

SAINT MATTHEW

**December
2019
Newsletter**

The Glory of Christmas

December 8 & 9 at 7:00 pm.

The Glory of Christmas, a musical drama production, tells the story of Jesus' birth and God's gift of salvation. An ensemble of over 200 cast, choir and orchestra members amid beautiful costumes, realistic scenery and live animals make it a memorable Christmas experience for all ages. If you know someone who has not seen the Glory of Christmas, invite them. It is a wonderful opportunity to introduce new friends and family to Jesus and to Saint Matthew.

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24

3:00 pm - Candlelight worship service with a contemporary feel.

11:00 pm - Candlelight worship service with choir and orchestra.

Our Nursery 1 will be available for our little ones 5 years and younger. The Nursery will open at 2:45 pm for the 3:00 pm service and at 10:45 pm for the 11:00 pm.

In This Issue:

Page 1: Christmas Events & Breakthrough Prayer

Page 2: From the Pastor's Pen, Wednesday Night Meal Break & Student Ministry News

Page 3: Children's & Senior Ministry News

Page 4: Poinsettia Orders Due Back, Baby Bottles, CPR Class, The Children's Christmas Extravaganza & a Winter / Spring Class Preview

Page 5: Weekly Worship Opportunities, December Calendar of Events & Pastor Information

Breakthrough Prayer Walking

In November you received a Breakthrough 1200 prayer card. We asked you to pray daily for God to Breakthrough in each of these areas of St. Matthew: Worship, Discipleship, Ministries, Missions, Finances, Outreach, Witness & Leadership.

In January we are going to ask you to prayer walk St. Matthew with this same prayer. How can you prayer walk? However you are led! Or you can follow this plan: walk into the Sanctuary and pray for God to Breakthrough in Worship. Walk into Kids Town and pray for God to Breakthrough in Children's Ministry. Walk into the Youth Room and pray for God to Breakthrough in Youth Ministry. Walk into the church offices and pray for God to Breakthrough in Church Leadership. Walk into any area of the church, or on the church grounds, and pray this Breakthrough prayer.

Curious About Breakthrough Prayer?

In addition to prayer walking the church and church grounds, Breakthrough prayer invites God to do what is best for St. Matthew. For more information, you can find Breakthrough prayer videos and more at:

<https://www.snkibbey.com/flood-gates-resources/>

Fall Classes Ending

The last day of fall classes will be **December 11**. Thanks to everyone who participated in Wednesday Night Discipleship this session. We are blessed to be able to study and learn and rejoice in the Word together with you.

Pastor Andy Black is already working on an exciting line-up for Winter / Spring 2020 classes, which will begin on Wednesday, **January 8**. A provisional list can be found on page 4.

Information scientists have discovered that in 2011, Americans were taking in five times as much information each day as they did in 1986. (at least for those of us who were around in 1986!) ☺ What is staggering is that this is roughly the informational equivalent of 174 newspapers. What I found interesting in the article is that scientists tell us that while we are able to process the information we take in, it comes with a cost: we can have difficulty distinguishing between what is trivial and what is important



As we enter into the Christmas season, our minds will be inundated with new information, visuals, sounds, songs, memories, and experiences. The question is, will our minds be able to distinguish between what is trivial and what is important?

This December, there will be multiple opportunities around St. Matthew to help keep the most important things in mind.

Our Series for December is called, “Unexpected Christmas.” If you’ve ever experienced the “unexpected,” or want to be better prepared for the unexpected, don’t miss this series. In it, we’ll cover “*Unexpected Change*,” “*Unexpected Announcement*,” “*Unexpected Gift*,” “*Unexpected Worship*,” and on Christmas Eve, we’ll talk about the “*Unexpected Savior*.”

On Christmas Eve this year, we’ll have two services, the first will be at 3pm and the second at 11pm. The 3pm service will be a “Family-Oriented” service with candlelight and Silent Night at the end, and the 11pm service will be a “classic” candlelight service, (also with Silent Night at the end.)

Don’t forget to invite your friends to the Glory of Christmas on Dec. 8 and 9! At 7pm each night, the Christmas story will be re-told through music and narration for a great evening to remember the beauty of God and what He has done. It’s a great opportunity to introduce a friend to the story of Christmas

Of all the things we will experience in December, there is one thing that (was) and is earth-shattering! May we all have the ability to focus on the beautiful, wonderful, life-giving gift that we have a Savior, Jesus, who came to save the world!

Wednesday Night Meal Break

The last Wednesday night meal of 2019 will be served on **Wednesday, December 11**. The kitchen will reopen on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

Student Ministry News

Student Ministry: *Matt Vollmar - 618-795-6250 - mvollmar@stmatthewumc.org*

December 7 - 12:30 pm - We will be caroling at the Vintage Tea Room in downtown Belleville and eating lunch (provided) afterwards. Meet at the church at noon.

December 8 - 5:00 pm - We will be watching The Santa Claus, eating Christmas Cookies and drinking hot cocoa until we need to be ready for Glory of Christmas. If not in the play, you can hang out until it starts at 7 pm.

