



The Sign of the New Covenant

Baptism functions within the church as a visible sign of a profound spiritual and physical reality. When we believe in Jesus Christ, in that moment, we enter into a new relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. We are reborn, having died to the bondage of our sinful nature and having been given new life. The moment we believe we are forgiven, set free from condemnation, granted adoption as God’s own children, declared righteous before God, given eternal life, brought into a new family, and a host of other benefits. Baptism functions as a sign. It is an outward expression of all that God has done in a person’s life. Baptism serves to demonstrate that we have placed our faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord by visually, physically, and publically associating ourselves with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His death, we have now died by believing in Him. His resurrection, we have now received by believing in Him. We have died and been raised from the dead in the eyes of God. By baptizing the way that we baptize, we are following our understanding of the Bible’s standard for baptism. When we immerse someone in the water, it provides a vivid illustration of this event. Baptism communicates a great

message. Paul the Apostle told the church at Rome “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” Paul points to the picture of baptism as being the way a Christian demonstrates their identification with Jesus Christ’s death, burial and resurrection. This is why we say as someone is being baptized “buried with Christ in death and risen with Christ in newness of life.” So baptism is an outward demonstration of a Christian’s personal link with Jesus Christ. We are baptized to show that we have put our faith in Christ. We are baptized to show that our faith in Christ means that our old life has died with Christ and that we have received a new life through the resurrection of Christ. The other meaning that is pictured in baptism revolves around the biblical idea of repentance. John the Baptist said that he was baptizing for the repentance of sins. Repentance means to change directions. When driving a car, a person repents when they stop going one direction and turn the car around and start going another direction. The Bible describes

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repentance as turning from our own selfish life of sin and turning to a life of faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord. Baptism is a public way of showing that a Christian has had a change in their heart, their motives, their will and their behavior. Baptism is the public way of showing that a person has repented, turning from their selfish ways and turning toward Jesus Christ in the way they live their lives. Beyond the symbolic nature of baptism, there is also an obedience component to baptism. Jesus is our example for living. As He began His public ministry, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, so one aspect of baptism is following Jesus’ example. We are to imitate His life in as many ways as possible. Baptism is an important part of following Him. In addition to following Jesus’ example, we also follow His command. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus tells the disciples to go into the world and to teach and to baptize. In this command, Jesus tells the disciples to baptize “in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” So Christians are to be baptized to follow the example of Jesus and to follow His commands. So the three basic reasons for baptism are: 1. to follow Jesus’ example, 2. to follow Jesus’ commands, and 3. to communicate our identity with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection, and 4. to demonstrate our repentance from sin to a life of faith in Christ Jesus as our Savior and Lord. It is not necessary for an individual to understand every facet of baptism in order to be baptized. It is enough to be baptized because that is what God wants us to do. However, it is helpful to understand all that God is demonstrating in the act of baptism. If you have any questions concerning baptism, please do not hesitate to ask the pastor or a deacon or Sunday school teacher.

~ Daniel



Students

There is a Youth Parents Meeting at 4:30pm on January 13th. The meeting will consist of 2013's schedule and cost for retreats and events, introducing our youth intern who will be helping with the youth band, a look at our 2013 goal as a youth ministry within the church through discipleship in small groups, as well as information on Heartbeat which will take place February 22nd-24th, and on the Spring Break Mission Trip on March 10th-13th.

I'm reminded of what Paul says in Acts 20:24, "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." May that be the cry of our heart this year, that we can testify to how Jesus has changed our lives. I pray that this will be our youth's inspiration this year. I look forward to seeing you! ~ Zach

This Month in the Student Ministry...



DON'T MISS OUT ON THE ACTIVITIES WE HAVE GOING ON FOR STUDENTS EACH WEEK. SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY, GUY TALK AND GIRL TALK ON SUNDAY NIGHTS, PROCLAMATION ON WEDNESDAY AT 5:45, AND DON'T FORGET COLLIDE, WEDNESDAYS AT 6:28, BEGINNING JAN. 2ND.



20Somethings



Who are we?

We are... sinners in need of God's Grace, part of God's plan for the future, going to make an impact on the world for Christ; we aren't children any more, we are making the decisions that will effect the rest of our lives. We matter to God.

Weekly Studies

Sunday Morning – 9:45 AM | Peter

We are working through I Peter. Peter is writing to an ancient world that is suffering persecution. He teaches us how to live under the persecutions and pressures of life with the joy of Christ as our tether.

Sunday Night – 6:00 PM Systematic Theology

Systematic Theology is a branch of theology that works through basic ideas of theology.

What does the Bible say about: demons, angels, first cause, what is theology, the image of God in humans and so much more.

Wednesday Night – 8:30 PM Spiritual Disciplines

We will explore prayer, worship, evangelism and so much more, in the back of CommonGrounds.

Fun Stuff:

Mondays at 11:30 lunch at Chick – fil – A on Camp Wisdom

WOW Retreat: December 30 – 1st. Leaving after church. Cost \$40.00. Ring in the New Year with our group. We will zip, climb towers, and do fireworks.

