



SAINT MATTHEW

**February
2023
Newsletter**

Taste Of Elegance

This year's Taste Of Elegance will be on Saturday, **February 11 at 6:00 pm** in the Vine Cafe. This year's theme: Enchantment Under The Sea. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased in the foyer before and after the worship services, or by calling Matt Vollmar.

Menu:

Cesar Salad
Croissants & Butter
Coconut Crusted Chicken
Oven Roasted Broccoli
Roasted Potatoes
Under the Sea Dessert Trio

What is Taste Of Elegance? It is an upscale evening of good food and good fellowship brought to you by the St. Matthew Youth Group. Our youth sponsors prepare a delicious meal served to you by the youth themselves. All proceeds from this event go towards youth mission trips, events and activities. So come on out for a great time and support our youth!

Joy Of Easter

Casting Call

If you or your family is interested in joining us this year, please contact Lindsay or sign-up at the Welcome Center. We are looking for all ages to be townspeople. **Our first full cast practice is Wednesday, February 15 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary.** Please remember all kids 6th 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. Practice schedules are available at the Welcome Center next to the cast sign-up.

Costume Fittings

Fittings will take place on **March 1, March 8 and March 15 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm** in the Costume Room (under the Sanctuary, through the Choir Room).

Movie Matinee

Join us on **Sunday, February 19 at 3:00 pm** for a matinee showing of *Monumental*, starring Kirk Cameron, in the St. Matthew Sanctuary ... popcorn included!

Monumental tells the story of early America and the depths of faith our founding fathers drew from to establish our great nation. Come and watch the story unfold and learn how we can apply these foundational truths today!

If everyone enjoys this and it is well attended, it could possibly become a regular event with screenings of different Christian movies, shows, documentaries, etc. So come on out for a great time with your fellow believers!



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“Are you healthy?” Those three words carry a different weight at age 18 than age 78, don’t they? At 18, we hardly consider the question because we take it for granted that by and large, we are healthy. But by age 78, we may be facing much more. I was surprised to recently learn according to one source, the fitness industry in 2021 was worth \$160 Billion. That number is expected to be \$435 Billion by 2028. Seems we are willing to invest to be physically healthy! (*These numbers are taking into consideration; gym memberships, meal plans, supplements, and fitness wear, etc.*) Yet with our apparent obsession over being physically healthy, I wonder if people have the same devotion to their spiritual health.



With that question in mind, it bears asking: Do you have a spiritual prayer life? When you think of the time you spend in prayer, is it best described as a quick conversation at the fast food drive-through, or as a conversation with a loved one in which you lose track of time? On my first date with Gina, I took her home, we sat in the car and talked for 4 hours in the driveway. We lost all track of time because we were finding out so much about the other. We enjoyed our conversation so much, we completely lost track of time.

When we pray to the Lord, the same thing can happen. We can lose track of time because of all that we are saying, hearing, being reminded of, and being overwhelmed by awe as we come into his presence.

So for the month of February, we will be looking at what are the marks of a Healthy Prayer Life. If you have ever struggled with prayer, or wondered what to do with (seemingly) unanswered prayer or wondered what would you say if you had to pray for an hour, you won’t want to miss this month at church as we focus on having a Healthy Prayer Life.

We will also be inviting everyone to a special individual prayer time through the month of February, which you will hear more of through the worship services. I believe God has given us a priceless gift called Prayer. But if our prayer life is unhealthy, we won’t be able to experience it in its fullness.

One of the most beautiful things about prayer to me is that when we pray, Heaven is invited to earth!

Praying With You,

Bob

On behalf of the leadership at St. Matt's Celebrate Recovery we would like to say thank you for all your support. Your prayers, your willingness to share information about this ministry, and your financial support are priceless. Each week we see lives surrendered to Christ and through that, the process of restoration. We see restoration of marriages, family relationships, and individual lives, none of which would be possible without your support. We hope to see you soon on a Friday night!

February 3 - Kathy Morgan will be talking to us about the HOPE we find through working the principles and applying the process of recovery through Jesus Christ to our lives.

February 10 - Our Executive Director of St. Matthew, Scott Ferguson will be with us to share his life story and testimony of God's work in his life. You won't want to miss Scott's story and the chance to get to know him a little better. Hope to see you there!

February 17 - Life can get so busy and complicated that many times we can feel like we are running in circles and repeating the same negative behaviors, this can feel like insanity. Cassy Bacca will be teaching a lesson on "Sanity", explaining how we can learn to use the tools of recovery that will help us to break that cycle of insanity.

February 24 - Richard Hood from Mattoon IL. will be here to share how God has brought restoration into his life through the total surrender of his will to Christ's. Richard has become a close friend and is playing a big part in Celebrate Recovery throughout Southern Illinois.

Celebration Place meets every Friday night and is offered to our kids as a "pre-recovery" kid's group for Celebrate Recovery. Kids begin in the Chapel with their parents at 7:00 pm to be a part of worship time, then head upstairs to Kids Town for their own lesson, small groups, snack, game time & more. We need volunteers to help us teach on Friday nights, so please let Lindsay Vollmar (lvollmar@stmatthewumc.org) know if you can help on a rotating basis.

