



TRUE LIGHT

ALL IN THE FAMILY

December 7, 2025

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Sunday School :
9:30 a.m.
Worship:
10:15 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
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David Carson
573-281-6686
Stan Dauck
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DEACONS

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*"This is the day the Lord
has made. Let us rejoice
and be glad in it."*

Psalm 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

Do you stay to watch the credits that play after a movie is finished? Sometimes I do. Of course, I get asked, "Why stay and watch a bunch of names scroll across the screen while a song plays? What do you hope to see?"

Well, sometimes the movie isn't really over when the credits start to roll. There's some relevant tidbit shared during or after the credits - what's call the post-credits. The post-credits might give a hint about a sequel. They might share insights into the movie and its message. The song played during the credits may carry the movie's message to a deeper level of insight or conviction. The post-credits can contain a splash of humor or some hilarious out-takes. Or, the credits might just be a list of names and jobs - like who is the assistant gaffer or who catered lunch on the set. You never know, but I can tell you that sometimes you discover some rare gems in the credits of a movie while everyone else is filing out of the theater.

Matthew, like movie-makers in a by-gone era, put his credits first. My guess, however, is that most readers treat his genealogy of Jesus similarly to the way most folks approach movie credits. They skip over the list of names to get to the good stuff. If we skip Matthew's genealogy, however, we will miss some of the best news ever written!

Matthew's genealogy communicates his core message: Jesus came for all people to have a way to know God! The genealogy contains three lists, each of fourteen names that lead us to Jesus (Matthew 1:17). Except, if we carefully study other Bible genealogies, we know that there were more than fourteen generations between each of the key landmarks in between them - Abraham, David, the Exile, and the Messiah, Jesus.

So, what's the deal?

Matthew was too careful to be making a mistake. He definitely wasn't creating a biblical contradiction. Matthew was "theologically counting" generations: his numbers and names reveal something important about God. He assumed we would compare his genealogy of Jesus to other ones in our Bibles and look more closely at his list of names. Matthew wasn't making a mistake. He is jarring us awake. He doesn't want us to miss his point. As a good Jewish teacher, he is teaching us something significant.

Matthew is begging us to pay attention to the names on his list. The names he was led by the Spirit to list in his genealogy are important to God. These names reveal something about God's plan of salvation for all people dating back to the call of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) and even earlier (Genesis 3:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7). He wants us to discover the good news of Jesus from his first paragraphs. Notice how he began:

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Aminadab, Amminadab the father of Nashon, Nashon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife... (Matthew 1:1-6)

Whoa! This genealogy is different. Matthew put women in Jesus' genealogy. In fact, he listed several women! Double whoa! We dig a little deeper and realize that these are non-Jewish women. Israelites usually count their heritage through the mother. We delve into the lineage of King David and find out that his grandmother and great-grandmother are not Jewish. That means the Messiah promised to Israel has Gentiles in his family tree! Triple whoa! Several of these non-Jewish women have very questionable histories. Each, however, fights for her family to receive the blessings promised to people of faith in Israel's God.

What is Matthew trying to tell us?

Our world is a mess. To pretend it is not a mess is to have "baby Moses syndrome" - to be a basket case in "de-Nile"! When God chose to come into our world through a child, he chose a family line that was every bit as messed up as our world. Jesus' family tree has "skeletons in the closet" just as all families do. God will not hide them, but instead, included these "skeletons" to tell the truth about his grace for all peoples.

Matthew wants us to clearly hear at least two important messages in his list of names. First, God wants each person in our world to know that Jesus came to earth for her or him. The Creator wants each person included in his family of grace. God is not only saying, "I didn't forget you in your mess," He is also saying, "I came into the middle of your mess so I could include you in my blessings!"

Second, faith can often turn into little more than ceremonies and institutional hierarchy. The religious can turn a church into an exclusive club for people who want to feel they are morally superior to others. Before Jesus called him to be an apostle, Matthew had been a despised tax collector. He was unwanted and hated by religious people. Matthew wanted folks to hear the good news that Jesus came for all people from the opening sentence of his gospel. No institutional hygiene can clean out the brokenness and flaws in Jesus' heritage that were overcome and redeemed by God's grace.

Jesus personally chose, reclaimed, included, and empowered Matthew. Matthews wants us to know that we can be welcomed into the family of God's Son just as he had been. It doesn't matter if we are insiders or outsiders. It doesn't matter if we are men or women. It makes no difference to the Lord whether we are from a religious heritage or if we come from a non-religious background. God has always welcomed outsiders into the family of Jesus. Look at Tamar, Rehab, and Ruth, foreigners whom God welcomed into Israel before Jesus was born. All who seek God can be welcomed - outsiders or not, women or not, sinful or not. Each is wanted by the Father. Each can belong to Jesus's family.

