



**Aug
2024
Newsletter**

Mission Outreach Sunday - Combined Service at 9:00 am

The Mission Outreach Board is excited to provide another opportunity for the church to partner with God in being the body of Christ. By living out our mission, by helping others, encouraging and praying for those in need and by doing this side by side as a church; wonderful possibilities can happen for the kingdom.

On **Sunday, August 11th**, we will have our
3rd annual **Mission Outreach Sunday!**

We will have one joint worship service at 9:00 AM.

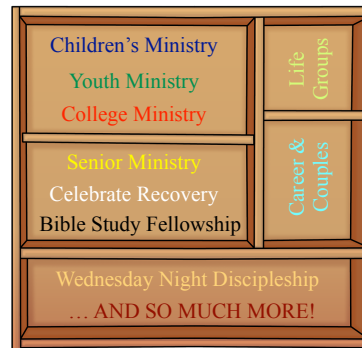


Following worship there will be a variety of engaging experiences to help and encourage those in need. The activities will go from 10:15 to 11:30 and they'll be delicious brunch bites served. Invite your co-workers, friends, and neighbors to join us on this great occasion to worship our Lord and Savior, and then serve Him by serving his beloved people.

Promotion Sunday & The Blessing Of The Backpacks

Promotion Sunday & the blessing of the backpacks is **Sunday, August 4**. This is the day that our kids and youth will attend their new 2024-2025 classes. We'll have a time of prayer during both services for all students, teachers, parents, school administrators and prayer warriors to saturate our students in prayer as they return to the mission fields in their schools. Kids are invited to bring their backpacks to church. They'll also be receiving an amazing goodie bag in Kids Worship!

St. Matthew Ministry Showcase



On **Sunday, August 25** we will have a St. Matthew ministry showcase in the large foyer. Plan to spend a few minutes before or after the service to get to know the different ministries of St. Matthew, sign up for a

Wednesday night discipleship class, learn new ways to get connected, or find out how you can serve! Each table will be manned with a knowledgeable person involved in the ministry they represent ... so, feel free to ask questions! This is a great day to invite someone new to church so they can see all the wonderful opportunities we have to **KNOW** Jesus, **GROW** in his grace and **GO** in his name to love and serve others!

One More Child

Much like our Summer Sack Lunch program, One More Child is a program designed to



help vulnerable children in our community. Many children leave school on Friday not knowing when, or if, they will eat all weekend. One More Child seeks to eliminate food insecurity by providing a weekend's worth of food to needy children throughout the entire school year.

For only \$7.00, you can cover the cost of food for one child for one of those weekends. You can make a one time contribution or you can commit to sponsoring a child for each weekend of the school year. If you would like to be a part of this program, or if you have any questions, you can stop by the Connection Center or you can call Diane Patton for more information. Your prayers for these children are also appreciated!

If you were watching the news on the evening of July 13, you watched in disbelief as the events unfolded from Butler, Pennsylvania. As Donald Trump took the stage to lead another rally, there was a young twenty-year-old who was positioning himself to take a shot at the former president. Within minutes, Donald Trump would be whisked off the platform by the Secret Service with a bleeding ear, attendees would be crouching for cover, and there would be two critically wounded bystanders and one fatality because of that young man's actions.



Conspiracy theories and “explanations” were hitting social media within a few minutes of the shooting. Because of them, many will come to a variety of conclusions surrounding the event. Some stories might be close to the truth. Others will be far from the truth. So even as this story continues to unfold, what is the responsible response to these events by one who follows Jesus?

First, please remember that any political party and Evangelical Christianity are not synonymous. When Jesus launched the Church, he was not anxiously waiting for 21st Century American Christianity to “take His Church to the next level.” The Gospel has been transforming lives and communities by the power of God's Spirit. And, God has brought this transformation independent from governments for the past two millennia.

The transformational power of the Gospel transcends race, gender, socio-economic, and geographical boundaries. In Revelation 7, John tells of people from every nation, tribe, people and languages. These souls are surrounding the throne, not waving their own national flags, but waving palm branches in their hands, praising the Living God. Are they praising Him for their nations? No. They are praising Him for the Salvation He provided through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Our political structure has many flaws. It is as affected by Sin as we are. Yet we all know: Our hope has never been in a political party, a candidate, a government, a president or a nation. Our hope has been and always will be rooted in Jesus Christ.

