



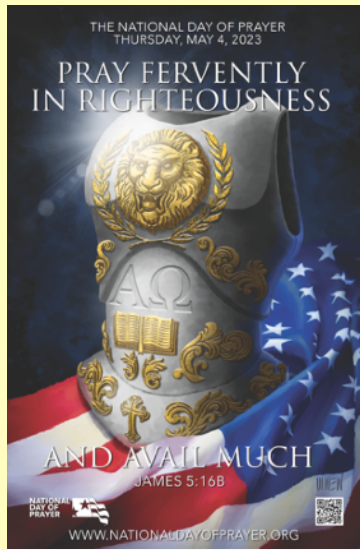
SAINT MATTHEW

**May
2023
Newsletter**

National Day Of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is **Thursday, May 4.**

We welcome you to join us for a time of praise and prayer in the **St. Matthew Chapel at 12 noon.** A light lunch will be served afterward for a free will donation. Please RSVP for lunch by calling the church office at 618-397-5994.



This Year's Theme is: Pray Fervently In Righteousness And Avail Much (based on James 5:16b).

Prayer guides are available in the brochure rack by the Coffee Bar for your convenience.

Medical Missions Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Are you ready to put that useless knowledge to the test? The **Medical Missions Trivia Night & Silent Auction** is on **Friday, May 5 at 7:00 pm** in the Vine Cafe!

This event is a fundraiser to benefit the Guatemala mission trip in June and the Paraguay mission trip in August. There is still time to buy your table of 8 for only \$75.00. OR you can purchase a single entry for \$10.00.

We will have drinks available for purchase but feel free to bring your own snacks! Get there early to browse the amazing silent auction items we have for you to bid on! You can purchase your table or entry by calling the church office (618-397-5994).

Movie Matinee Sunday

Join us on **Sunday, May 21 at 3:00 pm** for a matinee showing of *I Can Only Imagine* in the St. Matthew Sanctuary ... popcorn included!

I Can Only Imagine tells "the inspiring and unknown true story behind MercyMe's beloved, chart topping song that brings ultimate hope to so many is a gripping reminder of the power of true forgiveness" (imdb.com). We hope to see you there!



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Do you remember your first “boo-boo?” You know, a skinned knee at age 3 or the scratch from the cat at age 2? Do you remember your *first* one? Probably not. But if I asked you, ‘Do you remember your biggest boo-boo as a kid?’ My guess is you probably remember at least one.

For me, I was riding my bike down Orchard Drive in Charleston around age 6 and drove by a neighbor’s house. Their dog, Orly, (yes, I even remember his name!), came running after me. I sped up as fast as I could only to hit a patch of gravel and lose control of my bike. The dog didn’t bite me, I think it ran back home, but both of my knees were bleeding from the crash. I carried scars on my knees for years after. And every time I saw them, I not only remembered Orly and losing control, but also the fear, the pain, the crying, the anger that accompanied them.



I wonder how many of us still carry around the pain of previous relational “boo-boos.” The reason I ask is because I know how easy it is to remember the pain or fear or the anger of previous hurts and I also know how hard it can be to let it go. We remember the time, the place, the person, and the pain. We remember the hurt that never seemed to leave and we still carry the scars.

But as we have been talking about the “Way of Jesus,” we have been looking at what the lifestyle of the follower of Jesus *can* be. The Way of Jesus is to bring the Kingdom wherever we go. It seems to me that the follower who is looking back is headed in the wrong direction. In fact, Jesus said, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62) But the follower of Jesus is better served by looking ahead, not behind. You may remember Isaiah 43:18-19: “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”

The Israelites had experienced a great deal, not the least of which was captivity in a foreign land. But the good news was that God was doing a new thing. Is this truth not for us as well? We don’t have to cling to the relational hurts from the past. We can leave it where it belongs and follow Jesus into a new, uncharted future because God can do a new thing in our lives even today!

None of us knows what the future holds, but we can know that when we are walking with Jesus, he will never lead us astray. He is the Good Shepherd who leads us in right paths.

If you are still carrying the hurts and scars from things in the past. Look to Jesus. Keep your eyes on him as he leads you into the future. Look forward to see what kinds of new things he is going to do in your life. And praise Him all the way!

Looking to Jesus til Glory doth Shine!

