

SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



Max's Corner

We continue in prayer for the Valenzuela family in the loss of Vicky's brother. May the Lord be with them, and may they know that their loved one is safe in Christ and going on with his life in Him.

I'll keep it short this week. I'm preparing for cataract surgery on Tuesday. By the time you read this, it should be done. This Sunday, you'll see me with one lens still in my glasses and the other removed—that's how it works until the second eye is done. Then comes knee replacement on December 3. I will miss at least the second and third Sundays of Advent; Mary will be preaching those Sundays.

Last Sunday, we had 59 in worship, including three guests, and Carol Bennett was back. So good to see her. It was a meaningful All Saints Sunday.

Pastor's Class — 9:45 AM (Breakfast follows)

We had a wonderful discussion last week—we never even got to the planned lesson. We continually raised thought-provoking questions about life, death, and God. Yes, we talk about big stuff in this class. Breakfast This Sunday (10:30 AM): It's a We-bring Sunday. Bring something to share if you can!

This Sunday in Worship

Sermon: It's About Love.

Choir Anthem: O Love by Elaine Hagenberg (a fresh, beautiful setting of a cherished hymn).

Last week's anthem was a little more "intellectual"—this one is sweet and lovely.

I print 70 bulletins each week. If yours sometimes ends up left behind, let's fix that this Sunday—bring a friend and let every bulletin find a home!

Hope to see you in worship.

God bless,

MB

Mark Your Calendar

Blake's school choir concert — Friday, December 5, at 6:30 PM. Don't miss it!

Friday's Word

Are you looking for a theology that makes sense?

Are you looking for a faith rooted in Christ and His

resurrection, but which also does not contradict science?

Are you looking for answers, and not always the standard ones you get in church?

I have a place for you.

This is what we are all about at St. Matthew — a faith that is based on the teachings of Jesus and on the actual experience of God.

Scripture.

And experience.

I teach a 9:45 class each week on my upcoming book, *Discovering God*.

We have some of the world's best discussions.

We discussed recently whether God gets angry.

We decided "no."

We checked our two sources:

Scripture and experience.

Jesus didn't like anger. He warned against it.

Check out Matthew 5:22.

And what does the experience of God tell us?

In the thousands of religious experiences I have read or heard, not one person has met an angry God.

Yes, Paul talks about the "wrath" of God.

Paul got it wrong.

The teachings of Jesus and the experience of God tell us that Paul got it wrong.

God is not wrathful.

When Jesus and Paul disagree, we go with Jesus.

God is not angry.

You can get in on the discussions. We even have one person who attends the 9:45 class and heads off to another church to worship.

Class is over at 10:30.

Give us a try — class or worship or both. Visitors get a copy of my first book, whether you want it or not.

(Worship at 11:00.)

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Mary's Corner

Greetings, dear friends and family of Saint Matthew UMC,

Sunday's All Saints observance was both meaningful and heart-rending. It brings me comfort to know that we are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). I believe that when we gather at the communion table, we are joined by Jesus, by all the saints, and by our loved ones already in His presence. That may sound far-fetched when written out, but it's a cornerstone of my faith — faith in the "things not seen" that Paul describes in Hebrews 11.

None of us have seen Jesus in the flesh — we are all believers in things not seen. We, too, are part of that great cloud of witnesses, testifying to the existence and supremacy of God. Our faith rests on what we read of Jesus' life, what we inherit through Christian and Methodist tradition, what we experience of God, and what we understand through reason. The Reverend Albert C. Outler described this as the *Wesleyan Quadrilateral*: Scripture, tradition, experience, and reason — a distinctly Wesleyan way of examining and understanding our faith.

Eastside Community Assistance Volunteer Appreciation

Friday, November 7 • 6–9 PM

Fort Worth Botanical Gardens

Everyone at St. Matthew is invited! Enjoy good food, fun games, and fellowship at this family-friendly event.

