

# SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



## Max's Corner

It's all about the concert this week. We've waited. We have HIGH expectations.

MSB Gospel Group will be here THIS SATURDAY — SEPT. 20 — 6:00 P.M.

Now listen—we have sold tickets, but we can take more customers at the door. Just come with money in hand. We don't want anyone to miss it.

## Pastor's Class

Same time, same station.  
At 9:45—followed by breakfast.

## Breakfast this Sunday

It's a "Winston" Sunday. Feel free to help.  
That's at 10:30.

## Sermon this Sunday

Sermon: *Watching God Work*

I am fascinated by the way God works to bring people to faith. This Sunday, we will watch the conversion—over many years—of a woman who was a devout atheist. She made fun of Christians. She had no Christian friends. But then, in one sudden and overwhelming moment, the pieces all came together.

Yep! We're going to sing *Amazing Grace*

God Bless—  
MB

## Friday's Word

Can a theological system be accurate? Is it possible to "get it right," or is belief in God finally just guesswork?

There are over 15,000 Christian denominations, so somebody must be guessing wrong. But we do not have to guess—any more than a scientist has to guess in their work.

All that can be known to us about God is available through the experience of God. Every religious or spiritual experience tells us something about Him. Every Near-Death Experience (NDE) tells us something about heaven and the life that awaits us beyond this one. And all of this supports what we already know from the teachings of Jesus.

The most accurate picture of God anywhere is found in Matthew 5:38–48 (and in Luke 6:27–36). How do we know it is accurate? Because it reflects the God we meet in experience. Every person who meets God in an NDE will tell you that the God of unconditional love Jesus describes is the God they encountered.

Jesus was accurate about God. And listen! He was the only person in ancient history who was accurate. What does that tell you?

Furthermore, Jesus himself appears in many of those NDEs and other spiritual experiences. What does that tell you? He appears to be, and functions as, the divine figure we call the Christ.

By the way, because I preach the God we know in Jesus and in experience, I will claim my preaching is also fairly accurate.

Check it out—live or online, Sunday at 11:00.

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# Mary's Corner



Hello all! I am so excited about our Saturday Night Concert Series this fall. Beginning this Saturday, September 20th at 6:00 PM, we will be entertained by the MSB Gospel Choir. (I have learned what MSB stands for, but I'll let them share on Saturday.)

Thanks to your generosity, we will be able to make a wonderful contribution to Eastside Community Assistance for September.

We can also look forward to another brilliant show on October 25th at 6:00 PM, when All Peoples Church will perform the musical *Lazarus* in our Saint Matthew Auditorium. Dinner will follow both concerts.

For this Saturday, we need desserts. Our meal will be hamburgers and hotdogs with all the trimmings. We also need folks to help with set-up at 5:00 PM and clean-up after the festivities. And remember—I have 6 tickets to give away. If you haven't purchased a ticket because \$25 is a lot, please come to the concert anyway! There will be room and plenty of food for all.

Our dear and wonderful Faith Salfen is working daily to get the church cleaned and ready for the event. If you're able to help with this, it would be greatly appreciated. Faith will be at the church Wednesday and Thursday afternoons beginning around 12:30. Thank you, Faith, for the love you show our church through your work!

Finally, I will be preaching in a couple of weeks. The sermon will be about lenses and the way we see the world. I hope you can join us every week—either in person or online at [saintmatthewumc.com](http://saintmatthewumc.com). The good news of Jesus Christ is shared each week in our worship and in our proclamation of God's message to His beloved children.

I look forward to seeing you,

**Mary**

# RENT at the Uptown Theater

We are excited to share that our very own **Julian, Shannon, and Josh** are part of the cast of the groundbreaking rock musical **RENT**, presented by the Grand Prairie Arts Council!

**RENT** follows a group of young artists and friends living in New York City's East Village during the late 1980s. As they face poverty, love, identity, and the HIV/AIDS crisis, they hold onto creativity, connection, and hope. With a powerful score and unforgettable characters, **RENT** is a celebration of community, resilience, and living fully—no day but today.

September 19–28

Uptown Theater, Grand Prairie, TX

Tickets & Info:

[prekindle.com/events/grandprairieartscounciluptowntheater](http://prekindle.com/events/grandprairieartscounciluptowntheater)

**Julian's understudy performances will be held Sept. 20 at 8 PM and Sept. 27 at 2 PM.**  
Come out and support Julian, Shannon, and Josh!

Content Advisory:

**RENT** contains mature themes, including depictions of poverty, addiction, and illness (HIV/AIDS), as well as strong language, references to drug use, and LGBTQIA+ stories. These elements are essential to the show's message of love, resilience, acceptance, and community, but may not be comfortable for all audiences. Viewer discretion is advised.

## Upcoming Events

🎵 **All Peoples Church Choir**

Saturday, October 25, 2025, at 6:00 PM

All Peoples Church Choir performs *Lazarus*.

🍽️ **Thanksgiving Meal**

Sunday, November 23, 2025

🎵 **Western Hills Ensemble Choir**

Friday, December 5, 2025, at 6:00 PM

This concert benefits the Western Hills Choir for their 2026 competition expenses.

# Kids' News

## Moses and the Burning Bush

Last week, we met Moses as a baby floating in a basket, saved from the river by Pharaoh's daughter. He grew up in Egypt, but now the story takes a surprising turn.

One day, while Moses was tending sheep in the wilderness, he saw something strange. A bush was on fire, but it didn't burn up! Curious, he came closer. Then he heard a voice:

**"Moses! Moses!"**

**"Here I am," Moses answered.**

God spoke from the flames:

**"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I have seen the suffering of my people in Egypt. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring them out."**

Moses was afraid. He whispered, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh?" He felt unworthy because of his past mistakes. But God gave him a promise:

**"I will be with you."**

God was not choosing Moses because he was perfect, but because He had a great plan—and Moses was part of it!

## What We Learned

- ✓ God can speak to us in surprising ways.
- ✓ We don't have to be perfect for God to use us.
- ✓ When God calls us, He promises to be with us.
- ✓ With God's help, we can do important things for Him.

See you in church Sunday as we follow Moses to see where God will lead His people next!



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