Bob



ANNOUNCEMENT

**Beginning June 4,
the 11:00 service will begin
at 10:45 for the summer!**

Beulah Kids Camp registration is available at <https://brushfire.com/beulahholinesscamp>. Beulah Bible Camp is for kids finishing 4th – 6th grade and held on June 26 – 29. Beulah Beginning Camp is for kids finishing 1st – 3rd grade and held on June 30 – July 1. To stay in the church cabins and for a price break, please make sure you join the “St. Matthew Church” group (passcode: Lindsay). Packing info & more info coming closer to camp time! Early registration ends April 30.

“**STELLAR**” **Vacation Bible School** is June 12 – 16 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for potty-trained preschool through finishing 6th graders. Child & Volunteer Registration is now available at vbspro.events/p/stmatthewvbs2023 or at the V.B.S. Display in the main foyer. Join us on this epic adventure as we journey into outer space to truly learn how to Shine Jesus’ Light. It’s free! (V.B.S. Work Week is June 5 – 7 from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm.)



QR for VBS

VBS Amazon Wish List If you’d like to help us by purchasing décor or classroom needs for V.B.S., please see our Amazon Wish List at the Stellar sign up table in the foyer. You can scan the QR Code and it will take you directly to our wish list. Or visit the site directly at www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/4ZPSFL93PJ62/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1 We truly appreciate your donations & your prayers as we prepare to Shine Jesus’ Light!

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 Kids Club & Nursery for the semester will be May 3.

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@stmatthew.church. We will continue to provide your kids and families with opportunities to know, grow & go in the name of Jesus!



The best Children’s Easter Celebration helps a ministry could ask for!

College Ministry

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

College Ministry went on their spring retreat to Little Grassy April 21-23 for a weekend of renewal and worship. Please be praying for all our college students as they travel back home for the summer and as we continue to plan for our mission trip.

We will be starting a new study: *Jesus in our Generation* at our normal meeting time, Wednesdays starting at 6 pm. If you are 18 to 25 we would love for you to join us for food, fellowship, and diving deeper into the word.



College Ministry spring retreat to Little Grassy

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.

May 1 - Early bird registration for Beulah Youth Institute Camp ends.

May 3 - Last Youth Bible Study for the summer at 6 pm. This year, we'll stop Wednesday night activities like the rest of the church. We'll replace our Wednesday Night bible study with Tuesday Lunch and Bible Study. Price goes up by \$25, your cost will now be \$175 after this date. See Matt for more details.

May 5 - Guardians of the Galaxy Movie at The Edge Theater - \$5 a ticket.

May 30 - First Tuesday lunch of the summer! We'll meet at the church at 11:30, bring your own lunch, and we'll have a quick Devo/Bible study time. Then hang out!



Pictured above are the St. Matthew youth, leaders and sponsors at young Christians weekend at Silver Dollar City!

Congratulations Graduates

Do you have a graduate in the family? If you, your children or grandchildren are graduating from 8th grade, high school or college this spring let us know! Send their name, what grade they are graduating from and what school they are graduating from to cskelton@stmatthew.church

We will have a special graduate recognition sheet available on Sunday, May 28 for anyone who would like one. The deadline to submit your graduate is Monday, May 22.

LifeGroups: *Gina Swickard - doxa715@gmail.com*

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. May's meeting date is **Thursday, May 25**.

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 the Park Room.

LifeGroup 50/60, led by Bob & Gina Swickard, will meet for Bible study in the Side Vine Cafe.

Join us on Thursday, May 18, for our monthly New Life Club meeting at noon in the Vine Cafe. Our program will be presented by "The Church Ladies." You will remember them from our church several years ago. The group includes Ruthie Anglin, Barb Baron, Tracie Martz and Lynn Schwoebel. We are very excited to have them. You will be blessed and your day will be brightened by their beautiful music and Christian witness. Our lunch will be provided and served by Hank Oplinger, our Minister of Music and friends. Don't miss this one. Reservations are not required. Great new trips will be presented. Come early!

Larry Patton's Bible Study will be held May 11 and 25th, with coffee and donuts at 9:30, Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. and the 25th will be "Bring Your Own Lunch" day. We meet in the Vine Cafe. This is a great way to learn and understand the Bible as Larry addresses our comments and questions. You'll be glad you came!

