



SAINT
MATTHEW

August
2022
Newsletter

Mission Outreach Sunday - Combined Service at 10:00 am

As followers of Jesus, we are a missional people with a desire to partner with God in His plan to “So Love the World,” to follow the Great Commission, and to glorify Him with our lives. Also, our hope is to intentionally engage in all three aspects of our mission statement:

To know Jesus. Grow in His grace. And go in His name to serve.

On Sunday, August 14 we will have one combined service at 10:00 am. The Mission Outreach Board will host a special event to lift up the wonderful missions that we have been involved in for years here at St. Matthew, while introducing some new opportunities for mission.

Our hope is to gather all the missions that the Lord has allowed us to be a part of under one Board in order to connect and provide easy “on-ramps” for people to engage in these opportunities.

For our Mission Outreach Sunday, here is the schedule with which we are excited to invite you to engage.

- o You will receive a name tag and information sheet of paper when you arrive at church on Sunday. The sheet will simply show you the 5 easy-access stations with which you can participate.
- o Lunch will be served (at no cost unless you would like to make a free will offering)
- o The stations will be as follows...
 1. Pack a school backpack for children in need (CHAPEL)
 2. Write a thank you letter to military or first responders (LIBRARY)
 3. Assemble food bags to be sent to Ukraine (GYM)
 4. Pray for the needs of the missions and missionaries (take a prayer card home) (FOYER)
 5. Get your picture taken for the new St Matthew yearbook (SMALL FOYER)
- o The event will be completed by 1:00 pm.

What do you need to bring? Nothing but a willing heart to....

Get to know some of your St. Matthew friends,

Pray for a hurting world,

and if you are able, Engage in a few activities that will bless others internally, locally and globally.

Partnering in His service!

The Mission Outreach Board

KNOW

GROW

GO

I was remembering the movie from years ago called, “The Guardian.” In the movie, Kevin Costner plays a Coast Guard instructor and Aston Kutcher plays a young buck who wants to become a rescue diver and save lives. Every day the instructors took the students to the pool, they went with the single goal: to learn how to stay safe and bring others to safety. After all, this was their mission.



As I think about that, I can't help but see the correlation between their training and our lives as Christians. When we come to church to learn more about our Master and King, Jesus, we learn how to keep his commands, follow his ways. We also do it so that we can build spiritual muscles to follow Him wherever He leads, and, so we can help others find their way to “safety.” Is this not our mission?

Jesus said in the great commission, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, even to the very end of the age.” (Mt. 28:19-20)

Think of that! Jesus comes alongside us as we live with him! We are never alone! In the same way, we can extend the same grace to people in our lives. We can come alongside others and point them to Jesus. When we invite others to church or bible study, we can be the embodiment of Christ to help others to “safety.”

During the 19th century, a group of missionaries in what is now Suriname (South America), wanted to take the Gospel to the inhabitants of a nearby island. Most of these islanders were slaves on the large plantations that covered the island. The plantation owners feared the gospel and its potential results and would not even allow the missionaries to talk with the slaves. They would only allow the slaves to talk with other slaves.

So the missionaries sold themselves into slavery in order to take the gospel to the islanders. Working in bondage in the harsh conditions of a tropical climate, they reached many of them with the good news. What a sacrifice they made! Just so they could come alongside the others and bring them to “safety.”

This month, let's remember to keep missionaries in prayer. Let's pray that God would send workers for the harvest. Let's pray that God teaches us something new about what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Clinging to the Only One who Saves,

Bob

Friday Nights: Dinner at 6 pm. Large group at 7 pm. Open share groups at 8 pm.

Last month was an incredible time of healing and encouragement here in our CR and in Celebrate Recoveries around the world as we came together in Dallas Tx. for our annual CR Summit. We want to say thank you again for all the support you have shown which has allowed us to take 9 leaders to this event. Your support has resulted in our leaders being able to receive encouragement and training that will continue and grow the ministry of St. Matthew and Celebrate Recovery by bringing the Gospel to lives who are hurting and lost, seeking answers. Your support also allows my wife Chrissy and I to travel around our state and share with other CR groups and churches.

August 5 - Join us to hear Kathy Morgan explain why and how, forming a "Spiritual Inventory" for our lives can be an important step forward in our walk with God and in our recovery from life's hurts.

August 12 - Kelley Sneyd will be with us to share her story of God's transformative power and the restoration life with Him can bring.

