



# SAINT MATTHEW

**January  
2022  
Newsletter**

## **Mid-Week Activities Resume**



## **Beginning Wednesday, January 5**

**Wednesday Night Meal:** 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the Vine Cafe. See page 7 for the upcoming menu.

**New Life Club Choir:** 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm in the Park Room with Jeanie Lively.

**Youth Band:** 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the Youth Room with Matt Vollmar.

**College Group:** 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the College Ministry Center with Andy Black.

**Chapel Service:** 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm in the Chapel with Larry Patton.

**Youth Group:** 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm in the Youth Room with Matt Vollmar.

**Wesley Ringers:** 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm in Room 2 (downstairs under the Sanctuary) with Carrie Crago.

**Choir Rehearsal:** 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary with Hank Oplinger.

## **Beginning Wednesday, January 12**

**Bible Study Fellowship:** 9:30 am for women and children (newborn to kindergarten) OR 6:00 pm for women. Join us as we study Jesus' parables in Matthew. For more information please call Jane Vetter 520-8357 or Paula Creek 593-4104.

## **Mid-Week Activities (Continued)**

### **Beginning Wednesday, January 19**

**Sharing Grief:** 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm in the Bride's Room with Kay Dyer.

**Kids Club:** 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in Kids Town with Lindsay Vollmar.

**Emotionally Healthy Spirituality:** 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the Bride's Room with Catherine Hobson. (Pre-Registration is required by calling the church office. A \$10 materials fee donation is appreciated.)

**Testimony That Deserves A Response:** 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in Library with Jim Schuetz.

**LifeGroup 30/40:** 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the Park Room with Brian Caringer / Bob & Gina Swickard.

## **Baby Bottles**

On **January 3**, we will begin distributing baby bottles to help raise money for the Mosaic Pregnancy & Health Center, which provides free, christ-centered, medical pregnancy related care and counseling. Take a couple and make it a small group project for your Wednesday night class or Sunday school class. Or put one on your kitchen counter at home and get the kids involved. Drop your loose change in it all month long and return it back to the church on **January 30!**

## **Illness Or Hospital Stays**

Just a reminder that if you are sick or in the hospital for any reason, please call the church office (or ask a friend or relative to call for you). If you don't let us know; we won't know, and we want to know so we can pray for you and with you!

One of the first tasks we taught our kids, (and by “we” I mean Gina), was how to set the table. They would carefully remove the right number of knives, forks and spoons from the drawer. They would get the plates from the cupboard and place them on the place mats and then adorn each setting with the plates, silverware and glasses for the meal.



Recently, it struck me that there are a couple of ways you could look at a moment such as that. If you focus on the neatness and completeness of the drawers and cupboards, one might say that setting the table is disruptive. After all, the spoons, forks and knives are no longer in their proper places. The beautiful stack of 10 plates is no more because of the ones that are now on the table. The linen closet is no longer “complete” because a tablecloth has been removed from the collection. So if we are looking at setting a table from the standpoint of the cupboards, we might conclude that things are coming undone.

However, if we look at the experience of setting the table from the standpoint of the table – we could come to a different conclusion. In fact, we would say instead of cupboards and drawers being depleted, we could say the table is actually coming together. What was once a neutral piece of furniture is now, once set, a hospitable, welcoming display, ready to be a tool with which the family can enjoy each other’s company.

And such is life. You can look at the things that are going on in the world today and decide that things are “coming off the shelf.” You might say there is dis-integration in families, communities, in our culture, even in the Church. But could it be that observed from “the other side”, we might conclude that things are really coming together? Could it be that God is “setting the table?” We don’t know when Jesus will return to claim his bride, the Church, but I do know this... that we are the closest we have been so far!

In Luke 21, (and Matthew 24), Jesus talks about the fall of Jerusalem and his return. The language he uses is insightful. He tells us that as we see the signs of his return taking place that we are to, “look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.”

