



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Walled Lake Campus / School  
2040 S. Commerce Road  
Walled Lake, MI 48390  
Church: 248-624-7676  
School: 248-624-7677

Wixom Campus / Hearts & Hands  
48380 Pontiac Trail  
Wixom, MI 48393  
Phone: 248-624-9525



## The Do Something Series Booklet

Learn about the Missions St. Matthew is Supporting  
Important Calendar Events  
Get Project Ideas  
Join with Others as We Pray that God's Kingdom Would Grow

[www.st-matthew.org/dosomething](http://www.st-matthew.org/dosomething)



## Do Something

When the disciples saw the great crowd they said, *“Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.”* But [Jesus] answered, *“You give them something to eat.”* Mark 6:36-37

Or said another way... “You **do something.**”

What followed was the miraculous feeding of the 5000. The challenge to feed so many people must have seemed incredible, but with God all things are possible!

This April 30 – June 25, we will begin a new series called, “Do Something.” In our Sunday services we will study Acts chapters 1 - 9 in God’s Word, learning how the early church joined Jesus in His mission. Not only that, we will invite you to **do something** hands on and support God’s mission with others at St. Matthew.

Two times before, through the Pay It Forward and Nehemiah Project, we have raised thousands of dollars for Pastor Daniel in India, Pastor Gladden in Pontiac, and Hospitality House. This time we are adding more mission opportunities and want you to be a part of making a difference. We will give every person \$5 in order to invest in a project from our list.

This booklet is designed to inspire your God Time and encourage you to embrace God’s Mission *with* Him to love the world.

For more information go to our St. Matthew website at [st-matthew.org/dosomething](http://st-matthew.org/dosomething) or email [dosomething@st-matthew.org](mailto:dosomething@st-matthew.org)

Borrowing from the Matthew West song, “It’s time for us to **Do Something!**”



“We ask for wisdom for the staff of POBLO: Rev. Khurram Khan, Rev. Farrukh Khan, Rev. Dr. Rohwer, Cynthia Khan; and the many pastors, non-profit leaders, and business executives on its Board of Directors as they advise and provide oversight of finances and programs, and assist with achieving its strategic goals. May Your Word and the message of Christ be greatly spread through their efforts.”

Read Philippians 1:3 - 11

-----

DAY 57 (Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>) – Prayer of Supplication

We pray a prayer of supplication: “Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all the people, organizations, and events for which we have prayed these many days. We trust in Your mercy that You will answer these requests in accordance with Your will, and for the glory of Your Son Jesus Christ. You have saved not by works, but to do good works which You have prepared in advance for us to do. May we, as You see fit, be part of Your answer to the prayers we have offered, as we see the need of those around us and gladly answer Your call to join You on Your mission. Amen!”

Read Ephesians 2:8 -11

“O Lord, come to us and use our daily provisions. How very well they are spent if we spend them in Your service. How true this is if they are spent in service to You by training and instructing our children in Your way. May we gladly continue to support our school at St. Matthew with our offerings and through the Scholarship Fund.”

With our VBS children, read any or all of Judges 6:11 - 7:25

VBS theme verse: Joshua 1:9

-----  
 DAY 54 (Thursday June 22<sup>nd</sup>) – Pray for St. Matthew’s Youth Missions

“Heavenly Father, we ask Your guidance and protection for our high school and college students and adult leaders gathering and preparing to travel to Caldwell Ohio this summer. Guide and bless their planning efforts, and when they serve, may they be a blessing to the many families and individuals whose hearts they will have an opportunity to touch. Make them ready for their works of service, which You have prepared in advance for them to do.”

With our VBS children, read any or all of Luke 22:66 - 24:12

VBS theme verse: Psalm 89:2

-----  
 DAY 55 (Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup>) – Pray for Another Way Pregnancy Center

“The stories that You have given to those served by Another Way Pregnancy Center are powerful, O Lord. May those who have received help be willing and quick to share with other women and men about the love and help they received, and may many more lives and families be saved as a result.”

With our VBS children, read any or all of 1 Samuel 25

VBS theme verse: Jeremiah 29:11

DAY 56 (Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for POBLO

## Contents

Guidelines for <b>Do Something</b> Projects	4
Ideas and Examples of Projects	5
<b>The 13 Mission Options</b>	
Another way Pregnancy Center	6
Bridge Ministry - St. Matthew	7
Everlasting Life Ministry - Punjab, India	8
Hearts & Hands Family Crisis Fund - St. Matthew	9
Hospitality House Food Pantry - Walled Lake, MI	10
International Ministry - St. Matthew	11
MOST - Mission Opportunities Short Term	12
OMNI - Orphan Medical Network International	13
POBLO International Ministries	14
School Scholarships - St. Matthew	15
St. Paul Community Lutheran Church - Pontiac, MI	16
Volunteer Mission Trip Fund - St. Matthew	17
Youth Mission Trip Fund - St. Matthew	18
Do Something Series Outline with Scriptures	19
Greg Finke 5 Mission Practices Sample BLOG	20 - 21
<b>Events</b>	
National Day of Prayer, May 4, 9 am - 9 pm	22
Thrivent Action Team, May 7 after Services	22
Greg Finke Workshop, May 20, 9am - 2:30pm	23
Missions Gala, June 3	24
Do Something Bazaar, June 24	25
Church Picnic, June 25	25
Daily God Time – Scripture Reading & Prayers for our Missions	26

## Guidelines for “Do Something” Projects

Every adult will receive an envelope with \$5. (If an adult requests, \$5 can be given to children as well.) Invest the money provided in a creative way to let it grow!

Teaming up with other people and doing an activity as a group is highly encouraged!

Take pictures and send them to: [dosomething@st-matthew.org](mailto:dosomething@st-matthew.org)

Select the mission that you want to see your money go to and indicate it on the envelope:



- Another Way Pregnancy Center
- Bridge Ministry – St. Matthew
- Everlasting Life Ministry – Punjab, India
- Hearts & Hands Family Crisis Fund – St. Matthew
- Hospitality House Food Pantry – Walled Lake, MI
- International Ministry – St. Matthew
- MOST – Mission Opportunities Short Term
- OMNI – Orphan Medical Network International
- POBLO International Ministries
- St. Paul Community Lutheran Church – Pontiac, MI
- School Scholarships – St. Matthew
- Volunteer Mission Trip Fund – St. Matthew
- Youth Mission Trip Fund – St. Matthew
- Split Evenly Among the Above Missions



By Sunday June 25, return the money you raised and put it back in the envelope. Place it in the weekend offering or drop it off at either church office.

