



SAINT MATTHEW

August
2022
Newsletter

The Wednesday Night Line Up

Wednesday Night Discipleship returns on **Wednesday, September 7** with something for everyone!

Wednesday Night Meal: 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the Vine Cafe.

Youth Band: 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm in the Youth Room with Matt Vollmar.

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

Youth: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the Youth Room with Matt Vollmar.

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

Life Group 30 / 40: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the Library with Brian Caringer.

CR Men's Step Study: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in the Bride's Room with Aaron Oplinger

CR Women's Step Study: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in Room 235 with Chrissy Oplinger

Wednesday Night Bible Service: 6:15 pm in the Park Room with Larry Patton.

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

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

*** **Beginning September 14****

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

Bible Study Fellowship: There are two class options: 9:30 am or 6:00 pm in various rooms throughout the church. *(See page 3 for more information)*

Ogles Neighborhood Block Party!

This event was such a success last year, we are doing it again! Bring your friends and family to the neighborhood block party on **Sunday, September 25** from **4:00 - 6:00 pm** on the St. Matthew parking lot.

There will be free food, live music and lots of fun! Let's get to know more people in our neighborhood!



New Members Class

Have you found "a place to belong" here at St. Matthew? If you would like to take the next step and become a member of St. Matthew we are holding a new members class on **Sunday, September 11** at noon in the Vine Cafe. A light lunch will be served followed by the membership class led by Senior Pastor, Bob Swickard. You will also learn about the different ministries of St. Matthew and have a chance to meet the ministry leaders.

If you would like to attend this class, or would like more information, please contact Scott Ferguson at: sferguson@stmatthewumc.org or by calling the church office at 618-397-5994. We appreciate the RSVP so we can plan accordingly for the lunch!

New Member / Baptism Sunday

On **Sunday, September 25** we will welcome in our new members and baptize those who would like to be baptized.

If you would also like to be baptized on this Sunday, or would like to learn more about baptism, please contact Scott Ferguson at: sferguson@stmatthewumc.org or by calling the church office at 618-397-5994.

I believe it was Steve Jobs who said, “There’s always ‘one more thing’ to learn.”

Jobs, who passed away in 2011, built a tech empire you already know about. In fact, there’s about a 50-percent chance that one of Jobs’ creations is taking up residence in your pocket right now! Of course, Steve Jobs didn’t become a giant in the tech industry over night. He dedicated himself to two things that I would highly recommend to any person wanting to live a life of purpose: lifelong learning and endless curiosity.



If you’re like me, you probably put those two things together in your head; after all, don’t learning and curiosity go hand-in-hand? Well...sometimes.

In John 3, we see a positive example of curiosity in the person of Nicodemus. Nicodemus, a religious insider (and member of the powerful Sanhedrin), sought out Jesus in the dead of night to inquire about His teachings. His curiosity – better than his pride – drove Nicodemus to Jesus’ doorstep. For Nicodemus, the result of his curiosity was learning. He walked away with a fresh perspective on what it means to be a part of God’s kingdom, and Jesus’ role in bringing that kingdom to bear upon his own life.

Later in the same gospel, Pontius Pilate expressed curiosity about Jesus and His kingdom. He asked Jesus about His kingship, His authority, and His people. However, Pilate’s curiosity was not driven by a desire to grow or change. Unlike Nicodemus, Pilate wasn’t prepared to make room for something new in his life. Instead, he attempted to sort Jesus into one of the many categories he had already created in his mind. To Pilate, Jesus had to either be a religious zealot, a madman, or a criminal. It never occurred to Pilate that Jesus might be exactly who He said He was. You know the rest of the story.

Curiosity separated from a desire to learn leads us nowhere fast. So much of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus centers around learning. In fact, it’s the very definition of a disciple in Greek. To be a disciple of Jesus is to be a lifelong learner, an apprentice of scripture. And I wonder – are you hungry to learn from Jesus? Or do you wish to stay put? If you’d like to truly follow Jesus, it requires a stubborn refusal to stay put. (There’s a reason nobody has ever followed a statue!) And I believe Jesus has great plans for those of us who are willing to shake off our complacency and put some mileage on our shoes!