Memorial Service for Barbara Jochetz Jones

Saturday, November 8 • 10 AM

St. Luke United Methodist Church

3200 Denton Hwy, Fort Worth, TX 76117
Barbara was a long-time member of St. Luke who joined our online worship during COVID and later attended St. Matthew regularly before moving to New Braunfels in 2023. I will be officiating the service and ask for your prayers. If you are able to attend, I know Barbara would be deeply grateful.

Thanksgiving Church Meal

Sunday, November 23 • Following Worship

We'll share more details next week, but please remember that many of our neighbors no longer have access to food assistance. Christ commands us to love our neighbors — and love means action. Let's each pick up a little extra at the grocery store this week and help feed those in need.

Blessings to all,
Mary

Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Meal

Sunday, November 23, following worship. We'll share more details next week, but please remember that many of our neighbors no longer have access to food assistance. Christ commands us to love our neighbors — and love means action. Let's each pick up a little extra at the grocery store this week and help feed those in need.

Western Hills Ensemble Choir and Enchilada Dinner

On Friday, December 5, 2025, we will host the Western Hills Ensemble Choir, directed by our own Blake Glass. Music begins at 6:30 PM. This concert benefits the Western Hills Choir for their 2026 competition expenses.

We will have a free shuttle service for those who need a ride or are unable to drive at night.

Following the concert, our annual Enchilada Dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner is \$10 per person.

Scan to Give Online



Kids' News

Samuel Chooses a King

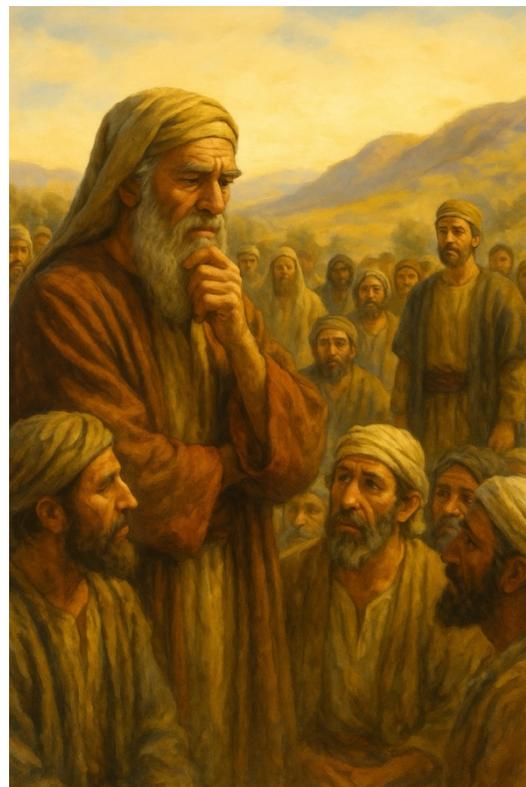
Things weren't going so well in Israel. Samuel, the prophet who had led God's people for many years, was getting old. He hoped his sons could take his place as judges, but they didn't follow God's ways. They took bribes and treated people unfairly. The Israelites were tired of it. One day, the elders came to Samuel and said, "We want a king! All the other nations have one — why can't we?"

Samuel didn't like the idea at all. He prayed to God, hoping for a different answer. But God told him, "Listen to the people. They're not rejecting you, Samuel — they're rejecting Me as their king." Even though it made Samuel sad, he did what God asked. God chose a man named Saul — tall, strong, and brave — to be Israel's first king. But everyone needed to remember that even with a king, God was still the one truly in charge.

Sometimes we think we know what will make us happy — like getting what everyone else has. But just like the Israelites, we learn that following God's way is always better than trying to copy the world around us. God's love and leadership never fail, and He will always lead His people forward.

What We Learned

- ✓ It's easy to want what others have, but God's plan for us is always best.
- ✓ God doesn't leave us, even when we make the wrong choice.
- ✓ The best kind of leader is the one who follows God first.



Eastside Ministries of Fort Worth

Celebrating our Donors Appreciation

A night of Fun, Food, and Fellowship

Friday, November 7, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Attire: Casual Dress

Place: Fort Worth Botanic Garden

1700 University Dr.

Fort Worth, TX 76107

Space is Limited

RSVP: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/donors-celebration>