Things on earth may appear as though they are disintegrating. But what if they are simply coming together in God’s perfect timing? We may not have all the answers and all the insight toward the exact sequence of events, but God is good, He has everything in control, and He will bring all things to their perfect completion!

Waiting on Jesus,  
Bob

### **“De-Hanging” Of The Greens**

Please join us at 9:00 am on **Monday, January 4** to take down the church’s Christmas decorations. Even if you can only stay for an hour, your help is appreciated!

### **2022 Prayer Calendar**

The families in Children’s Ministry received a monthly prayer calendar for 2022. You can participate also! If you would like to see each month’s prayer, and other activities related to the Children’s Ministry, please visit and like Children’s Ministry Facebook Page at: <https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewumc.children>

## **Keep up with your breakthrough prayer! God is moving at St. Matthew.** **Take a look at some of our successes this past year.**

New Members - We welcomed 36 new members into our church family!

Baptisms - St. Matthew pastors performed 15 baptisms!

Outreach Works - With new events like The Ogles Neighborhood Block Party, St. Matthew Wraps, and The Ogles Neighborhood Christmas Extravaganza; coupled with old family favorites like Trunk Or Treat, we met hundreds of new people in our neighborhood and welcomed new faces to the youth group, to worship and to the Wednesday night meal. We are thrilled you are here!

The Glory Of Christmas - We were blessed to have over 900 people come and see the Glory of Christmas last month. We pray that the seeds of faith have been planted!

Feeding Our Family - This year the Wednesday Night Meal has been exceedingly successful. The kitchen crew has been preparing over a hundred meals for dine in and carry out every week. We love coming together with all of you for midweek food and fellowship!

Operation Christmas Child - St. Matthew ministries, staff and congregants packed 532 shoeboxes to bless the children of the world. WOW! In addition, St. Matthew volunteers created a collection center hub that brought in, organized, packed and shipped over 10,000 shoeboxes from other locations. What an incredible success story!

Summer Sack Lunch Program - Your donations of food, supplies, time and money helped St. Matthew volunteers pack 350 - 400 lunches every Monday during the summer! That’s over 4,000 lunches! Amazing!

New Connections - With the addition of new small groups like Equip University, LifeGroups, GodTalks, and the Thursday morning New Life Club Bible study, members of our St. Matthew family are finding new ways to connect with each other and with the Lord.

Ministry Expansions - St. Matthew has adopted new ministries to support like Safe Families, we have become the new location of the morning Bible Study Fellowship group and our Celebrate Recovery leaders were promoted to the position of Southern Illinois State Representatives. We are grateful for new and exciting opportunities to grow the kingdom together.

Building Upgrades - We have been blessed to be able to make our spaces more user friendly for you. The new screens are installed in the Sanctuary (what a difference!), the balcony and side wall in the Chapel were opened up to accommodate more people, the Youth Room has new and unique spaces for small group sessions (and will soon need more!), Kids’ Town has a fun new game room and the new College Ministry Center recently got the flooring it needed to complete the project!

*These are just a few of the success stories we can report from 2021. If you have a success story you would like to share, please email it to Casey at [cskelton@stmatthewumc.org](mailto:cskelton@stmatthewumc.org). We would love to hear how St. Matthew has blessed you, or how you have been able to bless others!*

**Feed My Sheep Food Drive** will be held from January 2 – February 4. Bins will be available in the foyer for your donations of non-perishable food items & personal hygiene items. For specific needs, see the food pantry's website at [www.feedbelleville.org](http://www.feedbelleville.org). On February 5, all are welcome to join us at 8:30 am in the foyer to help sort the food and then transport it to the Food Pantry. As Jesus told us, "If you love me, feed my sheep." John 21

**Wednesday Night Kids' Club resumes on January 19** and will meet 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!