Starting Wednesday, September 7 at 6pm, a new slate of midweek discipleship opportunities will become available all around the church building. You can find out more information about each of these opportunities by visiting the foyer during the Midweek Showcase, scheduled for Sunday, August 28 & Sunday, September 4, respectively. This will be a place for you to meet class facilitators, ask questions, and sign up for a class or group that is right for you. There will be something for people of every age and ability – so I guarantee you’ll find something for you and your family!

Join us September 7th – there’s always “one more thing” for you to learn!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Andy

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

Celebrate Recovery here at St.Matt's is excited for what God has in store in the month of September. We will be blessed by three powerful testimonies and welcome Randall Broadhead of "We are Vessel". As always we want to thank you for all your continued support. We are so thankful to have four different teams who facilitate cooking and serving meals each Friday evening. Thank you to Hank and Wanda Oplinger, Rachel Brandon, Rita Stromberg and Janet Mc Laurin, and Rebecca Black for your willingness to lead and serve. We also want to say a special thank you to Marilyn Harper, Scott Ferguson, Rodger and Jan Barfield, and Marsha Williams for all your help each week in the kitchen. If you haven't come to a CR service on a Friday night yet we invite you to join us.

September 2 - One of our newest leaders, Tom Partelow, will talk to us about the powerful healing that comes when we "Confess" to God, to ourselves, and to someone we trust, the things that are holding us back.

September 9 - Max Minton, Ministry Leader for Collinsville CR and leader for St.Matt's CR will share his incredible journey from addiction to an exciting life in Christ. Don't miss Max's encouraging story of how God has used his broken past to reach others who are struggling today. Also on this night. part of our CR band will be in Millstadt to open for Christian artist Mitch McVickers at the "Cider Fest". The evening will begin at 7:00 with Eddie Anglin and his band, followed by our CR band, and closing with a concert by Mitch Mc Vickers.

September 16 - Learn about how we need to be able to "Admit " our failures and weaknesses to allow God's strength to lift us out of the place we are and carry us into the next level of maturity He wants us to experience.

September 23 - The Ministry Leader from River Church Alton CR, Bryan Grieve, will share his testimony with us. Bryan has answered God's call to launch a second CR in Alton IL. on Friday nights. If you are in that area on a Friday **and want experience a different Celebrate Recovery, stop in and join them at 7.**

September 30 - Cassy Bacca will be sharing how we need to be "Ready" to accept and initiate the changes God wants to bring into our lives. Cassy has experienced God's changes in her life and the need to continue looking for the new things He wants to work on. Join us to hear how we can grow when we say yes to His call.

News & Events

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.

Bible Study Fellowship

Bible Study Fellowship will resume this fall on Wednesday, September 14. There are two class options: 9:30 am or 6:00 pm. We will 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.



Wednesday Kids' Club resumes on September 7 and run from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm! 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. For more info, check out the flier at the Welcome Center.

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!

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.

September 23 - There is a girls slumber party at Matt & Lindsay's house beginning at 7:00 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 hosted its first-ever Awards Banquet on August 10, honoring the contributions of outstanding student leaders. It was a glamorous night of laughter, tears, and heart-felt speeches. God is doing great things in our college-age students and we're looking forward to Fall 2022!

PRAISE REPORT: Kids For Christ - Summer Sack Lunch Program

We would like to extend our deep appreciation to the volunteers who attended faithfully each Monday throughout the summer. Thank you, church; for your generosity through donations of food, monetary gifts, baked goods and your prayers. Also, what an amazing gift from Vacation Bible School families as you supplied a tremendous outpouring of cash donations and food; thank you Lindsay Vollmar for choosing to support this ministry as its mission for 2022! **We prepared and delivered 300 meals, 10 Mondays, totaling 3000 sack lunches to needy children.** Thank you St. Matthew for seed money to purchase the lunch meat and the Prairie Farm Juice deliveries each Monday morning and providing space to prepare and store supplies.

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, Sept 22 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 the Library**.

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

Our September New Life Club meeting will be on September 15th at Noon in the Vine Cafe.. We will enjoy a great lunch by Jack Lampe and friends for a donation of \$5.00. Our program will be presented by the one the only "MINNIE PEARL" as portrayed by Laurene Taylor. Devotions will be given by Sylvia Ninnis. Come early and enjoy the great Christian fellowship and learn how you can serve our area and our world with two great projects/groups we are going to be working with during the coming months. We hope to see you and bring a friend.

