



**Sept
2024
Newsletter**

Fall Discipleship

Fall Discipleship returns on **Wednesday, September 4** with something for everyone!

Wednesday Night Meal: 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the Vine Cafe.

New Life Club Choir: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm in the Park Room with Jeanie Lively.

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

Kids Club: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in Kids Town with Lindsay Vollmar.

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

Biblical History: 6:00 pm - 7:00 in the Park Room with Jim Schuetz.

Intro To The Bible: 6:00 pm - 7:00 in the Soffranko Room with Bob Swickard.

Revelation: 6:00 pm - 7:00 in the Library with Ross Atherton.

Tangents: 6:00 pm - 7:00 in the Disciple Room with Brian Caringer.

A Classical Christian Book Study: 6:00 pm - 7:00 in the Bride's Room with Scott & Liz Archibald. September's book is: *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis. Start reading now!

Wesley Ringers: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm in Room 2 (downstairs under the Sanctuary) with Carrie Crago.

College Group: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the College Ministry Center (Door 7) with Ross Atherton.

Sanctuary Choir: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary with Hank Oplinger.

Other discipleship opportunities this fall ...

Life Groups: See page 4

Senior Bible Study: See page 5

Career & Couples: Contact Ross Atherton

Thursday Night College Group: Contact Ross Atherton

Bible Study Fellowship: See next column.

Bible Study Fellowship

For centuries, people have attempted to unlock the mysteries of Revelation. In Revelation: The Hope, we will discover that Jesus Christ is central to every prophecy, promise and passage. Revelation gives us hope of a world made new by the redemption and restoration that Jesus offers today and for eternity.

Day classes for women begin Wed Sept 11, 9:30 - 11 am.

Preschool program for kids newborn to 5 yrs old.
NEW student program for students K - 12.

Night classes for women and men begin Thurs, Sept 12, 6 - 7:30 pm.

Classes will meet at St. Matthew Church. Zoom classes are also available. Come join us, learn God's word and make new friends. For more information please call: Jane at 618-520-8357 or Candy at 618-363-3285.



Ogles Neighborhood Block Party!

Please join us for our 4th annual Ogles Neighborhood Block Party on **Sunday, September 22 from 4:00 - 7:00 pm** on the St. Matthew parking lot.

There will be free food, live music and fun for the whole family! Invite friends, family and neighbors. This is a great way to introduce new people to St. Matthew.

Recently, I came across Hebrews 12:28. It reads, “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,”. How many of you can resonate with the writer of Hebrews? Are you grateful today for a kingdom that cannot be shaken? What a beautiful reminder of what has been opened to us because of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Considering all we’ve been given through Christ, it seems only fitting that Christ followers would be the most grateful people on the planet. As Psalm 107:1 points out: “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” We have been given so much and we get to experience the work of the Holy Spirit within us daily to live for him. What a gift, indeed!

We even learn in the New Testament that gratitude is not only fitting, but it is God’s will for our lives. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “Giving thanks continually, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” So how are you at being grateful? The end of a summer is a great time to look back over this blur of a year and see all the times God has been faithful to us and blessed us. Are there things from this year you recognize immediately for which you would want to thank God?

One of the many things I will be grateful for this year is what happened at St. Matthew on August 11! On that memorable day, our church came together after a combined worship service to put our faith and love into action. Seeing everyone working together, praying together, growing together was such a blessing to me.

If you missed church on August 11, you missed out! Of all the “special” Sundays in a given year, I would have to say that Mission Outreach Sunday (MOS) is one of my favorites. To me, there is something so beautiful about the concept of the entire church worshipping together in unity, and then pooling our abilities and love for others so that many people can be blessed by the love of God through Jesus. Thank you for allowing the beauty of God to be seen on Aug. 11!

A huge thank you to the 12 volunteers who make up the mission outreach board (MOB) for their countless hours, organizing and creating this event! How incredible to see each person on the committee use their strengths and gifts to make the day flow so smoothly.

Thank you to the College students who served joyfully and with the love of Jesus.

Thank you to all the mission friends who reminded us of the impact they make .

Thank you to the custodians for all your hard work; to the amazing prayer team who powerfully prayed with people in the Disciple Room. Thank you to the greeter/hospitality team who lovingly welcome folks every week so well. Thank you to the musicians who provided music through the morning. Thank you to Casey Skelton for all her administrative help; the staff for their support; and you, the church family, who generously, graciously and abundantly bought school supplies and financially participated.

But most of all, Thank you God, for giving us the privilege of connecting your love with our availability and for connecting our resources with those who need them most. Thank you, Lord, for helping us fill 300 backpacks for kids in the Belleville area; writing 74 letters to service men and women at Scott AFB; and for filling 750 food bags that will provide 4500 desperately needed meals! What a God we serve! And what a privilege to serve Him!

Gratefully standing hand in hand with you in an Unshakable Kingdom!



Wednesday Kids Club resumes on September 4 from 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-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.

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. 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 or at 618-660-7552 if you'd like to sign-up or would like more info.



Volunteer training is Tuesday, September 17 at 2:45 pm in the Chapel for all helpers. The kids first day of club is Tuesday, September 24.

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

Sep 1 - No Youth/Labor Day weekend

Sep 20 - Girl's Slumber Party - Matt's house 6:30 pm to 9 am

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.

