



SAINT MATTHEW

**June
2024
Newsletter**

SCUBA Vacation Bible School



SCUBA Vacation Bible School (VBS) is **June 10 – 14** from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for potty trained 3 year olds through kids who have finished 6th grade. Join us for an underwater adventure where we dive into a

friendship with God as we explore the book of John. It's free, so bring your friends as we explore God's beautiful underwater playground and truly dive into His Word!

Free registration is available at:
vbspro.events/p/stmatthewvbs2024.

Or you can register by scanning this QR code.

It's going to be a fin-tastic week!



Beulah Holiness Camp Meeting



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

Beulah Holiness Camp is an inter-denominational, inter-generational camp and spiritual retreat that provides contemporary Gospel messages in a historical setting. Beulah Holiness Camp Meeting is a week long family camp experience with programs for children, youth and adults. Please see the daily schedule at <https://beulahholinesscamp.org/> for a more detailed description of camp activities, preaching schedule, fees, housing, and more! Registration for this camp opens May 1. There are brochures available in the rack by the Coffee Bar if you would like more information.

Kids & Youth Beulah Camps

Beulah Camps have celebrated over 100 years of holiness preaching and worship. This year, we would like to add you to the Beulah Camp family!

Beulah Youth Institute - Grades 8-13 - June 26 - 22
Contact Matt Vollmar for more information on camp, cost and how to register.

Beulah Bible Camp - Grades 5-7 - June 24 - 27
Contact Lindsay Vollmar for more information on camp, cost and how to register.

Beulah the Beginning - Grades 2-4 - June 28 - 29
Contact Lindsay Vollmar for more information on camp, cost and how to register.

Baptism Sunday

Sunday, June 30 will be a baptism Sunday. If you would like to be baptized, or would like to learn more about baptism, please contact Casey Skelton at: cskelton@stmatthew.church or by calling the church office at 618-397-5994 to schedule a meeting with Pastor Bob Swickard.



Food Truck Sunday



Sunday, June 30 will also be Food Truck Sunday! There will be a couple of food truck options that will be ready to serve you after the first service (around 11:00 am) in the lower parking lot (\$\$). There will be picnic tables set up for your convenience. So, plan on

food and fellowship together after church on this glorious summer day!

Summer is here! June typically marks the beginning of those three luscious (if not humid,) months we call summer. We find a change in some of our routines, perhaps. Summer is a time for vacations, ball games, backyard barbecues, mission trips, gardening, do-it-yourself projects around the home, and maybe even running through the sprinkler in the backyard or blowing up the miniature pool! It can also be a time for culinary delights: Homemade ice cream, new recipes for picnics, or basil lemonade. (Trust me!) Summer can be a time for “catching up” on things you have wanted to do but haven’t had the time to do them. Maybe you will go to a museum you’ve been wanting to visit or do a project you have been postponing. But summer is also a time that you can experience a lot of great things at church!



There is nothing like going to church in summer to worship with your friends and neighbors! Going to church any time of the year is a blessing, but there is a fun “vibe” at church during summer. Perhaps because of the “relaxed” schedules or maybe because of the sun and heat, but church can be as powerful in summer as anytime! And we have wonderful Sundays planned for June!

On June 2, we will have a guest speaker named Roger Songer. Roger and his wife, Sue, will be joining us that Sunday at both services. Roger was the Christian Campus House Minister at Eastern Illinois University for a number of years! He is a great teacher and a great friend!

On June 9, we will wrap up our “More Than Conquerors” series with the end of Romans 8. (How are you doing on memorizing Romans 8? Truly, to memorize it in its entirety is one of the greatest gifts you will give yourself.) Be sure not to miss this exciting conclusion to this extraordinary chapter of Scripture.

Then, on June 16, we will begin a new series on Christian Community. I think this is one of the greatest things I love about church. Apart from my relationship with our Triune God, I think what I appreciate the most is the community we have here at St. Matthew. And, as many of you know, what we have been given in each other is more than a treasure trove. What else will open up to you through Christian community? I hope you will join us in June to find out!

Looking forward to summer with you!