Go to our website [st-matthew.org/dosomething](http://st-matthew.org/dosomething) for more information and podcasts.

Or e-mail [dosomething@st-matthew.org](mailto:dosomething@st-matthew.org) or call 248-624-7676.

Be sure to “like” stmatthewlcms on Facebook. Comment and let other people know about your projects on our page or your own personal page.

In 2010, during the Pay It Forward series, we took \$3,500, and with God’s help, turned it into \$15,180! In 2012, in the Nehemiah Project series, we took \$5000 and were able to disburse \$17,628 to three ministries!

What will God do through the Do Something Series this year?

Pray for the more than 200 students that are served by OMNI in Zambia, that as they continue to receive food, education, and school supplies, and medical care, they may also feast on the Word of God, be well equipped to do every good work, and healthy in spirit to share God’s love with others.

-----  
DAY 50 (Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for MOST Ministries

“That the mission trips for the Nicaragua Church and Home Repairs Team; the Guatemala Water Outreach Team; the China Eyeglass Team; the South Africa Eyeglass team; and the Jamaica Eyeglass Team will be filled with willing and eager volunteers, we pray to You, O Lord.”

-----  
DAY 51 (Monday June 19<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for the International Friends Ministry

“Be with the husbands of the many women served by International Friends here at St. Matthew. May they be dutiful in all their vocations, as husbands, fathers, employees, friends, and any other responsibilities they have. May they recognize the One for whom they are named as heads of their households, dear Father.”

Today and all this week we follow along with our VBS children. Read any or all of Psalm 139 and Genesis 1:26 -2:4

Theme verse: Psalm 139:14

-----  
DAY 52 (Tuesday June 10<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for Hearts and Hands CDC

“We come before you today, O Lord, on behalf of Kaye, Terra, Amy, Ronda, Diane, Kendal, Denise, Lee, Kellie, Pam, Beverly, Shaimaa, Rob, Meriam, Anna, Lynn, Elsa, and Ann—all those who work at Hearts and Hands. Permit them to be commended to you in all things. For them and for myself I pray the Lord’s Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven...”

With our VBS children, read any or all of Joshua 1 -2

VBS theme verse: Romans 8:31

DAY 53 (Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup>) – Pray for the St. Matthew School Scholarship Fund

DAY 45 (Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac (**Eighth Clinic**)

Pray for the spiritual lives of those who were served at the Hands and Feet Servant Event at St. Paul Pontiac would grow closer to and more like Christ and that they themselves would be inspired to serve others as they are able.

DAY 46 (Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for Everlasting Ministries in India (**Visiting week, wounded, orphans, and widows**)

Pray with Pastor Daniel of Everlasting Ministries for the 14 - 15 June convention they hold, which has thousands in attendance. “Lord God, may the hearts of all who attend be strengthened for the service You have called them to. May Your Word go forth in truth and purity and power, and may these men and women who attend be ignited by Your Holy Spirit to share Your Word without fear, to a country that desperately needs Your forgiveness.”

DAY 47 (Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for Hospitality House (**Packing Day**)

“May all who enter through the doors of Hospitality House be warmly greeted, aptly nourished, and willingly fed both with food and by the message of Your gospel, O Lord. Grant them peace as they go their way this day. In Christ we pray, Amen.”

DAY 48 (Friday June 16<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for the Bridge Ministry (**Return**)

Pray for Pastor Rob, Amanda, and Nate concerning the Bridge Ministry at St. Matthew, that they be given perseverance to continue working even when things seem to be moving slowly. May their strength and dedication be unbounded!

DAY 49 (Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for OMNI (**Arrive in the United States**)

## Ideas and Examples of Projects

Team up with your small group, family, or friends and outflow together for larger projects!



- Bake Sale
- Scrap Metal Recycling
- Herb Planters for your Deck
- ZUMBA PARTY! (Ladies Only)
- Cinnamon Rolls from Scratch
- Babysit
- Organic Seedlings for Sale
- Mending
- Dodge Ball Tournament
- Date Night Babysitting
- Youth Floor Hockey Event
- Guitar Lessons
- Computer Help
- Once-upon-a-child
- Provide a Service
- Mow Lawns
- Homemade Cards
- Make Bracelets
- Dog Walking
- Can Drive
- Ebay or Etsy Sales
- House Cleaning
- Sell Popcorn
- Yard Clean-up
- Lemonade Stand



## Another Way Pregnancy Center

A Woman's Pregnancy Choice (AWPC) is a non-profit women's care organization founded in 1984. They empower women with factual information about their bodies, pregnancy, and pregnancy options while providing emotional and practical assistance to those facing unplanned or untimely pregnancies. All services are free and confidential.



AWPC offers confidentiality in a comfortable, non-judgmental atmosphere and explains all options in a personal, kind, and compassionate manner.

They allow you to consider and make your choices with the time and respect you deserve.



Free and Confidential Services at Another Way Pregnancy Center Include:

- Pregnancy tests
- Limited obstetric ultrasound scans to verify pregnancy, viability, and gestational age
- Pregnancy options information
- Sexual health & relationship education
- Medicaid/WIC program information
- Additional community referrals

For more information check out the AWPC website at:

[www.answers4pregnancy.com](http://www.answers4pregnancy.com)

Or Call: 248-471-5858 for 24 Hour Live Chat

Location: 31700 W. 12 Mile Rd., Suite 102 • Farmington Hills, MI 48334



DAY 41 (Friday June 9<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for Another Way Pregnancy Center (**Fifth Clinic**)

With the leaders and workers of AWPC, we pray for the many clients who received help to choose life, live a healthy lifestyle during pregnancy, give birth, and care for their babies during their first years of being mothers. We thank God for the many who have received counsel on making wise choices in their relationships, parenting, and money management.

DAY 42 (Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for POBLO (**Sixth Clinic**)

“That the many volunteers needed to staff the English Classes, Sewing Classes, Computer Classes, Food Distribution, Clothing Distribution, and Furniture Distribution roles at POBLO will come forward and be motivated to help, we humbly ask you, O LORD. Open many hearts to serve you in these ways.”

DAY 43 (Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>) – Prayer of Thanksgiving (**Day of rest for Medical Team**)

We pray a prayer of thanksgiving: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will— to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us.” – Ephesians 1:3 - 8

DAY 44 (Monday June 12<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for our Missions Short Term Scholarship Fund (**Seventh Clinic**)

“Open the hearts of Your people, O LORD, during this mission series, to “do something,” but not stop there. May we do many things for Your glory. May we give generously of our time and resources. And this day we especially pray that You would use us as You see best in support of our Short Term Missions at St. Matthew. May we give, serve, and intercede in prayer faithfully on behalf of this ministry, for the glory of Your name in the world. Amen!”

