



**October  
2024  
Newsletter**

## **Saturday Evening Worship**



Everyone is invited on **Saturday, October 5**, at 6:30 pm, for this night of worship presented by the St. Matthew College Ministry.

What to expect: worship and prayer time led by College Ministry group leaders; cozy fall treats like hot cocoa,

apple cider and s'mores; worship inside followed by fall fellowship outside with a bonfire. Invite someone to come with you!

## **St. Matthew Trivia Night**

Ready to put that useless knowledge to the test? Come on out for our St. Matthew Trivia Night on **Friday, October 11 at 6:00 pm**. \$100 gets you a table of up to 8 people. It will be a fun night of trivia, food and fellowship. There will also be a silent auction. Feel free to bring your own snacks! All proceeds will benefit the St. Matthew Youth Ministry, specifically the new youth room. That's right, the youth ministry outgrew their old space and we have had to renovate to accommodate and welcome all our new youth members! What a WONDERFUL problem to have had! Get a group together and make your reservation by emailing Matt Vollmar at [mvollmar@stmatthew.church](mailto:mvollmar@stmatthew.church).

## **Baptism Meeting**

He will have baptisms on **Sunday, October 20**. If you would like to be baptized or would like more information, please plan to stay after the service on **Sunday, October 6** for a short meeting with Pastor Bob Swickard in the Vine Cafe. He will be available after both services. Or, you can contact Scott Ferguson at: [sferguson@stmatthew.church](mailto:sferguson@stmatthew.church).

## **New Members Class / New Member & Baptism Sunday**

If you would like to take the next step and become a member of St. Matthew we are holding a new members class on **Sunday, October 13** at noon in the Vine Cafe. A light lunch will be served followed by the membership class led by Senior Pastor, Bob Swickard. You will also learn about the different ministries of St. Matthew and have a chance to meet the ministry leaders.

Then, on **Sunday, October 20** we will welcome in our new members and baptize those members who have not yet been baptized, along with any others interested in baptism.

If you would like to attend the new members class, or have questions please contact Scott Ferguson at: [sferguson@stmatthew.church](mailto:sferguson@stmatthew.church) or by calling the church office at 618-397-5994.

## **Keyboard Praise**

Keyboard Praise is **Sunday, October 27 at 7:00 pm**.

This stunning concert features talented pianists playing on ten grand pianos accompanied by the St. Matthew organ. The evening will

blend a variety of hymn arrangements and light classical music performed by some of the most talented worship pianists in the area. This is a must see event for music lovers of all ages. Admission is free, but a love offering will be received. The doors open at 6:00 pm. Reservations are accepted for groups of 10 or more by calling the church office at 397-5994. Get your family and friends together and make your reservation today!



I have a fountain in my office I have always appreciated. It sits on a table opposite my desk. It looks like light gray stone within a black stone frame. I remember once watching the water trickle over the rock and I began to think, “You don’t see that every day! Water doesn’t come from a rock.” Then I was reminded how the Israelites in the desert were thirsty and complained to Moses. (Out of their thirst, they complained). Moses cried out to God and God led Moses to a rock on Horeb, (see Exodus 17 and Numbers 20), where Moses struck the rock and God provided water for all His people. This too, is not “normal.”



Water doesn’t flow from a rock. Water flows from a well when pumped. It flows in a stream. It flows from a faucet. Water can flow under a rock, around a rock and even over a rock, but it doesn’t flow from a rock!

Yet it did. Was it natural? No. Was it normal? No. Was it necessary? I believe so. Maybe God wanted the Israelites to see that with God, nothing is impossible. Maybe God wanted the Israelites to see that God could do anything, and, that God had their best interest always at heart and they could trust Him to lead them.

But the Israelites questioned. They grumbled. They complained. Perhaps they just couldn’t trust that God would continue to take care of them in the face of a scorching hot desert. I suppose we do too. Sometimes we focus so intently on the situations in our lives that we forget we are accompanied in life by the One who loves us and refuses to leave us orphaned. Perhaps you find yourself in such a situation today.

If so, may I remind you that the God who can bring water out of a rock can bring refreshment to you in whatever desert you are facing. You have the Holy Spirit, who comes up along side of you and is with you through all of life. Jesus is with you through His Spirit, and in Jesus, we find we never have to thirst again.

Writing about the Israelites in the desert, Paul addressed the church in Corinth saying, “All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. They drank from a spiritual rock that followed them and the rock was Christ.” (1 Cor. 10:2-4)

So if you’re tempted to focus only on the “rock” in front of you, thinking that the situation is beyond redemption, start looking for the water. Remember that the God who brings forth water from a rock is with you, and He will quench your thirsting soul.

**Wednesday Kids Club** meets 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).

**Want to help with Trunk or Treat?** Individually wrapped candy is being collected in the main foyer. We really could use all the candy donations you are willing to give, as every last piece is given in love. Or, the sign-up to host a vehicle is available by the church office. (If you sign up to host a vehicle, we ask that you please do not use the platform to promote a business.) Come out and help us love on our community!