Coming:

Passport to Mexico - August Mission trip, details to follow

Music Ministry

I am so excited about the musical opportunities that a new year brings! Last semester marked new beginnings for our graded choirs and we're very proud of the foundations that were established. Beginning on Wednesday, January 9, Children's Choir will resume rehearsals at 6:00 before Awana. On that same night, Proclamation will kick off for the Spring semester at 5:45. Both groups will see many more opportunities to sing in our worship services in 2013.

The adult worship choir will continue to rehearse at 6:45 on Wednesday evenings. We've already selected a great musical to present before the summer. This would be the perfect time to join us for the first time as we begin to look at our next project!

I can't wait to see what 2013 has in store for us. I hope that you and your family will join us as we seek to honor our Lord through song. Happy new year! ~ Jeff



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN ONE OF OUR CHOIRS!

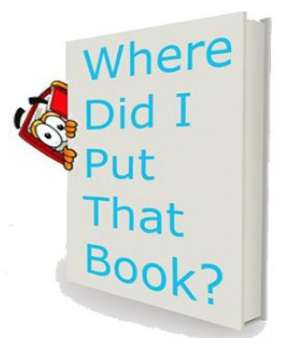
Children's Choir (Kindergarten through 6th grade) meets on Wednesday evenings before AWANA at 6:00pm in the second floor of the education building. We will use fun songs to learn biblical truths and develop musical skills.

Proclamation, our student ministry choir, uses modern praise music as a starting point to develop a lifestyle of worship. We meet in the choir room at 5:45pm on Wednesday nights before Collide.

Adult Choir meets Wednesday nights in the choir room at 6:45pm. We believe that even our times of preparation are an important opportunity for worship, fellowship, and encouragement. The beginning of our Spring semester is the perfect time to start singing with us for the first time. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays! ~ Jeff

Library Ministry

Lost a book? Found a book? Know you have a book from our library but can't lay your hands on it? Borrowed a book but forgot to check it out? Then please contact Ms. Jeannie at jeannie@matthewroad.org or call her at 972-641-2717, and let her know. Several books have gone missing from our church library, and we'd just like to know if they have found a new home.



Women's Ministry



*Be a Sister of Strength! Take the time to strengthen a sister!
Make a phone call! Send a card! Pray! Let us walk this life together!!!*

For more information on January's LNO, and other Women's Ministry events, please see the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board in the Worship Center (in the hallway by the Ladies Restroom)

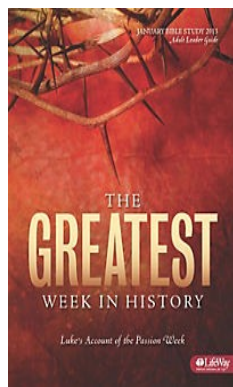


Our Ladies Sunday and Thursday night Bible studies will resume in February. Watch the ladies' ministry bulletin board, down the nursery hallway for more information

Have a prayer request?
Need more information about our Women's Ministry classes or events?
Need to get in touch with the Women's Ministry coordinator?
Then contact us at our email address: womensministryofmatthewroad@gmail.com



January Sunday Evening Bible Study



There have been many significant events that have marked time. The signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Battle at Pearl Harbor, the first step on the Moon, and September 11, 2001 are all etched into the minds of Americans. These dates represent not just dates but also the character of our nation.

As significant as these dates may be within the context of American history, they are secondary compared to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. That one event and the week leading up to it mark all of history for eternity. Those seven days serve as the foundation for both the character and substance of Christianity.

In these days of tolerance, it appears that the distinctive traits of the Christian faith are being lost or at least blurred. In some settings, the focus is on the teachings of Jesus rather than His sacrificial redemption. Jesus is more than a great teacher or worthy example. First and foremost, He is Savior. The purpose of this study is to call people back to the cross and the events leading up to his resurrection. Join us Sunday nights in January, beginning January 6th, at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary for this amazing study, led by Dr. Bruce Corley, President & Senior Fellow, Professor of New Testament and Greek, at B.H. Carroll.

Children

Join us for a weekend of fun just for preteeners!

Who: 4th, 5th, and 6th Graders

When: February 8-9

What: *SuperStart* - A weekend designed just for YOU! Worship lead by the lead singer of Superchick, lessons about God's love, games, and a sleepover! (The guys will be staying at the Sweet's home and the girls will be staying at the Stover's home!)



Cost: \$55

**Forms and money due by January 6th.
NO LATE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE!.**

Join us each Wednesday evening as
we
memorize God's Word,
hear Bible stories, play games,
and have a lot of fun!

Cubbies - 3&4 year olds

Sparks - Kindergarten through
2nd grade

T&T - 3rd through 6th grade

Wednesdays from 6:30pm - 8:00pm.