New Life Club Bible Study with Larry Patton - Our Thursday Bible Study this month is September 8th and 22nd at 9:30am in the Vine. Come have coffee and donuts for a time, then join us for a great Bible Study. After the September 22nd Bible Study we will have "Bring Your Own Lunch" for more fellowship if you want to join in. We had a great time last month.

"Redeemed Again", The Thrift Shop of St. Matthew - It's time for all things "fall and winter," coats, clothes, blankets and bedding in general. Let's not forget Christmas items. If you haven't visited our shop in a while or "ever" you should give yourself a treat and check it out. I bet you can't leave without buying something. Our ladies have continued to rearrange and decorate and make our shop so accessible and beautiful. If you love to serve people with a smile why not volunteer four hours a week. We will be blessed and you will be blessed! Thank you St. Matthew, you make us able to serve our community.

New Life Club Choir has dismissed for the summer. Please Bring Your Black Books Into The Office Soon. We will resume practice again on September 14, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Park Room.

St. Matthew Senior Travels

Bring Your Own Lunch To The Vine Cafe - will continue on the fourth Thursday of every month at 11:00 a.m. - (Sept. 22 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

NEW- St. Louis Symphony Christmas Celebration at Powell Hall - Bruch at Lemp Mansion - Sunday 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 to 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 started making these blankets on September 1 for hospice. They are in need of these to give the precious children they care for. Call me if you would like to join us. Anyone can help make these and they are so appreciated.

Please get involved in our ministry. There are many opportunities to fellowship, serve others and God!

Our middle schoolers (pictured right and below) had their youth mission trip on July 22 & 23. The purpose was to serve within their own church and that mission work starts at home. So they spent the weekend here at St. Matthew.

Here are just some of the tasks they completed ... and they did it all with a servant's heart: They packed 80 Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child, they cleaned up worship areas throughout our church, they scrubbed Kids' Town tables, they organized and stored the last of the VBS decor, they made 15 dozen cookies for our Summer Sack Lunch Program, they made more Linus Blankets for Mosaic Pregnancy Center, they cleaned our youth room from top to bottom ... all while taking some time for some fun and tie dyeing shirts! We are so proud of you all!



Pictured right are some of our Summer Sack Lunch volunteers who worked hard each Monday this summer to pack hundreds of lunches for children in our community.



Pictured below is the New Life Club enjoying the Don James Band (with Elvis and Bob & Gina Swickard as their special guests) as their program for the July meeting.



Mission Outreach Sunday

Mission Outreach Sunday was such a success! Thanks to everyone who stayed and participated in all the stations and enjoyed Jack's sloppy joe's. We hope everyone enjoyed the opportunities to serve. Your service was a blessing to many on an internal, local and global scale. What a kingdom win!



Packing school supplies for Project Compassion



Bagging food for global distribution



Letter writing to military & first responders

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.

Church Wide Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

This event will be 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 your 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.



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>.

September 7

Chicken & Dumplings
Orange Glazed Carrots
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

September 14

Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green Bean Casserole
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

September 21

Pitkin County Pork Chops
Au Gratin Potatoes
Peas
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

Stewardship Corner

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor. 9:7).

God wants us to give with cheerful hearts, but the more our hearts are occupied with the priority of meeting our own needs, the less we will be able to respond to the Holy Spirit's promptings to give.



SAINT
MATTHEW

Special Events Calendar

Sept 5	Office Closed
Sept 6	SPRC Meeting
Sept 7	Wednesday Night Discipleship Resumes
Sept 8	NLC Bible Study
Sept 11	New Member's Class
Sept 13	Trustees Meeting
Sept 14	Bible Study Fellowship Resumes
Sept 15	New Life Club Luncheon
Sept 20	Finance Meeting
Sept 22	NLC Bible Study
Sept 22	LifeGroup 50/60
Sept 25	New Member Baptisms
Sept 25	Ogles Neighborhood Block Party
Sept 27	Administrative Board 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

In This Issue:

Page 1: Wednesday Night Discipleship Returns, Ogles Neighborhood Block Party, New Member Class & New Member Baptisms

Page 2: The Pastor's Pen

Page 3: Celebrate Recovery, Good News Club & Bible Study Fellowship

Page 4: Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, College Ministry & Summer Sack Lunch Thanks and Praise.

Page 5: LifeGroups & Senior Ministry

Page 6: Making Memories In Ministry

Page 7: The Wednesday Night Meal & Stewardship Corner

Page 8: Special Events Calendar

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

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