



SAINT MATTHEW

**February
2020
Newsletter**

Souper Bowl Sunday

On **Sunday, February 2** the youth group will collect monetary donations for the Interfaith Food Pantry after both morning services. Look for students with stock pots roaming the foyers to make your contribution! If you would like to learn more about how to help the food pantry (donations, volunteer, etc) check out their website at: <https://www.feedbelleville.org/>



Taste Of Elegance

This annual youth fundraiser will be on **Saturday, February 8** at 6:00 pm in the Vine Cafe. The theme is “Elegant Luau” with an authentic Hawaiian dinner (think pork and pineapple, yum)! Tickets are \$25 and are available for purchase on Sunday mornings in the foyer. There are a limited amount of tables available so get your tickets soon! All proceeds go towards the youth mission trip.

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2020 St. Matthew Church Officers

Administrative Board:

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| Chairperson: | Ken Williams |
| Trustee Chairperson: | Mel Bickel |
| SPRC Chairperson: | Kim Littlefield |
| Finance Chairperson: | Ron Buerges |
| Treasurer: | Charles Kurrus |
| Pastors: | Bob Swickard, Andy Black Larry Patton |
| Retired Clergy: | Jim Corbitt, Dan Harry Jim Schuetz |
| Prayer Ministries: | Sandy Rachel |
| Wesley Men: | Dale Keck |
| NLC Representative: | Diane Patton |
| Youth Representative: | Jacob Anderson |
| Lay Leader: | Roland Brumitt |
| Lay Members of Conference: | Julia Simms & Elizabeth McGlasson. |

For a list of Administrative Board members at large you can contact the church office.

Board of Trustees: Mel Bickel, Jerry Phillips, Anna Corbitt, Christine Stroede, Steve Klingler, DJ Mernick, Yvonne Keck, Mike Renneke, Jim Stuber, & Elizabeth McGlasson. Ex Officio Member: Tom Quinn.

Staff-Parish Relations: Kim Littlefield, Frank Wagner, Jeff Uhl, Tom Burroughs, David Johnson, Greg Souders, Bud Elliot, Stacy Hoffman, Julia Simms & Roland Brumitt.

Finance: Ron Buerges, Doug Stewart, Mark Sauerwein, Thom Belter, Mike Weaver, Ted Gajewski, Tom Thom, Charles Kurrus, Mel Bickel, Kim Littlefield, Ken Williams & Roland Brumitt.

What Does Worship Mean?

What does it mean to you? Is it a noun? A verb? An action? A re-action? Something you do? Something you hear? Read what Pastor Bob has to say about it in the Pastor’s Pen and make sure to catch the sermons in February to find out what worship can mean to you!

Most people would agree that when we gather on a Sunday morning, one of the main reasons we gather is to worship our Triune God. But, what is worship? (If you've heard a good sermon on worship, you might quickly answer, "*ascribing worth to God.*" And you would be right!) But *beyond* that, what is it?

Why do we do it? What is happening in the room when we worship? What is happening inside us when we worship? What should our mindset be when we worship? The answers to these questions reveal a lot about us and are more important than you may realize.

On more than one occasion, God expressed his displeasure in Israel's worship of Him. (see Isaiah 1:11-15; Jeremiah 6:20; Amos 5:21-23). Seems Israel was just "going through the motions." But God wanted so much more than their actions. He wanted their hearts.

I like Graham Kendrick's definition: "*Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which "comes upon you," but it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ.*" What I like about Kendrick's definition of worship is that he points out (and Boston would agree...) it's more than a feeling. It's a mindset. As such, I want to expand his definition even further. As I consider that moment of divine togetherness we call worship, I might add that worship is not only all that Kendrick points out above, but worship is also a chance to remember, enjoy, elevate, and celebrate all that Jesus has done on our behalf.

I don't know about you, but the more I focus on that last part – the more I feel in awe of who God is. I'm convinced that learning to actively worship unlocks deeper depths in my relationship with Jesus. If we don't learn to worship, we may never discover the fullness of being a disciple. Is it possible that there is something you're missing in worship? Do you ever find yourself just "going through the motions?"

For the month of February, we will be looking at worship and why it is so vital that we have a deeper understanding of it and an ever-increasing knowledge of spending time with the Lord through it. I hope you'll be able to join us this month! It may just change your life!

With Hands Uplifted,
Bob



By The Numbers ...

Every month we report our numbers to a United Methodist website that compiles information from United Methodist churches all over the country. In the past, St. Matthew has consistently been among the leading churches in attendance, small groups offered, small group participation, and offerings received in the Mississippi River District, the Illinois Great Rivers Conference, and the North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church, which includes eight states. In 2018, we added Professions of Faith to the list where St. Matthew is at the top. We are happy to announce that we are still in the top 3 of all of these categories for all of 2019! The Lord is faithful. You are faithful. We are grateful.

Student Ministry News

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

Feb 2: Souper Bowl Sunday - youth will be collecting money for the Interfaith Food Pantry after each service & Youth Super Bowl Party at 5:00 pm. We'll be there until the game is over.

Feb 8: Taste of Elegance - 6 pm. Elegant Luau theme - tickets are \$25, goes to youth mission trip.

Feb 9: Winter Jam - Meeting at 4 pm, \$15 for tickets, bring money for food at Family Arena.

Feb 21 - 23: Fire Up - Troy, IL. Cost is \$30. Staying the night on Friday and Sat, back at church Sunday afternoon.