**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.

**Scuba Christmas!** Yes, you read that correctly. Mark those calendars & join us for a free family event on Sunday, December 15 from 4:00 – 5:30 pm for Scuba Christmas. It's the same Scuba Vacation Bible School you loved this summer, but just with a little more Christmas story, songs & snacks. Everyone is invited to this free event and registration will open soon. If your kids are still singing those Scuba songs and missing their best pals Tad, Finnley, Fisher, Waylon & Octavia, then don't miss Scuba Christmas!

**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](mailto: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. 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](mailto:lvollmar@stmatthew.church) or at 618-660-7552 if you'd like to sign-up or would like more info.



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

**Wednesday Night Youth** - Youth Band - 5:30, 6 to 7 pm - Bible Study

**October 11** - Youth Trivia Night - 6:30 pm

**October 25** - Youth Bon Fire - 6 to 8 pm, DJ Mernick's house.

**College Ministry:** *Ross Atherton - 508-209-4635 - [ratherton@stmatthew.church](mailto: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](mailto: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. October's meeting date is **Thursday, Oct 24**

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.

**Contact Ross Atherton for information on groups  
for 20 - 30 years old such as Career & Couples or the College Ministry Group.**

**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](http://stlatt.co/wed-meal)

Oct 2

Roast Beef

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Green Beans

Salad Bar

Rolls

Dessert

Oct 9

BBQ Pork Steaks

Potatoes 'ala' Jack

Baked Beans

Salad Bar

Rolls

Dessert

Oct 16

Chicken Alfredo

Garlic / Cheese Bread

Orange Glazed Carrots

Salad Bar

Dessert

**New Life Club** is Thursday, October 17 at noon, in the Vine Cafe. Our program will be presented by the Belleville West Jazz Band and directed by Michael Pond-Jones. Our luncheon will be provided and served by Jack Lampe and Crew. Our devotion will be presented by Meredith Goodwin. Come join in for a wonderful time.

We will also be having our huge **COAT, PURSE AND JEWELRY SALE**. Hours are Wednesday, Oct. 16 from 10:00 am - 6:30 pm and Thursday, Oct. 17 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. These are fabulous items that we have collected all year, for a very small fraction of their original pricing. Don't miss it!

**Senior Bible Study** will be October 10 and 24 and will start with coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m. and Bible study at 10:00 in the Vine. Shelby Walasin leads this study. Loving Jesus means loving His word. Hope to see you there.

**"Redeemed Again," The Thrift Shop Of St. Matthew** - is blessed by your donations. We are in great need of baby clothing/items as well as maternity clothes, jewelry, fall decor and towels ... Thank you for your generous show of love.

**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 the fall and at Christmas. Now is the time to join in this wonderful ministry.

**St. Matthew Senior Travles**

**Amish Country - Arthur, IL** - October 21, 2024 - waiting list

**Fireside Dinner Theatre, Wisconsin** - October 31 - Nov.1, 2024 - full with waiting list

**Christmas In Branson** - Nov. 18-21, 2024 - several openings

**\*\*NEW\*\* - St. Louis Symphony Orchestra Christmas Concert & Lunch at Brio's Frontenac** - Dec. 22 - After Church

**We are working on our 2025 travel year. It's going to be GREAT!!!**

Find out where you can serve in this ministry. Call me.

**"One More Child" is Now "Weekend Meals Ministry"**

Same ministry, just a new name!

We are still helping vulnerable children in our community throughout the entire school year, just the name is changing to "Weekend Meals Ministry".

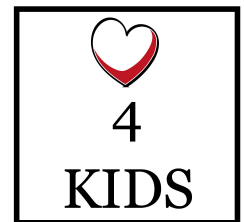
For only \$5.00, you can cover the cost of food for one child for one weekend. You can make a one time contribution, or you can sponsor a child for several weeks, or you can sponsor a child each weekend of the whole school year.

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 call Diane Patton for more information.

There are 3 ways to contribute: You can place cash or checks in an envelope (designated "Weekend Meals") in the offering plate on Sunday. You can deliver your contribution to the church office from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm on Monday - Thursday. You can also mail your contribution to St. Matthew Church at 1200 Moreland Drive - Belleville, IL 62223.

Please make checks payable to St. Matthew Church with the memo designated "Weekend Meals". Your care and prayers for these students are dearly appreciated!

WEEKEND  
MEALS =  
MINISTRY



## **Trunk Or Treat**

**Trunk or Treat** is **Tuesday, October 31** from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at St. Matthew - rain or shine! Host a vehicle, bring your kids out or just come and enjoy some fellowship time as all are welcome. We'll have decorated vehicles with candy, bounce houses, inflatables, an obstacle course, games, prizes, music, The Spud Shack Food Truck (\$) and so much more. This is always a fun time of fellowship with our community & outreach opportunity as we light the night with Jesus.

