



December 10, 2023  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*Praise*

*"Living God's Love"*

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

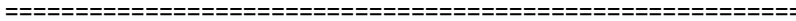
330-725-8885 † office@stmatthewmedina.org

**[www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://www.stmatthewmedina.org)**

**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.



**GATHERING**

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**\*Gathering Song**            *Everybody Sing Praise to the Lord*

**\*Greeting**

D: 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**

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his  
coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus  
Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Advent Candle Song**            *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*            No. 240  
(verses 1-2)

**\*Advent Candle Prayer**

P: Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten  
righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit’s fire. Bless  
us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to  
mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until  
none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

**C: Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**WORD**

**First Reading**

Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

## Psalm

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts  
to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

## Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a  
thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow  
about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not  
wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord  
will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise,  
and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is  
done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons  
ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and  
hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be  
set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in  
accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where  
righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found  
by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord  
as salvation.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**Hymn of the Day:**

*We Believe*

**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**

D: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world,  
and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

D: Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach  
your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed.

Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten, especially Judy, The Naysmith Family, Joyce, Melanie, Brenda, Denny, Elizabeth, Jerry, Peg, Darine, Todd, Stevie, Tom, Logan, Adam and Family, Sandi, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*Sharing of the Peace**

D: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

**Offering**

*Shout to the Lord* (11:00)

Kids of the Kingdom

### **Offertory Prayer**

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your

rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**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.

**Distribution**

**Communion Duet**

*Overwhelmed*

**\*Prayer after Communion**

P: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*Blessing**

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit † remain upon you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:** *All the People Said Amen*

**\*Dismissal:**

D: Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

+++

Song Leaders: Heather Rohde  
Caroline Obermeier

Guitar: Scott Schwandt

Drums: Lennie Davis

Pianist: Cindy Piovarchy

### **WORSHIP SERVANTS**

Acolyte:	8:30 - Lucy Brown-Serban	11:00 - Marin Gerspacher
Reader:	8:30 - Beth Johnson	11:00 - Becky Matyas
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Carol Elkins Delores Ivan	11:00 - Melody Costello Julie Shrader
Ushers:	8:30 - Tim Brown Bruce Reed	
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Melody Costello	
Altar Guild:	Becky Malloy & Julie Shrader	
Advent Candle Prayer:	8:30 - The Walker Family	11:00 - The Gierhart Family



## PRAYERS

**Altar Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God.

**Memorial Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God in memory of Brittany's mom, Kathy Jenewein, for her birthday (December 11), by Brittany, Annabelle, and Trace Thompson.

**Prayers for Healing:** Judy Weir, The Naysmith Family, Joyce, Melanie, Brenda Disbrow, Denny, Elizabeth, Jerry Jakovcic, Peg Huber, Darine Prok, Todd Costello, Stevie, Tom Thornton, Logan, Adam and Family, Sandi, and Steve Combs.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Second Sunday in Advent**, we worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Praise and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30

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

**Christmas Program Rehearsal** - Luther Littles and Middles to rehearse for the Youth-Led Christmas program during the Sunday School hour.

## MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

**Wednesday**, we will worship in person at 7:00 p.m. with Holden Evening Prayer (no communion). Soup supper in the fellowship hall at 6:00 p.m.

## NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Third Sunday in Advent**, we will worship in person and via livestream at 9:30 a.m. with a Youth-Led worship service and holy communion.

**No Sunday School.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Youth-Led Christmas Program - Next Sunday**, December 17, single worship service (9:30 am). Our Luther Littles and Luther Middles will lead worship and our Luther Leaguers will serve as our Lay Assistants during worship.

**2024 Altar Flowers** - The 2024 Altar/Memorial Flowers charts are displayed in the narthex and available for you to pick your preferred dates. When you sign up for altar flowers, please fill out a form for the office with the information you would like printed in the bulletin. The forms are available at the bottom of the Altar Flowers chart. *Place the postcard and payment in the office administrator's mailbox. Checks made payable to St. Matthew Lutheran Church.*

**Update from Our Parish Nurse** - Greetings to all. As I continue to recover at home, I am grateful to everyone at St. Matthew Lutheran Church for all the thoughts, prayers, and many cards that have been sent my way for healing. Your support is truly appreciated. Brenda Disbrow, Parish Nurse

**Annual Reports** - Executive Council members and Five-Star Ministry Chairs, please have your annual reports in to the office by January 15, 2024 so that annual report can be completed and available for the February Annual Meeting.

**“Getting to Know You”** - St. Matthew started featuring a St. Matthew family in our weekly Shout-Outs as a way to get to know our fellow St. Matthew members. We would love to feature your family! Go to your most recent Shout-Out to access the link to complete your profile. If you have any questions, please send a text to Beth Johnson (Communication Evangelism) at 301-501-0473. We look forward to *GETTING TO KNOW YOU!*

**Congregational Council Meetings** - The regular business meetings of the Congregational Council are the third Tuesday of every month and they are open to the congregation to attend if you are interested. The meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. and are held in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend in person at that time, you can be sent a Zoom link to attend the live meeting. The next meeting is: Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

**How can you help with the Renovation Project?** *Mail a check to St. Matthew OR Simply Giving Link* - Go to [www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://www.stmatthewmedina.org), Click on “Give”, At the bottom of the page under “Online,” click “Give Here”, Select “St. Matthew Refresh/Renovation”, Choose from a one-time donation or recurring donation. Recap for October: No identified renovation expenses. \$710 reno restricted giving in October. Balance as of October 31, 2023 is \$66,465.63.

**Pull Tabs** - We continue to collect all types of pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Room of the Cross.

**The Don Hodek Memorial Library** has many books on a variety of Christian topics, and is located in the hallway down the stairs by the elevator entrance. Please stop by and take as many books as you would like, and share with friends.

**Finance Report Update for September, October & Year-to-Date  
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

	Month of September, 2023	Month of October, 2023	Year-to-Date January-October, 2023
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 25,168.86	\$ 34,897.12	\$ 273,691.36
2023 Approved Mission Plan	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 333,333.30
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ (8,164.47)	\$ 1,563.79	\$ (59,641.94)

**Financial Update:** *St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church received the unrestricted offerings as compared to the 2023 approved Mission Plan objective shown for the months of September, October and 2023 year-to-date. Please prayerfully consider increasing your offering to support the church and its mission of Living God's Love. Thank you for your continued generosity.*

*By setting up recurring donations online, you enable us to maintain financial stability and plan for the future of St. Matthew. St. Matthew has 57 (increase 1) member families that contribute through Vanco. Please increase our participation and consider signing up for Simply Giving at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4MP/home>*

**SPECIAL NOTE:** *St. Matthew has set-up in Simply Giving Link easy access for donations directly to the Renovation / Refresh Project. Please select from a one-time donation or recurring donation and contribute as you are able. If you have any questions about your current account or setting up your account, contact our Financial Director Bruce Reed at (412) 848-0219 or email Bruce at [brucerreed@comcast.net](mailto:brucerreed@comcast.net).*



## St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Cindy Piovarchy	Organist
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

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

Email: [pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org)  
Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

### **Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information**

Email: [lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org)  
Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop  
System available.