



**July
2024
Newsletter**

Beulah Holiness Camp Meeting

This Year's
Beulah Holiness
Camp Meeting is:
July 26 - Aug 2,
2024

The speakers:

Evangelist: Dr.
Matt Friedeman,
is an ordained

Nazarene minister and a professor at Wesley Biblical Seminary. He has authored books on evangelism, discipleship, and methods of Bible study. He has written a regular newspaper column and been a talk-show host on American Family Radio. He leads students in various types of outreach, such as prison ministry and ministry to the unborn.

Evangelist: Dr. James H. Diehl, a graduate of Olivet Nazarene University, has served the Nazarene Church in the roles of senior pastor, district superintendent, interim president of many years. In addition to writing prolific articles, he developed a live radio program and produced a weekly TV program on an NBC affiliate. He speaks at camps, college revivals, retreats, and international events.

Bible Teacher: John Juneman teaches live weekly online classes to teens worldwide through The Potter's School and serves as adjunct faculty in Christian Ministry at Trevecca Nazarene University. He graduated from Olivet Nazarene University, Nazarene Theological Seminary, and received the DMin from Fuller Theology Sem. in 2004.

Song Evangelist: Mark Murphy, a graduate of Olivet Nazarene University, is Evangelist in Residence at South Side Church of the Nazarene in Muncie, IN. As a gospel soloist, prolific gospel songwriter, and recording artist, he has been voted one of the top 5 vocal soloists at the National Quartet Convention Soloist Contest.



Beulah Holiness Camp Meeting ... Continued

Missionaries: Andy and Lizet Bowen were both missionary kids. Andy was born in Kenya, where his parents served for 30 years. She was born in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and later moved to Paraguay. Andy received degrees from Asbury University and was sent by WGM to Paraguay, where the couple met married in 2002. They began the Guarani-Jopara Institute for Missionaries in 1999 to help missionaries learn Guarani, the heart language of most Paraguayans.

Please see the daily schedule at <https://beulahholinesscamp.org/> for a more detailed description of camp activities, preaching schedule, fees, housing, and more! There are brochures available in the rack by the Coffee Bar if you would like more information.

Sunday Day Trip To Beulah

If you would like to spend just one afternoon and evening at Beulah Holiness Camp Meeting there will be a bus leaving St. Matthew at 2:00 pm on **Sunday, July 28**. The bus will take you to Beulah where you will be able to have dinner (\$\$) and then we will stay for the evening service at 7:30 pm and then come back to St. Matthew after the service. If you would like to ride the bus, please sign up at the Connection Center or by calling the church office at 618-397-5994 and speak to the receptionist (Carol or Gayle).

New Church Directory

You should have received the new 2024 church directory in your mail at home. If you did not get one and you would like to pick one up, we have a limited amount we are able to give away. Just stop by the church office and ask Carol or Gayle for one!

Motivations for faith.

Too often do we think of Christianity as a dim calling or a dark life. We can over-fixate on what it means to “take up our cross” and forget to do the second part of that command in Matthew 16 and follow Jesus. While self-sacrifice is a cornerstone of the faith and that verse in Matthew is not a metaphor for the disciples, many of whom go on to become martyrs. There is an aspect of righteous desire that is fulfilled in the faith. Many times Jesus teaches that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure or that following him is like drawing from water that when consumed leaves one to never thirst again. It is clear in these teachings that it is a good thing to desire Jesus *and* to enjoy the things that come with following Jesus.



I know I have shied away from this truth due to my fear of consumer Christianity and the prosperity gospel. These sets of ideas that are popular online and on TV do not desire Jesus but see him as a means to an end of wealth or power or any other earthly desire. It is important to note that these are good lies and, therefore; like all good lies are twisting's of the truth. It is as the old saying goes, don't mistake the blessings for the blesser. In this case it would be to not desire the blessings *over* the blesser. There are many motivations for faith and when I look at all that God has done for me these things certainly point me towards him. My praise and gratitude are amplified when they are not hidden behind shame. Therefore it is better to accept God's grace and blessing graciously and praise him accordingly.

