

SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



Max's Corner

Closed with Hallelujah

For the first time ever, we closed our Easter service with Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*—and it both raised the roof and brought the house down. Our powerhouse choir did its job for both Good Friday and Easter Sunday. (And the piano/cello duet from Blake and Alex on Good Friday was beyond beautiful.)

What good meals we had on Thursday and Friday. All went well. We have been uplifted with the Spirit of our Lord.

And the Easter Season continues for six more Sundays, leading us all the way to Pentecost on June 8.

Discovering God Resumes

We skipped Easter Sunday, but we're back on track this week. Members of this class are learning things most people do not know. We're getting a deeper look at the world. This Sunday, one of the most unusual stories in my book. Starts at 9:45.

Breakfast this Sunday

Let's face it: this breakfast time has become important. And it's up to whoever will help this Sunday. I'll bring donuts. Breakfast is at 10:30.

THE CONCERT

Saturday at 6:00 PM

Shannon and Julian take us to Broadway!

This Saturday evening will be a great one. Two of our best singers will bring us some of our best-loved songs—and a few surprises. The offering will go to Eastside Ministries, which is currently hurting for funds. Your gift will help feed a family in need.

We get to have fun *and* be our Lord's helping hands at the same time. And we eat, too—spaghetti dinner at 7:00, right after the concert.

DON'T – FORGET – THE CONCERT!

My love to all of you.
God bless—MB

Mary's Corner



Greetings to all in the name of the risen Christ!

I will admit that Holy Week is not easy for me. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services break my heart, and it does not get any easier year after year. Holy Week services—and especially the music—coupled with the number of church members who have passed away in the last two months (and in the last several years), have brought a great deal of grief into my heart over these last ten days.

Grief is an odd companion, coming in wave upon wave across one's heart. Reliving the last days of the life of Jesus creates this kind of grief in me every year. And yet, Holy Week is the most spiritual time of the year for me. I tend to lean in toward God during the forty days of Lent, and especially in the last seven days leading to Easter.

After every Easter, I pray for a continuation of the intimacy I find during Lent and Holy Week. I am praying for all of us to be reminded EVERY DAY that we are Easter People.

Don't forget our **Saturday night concert, April 26th**—music at 6:00 PM and a lovely spaghetti dinner provided by the Kitchen Crew at 7:00 PM. All proceeds will go to Eastside Ministries.

Blessings and love to all,

Mary

Did you know?

Chair Yoga is offered Tue., Thur., Fri. at 10:00 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

The Promise of Easter

What a Sunday! This Easter, our church lawn was transformed into a joyful place of celebration, learning, and surprise. And not just because of the 1,000 eggs hidden for the kids, but because we were celebrating the most important part of our faith: **Jesus is alive!**

Before the hunt even began, the kids got a special visit from a mother bunny and her four babies, who seemed to come by just to give their approval! And as the Easter Bunny prepared for the big event, eight baby chicks also made an appearance. Each chick looked different—some fluffy yellow, others patterned with stripes or spots—and all of them were reminders that **God creates each of us to be wonderfully unique.**



By 10:15, the eggs were out and the hunt was on! Miss Vickie directed the little ones to a dry grassy area near the street (thanks to the rain the night before), while the big kids raced to the playground side. About 20 children filled baskets and shopping bags with bright, colorful eggs. Many of the kids from the homes across the street joined us too—we were so glad to welcome them!

In the end, **Rhys Vitek** found the golden egg for the older kids, and **Mabel Salfen** found the golden egg for the younger group. The smiles said it all!

But Easter is about more than eggs—it's about the greatest promise ever made.

After the hunt, we gathered inside for a movie, popcorn, and juice. We watched *The Easter Promise*, a film that followed the story of Jesus from His arrival in Jerusalem, through the **Last Supper**, the **Garden of Gethsemane**, His **trial**, the **cross**, and finally, His **resurrection**. The story ended with beautiful music and clouds lifting as Jesus rose from the grave.

As the Bible tells us:

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.” – **Matthew 28:6**

After the movie, we worked on a craft—stained glass crosses to remind us that out of darkness comes light, and from the cross came new life.

What We Learned

- ✓ Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection—He is alive!
- ✓ Each part of the story matters: the donkey, the garden, the cross, and the empty tomb.
- ✓ God made us all different, like the baby chicks, but we are equally loved.
- ✓ We can carry the joy of Easter with us by learning about Jesus and sharing His love.

Thank you for bringing your kids, grandkids, and friends to church this Easter. We hope you'll come back next Sunday—and every Sunday—as we continue to learn more about the life, love, and promises of Jesus.

Jesus is risen. And that changes everything.

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Friday's Word

There is a lie which most people believe: that the burden of proof lies with Christians concerning their faith.

That just is not true.

The burden lies with those who do not believe.

They must fight the overwhelming evidence that

Jesus is Lord, and He is raised from the dead.

Yes—I said evidence.

Take the resurrection.

Take that Shroud rolled up in a box in Turin, Italy.

Most people think it is controversial. Maybe real.

Maybe not.

Sorry. The argument is over. Some 200 scientific tests point to authenticity. New X-ray testing places it at the time of Jesus.

And if it is real, Jesus is risen. If the Shroud is the real thing, Jesus is who Christians claim Him to be.

And are you aware that Jesus continues to appear to people—in NDEs—in other kinds of experiences?

Think about that.

Heidi Barr was a Jewish teen from a staunchly atheistic family. She was thrown from a horse, hit her head, and “died” for a short time.

Who did she see? Who was there to greet and love her?

Yes, Jesus.

Jesus is all over the place in religious experiences.

And when people see Him, He is always that person of power and authority—the one we call Lord.

You can believe what you want. But I want the truth.

And the truth is Jesus, crucified and risen.

Are you in for some pure fun? Come to our concert this Saturday, April 26.

A Night on Broadway.

The offering is for Eastside Ministries. Show at 6:00.

Supper at 7:00.

Let our great singers lift your heart with songs you love.

God Bless—MB

saintmatthewumc.com

revmaxb@tx.rr.com