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.

Feb 5th - Winter Jam, Family Arena - \$15 a ticket. Food is free! Sign up as spots are limited! Meet at church at 5 pm.

Feb 11th - Taste of Elegance - be here at 4:30 pm to work. Eat before, we'll have snacks for you.

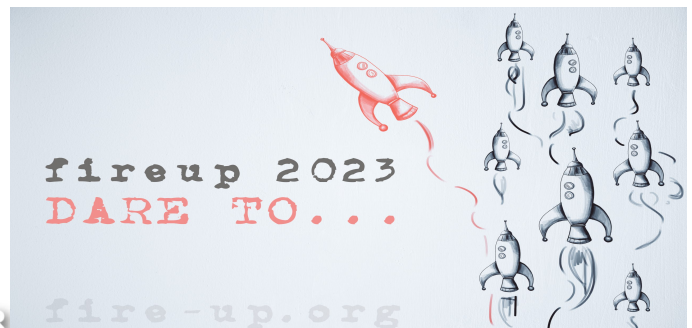
Feb 16th - Ant Man Movie, The Edge, cost is \$5. Sign up in the youth room. Show time coming soon.

Feb 24-26th - Fire UP - High School Only - weekend long music, speakers, and fun. Sign up in youth room!

**FIRE-UP 2023
TROY, ILLINOIS**
February 24-26
fire-up.org



ROGER PALMER



Wednesday Kids' Club! We meet every week from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm for preschool – 6th graders in Kids' Town. Join us for a new semester of jumping into God's Word and exploring the gifts He has given us. Our Nursery opens at 5:45 pm for our little ones 3 years and under. The last day of Club & Nursery for the semester will be May 3!

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

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 your child would like to sign-up as a crew member!

Summer 2023... 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

Thank you for a wonderful year! February 21 is our last day of club for this semester. As the first year back since the pandemic, this year of Good News Club has been like none other and has been a re-building year. However, every single Tuesday a dedicated group of Good News Club leaders has met to pray, to learn, to teach, to grow, to support and to love the kids and families in our community through the Good News that only Jesus can provide for them. We were small, but we were mighty in the name of Jesus! So "thank you" to those of you who showed up and continued Jesus' mission of going out and making disciples. Let's keep praying for our kids!

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 ended 2022 with sweet notes of holly jolly joy and fellowship! With all of our out-of-state students back home for Christmas break, we had to celebrate being all together. A Christmas feast, gingerbread house decorating contest, and a white elephant gift exchange rounded out the festivities.

Here's to a great and Spirit-filled 2023!

We now 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. All LifeGroups will meet the fourth Thursday of each month. January's meeting date is **Thursday, February 23.**

The new schedule is as follows:

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm



LifeGroup 70 +, led by Bob & Gina Swickard, will meet for Bible study in the Side Vine Cafe.

6:15 pm - 7:00 pm

Dinner will be served in the Vine Cafe for **ALL LifeGroups**

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

LifeGroup 20/40, led by Brian Caringer, will meet will meet for Bible study in (Park Room)
LifeGroup 50/60, led by Bob & Gina Swickard, will meet for Bible study in the Side Vine Cafe.

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>.

February 1

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

February 8

Pitkin County Pork Chops
AuGratin Potatoes
Peas
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

February 15

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
White Shoe Peg Corn
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

Ash Wednesday Service with Free Spaghetti Dinner

We are having an all church Ash Wednesday event on Wednesday, February 22 to mark, and celebrate, the beginning of Lent. First, we invite you to be our guests for a free Spaghetti dinner (reservations required) served between 3:30 and 6:30 pm. Then we will have a communion service at 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary followed by an anointing of the sick.

Discipleship classes will be canceled for the evening so you can attend the service. However; music rehearsals, Joy of Easter rehearsal and Bible Study Fellowship will continue as usual.

Please RSVP for the meal by: calling the church office, signing up on Sunday morning or through an order form on our website at: <http://stmatthewumc.org/wed-meal>.

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's financial plan doesn't deal with gross or net. He doesn't talk about taxes, deductions or dividends. He simply says to give whatever you have decided in your heart to give. That principle alone is all we need to guide our giving.

Our February New Life Club meeting will be held on Thursday, the 16th at noon in the Vine Cafe. Our program will be presented by Cathy Mitchell, Doctor of Physical Therapy and entitled "Heart of My Heart." Our lunch, the ever favorite Potato Bar will be prepared and served by Ladonna Kalish and friends for a donation of \$5.00 per person. We will be having the great "BAKE AND CRAFT SALE." Members who choose to participate please have your "sale goods" in the Vine by 11:00 a.m. This is always a wonderful event. Reservations are not required, but come early for a seat. You will find great Christian fellowship in this group. Why not even bring a friend!

