



Christmas Eve
Nativity of Our Lord

4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
December 24, 2024

“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 9:00 pm 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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*"Pages" are in the front of the hymnal.
"Hymns" are located toward the back of the hymnal.*

*Please stand as you are able.

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

GATHERING

Prelude

*O Little Town of Bethlehem
The First Noel*

arr. by P. Manx
arr. by L. Smith

***Proclamation of the Birth of Christ**

***Carol**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn 283

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God-with-us,

C: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.

C: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, + forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

C: Amen.

***Carol**

What Child is This

Hymn 296

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles

R: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message (4:00)

Jen Knaggs

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P: The gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

*Prayers of Intercession

A: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

A: Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy especially Ed, Judy, Susie, Julie, Marge, Jenna, Jerry, June, Steve, Tom, Todd, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this night and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

A: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Christmas Peace (9:00)
arr. by Joel Raney

Luther Choir

***Offertory**

The First Noel (vs. 1, 5)

Hymn 300

***Offertory Prayer**

P: God of heaven and earth,

C: from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen.

MEAL

***The Great Thanksgiving**

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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 him thanks and praise.

***The Preface**

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

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***Eucharistic Prayer**

***The 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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Communion Hymns

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Once in Royal David's City
Love Has Come

Hymn 279
Hymn 269
Hymn 292

***Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C: Amen.

***Blessing**

P: The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

C: Amen.

Candle Lighting

*Carol

Silent Night

Hymn 281

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

SENDING

*Dismissal

A: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. by H. DeCou

+++

For those taking their poinsettias home this evening after the 9:00 service, the sleeves to guard them from the cold on your way home are located in the Altar Guild room.

The church office will be closed:

Wednesday, December 25 &

Thursday, December 26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please take a moment to sign the pew book!

Hearing Loop System Available for the hearing impaired and those with hearing aids. If assistance is needed, please ask an usher.

Large Print Bulletins Available upon request from and usher.

Holy Communion - The Lord's table is open to all who believe and are baptized. **Gluten free wafers available.**

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, First Sunday of Christmas, we will worship in person and via livestream at 9:30 a.m. with Lessons & Carols and holy communion.

Blood Pressure Screening - Before and after worship in Brenda's office.

No Sunday School - Winter Break.

Prayers for Healing: Ed, Judy Weir, Susie Siebert, Julie, Marge Murray, Jenna Saleker, Jerry Jakovcic, June Trenty, Tom Thornton, Todd Costello, and Sandi

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	4:00 - James Walker Patrick Linden	9:00 - Kara Landes Aubrey Terihay
Reader:	4:00 - Jen Knaggs	9:00 - Melody Costello
Communion Servers:	4:00 - Julie Shrader Sandy Andrews	9:00 - Melody Costello Peg Huber
Ushers:		9:00 - Melody Costello
Sound:	4:00 - Larry Mohler	9:00 - Joe Obermeier
Video:		9:00 - Scott Johnson
Assisting Minister:	4:00 - Jen Knaggs	9:00 - Helen Graf
Advent & Christ Candles Lighting:	4:00 - The Weight Family	9:00 - The Obermeier Family
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier & Shannon Turney	



Thank you to all who ordered poinsettias or donated toward the evergreen crosses and mini-bunches.

What a beautiful addition to the sanctuary on Christmas Eve!

Poinsettias may be picked up following the 9 PM service.

Brittany Thompson
Scott & Beth Johnson

Ron & Ann Kolzing
Una Mae Gill

Bob & Teri Madey in memory of loved ones
Tim Melanie Brown in memory of loved ones
Larry & Connie Mohler in memory of loved ones
Melody Costello in honor of Todd Costello
The Neate Family in honor of our grandparents
Tom & Joyce Davis in honor of all our loved ones
Suzanne Ogle in memory of loved ones
The Obermeier Family in memory of loved ones
Alan & Delores Ivan in memory of loved ones
Jim & Jean Waite in memory of Helmut Simonis and Martin Waite
Arla Simonis in memory of Helmut Simonis
Joe & Ingrid Schaller in memory of Josef & Theresia Schaller,
Glen & Ruth Lindstrom, and Stevie Bogas
Chris & Kristin Weight in honor of Otto, Martha, and August
Pat Straub in memory of Tony & Marian Ludwig
Nancy McNeal in memory of Lorin & Mary Frances McNeal
Steve & Diane Hulvey in honor of the Lord
Barbara Schwehm in honor of loved ones
Joe & Sarah Robinson in honor of the glory of God
Donna Flanagan in honor of her husband
Tom & Amanda Kotick and family in memory of grandparents
Karen Saleker in memory of Joan Batke
Sandy Andrews in honor of loved ones



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
Heather Rohde	Bookkeeper
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

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

Church Office Hours

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

(Excluding Holidays)

Friday: Office Closed



Hearing Loop
System available.