



SAINT MATTHEW

**November
2022
Newsletter**

A Night Of Thanksgiving & Praise

Please join us for a night of Thanksgiving & Praise on Sunday, November 20 at 6:30 in the Sanctuary.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4



Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

It's not too late to pack your own shoe box. Collection week is November 14 - 21! So you have until then to pick up, pack and return a box.

You can be involved in several ways:

1. Stop by the table in the foyer to grab your box. Each box comes with suggestions and packing instructions.
2. See "Church Wide OCC Packing Party" (left).
3. You can pack a box completely on-line for \$25 by following this link: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>
4. OR You can make a cash donation to help cover shipping costs. Just write "OCC" on the memo line of your check or on the envelope.

Thanks to everyone in advance for your support in this wonderful ministry!

Daylight Saving Ends - November 6

Remember to "fall back" On Sunday, November 6 and set your clocks back an hour as daylight saving will end on this day.

Church Wide Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Packing Party!



EVERYONE is invited on **Saturday, November 12 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm** in the Vine Cafe to help us pack our goal of 500 shoeboxes! Bring the items you've collected, pack a bunch of boxes with your friends & family, have some delicious Christmas snacks, listen to some fabulous Christmas music and make a difference in the lives of children all over the world!

Here are items you can donate that we would love for you to bring on November 12: small stuffed animals or dolls, coloring books, picture books, child jewelry, sunglasses, toy cars, jump ropes, child hairbrushes, travel games, soap, toothbrushes, hair accessories. (Please do not bring anything with liquid, toothpaste, war-related items, lotions, breakable items or food.) For questions, contact Lindsay Vollmar (618) 660-7552.

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Can you believe it is November already??? It seems we just crept into 2022 and here it is almost over. Fortunately, we have a holiday coming up that will invite us to stop, come together, reflect and be thankful for God's goodness and the blessings that we all enjoy. I am speaking, of course, of Thanksgiving.



When I count my blessings, you are always on my list. I can't tell you how often I thank God for this Church and what God is doing in our midst. I thank God for the relationships that are being built here. I thank God for the many ways you all enrich my life. This prayer of thanks I pray happens nearly every day. I hope this Thanksgiving, you are thankful for our church and what God is doing in our midst!

I'm thankful for the many baptisms we've seen this year! I'm thankful for the many people whom God has brought into our congregation this year. I'm thankful for God's generosity as He pours it out through you with your time, and your talents and your resources. And, I am thankful for the ways you are investing in the Kingdom of Heaven by getting to Know Jesus, Growing in His Grace and Going in his name to love and serve others. Only by God's grace could we see this kind of growth!

Speaking of investing, we are going to be starting a new series this month called **Forever Investing**. In it, we will examine how to invest in ourselves for Christ-centered living, so that we are becoming all that God designed us to become. We will also look at Investing in our children and youth; and Investing in the future by investing in the present.

Of course, I hope you will be able to join us this month as we explore investing in the Kingdom of Heaven. But I also hope you will invite a friend who may be wondering if there is more to life than what they are currently experiencing. I believe God has a great word for us this month!

So thankful for the privilege of walking with Jesus with you!

Bob

Making Memories In Ministry



No power outage can diminish the Holy Spirit here!! We will just hold classes by windows for natural light and eat a delicious Wednesday night meal by cell phone light!

The Glory Of Christmas

Join us on **Sunday, December 11**
at **7:00 pm** for *The Glory Of Christmas!*

The Glory of Christmas is a musical drama that tells the story of Jesus' birth and God's gift of salvation. An ensemble of: cast, choir and orchestra, amid beautiful costumes and set designs, with live animals; make this a memorable Christmas experience for all ages.

Why not start a new tradition this year?

Make *The Glory Of Christmas* the beginning of your annual Christmas celebration with your family. Invite your friends and neighbors too because this is a wonderful opportunity to introduce new people to St. Matthew, and to Jesus!



Celebration Place

St. Matthew Celebrate Recovery is excited & blessed to offer Celebration Place for our kids! This is a "pre-recovery" program for our kids 6th grade and under that mirrors Celebrate Recovery's one-year large group teaching plan. So when adults are talking about a topic, kids are learning about the same topic at an age appropriate level.