This week read Acts 9:1 - 19

DAY 37 (Monday June 5<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for the International Friends Ministry  
(First OMNI Clinic Day— Orphan Children at School)

Thank God for the many volunteers who give of their time in order to teach classes and develop relationships with the International Friends Ministry. Ask that they may be given many opportunities to share the Gospel with their Japanese friends, and may it find hearts that are ready to receive God’s grace.

This week read Acts 6:1 - 7

DAY 38 (Tuesday June 6<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for Hearts and Hands CDC  
(Second Clinic—George Copperbelt, Zambia)

“Dear Father, from whom all families derive and are named, be with the families of the children who attend Hearts and Hands, that they may be strengthened in their faith or brought to faith in Christ, and be drawn in ever-increasing measure to You. Through Your Son Jesus Christ, Amen.”

DAY 39 (Wednesday June 7<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for the St. Matthew School Scholarship Fund  
(Third Clinic)

“Thanks be to God for a school that is not bound by rules and regulations which hinder the sharing of the Gospel! Praise be to You, Lord, that the children have many opportunities to develop not only knowledge, but also compassion and many other traits that will prepare them to be productive and upstanding members of society.”

DAY 40 (Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for St. Matthew’s Youth Missions (Fourth Clinic)

For all the youth mission trips and teams who will serve this summer, we pray.

“Heavenly Father, bind these teams together. May they grow close in relationships as they prepare to go. May they recognize and take many opportunities to come together in fellowship, fun, and the sharing of Christ's love, that the body of Christ may be built up and unified in one Spirit, for the good of those whom they will serve.”

## Bridge Ministry - St. Matthew

Bridge Ministry is a new ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church looking for ways to: “Serve people in our local community by providing a safe place of hope and love, meeting them wherever they are in life and helping them find assistance with basic needs.”

This ministry exists because fewer and fewer people come to Christ by walking through the front door of the Church. We have learned, through research and experience, the best way to reach our community today is to meet them where they are at, serving a basic need.



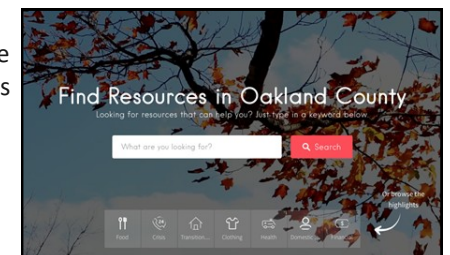
This ministry endeavors to create a place in the community where a hungry person finds more. We would like to create a low-income food counter in Wixom. We're hoping to provide healthy, inexpensive meals for those that can afford it, while offering a suspended food option for those that can't. (A suspended meal is one that someone else pays for and we make that meal "suspended" until someone needs it.) By meeting this basic need, we will create relationships with people in need, help them find other support in the community for other basic needs, and tell them of Jesus' love when the time is right.

This project provides opportunity to not only strengthen our congregation, but also the community in which we live and work. This is a big project and requires significant support. Our vision is to ultimately have a place in the community to reach our neighbors. If you would like to know more or get involved, contact Amanda Krigner at [amandakrigner@gmail.com](mailto:amandakrigner@gmail.com). We need:

- Donations to launch this ministry, including food and permits for the pilot program.
- Volunteers
- Strategic partners

You can also see our very first project, an online database for organizations that provide services in Oakland County

[www.oaklandcountyresources.org/bridge](http://www.oaklandcountyresources.org/bridge)



## Everlasting Life Ministry – Punjab, India



Pastor Daniel Masih operates a Christian ministry in the Punjab region of North India. He goes door-to-door and ministers to people in an area where less than 1% of the population is Christian. When he finds potential new church leaders, he invites them to live in his home. He takes them with him when he goes out to evangelize, practicing a New Testament model of discipleship. He doesn't hesitate to take the Good News of Jesus into other states where it's a real risk to share the Word of God.



St. Matthew initially began supporting Pastor Daniel through the 2010 Pay It Forward Series. Our first trip to India was an exploratory trip in February 2011. A team of four went to provide dental care, pastoral training, and support. In March of 2012, a team of eight carried out a four-day eyeglass clinic, helping fit 587 people with glasses.

This mission trip was the first joint trip through POBLO and MOST Ministries. We have since had two more mission trips to support Pastor Daniel.

The eyeglass mission trip has been an effective way to care for the community. Pastor Daniel said, "Everyone in Dasuya now knows about Everlasting Life Lutheran Church. Because of this service event, the name of Christ, and Christ's church now have twice the respect it had before." A prominent Hindu business man who brought his wife for eyeglasses commented, "In the history books concerning religion, we read about love, but love like this we've never seen before." St. Matthew plans to have an eyeglass mission trip October 12 - 24, 2017. There are still spots available. Please contact Pastor Rob if you want more information [rob.nelson@st-matthew.org](mailto:rob.nelson@st-matthew.org)

How Donations Can Help Pastor Daniel:

- Transportation (motorcycles, scooters, and bicycles) for Pastors, Missionaries, and Evangelists
- Financial support for new Pastors, Missionaries, and Evangelists
- Sponsor other Ministers in the area
- Travel to support local ministries



DAY 32 (Wednesday May 31<sup>st</sup>) – Pray for Everlasting Ministries in India

Pastor Daniel gives specific names of pastors for whom to pray: "I am writing some names of the Pastors those are working with Everlasting Life Ministry: Pastor Pardeep Singh; Pastor Daljit Kalyan; Pastor Sarabjit Singh; Pastor Nishan Singh; Pastor Samuel John; Pastor Angrej; Pastor William Masih; Pastor Gurchetak." Today please pray to God on their behalf, asking for wisdom, peace, and strength, and that these pastors He is raising up will be committed and be grounded in the Scriptures so they can preach and teach others.

DAY 33 (Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>) – Pray for Hospitality House

Today we lift up St. Matthew's partnership with Hospitality House, as we continue to seek ways to partner with and work alongside this organization. "May all involved be given wisdom and direction in line with Your will, Father, and Your plan for the people of our community."

DAY 34 (Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>) – Pray for the Bridge Ministry (OMNI Team Leaves)

Pray today that the Bridge ministry might have great success in finding organizations and individuals to partner with, that they might be guided toward the group that God wants them most to serve. May they be able to foster strong relationships with these people and groups, which will provide inroads for sharing the Gospel.

DAY 35 (Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>) – Pray for OMNI (OMNI Team in South Africa)

Pray for the 2017 OMNI Mission team as they prepare and share their God-given gifts with the people of Zambia. May He keep them safe in their travels, humble in their service, and ever focused on the glory of God.