Second, Pray. 1 Chronicles 7:14 says, “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” Paul reminds us to “Pray continually.” (1 Thess. 5:17) The only way to battle against a spiritual reality is spiritually. Prayer and holy living is the key to the spiritual combat.

Third, we must always be mindful of living like a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven. Holy living becomes important because how we respond to people in our lives, matters. Our behavior is not independent from our beliefs. Our behavior is a visible bi-product of what we truly believe. So I can't berate or belittle someone “in Jesus' name.” The world is filled with arguing fools. If I join in with them, I become the same white noise and simply look like the world I decry. When confronted by someone with different political views, do I engage them in loving conversation, or do I condemn them? Do I come across like an ideologue? Or do I respond to opposing viewpoints as a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven, with love? How we respond, matters.

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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!

3rd Grade Bibles. If you have a child that attends St. Matthew, that will be entering into the 3rd grade this school year, please send Lindsay their full name no later than Wednesday, July 31. We will be presenting our new 3rd graders with their own engraved Bibles in August.

Promotion Sunday & Blessing of the Backpacks will be August 4! This is the day that our kids and youth will attend their new 2024-2025 classes. We'll have a time of prayer during the 9:00 am and 10:45 am services for all students, teachers, parents, school administrators and prayer warriors to saturate our students in prayer as they return to the mission fields in their schools. Kids are invited to bring their backpacks to church. They'll also be receiving an amazing goodie bag in Kids Worship with tons of prizes, yummy snacks and even their own Bible Stuffie Reading Buddy to read their Bible verses to.

Wednesday Kids Club resumes on September 4 from 6:00 – 7:00 pm for all potty-trained preschoolers – 6th graders. Our Nursery is also available for our little ones 3 years and under. This year we're going to learn God's sweet plan on how to know Him better & grow in His love...through candy!!! Join us as we learn through music, games, skits, stories, crafts and more how incredibly sweet God's love really is.

Trunk or Treat will be Thursday, October 31 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm and you're all invited! Whether you want to host a vehicle to pass out candy & faith based items to the kids, supervise a bounce house, bring your family or just come to enjoy some yummy food from the Spud Shack Food Truck- everyone is welcome. It's a safe & friendly evening for our community as we light the night with Jesus. Rain or shine (we'll be inside if bad weather).

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.

Like us on Facebook at "St. Matthew Children's Ministry" for daily prayers, up to date Kids Min. info, behind the scenes pics, volunteer spotlights and so much more!

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!

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 September 24 – December 10 (10 weeks). 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. **P.S.** Little Matty will be teaching the Bible lesson again this year! Contact Lindsay Vollmar at lvollmar@stmatthew.church or at 618-660-7552 if you'd like to sign-up or would like more info.

***Volunteer training** is Tuesday, September 17 at 2:45 pm in the Chapel for all helpers. The kids first day of club is Tuesday, September 24.

Sunday Night Youth - Each Sunday at 5:00 pm in the Youth Room.

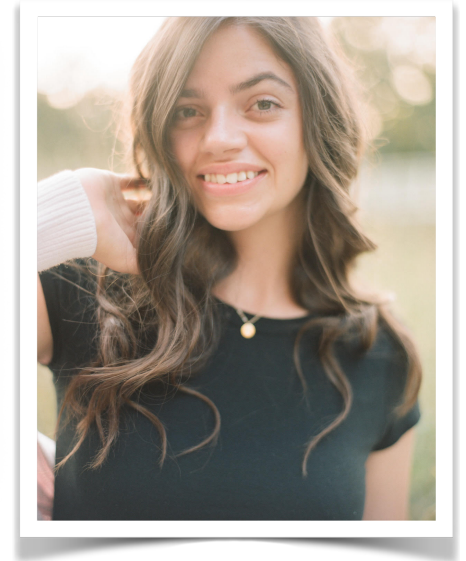
Aug 1 - Holiday World Trip

Aug 4 - Promotion Sunday - 5 to 7:30 youth

Aug 7 - Wednesday night Youth Band (5:30 pm), Bible Study (6 to 7 pm)