MD² Wacky Winter Weeks



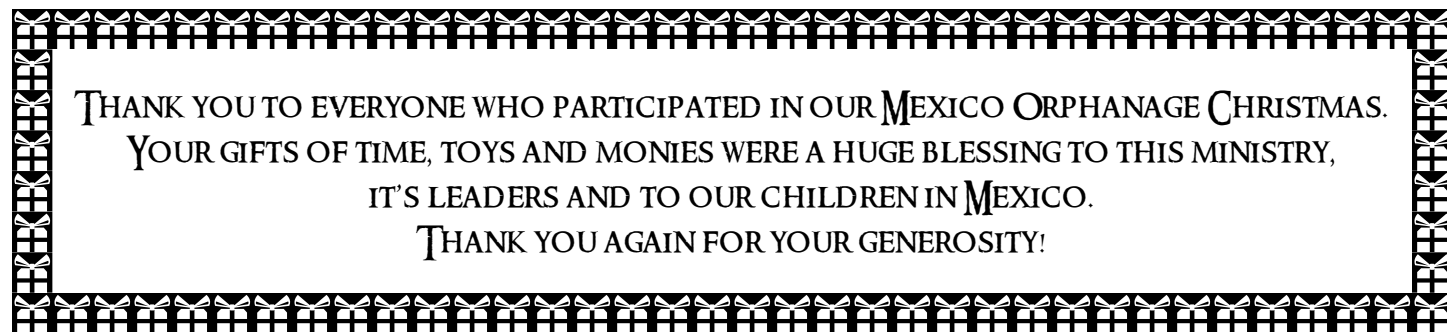
The holiday season is a busy time for everyone, but we hope your family will still be able to join us for Sunday night discipleship!

MD² will continue to meet during the "Wacky Winter Weeks" of January.

January 6-27: We will learn how we can have "Courage" because of Christ's love for us. Don't miss out on FUN games and Bible study!

***All Children will meet upstairs.**

Missions



New Comer's Class

Since we have people attending our church from every type of church background, we have established an on-going class, which provides basic information about our church. We request that all new members attend this class. We also invite those who have not yet joined our church or rejoined our family, and wish to learn more about our church home. As a part of the class, we will explain what we believe, how we operate, our vision, and a little of the background of our church. This informal setting will allow the opportunity to ask questions and grow in your understanding of the ministries of our church. We will have a special offering of our New Comer's class which will meet each Sunday evening, beginning January 6th. A light dinner will be served at 5:45 PM, with discussion from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Then, in our 7:17 PM service, Daniel will cover the major doctrinal issues of our church. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk, or contact our church office at christy@matthewroad.org, or 972-641-2717, to make your reservation if you would like to attend.*

*please note: attending all four classes will satisfy our requirement to attend a New Comer's class before becoming a member. If you are unable to attend all four classes in January, our next New Comer's Class & Dinner will be Friday, March 15, 2013.



January 2013 Events & Activities

For more information, please see our website, www.matthewroad.org, or call the church office at 972-641-2717.

- January 2nd:** Church Office open
Wednesday Night Events and Activities resume
- January 6th:** NewComer's Class begins, 5:45pm, CommonGrounds
- January 9th:** Young @ Heart Breakfast at Outlaws, 8:30am
- January 12th:** Deacon Retreat, MRBC Campus, please see Daniel or Phil for more information
- January 20th:** Kim Sweet's SS Class Party, 12:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- January 25th:** Parent's Night Out, 6:30pm, please see Cyndi for more information

*Do you, or someone you love, have marital, family, or personal struggles?
We can help through Professional Christian Counseling.
Contact Keith Dibble, LPC @ 972.343.9831.*

Wednesday Night Dinners are back!

Join us Wednesday, January 2nd Wednesday nights at 5:30pm for great food and fellowship! Please place your reservation at the welcome desk or contact the church office at jeannie@matthewroad.org.



The #1 item found in our church lost & found, and in our sanctuary? Bibles! Please remember to write your name in your Bible, so that if it's misplaced, we can contact you. Don't let this precious book be left behind.

Financials Thru December 19, 2012

Budget Income	\$833,894
Budget Expense	<u>(860,176)</u>
Net Budget	(\$26,282)

Regular Weekly Calendar

Sundays	
Morning Worship	8:30 & 11:00am
Morning Bible Study (all ages)	9:45am
Trek/Journey (Jr. & Sr. High)	4:00pm
Evening Bible Study (all ages)	6:00pm
7:17 Service	7:17pm
Mondays	
PAW Program	9:00am
Tuesdays	
Young @ Heart Activities	9:45am
Grief Share	6:30pm
Wednesdays	
PAW Program	9:00am
Proclamation Choir (youth)	5:45pm
Children's Choir (K - 6th grade)	6:00pm
Collide (youth)	6:28pm
AWANA Club	6:30pm
Adult Bible Study	6:45pm
Adult Choir	6:45pm
20Somethings	8:30pm
Thursdays	
Bible Study (men & women)	6:45pm
Fridays	
In-home Bible Study (at the Germers' Home)	7:00pm
Saturdays	
Men's Coffee Group	7:30am

Average Morning Attendance for December:
425
Average 7:17 Service Attendance for December:
150