



The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
December 24, 2023

“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

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

In the Bleak Mid Winter

Brass Ensemble

***Proclamation of the Birth of Christ**

***Carol**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn 270

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of life,

C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

C: Amen.

***Carol**

Away in a Manger

Hymn 277

Lighting of the Advent Candles

D: 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 (7:00)

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

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.**

Christmas Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Anthem

Who is This Tiny King

Luther Choir

MEAL

Offering

Still, Still, Still

arr. E.J. Lorenz

***Offertory**

What Child is This

Hymn 296

***Offertory Prayer**

P: God of abundance,

C: receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

***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: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Communion Hymns

The First Noel

Hymn 300

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn 279

Once in Royal David's City

Hymn 269

***Post-Communion Prayer**

P: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

***Blessing**

D: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

C: Amen.

D: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

C: Amen.

D: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

C: Amen.

D: And the blessing of God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you 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

D: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Joy To The World
arr. Franklin Ritter

Organ/Brass

+++

Brass Ensemble

Aaron Reising, Trumpet

Rachel Knaggs, Trumpet

Hope Rohde, French Horn

Jenna Malloy, Trombone

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	7:00 - Aubrey Terihay James Walker	
Reader:	7:00 - Jen Knaggs	9:00 - Helen Graf
Communion Servers:	7:00 - Jen Knaggs Teri Uttech	9:00 - Melody Costello Delores Ivan
Ushers:	7:00 - Alan & Delores Ivan	9:00 - The Kotick Family
Sound:	7:00 - Larry Mohler	9:00 - Joe Obermeier
Video:	7:00- Melody Costello	

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

	<i><u>Month of October, 2023</u></i>	<i><u>Month of November, 2023</u></i>	<i><u>Year-to-Date January-Nov., 2023</u></i>
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 34,897.12	\$ 70,983.97	\$ 344,675.33
2023 Approved Mission Plan	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 366,666.63</u>
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ 1,563.79	\$ 37,650.64	\$ (21,991.30)

WOW MONTH!!! 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 October, November and 2023 year-to-date. Please prayerfully consider increasing your offering to support the church and its mission of Living God’s Love. Estate planning is for everyone, it is an opportunity to create your legacy at St. Matthew. 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 60 (increase 3) 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 .



PRAYERS

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services, we Worship at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m., *The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord* with Holy Communion. Children's sermon and Livestream at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 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, litany of healing, and holy communion.

No Sunday School.

The church office will be closed:

Monday, December 25 &
Tuesday, December 26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.*

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!*

How can you help with the Renovation Project? *Mail a check to St. Matthew OR Simply Giving Link* - Go to 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. Recap for November: No identified renovation expenses. \$280 reno restricted giving in November. Balance as of November 30, 2023 is \$66,745.63.

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.



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 Christmas Eve service.

Dave & Marcia George

Tim & Melanie Brown

Barbara Schwehn

Sue Ogle

Dave & Judy Weir

Pat Straub in memory of her parents

Bruce Reed to the Glory of the Lord

Alan & Delores Ivan in memory of family and friends

Chris, Kristin, Otto, Martha, and Augie Weight in honor of our family

Dale & Nancy Weygandt in memory of loved ones

Jeff, Linda, Kaitlyn and Faith Taraschke in honor of loved ones

Todd & Melody Costello in memory of Tyler Costello

Nancy McNeal in memory of loves ones

Larry & Connie Mohler in memory of loved ones

Louise Cadwallader in memory of John, Tiffany & Todd

Brittany Thompson in memory of Kathy, Betty, and Glenn Jenewin

Jim & Becky Matyas in memory of their parents

Tom & Joyce Davis in honor of all loved ones

The Neate Family in honor of our grandparents

Bob & Teri Madey in honor of loved ones

The Thornton Family in honor of loved ones

Judy McLaughlin in honor of St. Matthew Youth

Scott & Beth Johnson in honor of all loved ones

Carol Muhlbach in honor of the many blessings received

Jim & Jean Waite in memory of Helmut Simonis

John & Mary Baker in honor of loved ones

Steve & Diane Hulvey in memory of loved ones

The Obermeier Family in memory of loved ones

Rick & Jan Sullivan in memory of their parents

Sandy Andrews in memory 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
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

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Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

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Hearing Loop
System available.