December 15 - 5:00 pm - Christmas Party/TGR Live Concert - starts at 5 pm. Wear your Christmas PJ’s, we’ll do a live stream concert with TGR streaming at 5:30, food and hanging out after at Lindsay and Matt’s house.

Children's Ministry: *Lindsay Vollmar - 618-660-7552 — lvollmar@stmatthewumc.org*

Wednesday Kids Club is free for all pre-school through 6th graders. Club runs from 6:00 – 7:30, so mark your calendars! Club is full of Bible studies, music, games, crafts, skits, fun & fellowship. Check out the flier in Kids' Town or the Welcome Center for more info.

Important 2019 Dates For The Calendar: Children's Easter Celebration (April 11 at 10:30 am), Kids spring musical (May 6, 2020), Vacation Bible School (June 8 – 12, 2020), Beulah Bible Camp 4th – 6th graders (June 15 – 18, 2020), Beulah Beginner Camp 1st – 3rd graders (June 19 & 20, 2020). **Please note** the change of camp weeks for Beulah 2020! They are 2 weeks earlier than in past years.

Date change for the spring musical: Change those calendars to show our children's musical, "Danny & the Shacks" will be Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 pm. Dress rehearsal for all kids will be Tuesday, May 5 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. "He will be with you in Babylon. He will be with you in the fire. He will be with you in the den. Look for where God is working!"

Tutoring at Ellis Elementary School has begun and we'd love your help. Are you available Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings from 8:00 – 8:45 am to tutor 1st – 3rd graders? Please contact Lindsay if you are willing to help. This is a fantastic way that our church can reach out and help our neighbors!

Kid Check! Don't forget to sign your kids in through our Kid Check system. Check-in systems are available in Nursery 1, Nursery 2/3 and Kids Town gazebo. Not registered? No worries! Let one of our ministry helpers know and we'll get it taken care of.

Good News Club is a free after school program for Kindergarten – 3rd graders. It's a fun time packed full of Bible stories, music, games, memory verses, skits and planting the seeds of Jesus in the lives of our kids in the community. We need your help, though. Please, be in prayer for seeds of faith to be planted and nurtured within our children.

Reminder, we will not have club on December 3, December 24, December 31. We return on January 7, 2020!

Senior Ministry News

Senior Ministry: *Jeanie Lively - 618-979-7434 - jlively@stmatthewumc.org*

OUR NEW LIFE CLUB MEETING will be held December 19 at noon in the Vine Cafe. Our program, "Holding on to Christmas," will be presented by The New Life Club Choir. Members are asked to bring cookies or finger desserts. Our lunch will be prepared and served by Jack Lampe, our St. Matthew "chef" extraordinaire. Come, fellowship, enjoy and bring a guest! All seniors are welcome.

NEW LIFE CLUB CHOIR is practicing Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Park Room. We are delivering God's word in song to many assisted living centers this month. Pray for this wonderful ministry please.

REDEEMED AGAIN - THE THRIFT SHOP OF ST. MATTHEW can use all kinds of toys as well as all kinds of items that could be gifts. Many of our customers do their Christmas shopping with us.

GIVE THE GIFT OF ST. MATTHEW SENIOR TRAVELS It's so easy. Just call me. You can purchase "individualized" certificates in any amount from \$25.00 - \$2,000.00 or more. These are great Christmas gifts for the "senior" on your list!

SENIOR TRAVEL

- * NEW * - St. Louis Symphony at Powell Hall Holiday Celebration and Dinner at Walnut Grill Sunset Hills - Sunday, December 15, 2019 - Cost: \$125.00 at booking.
- * NEW * - Fireside Dinner Theatre FT. Atkinson Wisconsin Overnight - June 4 - 5, 2020 - Deposit: \$50. Single: \$300, Double: \$230.00, Triple: \$205, Quad: \$190.
- St. Louis Cardinal Spring Training 2020 - February 28 - March 7, 2020 - is full with a waiting list. Please put your name on the waiting list if you want to attend. Folks from this list always get on the trip. Our trip description/pricing will be mailed to those on the trip and will be on the website and at our Welcome Center.

Any senior may travel with us. They need not be a member of St. Matthew. We have many such friends that travel with us month by month. We love meeting and traveling with "like minded" folks of all denominations and backgrounds.

New Trips Are Presented at our New Life Club meetings held the third Thursday of each month.

COMPLETE TRIP DESCRIPTIONS are at the Welcome Desk. You can also check the church website at www.stmatthewumc.org for up to date trip information. Anytime a trip is full that you are interested in, please sign up on the waiting list. We always get to most folks on this list. Come travel with us!

