



From the Pastor's Desk



Brothers and Sisters of St. Matthew UMC-

It's that time of year again. The time of year when we have to start buying the kids new clothes and pencils and rulers and college lined notebook paper. The time of year when my children tell me to stop using a certain "bad word" around them: SCHOOL. School is about to start, and although it might not be something my 10-year-old and 12-year-old are looking forward to, it actually signals the beginning of a very exciting time of year for us church folks. That's because paralleling the start of school we actually have some incredible programming starting back up at the church as well.

Midweek Program - Starting August 14th!

We are thrilled to announce the start of our Midweek program on Wednesday, August 14th. There is something for everyone, and we hope you will join us:

- **5:30 PM:** Free Community Meal - Join us for a delicious meal and great company.
- **6:15 PM:** Spirit Singers Practice – If you're part of this select group of musicians, this is the time to come and sharpen that voice of yours.
- **6:30 PM:** Classes for All Ages - Whether you're young or young at heart, there's a class for you to deepen your faith and connect with others. Offerings include:
 - Children's Class, taught by Katelynn Henderson
 - Youth Group, led by Kalyn Roark
 - Young Adults, led by Olivia Mitchell
 - "Why Methodism?", taught by Rev. Jonathon Clinesmith
- **7:15 PM:** Choir Practice – Always looking for new members, come lift your voice in praise and prepare to help lead our congregation in worship through music and song.

Fall Sunday School - Beginning August 18th!

Our Fall Sunday School session starts on Sunday, August 18th. This is a wonderful time to dive into God's Word and grow in our faith together. Classes are available for all ages, ensuring that everyone in the family can find a place to learn and grow.

As we embark on this new season, let us remember that God is present with us in every moment. Whether we are gathered together in worship, study, or fellowship, God's presence is with us, guiding and uplifting us. Rev. Ben Williams beautifully captures this sentiment, saying, "I'm really looking forward to being where I am right now." Why? Because God is there, too. May we all embrace this mindset, finding joy and contentment in each moment we share together. Let this thought guide us, filling our hearts with gratitude and anticipation for all that lies ahead.

God's peace and love,
Jonathon

Worship Online 11am: www.facebook.com/StMatthewMWC or www.stmatthew.org/sermons
Give Online: www.stmatthew.org/giving



LIBRARY NEWS



August 2024

from Terri



Amish readers will be delighted to read learn there are NINE new books available in the library thanks to a very generous donation from LaRue Alexander!

There are three books by author Suzanne Woods Fisher. They are: *The Keeper*, a standalone novel; and *The Waiting* and *The Choice*, two of the books in Suzanne's *Lancaster County Secrets* trilogy.

Two of the books are by the talented Kelly Irvin. The books are the first two in her *The Amish of Bee County Series*. Book one is *The Beekeeper's Son* followed by *The Bishop's Son*. *The Beekeeper's Son* is the first Amish Beekeeper book I can recall seeing!

Rachel J. Good penned the *Surprised by Love Series* and LaRue's donation allowed us to purchase the first two books. They are *An Unexpected Amish Courtship* and *An Unexpected Amish Proposal*. The library already had the third book *An Unexpected Amish Christmas*.

And last but not least we were able to purchase books two and three in Ruth Reid's series *An Amish Wonder's Novels*. Book one, *A Miracle of Hope*, is already available in the library. Books two and three are *A Woodland Miracle* and *A Dream of Miracles*.

Stop by the library and check out one or more of these great books. And if you see LaRue, tell her thank you for her generosity!



2024 BIBLE IN A YEAR GROUP!

Valarie Autry	Eric Autry
Patty Avery	Donna Bassham
Jamie Clinesmith	Jackie Elk
Rebecca Hartmann	Dayna Heath
Everett Henderson	Katelynn Henderson
Lacey Holland	Larry Kisner
Chirlee Lang	Susie Larsen
Karen Marichal	Joyce Perkins
Ashley Poole	Kaye Rhoades
Kalyn Roark	Emily Robinson
Kay Ross	Stacey Ruston
Jayna Sims	Carolyn Specht
Barbara Wallace	Cynthia Weldon
Terri Weldon	

They're reading the greatest story ever told!

AND THE WINNER IS...

The winner of the 2024 St. Matthew Suspense Contest is *Shadows at Dusk* by Elizabeth Goodard! Stop by and check it or one of the other contest books out today.

TWO NEW ROMANCES!!!

Do you enjoy a good romance? Well, you aren't alone. Romance is the bestselling genre in literature. There are two new romances just waiting for you to read them in the St. Matthew Library. *Love and a Little White Lie* by Tammy L. Gray and *The Café at Beach End* by RaeAnne Thayne. Both books would make a great summer read. If you don't normally read romance, there is no time like the present to give it a try!