DAY 36 (Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for MOST Ministries (OMNI Team in Zambia)

We pray today that the Indian people that receive eyeglasses through the MOST trip will become Christians and worship with Pastor Daniel. We also pray for those who volunteer, thanking God for their efforts.



DAY 28 (Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for POBLO

“Oh Lord God, may we and other Christians in our community see and respond to the great need for learning about others’ faiths and sharing our own faith with those around us. Thank you for the work that POBLO does to assist with this, and may their efforts and the resources they provide be of great benefit to all who seek to proclaim You.”

DAY 29 (Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>) – Prayer of Confession

We pause to pray a prayer of confession: “Righteous and Holy God, we confess that we are often slow to see the needs of those around us, and even slower to respond. Forgive our unwillingness and give us clean hearts that seek to do good with alacrity. May we truly be neighbors to those around us as the Good Samaritan was a neighbor to the man he saw, and as the disciples were to the many whom they encountered. Amen.”

DAY 30 (Monday May 29<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for our Missions Short Term Scholarship Fund

“Holy and Most Gracious God, be with those in our midst who will benefit from going on missions. May they be granted hearts to recognize the abundant generosity of Your people who have provided for their needs, and may that recognition spring forth in joy that touches the lives of all they will serve. We ask that You would continue to use us as a church to provide these opportunities not only for our Japan trip, but also the India trip and others to come. May the funds be replenished quickly, Lord! Amen.”

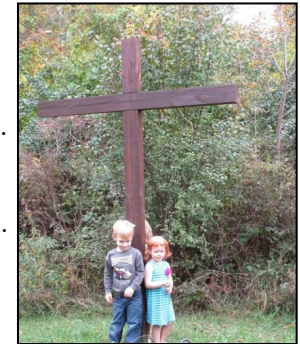
This week read Acts 5:21 - 42

DAY 31 (Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac

Pray for St. Paul’s Bible Study and interpretation class – that those who come might be hungry for God’s Word and might learn the joy of receiving the pure Gospel; that the Spirit of God would be among the group to open hearts and minds to repent and believe the Good News.

## Hearts & Hands Family Crisis Fund - St. Matthew

Hearts and Hands Christian Child Development Center is a ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Our mission is to help parents in the area by providing loving, quality Childcare/Preschool and helping them to lead their children to have a growing relationship with Jesus. Children will develop spiritually, socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically in a consistent and predictable environment, which is essential for young children.



“The Family Crisis Fund” is an emergency fund that would help families who have an uncontrollable crisis and need some assistance in their tuition. Examples of using this fund: Job loss and need to search for another job, temporarily layoff and need a holding fee, urgent medical reasons and the child would need to continue attending, or any other financial crisis that might affect a family’s ability to meet their full tuition.



For more information please contact Ronda Coe at 248-624-9525 or on the web at:

[st-matthew.org/heartsandhands](http://st-matthew.org/heartsandhands)



## Hospitality House Food Pantry – Walled Lake, MI

Hospitality House is a food pantry that serves families in need of food assistance in the Walled Lake School District and West Bloomfield areas. It is located at 2075 E West Maple Rd B-204, Commerce Twp, MI 48390.



Hospitality House first opened its doors in 2002, and since then the pantry has grown phenomenally. In its first year of operation, it served approximately 200 families while operating out of rooms borrowed from the First Baptist Church of Walled Lake. By 2004, the pantry had grown to the point where it needed its own 1800 square foot office/warehouse space.



In November of 2015, Hospitality House moved to its new facility located on E. West Maple Road, in Commerce Township. The new facility is approximately 8000 square feet. As a result, in January 2016, Hospitality House opened its doors to include the Novi School District and all residents who have a 48393 zip code. In 2017, Hospitality House expanded again, lifting its residency restrictions so

that it now distributes over 35,000 pounds of food to approximately 450 households every month!

The mission of Hospitality House is to end hunger in our community by providing food to those in need. They are a “Client Choice” food pantry in that they assist their clients in selecting a certain amount of food based upon their family size. Clients can choose their foods rather than be given a package with food they may, or may not, like to eat.

St. Matthew has hosted Hospitality House’s Santa Shop at the Walled Lake Campus for the last seven Decembers. This event allows families they serve to choose a fixed number of gifts for their children as Christmas gifts.

How Donations Can Help Hospitality House:

- Food – Member agency of Gleaner’s Community Food Bank Supplies
- Facility Expenses
- School Supplies — “Backpack Program”
- Santa’s Workshop



For more information, or to volunteer, you can call Hospitality House at 248- 960-9975. Visit their website at [www.hhfp.org](http://www.hhfp.org).

DAY 23 (Monday May 22<sup>nd</sup>) – Pray for the International Friends Ministry

On behalf of the International Friends Ministry, pray that God will lead many more from the international community to seek out the church at St. Matthew. May they come not only to learn and be integrated into American society, but may they more importantly come to desire to be a part of God’s kingdom and his chosen people. May the Holy Spirit work in their hearts to bring them to faith.

This week read Acts 4:1 - 22

DAY 24 (Tuesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>) – Pray for Hearts and Hands CDC

Pray that the seed of faith that is planted in the children of Hearts and Hands may grow and bear fruit in abundance in their lives.

DAY 25 (Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for the St. Matthew School Scholarship fund

Lift up parents who are considering bringing their children to St. Matthew Lutheran School, that they will see the value in a high-quality Christian education. May those who need assistance, seek it and be made aware that scholarships are available, and may it help them to cover the costs as they strive to bring their children up in the way of the Lord.

DAY 26 (Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for St. Matthew’s Youth Missions

For St. Matthew’s Youth Missions, pray: “Heavenly Father, we ask your guidance and protection for our college students who will travel to serve in Caldwell, Ohio later this summer. Be with them on their journey as they plan and prepare. May their hearts, minds, and bodies be made ready for their time of serving those in need.”

DAY 27 (Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for Another Way Pregnancy Center

On behalf of AWPC, ask God for increases in the number of clients coming through the doors, in services provided, and in opportunities to present the Gospel through the ultrasound services offered there.

DAY 19 (Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for Hospitality House

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving to God for Hospitality House. Thank God for the many grocers, businesses, schools, religious organizations, and individuals who donate their time and resources to serve at Hospitality House!

---

DAY 20 (Friday May 19<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for the Bridge Ministry

On behalf of the Bridge Ministry, pray for St. Matthew as a whole as the church seeks to increase its involvement in the community and in members' neighborhoods. May we all be given eyes to see what needs there are around us, and not be prevented from doing good because of feeling awkward, uncertainty, or waiting for the "right" moment. May we step out in boldness wherever we see need, and not be unduly constrained by processes and procedures that tie us up rather than binding up the brokenhearted.