**Join us this year in the Joy of Easter cast!** Please contact our Casting Director, Jeanie Lively (Lindsay's mom) at (618) 979-7434 or [jlively@stmatthewumc.org](mailto:jlively@stmatthewumc.org) if your family is interested in joining. Please remember, all kids 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under are requested to have a guardian with them in the play. (If you are in the choir or orchestra, we will assign your child a "family" to hang out with.) For questions, contact Lindsay Vollmar at (618) 660-7552 or [lvollmar@stmatthewumc.org](mailto:lvollmar@stmatthewumc.org). Practice schedules will be available soon!

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

**If you're interested in helping out in Children's Ministry** on Sundays, Wednesdays or special events, please contact Lindsay. We have so many different ways and places that you can serve. You will be a part of a loving & fruitful ministry that is planting the seeds of faith in the lives of our kids!

**Mark your calendars for our Summer events...** Vacation Bible School Work Week (June 6 – 9), "Knights of North Castle" Vacation Bible School (June 13 – 17), Beulah Youth Institute for finishing 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> gr. (June 19 – 25), Beulah Bible Camp for finishing 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> gr. (June 27 – 30), Beulah Beginner Camp for finishing 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> gr. (July 1 & 2)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:mvollmar@stmatthewumc.org)*

**Sunday Night Youth** -Sundays at 5:00 pm in the Youth Room. **NO youth on Jan 2.** Happy New Year!

**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.

**Feed My Sheep Food Drive** - January 2 – February 4. Bins will be available in the foyer for your donations of non-perishable food items & personal hygiene items. For specific needs, see the food pantry's website at [www.feedbelleville.org](http://www.feedbelleville.org). On February 5, all are welcome to join us at 8:30 am in the foyer to help sort the food and then transport it to the Food Pantry. As Jesus told us, "If you love me, feed my sheep." John 21

**Taste of Elegance** - will be Saturday, February 12. Winter Wonderland theme. Tickets will be available for sale starting early January.

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

**LifeGroup 50/60:** *Gina Swickard - [doxa715@gmail.com](mailto:doxa715@gmail.com)*

LifeGroup 50/60 is a "drop-in" discipleship group that is available to 50 and 60 year olds. This group will meet the fourth Thursday of the month: **Thursday, January 27 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 beginning **Wednesday, January 19 at 6:00 pm**. Brian Caringer will lead this class most weeks; however, Bob & Gina Swickard will lead it one week a month.*

**Senior Ministry:** *Jeanie Lively - 618-979-7434 - [jlively@stmatthewumc.org](mailto:jlively@stmatthewumc.org)*

**NEW LIFE CLUB MEETING** - As we start rolling toward "2022" we have a great year of New Life Club programs. Our January 20th program will be presented by Nancy Eisenhauer, entitled "A Quilt Story." We will enjoy a Potato Bar for lunch, prepared and served by LaDonna Kalish. Start the new year by joining a group of fun loving, Bible believing Christian seniors. You'll be glad you did. We meet at noon on Thursday, January 20th in the Vine Cafe. We hope to see you there.

**NEW LIFE CLUB BIBLE STUDY, BY LARRY PATTON** - Our Thursday Bible Study will resume the second and fourth Thursday of each month, starting with January, 13th and then January, 27th at 9:30 am. We have coffee and donuts for a time, then we dive into the word of God.

**"REDEEMED AGAIN," THE THRIFT SHOP OF ST. MATTHEW** - Thank you for coming through with the need we had for Christmas toys. You blessed so many children with quality toys. We are overjoyed that we can charge so little for these kinds of toys. Our hearts are warmed by your response. Our need for the future is towels and wash cloths. We are also looking for anyone who sells Avon, Mary Kay, etc. that could donate items. We appreciate our supporters.

**NEW LIFE CLUB CHOIR** - performed our Christmas cantata for the New Life Club in December. It was our only time of sharing in "2021" and we were overjoyed. We hope we can get back to our monthly programs in the assisted living centers soon. Choir will begin again on January 5, 2022. It's a great time to join!

**SENIOR TRAVEL**

Despite the pandemic we were able to safely to do almost a dozen trips this year. Join us in "2022" for the great trips that are coming!

