



SAINT
MATTHEW

**October
2022
Newsletter**

Keyboard Praise



Keyboard Praise is **Sunday, October 30 at 7:00 pm**. This stunning concert features talented pianists playing on ten grand pianos accompanied by the St. Matthew organ. The evening will blend a variety of hymn arrangements and light classical music performed by some of the most talented worship pianists in the area. This is a must see event for music lovers of all ages. Admission is free, but a love offering will be received. The doors open at 6:00 pm. Reservations are accepted for groups of 10 or more by calling the church office at 397-5994. Get your family and friends together and make your reservation today!

Trunk Or Treat

Trunk or Treat is **Monday, October 31** from 5:00 – 8:00 pm at St. Matthew- rain or shine! Host a vehicle, bring your kids out or just come and enjoy some fellowship time as all are welcome. We'll have decorated vehicles with candy, bounce houses, inflatables, an obstacle course, games, prizes, music, The Spud Shack Food Truck (\$) and so much more. This is always a fun time of fellowship & outreach as we light the night with Jesus.

Want To Help With Trunk Or Treat?

Individually wrapped candy is being collected in the main foyer. We really could use all the candy donations you are willing to give, as every last piece is given in love.

Or, the sign-up to host a vehicle is available at the Welcome Center. (If you sign up to host a vehicle, we ask that you please do not use the platform to promote a business.) Come out and help us love on our community!

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. 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 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**.

A few weeks ago, I used a video in the message of a young shepherd boy who had found one of his lost sheep in a ditch. (you can google: “rescued sheep returns to ditch” or click this [link Rescued Sheep YouTube Video](#) to find the video.) My hunch is; this occurs more frequently than we might imagine. Why? Because sheep aren’t the brightest animals in the barn! The punchline of the video is that as soon as the sheep is rescued, within seconds, it returns to the ditch. In one of the videos, after seeing the sheep return to the same ditch, one shepherd walks away as if to say, “you’re on your own this time!”



Aren’t you glad our God doesn’t get frustrated with us to the point of walking away from us in disgust? Yet, the scriptures are clear that our God is the Good Shepherd. And as the Good Shepherd, he watches out for us, protects us, provides for us, and yes, even pulls us out of ditches of our own choosing.

For the month of October, we are going to take a deep dive into the 23rd Psalm which tells us so much about our Good Shepherd. We are fortunate to have Gina’s dad, Art Brown, to start out the series on October 2, and to wrap it up on October 30. He will be speaking at both of those services.

How can David say, “I shall not want...”? Why does God make us lie down and lead us to still waters? What does it look like when we are walking in right paths? We will explore these and so many more questions as we take an in-depth look at this profoundly transformative Psalm.



I hope you are able to be a part of worship all through the month of October as we talk about our Good Shepherd and celebrate the God who cares so much for us. (Even when we jump back into our own ditches.)

Grateful to be under the watchful eye of our Good Shepherd, Jesus!

Bob

Trivia Night: Benefiting Youth Ministry



Ready to put that useless knowledge to the test? Come on out for our St. Matthew Trivia Night on **Friday, October 14 at 6:30 pm**. \$100 gets you a table of up to 8 people. It will be a fun night of trivia, food and fellowship. Drinks will be provided. Feel free to bring your own snacks! All proceeds will benefit the St. Matthew Youth Ministry. Get a group together and make your reservation by emailing Matt Vollmar at: mvollmar@stmatthewumc.org today!

Glory of Christmas Casting Call

We need your help to proclaim the glory of Jesus' birth! We are looking for volunteers of all ages and abilities to help us with this ministry. Whether you are comfortable on stage with a speaking part, as an on stage extra, backstage help (make-up & costumes) etc., we will find the perfect spot for you! If you would like to join the cast or would like more info, please contact our Casting Director, Lynn Mitchell at 618-977-1297 or our Drama Director, Ted Gajewski, at 618-660-9355.

Practices begin on Wednesday, October 26 from 7:30 – 8:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Safety Team Recruitment

The St. Matthew Safety Team is looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in being a part of this team, or you would like more information, please contact Rocky Cole at 618-558-2288 or you can email him at 4831rc@charter.net.

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.

We are so thankful for your support of Celebrate Recovery here at St. Matthew, and we are God working to change lives every Friday night! We would love to encourage you to come and be a part of this exciting life-changing ministry.

We are so happy to announce that our kid's program called Celebration Place is being launched with the guidance of Lindsay Volmer. If you have ever felt called to help with children's ministry this is an excellent opportunity. We call this **"Pre-Covery"**, as the curriculum follows our adult curriculum each week allowing children and parents to share in the lessons, steps, and principles each week at their level. Celebration Place gives kids the tools to help them deal with life in a healthy and God-centered way that can prevent the destructive behaviors and experiences that many of their parents have come through. Contact the church office and ask for Lindsay or Aaron if you are interested in being a part of this impactful ministry (more information on page 6).

October Celebrate Recovery

October 7 - Chrissy and I will be sharing our couple's testimony together.

October 14 - Cassy Bacca will teach a lesson titled "Victory" and will be sharing how God can turn our failures into opportunities for victory!

October 21 - Allison Knapp is not only one of Worship leaders in CR, she is also a member of our leadership team. On this meeting night, Allison will be sharing her testimony with the group.

October 28 - Max Minton will be teaching a lesson titled "Amends". Max will walk us through the importance of making Amends with those people we have hurt, and some of the ways that process can play out.

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.

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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 - 5:00 pm in the Youth Room.

