



# SAINT MATTHEW

**January  
2020  
Newsletter**

## **Glory of Christmas Praise**

We would like to thank everyone involved in this production from the directors, cast, crew, choir, orchestra, nursery volunteers, ushers, parking lot attendants and custodians to those of you who came, invited friends and neighbors or live streamed it on Facebook! Over 2,000 people were here between the two nights. We had 4 people pray to receive Jesus Christ into their lives and 7 more who re-dedicated themselves to Him! None of this is possible without every single person in this church working to make it a success. So thank you all!

## **Baby Bottles**

On **January 5**, we will begin distributing baby bottles to raise money for the Mosaic Pregnancy & Health Center, which provides free, christ-centered, medical pregnancy related care and counseling. Last year we raised over \$2,500 for this great ministry. This year's goal is \$3,000. So take a bottle or two, put one in your Sunday School class or on your kitchen counter. Drop your loose change in it all month long and return it back to the church on **January 26**.

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## **Wednesday Night Discipleship Resumes - January 8**

The Wednesday Night Meal, Kids Club, Choir Rehearsals and Discipleship Classes will all resume again on Wednesday, January 8. Below is the list of classes being offered for this winter / spring 2020 session.

**Wednesday Night Worship (Chapel)** - Pastor Larry Patton leads a worship service of prayer, praise, and preaching each Wednesday evening. Worship begins at 6:30pm.

***All classes begin at 6:00pm***

**GriefShare (Bride's Room)** - 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.

**The Blessing of Jesus' Blood / Amazing Facts About The Tabernacle (Disciple Room)** - This 6 week course will be led by Verna Prater.

Do you know anyone who is perfect? There may be people in your life who may be perfectionistic, having that quality which pursues perfection, but do you know any human being who *is* perfect? Of course not.



You would think that we would be able to accept this, but for many, it's a hard reality to embrace. We read in Matthew 5:48, "Be perfect, therefore, as your Heavenly Father is perfect." We realize this is a call on our lives. But then right after reading it, we experience the sobering, ice water on the face clarity of our imperfections.

So the question is, what next? Will you disqualify yourself from something because you know you are imperfect? Will you steer clear of opportunities because of a fear of failure? I wonder how many things we miss out on with God because we fail to pursue something due to feeling imperfect.

So here's the theological question... Can God use imperfect people? While we may quickly say a heartfelt "Yes!", the reality is that we can still disqualify ourselves from our own feelings of imperfection.

The good news is that God not only can, but has historically used people who are imperfect. Since the fall of Creation, that's the only clay God has to work with. But oh how God can use imperfect clay!

I hope you will join us in January as we take a look at some of the many *Imperfect People* God has used throughout history. You may just find that God can use even you!

Imperfectly,  
Bob

## 2020 Save The Dates!

The Joy of Easter: April 8, 9 & 10

Beulah Bible Camp: June 15 - 18

Beulah Youth Institute - June 21 - 27

Glory of Christmas - December 13 & 14

Vacation Bible School: Jun 8 - 12

Beulah Beginning Camp: June 19 & 20

Keyboard Praise - October 25

## Student Ministry News

**Student Ministry:** [Matt Vollmar - 618-795-6250 - mvollmar@stmatthewumc.org](mailto:mvollmar@stmatthewumc.org)

**Youth:** Sunday nights at 5:00 pm in the youth room

**Youth Band:** Wednesday nights at 5:30 in the youth room.

**Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesday nights at 6:30 in the youth room.

**Looking Ahead...** Winter Jam will be in February! More info coming soon.

## Children's Ministry News

**Children's Ministry:** *Lindsay Vollmar - 618-660-7552 — [lvollmar@stmatthewumc.org](mailto:lvollmar@stmatthewumc.org)*

**Wednesday Kids Club** resumes January 8 for all pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Club runs from 6:00 – 7:30 pm in Kids Town, 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.

**His Kids Sing Parents** – reminder that all songs & speaking parts for “Danny & the Shacks” are to be memorized by Wednesday, January 15.

**Important 2020 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 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders (June 15 – 18, 2020), Beulah Beginner Camp 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders (June 19 & 20, 2020). **Please note** the change of camp weeks for Beulah 2020! They are 2 weeks earlier than in past years.

**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!

**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. Don't forget to change your number in your account if your cell number changes!

**Good News Club** is a free after school program for Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Club Returns** on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 with The Life of Esther series.

## Senior Ministry News

**Senior Ministry:** *Jeanie Lively - 618-979-7434 - [jlively@stmatthewumc.org](mailto:jlively@stmatthewumc.org)*

**OUR NEW LIFE CLUB MEETING** will be held January 16 at noon in the Vine Cafe. Our program will be presented by our Associate Pastor, Andy Black. Our lunch will be prepared and served by Andy Millas. Come and join in on this first meeting of the new year. We would love to see you there! There is great food, fun and Christian fellowship.

