



SAINT MATTHEW

**February
2024
Newsletter**

Taste Of Elegance



This year's Taste of Elegance will be on Saturday, **February 10 at 6:00 pm** in the Vine Cafe. This year's theme: Candyland! Tickets are **SOLD OUT**, Thank you!

They sold out in 2

weeks, that is record timing. Thanks so much for your support of the St. Matthew youth group.

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, activities and upgrades to our youth room.

Marriage Conference

St Matthew Church Marriage Conference: Making Good Marriages Better

Saturday Feb 17th 8:30AM – 12:00PM

Join us for the St Matthew Marriage Conference, where you will enjoy time with your spouse and find fresh inspiration for your life together.

You won't want to miss this insightful, humorous, Christ-centered experience!

Breakfast is included and every couple will go home with a gift bag.

Cost for the morning: \$25 per couple. Childcare is available for 6th grade and under.

To register: sign up at the Connection Center, visit our website at: stmatt.co/mc, call the church office or scan this QR code!



Joy Of Easter News

Casting Call! If you or your family is interested in joining us this year, please contact Lindsay or sign-up at the Receptionist window in the main foyer. We are looking for all ages to be townspeople. Our first full cast practice is Wednesday, February 7 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@stmatthew.church.

Cast Costume Fitting will be on February 21, February 28 & March 6 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm in the Costume Room (under the Sanctuary, through the Choir Room). Please don't wait til the last minute to be fitted!

Stage canvas laying is Sunday, March 3 at 5:30 pm and we need all able bodies to help stretch canvas, carry props down, staple canvas to prepare for the set construction that begins March 4. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Thoughts On The Newsletter?

We want to hear from you! Do you open and read the newsletter each month? Do you find the information valuable? Does it help keep you connected? We are looking for your feedback!

Please email Casey at cskelton@stmatthew.church to let us know that you want to keep the newsletter. Feel free to include any other comments! Your responses will directly help us determine decisions about the newsletter.

Growing Through the Journey to the Cross

Have you taken a Journey that allowed you to grow in your relationship with the Lord?

As I was thinking about that question, there was one journey that came to mind. In 1996, after being ordained as a full time elder, Gina and I got to go to Israel.



There are so many stories to tell from that experience, but when we talk about that trip, still today, we realize how much we grew because of the trip. The land, (*what some call the 5th Gospel*), was echoing the stories of Jesus as strongly to us as it must have been for the early followers of Jesus. There was a sense of awe as we saw sights Jesus must have seen. The Bible came alive for us in new ways!

Well, we all won't be going to the Holy Land on a plane this month, but we will all have a chance to make a journey to the Cross of Jesus. February 14 (Ash Wednesday) begins the period we call Lent. For the 5 Sundays leading up to Palm Sunday, we will be retracing some of the key moments Jesus experienced on the way to the cross. Please join us as the "sights", "sounds" and experiences of Jesus come alive for us.

Sermons of February and March:

- February 18 "No Tapping Out"
- February 25th: "To Carry The Cross"
- March 3: "Thrust Into Vulnerability"
- March 10: "No Turning Back"
- March 17: "When It Seems Like It's Over"

The first two weeks in February, we will be focusing on Prayer. It will be a great time to prepare for the Lenten season and to intercede for each other and for the Church.

Then, On Wednesday, February 14, we will have a special dinner (see note in Newsletter), followed by a service celebrating Communion and healing from 6:15 – 7:00pm.

This time of year can be a very powerful time when we draw near to God (James 4:8), and examine the great cost he paid to save us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Bob".

Bob

Our **Children's Easter Celebration** will be Saturday, March 23 at 10:30 am 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!

Would you be able to help in the Joy of Easter Kid's Room or Nursery? We are looking for several people on Thursday, March 28 or Friday, March 29 that would be able to spend some time with our kids and little ones. Contact Lindsay if you are interested. (Background check included).

Wednesday Kids' Club & Nursery meets every week from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm for preschool – 6th graders in Kids' Town. 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 1!

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 10:45 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!