Souders Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Emmy Robinson on being awarded this year's Souders Scholarship!! This fall, Emmy will be attending Asbury University where she intends to earn her Bachelors degree in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Social Studies. From there she plans on going for her Masters degree in History to be able to teach advanced high school classes as well as potentially college courses. During her time at Asbury she will also have the opportunity to study abroad and fulfill her God-given passion in mission work. We are so proud of you, Emmy and cannot wait to see the things God has in store for you. Congratulations once again!



College Ministry: *Ross Atherton - 508-209-4635 - ratherton@stmatthew.church*

If you are 18 to 25 we would love for you to join us for fellowship and diving deeper into the word.

Our normal meeting times are Wednesdays starting at 7:00 pm and Thursdays starting at 6:00 pm.

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

LifeGroups provide a large group setting with which to gather and grow in your faith together. LifeGroups' meet the fourth Thursday of each month. August's meeting date is **Thursday, Aug 22**

The 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 **Both LifeGroups**

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

LifeGroup 40/60, led by Bob & Gina Swickard, will meet for Bible study in the Side Vine Cafe.

****LifeGroup 20/30 will no longer meet. Contact Ross Atherton for information on groups for 20 - 30 years old such as Career & Couples or the College Ministry Group.****

NEW LIFE CLUB is **Thursday, August 15** at noon, in the Vine Cafe. Our program will be presented by Carolyn Parmer, entitled "Downsizing 101." Lunch will be our favorite the Potato Bar, prepared and served by Ladonna Kalish and friends for a donation of \$7.00. Our devotion will be given by Pat Cook.. No reservations needed, just drop in and bring a friend.

Senior Bible Study will be August 8th and August 29th and will start with coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m and Bible study at 10:00. Shelby Walasin leads this study. A growing Christian wants to know more about Jesus. We talk "Jesus" in this wonderful study.

“Redeemed Again” The Thrift Shop of St. Matthew - We need baby and children's clothing, underwear very much. Also we need towels, jewelry, pots and pans. You bless us and we in turn bless the community.

New Life Club Choir is over for the summer and will be returning in September. Think about joining us on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Park Room. We need all folks that love to sing and praise God and share praises and prayer needs.

ST. MATTHEW SR. TRAVELS

****WE ARE NOW REQUIRING PAYMENT FOR OUR TRIPS AT THE TIME OF SIGNUP****

It's Just Lunch - Maggianos Little Italy - St. Louis - August 22, 2024

Price Family Jamboree - September 8, 2024

I-75 Michigan Trip in September is full - We are taking a waiting list. Someone always cancels.

Amish Country - Arthur, IL - October 21, 2024

Fireside Dinner Theatre - Wisconsin - October 31 - November 1, 2024

****NEW** Christmas In Branson - Wisconsin - November 18 - 24, 2024 - Filling up quickly**

1 more to follow this year.

Thank you to our of you who are such great volunteers to our Senior Ministry. It wouldn't get done without you!



At the June New Life Club Meeting, former NLC director and FOUNDER, Maraline Meyer celebrated her 95th birthday!



Stewardship Corner

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Tim. 6:10).

One of the most misquoted verses in the entire Bible is this verse.

Money is not the problem. It is the love of money that is the problem. When we love money, it can take the place of God in our lives as it becomes most important to us.

The Pastor's Pen Continued

Lastly, may we all keep our eyes on Jesus. May we be able to have healthy conversations with our friends who have different political views through this political season so that what they see in us is the Grace of Jesus. May we rise to our knees in prayer for this nation and our community and our church. And as we wait on the Lord to move, may we have strength to faithfully share Jesus with everyone.

Shalom, (Peace)



Bob

Church wide Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

***Church wide Operation Christmas Child Packing Party** will be Sunday, November 3 from 5:00 – 6:30 pm in the Vine Café. 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. For more info on O.C.C., check out www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/.

