
St. Matthew Today

Wed., Nov. 15th, 2023

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 126th year

SILENT AUCTION/BAKE SALE—Sat., 10 to 2

Friday's Word

Someone wrote me to say: "The only place for women in the church is sitting in pews with their heads covered."

According to Paul, God doesn't even see us as male or female, Jew or Gentile. And God doesn't see people as gay or straight. This from a near-death experience:

+++

When I got to heaven, I asked about my sexuality. I had been concerned all my life. The angel directed my attention to a large screen.

On the screen, I saw two points of light engaged in intimate relation. The angel asked which was male and which was female.

I said, "I don't know."

The angel said, "That light is what God sees, for God sees the soul. Gender is a temporary thing. It will not always be with us."

The angel said God never makes a mistake in the way we are made.

And God knows how each of us will be challenged and how we will be blessed.

We are called to grow spiritually as we are.

+++

So—Jesus was being literal when he said we are the light of the world.

Some folks want gay people, women, people of color, immigrants, and many others to put their light under that "bushel" Jesus talked about.

But Jesus told us to shine—all of us. Shine—as we are, where we are.

God doesn't abide by the labels we put on people.

God doesn't see Baptist, Methodist, Muslim or Jew—nor American or foreign.

God just sees his children—fighting over labels that don't count.

+++

Fun silent auction and bake sale tomorrow—10:00 to 2:00. Come!

God Bless—MB

saintmatthewumc.com
revmaxb@tx.rr.com

Big Weekend!

SATURDAY—SILENT AUCTION AND BAKE SALE—You know this will be fun.

And helpful. Buy your cake for Thanksgiving. (Some of you can buy the one you baked!)

And for those with a competitive spirit, fight it out at the silent auction. Lots of stuff—baskets stuffed with cheeses, chocolates, and all kinds of goodies.

And lots of items to gift to other people this Christmas. So, come—and let's have fun—

AND!!!—MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL—LET'S MAKE A LITTLE MONEY FOR THE CHURCH!!!

Thanksgiving Sunday

Thanksgiving with your family on Thursday—but with your church family this Sunday.

We have our big Thanksgiving meal together this Sunday after worship—a St. Matthew tradition.

And in worship, we will sing songs of thanksgiving. My sermon: "Thank God, It's True"

Scripture: Matthew 7:7-11

The March to Christmas

It's about to begin—and I'm ready for it.

I missed Christmas at the church last year—ill with COVID.

Sunday after this Sunday is "Christ the King" (Mary preaching), and then, on Dec. 3, Advent begins.

And on Saturday, Dec. 18—surely you know—**THE CHRISTMAS SHOW.**

But let's not get ahead.

This Sunday—the church Thanksgiving.

Pot-luck dinner after worship.

GOD BLESS—MB

Silent Auction & Bake Sale

Saturday, November 18, 2023. We appreciate everyone's participation in donating to the silent auction or donating your favorite baked goods. VOLUNTEERS are needed to help set up. Items being donated will be accepted Friday morning, November 17, or before 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 18. Ladies Luncheon Nov. 16 to finalize plans. Contact Veta McCulloch at 817-451-6980 or 817-994-1629.

Mary's Corner

Greetings dear congregation,

I have just left the hospital room of Eloise Rhodes, our oldest living congregation member at St. Matthew. Eloise woke up and smiled when I talked to her. She remembered many names as I spoke to her, sending love from all of you. Please pray for Eloise's comfort and peacefulness. Pray also for her family who will be making some difficult decisions over the next few days.

Eastside Ministries Annual Fundraising Enchilada Dinner will be held at St. Matthew UMC, Tuesday, December 5, 2023 @ 6:00 pm. RSVP's are required. We will have a sign-up page on the bulletin board this Sunday. Vegetarian option will be available.

The memorial service we had last Friday for Darrin Charbonneau was well-received by all who attended. The event also shined the light on a meaningful way for St. Matthew to remember Darrin. A "Life Fund" will be established on behalf of Ian Charbonneau, Darrin and Carla's 10-year-old son. Donations to this fund can be made in memory of Darrin. I am starting the fund with \$100 dollars this week and I encourage you to contribute what you can. The seed money will be placed into a managed account for Ian and will be available to him when he is ready to make decisions about college or whatever he chooses. If you would like to participate, please bring your gifts this Sunday and place them in the plate at offering time.

The Tarrant County Department of Public Health is tracking specific respiratory illnesses on the website, including COVID-19, influenza and RSV. While COVID-19 is not as prevalent, it is still active in our community, along with RSV and influenza. I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU: Stay away from crowded places or wear a mask in those spaces; practice social distancing and thorough hand washing; stay home if you are ill and avoid folks who are ill. I had a brief "flashback" Sunday morning as everyone was leaving the church. I forgot for a moment that it is 2023 and panicked when I saw everyone standing close together in the doorway. We need to **protect** those among us who are at high risk for contracting any illness. The best way to do this is to follow the previous four recommendations.

My love to you all, Mary
pastor@saintmatthewumc.com

Kids' News

Today, we were still discussing the twins Jacob and Esau. We talked about how different they were.

Esau had been hunting and came into the house to demand Jacob give him something to eat immediately. Jacob agreed to feed his brother, but wanted something in return; so after he thought a while, Jacob promised Esau soup right away if he would just give him his birthright.

Esau agreed to this on the spur of the moment without thinking through what he was really giving away for some food. When he later realized what he had given away for something he wanted immediately, he got very angry and threatened to kill Jacob.

Jacob now had his brother's birthright, but to receive the inheritance he must also receive the full blessing from their father, Isaac. Isaac was now an old man and had lost his eyesight. The only way he knew he was speaking to Esau was by smell and touch. Rebekah got some of Esau's stinky clothes and put a hairy animal skin on his arm, so his father would think it was Esau. Though Isaac still questioned the identity of Esau, Jacob said that he was Esau and Isaac bestowed his blessing on Jacob.

When Esau discovered that he had been robbed of his father's blessing, he wanted to kill Jacob. Rebecca sent Jacob away and Isaac finally gave Esau a blessing.

Everyone in this story must have been completely overwhelmed. When there is chaos all around us, we sometimes lose our ability to see clearly.

See you in church Sunday to continue our story.

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

Give to Saint Matthew UMC

Please feel free to contribute in any way you can and help us in our efforts to continue spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the community and the world.

Scan the QR code with your phone to securely give online or visit our website at saintmatthewumc.com/give