Bob

SCUBA Vacation Bible School is June 10 – 14 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm for potty trained 3 year olds through kids who have finished 6th grade. Join us for underwater adventure where we dive into a friendship with God as we explore the book of John. It's free, so bring your friends as we explore God's beautiful underwater playground and truly dive into His Word! Free registration is available at: vbspro.events/p/stmatthewvbs2024. It's going to be a fantastic week! (You can also register by scanning the QR Code in the foyer).

SCUBA V.B.S. Volunteer sign up is available in the main foyer! We have many different ranges of jobs available like crew leader, snack helpers, door greeters, hallway monitor, room decorator, etc. We have the perfect spot for you no matter how involved or not you'd like to be. Don't forget work days on June 3 – 5 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm!

Beulah Kids Camp registration is available. Beulah Bible Camp is for kids finishing 4th – 6th grade and held on June 24 - 27. Beulah Beginning Camp is for kids finishing 1st – 3rd grade and held on June 28 & 29. To stay in the church cabins and for a price break, please contact Lindsay for registration info and passcode. Packing info & more info coming closer to camp time!

A great big “thank you” to Ruth Brashares, Stephanie Keck, Molly Hepp, Christine Impastato, Gina Swickard, Matthew Swenson & Aly Roberts for your loving help every single Wednesday night for Kids' Club & Nursery. We truly appreciate the love, time & dedication you pour on our kids & families every week. Kids' Club resumes on September 4, so mark your calendars!

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 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!

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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!

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.

Sunday Night Youth - Each Sunday at 5:00 pm in the Youth Room. **NO YOUTH - June 16 or 23 this month**

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.

June 2 - Color Wars Begins!!! Sunday night, 5 to 7:30 pm!

June 3 - 5 - VBS work week, 1 to 4 pm.

June 4 - Youth Lunch - 11:30 am thru 1 pm. Every week will be a different place/location, see Matt for more details.

June 10 - 14 - VBS, 8:30 to 12:15 - all youth who are working this event.

June 16 - 22 - Beulah Youth Institute Camp. See Matt to register.

Other News

Baby Bottle Update / Praise Report

From Kathy Lesnoff, President/CEO of Mosaic Pregnancy Center:

Thank you for encouraging your congregation to support Mosaic Health's 2024 Baby Bottle Campaign. Your support of our mission to meet the needs of men and women and save the lives of the unborn is truly a blessing. To date this year, more than 3,021 individual bottles have been collected from 83 different churches/groups in the Metro East, resulting in a total of **\$99,712.36** raised!

The amount collected from your church this year was \$1,952.52. Please extend our heartfelt gratitude to your congregation for their generosity. We pray for God's blessings on you, your ministry, and your congregation!

The Sanctuary Choir Will Break For The Summer

The Sanctuary Choir's last rehearsal will be **Wednesday, June 19**. After that rehearsal, the choir is invited back to Hank & Wanda's house for ice cream! The choir will still sing each Sunday, even through they will take a break from rehearsals. Rehearsal will begin again in August and it would be a great time to join! You can contact Hank Oplinger or Carrie Crago for more information about joining the choir.

Summer Sack Lunch Program

The Summer Sack Lunch Ministry begins again on **Monday, June 3** and continues each Monday for 10 weeks 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.

We announce a call for the return of our many volunteers! If anyone is interested in helping in this ministry, call Diane Patton (618-604-1620). Do we need the congregation's help also? YES! A bin will be in the foyer and you can help by filling the bin up each week with non-perishable foods such as: fruit cups (applesauce, peaches, pears, etc.), pudding cups, salty snacks, fruit snacks, white sandwich bread (because the bread needs to be fresh, please drop loaves in on Saturday and Sunday), cheese slices in bulk (rather than individually wrapped) and juice boxes or pouches. Due to allergies, no peanut products please. Thank you for your support!

NEW LIFE CLUB is Thursday, June 20th at noon, in the Vine Cafe. Our program will be presented by our Senior Pastor and wife, Bob and Gina Swickard, in regard to their recent mission trip to "Guatemala." Ladonna Kalish will be our lunch coordinator. Please join us and learn about the mission field in Guatemala and experience the friendship and camaraderie in our group. Bring a friend.

Senior Bible Study will be June 6th and 27th 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. We are in great need of the baby items. Also we need pots and pans. Thank you for all of your donations. You continue to bless this ministry!

