

*Oh, magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt His name together!*

# *Praise* service

*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

**February 16, 2025**

**8:30 & 11:00 a.m.**

*“Living God’s Love”*

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

330-725-8885 † office@stmatthewmedina.org

**www.stmatthewmedina.org**

**Please note:** The 8:30 a.m. worship service is being livestreamed and recorded onto Facebook and YouTube, and an edited copy posted onto the St. Matthew webpage. By attending this worship service, you may appear as a part of this digital recording. Thank you.

**St. Matthew invites you to join us in celebration of Holy Communion!**

The Lord's table is open to all who believe and are baptized.

Please join us as we receive the means of grace, where Jesus promises to meet us  
in the bread and the wine.

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**GATHERING**

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Gathering Song**            *Come, Now is the Time to Worship*

**\*Greeting**

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**C: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

**Children's Sermon**

Carol Elkins

**WORD**

**First Reading**

Jeremiah 17:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup> The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup> I the LORD test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 1

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup> **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with  
leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup> **It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup> **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say  
there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> If there is no resurrection of the dead,  
then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup> and if Christ has not been raised, then our  
proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup> We are even  
found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised  
Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup> For if the  
dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup> If Christ has not been  
raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup> Then those also who

have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup> If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

R: The word of the Lord.           **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel**

Luke 6:17-26

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup> Jesus came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup> They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.

<sup>19</sup> And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup> Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> “Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> “Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O Christ!**

**Sermon**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**\*Hymn of the Day**

*Shout to the Lord*

## \*Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## \*Prayers of Intercession

A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations, that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way especially the Family of Robert, Dave, Carol, Loretta,

Ed, Judy, Susie, Marge, Jerry, June, Tom, Todd, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

A: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**Offering**

**Luther Choir (11:00)**

*For the Glory of the Lord*

*Paris/Wolaver*

**Offertory Prayer**

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,**

thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Communion Song

*Something in the Water*

### \*Prayer after Communion

P: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

### \*Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**C: Amen.**

### \*Sending Song:

*The Only Name*

### \*Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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### Praise Band

Song Leader: Heather Rohde  
Guitar: Scott Schwandt  
Drums: Lennie Davis  
Pianist: Cindy Piovarchy

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

### THIS WEEK

### NEXT WEEK

Acolytes:	8:30 - Reagan Stuchal 11:00 - Addison Wierzchowski	8:30 - Jacob Shook 11:00 - Kara Landes
Reader:	8:30 - Adam Scheid 11:00 - Fran Koenig	8:30 - Judy McLaughlin 11:00 - Beth Johnson
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Melanie Brown June Trenty 11:00 - Sandy Andrews Nancy McNeal	8:30 - David & Marcia George 11:00 - Becky Malloy Mary Dunham
Ushers:	8:30 - Grice Family	8:30 - Taraschke Family 11:00 - Shrader Family
Sound:	8:30 - Larry Mohler 11:00 - Larry Mohler	8:30 - Joe Obermeier 11:00 - Larry Mohler
Assisting Minister:	Helen Graf	Scott Johnson
Video:	Scott Johnson	Brian Harris
Altar Guild:	Nancy McNeal & Mary Dunham	

### **LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE**

8:30 - 66

11:00 - 33



## PRAYERS

**Altar Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God by the Neate family.

**Memorial Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God in memory of her Aunt Peachy (Mary) who passed away January 24<sup>th</sup> by Mary Dunham.

**Prayers for Healing:** Family of Robert Forsythe, Sr., Dave Anderson, Carol Muhlbach, Loretta Thornton, Ed, Judy Weir, Susie Siebert, Marge Murray, Jerry Jakovcic, June Trenty, Tom Thornton, & Todd Costello.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**, we will worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with Praise and holy communion., *Livestream at 8:30 a.m.*

**Sunday School** for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

**New Member Class** at 9:45 a.m. with Pastor Steve.

## NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**, we will worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with ELW 4 and holy communion., *Livestream at 8:30 a.m.*

**Sunday School** for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

**Looms of Love** - 9:45 a.m. in the Library.

**New Member Class** at 9:45 a.m. with Pastor Steve.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Souper Bowl of Caring - A Big Thank You** to everyone who was able to come and help last Sunday before and after each service! The Middle Schoolers collected \$300.16 in donations for ELCA World Hunger as part of the larger Souper Bowl of Caring effort to help end world hunger. Thank you for your continued support of our Luther Middles!

**LGL Samaritan Fund** - Financial Needs? The St. Matthew LGL Samaritan Fund would like to help. The Fund receives 25 applications a month, but rarely has requests from St. Matthew members. When created in 2006, the donor wanted to first help St. Matthew members and that remains the priority. Information and a confidential application can be found at [stmatthewmedina.org](http://stmatthewmedina.org) in the Community Assistance, Financial Aid section.

**Loads of Love** - Sunday, **March 2**, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at North Court Laundry, 739 W. Liberty. St. Matthew will once again be spreading joy and covering the cost of laundry for all of the clients during this three-hour period. Please sign up here if you would like to volunteer your time to help supervise, hand out coins... and spread LOVE and JOY! We only need three or four volunteers per hour... but if a time slot is filled, please feel free to show up anyway.

**Looms of Love** meets the **second and fourth Sundays** each month at 9:45 a.m. in the Library.

**Men's Breakfast** meets the **third Monday** of the month at 8:00 a.m. at Yours Truly restaurant.

**Luther Choir** (adults) meets **each Wednesday** at 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Room. New members are always welcome! Please join us.

**Kids of the Kingdom Choir** (youth) meets **each Thursday** at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. New members are always welcome! Please join us.

**Bible & Brews** meets **each Thursday** at 7 p.m. at Forest Meadows. Watch your bulletin announcements and Shout-Outs for occasional location changes.

# CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Your gift to Lutheran World Relief can deliver urgently needed support and care to neighbors affected by wildfires.

[lwr.org/fires](http://lwr.org/fires)

Thank you for sharing God's love with your neighbors when and where they need it most.



**SoCal Wildfire Outreach** - As a way to support the people of Southern California during the recent wildfires, the Northeastern Ohio Synod paired each congregation with a corresponding sister church in the Southwest California Synod. We are happy to report that our sister church, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Oxnard, has not been directly impacted by the current fires. However, many people in the LA area are in dire need of our support. In addition to keeping those affected in your prayers, please consider giving to Lutheran World Relief or Lutheran Disaster Response using the QR codes below or by visiting [lwr.org/fires](http://lwr.org/fires) or [elca.org/wildfires](http://elca.org/wildfires). Please reach out to Joe & Sarah Robinson with any questions or additional ideas on how we can support those in need during this difficult time.



## St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Cindy Piovarchy	Organist
LaVonne DeBois	Associate Pianist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Maintenance Supervisor
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Rachel Knaggs	Kids of the Kingdom Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant
Scott Schwandt	Praise Team Leader

### **Pastor Steve's Contact Information**

Email: [pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org)

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149



Hearing Loop  
System available.

### **Church Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Friday: Office Closed