 20

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Buttered California Blend Vegetables
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert



Special Events Calendar

April 5	SPRC Meeting
April 9	Children's Easter Celebration
April 10	Palm Sunday & Church Movie Night
April 14	Maundy Thursday, NLC Bible Study & The Joy Of Easter
April 15	Good Friday & The Joy Of Easter
April 17	Easter Sunday
April 18	Church Offices Closed
April 19	Finance Meeting
April 21	New Life Club Meeting
April 26	Administrative Board Meeting
April 28	NLC Bible Study & LifeGroup 50/60 Meeting

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Sunday

Morning: 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Kid's Worship: 9:00 am & 11:00 am

Wednesday

6:15 pm in the Chapel

Senior Pastor: Robert Swickard

Associate Pastor: Andy Black



St. Matthew has a new YouTube channel! Click on this link and Subscribe!

<https://youtube.com/channel/St.Matthew>