



SAINT MATTHEW

**May
2022
Newsletter**

National Day Of Prayer



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.”

Join with us, as we gather for praise and prayer in the Chapel here at St. Matthew (along with our fellow Americans all over this great country) at 12:00 noon on **Thursday, May 5**. Following the prayer service, we invite you to a light lunch, prepared by Jack Lampe, in the Vine Cafe for a free will offering. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you plan to attend so we can have a head count.

In addition, National Day of Prayer prayer guides are available for you at the Welcome Center and in the brochure rack by the office door. We will also have them available for you on Thursday, May 5. Please take one, even if you cannot attend on that day, so you can join us in prayer for family, church, business, education, military, government, and arts, entertainment and media.

Together, in prayer, we will “Exalt The Lord, Who Has Established Us”.

Souders Scholarship

Don't forget to turn in your scholarship applications by the end of this month!! 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**.

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When I was little, my family would make frequent trips to my grandparents in Lawrenceville, Illinois. Countless evenings were spent catching lightning bugs and putting them in a jar with a little bit of grass, (because, apparently, my sister and I thought the bugs were vegetarians.) After dad punctured air holes in the top of jars with hammer and nail, we had our lightning bugs in a jar – until the next evening when we would let them go and we would repeat the process.

As I reflect on those many experiences, I realize that once I began to focus on the lightning bugs by carefully scanning the muggy, twilight air, I started to see an entire bug population that previously had gone unnoticed: And the darker it got outside, the brighter their lights appeared.



In a similar way, we Christ-followers can take our cue from the lightning bug. God has called us to be shining lights in a dark world. In Mt. 5:14-16, we hear Jesus tell us, “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. *In the same way, let your light so shine before others that they would see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*”

When we live with Jesus at the center of our lives, allowing his love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, and compassion to mark the pulsing of our lives, then his light becomes that which shines through us. We become like lightning bugs in a dark world. The darker it gets, the brighter we shine. So even though the world seems to be getting darker in many respects, we have the supernatural ability to shine like stars, (Phil. 2:15), because of the Holy Spirit living in us.

This month, we continue our sermon series called, “City On A Hill.” I hope all of you will be here the entire month as we explore God’s beautiful design for us to shine. You *are* the light of the world! When you live like Jesus, his light shines through you! In a world where wrong is being lifted up as right; where division, hate, indifference, apathy and judgmentalism seems to reign supreme, you are the light of Christ. Let his love and grace be seen in how you respond to everyone. When you do – you shine like the stars!

Hoping to increase my wattage,

Bob



General Conference Update

By now many of you may have heard that the General Conference has once again been postponed, this time to 2024. We would just like to assure you that the Administrative Board of St. Matthew is still reviewing our options and will keep you informed of any decisions that are made.

You can go for a long time without things like water and food, but you cannot survive very long at all without hope. And, when we continue to repeat the same negative and sometimes destructive behaviors, we can actually be living in insanity and losing hope. This month in Celebrate Recovery, we will be talking about "SANITY" and "TURN"ing our lives in a new, healthier direction. After each large group service, there are men's and women's open share groups, a safe environment to listen and share.

Dinner at 6, large group at 7, and open share groups at 8 .

May 6th - Aaron Oplinger will be teaching a lesson titled "Sanity", looking at some behaviors we need to change to restore peace in our lives.

May 13th - All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner CR Fundraiser - See the description below!

May 20th - Kelly Snead from Herrick IL. CR will be here to share her testimony with us. God is using Kelly as she travels and shares her story with our Southern IL. CR family.

May 27th - Cassy Bacca will be teaching a lesson called "Turn". Cassy will share a strategy for leaving the past behind and truly turning our lives and wills over to the care of God.

News & Events

All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

You are invited to an evening of good food and good music for a good cause! Our Celebrate Recovery (CR) ministry is hosting an all you can eat spaghetti dinner on **Friday, May 13** at 6:00 pm in the Vine Cafe in order to raise funds to send the CR leaders to *Summit*, the annual CR training conference.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$5 for kids (10 and under) and can be purchased in the foyer on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office at 618-397-5994. The menu will include spaghetti with meat sauce, chicken alfredo, salad, garlic bread and dessert prepared by Hank & Wanda Oplinger. The evening's entertainment will be provided by The Don James Band. There will also be a silent auction.

What is Celebrate Recovery? It is a biblically based, future-focused program designed to help people overcome their hurts, hang-ups, and habits. What's the purpose of *Summit*? It is a weekend long training event that leaves its attendees spiritually fed and encouraged while also giving them practical tools to help keep their ministry moving forward.

So, come on out for a great evening and help support our CR ministry leaders.

St. Matthew On The Move!



Young Christians Weekend at Silver Dollar City!



St. Matthew Senior Travels Spring Training 2022!

“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! For more info, check out the display table in the main foyer.

Training Dates for Vacation Bible School are Wednesday, May 25 (6:00 – 7:00 pm) OR Sunday, June 5 (4:00 – 5:00 pm). Both dates will be held in Room #5 (under Sanctuary) and you only need to attend 1 training date.