---

DAY 21 (Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for OMNI

Pray for wisdom and direction for the OMNI staff and volunteers as they seek to do God's will. Thank God that He has led them to a place of great need, and that they are able to use the donations and resources that so many have provided in order to complete these works of mercy and grace.

---

DAY 22 (Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>) – Pray for MOST Ministries

Along with MOST Ministries, today we pray that those being persecuted for their faith would see God's grace as sufficient and that God's power would be perfected in their weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9 - 10). Since many of the pastors, evangelists, and workers who are beaten and imprisoned for their bold witness have left behind sons, daughters, and spouses to fend for themselves, we pray for them and against the negative impact that has on families.

## International Ministry — St. Matthew

International Friends offer help and friendship to our international neighbors. All nationalities are welcome. International Friends offer many classes and activities in easy English, especially for international adults and children. One of our staff members speaks Japanese, and we have the ability to translate materials into Japanese, Korean, German, and Spanish when needed.



### Our Mission Is To:

- Model Christ for our un-churched international neighbors, especially Japanese, by offering help, friendship, love, and the Gospel message, in the hope that the seed of faith may be planted;
- Offer, when desired, help in learning about Christianity;
- Provide nurture and support here or after they return to their home country, so they may continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Did you know there is a team of 10 going on a mission trip to Japan this summer!? It is a short-term mission with a long-term mission mindset.



The purpose of this mission trip to Japan is to encourage a deeper relationship with God by:

1. Strengthening the friendships we have had over the years with our Japanese friends that have returned to Japan through facilitating reunions.
2. Building up, strengthening, and challenging our Japanese brothers and sisters in Christ. As they seek to minister to our Japanese friends that have learned about Jesus while in Michigan and have now returned to Japan through a Motor Cities Summit with the Japanese Toyota City pastors.
3. Ministering to the children of our past Japanese friends and meeting those that will be going to Michigan in the future through a Kids' Camp at the local churches.
4. Inviting and enlightening the local Japanese population about caring churches in their area through the reunions and Kids' Camps.



Please call at 248-624-7676 ext.115 for more information or go to [st-matthew.org/internationalfriends](http://st-matthew.org/internationalfriends)



## MOST— Mission Opportunities Short Term



How would you like to work alongside God in the mission field sharing His love with others who either do not know Him or know very little about Him? You can start the journey today on a MOST Ministries short-term mission team.

Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST Ministries) is a Christian non-profit organization that connects,

trains, and sends short-term mission teams throughout the world, in response to requests from missionaries and churches

bodies. MOST Ministries provides for the physical and spiritual needs of more than 10,000 people each year by connecting Goers, Senders, and Receivers. It is a commitment to the Great Commission that has compelled MOST Ministries to go far and near for the sake of the Gospel since 1989.



MOST ministries offers many different opportunities across the globe in areas of construction, dental teams, ESL teams, eyeglass clinics, teacher teams, VBS teams, and water purification teams, just to name a few. Your donations to MOST help make ministry possible. Your gifts and pledges to fund MOST ministry help off-set the cost of short-term mission teams. By using your financial donations, MOST can keep the cost of short-term mission teams more affordable and reach more people with the Gospel message.

MOST needs thousands of pairs of glasses for the Eyeglass Mission Trips. You can also donate your used eyeglasses to MOST ministries at the Welcome Desks at either St. Matthew Campus.

MOST provides many other mission opportunities where you can support at their office in Ann Arbor or even right from your home. Go to the website at [www.mostministries.org](http://www.mostministries.org) or call 734-994-7974 for more information.

### DAY 15 (Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>) – A Prayer of Adoration

We pause to adore our God and Father: “Lord God, Heavenly Father, You have made us your children through Baptism, and adopted us into Your family. We praise and thank You for that priceless gift. We also praise and thank You for giving us earthly families, this day especially remembering our mothers and all mothers, or those who desire to be mothers. May Your peace glow brightly in their hearts this day, and may they feel loved by those whom they have served so faithfully. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.”

### DAY 16 (Monday May 15<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for our Short Term Missions Scholarship Fund

Pray for our Short Term Missions Scholarship Fund, giving thanks to God that He has continuously provided money through generous donors. Pray that we as a church would be wise stewards of the gifts we have been given, that they may multiply 30-, 60-, or even 100-fold in the lives of those whom they touch.

This week read and reflect on Acts 3:1 - 26

### DAY 17 (Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac

We pray for St. Paul’s ESL classes – that those who come to learn English might have minds that are open and quick to learn; that the teachers might serve skillfully in their vocations; that through this ministry the many who attend will be helped to integrate more fully into society.

### DAY 18 (Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for Everlasting Ministries in India

Pray with Pastor Daniel for the Himachal Pradesh people of India. These people are extreme Hindus. They hate Christianity. Pray that God soften their hearts so that they can receive the Word of God.



DAY 10 (Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for Hearts and Hands CDC

Pray for our Hearts and Hands Ministry. Specifically, pray for the staff and children as the development of the children is taking place all day long, five days each week. “It takes special people to take on this effort on Your behalf, Father. Grant them peace and perseverance during the easy and difficult days, for the sake of these dear children.”

DAY 11 (Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for the St. Matthew School Scholarship Fund

Pray for the St. Matthew School Scholarships Fund. May students who already do benefit, as well as those who will benefit from the scholarships, have their minds and hearts opened to learn both knowledge and wisdom as they study at the school.

DAY 12 (Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for St. Matthew’s Youth Missions

Pray for the Youth Missions Ministry. “Heavenly Father, we ask your guidance and protection for our high school students and adult leaders as they get ready to travel to Caldwell, Ohio. Guide and bless their planning efforts, and watch over them until they leave, that they might be well-prepared to be a blessing in the lives of those they have the opportunity to touch.”

DAY 13 (Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for Another Way Pregnancy Center

Pray for Another Way Pregnancy Center. Pray for the staff and volunteers to have the right words to say to women and men calling to learn about the services offered and to make appointments.

DAY 14 (Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for POBLO

Pray for POBLO. As many people from other faiths (such as Islam) are considering Christianity, pray that they will be directed to wise and helpful teachers of the faith who can properly and clearly explain and demonstrate what is different about the Christian faith, and that they may also see that faith in action.

