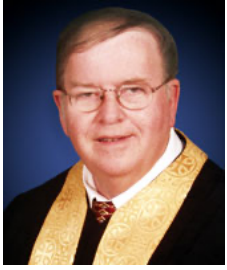


SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



Max's Corner

Service for Jim Lee

Thanks to all who helped—with the service and with the food. Your love, expressed in service, was very important to the family during a hard time. We are a great church.

Discovering God Class

A few years ago, I called for readers of Friday's Word to share their experiences with me. One thing I received was a remarkable near-death experience, and this Sunday, we will look at that for the very first time. I have never shared it anywhere before. Class at 9:45. Breakfast after.

Breakfast This Sunday

This is a "We Bring Sunday." Don't forget that! Feel free to help. Breakfast is at 10:30.

Last Sunday and This

Mary had a lovely sermon, and it made me hungry for some chocolate pie! The anthem *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* may have been the loveliest thing our choir has ever done. The cellist, Alex Hyme, will be back with us on Good Friday when the choir will repeat this anthem.

This Sunday, the sermon will be: ***How Did She Get In?***—about a Jewish woman who went to heaven during an NDE.

Thanks for the Cleanup

The sanctuary seemed fresher last Sunday. Some of our women gave the church a spiffing up after their luncheon last Thursday. Much appreciated!

Remember the Needs of Eastside Ministries

They are hurting for help. Hundreds of families in need depend on Eastside Ministries for food and clothing. We will continue letting folks make a special contribution this Sunday.

I do hope to see you in worship this Sunday. Let's talk about the meaning of salvation. And sing the songs of grace.

We also welcome those who worship with us online.

God Bless,
MB

Mary's Corner

Holding On and Letting Go

Hold on with all your strength! Sometimes, that's all we can do—hold on for dear life. Hold on to the God who created us and loves us beyond measure, to the point that even Calvary was not too much to endure. We are God's beloved children.



For some of us, simply being held is difficult. Letting go and trusting God takes a strength we didn't know we had. I feel that way this week as I struggle to make sense of what's happening in our world, on our streets, and in our lives. I've wrestled with trying to fix things, when what God asks of me right now is to **be still**.

"Be still, and know that I am God." – Psalm 46:10

Be still, beloved children, and know that God is with us.

Blessings,
Mary

Friday's Word

"Get the Wrath Out"

This Sunday, I will talk about something much of the church has failed to get right— salvation.

And much of the church fails to get salvation right because they fail to get God right. Many ministers are very confused about God.

They will say that "God is love," for John clearly tells us that. But they also preach that God is vengeful and full of wrath.

Even some parts of the Bible get God wrong. Revelation tells us God will pour out "bowls of wrath" on humankind.

God will not do that.

There is no wrath in God. And how do I know this? In two ways.

First, Jesus tells us.

He says that God loves even His enemies. He says that God is "kind to the ungrateful and to the wicked."

Dumping bowls of wrath is not kind.

Second, our experience of God tells us that God is love—always love.

I know thousands of accounts of religious and near-death experiences in which people meet God. No one has ever met a God of anger. No one has ever met a God who would want to hurt us.

Millions of people have gone to heaven briefly in near-death experiences. They have not seen one bowl of wrath there.

Yes, I know. Even the blessed Paul mentions "the wrath of God."

That's why it is essential that we put Jesus first in reading the Bible.