In Christ

Ross Atherton

WOW!!!- St. Matthew you showed up for SCUBA Vacation Bible School this year! It was an absolutely fin-tastic year full of bible stories, music, game time, scriptures, yummy snacks and fellowship that all taught us how to dive into a deeper friendship with God. "Thank you" does not begin to describe the sincere appreciation to our unbelievable volunteers for their amazing love for our children to our spectacular church family who supported this ministry. Thank you!

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!

Please keep praying for our kids that have attended Beulah Bible Camp June 24 – 27 and Beulah Beginning Camp June 28 & 29. These kids camps allow our children to turn off the electronics, be kids, build everlasting friendships and be saturated in God's Word and teaching.

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 for a special prize!

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.

Heads up for the calendar... Wednesday Kids' Club begins September 4 (6 pm – 7 pm). Trunk or Treat is Thursday, October 31 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

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!

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!

SCUBA VBS raised an amazing amount of money and supplies for the Operation Christmas Child ministry (aka shoebox ministry).

The girls raised \$1,862.42 in cash donations and the boys raised \$2,546.66 for a grand total of \$4,409.08! INCREDIBLE!

So, after a 5 year losing streak, the boys finally won the competition and our amazing Children's Ministry intern, Aly Roberts got the freezing cold water & squid ink! But we raised so much money & donations that will bless some incredible kids all around the world. Thank you to our VBS kids and their parents for your faithful giving.



Sunday Night Youth - Each Sunday at 5:00 pm in the Youth Room. **HOWEVER NO YOUTH - July 21.**

Tuesday lunches continue throughout July!

July 17 thru 20 - Chicago Mission trip - we'll be serving at a teen center in Orland Park on Thursday, day of fun on Friday downtown, then working at the church staying at in the morning and coming home. Cost is \$50.

July 28th - honor our graduating seniors at youth, 5 to 7:30 pm

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.

Other News

Need Urgent Prayer or Any Prayer?

Do you need urgent prayer? Do you have any type of prayer request that you'd like a committed set of prayer warriors to pray for? Our prayer team is eager to pray for you and your requests for people within or outside of our church. Our unique purpose is for rapid response to urgent and timely prayer needs, but we will pray for any need (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, medical) when you call and activate our team. Currently we have about 100 faithful team members who are asked to keep your information confidential as they pray. God says that the prayers of a righteous man accomplishes much and we believe that. Contact Jean Swenson to have the Intercessory Prayer Team pray for your need. Landline: 618-236-9572; Cell phone: 618-920-9531; Email: JLS610@att.net

Summer Sack Lunch Program

The Summer Sack Lunch Ministry is in full swing and continues each Monday until our last delivery on Monday, August 5. St. Matthew provides 250 - 300 lunches each Monday. We partner with other churches throughout the community as they do Tuesday - Friday what we do on Monday.

There is a donation bin in the foyer if you would like to contribute items such as: fruit cups (applesauce, peaches, pears, etc.), pudding cups, salty snacks, fruit snacks and juice boxes or pouches. If you would like to donate perishable items there is a refrigerator labeled "Kids For Christ" in the kitchen for white sandwich bread and cheese slices in bulk. Due to allergies, no peanut products please. Thank you for your support!

Stewardship Corner

“ I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation” (Phil. 4:12).

John Rockefeller was once asked how many millions it takes to satisfy a man.

He wisely replied, “The next one.” As those trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are to be content with what we have, knowing that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

NEW LIFE CLUB is Thursday, July 18 at noon, in the Vine Cafe. Our program will be presented by Tom Myrde presenting "The Golden Era of Showtunes." Lunch will be provided and served by Rachel Brandon and friends for a donation of \$7.00. Our devotion will be given by Marilyn Lewallen. We look forward to seeing you and bring a friend. It's a great fellowship with Christian folks.

Senior Bible Study will be July 11 and July 25 and will start with coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m and Bible study at 10:00. Shelby Walasin leads this study. Come prepared to learn a lot!

