

St. Matthew Newsletter

Our Vision: Connecting the world with Jesus Christ

Our Mission: Faithfully living as the Body of Christ, and sharing the Gospel that brings salvation

❖ Pastor's Message

Rev. Craig Otto

Peace be with you in Jesus' name.

Our congregation, with the Lord's help, is continuing the good work entrusted to us.

Our context for ministry is not much different than Corinth, Ephesus, or Philippi, those ancient cities of the Bible. Now, as then, believers hear God's promises and pray. Now, as then, others in our culture follow different ways and set up false idols as their hope.

We accept the entire Bible as revelation from God. He spoke, and His words carry authority in our lives still today. The Old Testament prepared us to receive Christ, and the New Testament tells us of the good news that we have a redeemer. Sinners fail, sinners are awkward, sinners try, sinners hope, and sinners make up 100% of our congregation. Yet we know our Redeemer lives.

When Jesus was crucified, he bore the guilt of all our sin. Does God know accusation? Does God know pain? Does God know what it is like to be us? He cares so much He sent His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him as their Savior finds peace.

Though supports often get knocked out from underneath me, I have peace. Though people find new ways to claim they are gods, they are not. I have peace in the true God who prevails above new ideas, nonsense, and distractions. I have Jesus, crucified and risen, who knows my name.

May His peace, the peace of Jesus Christ, minister to you, comfort you, and bless you +

❖ Sign up for Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held in the evenings at St. Matthew from August 1-5. Each night we'll gather from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sign up for VBS at - <https://www.myvbs.org/missionsunpacked> . The theme for the year is: Missions Unpacked, with a focus on how career missionaries are sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in different cultures all around the world, and how we can do the same thing here!

This year at St. Matthew, we are offering a VBS that's for everyone: children, parents, singles, everyone! Whether you're 2, 22, 42, or 92, everyone's invited! Parents are encouraged to come with their children. Grandparents can too! Adults, teens, singles, everyone is invited! Be sure to register your whole family.

We'll start each night with a free dinner served at 5:30 pm. It provides a great chance to have fellowship and conversation with other Christians, and no need to stress over getting dinner prepared before an evening VBS. From there, volunteers will lead children (age 3+) in Bible study and games, while teens and adults will also have a Bible study led by Pastor. Infant children are welcome to remain with families in this Bible study. Both groups will be learning the same topic from God's Word, so families are able to keep the conversation going at home! Both groups will come back together again for a craft activity to end each night.

❖ Altar Guild — Serving the Church

If you have asked how you might serve the Lord, have you ever considered helping prepare the sanctuary for worship? It takes a team assigned to each weekend to ensure we have prepared Holy Communion, changed the oil in the candles after each service, hung banners and paraments for the time in the church year, prepared fresh flower arrangements for the altar, and presented the sanctuary as clean and organized for a holy gathering on the weekend.

The Altar Guild will not have a meeting in July but we will meet in the Narthex on Saturday, July 17 at 9 a.m. to clean the candle holders used for Christmas Eve services, clean the candelabra candles, and tidy up the Altar Guild room.

We will meet again August 14 to plan our new member recruitment information table for services later in August, and start planning for Thanksgiving and Advent!

If there are any women or young ladies in the congregation that would like to find out more about Altar Guild and our friendly group, please join us on any of these dates to get acquainted. Or you may contact Deb Langsdale, Pastor Otto, or any current member listed below for more information about what we do and how you can help serve the Lord and take care of His house with us!

Altar Guild members: Patty Bechel, Nancy Carson, Elaine Froeschle, Marilyn Heineman, Pam York, Raylene Herkamp, Evon Hillan-Johnson, Melanie Johnson, Clare Kapperman, Neysa Kurle, Deb Langsdale, Leah McKeage, Angel Romi, Bonnie Stair, Marilyn Stelljes, and Ann Wesselschmidt.

❖ Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle of LWML met on Tuesday, June 29. Pastor Andrews led us in a Bible Study. We had a brief meeting to discuss the Zone Fall Rally to be held here at St. Matthew in October and to plan for our July "Ladies Night Out". After the meeting we went for a little fellowship over ice cream. Our July get together will be our "Ladies Night Out" at Olive Garden on Tuesday, July 27. We will meet there at 6:30. Please let Mindy LeFevre know if you plan to attend as she will be making the reservations.

❖ Stamps for Missions: *Don't throw those cancelled stamps away!*

St. Matthew members, please save cancelled stamps and place them in the mailbox to the left of the bulletin boxes in the narthex or give them to an LWML member. Save stamps valued between 1 and 55 cents, except, do NOT save flag stamps or Christmas stamps. Tear the stamp from the envelope, leaving a minimum ¼" margin; a volunteer will trim them more carefully later. Since the LWML Missouri District initiated this project in late 90's, the sale of these stamps has earned the District over \$16,000.00.

❖ Classics

It's getting closer! We're hoping for further downward trends of new COVID-19 cases, and increased availability of vaccines. With that in mind, and in the interest of member safety, our group is focusing on resuming *Classics* this Fall, perhaps as early as September. Stay tuned... and stay well!

❖ St. Matthew Prayer Partners

Do you have a prayer request? Are you interested in being on our e-mail list notifying you of prayers of the congregation? Contact Carrol McAllister at cammac2@swbell.net or 816-763-4535.

❖ **Thank You Notes from Drumm Farm**

Thanks so much for inviting me to your church and making me feel so welcome. Thanks to your congregation for the very generous donations for our young adults. I look forward to working with you all going forward.
Blessings, Lisa Moorhouse-Donor Development Director

Thank you for taking the time to raise funds and purchase items for our youth. Your gifts will truly impact our youth's lives by helping meet some of their most immediate needs. I can't thank you enough for considering our organization and for helping us nurture and inspire lifelong success.