Continued on back

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BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

December 10 - Lana Shipman
Ryleigh Foster
December 14 - Raysha Clayton



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Bottled fruit juice * Fruit cups * Pudding/gelatine cups * Snack cakes * Baked beans * Flour * Miracle whip * Alfredo sauce * Ramen noodles * Cereal * Pop tarts * Canned frosting * Vinegar
Pick-up Date December 15, 2025

WILLING TO SERVE

December 7, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Opening Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Scripture.....Steve Jones
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....David Burleson
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....Wayne Reams

December 10, 2025

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Darrin Shipman
Dismissal.....Matt Ward

December 14, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jordan Ross
Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Closing Prayer.....Jess LeCroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

Continued from front:

Matthew proclaimed God's good news in his credits. He made sure he included Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba in his genealogy of the Messiah (Matthew 1:1-6). Matthew further declared this universal message in his story of the Magi, foreigners who came in search of Jesus and who welcome him as king at his birth (Matthew 2:1-12).

Matthew reminds us of this inclusive grace in the story of a Roman centurion who has a faith greater than Jesus has found among the people of Israel in his day (Matthew 8:5-13).

Matthew reminds us that Jesus used his last words - what we call the Great Commission - to emphasize his desire for his followers to welcome all people into God's family. The Lord commanded his disciples to go to people of all nations, cultures, and backgrounds (Matthew 28:18-20). That was the Messiah's call for us as insiders to reach out and include all outsiders, then to welcome them into his family. In fact, he says more than welcome them. He says go find them! Go baptize them! Go train them to do the same!

Jesus came to the mess of our world. He came out of a messy family history. He came to make sure all of us know that we can come to him with our messes and find grace, hope, and life. For those betrayed by religious folks, like Tamar, there is healing, life, and purpose.

For those caught in a sinful mess trying to care for family, like Rahab, there can be a new start. No matter how dismal and discouraging the past, he longs to bring you fresh hope. For those who have had their lives shattered by grief, like Ruth, there is healing, protection, and a new family of grace. For those caught in the power struggle of politicians and sexual abuse with few choices, like Bathsheba, there is grace to belong to God's story of redemption and purpose.

For those like Levi whom we call Matthew, the one whom religious people viewed as an outsider and a traitor to true faith, grace can write a better story where your pain and being on the outside can become the tool the Father uses to include untold others in the family of grace.

For all of us who openly receive this message, Jesus is our promise that we can belong to the family of God. Not because we deserve it, but because we don't; yet Jesus came to include us anyway!

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

Attendance for November 30: 95
Contribution for November 30: \$3751

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Paul Gresham is having some issues with neck pain but is doing better * **Carol Young** will have a PET scan Monday * **Robbie Buck** experiencing some issues with her esophagus. She was expecting test results this past week * **Cathy Provance** continuing to recover from hip surgery at her sister's house * **Steve Jones** will be having a stent removed in the near future * **Faye Dockins** is at home and having some in-home physical therapy. She would welcome visitors *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Cody Boyt * Jerry Burleson * David Burleson * David Carson * Pat Cooper * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuin * Gloria Moore * Woody and Janet Wood

Those dealing with cancer/other illness (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Jeanie Buck * Scott Burleson * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Lisa Clark * Tammy Clark * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Misty (Owens) Franklin * Audrey Galloway * Emily Garner * Patricia Greninger * Stan Goodman * Renee Goodman * Christy Heskett * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Kristin Meadows * Jerry Mickey * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Nikki Reif * Joe Richardson * Anthony Tate * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Joyce Walker * Christina Whitaker * Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins: Pat Cooper * Faye Dockins * David Terrill

Looking Ahead:

TODAY: First Sunday potluck and early evening service. We will have a potluck lunch following morning worship, followed by an early evening service. Everyone is encouraged to attend both the potluck and early evening service.

TOMORROW: Ladies Lunch Out at Hickory Log in Dexter at 11:30. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer; if you plan to attend PLEASE sign up as we have to have a reservation and this is by far our most popular ladies lunch out month.

December 10: Our Wednesday fellowship meal will be fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans and rolls. Desserts will be needed.

December 12 & 13: Men's Retreat at Dexter church of Christ. The theme is "Men of God" with guest speaker Joe Wells. More information is posted on the bulletin board.

December 15: Children's Homes grocery run. Let's get the cart filled up.

December 18: Annual Ladies Holiday Brunch at the home of Amy Thomason. We will have an optional, \$20 gift exchange. Ham and rolls will be provided - bring your favorite dish to share. If you would like to be eligible for a door prize, bring an item or items to support a local animal shelter. Most needed items include: Bleach, dog treats, puppy pads, dust pan, disinfecting wipes, throws.

December 25: Christmas Dinner will be served in the fellowship room at noon. A sign up sheet is on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

December 31: New Year's Eve get together in the fellowship room following Bible Study. Bring games and finger foods and help us ring in 2026!

January 4: Friends and Family Day with guest speaker Kason Lawrence. We will have a youth emphasis night for evening worship.

January 11: Congregational Potluck/Baby Shower following morning worship for Matt & Shyann Ward. This will be a diapers and wipes shower; or if you'd like to contribute to a money tree for baby Ward, please see Millie.

Dexter Meals on Wheels has asked our congregation to donate 100 cans of chili with beans for their emergency meal lunches. Chili must be brought by December 12 and can be placed in the foyer.

There is a baby laundry basket in the foyer for diapers and wipes for baby boy Thompson who is due next month. Items should be brought in by December 21.