## OMNI — Orphan Medical Network International

Since 2001, OMNI has had a major influence on the care of orphaned and vulnerable children in the Copperbelt Province of northern Zambia. Medical teams consisting of physicians, nurses, and support staff have made several trips to that area. The effort began with mobile medical clinics and has grown into the building and staffing



of orphanages and, most recently, the opening of schools supported by OMNI. After several trips to Zambia to experience the needs, OMNI's mission has been refocused to a more holistic approach. OMNI's foundation in providing health care for orphans remains a strong commitment. However, the mission has grown to serve orphans and vulnerable children and the communities in which they live through education and community development. OMNI's entire staff is volunteer and receives no salary.

100% of the money donated serves orphans and vulnerable children through medical care, education, and community support. \$1 per day provides a daily meal, quality education, school uniform, and school supplies for a child, as well as support to their community. We need your help to do this. Please go to [omnimissions.com](http://omnimissions.com) for more information.



## POBLO International Ministries

POBLO was founded in 1993 in Dearborn, Michigan—a Detroit suburb with the largest concentration of Muslims in the United States and one of the largest Arab communities outside the Middle East. By 1995, the ministry expanded into additional



U.S. states and also into a number of additional countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, India, and Pakistan. From 2011 onwards, POBLO's focus has been to train

U.S. churches about how to conduct cross-cultural missions in their own communities.



Since its inception, POBLO has planted 84 churches and trained and sent 116 missionaries to work in multi-cultural communities in the U.S. and overseas. POBLO has deployed missionaries, which include men and women, from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, and Sudan. 2,185 former Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs in the U.S. and beyond have been brought to faith in Christ and baptized through these efforts.

POBLO has also helped to meet basic physical and social needs of thousands of immigrants and refugees in California, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Minnesota, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Beyond the U.S., POBLO has worked in a number of Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian countries. In the past eight years, we have scaled down our international efforts to focus more specifically on the significant and growing needs we see in our own front yard.

You can find more information about POBLO and its ministries at [www.poblo.org](http://www.poblo.org) or call 586-477-1530.

## DAY 5 (Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for Hospitality House (National Day of Prayer at Wixom Campus-9 am-9 pm)

Pray for Hospitality House Ministry. Pray that God would raise up many volunteers to help at Hospitality House, as we continue to feed the community. May He bring many who are skilled at hospitality, communication, fundraising, event planning, administration, physical labor, and transportation together for the good of Walled Lake and the surrounding areas.

## DAY 6 (Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for the Bridge Ministry

Pray for the Bridge Ministry here at St. Matthew. For Pastor Rob, Nate, and Amanda as they seek God's direction and wisdom for moving forward with Bridge ministry. May the training they have received bear much fruit in how they proceed.

## DAY 7 (Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for Orphan Medical Network International

Pray for the staff of OMNI who generously give of their own time and resources in order to serve the children of OMNI. May God bless their efforts and their selfless service to be of great benefit to the children and all others whom they serve.

## DAY 8 (Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for MOST Ministries

Pray with MOST Ministries that God would provide the individuals around the world, who are being persecuted for their faith, the words needed so they can fearlessly make Christ known. As Paul says, "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." (Ephesians 6:19 - 20).

## DAY 9 (Monday May 8<sup>th</sup>) – Pray for the International Friends Ministry

Pray for the International Friends Ministry. For those preparing to go on the Japan mission trip in July: Ashley, Michi, Rebecca, Jill, Amy, Jan, Samantha, Theresa, Camryn, and Sue. May God pave the way for a smooth and successful journey that bears much fruit.

This week read and reflect on Acts 2:42 - 47

## Daily God Time - Scripture Reading & Prayers for our Missions

DAY 1 (Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup>) – Begin

“Lord Jesus Christ, you instruct us in your Word to ‘go and make disciples,’ a task that involves many things, but first and foremost requires us to ‘go.’ As we begin this journey following the acts of your early church, may we be so inspired by their dedication to putting their faith, hope, and joy into action, that we also are moved to emulate their example. Amen.”

To kick off the series, read Acts 1:1 - 11

-----  
DAY 2 (Monday May 1<sup>st</sup>) – Pray for our Missions Short Term Scholarship Fund

Pray for the Missions Short Term Scholarship fund. Pray that the fund would be well supplied in order to allow many to participate in missions who would not otherwise be able to. Pray that many would be moved to join a mission trip and experience the life-changing blessings that come through service.

This week read and reflect on Acts 2:1 -13

-----  
DAY 3 (Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup>) – Pray for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac

Pray for St. Paul Pontiac: Pray for their iCan Tutoring program, that the tutors and students matched up in the program would form bonds that allow for effective teaching and provide a good environment for the message of the Gospel to be shared and received, and that the students might learn well and develop the skills necessary to be good stewards of God’s gifts.

-----  
DAY 4 (Wednesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>) – Pray for Everlasting Ministries in India

Pray for Pastor Daniel and Everlasting Ministries in India. Pray for the church planting that is ongoing in 22 districts of Punjab, that obstacles will be overcome and peace will follow the expansion of the Church.

## School Scholarships — St. Matthew



St. Matthew Lutheran Church is passionate about Christian education, and St. Matthew Lutheran School is one of numerous avenues through which our congregation provides opportunities for children to grow closer to and more like Jesus.

Through our school ministry, we believe that God has called us to offer an exemplary academic education that is built on the foundation of Jesus. On a daily basis, we are able to provide a loving, positive, Christian environment where young people can achieve to the highest level of their scholastic abilities, while presenting opportunities to grow as vibrant and missional disciples of Christ.

We realize that many of our families make sacrifices to send their children to our school, and, for some, it is a financial challenge. The St. Matthew Scholarship fund offers assistance to those who are facing those challenges and qualify for financial aid. Our sincere desire is that no one with an earnest desire to send their child to our school will be turned away. The St. Matthew Scholarship Fund has served as a blessing to many students and families throughout the fifty year history of our school, and your support will continue to be a tremendous gift to those in need.





## St. Paul Community Lutheran Church – Pontiac, MI

St. Paul Pontiac was founded in 1946 on 3rd Street and Joslyn Ave. in Pontiac, MI. The Michigan District restarted it as a mission church.



Pastor Dietrick Gladden and his wife Becky are the only staff and labor faithfully to serve the community's most urgent physical and spiritual needs, meeting the people where they are in culture and life circumstances.

As mission congregation, St. Paul does not yet have a congregation that can support the ministry financially or with leaders and volunteers. Pastor Dietrick and Becky depend almost entirely on the assistance of sister churches to support their developing ministry.

