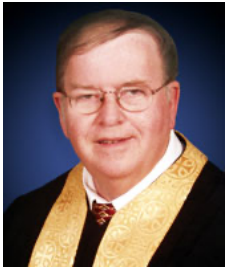


Saint Matthew Today



Max's Corner

Service for Jim Lee

Saturday, March 15, 11:00 a.m.

at St. Matthew

We will provide lunch for family and friends after the graveside. All are

welcome at the service, whether you knew Jim or not.

Discovering God Class

Another great discussion last week! Everyone needs to know—and have a chance to discuss—the kinds of things we are learning in this class. The teachings of Jesus are verified here every week.

Class at 9:45. Breakfast after.

Breakfast this Sunday

This is a “Winston Sunday.” Feel free to help.

Breakfast is at 10:30.

Second Sunday of Lent

Mary preaches this Sunday. Kristi may well be back after her COVID spell. The choir will likely be back in the choir area.

Eyes on the Prize

There will be some misery and chaos for some time to come, but I don't plan to keep my focus on it. For at any given moment, life is better than we can imagine it to be. To live in this world—rough as it is from time to time—is an honor and a privilege. We are blessed to be here. And we are loved, watched over, and cared for.

Despite the national sorrow, we are called to trust and rejoice. This will be a wonderful and joy-filled year at St. Matthew.

Expect misery from Washington.

And nothing but amazing grace from our Lord Jesus Christ.

See you Sunday.

God Bless—MB

Give Thanks – We had a gracious and well-attended Ash Wednesday service—and a great meal before it. Thanks to all!

Mary's Corner

If you know someone who would like to learn more about our church, its people, and upcoming events, sign up for our weekly electronic newsletter at saintmatthewumc.com/newsletter/



Write It on Your Heart (attributed to Emerson, from “Success”)

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.

He is rich who owns the day,

And no one owns the day who allows it to be invaded with fret and anxiety.

Finish every day and be done with it.

You have done what you could.

Some blunders and absurdities, no doubt, crept in.

Forget them as soon as you can; tomorrow is a new day.

Begin it well and serenely,

With too high a spirit to be cumbered with your old nonsense.

This new day is too dear, with its hopes and invitations,

To waste a moment on the yesterdays.

I attended the funeral of a friend this past Saturday and this Emerson poem was part of the program. Ralph Waldo Emerson was a 19th-century American philosopher, minister, and writer. He held these ideas: people are best when they are independent and self-reliant, and not puppets of society and its institutions; intuition is a higher form of intelligence and can lead people to do the right thing; all creation is essentially unified; and divine experience is inherent in everyday life.

I stumbled on the first three lines of the poem, scoffing at the idea that happy thoughts make everything better. But the next two lines made me smile, “Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could.” We all hold a lifetime of joys and regrets, some of us are more comfortable with regret. I believe God has no intention that we hold on to anything from the past. I believe God intends for us to live in the present, basking in the eternal light and love of our risen Savior. This is a very difficult task for me, and I know I am not alone. I cling to the things that I am comfortable with, things behind me that cannot be changed. I want to cling to every moment that I am experiencing now, joyful or sorrowful, knowing that God is with me in all these things. We urgently need to focus on today and what we can do today to share the love of Christ with the world. (continued page 2)

Jesus tells us in Matthew 6: 34, 'Don't worry at all then about tomorrow. Tomorrow can take care of itself! One day's trouble is enough for one day.' (JB Phillips New Testament).

Max spoke Sunday about the mustard seed and the little things we can do to cause something good to grow. I pray for us to all have those little things in mind as we move through this day knowing that this new day is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on *yesterday's*.

I am preaching Sunday. We will talk more about clinging.

My love to all, Mary

PS: I am hearing from all of you how lovely the fellowship hall decorations are. Thanks so very much to Cindy, Sheila, Lindsey, and all the others recruited to spiff up our fellowship hall!



Julian Rodriguez Stars as Shrek!

Our very own Julian Rodriguez, from the Saint Matthew choir, will be taking on the lead role of Shrek in **Upright Theatre Company's** production of **Shrek: The Musical!**

Julian has been having a fantastic time bringing the lovable green ogre to life, and he would love for you to come out and support local theater!

Upright Theatre Company
2501 N. Main Street, Suite 210
Euless, TX 76039

Julian's Performance Dates:

- Sat, March 15 – 7:30 PM
- Fri, March 21 – 7:30 PM
- Sat, March 22 – 7:30 PM

Don't miss this fun-filled production—come cheer on Julian and enjoy a fantastic night of music and laughter!

Friday's Word

"Bless Their Hearts"

Ah!—now we know.

We've been so troubled, trying to make things make sense.

How could they do that?

Let children die in Africa.

End research on cancer in children.

Drastically cut aid to veterans.

Rob from the poor to give to the rich.

Side with the aggressor against the victim.

What, in the name of common decency, is wrong with them?

Then the Car Guy said it out loud. He told us what he is fighting against.

Empathy.

He said empathy is destroying civilization.

There is too much of it, he says.

Empathy is the ability to feel the pain of others.

It is the essence of love.

It is the heart of morality.

It is the foundation for the Golden Rule.

"Do unto others—"

When Car Guy said to get rid of empathy, I remembered.

These guys can't feel the pain of those dying children because they are sociopaths.

Bless their hearts.

They can't help it. That's how sociopathy works. Look it up.

A chief trait is the inability to feel empathy for others.

So, stop expecting them to suddenly hear the cries of grieving mothers and change their ways.

Won't happen.

They are not going to feel your pain.

Nor the pain of dying children.

But I can't help wondering: Why are so many Christians attracted to sociopaths?

Looks like they would know better.

God Bless—MB

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Kids' News

The Call of Levi

We had a busy week! Miss Vickie talked to our class about different ways people can be baptized and what baptism means. Some churches baptize by sprinkling water, while others practice full immersion. After learning about these different traditions, our kids decided they liked the Methodist way best and are giving it serious thought!



This week's Bible story was about **Levi (also known as Matthew), the tax collector**. In

Jesus' time, tax collectors were disliked

because they often took more money than required and kept the extra for themselves. Most people wanted nothing to do with them.

But then something amazing happened. **Jesus saw Levi sitting at his tax booth and said, "Follow me."** (Luke 5:27)

That's it—just two simple words! And do you know what Levi did? **He got up, left everything behind, and followed Jesus!**

Imagine how shocking that must have been. Jesus, a respected teacher, invited someone that most people thought was dishonest and unworthy. But Jesus doesn't just call those who seem perfect—He calls **everyone**, including people who have made mistakes. Levi knew that following Jesus would change his life completely, and he didn't hesitate. He even threw a big dinner at his house to celebrate, inviting Jesus and his disciples to eat with other tax collectors and outsiders.

Some religious leaders saw this and weren't happy. They asked, *"Why does Jesus eat with sinners?"* (Mark 2:16)

Jesus answered, *"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."* (Mark 2:17)

That's the good news for us! **Jesus doesn't wait for us to be perfect before He calls us—He calls us just as we are.**

What We Learned

- ✓ **Jesus invites everyone**—even those who feel unworthy or left out.
- ✓ **Following Jesus means leaving behind the things that hold us back.** Levi didn't hesitate; he got up and followed!
- ✓ **We are called to welcome others, just like Jesus did.** No one is too far gone for God's love.

See you in church on Sunday!

Blessings,

Miss Vickie and Miss Sue



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