

# SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



## Max's Corner

Strange as it may sound (since I'm the preacher), I so thoroughly enjoyed worship last Sunday. I think we had a good service, and I hope you felt uplifted too.

Each Sunday night before bed, I usually check the online recording to see how everything turned out—especially the music. Last Sunday, I went to bed a little discouraged. Not because of the music (our choir sounded beautiful!) but because of what the camera showed.

Here's the problem: most of us sit toward the back on the left side, so the camera's wide shot makes it look like we're preaching to empty pews. When we have 60 or 70 people in worship, the camera makes it look like 15 or 20. If I were a first-time viewer online, I'd probably think, "small and dying"—or worse, "small and dead."

So, I've asked our amazing tech guy, Jason, and his helpers to adjust the camera angles. From now on, the view will focus only on the first few pews and the heart of the action. No more sweeping shots of what I've come to call "the wasteland." Our online service will feel more intimate and better reflect the warmth and spirit we all experience together in the sanctuary.

Be sure to check it out this Sunday and see the difference for yourself!

## Pastor's Class

*Some things we were taught may not be true.* Join us at **9:45 AM**, followed by breakfast at **10:30 AM**.

## This Sunday

It's a "*We-bring Sunday*"—feel free to bring something to share!

Mary will be back, our choir will sing, and we're hopeful that some of our missing friends will feel well enough to return.

## Worship This Week

Sermon: *It Is One or the Other*

Scripture: Luke 6:27–36

God Bless—

MB

## Friday's Word

The Germans still feel a lot of guilt about their decline and fall into evil.

I, too, once believed the Germans had some special problem. The madness could only happen there.

I was clearly wrong.

It can happen anywhere.

In Chicago, ICE swarmed an apartment building, agents dropping from a black helicopter in the middle of the night.

ICE agents have changed their uniforms to look like soldiers. They broke down doors and hauled men, women, and children out into the night.

Some were naked.

Even the children were bound with ties. They were hauled away in vans and separated from parents.

Imagine the fear.

Soldiers are occupying U.S. cities against the will of governors, mayors, and the people of those cities.

U.S. soldiers against U.S. citizens.

Once unthinkable.

The soldiers will be in place for the next election.

We can expect them at every polling booth.

We may have had our last free and fair election.

"The enemy within" this time is not the Jews, but Hispanics—and anyone who disagrees with the current regime.

I always knew that a man who loves dictators wants to be a dictator.

Jesus warned us. He said you will never get good fruit from a bad tree.

But strangely, it was mostly Christians who bit into the bad apple.

"Evangelical."

"Fundamentalist."

"Inerrantist."

Bad theology is more dangerous than no theology at all. There is a truth that can save us. Help St. Matthew UMC spread that truth.

Worship at 11:00.

Consider it.

[saintmatthewumc.com](http://saintmatthewumc.com)

[revmaxb@tx.rr.com](mailto:revmaxb@tx.rr.com)

# Mary's Corner



Happy Wednesday to all!

I've just returned from Michigan, where I celebrated my brother Toby's 30th anniversary as pastor of First Baptist Church of Leslie. It was a grand occasion, with over 150 people gathering to honor his ministry. When Toby was first called to the church, there were only 21 members. At his interview, someone asked what he would change if he were to come. With tears in his eyes, he said, "I would change everything. Look around—there are 21 people here, and this church is dying. We have to change things now."

They invited him to "come and change us," and that's exactly what he did. Together with his wife, Shelli, and their two sons, he built youth, music, cancer support, and grief ministries, and led the renewal of the church campus. Thirty years later, the fruits of that change are clear—God has blessed their faithfulness.

Saint Matthew had a part in their story, too. About five years ago, I asked you to pray for Toby when he was diagnosed with blood cancer. You prayed, and today he is cancer-free. I gave him a big hug from all of us and told him how proud we are of him.

Toby also preached a powerful message called "*The Dirtiest Towel*." I'll share more about that the next time I preach—it's one you won't want to miss!

Your prayers are mighty tools in God's tool chest. Keep using them to do all the good you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways that good can be done.

I'll leave you with a question: *If you could change anything about Saint Matthew, what would you change?*

Please share your thoughts with me at [mary.teague@saintmatthewumc.com](mailto:mary.teague@saintmatthewumc.com) or in writing at the church. This is God's church, and we are called together to care for it and for our community. Look around at what God is doing through us—and imagine what more He can do when we open our hearts to change.

Love and blessings to all,

**Mary**

# 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 expense

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# Kids' News

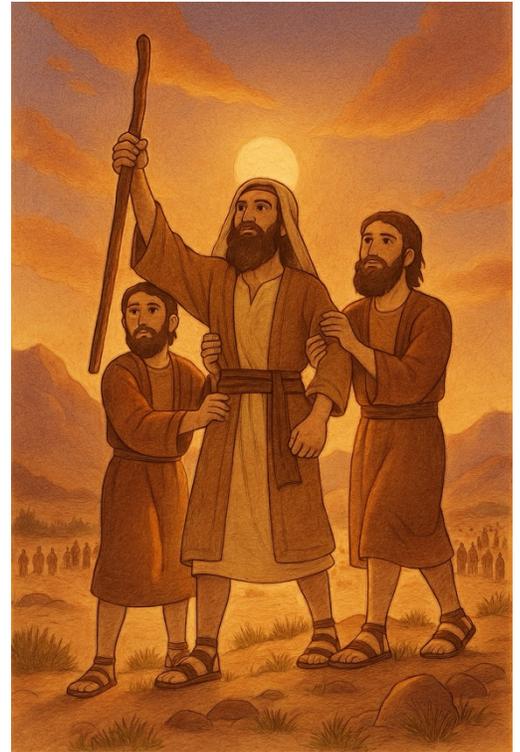
## Lean on Me

This week, we learned about trusting God and leaning on one another when life feels difficult. Sometimes problems seem too big to handle on our own—but that's when friends, family, and faith make all the difference. God never meant for us to walk through life alone.

The Bible gives us a great example in the story of Moses. When God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt, Moses was scared. He didn't think he could do it. But God surrounded him with helpers—his brother Aaron to speak for him, Joshua to stand beside him, and friends like Hur who held up his arms when he grew too tired to go on. Together, they showed what it means to lean on one another.

God gives us strength when we turn to Him for help, and He shows His love by sending people into our lives to support us. When we help each other, we share God's care and kindness with the world.

That's what the old song reminds us too—we all need somebody to lean on. So when a friend is struggling, be the one who offers strength. And when you feel weak, don't be afraid to lean on God and the people who love you. Together, we're stronger.



## What We Learned

- ✓ God gives us strength when we ask for help.
- ✓ We can count on God's love to protect and guide us.
- ✓ Friends and family are part of how God helps us.
- ✓ We're never alone—God is always with us, and we can lean on one another too.