Ministry Currently Includes:

- Contemporary worship
- Hispanic Ministry
- ESL Classes
- Fathers Hands: Food and clothing pantry serves 800 people, homeless ministry on the streets and in church, and 300+ children receive Christmas gifts
- Wednesday night Bible Study/ community family dinners
- Overcomers: Weekly addiction relief and Christian fellowship lunch
- iCan Tutoring after school
- VBS



- Community and Holiday meals/events – serve 300+

Please help fund and support this mission church! Volunteer, contribute, donate materials, and help with projects. For more information call 248-758-9019.

## Do Something Bazaar

June 24<sup>th</sup> 10am - 1pm

St. Matthew Walled Lake

It's perfectly okay to *do something* bizarre at the Do Something Bazaar!

Come share your projects with one another on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> under the big tent at the Walled Lake campus. Whether you are selling or buying, you will not want to miss this event.

- Share your delectable foods or drinks.
- Sell your collectables
- Clean out clothes... Mom to Mom style
- Create a challenging game and spice it up with prizes
- Sell vegetables or flowers from your garden
- Offer face painting

What can you add to the list of ideas?!

Kids can enjoy FREE inflatables.

The Bazaar gives us one last chance in a fun venue to Do Something! Sign up for a table at [www.st-matthew.org/Bazaar](http://www.st-matthew.org/Bazaar). For more information contact Lori at [lkapelczak@comcast.net](mailto:lkapelczak@comcast.net) or Julie at [lancasterjulie@yahoo.com](mailto:lancasterjulie@yahoo.com)

## Church Picnic

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 11 am St. Matthew Walled Lake

Come worship under the big tent as we celebrate an invigorating week of VBS and the conclusion of our "Do Something" mission series. You will hear an updated tally of what has been received to support the mission projects. After worship you are invited to stay for a picnic, listen to more music, and give the kids a chance to enjoy the inflatables and other activities.



## Missions Gala

June 3<sup>rd</sup> — 5:30 — 11 pm

Lyon Oaks Banquet Center

52251 Pontiac Trail South Lyon

As part of our effort to raise funds for the various missions we currently support, St. Matthew Lutheran Church's Mission Ministry is hosting a Missions Gala on Saturday June 3, 2017. The adults only Gala will be held at Lyon Oaks Banquet Center, 52251 Pontiac Trail South Lyon, from 5:30 - 11pm.

There will be a strolling stations dinner, cash bar and music. We will be holding a live and silent auction.

Items could include, but not limited to:

- Ann Arbor Hands on Museum
- Red Wings
- Tigers
- Pistons
- Lions
- Disney World
- MI Science Center
- Henry Ford
- Leslie Science Center
- Crystal Mountain
- Celebration Cinema
- The Drake Hotel (Chicago)
- Shedd Aquarium (Chicago)
- U of M
- MSU
- Great Wolf Lodge
- Detroit Zoo



Ticket prices are:  
\$75/single  
\$150/couple  
\$1000 reserves a table of 10

If you have questions or would like to support the Do Something Missions please contact:

Lori Kapelczak - 248-939-2051 or [lkapelczak@comcast.net](mailto:lkapelczak@comcast.net) or

Julie Lancaster - 317-645-6550 or [lancasterjulie@yahoo.com](mailto:lancasterjulie@yahoo.com)

Please save the date and plan to join us for a great evening out while supporting 13 great causes!

## Volunteer Mission Trip Fund — St. Matthew

- Do you want to help others in a country overseas?
- Are you inspired by missionary stories?
- Has God put a burden on your heart to share Jesus' love with others?
- Have you wondered if it was financially possible to go on a short-term mission trip?
- Did you know there is a volunteer mission trip fund that can help reduce your costs?



St. Matthew would like to help make it possible for you to go on a short-term mission trip! The volunteer mission trip fund has helped St. Matthew members to go on mission trips in our region and across the globe. St. Matthew sets aside funds from the budget to help seed this fund, but more is needed if we want to raise the bar on sending members

from our church. By supporting the volunteer mission trip fund, you will be helping others who may not have been able to go otherwise. St. Matthew would like to see 50% of its members on a short term mission trip by 2020.



## Youth Mission Trip Fund — St. Matthew

The Middle School St Paul Pontiac Hands and Feet Servant Event, is an opportunity for our middle school students to serve hands-on in the greater Pontiac area. High-points of the weekend include serving at Grace Centers of Hope, working at Gleaners Food Bank, hosting a St. Paul Community Easter Celebration, making and delivering over 200 subs to St. Paul members, leading Sunday Morning Bible Class, and hosting a joint Middle and High School Lock In at St. Paul.

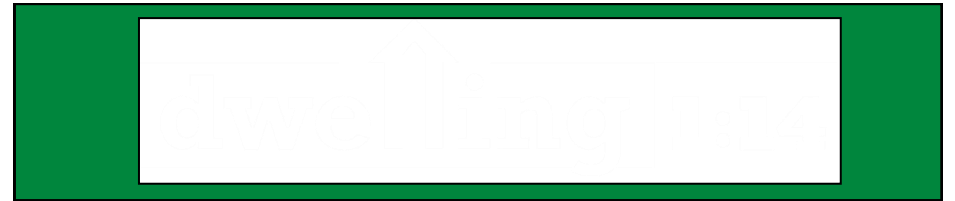


High School and College Summer Mission Trips to the greater Caldwell Ohio area occur each summer as we spend two weeks serving the citizens of the greater Caldwell Ohio area. Projects vary from landscaping, deck repairs, wheelchair ramps, painting both interior and exterior, bathroom remodels, and wherever else we can be of assistance. Both groups primarily serve the elderly and those on

low fixed incomes.

Contributions to the Youth Mission Trip Fund will support students in service.

## Greg Finke Missional Lifestyle Training: Launch May 20 9am - 2:30pm (8:30 registration and continental breakfast) St. Matthew Walled Lake



Last fall, Greg Finke reminded us how easy it can be to Join Jesus in His Mission. The mission is everywhere as God's Kingdom is at work in the hearts of people all around us. All we need to do is join Jesus while he is at work!

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, at Missional Lifestyle Training: Launch, we will build on what we have learned and be encouraged to *do something* (LAUNCH!). We will clarify what a disciple is, and how our actions can better reflect what Jesus is doing in our lives.

Please register at [www.st-matthew.org/JoiningJesusTraining](http://www.st-matthew.org/JoiningJesusTraining) for materials, lunch (\$5 donation), and childcare or call the church office at 248-624-7676.