### **Want To Help With Trunk Or Treat?**

Individually wrapped candy is being collected in the main foyer. We really could use all the candy donations you are willing to give, as every last piece is given in love. Or, the sign-up to host a vehicle is available at the Welcome Center. (If you sign up to host a vehicle, we ask that you please do not use the platform to promote a business.) Come out and help us love on our community!

## **Funeral Hospitality Ministry - Help Needed**

One of the ways we show hospitality, as well as compassion, is in serving those following a funeral service. Family and friends can experience healing through fellowship by letting us provide the atmosphere and support through their difficult time. We accomplish this by volunteering to serve a meal after each funeral service. You can volunteer to help be there and serve the food or you can help by bringing dishes to be served at the meal. If you make the best broccoli casserole ever, or you are known for your potato salad, we need you! If you need more information, or would like to be added to the list of volunteers to bring a dish to be served, please contact Yvonne or Stephanie Keck.

## **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/](http://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.)

## **Glory Of Christmas Casting Call**

Our Drama Director, Brian Caringer, invites your family to be a part of Glory of Christmas! We are looking for all ages to join our fun & loving cast of townspeople, toy soldiers, shepherds, angels and much more. Speaking & non-speaking roles available. Our first full cast practice is Wednesday, November 6 at 7:15 - 8:15 pm in the Sanctuary. If you are interested, please contact Casting Director, Lindsay Vollmar, at (618) 660-7552 or [lvollmar@stmatthew.church](mailto:lvollmar@stmatthew.church).

Costume Fittings are Wednesdays, October 30, November 6 & November 13 from 6:00 – 7:15 pm in the Costume Room (under Sanctuary, through Choir Room). Please don't wait until the last minute!

## **A Ride To Vote!**

Pamela Packett has graciously offered her services to anyone who needs a ride to and from the polls on election day. So if you need a ride to the polls on Tuesday, November 5 feel free to contact Pamela at 618-340-9812 or via email at [pamswolfhounds@gmail.com](mailto:pamswolfhounds@gmail.com).

## **A Christian Classic Book Club - Upcoming Meetings**

Our next book club meeting will be **Wednesday, October 2** at 6 PM. Our book for October is *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Our November meeting will be **Wednesday, November 6** at 6 pm. Our book will be *In His Steps* by Charles Sheldon. The books can be purchased through Amazon. Please be sure to read the book before coming to the class. For questions, contact Scott or Liz Archibald.

## **Celebrate Recovery: Aaron Oplinger - 618-406-0287 - [aoplinger@stmatthew.church](mailto:aoplinger@stmatthew.church)**

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. From our Celebrate Recovery Family and leadership TEAM here at St. Matthew we want to say thank you for all your support in so many different ways.

Our Friday night dinners would not be possible without the volunteers who give their time each week to come and cook a meal for people to enjoy while getting to know each other before each Celebrate Recovery meeting: Rachel Brandon, Larry Scott, Roger and Jan Barfield, Carry Crago, Hank and Wanda Oplinger, Scott Fergusson, Stacey Hoffman, and Janet McClaurin.

We are also grateful for the work that Laura Maue does each week by driving the minibus to pick up and then take home individuals who would not be able to attend without that transportation.

We can always use more help in these areas, if you would be interested in contributing by cooking and serving a meal or by driving the minibus or van please contact me at 618-406-0287.

This month we are very excited to have our Celebrate Recovery Regional Director from Bloomington IL., Scott Kemp and his wife Veronica, coming to share their story on October 25. We will also be hearing from Kathy Morgan as she teaches about "Daily Inventory" and Tom Partelow will be sharing a lesson about how to avoid going backwards in life or suffering from a "Relapse". We will also have another testimony on October 11, and as always we hope to see you some Friday night.

"No perfect people allowed" in Celebrate Recovery

**Celebration Place** 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.

## **Stewardship Corner**

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on"  
(Mark 12:43-44).

Our giving to God is to be sacrificial.



## Special Events Calendar

Oct 5	Saturday Evening Worship
Oct 6	Baptism Meetings
Oct 8	Never Alone
Oct 10	Senior Bible Study
Oct 11	Trivia Night Benefiting Youth Ministries
Oct 13	New Member Class - Luncheon
Oct 17	New Life Club Luncheon
Oct 20	Baptism Sunday & Receive New Members
Oct 24	Senior Bible Study
Oct 24	LifeGroups
Oct 25	Youth Bonfire Night
Oct 27	Keyboard Praise
Oct 30	Glory Of Christmas Rehearsals Begin
Oct 31	Trunk Or Treat

## 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](http://stmatt.co/prayer)

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St. Matthew has a YouTube channel! Click on this link and Subscribe!

[youtube.com/@saintmatthew-belleville](https://youtube.com/@saintmatthew-belleville)