**NEW LIFE CLUB CHOIR** resumes practice January 8, 2020. It is a great time to join our choir. All you need is a love for music that praises our King and a love for His people as we monthly visit local retirement homes. You will be blessed!

**REDEEMED AGAIN - THE THRIFT SHOP OF ST. MATTHEW** appreciates your generous contributions this past year. You keep us able to serve so many of God's people day after day! If you have a desire to serve four hours a week in this ministry, please let me know. We always need volunteers!

**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

**MANY NEW TRIPS WILL BE ROLLING OUT THE COMING MONTHS. BE INFORMED!**

- 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. The Cardinals released their pricing a few days ago. Our trip description/pricing will be out soon. It will be mailed to those on the trip so far 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](http://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!

**As we are praying for more Breakthroughs at St. Matthew, take a look at some of the wonderful things God did in 2019! God is so faithful!**

- New Members - We welcomed 40 new members into our church family last year!
- Baptisms - Pastors Bob and Andy baptized 17 of these new members!
- Seeds of Faith Planted - Between Vacation Bible School, Good News Club and Kid's Club, the children's ministry presented the gospel to more than 350 children last year!
- Outreach Works - This past year we have welcomed 4 new families to the church that started coming because their kids attended Good News Club!
- Blessing Others - The New Life Club Choir performed at 17 nursing homes and assisted living centers!
- Joy of Easter - Over 3,000 people were at St. Matthew for the Joy of Easter last year! We had 13 first time decisions, 20 people made a deeper commitment to Christ and 11 people wanted to know more about Jesus!
- Paraguay - Our medical mission team treated 1,113 patients and saved 147 souls on their mission trip last year!
- Summer Sack Lunch Program - Your donations of food, supplies, time and money helped St. Matthew volunteers pack 350 - 400 lunches every Monday during the summer! That's well over 4,000 lunches! Amazing!
- Gideons - You raised \$743 to help purchase Bibles to be distributed around the world!
- Travel & Fellowship - hundreds of seniors traveled on the New Life Club's 13 trips last year (both local and nationwide)!
- Mosaic Pregnancy Center - You raised over \$2,500 for this center which provides free medical pregnancy related care, counseling, education & Christ-centered support!
- Victorious Children's Home - Redeemed Again, the Thrift Shop of St. Matthew, donated 18 large boxes of clothing for the 147 children at Victorious Children's Home, an orphanage in Kenya!
- Events - Events like concerts, trunk or treat, the annual neighborhood 5k, holiday productions and more brought over 7,000 people to St. Matthew last year!

## Other News and Events

### **Joy of Easter Casting Call**

Join us this year! Please contact our Casting Director, Jeanie Lively (Lindsay's mom), by calling or texting at (618) 979-7434 if you and your family are interested in joining us this year. Please note, all kids 6<sup>th</sup> grade and under are requested to have a parent (or guardian) with them. If you are in the choir, orchestra or crew, we will assign your child a "family" to hang out with. For questions, contact Lindsay Vollmar at (618) 660-7552.

**Mark those calendars:** our first Joy of Easter full cast practice is Wednesday, February 19 at 7:35 pm in the Sanctuary! (Cast practices will be done by 8:30 pm.)

### **"De-Hanging" Of The Greens**

Please join us at 9:00 am on Monday, January the 6th to take down all the church's Christmas decorations. Even if you can only stay for an hour, your help will be greatly appreciated.

### **Women of Worth Meeting**

This gift exchange and pot luck meeting will be Saturday, January 11 from 8:30 am - 10:00 am at the home of Anita Gajewski.



## January Special Events Calendar

Jan 1	Church Office Closed
Jan 7	“De-Hanging” Of The Greens
Jan 7	Finance Meeting
Jan 7	Trustees Meeting
Jan 8	Wednesday Night Activities Resume
Jan 11	Women of Worth Meeting
Jan 16	New Life Club Luncheon
Jan 16	Administrative Board Meeting
Jan 20	Church Office Closed
Jan 23	SPRC Meeting
Jan 25	Wesley Men’s Breakfast

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

## 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*

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## What is Epiphany?



According to the United Methodist Website ...

“Epiphany is the day Christians remember the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus, bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It occurs on January 6 every year, the 13th day of the Christmas season. The word "epiphany," from the Greek word *epiphania*, means appearance or manifestation. The arrival of these visitors was a sign that the incarnation of God in Christ had been made known and was recognized by the heavens to the whole world, so that even Gentile wise men from the East came to pay him homage. This is an observance of great majesty, solemnity and awe.”



*Wise Men Still Seek Him*