**Sound Volunteers Needed**

Kevin is looking for sound volunteers of all capabilities. No experience necessary! If you love the Lord, are passionate about growing the kingdom, are willing to learn a new skill and are curious about how the behind the scenes work brings worship and productions to the St. Matthew family then we need you! Email Kevin at [kgale@stmatthewumc.org](mailto:kgale@stmatthewumc.org) for more information!

## LifeGroup

LifeGroups 30/40 & 50/60 combined to meet together over the holiday months. Below they are pictured at the November meeting. First they gathered around tables for food and fellowship, then they gathered around God's word together.

These discipleship groups are a great way to connect with like aged and like minded individuals. LifeGroup 30/40 meets each Wednesday and LifeGroup 50/60 meets the 4th Thursday of each month. (See page 5 for exact meeting dates, time and location.) Please consider join us this month.



## Gingerbread

In honor of our first ever Gingerbread Bash, some families donated some beautifully decorated gingerbread houses to help advertise the event around the church. (A couple are pictured left) Of course, Miss Lindsay found a way to turn it into even more fun by creating a scavenger hunt of the gingerbread houses around the church.

## Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

If any of you stopped in the office on December 6, you would have seen the St. Matthew staff sporting ugly Christmas sweaters (pictured right). Thanks, Maricol for organizing this fun day and supplying the staff with homemade muffins and wassail!



## **We Will Miss You, Lori!**

After 11 years of faithful service as St. Matthew's financial assistant, Lori Andrews has taken a position with a new company where she will be able to do work she loves to do, and be able to do it from home. We thank Lori for her tireless dedication to her work in the financial department and for making difficult task after difficult task look easy. She was always the first one in the door in the morning and often the last one to leave at night (second only to Glenn, but that's because Glenn is a night owl!). Please join us in praying for Lori and her family as they enter into this new chapter in their lives. We will miss you Lori, and we wish you all the best in your next endeavor.

## **We Will Miss You Too, Glenn!**

After 26 years of faithful service as St. Matthew's building and property manager (among a large amount of other things that he does at St. Matthew day in and day out), Glenn Todd has announced his retirement. Glenn has always went the extra mile for St. Matthew, always. From re-sealing the parking lot by hand to running a full blown printing press to bring you the Sunday bulletin, he constantly goes above and beyond for the members of this church. As you read before, he is most often the last one to leave the office at night. In addition, he knows St. Matthew's history better than almost anyone. That's why he is truly irreplaceable. Please help us lift Glenn up in prayer as he moves into this well earned and well deserved next chapter in his life. Thank you Glenn, for everything.

## **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>.

### January 5

Roast Beef  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
White Shoe Peg Corn  
Salad  
Rolls  
Dessert

### January 12

Chicken Cordon Bleu  
Au Gratin Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Salad  
Rolls  
Dessert

### January 19

Spaghetti  
Slasiccia  
Salad  
Garlic Toast  
Spumoni & Cookies

## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made”  
(1 Corinthians 16:2).

Just as we are to plan and prepare for when and how to give while we are living, we should also plan and prepare for giving after we are gone.



### **Special Events Calendar**

- Jan 3 Church Office Closed
- Jan 5 Mid-Week Activities 1 Begin
- Jan 6 SPRC Meeting
- Jan 11 Trustees Meeting
- Jan 12 Mid-Week Activities 2 Begin
- Jan 17 Church Office Closed
- Jan 18 Finance Meeting
- Jan 19 Mid-Week Activities 3 Begin
- Jan 20 New Life Club Meeting
- Jan 25 Administrative Board Meeting
- Jan 27 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**

Calling all techies!  
 Want to learn how to run sound at St. Matthew? We are looking for volunteers of all skill levels who are willing to learn and be a part of the St. Matthew sound team.





If you would like more information or you are ready to jump right in, contact Kevin Gale at: [kgale@stmatthewumc.org!](mailto:kgale@stmatthewumc.org)

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

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