August 19 - Tracy Crawford will continue the "Spiritual Inventory" lesson with a second part giving us tools to determine the areas of our spiritual lives that may need attention. This lesson will encourage you to begin writing and journaling about your walk with God to give you a clear view of where you've come from and where He wants to lead you.

August 26 - Bob Madewell from Granite City CR will come and share how God restored him spiritually and physically from a violent attack and a life of hurt and fear.

News & Events

Promotion Sunday & The Blessing Of The Backpacks

Promotion Sunday & the blessing of the backpacks is **Sunday, August 7**. This is the day that our kids and youth will attend their new 2022-2023 classes. We'll have a time of prayer during the 9:00 am and 11:00 am services for all students, teachers, parents, school administrators and prayer warriors to saturate our students in prayer as they return to the mission fields in their schools. Kids are invited to bring their backpacks to church for a special prize!

Welcome Our Newest Staff Member!

Please join us in welcoming Pauline Welmon as our "new" Financial Assistant. I say "new", because Pauline has been with us for quite a few months through a temp agency, however; as of July Pauline has become an official and permanent St. Matthew staff member! Pauline brings a wealth of experience in the world of finance to St. Matthew. She has been with our new system, Realm since day one and has already helped many of you with giving statements, setting up on-line giving, answering questions, and more.

From Pauline: "I am excited to be a part of the St Matthew staff; everyone has been so very welcoming! I have 3 children, Tiffany, Ashley, & Luke. I have been blessed with 9 grandchildren! Spending time with my family is important to me. I also enjoy volunteering for the ABC Brigade, which is an organization dedicated to helping stroke survivors and their caregivers thrive after a stroke and bringing stroke awareness to the community."

We are very blessed to have her join our team. Please join us in praying for her and her family as she begins this new chapter in her life.



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Wednesday Kids' Club resumes on September 7! Kids' Club schedule will resume this year with Bible Study & His Kids' Sing Choir with our new director, Gina Swickard. Mark your calendars to be at church on Wednesday nights this fall as we jump into God's Word and sing His praises.

Vacation Bible School t-shirts! We have some adult sizes of our purple Knights of the North Castle V.B.S. shirts left for purchase for \$5. Contact Lindsay if you'd like a shirt and sport your V.B.S. gear!

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!

Good News Club

We're back! Good News Club is a free after school program for Kindergarten – 3rd graders offered at St. Matthew on Tuesday afternoons. Club runs every Tuesday the kids have school, from October 11 – February 21. It's a fun time packed full of Bible stories, music, games, memory verses, skits, snacks and planting the seeds of Jesus in the lives of our kids in the community. We need your help to minister to these amazing kids, so please begin praying how you can be a part of club.



Volunteer registration is now available at the Kids' Corner of the Welcome Center in the main foyer. Sign up today if you are able to help as a K-3rd grade helper or in set-up/administration help for club days.

Volunteer training is Tuesday, October 4 at 2:30 pm in the Chapel for all helpers. The kids first day of club is Tuesday, October 11.

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

Sunday Night Youth - 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.

August 6 - Six Flags Youth Day - meet at the church at 10 am.

August 7 - Promotion Sunday - all new middle schoolers are invited to attend and parents of graduating seniors as we honor them.



Our kids finished their last day of working at The Bridge Teen Center and in 3 days they sorted 773 bags of

clothes which will pay for 39 kids to be able to attend The Bridge. They were awesome!!



College Ministry:
Meets every Wednesday Night at 6:00 pm in the College Ministry Center (door 7).

The College Ministry went down to New Orleans July 9 - 16 to work with The Epworth Project, an agency that works to restore homes affected by hurricanes. They fit a lot of action into their week in the "Big Easy" and partnered with great people as they served Jesus on the Gulf Coast. By the way, beignets are AMAZING!

LifeGroups: *Gina Swickard - doxa715@gmail.com*

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, Aug 25 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, led by Brian Caringer, meets weekly at **6:00 pm in Room 221 upstairs in Kids Town**.

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

Our August New Life Club meeting will meet on August 18th at Noon in the Vine Cafe. We will be enjoying our "Baked Potato Bar," one of our favorite lunches prepared and served by our hostess LaDonna Kalish and friends. Our program will be "Songs For The Soul," presented by Rev. Dennis and Iris Price. Come on to the Vine for a great time of Christian Fellowship, Fun and Food! Reservations are not required.

New Life Club Bible Study with Larry Patton - Our Thursday Bible Study this month is August 11th and 25th at 9:30am in the Vine. 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 kids' clothing, earrings and other jewelry as well as pots, pans and dishes. Thank you for your wonderful donations! They go a long way.

