



**May
2024
Newsletter**

Saturday Worship Night

Everyone is invited to an evening worship service on **Saturday, May 11** from 6:30 - 8:30 pm hosted by the St. Matthew College Group.



National Day Of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is **Thursday, May 2**. The theme is “Lift Up The Word - Light Up the World” based on Samuel 22:29 - 31: *You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness into light. With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. As for God; his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him.* (NIV).

We invite you to join us for a time of worship, praise and prayer in the St. Matthew Chapel at 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 2.

A light lunch will be available following prayer time for a free-will donation. Please call the church office to register or use the sign-up sheet at the Connection Center located in the foyer. We look forward to sharing with you in prayer.

THE 73RD ANNUAL
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024



**LIFT UP THE WORD -
LIGHT UP THE WORLD**
2 SAMUEL 22:29-31

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!



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 26** for anyone who would like one. The deadline to submit your graduate is **Monday, May 20**.

The end of the Master's, the end of the Stanley Cup, the end of the U.S. Open, the end of the Daytona 500... they all have one thing in common. What is it? The raising (and kissing) of the trophy! Perhaps the experience is summarized best with the phrase, "To the Victor go the spoils." We get it. After long grueling tennis matches or four long quarters of a Superbowl, our inner competitor finds a tinge of delight when the trophy is raised, vicariously enjoying what is certainly the joy for the victor. Perhaps that is because we understand what is like to struggle; to wrestle; to battle; (not in a ring or on a field or a court, but spiritually!)



We know that as followers of Jesus, we battle against unseen forces of wickedness. We may not have experienced 3-4 hours on a tennis court going back and forth, but we know what it is like to waver between holiness and sinfulness. Like Paul, we do the things we don't want to do and we don't do the things we want to do. So yes, we know there is a struggle – and deep down we want to know there is a victory for us as well.

Well there is! In fact, the Apostle Paul says we are "More than conquerors!" Think of that! The conqueror is the one who experienced victory, the one who won! How can a Christian be more than a conqueror? Well, it is because of the surpassing greatness of Jesus Christ and the provisions God the Father has made through his Spirit. We see this most vividly in the eighth chapter of Romans.

So this month, we are going to start a series called, "More Than Conquerors." We will be spending the month going through the chapter and finding the incredible victories God has given us through Jesus Christ. I hope you will join us for the month of May as we begin this beautiful journey through Romans 8. And, for the month of May, I will invite you to read and re-read Romans 8 as we unpack it each week.

I believe what you will find on the other side is incredible, powerful, comforting and life-changing news to encourage you in your walk with Christ. Why? Because you are More Than Conquerors!

Amazed by His Grace!



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 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. It's going to be a fin-tastic week! (You can also register by scanning the QR Code to the right).



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. Please sign up in the main foyer for 1 of these training dates: Sunday, May 19 (4:00 pm) OR Wednesday, May 22 (6:00 pm). Don't forget work days on June 3 – 5 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm!

Beulah Kids Camp registration is available at early bird discount until May 2. 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!

Wednesday Kids' Club & Nursery last day is May 1! Thank you for an incredible year of diving into God's Word as we study, memorize & live out scripture. The fall session of Kids' Club resumes Wednesday, May 4, so mark your calendars!

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).

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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!

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

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

(This Month: No Youth On May 12 for Mother's Day.)

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.

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. April's meeting date is **Thursday, May 23**

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.

Senior Ministry: *Jeanie Lively - 618-979-7434 - jlively@stmatthew.church*

NEW LIFE CLUB is Thursday, May 16 at noon, in the Vine Cafe. Our program will be presented by Rita Eckert of "Eckert's Florist." Our luncheon will be provided and served by Hank Oplinger and Crew. New short trips will be available for signup and as always there will be plenty of Christian fellowship for the soul. Reservations are not taken, just drop in! Bring a friend.

Senior Bible Study will be May 9th and 30th and will start with coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m and Bible study at 10:00. Shelby Walasin leads this study. We also pray and share with each other which is support for the soul.

"Redeemed Again" The Thrift Shop of St. Matthew needs kids' clothing, dishes, pots and pans, towels and Fourth of July decorations. You bless others as you bless us with your wonderful donations.

New Life Club Choir is practicing at **4:00 p.m. in the Park Room**. We have many assisted living, etc. places booked to sing in through spring. If you love the Lord and His music, please consider joining us.

ST. MATTHEW SR. TRAVELS

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

QUEEN ESTHER AT BRANSON - LAST TRIP - July 9-10, 2024 - openings.

Many more *great* "short trips" for the rest of the year will start rolling out in May. They will fill up quickly.

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 and is open to anyone and everyone. Registration for this camp opens May 1. There are brochures available in the rack by the Coffee Bar or you can visit <https://beulahholinesscamp.org/> for information on the speakers for the week, the schedule, fees and housing, and more!



Welcome Our New Members



Please join us in giving our new members a big St. Matthew welcome!