BOOK TWO HAS ARRIVED!

It seems like publishers make us wait forever for the next book in a series. If you read *Counter Attack*, book one in Patricia Bradley's *Pearl River Novels*, then you will be happy to hear book two, *Fatal Witness*, is now available in the library. And if you haven't read book one now is the perfect time to read them both!



Words About Worship
From the Director of
Music Ministries



Oh my goodness! It seems like school was just out yesterday and June and July have already flown by! Several schools will already have begun classes by the time you read this article. With the heat we are experiencing, I am more thankful than ever that we have air conditioned schools and a cool place to worship!

Jonathon is continuing his messages from the Revised Common lectionary in August. August 4 is John 6:24-35. Ella McDonald is singing *Goodness of God* in the 11am service. The Scripture for August 11 is Ephesians 4:25-5:2. Spirit Singers are singing *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*. August 18 reading is 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14. The Choir will return to worship (yay!) singing *A Faithfulness Medley*. August 25 is Pumpkin Sunday! Pull out your Pumpkin Shirt, or wear something fall-ish. The scripture reading is Psalm 84. Reading the scriptures ahead of time gives additional insight into the message Jonathon wants to convey.

There are two special Sundays in August. **Blessing of the Backpacks** will be in the 11am service, August 18. Children are encouraged to bring their backpacks to worship for the blessing. Mrs. Katelynn has included more information in her article on the St. Matt Kids' page.

As I mentioned earlier, August 25 is **Pumpkin Sunday**. In addition to Jonathon's message on Psalm 84, we will hear about the impact that our Pumpkin Grants have in our community. The way time is flying, the pumpkins will be here in no time at all! (September 29) The festival is October 12th, 9am to 4pm. Be thinking about where you want to serve this year.

Chancel Choir and Spirit Singer rehearsals resume August 7. It has been nice to have some time off, but I am ready to have our musicians together again! The parking lot will be blocked off for resurfacing, so **all Spirit Singers, Choir members and nursery staff will have to park at Ace and walk across the concrete walkway to the church. There can be no driving or walking on the asphalt!** If you can carry a tune and sing in harmony with others, you are welcome to join the choir. Rehearsals are 7:15-8:30pm Wednesdays in the Choir Room (across from the restrooms in the north hall.) A nursery is provided for preschool age children.

I want to say a huge **Thank You!** to Ryan and Stacey Ruston, Anita Endsley, Ashley Poole, Chelsea Luxen, our VBS Kids, Maddie Ellis and Ella McDonald for providing our wonderful special music during July! You rock!!

Since school is starting, we will have people returning to worship and some new faces dropping in. Please help make St. Matthew a warm and welcoming place for all to experience the love of Jesus!

Email gtatum@stmatthew.org
for questions about music ministry.

Shalom,

Gayle Tatum

Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in you!

Psalm 56:3

Summer is almost over! We had an amazing time at VBS, and want to keep the momentum going! Sunday School is going to be kicking off on August 18th 9:40am! Join us as we meet the teachers and have some donuts!

During the 11am service we'll be blessing our backpacks for the upcoming year, so all students should bring their backpack. We'll also be recognizing those promoting to 3rd grade and some of our other students who haven't received a bible yet. WOW starts back August 14th at 6:30pm with dinner starting at 5:30pm.

Make a point to have church a priority this school year!

AT ST. MATTHEW, OUR MISSION IS TO SHOWER GOD'S LOVE UPON OUR CHILDREN

**SO THAT THEY WILL KNOW:
GOD LOVES THEM... UNCONDITIONALLY.
CHURCH IS A WONDERFUL, SAFE PLACE TO BE.
STORIES OF JESUS.**

WILL YOU ANSWER THE LORD'S CALL AND BE A PART OF THIS MINISTRY?
CHRIST HAS NO HANDS BUT YOURS.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

AUGUST

14- WOW is BACK!

18- Sunday School Promotion
Breakfast, Bible Presentation
and Blessing of the Backpacks

**THANK YOU TO
ALL OUR VBS
VOLUNTEERS!
YOU MADE IT
POSSIBLE! 25
KIDS KNOW THEY
CAN TRULY TRUST
GOD!**

Contact Information:
Katelynn Henderson
405.740.4379
children@stmatthew.org

**WEEKLY
ACTIVITIES**

SUNDAYS

Sunday School @ 9:40am
Children's Church during 11am Service
*No Children's Church 1st
Sunday of the Month

WEDNESDAYS

WOW starting back August 16 @
6:30pm

Alpha Omega News

Sunday School 9:40AM | Sunday Youth 5-7PM | Wednesday Youth 6:30-7:30PM

The purpose of Alpha Omega Student Ministries is to stand on the foundation, with a heart to worship, a mind to reach out, and hands to serve and love.