NEW OFFICERS FOR 2023 - I am pleased to announce that we have a new group of officers ready to serve. Mary Nelson, President; Jane Howard, Vice President; Tona Eckley, Secretary; Jim Redman, Treasurer; LaDonna Kalish, Hospitality Chairman and Cindy Meinardi, Sunshine Chairman. Please join me in prayer for these folks and please welcome them as they lead our club this year.

Larry Patton's Bible Study will be held February 9th and 23rd, 2023, with coffee and donuts at 9:30, Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. and the 23rd will be "Bring Your Own Lunch" day. This is a great way to learn and understand the Bible as Larry addresses our comments and questions. Stop by and give it a try!

"REDEEMED AGAIN," THE THRIFT SHOP OF ST. MATTHEW - Thank you for gifting your Christmas decorations etc., to us. We have a huge amount of items already for our big Christmas Sale later this year. We accept all holiday items year round in our shop. We can use all kinds of winter clothing, queen and king size sheets and comforters, all kinds of bath/kitchen towels and as always we need jewelry. We gave our Celebrate Recovery folks a big free "shopping spree" during December and we were able to do this only because of the caring and giving congregation we serve. We are blessed, blessed, blessed!

NEW LIFE CLUB CHOIR - We meet Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Park Room. Please join with us in prayer that we will be able to witness in song and conversation with our folks in our local assisted living areas. We miss it very much and they need it.

ST. MATTHEW SR. TRAVELS

- **ST. LOUIS CARDINALS SPRING TRAINING MARCH 19-27, 2023.** - We are taking a waiting list now. Deposits are past due. Full payment is due Feb. 15. Please obtain private trip insurance for this venture.
- **"QUEEN ESTHER" at the Sight and Sound Theatre, Branson, MO. April 12-13, 2023.** We are among the first to see this brand new production at Sight and Sound where the "Bible comes to life." *Do not miss this.* Complete information in the "Coffee Bar" area. Please obtain private trip insurance for this venture.

There is so much to do in the senior ministry. If you have a passion I'm sure we can plug you in somewhere. We cook, eat, sew, decorate, pray, talk, sing, study the Bible, go on bus rides, laugh, cry, love, participate in church wide activities, work in the Thrift Shop, do clerical work, garden, have lots of fun and shop to name a few things. Maybe you even have something new for our ministry. I'd love to hear it. We are all about "serving" our Lord and His people!

Apartments For Rent

We now have apartments available for rent in our St. Matthew apartment community.

1 Bedroom apartments rent for \$600.00

2 Bedroom Apartments rent for \$650.00

All utilities are electric service, no gas. Church pays for water, sewer, and trash. Renter responsible for electric, cable, phone. Call Aaron Oplinger in the church office (618-397-5994) for more information.

One More Child

One More Child is a ministry to supply food for vulnerable school children each weekend of the school year. For 2023 the ministry will begin February 3, continue until the school closes for the summer, resume in August when classes begin and continue until the Christmas break. Our heartfelt thank you to everyone for your prayers and financial support. Continuing financial support is paramount. We believe this will be an ongoing ministry in this community. Prayer support is essential.

\$6.00 will cover the cost of food for one child each weekend. You may want to sponsor one child for one month, or you may want to sponsor a child for each weekend of the school year, or you may want to make a one time contribution. If you chose to write a check, please make it payable to "St. Matthew Church" and write One More Child in the "memo" line. You will find forms, with instructions, and envelopes for giving at the Connection Center. Drop boxes are available around the church or you can bring your contribution into the church office and give it to the receptionist during business hours.

If you have any questions about One More Child please contact Diane Patton (618-604-1620), Shari Wall (618-806-9197), Craig & Susan Anderson (618-520-5101) or Gina Swickard (217-622-9968). Thank you!

Never Alone

St. Matthew family, we are going to start a new group for those of us who have lost our spouses. It will be called "Never Alone", because as long as we have God with us and each other, there will always be someone to lean on, pray with us, or whatever else is needed. This will be a support group which Kay Dyer has graciously agreed to lead. For those of us who have questions during this time in our lives, hopefully there will be somebody in our group who has already walked through that and will be able to guide us and give us suggestions. Please feel free to invite people from outside our church, everyone is welcome. We are going to meet in the Chapel on Tuesday, February 14 at 11:00 for approximately one hour. If you need a ride, please call me at 618-401-3249 and I will find someone to bring you. After the meeting, we can go to lunch, if anyone is interested. Let's all come together and see what God has in store for us! - Lynn Schwoebel

Souders Scholarship

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 all applications to Casey Skelton no later than **May 31**.

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, March 12** 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.



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Special Events Calendar

Feb 7	SPRC Meeting
Feb 9	NLC Bible Study
Feb 11	Taste Of Elegance
Feb 14	Never Alone Meeting
Feb 14	Trustees Meeting
Feb 16	New Life Club Luncheon
Feb 19	Movie Matinee
Feb 22	Ash Wednesday
Feb 23	NLC Bible Study
Feb 23	LifeGroups

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

If you have left dishes in the kitchen from a Christmas party, a baby/wedding shower, a wedding or a funeral dinner please pick them up ASAP.

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