Music Ministry: *Hank Oplinger - 618-691-8787 - hoplinger@stmatthew.church*

Sanctuary Choir - If you like to sing and enjoy worship, you are invited to join the Sanctuary Choir. We will be starting Christmas music soon, rehearsals are each Wednesday at 7 pm in the choir room. If you are interested contact Hank Oplinger or Carrie Crago. The Masters Servants: 2Peter 4:10 “ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to SERVE others, as faithful stewards of God's grace”.

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. September's meeting date is **Thursday, Sept 26**

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.****

New Life Club is Thursday, September 19 at noon, in the Vine Cafe. Our program will be presented by the Don James Band. Lunch will be prepared and served by Rachel Brandon for a donation of \$7.00. Our devotion will be given by Ken Williams. We will have lunch then go to the chapel for our program, then back to the Vine for dessert. No reservations needed, just drop in and bring a friend.

Senior Bible Study will be September 12 and 26 and will start with coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m with Bible study at 10:00 a.m. Shelby Walasin leads this study. Do you want to grow in your knowledge of Jesus and His words to us? Join in.

“Redeemed Again,” The Thrift Shop Of St. Matthew - We need baby and children's clothing, underwear very much. Also we need towels, jewelry, pots and pans. You bless us and we in turn bless the community.

NEW LIFE CLUB CHOIR starts up again on September 4 at 4:00 p.m. in the Park Room and we sing in our first senior living place on Sept. 12. The new schedule will be handed out as well as new music. Please be there and bring a friend or anybody that likes to "sing." We have a great time together and praise Him in song and prayer.

St. Matthew Senior Travles

Price Family Jamboree - September 8, 2024 - several openings

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

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

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

***NEW - Christmas In Branson** - Nov. 18-21, 2024 - filling up quickly

***Coming Next Month to NLC For Sign Up - Stifel Hall - St. Louis Symphony Orchestra - A Christmas Celebration & Lunch at Brio's Frontenac** - Dec. 22 - After Church

Tell your family about our
New Life Club trip gift cards.

... *Any Amount*

... *Personalized*

... *Always fits*

... *Never have to dust!*

Lots of great day and multi day
trips coming out for 2025!

CALL JEANIE LIVELY 618-979-7434
(Sample gift card on the right!)



Stewardship Corner

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”
(Matt. 6:33).

It is possible to say one thing and yet do another concerning some aspects of the Christian life, but it is not possible to do so concerning our giving.

Men's Prayer Group

A men's prayer group is beginning on **Tuesday, September 17** at 8 am in the sanctuary. All men are welcome.

Volunteer Opportunities as "Master's Servants"

A new ministry is beginning to help with the church facilities and grounds; involving miscellaneous housekeeping chores, fixing things, organizing, etc. If interested, please contact Stuart Brethauer @ 618-560-6474.

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/. or more info on O.C.C., check out 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.)

One More Child

Much like our Summer Sack Lunch program, One More Child is a program designed to help vulnerable children in our community. Many children leave school on Friday not knowing when, or if, they will eat all weekend. One More Child seeks to eliminate food insecurity by providing a weekend's worth of food to needy children throughout the entire school year.



For only \$7.00, you can cover the cost of food for one child for one of those weekends. You can make a one time contribution or you can commit to sponsoring a child for each weekend of the 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 you can call Diane Patton for more information. Your prayers for these children are also appreciated!

Keyboard Praise Student Groups

We are looking for piano students **of all skill levels** to participate in Keyboard Praise this year! Keyboard Praise is an annual concert featuring 10 grand pianos and the organ and will take place in the Sanctuary on **Sunday, October 27**. Rehearsals begin in September on Saturday mornings at 10 am. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Matthew Swenson at mfish4life5@att.net.

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.

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 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.



September is here and we are moving into the Principles 7 and 8 lessons with new testimonies as well.

I want to say thank you so much for all the support you provided in our effort to bring Celebrate Recovery to Paraguay. Because of your support we were able to bring materials and training to three different leadership groups including Pastors of the Paraguay Methodist Church. We were met with overwhelming response to the program and a hunger for the safe and effective open share groups and step studies that are at the core of Celebrate Recovery. We look forward to walking through the coming months with our new CR Forever Family in Paraguay using technology to link us for leadership meetings and step studies. We could not do any of this without your support and we are very grateful for our St. Matthew Church Family!
God Bless you,
Aaron



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

Sept 4

Chicken Fried Steak
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green Beans
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

Sept 11

Meatloaf
Baked Potatoes
Malibu Blend Mixed Vegetables
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert

Sept 18

Bacon Wrapped Pork Filets
Potatoes ‘ala’ Jack
Honey Glazed Carrots
Salad Bar
Rolls
Dessert



Special Events Calendar

Sept 2	Church Office Closed
Sept 4	Wednesday Night Discipleship Begins
Sept 10	Never Alone
Sept 11	Day BSF Begins
Sept 12	Senior Bible Study
Sept 12	Night BSF Begins
Sept 17	Men’s Prayer Group Begins
Sept 17	GNC Training
Sept 19	New Life Club Luncheon
Sept 22	Block Party
Sept 24	GNC Begins
Sept 26	Senior Bible Study
Sept 26	LifeGroups

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