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.

Trivia Night - Oct 14 at 7 pm. Tickets are \$100 a table, up to 8 people per table. Tickets available in the foyer or see Matt.

Youth Bon Fire - Oct 28 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at DJ Mernick's House. Bring a dessert, all other food provided.

Trunk or Treat - Oct 31 from 5 to 8 pm. Sign up your car to pass out candy to the neighborhood!

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).



The college ministry awards banquet (pictured left and right) was a glamorous night honoring the contributions of outstanding student leaders.



LifeGroups are drop-in discipleship groups designed to gather us together to grow in God's Word with a group of like-minded and like-aged individuals. LifeGroups will meet the 4th Thursday of each month.

There are 3 options open to all who would like to be a part of it. All 3 groups will gather together for a meal at 6:00 pm in the Vine Cafe and have different break-out times and rooms for gathering around God's Word.

LifeGroup 50/60, led by Bob & Gina Swickard, will meet for dinner at 6:00 pm on **Thursday, October 27** then meet for Bible study from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the Side Chapel Room (Side Vine Cafe).

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

****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 6:00 pm.

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

Our October New Life Club meeting will be held on the 15 at Noon in the Vine Cafe. We will be enjoying "Chili and Fixins'" prepared and served by Gene Lively and friends for a donation of \$5.00. Our program will be presented by the Jan Goodwin - Ventriloquist. Our devotion will be presented by Bobby Johnson. Please come and enjoy great Christian fellowship and see how you can serve in our senior ministry if you choose as well.

New Life Club Bible Study with Larry Patton - Our Thursday Bible Study this month is October 13 and 27 at 9:30am in the Vine. Come have coffee and donuts for a time, then join us for a great Bible Study. After the October 27 Bible Study we will have "Bring Your Own Lunch" for more fellowship if you want to join in. We always have a good time!

"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. You bless so many with your generous donations.

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. Just drop in and give it a try!

St. Matthew Senior Travels

Our dates for **St. Louis Cardinals Spring Training** next year are March 19-27, 2023. Watch for sign up information in October.

Bring Your Own Lunch To The Vine Cafe - will continue on the fourth Thursday of every month - 11:00 a.m. - (October 27 this month)

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

It's Shoe Box Time - Once again our church is partnering with Franklin Graham and Samaritan's Purse to send gifts and the Gospel the the ends of the earth. *This year the New Life Club is asked to bring "TOYS,"* Those are the most fun items to buy anyway. Please bring your donations to my office or if you prefer we can take a check and purchase items for you. Information sheets are available at New Life Club meetings.

Linus Blankets Of Southwestern Illinois - We made about 2 dozen blankets a few weeks ago. We are now building up funds to buy more material to have another blanket tying party. Please let me know if you would like to donate to this beautiful ministry for children with life-threatening illnesses and/or want to join us next time. Please get involved in our ministry. There are many opportunities to fellowship, serve others and God!

Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

It is shoe box time again! Every box is a tool for evangelism and discipleship all over the world. At OCC outreach events, children hear the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ and receive a tangible expression of God's love through one of your prayerfully packed shoe boxes. For most, it's the only Christmas present they will get; but more importantly, it comes with the gift of salvation.



You can be involved in several ways:

1. Stop by the table in the foyer and grab a box or two! Each box comes with suggested items and packing instructions.

2. If you don't want to pack a box by yourself you can bring in donations and/or come to the:

Church Wide Operation Christmas Child Packing Party on **Saturday, November 12** from **10:00 am - 12:00 pm** in the Vine Cafe. EVERYONE is invited on this day 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 the donated items 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.

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.

More News & Events

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.

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, October 15** at 8:30 AM. We usually arrive a little early to get our order in so we can start promptly at 8:30. We hope we will see you there!

Flu Shots

Flu shots will be available on **Wednesday, October 19** from 3:00 - 7:30 pm in the Gym. Flu shots are free with most insurance plans.



Here is a blast from the past, 30 years ago to be exact! These pictures were sent in by an UMCOR volunteer in south Florida who, while looking through pictures of hurricane Andrew relief efforts, came across these. Some of you were probably standing right there!



Welcome our new members!!

Pictured: Imelda Bartlett, Brian & Tracy Crawford, Gary Flach, Annette Fultz, Joe & Connie Harter, Dwight & Joyce Lied, Bill & Beverly Lindsay, Bryan Maier, Jim & Mary T McVicar, Jeannine Ryder, and Paul & Deborah Weaver.

Not Pictured: James & LaSandra Greene, Janet McLaurin and Rita Strumberg.

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>.

October 5

Pork & Dressing
California Vegetable Medley
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert (Apple Dumpling)

October 12

Beef & Noodles
Creamed Corn
Peas
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

October 19

Bacon Wrapped Pork Filet
Potatoes "Ala Jack"
Baked Beans
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

Stewardship Corner

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Cor. 9:6).

We reap what we sow, more than we sow, and later than we sow. That principle applies to every area of life, including our giving.



Special Events Calendar

Oct 2	World Communion Sunday
Oct 4	SPRC Meeting
Oct 4	GNC Volunteer Training
Oct 11	Trustees Meeting
Oct 13	NLC Bible Study
Oct 18	Finance Meeting
Oct 19	Flu Shots
Oct 20	New Life Club Luncheon
Oct 27	NLC Bible Study
Oct 27	LifeGroup 50/60 & 70/80
Oct 30	Keyboard Praise
Oct 31	Trunk or Treat

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

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