Poinsettia Orders

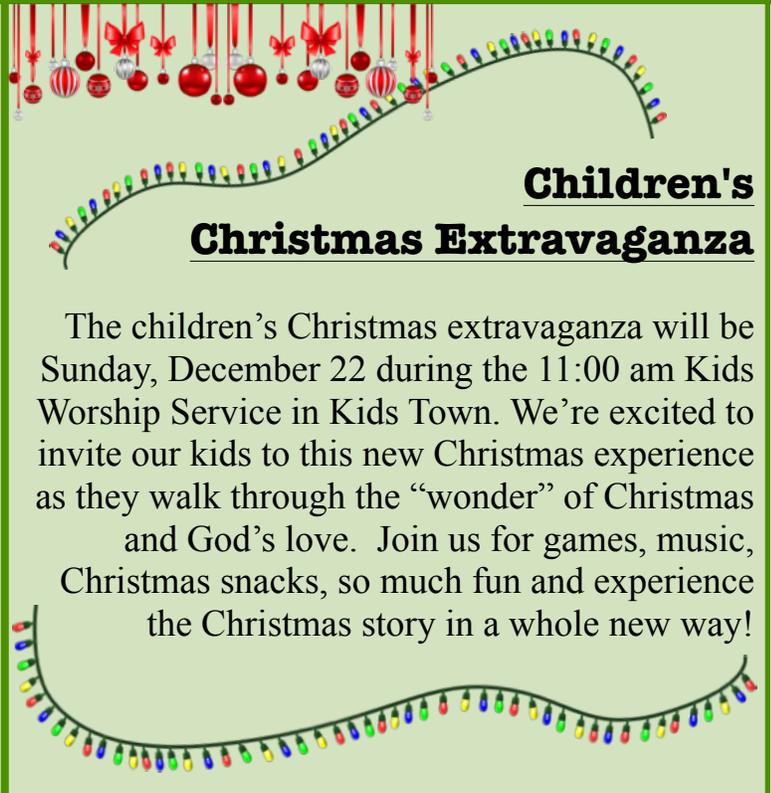
Please make sure you get your poinsettia order in before **December 16** in order to appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22.

CPR Class

Karen Schwoebel will facilitate a CPR/AED certification from ATEM on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 pm in the Park Room. The cost is \$25 per person. However, if you are a children's ministry volunteer (nursery, Good News Club, etc.) the class is free. If you would like to come to this class please contact Karen to sign up.

Baby Bottles

On **January 5**, we will begin distributing baby bottles to raise money for the Mosaic Pregnancy & Health Center, which provides free medical pregnancy related care and counseling. Take a bottle, fill it up and return it by January 26.



Children's Christmas Extravaganza

The children's Christmas extravaganza will be Sunday, December 22 during the 11:00 am Kids Worship Service in Kids Town. We're excited to invite our kids to this new Christmas experience as they walk through the "wonder" of Christmas and God's love. Join us for games, music, Christmas snacks, so much fun and experience the Christmas story in a whole new way!

Winter / Spring 2020 Wednesday Night Classes Preview

****All classes begin at 6:00pm on January 8, 2020 unless otherwise noted. Class offerings subject to change.*

Wednesday Night Worship (Chapel)

Pastor Larry Patton leads a worship service of prayer, praise, and preaching each Wednesday evening.

Worship begins at 6:30pm.

GriefShare (Bride's Room) *Date and Time to be determined**

Liz McGlasson leads this seminar and support group for those grieving the death of someone close to them. Come to recover from the deep hurt of death and find healing and hope.

OMEGA – New Testament (Side Vine Café)

Pastor Andy Black will be leading this class based on the DISCIPLE Fast Track curriculum. Participants will explore the "grand sweep" of the New Testament from Matthew to Revelation in just 15 weeks. ALPHA is a recommended prerequisite, but is not required.

Men's Study (Library)

DJ Mernick will be leading this group designed just for men.

Wired For Relationships (Park Room)

Pastor Bob and Gina Swickard co-lead this class based around enneagram personality types. This class will help you better love both the person God created you to be and the neighbors to whom you relate.

Bible Study Fellowship (Room 5, Downstairs)

Bible Study Fellowship has been used in churches across the nation and around the world to provide a unique community in which to learn and study the Bible in-depth. Launched at St. Matthew in September 2019, BSF will continue to be offered weekly. Led by Jane Vetter and Karen Smith.



Weekly Worship Opportunities

Sunday

Morning: 9:00 am & 11:00 am
 Kid's Worship: 9:00 am & 11:00 am
 Cornerstone Deaf Church: 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Prayer, Praise & Preaching Worship Service
 6:30 pm, Chapel.

Nursery available at all Worship Services

December Special Events Calendar

Dec 1	Charge Conference
Dec 3	CPR Training
Dec 5	Collingsworth Christmas Concert
Dec 8	Glory of Christmas
Dec 9	Glory of Christmas
Dec 17	Finance Committee Meeting
Dec 19	New Life Club Luncheon
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Services
Dec 25	Christmas / Office Closed
Dec 31	New Year's Eve

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Senior Pastor: Robert Swickard
 Associate Pastor: Andy Black
 Pastor of Congregational Care: Larry Patton

THE *Glory* OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER
 8 & 9, 7:00 PM
 2019

SAINT MATTHEW
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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