Thank you, Ben McDowell —Outreach Case Worker

❖ **Christmas in July Benefitting Pro Deo Youth Center**

St. Matthew Mission Committee is helping to collect items for a community-wide donation drive benefiting Pro Deo Youth Center, to support programming needs for teens in Lee's Summit. Please take an ornament tag/tags off the tree in the FLC entryway and return items to the church by the end of July. For more information on Pro Deo and their programs, please visit www.prodeoyouthcenter.org. Thank you!



Christmas in July Wish List

TO HELP SUPPORT PROGRAMMING FOR TEENS IN LEE'S SUMMIT

OFFICE SUPPLIES:

Office Depot Gift Cards
Amazon Gift Cards
Walmart Gift Cards
Stamps
Oades Bros. Oil Changes
Expo Markers
Name Tags
Gas Gift Cards

SNACKS/PAPER PRODUCTS:

HyVee Gift Cards
Walmart Gift Cards
Kitchen Sponges
Clorox Wipes
Swiffer Sweeper Wet Mop Refills
Hand Soap
Paper Towels
Dinner Sized Paper Plates
K Cup Coffee Pods
55 Gallon Trash Bags
Individually Packaged Snacks
(Chips, Crackers, Easy Mac,
fruit cups, granola bars, etc.)

INCENTIVE GIFT CARDS:

\$5 Sonic
\$5 Starbucks
\$5 Walmart
\$5 Taco Bell
\$5 McDonalds
\$5 Quik Trip
\$5 Andy's Custard
\$5 Target



ART/PROGRAMMING SUPPLIES:

Amazon Gift Cards
Walmart Gift Cards
Phone Chargers
Ear Buds
FujiFilm Instax Mini Film
Microfiber Cloths
Colored Sharpies
Adult White T-Shirts
Fleece Blanket Kits
Modge Podge
Canvases 8X10 and 11X14
Acrylic Paint
Slime Making Kits
Shrinky Dink Plastic
Foam Paint Brushes



All items can be returned to this location. For more information about Pro Deo Youth Center, visit our website prodeoyouthcenter.org

❖ Helping the Schramm Family

Many people have asked how they can help the Schramm family. While on a family outing on Saturday, June 26, their daughter Elle fell. Her death was a fatal accident. Those who wish to help the family with their unexpected funeral expenses may make a contribution to the St. Matthew Human Care Fund (note Schramms in the memo), and the funds will be passed on directly to the family. *Most of all, we pray for Steve, Melissa, Kayla, Stefanie, Braeden, and all the Schramm family at this time +*

❖ Our Congregation Supporting Missions — July

If you want to receive Heather and Nathan's newsletter or support them in any way, their informational card can be found on the Mission table in the FLC next to the Binders and Mission Minute. I am looking for ideas for a July mission presentation, so if you have an organization you would like to see highlighted to our congregation, please let me know.

We have donated \$500 to Glory House KC to support their ministry to the people of Northern Haiti. Joseph did a presentation on June 19 after Saturday service. You can follow Glory House KC and find ways to support them at gloryhousekc.org. If you missed it, the presentation can be viewed on our website.

Updated information on our sponsored Kenyan girls and the latest African Radio Ministries newsletter has been placed in the Red and Yellow binders in the FLC. I am also placing an update from Pro Deo alongside the binders. It gives good information on their organization. If you have not yet done so, check out their beautiful, thriving garden and greenhouse behind the FLC!

❖ July Mission Minute

July is a time to celebrate the day America became an independent country— “the home of the free and the brave.” In earthly terms this is the case, but in reference to our eternity the only way we can be truly free is in Christ. Our human nature struggles with the idea of independence. We want to be in control—we hold onto things that actually harm us in an attempt to be our own boss. Satan is hard at work using the very things and people we love against us. He is relentless in trying to gain a foothold, and without Christ we cannot stop him.

But there is power in the very name of Jesus and in prayer. We always go to Jesus in times of crisis, but actually we are in a constant state of spiritual crisis—the battle for our eternal destination. In Christ we are not of this world. Christ is our refuge from Satan, our sinful desire to be in control, and to indulge in our own will.

This July 4th as you celebrate America's Independence Day and watch the beautiful fireworks illuminating the skies, take time to reflect and be thankful for the ultimate freedom we have over this world because of Christ's sacrifice. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. It is my prayer that our lives brighten the darkness of this world with the fireworks of God's love in action. Not today, satan, not ever. Amen
Annie Femrite, Member at Large, Missions—annfemrite@sbcglobal.net

❖ Lee's Summit North Food Pantry Collection — On hold until Fall

We will not be collecting for Lee's Summit North during the summer months. We will resume the collection next fall. Thanks to everyone who donated food items during the school year!

❖ St. Matthew Sewing Group

The Sewing Group at St. Matthew will return to meet again in September. Please join us then!



Above: Demolition of the old office space.

Below: Our Learning Garden at St. Matthew, where youth learn life skills.

St. Matthew



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JULY NEWSLETTER - 2021



Groundbreaking was held in June for our office renovations and addition. The Lord has opened His hand and provided for us. The Family Life Center is now paid off. Since we are still worshipping there, it made sense to complete sanctuary renovations now. Since we are calling a third staff person, it made sense to complete the office addition where our staff can serve together. *See inside for more photos.*

Enroll for Vacation Bible School, which will be held in the evenings Aug. 1-5. See inside.