Children's Ministry News

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

Beulah Bible & Beginning Camp Forms Are Available – Pick up your registration form at the Welcome Center or in the children's section of the church website. Parents on our email list, your forms were emailed to you. Beulah Bible Camp is for kids finishing 4th – 6th grade and is on June 15 – 18. Beulah Beginning Camp is for kids finishing 1st – 3rd grade and is on June 19 & 20. We only have a limited amount of spots so please turn in your forms as soon as possible.

Children's Easter Celebration is Saturday, April 11 at 10:30 am in the Vine Café. Children 4th grade and under (and their families) are invited for a special celebration which includes story time, music, crafts, photo time, snacks, prizes and an Easter Egg Hunt.

Wednesday Kids Club is for all pre-school through 6th 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.

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 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.

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 – 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.

Our End of Year Meal is Tuesday, March 24 at 5:15 pm. We'd love some extra help in the kitchen, set-up and clean-up. Please let Lindsay know if you can help.

Joy of Easter

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 6th 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.)

2019 Financial Praise Report

We can't really see how financially strong 2019 was at St Matthew without talking about where we started the year. On December 31, 2018, our General Fund Balance was -\$46,467. With bad weather the first weeks of 2019, our General Fund dropped to -\$81,921. Through prayer, through clear communication, through cutting back expenses, and through the generosity of our church family, we are starting 2020 with a positive General Fund balance. Credit goes to our church staff, who kept our expenses below the budgeted expectation by more than \$73,000. Contributions in November and December increased by more than \$22,000 over 2018 to meet the need. We were able to pay half of our obligations toward apportionments, but not all, to help put our General Fund back into a positive position.

Through special designated giving, we invested more than \$96,000 in missions, more than \$10,000 in alms to help with local people and families, more than \$73,000 toward the video productions costs, as well as making payments to reduce our debt.

Your financial support of St Matthew is so encouraging, and your faithfulness inspires us as we look to the future.

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

OUR NEW LIFE CLUB MEETING will be held February 20th at noon in the Vine Cafe. Officers for 2020 are Diane K. Patton, President; Mary Nelson, Vice President; Connie Bergmann, Secretary; Carolyn Via, Treasurer; Alice Waeltz, Sunshine Chairman and LaDonna Kalish, Hospitality Chairman. The February program will be entitled "The Prayer Shawl," presented by Betty McRoberts. Our lunch will be prepared and served by LaDonna Kalish and our devotion will be given by Sylvia Ninnis. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested for our monthly meal. We have much going on in the senior ministry with ways to serve each other and the community, ways to Praise the Lord and ways to see this big beautiful world He has given us. We hope you will join us this month and this year for great worship and fellowship experiences in the Lord!

NEW LIFE CLUB CHOIR sings twice at Cedarhurst of Shiloh in the Assisted Living Center and the Memory Care Center on February 6th and in the 6:30 p.m. Chapel service on February 19. Come and join in. You will be welcomed.

REDEEMED AGAIN - THE THRIFT SHOP OF ST. MATTHEW is looking for a few volunteers for the month of February. Can you help us just 4 hours a week for this month? You may find that you like it. We also need Valentine items. We love to meet our customer's seasonal needs as well as their daily needs. New Life Club is having a PURSE AND JEWELRY-A-RAMA in June and we are taking in items in the Thrift Shop for this sale now. Your donations are so very much appreciated!

SENIOR TRAVEL

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

- *NEW* Ominmax at Science Center and Lunch at Zia's on the Hill - Feb 13, 2020 - Cost is \$60.00 upon booking.
- St. Louis Cardinal Spring Training 2020 - February 28 - March 7, 2020 - Balance is due January 30, 2020 - Itinerary out soon.
- *NEW* "Noah" Live on Stage at Sight & Sound Theatre, Branson, MO April 22 - 23, 2020 - Cost is \$50.00 upon booking. Balance, April 8, 2020.
- *NEW* Lunch at "Patti's Settlement", Grand Rivers, Kentucky - May 14, 2020 - Cost is \$75.00 upon booking.
- Fireside Dinner Theatre FT. Atkinson Wisconsin Overnight - June 4 - 5, 2020. - Deposit: \$50. Single: \$300, Double: \$230.00, Triple: \$205, Quad: \$190.

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!

Other News and Events

We Need Markers!

We are looking for donations of new, thin or thick tipped, washable markers for our Kids Town classes.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Scout Sunday

Scout Sunday is **February 9!** We invite our scouts to help us during the 9:00 am and 11:00 am service as greeters and passing out bulletins. Please wear your uniform and be outside the Sanctuary 15 minutes prior to the start of the service.

Fire-Up Youth Conference

This year's Fire-Up Conference is February 21 -23 at Troy UMC. Fire-Up is a discipleship weekend for students in 9th - 12 grades and their ministry leaders. This year's speaker is DJ Dangerfield with the Harvest band leading worship. Cost is \$30. The youth will spend the night on Friday and Saturday night and be back at the church on Sunday afternoon. To sign up, or if you have questions, please see Matt Vollmar.

Visit fire-up.org for more information!



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

January Special Events Calendar

- Feb 2 Souper Bowl Sunday
- Feb 4 Trustees Meeting
- Feb 6 SPRC Meeting
- Feb 8 Taste of Elegance
- Feb 9 Scout Sunday
- Feb 9 Winter Jam
- Feb 20 New Life Club Luncheon
- Feb 21 Fire-Up Conference Begins
- Feb 29 Wesley Men's Breakfast

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

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Fire-Up Conference

February 21-23, 2020

Speaker: DJ Dangerfield

fire-up.org

