



October 18, 2019

Greetings and best wishes to all the sisters, brothers, and friends of Saint Matthew Church:

- ⁹Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;*
¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.
¹¹Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
¹³Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.
¹⁴ [f] Bless those who persecute [you], bless and do not curse them.
¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
¹⁶ Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.
¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.
¹⁸ If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. (Romans 12:9-18)

Saint Matthew Church has been a very special refuge for many of us for more than 30 years.

What makes Saint Matthew so special are the people of our community: we are committed to the proposition that "All Are Welcome". The inclusive nature of the gospel of Jesus Christ is an invitation to each person to come and encounter the presence of Jesus among us within our community of faith at the Eucharistic Table of Jesus and the proclamation of the message of Christ.

As such, we have celebrated the salvation that God has so generously supplied to us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Many among us have experienced love, healing, and acceptance in our community of faith. Saint Matthew Church is worth preserving for the next generation.

In order for us to fulfill the vision and mission of our church we must face our conflicts and challenges to work toward the unity and the wellbeing of the entire body of Christ.

On Sunday, November 3rd at 12:30 we will be have a Community Meeting (lunch will be provided). The purpose of this meeting is to start a conversation about our future, to help the community heal from struggles, to give guidance, to build trust and to invite the Holy Spirit to preside over our community. And if there is conflict, to discover unity.

In order to better prepare for such a meeting we need feedback through any questions, comments or concerns ahead of time. You may send these in writing to the church office (attention Bishop Peter) or by means of email, bishoppeterelderhickman@gmail.com. We need these no later than **October 29th**.

Please make every effort to participate in this very important process with me and all your brothers and sisters of our beloved community.

This comes with love,

The Most Reverend Peter Elder Hickman
Bishop and Pastor

