

St. Matthew Today

Wed., Oct 30th, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 128th year

Lord, Save Us



Friday's Word

It's on our minds—here, four days before.

The great Carl Jung, noted psychiatrist, said that, in a crisis, we could depend on only 40 percent of the population to act rationally.

We know already that 46 percent of Americans will not act rationally. They support someone who is clearly racist, vengeful, and cruel.

They have made a firm commitment to values that are nowhere close to Christian.

I used to think we were getting better. I thought people had become less racist, less ugly to the neighbor.

Now, I don't know.

We may be worse.

There was a time when anyone who admired Hitler would not be considered for any job.

Now, 46 percent of our people don't seem to care.

And here's the sad thing:

Most of those people go by the name Christian.

That would suggest to us that something is seriously wrong in the church.

Not in all churches—but in many churches, even in whole denominations.

We need an explanation.

We need to figure out why so many Christians are so accepting of racism, vengeance, and cruelty.

And I do think I know. God, in the Old Testament, is often pictured as racist, vengeful, and cruel.

And for the biblical inerrantists, all scripture is equal. They feel free to choose that vengeful image of God over the God of grace we have in Jesus.

The Gospel has no priority at all with many Christians.

They think God hated the Amalekites, so they can hate immigrants.

Lord, save us.

God Bless—MB

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Max's Corner

THE PICNIC!

This is our annual Brian McKosky picnic—with sausage hauled all the way from Wisconsin to Texas.

Some of you have signed up to bring some of "the fixin's" to go with the wieners.

Now listen!—if it rains, the picnic will move inside. So, not to worry. Rain or shine, we eat after worship this Sunday.

Last Week's Sermon

Women are dying needlessly because of radical laws preventing abortions—even in medical emergencies. So, I talked about the "A" word last week. I told the story of Sophie, distraught over expecting a baby with a cruel man she had been dating. She was in agony over whether to keep the baby. Crying beside the road in her car, she opened her eyes to see a light all around her. And from the Light came this word: "The child will be fine either way." Then she was reminded that she was loved. God can handle any situation. The laws being passed are cruel, destructive, and unnecessary.

The Class—Discovering God

This week, we will look at the second (perhaps third) most famous religious experience of all time.

Class at 9:45—followed by breakfast.

Speaking of Breakfast

This is a "Winston Sunday"—so expect a great meal. We do need the breakfast to feed the Discovering God Class and others, even if we are having a picnic after church.

Food and fellowship at 10:30.

This Sunday

This Sunday—the sermon first intended for last week: "Joy." I hope it will be uplifting.

Blake will be in Mexico celebrating Day of the Dead. No choir. Shannon will sing.

AND!!!—we gather at the Lord's Table.

God Bless,

MB





Mary's Room

Peace and love to you from a follower of Jesus Christ,

My prayers for you this week have been for **comfort and peace**. Anxiety, worry, and fear are palpable in the air as we approach this most contentious election next week. I understand those feelings and find myself frequently “belly breathing” and inviting the peace of Christ into my mind. I remind myself that “the Lord is my shepherd, walking with me through green pastures, still waters,” and whatever chaos the world is experiencing. I tell myself, “let not your heart be troubled.” **I am a follower of Jesus, and I do feel the presence of the risen Christ in my life, even in the middle of a society at war with itself.** I remember that God is eternal and all-knowing. God has already seen what happens in the future, including the election next week. I know we all have an outcome in mind that either brings us joy or fear. I encourage all of you to choose to trust in God. The best we can do is to vote in the way our conscience leads us. The next best thing we can do is to continue to love our neighbors and to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in our neighborhood. Neither of those two things depends on who sits in the White House. All politics aside, it is imperative that an open, affirming, accepting, and loving voice of the church is heard above the noise of people at war with each other over political ideals. **Saint Matthew is such a church, and we have that voice.**

Don't forget our picnic this weekend, which looks like it will be held indoors. We had very few folks sign up on Sunday for the event. Please let Vita know what you plan to bring if you did not sign up on Sunday. This will be a very informal event; we will have no decorations, but we will need a cleanup crew. I encourage you to **bring everything that you and your family will need** that you would bring for a picnic, and then bring a little more to share with others.

We have two important events coming up. **On November 5th, Saint Matthew will host a voting location.** After our picnic on Sunday, we will work together to make sure the bathrooms and the fellowship hall are clean and ready to receive guests. Our second important event is a wedding that has been booked at the church for December 7th. **This is our first time hosting a wedding as a paid venue.** We will work together on Thursday evening, December 5th, and Friday, December 6th, to make certain that the church is clean and ready to receive guests.

Finally, my beloved siblings, keep your thoughts on things that are good, things that are right, things that are just, things that are loving. When we think on these things, the world is a better place.

Mary



Did you know?

We offer online giving through PayPal. Your gift can be drawn directly from a checking or debit account on any schedule you choose. Gifts of any amount help us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our community and the world via our online ministry.

Scan the QR code above with your phone's camera or visit our website to give online: saintmatthewumc.com/give

Kids' News



Last week, we talked about the three visitors who came to Abraham's tent and promised that Abraham, who was 99, and Sarah, who was 90, would have a son. True to God's promise, they had a son named Isaac, which means “He Laughs.” Later, Isaac had a son named Jacob.

When we meet Jacob, he's on the run. Jacob had tricked his father into giving him his older brother Esau's birthright, and now Esau wants to kill him for it. So Jacob flees. After a long journey, he stops to rest, and while he's asleep, God appears to him in a dream. In the dream, God promises Jacob land, many descendants, and His protection, just as He did for Abraham. God also promises to be with Jacob always. God keeps His promises and is always present with us.

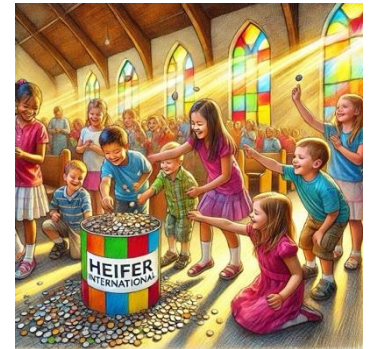
We look forward to seeing you in church this Sunday to talk more about God's promises!

It may sound early, but we're already preparing a Christmas program for the kids. During church, they'll present the program, and if we're lucky, St. Nick himself will join us after lunch! Parents, please let Miss Vickie or me know if your little ones will be part of the program, so we can make sure Santa has enough stockings filled with goodies for each child.

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue

Drop your coins in the bucket!

We're deeply moved by the generosity shown in support of our kids' Heifer International charity campaign, which helps families lift themselves out of poverty through livestock, resources, and training. Our work isn't done yet—continue contributing. Every donation, big or small, helps us reach our goal of empowering families to build a brighter future.



Be The Hands and Feet of Christ

- **Church Picnic:** Join us indoors this Sunday after worship! Bring picnic essentials and a little extra to share. If you missed sign-ups, let Vita know what you'll bring. Cleanup volunteers are needed!
- **Election Day – November 5:** Saint Matthew UMC will host a voting site. After the picnic, we'll prepare our facilities to welcome guests. Your help is appreciated!
- Eastside Ministries:
 - **Thanksgiving Bags: Due November 17** for Eastside Ministries.
 - **Christmas by Candlelight: December 3** at St. Rita's Catholic Church, 6:30 PM dinner.
- **Bill J. Elliott Elementary: Winter coat drive** and **reading program** through November 3. Volunteers, please complete a Fort Worth ISD application.
- **Women's United Hygiene Bags:** Collecting items through November 10 to support women in need.