

SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



Max's Corner

I told you Sunday that, as I understand things now, I will be replaced as your pastor.

I have a few months left to serve, but I will set the date of my departure from preaching and

leading worship.

And it will not be a complete departure.

I will continue to teach my class on Discovering God, which will also be set up as a podcast.

This will continue to be helpful to the church.

It will be my ministry.

On Sunday, we committed ourselves to be yoked to Christ and to let him lead.

That is what we are going to do.

There are disappointments in life.

But if we let our Lord lead, we are guaranteed to end up with him—and where he wants us to be.

The Pastor's Class

Discovering God class resumes this Sunday, the 18th. It will be so good to resume our journey. Time: 9:45.

Breakfast this Sunday

It's a "Winston" Sunday—but feel free to help.

At 10:30.

God Bless

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Annex Update

Work continues leveling the Annex foundation, and we're grateful for the progress being made. The foundation crew has raised and leveled the building using pilings and hydraulic jacks to correct areas that had settled by about two inches. The foundation has now been shimmed and secured. Two crew members will return tomorrow to backfill the remaining open holes, which is expected to take about half a day.

Some cosmetic effects of the work remain, including minor exterior and interior cracks. These do not affect the structural integrity of the building and can be addressed cosmetically as needed.

We will also be adding gutters to the remaining sides of the Annex to help direct rainwater away from the foundation. This was recommended by the foundation crew and will help protect the building over time.

Finally, we would appreciate hearing from anyone who was present during the renovation of the Annex several years ago and may have knowledge of how to access the mechanical space above the ceiling. If you have information that could help, please let Brian McCosky know.





Mary's Corner

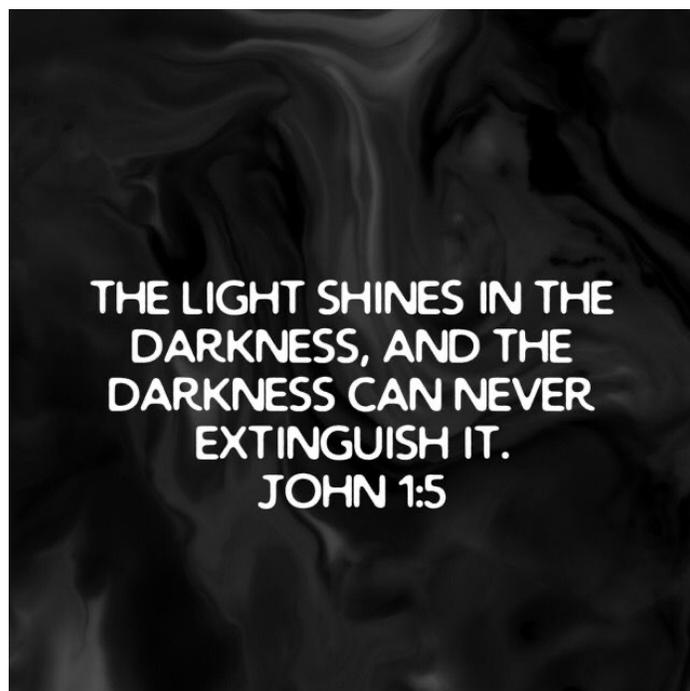
Greetings, family and friends. I bring you peace and love in the name of God made flesh!

Sunday morning was a difficult morning for all of us. No one was prepared to hear the news that Max had for the church. I know that I am not alone in feeling a bit confused and worried. I wish I could tell you what was happening and where we are going from here as a church. The upcoming days and weeks will answer whatever questions we have and calm our concerns.

What I can tell you is that God is always present with us. God does not leave any of us alone, even when we sometimes feel anxious and overwhelmed. In Matthew 18 and Luke 15, Jesus tells the story of the shepherd leaving the 99 sheep to find the one lost sheep. Jesus wants them to know and wants us to know now that we are God's beloved, and God will pursue us relentlessly to shower us in God's love. Jesus was comparing the actions of the shepherd with the actions of God when one of us is "lost." The interpretation of this parable clearly lets us know that individually, there is nothing God will not do to be in relationship with us. What we forget is that a shepherd watching over a flock of sheep is not God. While the shepherd cannot be in two places at once, God never leaves the 99 alone. God is all-powerful, always present, all-knowing, and all-loving. God can be with the many while seeking us all out individually. We read in Psalm 139, "You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue, you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."

I have a note on my computer at the hospital. Just a small visual reminder of the good news of Jesus Christ. The note says, "do not let darkness have the final word!" No matter what we face, we are never alone. No matter how great the suffering, how scary the situation, or how sad our hearts become, God made flesh is more powerful than all of it. The Almighty creator of the universes and of things seen and not seen watches over us and walks beside us continuously. We cannot go away from God; we cannot flee God's presence. God knows where we are, even when we feel lost.

My love to all of you,
Mary



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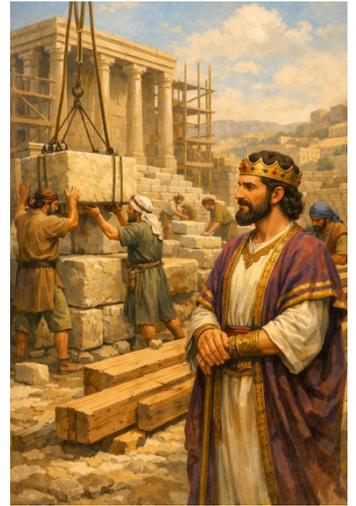
Kids' News

Solomon Builds God's Temple

After King David died, his son Solomon became king, and God assigned him an important task: to build a temple for the Lord. This temple would be a special place where God's people could gather to worship and pray. Solomon meticulously planned the project and assembled a large team of skilled builders. They used strong stone, cedar wood, and beautiful decorations to honor God.

Building the temple was a very big project, and it did not happen quickly. The work took seven years to complete. Every day, people worked patiently and faithfully, trusting that what they were building mattered. They knew this was not just any building, but a place set apart for God.

When the temple was finished, it became a joyful reminder that God was with His people. The story of Solomon building the temple helps us remember that doing something important for God often takes time, patience, and teamwork.



What We Learned

- ✓ Some important things take a long time to finish
- ✓ God values patience and careful work
- ✓ Working together helps us do big things
- ✓ Doing our best work can honor God
- ✓ God is with us as we grow and learn