Celebration Place meets every Friday night and is offered to our kids as a “pre-covey” 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 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!

Parents, for your calendars: Scuba VBS Set Up (June 3 – 5 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm), Scuba VBS (June 10-14 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm), Beulah Bible Camp for finishing 4th – 6th gr. (June 24-27), Beulah Beginning Camp for finishing 1st – 3rd gr. (June 28 & 29).

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!

Youth Ministry: *Matt Vollmar - 618-795-6250 - mvollmar@stmatthew.church*

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

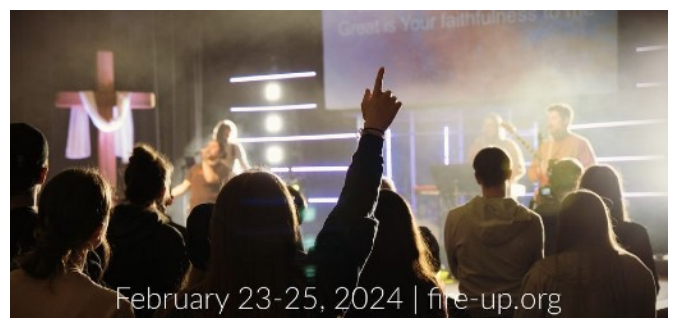
Wednesday Night Youth Band: 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm in the Youth Room with Matt Vollmar.

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

Feb 10: Taste of Elegance (Candyland Theme). Tickets are \$25 a seat. Doors open at 5:30, dinner at 6.

Feb 11: Super Bowl party at St Matt's. Food and the game. Starts at 5 pm!

Feb 23 - 25: Fire Up Conference, Troy, IL. For High School students only. Cost is \$50 (covers meals, lodging, and t-shirt).



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*

We 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. February's meeting date is **Thursday, February 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 **ALL** LifeGroups

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

LifeGroup 20/30, led by Ross & Veronica Atherton, will meet for Bible study in the Park Room.

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

Ash Wednesday Service With Free Spaghetti Dinner



We are having an all church Ash Wednesday event on Wednesday, February 14 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 & healing service at 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary.

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 at the receptionists desk or through an order form on our website at: <https://stmatthew.church/news-events/wed-meal>.



NEW LIFE CLUB is **Thursday, February 15 at noon in the Vine Cafe**. Our program speaker will be Sue Busler. Lunch will be prepared and served by LaDonna Kalish and crew. We will also be having our annual **"Home Baked Goods and Craft Sale."** Please join us and bring a friend. It's a great time for Christian Fellowship. New trips will be announced.

Senior Bible Study will be February 8th and 22nd and starts with coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m and Bible study at 10:00. Shelby Walasin leads this study. It is a wonderful way to start your day with this rich teaching and fellowship. Drop in and join us!

"Redeemed Again" - The Thrift Shop of St. Matthew needs jewelry, Valentine and St. Patrick Day and Easter items. You continue to bless us with your wonderful donations. We also can use a new person or two to work one "4 hour" shift a week. Please call me, Connie Bergmann or Pat Cook if you want to inquire further. We appreciate it.

New Life Club Choir meets Wednesdays in the Park Room at 4:00 p.m. We have many senior centers lined up for April, May and June. Please join us. You'll be such a blessing to the folks we visit and you will be blessed as well. All of us together make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!!!

ST. MATTHEW SR. TRAVELS

Omnimax And Lunch At Favazzas On The Hill - Feb. 13, 2024

St. Louis Cardinal Spring Training - March 10-18, 2024 (A Few Openings)

The Ark Encounter - April 15-16, 2024 (A Few Openings)

"Steel Magnolias" At Stages - St Louis And Hodalks For Dinner - June 13, 2024

Coming Soon:

Kansas City - May, 2024

I-75 Grand Tour Of Michigan - September, 2024

Fireside Dinner Theatre - Oct. 31 - Nov. 1, 2024

Christmas In Branson -Nov. 18-21,2024

And More.....

Come And Travel With Us In Our New Big Red Bus.

Thank you for supporting our Senior Ministry. It touches many people in many ways.



