
St. Matthew Today

Wed., Dec 4th, 2024

St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Our 128th year

Second Sunday of Advent



Friday's Word

The focus turns to Christmas. And it couldn't come at a better time.

The days are getting darker, both literally and figuratively. Incompetent and unethical people are about to take the reins of power. It looks like all is lost.

And then the Babe comes.

Christmas is on its way.

We talked last week about a world in which God intervenes. And God does, indeed, intervene, and the biggest intervention of all is the Babe.

And I find my heart lifted.

"With God, all things are possible," the angel said to Mary.

And I am filled with hope.

Because I know where the power truly lies.

The Babe is invincible.

There is no power against his love.

They killed him.

They tacked him to a tree and watched him die.

Yet, he is with us today.

He runs the whole show.

And fighting him is like standing in a rushing river with your arms stretched out to stop the water.

The Spirit of the Babe is moving the world in one direction only.

Toward community.

Toward unity.

Toward love.

I'm not just confident. I'm in good spirits. I'm feeling all "Christmasy."

I am sitting here tonight planning our Christmas concert. I just added an ancient carol.

It has in it the line, "There came a flower bright amidst the cold of winter."

There are hard times ahead. But we will move through them.

The Babe is born.

(Christmas Concert, Sat., Dec. 21—6:00 p.m.)

God Bless—MB

saintmatthewumc.com

revmaxb@tx.rr.com

Max's Corner

The number is 10.

Christmas Schedule

There are five important dates:

- **Thursday, Dec. 12th @ 11:30 AM:** Ladies of Saint Matthew Luncheon @ St. Matthew.
- **Friday, Dec. 13th @ 6:00 PM:** Annual Monreal Sisters Enchilada Dinner @ St. Matthew.
- **Sunday, Dec. 15th @ 2:30 – 5:30 PM:** Christmas Open House @ the Brennan Home.
- **Saturday, Dec. 21st @ 6:00 PM:** The Christmas Concert with dinner and Santa @ St. Matthew.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 24th @ 6:00 PM:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ St. Matthew.

These events are important. Let them be for you.

The Class

Do you truly want to understand Christian theology? Do you want to know how God works in the world? Do you want to renew your sense of awe before God—your sense of living on holy ground?

Come to this class. Start at any time.

Every week at 9:45—breakfast after.

Speaking of Breakfast

We must bring it this week. Help, if you can. I've got pigs-in-a-blanket covered.

Food and fellowship at 10:30. Followed by worship.

Church Facebook Page

Are you on it?

We have a goal to get everyone who has a computer to join the St. Matthew Facebook page. Someone Sunday will be talking to you about how to do that.

Come, let us worship together. This Sunday.

God Bless – MB



Mary's Corner

Greetings to all in this 2024 Advent season,

I am thankful beyond words that I don't have to sit and wait and wonder if the Messiah is coming to save us. I am grateful for this tradition of following Jesus Christ, God made flesh and dwelling among us. I'm

grateful that this faith tradition survived the Roman Empire. I am thrilled that this faith tradition has survived all the empires for the last 2,000 years.

Paul tried to tell us in Romans 8:38-39: *"In everything we have won more than a victory because of Christ who loves us. I'm sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Common English Version).

And because nothing can separate us, we must be certain to make the way clear and smooth for those who are oppressed and marginalized in our society. There must be a clear path to God's love, visible in our actions in this world. We know that this is a story older than storytelling, the story of oppression. We also know that love always wins.

We have a lot of events happening at our church over the next few weeks. Beginning this Saturday morning, we will be decorating the church. The fun will start at 9:00 AM. Brian and Danny are going to do the heavy lifting this week, getting everything out of storage and putting the Christmas tree up. The rest needs to be completed by people with "artistic skill," per Brian and Danny. I may have to work at the hospital on Saturday and so will be unable to attend. If I am not working, I will see you there at 9:30.

This Sunday and every Sunday until the Christmas show, the children will be practicing their Christmas presentation. If you have small children or even preteens, please make sure they're in church on Sundays at 11:00 AM.

Other events are as follows:

- **Thursday, Dec. 12th @ 11:30 AM:** Ladies of Saint Matthew Luncheon
- **Friday, Dec. 13th @ 6:00 PM:** Annual Monreal Sisters Enchilada Dinner @ St. Matthew. A sign-up sheet will be available Sunday morning to reserve your spot. The cost is \$12 per plate, \$20 per couple.
- **Sunday, Dec. 15th @ 2:30 – 5:30 PM:** Christmas Open House at the Brennan Home.
- **Saturday, Dec. 21st @ 6:00 PM:** The Christmas Concert with dinner and Santa
- **Tuesday, Dec. 24th @ 6:00 PM:** Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

As we finish another year together, I pray for peace and blessings in your life.

Mary

Kids' News



Things are getting exciting for our kids as Christmas approaches! There's so much to do, and we're preparing for a special season.

As we begin Advent, we learn about Elizabeth and Zechariah. They were an older couple with no children, and they thought they were too old to have a baby. But one day, an angel appeared to Zechariah with amazing news—he and Elizabeth would have a son! The angel said their baby would be named John and that he would grow up to help people get ready for Jesus.

Zechariah was shocked and had a hard time believing the angel. Because of his doubt, the angel told Zechariah he wouldn't be able to speak until the baby was born. And that's exactly what happened! When their son, John, was born, Zechariah's voice returned, and he praised God.

This story reminds us that God has a plan, even when it seems impossible. John the Baptist grew up to prepare people's hearts for Jesus, and we're reminded to do the same as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Our kids are also working on a special Christmas surprise for you. We hope to see you all in church this Sunday!

Blessings, Miss Vickie, Miss Sue



Did you know?

We offer online giving through PayPal. Your gift can be drawn directly from a checking or debit account on any schedule you choose. Gifts of any amount help us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our community and the world via our online ministry.

Scan the QR code above with your phone's camera or visit our website to give online: saintmatthewumc.com/give