"REDEEMED AGAIN," THE THRIFT SHOP OF ST. MATTHEW - The needs are many. We are currently in need of men/women's' underwear, kids' socks, men/women's' socks, king sized sheet sets and linens, dishtowels, bath towels and jewelry You keep our shop stocked with the finest items!

NEW LIFE CLUB CHOIR - We meet Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Park Room. We will be singing at the Atrium and Keyston Place in April and Hollybrook and Grand Manor in May. We are thrilled that the doors are open again to share Christ's love. After our May event we will be off for the summer. Please consider joining us in September! We need you and you will be blessed.

ST. MATTHEW SR. TRAVELS

Trips are first presented at our New Life Clubs, then will be at the coffee bar and on our website.

Day trips especially fill up quickly. Don't delay if you are interested. Call Me. We always take a waiting list and many folks do get on the trips that way.

- 2nd Trip **"QUEEN ESTHER" at the Sight and Sound Theatre, Branson, MO. June 7 - 8, 2023.** We want to offer this trip to as many as we can. It is the most spectacular and powerful event there to date You will worship!
- **Ambassadors Of Harmony, St. Charles, MO. Dinner at Lewis & Clark's Restaurant - May 12, 2023 - \$110.00** upon booking.
- **Josephine's Tea Room - May 25, 2023 - \$50.00** upon booking.
- **"Aida" at the new Stages in St. Louis (Matinee) and "Hodaks" for dinner - June 28, 2023 - \$130.00.** \$50 deposit required upon booking, final payment is due June 15.
- **St. Louis Cardinal Game - Busch Stadium - National Car Rental Club Suite - Wednesday, August 20, 2023 - 1:15 Game Against The San Diego Padres.** All inclusive upscale buffet, indoor climate controlled reserved seating, private bathroom all on the third base line with great views - \$180.00 upon booking. We have a few openings. I can get more tickets for a while. Please call.
- **Beef and Board's Dinner Theatre - Indianapolis, IN - Sept 7, 2023** - Featuring the show "Grumpy Old Men". Huge upscale buffet. This is a one day trip - leaving at 5:00 am and arriving home around 9:00 pm. \$120.00 upon booking (no refunds).
- **Alpaca Farm Tour - Makanda, IL and lunch buffet at Giant City Park - October 12, 2023.**
- **Fireside Dinner Theatre - Ft. Atkinson, WS - November 2 - 3, 2023.** One of our annual favorites! This year they present the musical "Scrooge". Visit to the Del Alps Cheese Factory and Swiss Colony, etc. outlets....
- **Pigeon Forge / Biltmore - Info Soon. November 27 - December 1, 2023.**

You will love the fellowship on our trips and in our other activities. There is a place for you. Just drop in!

Name Change

St. Matthew United Methodist Church will no longer exist after May 6, 2023. St. Matthew Church, Inc. will then be officially in place. You can begin using the new name on your checks now, but after May 6, please be sure to use the new name: St. Matthew Church. Also, if you have named St. Matthew UMC in your will or estate plan, please have that changed to St. Matthew Church, Inc.

If you have any questions about either of these subjects, please contact Ron Buerges (Finance Chair), Dan Harry (Financial Administrator) or Ken Williams (Administrative Board Chair).

Ogles Watch Community Recycling Day

There will be a community wide recycling day on the St. Matthew parking lot on **Saturday, May 6 from 9:00 am - noon**. Electronic items being accepted include: computers, printers, cell phones, stereos, DVD / VHS players, appliances, flat screen TV's, lawn mowers and more! You can also bring expired medications or sensitive documents to be shredded. A list of items available for recycling are in the brochure rack by the Coffee Bar. For more information you can contact ogleswatch@gmail.com.

New Website

St. Matthew has a new website! If you haven't had a chance to check it out yet, please visit it at www.stmatthew.church. From there you can watch live, fill out the sermon notes, give, sign up for the Wed Night Meal, submit prayer requests, learn more about our ministries, and much more.