Pictured right: Our New Life Club choir finished out the year by singing at the "All In 4 You" adult day care in Belleville, followed by a beautiful Christmas luncheon provided by our precious Toby Shepard.

After our party, we boarded our Big Red Bus and took a tour of the Wonderland Race Track Christmas lights, and then the lights at our Lady of the Snows. We look forward to a wonderful new year worshipping our Savior in song!



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@stmatthew.church 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**.

Baby Bottles

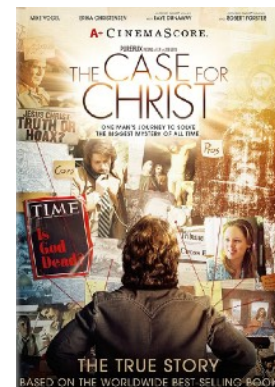
Don't forget to turn in your baby bottles so we can get them to Mosaic Pregnancy Center. Thanks for your participation!

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Beginning on Wednesday, February 21, James Schuetz will take over the Wednesday Night Bible Study in the Park Room. The class will be called: *Culture And Conflict In Biblical Times*. Stay tuned for more information in the bulletin!

Movie Matinee

Join us on **Sunday, February 25 at 3:00 pm** for the monthly Sunday matinee with popcorn! This month's movie is *The Case For Christ*. According to IMBD: *An award-winning investigative journalist -- and avowed atheist -- who applies his well-honed journalistic and legal skills to disprove the newfound Christian faith of his wife... with unexpected, life-altering results*. Bring your family and friends for this great story based on the worldwide best selling book.



Thank You LaDonna Kalish

After faithfully serving for 26 years as the funeral luncheon coordinator, LaDonna Kalish is stepping down. We thank you, LaDonna for all of your years of hard work and dedication to this ministry, which provides an incredible amount of comfort to families during a difficult time. Yvonne & Stephanie Keck will be taking over this role and while they have big shoes to fill, we know they will take on this responsibility with the same level of love and dedication as LaDonna leaves it. If you would like to volunteer to help in this ministry, please contact Yvonne or Stephanie.

Stewardship Corner

“One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered” (Prov. 11:24-25)

Generous giving always results in God's blessing.
Or as one person put it, “You can't out give God, but it's sure fun to try.”

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

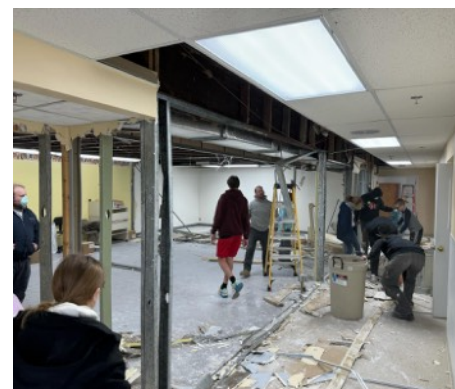
At 7 we join together for large groups and worship, and at 8 we split into men's and women's open share groups.

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 (lvollmar@stmatthew.church) know if you can help on a rotating basis.

Youth Room Renovation

The youth crushed it by starting our demolition/renovation of our new youth room! Thanks to all who gave up their Saturday on a very cold day including some of the college folks and their leader Ross! Special thanks to DJ Mernick and his overseeing of this project as well as Tim and Katie for working/supervising.

Stay tuned for new youth room progress!



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: stmatt.co/wed-meal

February 7

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

February 14

Spaghetti & Salsiccia
Salad Bar
Garlic / Cheese Bread
Spumoni Ice Cream
Cookies

February 21

Pitkin County Pork Chops
AuGratin Potatoes
Peas
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert



Special Events Calendar

Feb 8	Senior Bible Study
Feb 10	Taste Of Elegance
Feb 13	Never Alone
Feb 14	Ash Wednesday
Feb 15	New Life Club Luncheon
Feb 17	Marriage Conference
Feb 20	Administrative Board Meeting
Feb 22	Senior Bible Study
Feb 22	LifeGroups
Feb 25	Movie Matinee

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