Want to Volunteer?

We have many opportunities to hang out with our youth and help shape the future leaders of our church! If you are interested in volunteering in the following areas, please let Kalyn know!

- Mystery Trips, Lock-ins, and other special events
- Wednesday Night Activities
- Sunday Night Activities
- Mission Trips and Volunteer/Service Activities

Wednesday Nights are BACK!

Starting August 14th, plan to join us for Wednesday Night Youth from 6:30pm-7:30pm, with dinner starting at 5:30pm!

We will kick-off with Ding-Dong Prayer Dash on August 14th, then start a lesson series on the Book of Acts throughout the remainder of August!



Rush Week 2024 August 4th-10th

It's back to school time, which means welcoming our new youth our annual Rush Week! Each night, we will have dinner, then an amazing activity before ending the evening! Rush Week will go from 6:00pm-8:30pm each night. If you have a youth going into 6th grade, or any youth from 6th grade through 12th grade, please come join us! The more the merrier!

Rush Week Schedule

Sunday: Welcome and Game Night

Monday: Minute-To-Win-It

Tuesday: Service Project

Wednesday: Messy Games

Thursday: Spy Night

Friday: Water Night

Saturday: Bowling



Upcoming Events:

- August 4th-10th: Rush Week
- August 11th: No Youth
- August 14th: Ding-Dong Prayer Dash
- August 18th: Blessing of the Backpacks/Bible Presentations



Mobile Meals

Drivers are in NEED for their Tuesday and Friday morning routes!

TEFAP Food Truck!

All hands are needed Thursday, August 1st for TEFAP!

Volunteers are needed at 8am.

The church parking lot will be closed off starting at 9am, and all cars will need to park in the back or next door.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

At All American Diner

Saturday, August 10 @ 7:00am



MIDWEEK

@ S T . M A T T ' S

Food, music, and Bible study for all ages every Wednesday @5:30 PM.

Help Needed!

Our MidWeek meal program will be starting back up August 14th. We are in need of a director to help find volunteers to cook each week. Please let Katelynn know if you're interested.

August at St. Matthew

Upcoming Events

Aug 4-9		Rush Week
Aug 10		Men's Breakfast
Aug 13	9:40am	Sunday School Kick off
Aug 14	5:30pm	MidWeek is Back
Aug 18	11am	Blessing of the Backpacks and Bible Presentations
Aug 21	7pm	SPRC
Aug 22	6:30pm	Finance
Aug 25		Pumpkin Sunday
Aug 29	7pm	Worship Project



For a more complete list of events and activities visit stmatthew.org/calendar

Week at a glance

Sunday

8:30am	Worship
9:40am	Sunday School
11am	Worship (w/ LiveStream)
5pm	AO Youth Group

Monday

9am	Mobile Meals Prep
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Tuesday

7am	Mobile Meals
10am	Quilters Sew&Go
1pm	Moving For Balance
6:15pm	Toastmasters Meeting
7pm	Okie Dokie Banjo Band

Wednesday

5:30pm	MidWeek Meal
6:15pm	Spirit Singers
6:30pm	MidWeek Programs
7:15pm	Choir

Thursday

10am	Mobile Meals
1pm	Moving for Balance
6pm	OK Scottish Pipes & Drums

Friday

7am	Mobile Meals Prep
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Saturday

9:30am	Girl Scouts
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Aug 1	Frank Barnett
Aug 3	Jan Hall
Aug 5	Terri Weldon
Aug 6	Anna Shelton
Aug 7	Louise Barnett Joyce Perkins
Aug 8	Stephanie Ballow Katelynn Henderson
Aug 10	Makilah Nelson
Aug 12	Mariyah Kisner Calvin Merson
Aug 14	Mark Dimski Kathy Ellis
Aug 15	Susan Wilson
Aug 18	Karren Brown Aaron Larsen
Aug 19	David Rhoades Taylor Voss
Aug 21	Tom Patterson
Aug 22	Beverly McDaniel
Aug 24	Marie Jordan
Aug 27	John Howell Jr.
Aug 28	Scott Moody Carol Rathke
Aug 31	Brooklyn Mullings

Parking Lot will be closed Aug 5-7 for repairs



Aug 1	Scott & Kim Moody Brennan & Marissa Murphy Leonard & Kathy Szopinski
Aug 3	Ronnie & Debbie Creager
Aug 11	Russell & Michele Foster
Aug 12	Eric & Valarie Autry
Aug 19	Michael & Selma Bediako Gene & Beverly Link



St. Matthew United Methodist

A place to grow in Christ

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 N Air Depot Blvd
Midwest City OK 73110
www.stmatthew.org
405-732-6831

*The Mission of The United Methodist Church
is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*

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St. Matthew Staff

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