Kids For Christ - Summer Sack Lunch Program

This program, that provides lunches for some of the most needy children in the community, will begin again on Monday, June 5 and continue each Monday through August 7. We prepare and deliver approximately 250 sack lunches each Monday. Our congregation has been most generous with their financial support, bringing provisions for the bin, volunteering time on Monday mornings to prepare lunches, and needed prayer. How we thank you all! The most needed items are as follows: individually wrapped bars or snack pkgs., fruit cups, pudding cups, salty snacks (these come in boxes with 12, 36, 48 all the way up to 100), cheese slices that are not individually wrapped and white sandwich bread (dropped off Sat. or Sun. to be fresh for Monday). Because of unknown allergies, we cannot accept items containing peanuts.

Those who have volunteered over the years are always welcome and those who want to volunteer to help may call the numbers provided. Questions? Call Diane Patton, 618-233-8575 or Craig and Susan Anderson 618-520-5101.

Sounds Of Harmony Invitation

We are thrilled to extend an invitation to men of all ages to singing with the Sounds of Harmony, an acapella men's barbershop chorus. Whether you are a seasoned singer or just starting out, we welcome you to come to our chorus and experience the joy of making music together. No prior experience is necessary - all that's required is a love of music and willingness to learn. Our talented and dedicated team will provide the training and support you need to become a confident and accomplished performer. SINGING IS FUN! Singing well is even better. Please join us at a rehearsal on any Tuesday night from 7:00 - 9:30 at Union United Methodist Church located at 721 East Main in Belleville. Look us up on the internet at SoundsofHarmony.org. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a ride, please contact Dave at 618-918-0900, or Chuck Cook at 618-233-4991.

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, signing up in the foyer, or on line here: stmatt.co/wed-meal

May 3

Spaghetti & Meatballs

Salad Bar

Garlic Toast

Spumoni & Cookies

May 10

BBQ Pork Steaks

Potatoes “Ala Jack”

Baked Beans

Salad Bar

Rolls

Dessert

May 17

Beef & Noodles

California Blend Vegetables

Salad Bar

Rolls

Dessert

Celebrate Recovery: *Aaron Oplinger - 618-406-0287 - aoplinger@stmatthew.church*

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

Thank you for your support of Celebrate Recovery here at St Matthew. We are very blessed by your willingness to give and to serve. We now have a shortage of people to help us with preparing and serving dinner every week at 6. Two of our teams who prepare and serve dinner once a month for us at CR are no longer able to do so. As you know Andy and Rebecca Black have moved on to a new church and they served once a month and did a terrific job. Also our dear friend and wonderful cook, Rita Strumberg has been diagnosed with cancer and we are praying for God to heal her and to give her comfort during this time of treatment and uncertainty. We would ask that you also pray for Rita and her family. If you feel God calling you to serve with us by preparing dinner once a month we would love to hear from you, you can call the church or myself at (618)406-0287, we would love to have you on our team!

May 5 - Ray Long will be with us from Marion Il. to share his testimony. Ray lived here in Belleville for many years and pastored at Signal Hill Methodist. Come out and hear how God has worked in his life and is now using him.

May 12 - Kathy Metz will share with us about how we can grow through the process of creating our own Spiritual Inventory

May 19 - Rick Burnes will be here from Granite City to share how God changed his life of addiction into a life of hope and meaning.

May 26 - Kathy Morgan will talk a little more about the final steps to creating our Spiritual Inventory and what this step has done for her personal recovery and walk with the Lord.

Celebration Place meets every Friday night and is offered to our kids as a “pre-covery” 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 (lvollmar@stmatthewumc.org) know if you can help on a rotating basis.

Stewardship Corner

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God”
(1 Cor. 10:31).

Money is the means to the greater end of glorifying God
as we demonstrate practical Christianity in our lives.



Special Events Calendar

May 2	SPRC Meeting
May 4	National Day Of Prayer
May 5	Mission Trivia Night
May 6	Ogle Recycling Day
May 9	Never Alone
May 9	Trustees Meeting
May 11	NLC Bible Study
May 14	Mother's Day
May 16	Finance Committee Meeting
May 18	New Life Club Luncheon
May 21	Movie Matinee
May 25	NLC Bible Study
May 25	LifeGroups
May 27	Women Of Worth Meeting
May 29	Offices 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 Park Room

Senior Pastor: Robert Swickard
Associate Pastor: Andy Black

NEED PRAYER?
Submit a prayer request here:
stmatt.co/prayer

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

youtube.com/@saintmatthew-belleville