New Life Club Choir has dismissed for the summer. We will resume practice again on September 7, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Park Room.

St. Matthew Senior Travels

***New* Bring Your Own Lunch To The Vine Cafe** - 11:30 - August 28, 2022 - FREE

HGTV Southern Road Trip - October 2-9, 2022

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

Branson Christmas - Nov. 15-19, 2022

25th Anniversary Tour of "Straight No Chaser" - Fox Theatre - December 8, 2022

Call me for reservations and more information. See Brochures at the Welcome Center.

There are many ways for you to be involved in the senior ministry. We need you!

Pictured right is the group from St. Matthew who attended Beulah Youth Institute (BYI) (grades 7 - 12 and their group sponsors). During this week of worship, Bible study, fellowship, food and fun; 2 kids accepted Christ and 3 were called into ministry!



Pictured left is the group from St. Matthew who attended Beulah Bible Camp (BBC) (grades 4 - 6). During this week our kids learned how they can *BREAK OUT* and be free from the struggles of worry, doubt, fear, and sin. Four days of worship, fellowship and play taught them that only God has the power to break us out of the ordinary to lead us to the extraordinary.



Pictured right is the group who attended Beulah: The Beginning (grades 1 - 3 and their group sponsors). During these three days the kids learned that worship can happen anywhere, at any time, in good times and bad times, and even when others around us aren't worshipping God. Worship can happen when we sing, pray, read, dance and definitely when we show love to others. In addition, this group got a surprise drop in guest speaker; Little Matty! Mic Drop!



Souders Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Abigail Anderson, for being awarded this year's Souders Scholarship! Abigail is the 6th child of Paul and Ruth Anderson. She has homeschooled her entire life. Abigail will attend Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas this fall. She will be majoring in Business Management. She is still unsure of her career desires, but praying for the Lord's leading.



Bible Study Fellowship

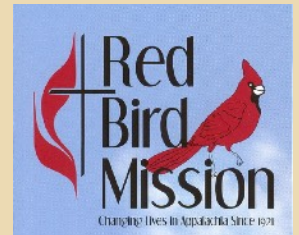
Bible Study Fellowship will be resuming this fall on Sep. 14 and we'll be studying Israel's history and the Old Testament minor prophets as they relate to today's world. It's an opportunity to study books you may have never explored and to meet and grow with women in a small group. Watch for sign-up in August and think of neighbors and friends you'd like to include. For more info: call Jane at 618-520-8357 or Candy at 618-363-3285.

Community Interfaith Food Pantry - Anniversary Open House

Come and help us celebrate their 15th Anniversary on Saturday, August 6 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at 1218 West Main Street, Belleville, IL! What is the Community Interfaith Food Pantry? It's a partnership of eleven local churches to provide food to families throughout Belleville and Swansea who are experiencing difficulty in meeting the demands of daily living. Their mission is to eliminate hunger within the community and to make a commitment to consider the total spiritual, emotional and physical needs of individuals and to identify available resources to assist them. Visit <https://www.feedbelleville.org/home> for more information.

RedBird Mission Trip Information

Sign up for the Red Bird Mission in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky on **October 9 - 15**. This is a one week mission work camp where you can assist with repairs, building, painting, room additions, help at the community store, hair styling and more. Volunteers of all skill levels and abilities are welcome. The cost is \$425 / person and includes travel, lodging, materials and meals. There is a brochure with more information on the brochure rack by the Welcome Center. Contact Toby Sheppard at 618-698-1122 to sign up or for more information.



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>.

August 3

Spaghetti & Meat Sauce
Salsiccia
Salad Bar
Cheese / Garlic Toast
Spumoni & Cookies

August 10

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

August 17

BBQ Pork Steaks
Potatoes "ala" Jack
Baked Beans
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

Stewardship Corner

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

When you begin to view your wealth and possessions from God's perspective, you'll see that the thing to fear isn't giving too much to the Lord's work, but giving too little.



Special Events Calendar

Aug 2	SPRC Meeting
Aug 7	Blessing of The Backpacks
Aug 7	Promotion Sunday
Aug 9	Trustees Meeting
Aug 11	NLC Bible Study
Aug 14	Missions Outreach Sunday: Combined Service at 10:00 am.
Aug 16	Finance Meeting
Aug 18	New Life Club Luncheon
Aug 25	NLC Bible Study
Aug 25	LifeGroup 50/60

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

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

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