Our Celebration Place kids will begin at 7:00 pm in the Chapel with their family for Worship. After Worship, our kids will head upstairs into Kids' Town (Room #213) for their own time of large group teaching, small groups, centers, games, snacks, fun & fellowship... and it's all free! Registration forms are available at the Kids' Corner of the Welcome Center or on Friday nights at Celebrate Recovery. Please contact Lindsay Vollmar if you'd like to help on Friday nights at Celebration Place.

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

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

November 4 - Jana McDonald from Bethalto/Wood River CR will be sharing her testimony with us. Jana has several years of recovery and has worked on the clinical side of recovery as well, so her experience provides deep insight from a fresh perspective.

November 11 - Kathy Metz will be talking about "Grace" and what it means for our recovery and for our life as we navigate our personal relationships with God's direction!

November 18 - Cassy Bacca, our newest staff member here at St. Matthew, will be sharing a lesson titled, "Crossroads". Cassy will talk about the new, different, and exciting directions God will lead us when we have committed to following His will for our lives.

November 25 - Aaron will be talking about the benefit of keeping a "Daily Inventory" and how it's not as hard as you think.

Wednesday Kids' Club meets every week from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm! Mark your calendars to be at church on Wednesday nights this fall as we jump into God's Word and sing His praises. For more info, check out the flier at the Welcome Center.

Kids Crew is available to all 5th & 6th graders who would like to help out in Kids Worship on Sunday mornings during the 9:00 am and/or the 11:00 am. We are looking for kids who like to be helpful, assist the teachers and help the kids while they are in worship. Contact Lindsay if you child would like to sign-up as a crew member!

Working on that 2023 calendar for the kids? Here are your need to know dates... Vacation Bible School Work Week (June 5-8), "STELLAR" Vacation Bible School (June 12- 16), Beulah Youth Institute for finishing 7th – 12th gr. (June 18 - 24), Beulah Bible Camp for finishing 4th – 6th gr. (June 26 – 29), Beulah Beginner Camp for finishing 1st – 3rd gr. (June 30 – July 1).

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

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. Please continue to pray for our kids and their families as we continue to plant the seeds of faith in their lives!

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

Sunday Night Youth - 5:00 pm in the Youth Room. **(No Youth on Nov 27 for Thanksgiving Weekend.)**

Youth Band - Wednesday Nights from 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm in the Youth Room.

Youth Bible Study - Wednesday Nights from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the Youth Room.

Nov 10 - The Edge Theater - we'll be seeing the newest Marvel Movie, Wakanda Forever (time to be determined) for \$5 a ticket.

Nov 12 - Church Wide Operation Christmas Child packing party - 10 am to 2 pm!

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

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

College Ministry has had a busy month! From late night meals at Denny's, to packing 400 s'mores kits for the Ogles Neighborhood Block Party, to campus visits at SIUE and SWIC, your college students keep a busy social calendar.

During October, the Wednesday night Bible study has focused on the topic of "Dating & Marriage". During November, College Ministry will embark on a Fall Retreat to Branson November 18-20.

Know an 18 to 25-year-old looking for a place to belong? Text Pastor Andy (217)-725-5079 for more information about this exciting ministry!

We are so excited about a new opportunity that is coming in January with LifeGroup 70+. Once we begin this LifeGroup, we will have a LifeGroup opportunity for every age group in the church, so that people in their 20's to people in their 90's can have a large group with which to gather and grow in their faith together. Be watching for more information in the January Newsletter.

****RESUMING IN JANUARY** LifeGroup 20/40**, led by Brian Caringer, will meet will meet for dinner at 6:15 pm then meet for Bible study from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm in a room TBD.

****RESUMING IN JANUARY** LifeGroup 50/60**, led by Bob & Gina Swickard, will meet for dinner at 6:15 pm then meet for Bible study from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the Side Chapel Room (Side Vine Cafe).

****COMING IN JANUARY** LifeGroup 70 +**, led by Bob & Gina Swickard, will meet for Bible study from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm in the Side Chapel Room (Side Vine Cafe) then meet for dinner at 6:15 pm.

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

Our November New Life Club meeting will be held on the 10th at Noon in the Vine Cafe. Please note the date change from our usual third Thursday. We will be having a Carry-In-Meal at 12:00 p.m. Members are asked to please bring one of the following: A-F Salads; G-L Vegetables; M-R Desserts; S-Z potatoes (sweet, mashed, scalloped or pasta, etc.) Rachel Brandon, our chef, will provide meat, rolls and drinks. *Please bring large dishes as we will also be feeding the high school choir.* Our program is presented by MAROON MAGIC, Directed by Jeannine Moeller, Belleville West High School. We will be having a large PURSE AND JEWELRY- A-RAMA SALE. We have lots and lots of beautiful items for this special sale at our Thrift Shop prices.