## Events

### National Day of Prayer — St. Matthew Wixom Campus May 4<sup>th</sup>, 9am - 9pm 48380 Pontiac Trail

This year on May 4th, instead of greeting people, "May the forth (force) be with you!" how about greeting them with "May the Lord be with you!" May 4th is the National Day of Prayer, and we'll be hosting it at the Wixom campus from 9:00 am till 9:00 pm. Stop by any time to pray around the bonfire, walk, and meditate on the prayer trail, nail prayers to the prayer cross or prayer wall, and even grab a bit of lunch (provided). We will pray for one another, our community, our church, our nation, and our world.



### Thrivent Action Team Informational Meetings May 7, 2017 after Sunday Services at Walled Lake and Wixom

If you are a Thrivent Member you are eligible to receive \$250 from Thrivent to use towards your project!

Identify your project for the Do Something Series and submit an online application at [thrivent.com/actionteam](http://thrivent.com/actionteam). The application will take you about 10 minutes to complete. After Thrivent approves your project, you will be mailed a \$250 Community Impact card to get your project off the ground and make a bigger impact. You can also receive t-shirts, a banner, thank you notes, or other promotional items by request.

Bring together a volunteer team of friends, family small group, and people in your community to have a bigger impact. They do not need to be Thrivent members.

Please Note: You will need a [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) login name and password to apply. To get those, you need your Thrivent identification number, which can be found on any statement you receive from Thrivent. Or you can call Thrivent 800-847-4836 for help.



**THRIVENT**  
FINANCIAL®

*Connecting faith & finances for good.®*

On May 7th, we will have Thrivent representatives available after every Sunday worship service to give more information and answer questions you might have.

## Do Something Series Schedule and Scriptures

### Week 1 - April 30

"What Next?"

Jesus Taken Up Into Heaven - Acts 1:1 - 11

### Week 2- May 7

"Everything We Need"

The Holy Spirit Given at Pentecost - Acts 2:1 - 13

### Week 3 - May 14

"Missional Lifestyle"

The Fellowship of Believers - Acts 2:42 - 47

### Week 4 - May 21

Greg Finke Guest Preacher on Sunday

Hebrews 10:24 - 25

### Week 5 - May 28

"Better Ways Ahead"

Peter Heals a Lame Beggar - Acts 3:1 - 10; 4:18 - 22

### Week 6 - June 4

"Words that Change Lives"

The Apostles are Persecuted – Acts 5:2 - 42

### Week 7 - June 11

"Many Hands Make Right Work"

The Choosing of the Seven - Acts 6:1 - 7

### Week 8 - June 18

"Begin With Me"

Saul's Conversion - Acts 9:1 - 19

### Week 9 - June 25

VBS Picnic



## “5 Mission Practices from Greg Finke”

Reprinted with permission from Greg Finke.

Sign up for Greg’s Blog at: [dwelling114.org/blog](http://dwelling114.org/blog)

September 22, 2011—Missional Living: Simple Practices

When I am a disciple of Jesus doing what a disciple does, I am then, by definition, living missionally.

Jesus is our missional God. When I have taken up His teachings and lifestyle and am recognizing and responding to Him in my daily life, that’s missional living with our missional God.

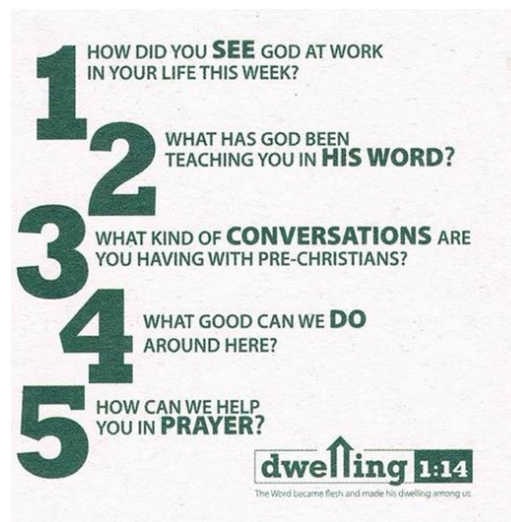
So how do we get there?

I have found that if we take up certain practices, we put ourselves into position both to be discipled by Jesus and to live missionally, that is, to recognize and respond to what He is already doing in the lives of people around us.

Having said that, however, I have learned the hard way that if a process is complicated it will not last. If it is overly academic, it becomes something only for the learned. If it requires months (years) of classes before we can start to participate in the mission of Jesus, people drop out. If it requires being at the church building on a certain day at a certain time, we unintentionally but automatically exclude many people who cannot get to our location, at our time.

These realities forced me to refine a process that is simple and sustainable, that is not dependent on textbooks or extended teaching by experts, that is located where people already are living and within the rhythms of life that are already in play. And, perhaps most importantly, a process that puts regular folks like us into position to see Jesus at work right away and begin to respond to Him. (We don’t have to sit on the bench week after week. We can get into the game!)

And it all begins with keeping it SIMPLE. Remember the acronym K.I.S.S. (Keep It Simple... Sweet-cakes).



In Dwelling 1:14, we focus on five simple practices that put us into position to recognize Jesus at work and respond to Him.

1. Seeking first the Kingdom of God (watching for Jesus at work in us and around us)
2. Receiving teaching from Jesus (listening to Him in His Word)
3. Engaging in conversation with people who are outside our family of faith (connecting with people unconnected with Jesus)
4. Coming alongside people to bless them (fun and service)
5. Ministering in prayer (bringing the Kingdom to people open to receiving it)

These practices are not exhaustive, but if I am watching for opportunities to put these five simple activities into practice every day, I am in a much better position to recognize Jesus at work and begin to respond to Him than if I do not.

It is also important to note that I may not have opportunity to put all five of these things into practice every day. However, it is my mindset to put myself into position to be able to recognize and respond to Jesus whenever His timing is fulfilled. In other words, these practices position me to be ready when He does press near!

Finally, in practicing these activities, don’t see them as a new legalism. We don’t put these things into practice to prove we are good boys or good girls. We put them into practice so that we are positioned to see Jesus at work and to join Him. When we engage these practices, we are engaging Jesus and the Kingdom of God becomes tangible to people around us. So, this is not about keeping rules or being a good boy. This is about getting off the bench and getting into the game!

So those are the five practices. In Dwelling 1:14, we then help people who live near each other to regularly come together to support each other in this new lifestyle. They come together not for Bible Study (that is important, but that’s a different setting). Not for fellowship or care (that happens because we are together, but is not the primary focus of the gathering). They come together to support each other in putting these five activities into practice.

How does that happen? By giving each other the opportunity to tell our Kingdom stories.

For today, what is your discipleship process and is it producing disciples according to Jesus? Is it simple? Does it position people to get in the game right away? Is the emphasis on being a good boy or being in position to recognize and respond to Jesus?