

SAINT MATTHEW TODAY



A word from Max

We may not have worship this Sunday because of the weather. There is no good reason to put people at risk.

How will our members know?

Simple. If the roads are dangerous, we will not have church. If there is ice on the roads, we will not have church. But is there any question?

The weather people on TV sound pretty certain.

Listen—just the cold alone will be enough for folks to stay home. The cold itself is dangerous if the car stalls or you get stuck.

Even if we got to church in that kind of cold, we would not be happy.

Let's take a stand!

We will not risk someone getting hurt.

We will NOT meet for worship this Sunday.

NO service at St. Matthew this Sunday.

We can miss one week.

And live to tell about it.

Last Sunday and Coming Events

Hey! We have another soloist in our midst. Lynette's solo last week was really beautiful. We resumed the Pastor's class with all seats full. (It will also skip a week, of course.)

The choir was scheduled to resume rehearsal this Sunday. That will be delayed one week to Feb. 1st.

And on Feb. 1st, all of our worship forces will be back in place for a great service.

See you—but not THIS Sunday.

God Bless

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Dangerous Winter Weather this Weekend

Due to the expected severe winter weather, **Saint Matthew UMC will cancel in-person activities and worship this Sunday, January 25**, to ensure the safety of our congregation, staff, and community. We encourage everyone to stay warm, stay safe, and take care of one another during this time. Please watch for updates on our website and social channels as we continue to monitor conditions and share next steps.



A word from Mary

Greetings, friends and family of
Saint Matthew,

I bring you peace and love in the name of the baptized Christ. I pray that you found meaning in our worship on Sunday as we remembered our baptisms—or leaned into the promise of baptism still to come. The sacredness of the water, the community of saints gathered together, and the presence of the Holy Spirit made it a deeply meaningful moment for me.

I was baptized multiple times in my previous faith tradition. As a United Methodist, I now understand how unnecessary that was. Still, I remain grateful for the first time I was baptized. I remember, at six years old, feeling the urging of the Holy Spirit on my heart to make Jesus the Lord of my life. The church of my childhood baptized new followers of Jesus, and I remember feeling different afterward—changed in a way I could not fully explain. John Wesley described these moments as having a “heart strangely warmed,” and he taught that baptism is a sign of the promises we make to God: to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, repent of our sins, live as disciples of Jesus, and participate fully in the life of the church.

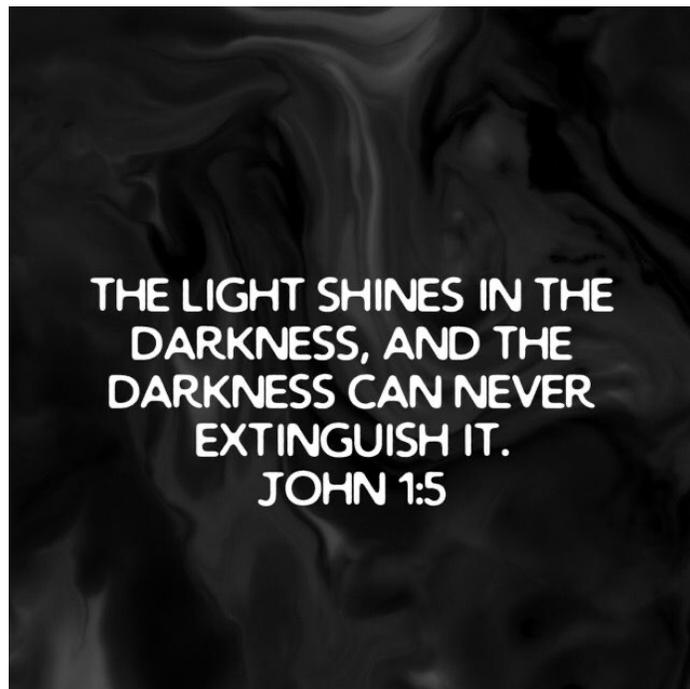
I am grateful that we touched those eternal waters together on Sunday. I am grateful for your love, your support, and for the ways you work faithfully to keep this church alive and strong. God never intended us to walk this path alone—without God or without one another. Our baptisms bind us together in God’s divine love.

I also want to share joyful news: Anna is home from the hospital. Thank you so very much for your prayers and support. Once again, God has worked a miracle in our lives. The car was destroyed, but the frame around the interior did not bend. She was kept safe within it, cushioned by the airbags and

held in the presence of God. Life can change so quickly, with every breath.

I pray for joy unspeakable to fall upon your lives. I pray for a peace that cannot be explained to fill your hearts. Remember your baptism. Remember that you are God’s beloved.

My love to all of you,
Mary



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Kids' News

Jesus Gets Lost (and Found!)

Every year, Jesus traveled with his parents, Mary and Joseph, to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. The city was crowded with families, prayers, and songs as people gathered at the temple to remember all that God had done.

When it was time to go home, Mary and Joseph started the journey with the others, thinking Jesus was nearby with friends or relatives. But as the day went on, they realized he was missing. Worried, they rushed back to Jerusalem and searched everywhere for him.

After three long days, they found Jesus in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening and asking questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at how much he understood. When Mary finally spoke, she said, “*Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you*” (Luke 2:48).

Jesus answered, “*Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?*” (Luke 2:49). Even as a boy, Jesus knew where he belonged—close to God, learning and growing in faith.



What We Learned

- ✓ Jesus loved being close to God and learning about God's ways.
- ✓ It's okay to ask questions and learn more about our faith.
- ✓ God welcomes us into God's house, just like Jesus.
- ✓ We grow in faith when we listen, learn, and stay connected to God.