New Life Club Bible Study with Larry Patton - This month's studies will be Tuesday, Nov. 22 and Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022. *This is not the usual every other Thursday schedule, so please make note.*

"Redeemed Again", The Thrift Shop of St. Matthew - It's time for all things "fall and winter," coats, clothes, blankets and bedding in general. We can also use all occasion cards. Let's not forget Christmas items as many of our customers do all their shopping with us. We continue to provide our customers with quality items at a fraction of their original costs due to your many donations. Thank you!

New Life Club Choir is back in swing with practices at 4:00 p.m. each Wednesday in the Park Room. It's a great time to join us. We are starting with all new music for fall and Christmas. We are now able to "sing" our witness in several assisted living places this December. Praise God!

St. Matthew Senior Travels

St. Louis Cardinals Spring Training next year - March 19-27, 2023. Reservations are being made now.

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

St. Louis Symphony Christmas Celebration at Powell Hall - Bruch at Lemp Mansion - December 18, 2022

Watch for new and great outings for "2023." Coming Soon!

It's Shoe Box Time - Thank you for your generous donations. Please join us for a great time in the Vine on Saturday, November 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. as we have a "Shoobox Packing Party." Snacks will be provided! Please come and join in on the activity.

There are so many ways to serve our Lord and His people in this ministry. Why not join in!



Thanks to everyone who came out for the 2nd annual Ogles Neighborhood Block Party. Good food, good music, good fun and good fellowship was the theme of the day!



The youth girls, and their sponsors, had a slumber party on Sept. 23. Looks like everyone had a great time!



The college ministry restores the spirit (and the body!) with fellowship and group meals each week!



Thanks to everyone who came out for trivia night on Oct 14 to support the St. Matthew Youth. You helped our youth raise \$2,000 to go towards next year's mission trips! For the second year in a row, Pastor Andy's table were the cheaters ... I mean CHAMPIONS (oops). Congrats on your win and bragging rights for the year!

The Hanging Of The Greens

The annual Hanging Of The Greens is **November 28 at 9:00 am** and we need your help! Even if you can only stay for an hour we would really appreciate your participation and good cheer!

Women Of Worth Meeting

Women Of Worth Bible study is a study of God's Word for any age. Our next meeting is at the Abbey on **Saturday, November 19** at 8:30 AM. We usually arrive a little early to get our order in so we can start promptly at 8:30.

Charge Conference

Each year St. Matthew pastors and staff have a meeting with the district superintendent where we report significant events of the past year. These reports include a multitude of information; however, we are proud to share with you two special reports. The first is how many people have joined St. Matthew through membership classes and/or by transferring in from other churches. We have been blessed to welcome in 27 new members since our last charge conference. In addition, 10 St. Matthew members have been baptized this year. What an incredible praise report!! No matter what is happening in the outside world, bringing people to Jesus and expanding God's Kingdom is our true purpose. Whether it is 1 new member or 27, 1 baptism or 10, each soul won for the Kingdom is a victory. And we thank you St. Matthew for being fishers of men!

We are always willing to welcome you into membership and to walk with you into the waters of baptism. If you are interested in more information about either of these, please contact Scott Ferguson at sferguson@stmatthewumc.org or by calling the church office at 618-397-5994.

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>.

November 2

Chicken Alfredo
California Vegetable Blend
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

November 9

Sauerkraut & Pork Sausage
OR Chicken Nuggets
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

November 16

Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green Beans
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

Stewardship Corner

“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Cor. 9:8).

Money is often the last door of our lives that we open to God because we think it represents our security. However, if you really want to be secure financially, you need to get God actively involved as your financial partner.



Special Events Calendar

Nov 1	SPRC Meeting
Nov 6	Charge Conference
Nov 6	Daylight Saving Ends
Nov 8	Trustees Meeting
Nov 10	New Life Club Luncheon
Nov 12	OCC Packing Party
Nov 15	Finance Meeting
Nov 19	Women Of Worth Meeting
Nov 20	A Night Of Thanksgiving & Praise
Nov 22	NLC Bible Study
Nov 24	Thanksgiving - Office Closed
Nov 25	Office Closed

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 Park Room

Senior Pastor: Robert Swickard

Associate Pastor: Andy Black

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