Vacation Bible School Work Week is June 6 – 9 from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm and we need help! We'll be decorating the church, organizing teacher bags, putting snacks together and much more. Whether you prefer to be on a ladder or sitting in a chair, we have a place for you to help. Sign-up at the VBS display table if you can help.

Beulah Kids' Camp registration is open! Beulah Bible Camp (finishing 4th – 6th gr.) is June 27 – 30 and Beulah the Beginning Camp (finishing 1st – 3rd gr.) is July 1 & 2. See Lindsay for more information about online registration!

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. 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.

May 6 - Dr Strange and the Multiverse of Madness movie at The Edge. (Still waiting for show time but will be around 7ish). Cost is \$5, see Matt or sign up in the youth room.

May 8th - Mother's Day, no youth.

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, May 26 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 Celebrates 50 Years - Our New Life Club is celebrating its "50th anniversary" this June. Please join us on June 9th at noon for this once in a life time special event. We have engaged the original "Church Ladies of St. Matthew" for a great time of humor and music as our main program. Former Pastor Bob Souders and Beverly will be present and will be "reminiscing" through the last 50 years. We are having a special catered lunch by Royel Catering Service at a cost of \$20.00 per person. All members are being sent invitations and a response with payment is due no later than May 26. If you have pictures from "the good old days" that you would like to share with us, please give them to me. You may bring a guest with reservation and payment as well. Please join us for this very special time of thankfulness to God for the longevity of this group and for lots of new great moments that will be made. Don't miss this!

Regular May New Life Club Meeting - Our program for the May 19th meeting will be presented by Shelby Walasin entitled "Mothers of the Bible." Shelby is one of our very favorite speakers and Bible teachers at St. Matthew. We will be having a "box lunch" prepared by Ladonna Kalish and friends for a donation of \$5.00. Come early and enjoy fellowship in the Lord with great folks.

New Life Club Bible Study with Larry Patton - Our Thursday Bible Study this month is May 12 and 26 at 9:30 am. 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 pots, pans and dishes. Thank you for blessing us and our community.

New Life Club Choir meets at 4:00 pm in the Park Room on Wednesdays. **We will NOT HAVE CHOIR ON MAY 25TH.**

St. Matthew Senior Travels

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

"Jesus" at Sight And Sound Theatre, Branson, MO - Thursday, May 26, 2022 - \$110.00 - 3 openings.

Lion King, Fox Theatre/Dinner - June 14, 2022 - 4 openings.

Coming Soon:

HGTV Southern Road Trip - October 2-9, 2022

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

Branson Christmas - Nov. 15-19, 2022

December ---- TBA



The March New Life Club Meeting was held on St. Patrick's Day and was great fun! The festive club members were all decked out in green (some pictured left), there were a bunch of mischievous leprechauns serving the food (pictured below, left) and the "60's Chicks" (pictured below) gave us great renditions of our favorite tunes like "Cherry" from Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons. If you would like more information about the New Life Club meetings & activities contact Senior Adult Coordinator, Jeanie Lively at 618-979-7434.



Movie Night was a great success! What a powerful way to begin holy week by turning our eyes to Jesus!! (Being in Jerusalem with the Joy of Easter set constructed and having those beautiful new screens to view the movie on sure didn't hurt either!) We were so glad to see so many of you here for this event and we hope to bring you more movie nights soon! (Pictured Above)



The Saint Matthew Red Hat Ladies celebrated two 97th birthdays at Merle Moore's house last month. Happy birthday to our dear friends Doris Hill and Arlene Johnson!! (Pictured Above)

Staff Pageant Praise

Thanks to the college ministry group and the St. Matthew staff for a great evening of laughter and fellowship at the staff pageant! Because of your generosity the college ministry raised over \$2,500 to help pay for their mission trip to Louisiana July 10 - 16. Aurora UMC in downtown New Orleans will be their “base of operations” for their trip. Please keep this group in prayer for their safe travel, the work they will accomplish, and the bonds they will form with each other.

Also, congratulations to Matt Vollmar for being crowned the Grand Champion of the staff pageant!



Ukraine Relief Fund

Thanks to your generous giving, St. Matthew raised approximately \$5,500 for Ukraine relief to provide: food, clothing, medical treatment and (most importantly) - the Gospel!

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>.

May 4

BBQ Pork Steak
Potatoes “ala” Jack
Baked Beans
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

May 11

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

May 18

Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
White Shoe Peg Corn
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).

God uses money as a testimony in the lives of His people.

When we really seek first God’s kingdom by placing God first in our lives and in our finances, then He provides what we need. And when that happens, our lives are like beacons shining before others who see how God provides for us.



Special Events Calendar

May 3	SPRC Meeting
May 4	Winter Discipleship Classes End
May 5	National Day Of Prayer
May 7	Ogles Neighborhood Recycling Event
May 8	Mother's Day
May 10	Trustees Meeting
May 12	NLC Bible Study
May 13	CR Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner
May 17	Finance Meeting
May 19	New Life Club Meeting
May 21	Women Of Worth Meeting
May 26	NLC Bible Study & LifeGroup 50/60
May 30	Church Office Closed - Memorial Day

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>