Pictured from left to right, back to front are: Dean Knight, (Ross Atherton), Jay Ellis, Cindy Ellis, Ardell Manning, Melinda Kinder, Mark Wojic, John Sova, (Bob Swickard), Linda Knight, JoAnn Wojic, Beverly Athmer, Ellynn Crowden, Angie Sova, Beverly Girard & Evelyn Belfor.

Not Pictured: Scott & Elizabeth Archibald, C.J. & Jenna Barnes, Jim & Nancy Bryant, Todd & Katie Griffin, Andrew Sova and Keith & Karen Stephens.

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!

Souders Scholarship

DEADLINE APPROACHING!

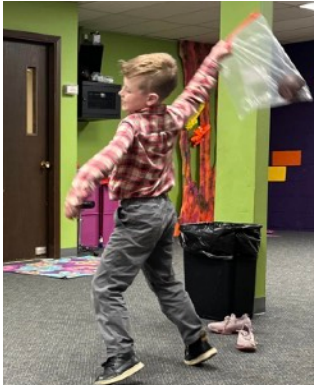
The Edward and Evelyn Souders Scholarship is awarded to one college student each year. The recipient should be an active participant in St. Matthew and not a child, spouse or dependent of a St. Matthew staff member. Preference will be given first to a student preparing for full-time ministry, second 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**.



The St. Matthew Children’s ministry participated in a Rice Bowls mission project where they sacrificed some change during the season of Lent.



The kids smashed open their Rice Bowls in early April to reveal that they had collected \$354.57! That amount will feed 44 kids from Christian orphanages for a whole month. Thank you to our kids for making a change in the lives of others!



If you would like more information about this mission project, you can visit (ricebowls.org).



The St. Matthew youth and sponsors enjoyed a weekend in Branson for Young Christians Weekend at Silver Dollar City! (Above)

Medical Mission Supplies Needed

The St. Matthew Guatemala Mission Team leaves on **Friday, May 31**.

We need your help in collecting medical supplies for this team’s trip.

Please place all items in the donation bin in the foyer. Thank you in advance for your help!

A list of suggested medical items for donation

- Ibuprofen
- Children’s Ibuprofen (Liquid & Chewable)
- Tylenol
- Children’s Tylenol (Liquid & Chewable)
- Prenatal Vitamins (No Gummies)
- Children’s Vitamins (No Gummies)
- Adult Multivitamins (No Gummies)

- Hydrocortisone Cream
- Triple Antibiotic Cream
- Anti-fungal Cream
- Antacids
- Allergy Medications
- Cough Drops

OR: Monetary donations (please write “medical missions” on your check)



Stewardship Corner

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:9).

When we give to God, we are the primary beneficiaries.

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.

May will be a special month and a little bit unique for Celebrate Recovery here at St Matthew. We will kick off on May 3rd with a concert by *We Are Vessel* with special guests Brooke Robertson and Abby Walker. The concert is free to everyone, we will however take up a love offering for the band. You won't want to miss this, Randall Broadhead, the lead singer, has an interesting life story that will touch your heart and leave you inspired. We will have dinner at 6 then the concert and stick around for men's and women's open share groups after.

On May 17 we will have the Celebrate Recovery National Director of Opioid recovery ministries, Nick Olsen with us to share his testimony. Nick is from Chicago and Chrissy and I have spent time working with him at the last three CR Summit events. He has a powerful testimony of how God uses the recovery process to bring restoration and joy back into our lives.

Then May 18 is our Celebrate Recovery one day Training Conference in St. Louis. We will be taking people over to learn all about how Celebrate Recovery works, how to lead in CR and how to start new CR groups. There will also be training for the children's and youth programs Celebration Place and The Landing. Several members of the National Celebrate Recovery TEAM will be there including Johny Baker, our Global Executive Director. If you have ever been interested in getting involved in serving at CR, Celebration Place, or The Landing, please call the church office and ask about registering for the conference.

We will also be hearing lessons about creating a Spiritual and personal inventory of our lives. Until we get serious about the things God needs to work on in our lives by doing some writing and reflection, there is no clear road map of how we got to where we are and definitely no clear map of what the road ahead might look like. We will be learning about how useful it is to document milestones and crises in our lives and how to use that information to improve our walk with God and our relationships with one another on this earth. We hope you'll join us each Friday for dinner at 6 followed by a large group meeting and wonder live worship at 7, then open share groups at 8. Thank you so much for your continued support of this ministry!

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

May 1

BBQ Pork Steaks
Potatoes “Ala Jack”
Baked Beans
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

May 8

Beef & Noodles
Malibu Vegetable Medley
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

May 15

Pitkin County Pork Chops
Au Gratin Potatoes
Peas
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert



Special Events Calendar

May 2	National Day Of Prayer
May 9	Senior Bible Study
May 11	Worship Night
May 12	Mother's Day
May 14	Never Alone
May 14	Administrative Board Meeting
May 16	New Life Club Luncheon
May 23	LifeGroups
May 27	Church Office Is Closed
May 30	Senior Bible Study
May 31	Guatemala Mission Trip

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