“Redeemed Again” The Thrift Shop of St. Matthew - We need baby and children's clothing and underwear very much. Also we need towels, jewelry, pots and pans. Your donations are priceless and very much needed.

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. You can become a blessing and be blessed!

ST. MATTHEW SR. TRAVELS

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

It's Just Lunch - 1860 Public House - Freeburg - July 24, 2024

St. Louis Tour Then & Now - August 8, 2024

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

Christmas In Branson - Wisconsin - November 18 - 24, 2024

1 more to follow this year.

We have many volunteers in this ministry but there is room for more. Please contact me if you are interested in getting more involved. We can use all kinds of skills and talents.

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

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.****



Our Summer Sack Lunch volunteers are busy at work each Monday morning feeding the needy children in our neighborhoods.



The first Tuesday youth lunch of the summer met at Wendy's before they came back to church to help set up for VBS. We are so blessed to have so many young people in fellowship with each other and the Lord.



The Guatemala mission trip wasn't without its challenges. They experienced multiple flight delays and cancellations, they were split up at two different airports in Texas and they arrived in Guatemala to washed out and impassable roads. Did those challenges mitigate God's work? NO! In fact, it made the work they were able to accomplish that



much more rewarding. We are grateful for the lives touched, the disciples made and the safe return of our devoted team!



Thanks to everyone who played a part in making this year's SCUBA VBS a huge success! We had 260 kiddos and volunteers in attendance! Whether you donated items, came to craft days, helped decorate, volunteered to work with the kids, etc ... each and every one of you helped plant the seeds of faith. We are grateful for your dedication to the St. Matthew Children's Ministry!



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.

July will be a huge month for us here at St. Matthew Celebrate Recovery! We will have three super testimonies, and a walk to the cross service, with a lesson that will challenge us to allow God to change us into the people He designed us to be. Chrissy and I will be traveling to California to the home of Celebrate Recovery, Saddleback Church. Once again I will be the Operations Lead for Summit. This year's theme is One Day At A Time (O.D.A.T). Leaders from all over the country and the world will come together for training, encouragement and connection with the best worship and surprise special guests which will include Rick Warren. Two more of our leaders from St. Matthew CR, Max Minton and Austin Ernst will also be with us in California. In July we will also be making our final preparations for our mission trip to Paraguay. We thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. You are helping to bring Jesus to hurting people not only in our local community but also in communities around the country and the world.

July 5 - Roy Davis, our Celebrate Recovery Inside rep. for Southern IL. will be with us to share his testimony. CR Inside is the ministry of Celebrate Recovery designed for men and women who are in our prison system. Roy and other CR Inside reps and leaders go into the prisons and jails around the country and share the principles and steps of Celebrate Recovery. You will be blessed and you may even feel called to help with this ministry.

July 12 - Kathy Morgan will be teaching a lesson called "Ready". Are you ready to have God remove the character defects and hurts, and habits in your life? This will be a special evening as we will also be nailing our burdens to the cross... literally! Every year we practice this process at the same time as our brothers and sisters in California at the annual Summit.

July 19 - Toby DePoister, ministry leader at Edgewood Celebrate Recovery will be coming to share his testimony with us. Toby and his wife Felicia have been involved in Celebrate Recovery for several years now working their recoveries and helping others through addictions and hurts.

July 26 - Ricardo Baez will be sharing his testimony with us. Ricardo is from Asuncion, Paraguay, and is currently a Celebrate Recovery leader in our Regional Director's (Scott Kemp) CR in Bloomington IL. Ricardo will be going with our team to Paraguay the following Sunday as we help to establish Celebrate Recovery there.

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.

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

July 3

Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Home Grown Sweet Corn
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

July 10

Bacon Wrapped Pork Filets
Potatoes ‘ala Jack’
Baked Beans
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

July 17

Chicken Fried Steak
Au Gratin Potatoes
Green Beans
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert



Special Events Calendar

July 4	Office Closed
July 9	Never Alone
July 11	Senior Bible Study
July 18	New Life Club Luncheon
July 25	Senior Bible Study
July 25	LifeGroups
July 26 - Aug 2	Beulah Holiness Camp

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