***Here are the donated items** we would love for you to bring on November 3: 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. (If you would like to donate items sooner than November 3, please contact Lindsay and we can store them at the church.)

Tax Efficient Ways To Donate To St. Matthew

There are multiple ways to donate to St. Matthew that may save you on your taxes and actually allow you to donate more money to St. Matthew or other charities you are involved with. These strategies at times are complex but we will attempt to highlight a couple:

Donate appreciated stock directly to St. Matthew. If you have a stock with substantial unrealized gains it may be advantageous from a tax standpoint to donate it directly to St. Matthew. Most of the time these donations are deductible and you don't have to pay tax on the gain.

IRA Minimum Required Distributions (RMDs). If you have to take an RMD and are also donating to St. Matthew, it may be advantageous to donate the RMD directly to St. Matthew rather than taking the RMD in cash and then donating to St. Matthew. The portion sent directly to St. Matthew can be excluded from your taxable income.

As stated earlier, sometimes these topics can be complicated. We recommend you discuss these topics with your financial advisor. For further information regarding the above and to discuss other options for donating to St. Matthew, please don't hesitate to reach out Dan Harry, Financial Administrator at St. Matthew; Ron Buerges, Finance Committee Chair; or Ken Williams, Administrative Board Chair.

Please join us every Friday evening starting at 6 with a free dinner.

At 7 we join together for large groups and worship, and at 8 we split into men's and women's open share groups.

August will be an exciting month for us here at St. Matthew Celebrate Recovery. Several of us on our leadership Team will be traveling to Asuncion, Paraguay to bring the ministry of Celebrate Recovery to Paraguay. Your prayers and support are so appreciated. There are no Celebrate Recovery programs currently in Paraguay, so by partnering with us, you are helping to bring this life changing ministry to hurting people for the first time. We will leave on Sunday, August 4th. We'll take the Spanish Celebrate Recovery curriculum as well as other items that are needed to the missionaries and the people they serve. Our mission is to train leaders and facilitate Celebrate Recovery large groups and open share groups in Asuncion. While we are away, Celebrate Recovery here at St. Matthew will continue each week as normal with lessons and testimonies. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Aaron Oplinger

St Matthew Celebrate Recovery Ministry Leader

August 2 - We will welcome D.J Dangerfield as he brings us a message of hope and recovery through Christ. We will also be joined by Matt Vollmar and The Great Romance who will lead worship. Don't miss this!

August 9 - Cassy Bacca will bring us a lesson called "Victory". Cassy has been on an incredible journey in her walk with the Lord that has led her to a career in the field of recovery. Come and hear Cassy's perspective in Victory over our everyday struggles and hurts.

August 16 - Having just returned home from Paraguay, we will host a panel discussion summarizing our trip. We will be sharing photos and information about the trip and the effects it had on us and the people we encountered.

August 23 - Chrissy will be sharing the "Amends" lesson. You will learn why it is so important that we be willing to make amends with those people we have hurt and offer forgiveness to the ones who hurt us.

August 30 - I will be talking about "Forgiveness" and why we cannot move forward in our recovery or in our walk with God without being able to forgive.

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.

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

Aug 7

Spaghetti & Salciccia

Garlic Cheese Toast

Salad Bar

Spumoni

Cookies

Aug 14

Chicken & Dumplings

Orange Glazed Carrots

Salad Bar

Rolls

Dessert

Aug 21

Roast Beef

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Sweet Corn

Salad Bar

Rolls

Dessert



Special Events Calendar

Aug 4	Blessing Of The Backpacks
Aug 4	Promotion Sunday
Aug 4 - 12	CR Mission Trip
Aug 8	Senior Bible Study
Aug 11	Mission Outreach Sunday
Aug 13	Never Alone
Aug 15	New Life Club Luncheon
Aug 22	LifeGroups
Aug 25	St. Matthew Ministry Showcase
Aug 29	Senior Bible Study

Sunday Worship Opportunities

9:00 am & 10:45 am

Kid's Worship: 9:00 am & 10:45 am

Senior Pastor: Robert Swickard
Associate Pastor: Ross Atherton

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