New Life Club Choir is practicing at **4:00 p.m. in the Park Room**. We are singing our way through the assisted living places in the area. Choir winds down for the summer after June 5, but please pray about joining us in the fall.

ST. MATTHEW SR. TRAVELS

Stages in St. Louis - “Steel Magnolias” - June 13, 2024

Queen Esther at Branson - Last Trip - July 9-10, 2024

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

St. Louis Tour Then & Now - August 8, 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

More to follow.....

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. June’s meeting date is **Thursday, June 27**

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.****

A stormy spring delayed the College Ministry Pop Up carnival by a week, but it only increased the fun!

The games, the food, the dunk tank, the movie, the fun and the fellowship were outstanding! Thanks to the college ministry and their leaders for putting on such a fun and unique event and thanks to you all for coming out to support this great ministry.



Jeanie Lively invited all of the thrift shop volunteers to “*Be Her Guest*” at the annual thrift shop volunteer appreciation luncheon on Friday, May 3. Toby Sheppard made a beautiful lunch, adorable tea sets adorned the tables



and our wonderful volunteers got to visit and fellowship with each other outside of “work”. The thrift shop is such a blessing to this community and it doesn’t exist without you! So, thank you all for your hard work.



The St. Matthew softball season is off to a great start with a 4 - 0 record and a rainout! If you would like to come watch them play the games are each Tuesday night at the O’Fallon



Sports Park. Ice cream usually follows. So, come on out and cheer them on!

Fun fact: this multigenerational team is comprised of athletes and coaches who range in age from 17 - 71 (or close!). That’s amazing!

The famed St Matthew Bowling Team completed its 24th season in high spirits. Season highlights include having the two highest handicap games in the league for the season. Left to right: Bud Elliott, Terry Atwood, Bob Blankenship, Del Brashares, Tom Thom, Gary Swain, and Dave Johnson. Bud and Del had double duty that evening as it coincided with the first night of the season for the St. Matthew Softball Team.



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.

This month at Celebrate Recovery we will be getting into some important lessons. We will be hearing from Kathy Morgan about why when we CONFESS, we can experience God's grace and peace and get back to living in reality and truth. Kathy Metz will be sharing a lesson titled, "ADMIT" . Kathy will talk about the need for us to admit our part to play in the different struggles and hurts that we go through in life. And on June 21st we will welcome Amanda Taul from Granite City Celebrate Recovery . Amanda will share her story and what God is doing in her life.

We are also preparing for our mission trip to Paraguay. We will be taking Celebrate Recovery curriculum in Spanish to a team of missionary and church leaders and training them to be able to bring Celebrate Recovery into the churches and communities they serve. We will be visiting many areas of the capital city, Asuncion, where we will share worship, testimonies, and Celebrate Recovery with people who are in desperate need. We humbly ask for your prayers and support in this mission. The trip will require considerable Guidance from the Lord as well as finance so any help with your prayers and financial support is so greatly appreciated. You can be a part of taking this life changing ministry into Paraguay and know that you are helping to change lives in some of the poorest and hardest hit communities in the global epidemic of illegal drug use and human trafficking. As always, Chrissy and I want to say thank you so much for hosting and supporting Celebrate Recovery here at St. Matthew!

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: stmatt.co/wed-meal

June 5

Roast Beef
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Orange Glazed Carrots
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

June 12

BBQ Pork Steaks
Potatoes ‘ala Jack’
Baked Beans
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

June 19

Spaghetti & Salciccia
Cheese Garlic Toast
Salad Bar
Spumoni & Cookies

Stewardship Corner

“Those who trust in their riches will fall,
but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf” (Prov. 11:28).

Money can be a blessing or a curse, depending on our attitude towards it.



Special Events Calendar

June 2	Guest Speaker Roger Songer
June 6	Senior Bible Study
June 10 - 14	VBS
June 11	Never Alone
June 16	Father's Day
June 16 - 22	Beulah Youth Institute
June 20	New Life Club Luncheon
June 24 - 27	Beulah Bible Camp
June 27	Senior Bible Study
June 27	LifeGroups
June 28 - 29	Beulah: The Beginning
June 30	Baptism Sunday & Food Truck Sunday

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