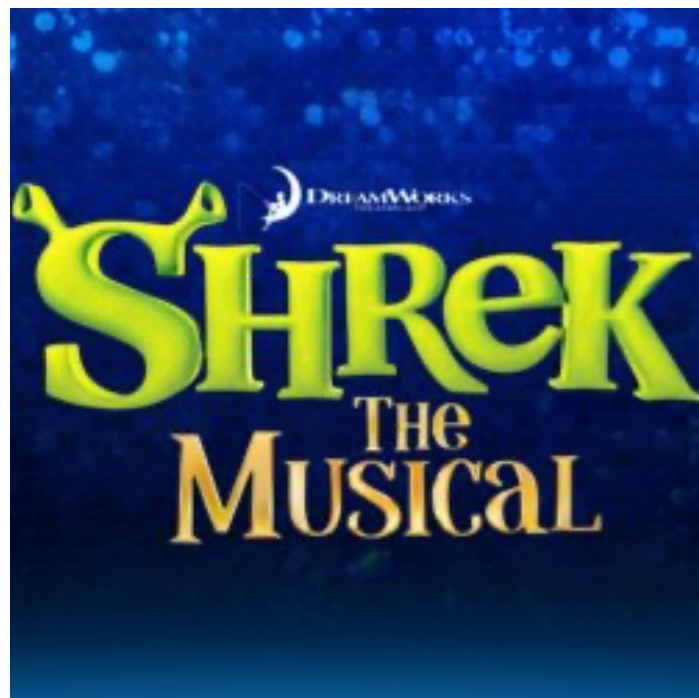
That is the only way for us to get God right.

Now, how does **salvation** look without the wrath? Who is saved?

God Bless—MB

saintmatthewumc.com

revmaxb@tx.rr.com



Final Weekend to See Julian Rodríguez as Shrek!

Our very own Julian Rodríguez, from the Saint Matthew choir, has been bringing the lovable green ogre to life in *Shrek: The Musical* at Upright Theatre Company—but time is running out!

This Friday and Saturday are your last chances to see Julian in this fantastic production. Don't miss the opportunity to cheer him on and support local theater!

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

Julian's Final Performances:

Fri, March 21 – 7:30 PM

Sat, March 22 – 7:30 PM

Come enjoy a night of music, laughter, and heartwarming fun before the curtain closes!

Did you know?

Chair Yoga is offered Tue., Thur., Fri. at 11:00 AM

Looking for a gentle way to improve flexibility, balance, and strength? **Chair Yoga** is a low-impact exercise perfect for all ages and abilities, providing the benefits of yoga while seated or using a chair for support. Whether you're recovering from an injury, managing mobility challenges, or simply looking for a relaxing way to move, this class is for you!

Kids' News

Zacchaeus and The Tree

This Sunday, we learned about Zacchaeus! Do you remember the song about him? Vickie and I sure did, and we sang it with the kids!

But Zacchaeus wasn't just a fun song—he was a real person with a big problem. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, which meant he collected money from people to give to the Roman government. But in those days, tax collectors were allowed to take extra money for themselves, and many of them did—including Zacchaeus. Because of this, most people didn't like him.



One day, Jesus came to Zacchaeus' town. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but there was a problem—he was too short to see over the crowd! So he did something unusual for a grown man—he **ran ahead and climbed a tree**. In those times, it wasn't considered very dignified for an important man like Zacchaeus to run or climb trees, but he didn't care. **He just wanted to see Jesus!**

Then something amazing happened. When Jesus reached the tree, He looked up and said, "**Zacchaeus, come down right now. I must stay at your house today.**" (Luke 19:5) Everyone was shocked! Why would Jesus want to visit a tax collector?

But Jesus' kindness changed Zacchaeus' heart. Zacchaeus promised to give half of his possessions to the poor and to repay anyone he had cheated—four times what he had taken!

At first, Zacchaeus seemed like the story's hero because he made things right. But the real hero is Jesus. Jesus saw Zacchaeus for who he could be, not just who he had been. He reminded everyone that God's love is for everyone—even those who have made mistakes.

What We Learned

- ✓ Jesus loves and accepts everyone, no matter their past.
- ✓ When we truly follow Jesus, it changes us for the better.
- ✓ We should treat others with kindness and fairness.

Challenge for the Week: Find a way to show kindness to someone who may feel left out, just like Jesus did with Zacchaeus!

See you in church on Sunday!

Blessings,
Miss Vickie and Miss Su



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 with your phone's camera or visit our website to give online: saintmatthewumc.com/give