



Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

ELW Setting 4

“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 am 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.

GATHERING

Prelude

In Christ Alone

Welcome and Announcements

Good News Moment

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Song:**

As With Gladness Men of Old

Hymn 302

***Greeting**

P: 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.

***Kyrie**

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***Hymn of Praise**

This is the Feast

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***Prayer of the Day**

C: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

- ¹ But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
- ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
- ³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
- ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
- ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
- ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away

and my daughters from the end of the earth—
7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

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

Psalm

Psalm 29

1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
2 **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
4 **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
6 **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
7 The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
8 **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
9 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”
10 **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
11 O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Second Reading

Acts 8:14-17

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit 16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

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*Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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

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

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day:

Baptized in Water

Hymn 456

***Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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: You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery especially the family of Sandi, Ed, Judy, Susie, Julie, Marge, Jenna, Jerry, June, Tom, Todd, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. 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

Luther Choir (8:30)

I Ponder

Martin/Courtney

Offertory (11:00)

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Offertory Response

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn 884

***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**

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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 our thanks and praise.

***Proper Preface**

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

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***Eucharistic Prayer**

***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: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

***Lamb of God**

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Communion Hymn:

Shall We Gather at the River
Wade in the Water

Hymn 423
Hymn 459

***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:**

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

Hymn 543

***Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

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LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE	
8:30 - 46	11:00 - 46

CALLING ALL KIDS OF THE KINGDOM!!!

Have you or your child ever sang in any capacity for Sandi Harris?
 Please join a group coming together on Tuesday, January 4, 2025 at 7:30 pm in
 the sanctuary to record a couple of her favorite songs to be played during her
 memorial. Any questions, please contact Rachel Knaggs
rknaggsmusic@gmail.com

WORSHIP SERVANTS

THIS WEEK

Acolytes: 8:30 - Bennett Alt
11:00 - Emma Kotick

Reader: 8:30 - Beth Johnson
11:00 - Fran Koenig

Communion Servers: 8:30 - Carol Elkins
Kristin Weight
11:00 - June Trenty
Becky Malloy

Ushers: 8:30 - Linden Family

Sound: 8:30 - Joe Obermeier
11:00 - Larry Mohler

Assisting Minister: Scott Johnson

Video: Melody Costello

Altar Guild: Becky Malloy & Liz Linden

NEXT WEEK

8:30 - Lucy Brown-Serban

8:30 - Adam Scheid
11:00 - Julie Shrader

8:30 - Sandy Andrews
Sue Schwab
11:00 - Julie Shrader
Peg Huber

8:30 - Grice Family

8:30 - Joe Obermeier
11:00 - Larry Mohler

Helen Graf

Bobby Forsythe

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God.

Prayers for Healing: The Family of Sandi Harris, Ed, Judy Weir, Susie Siebert, Julie, Marge Murray, Jenna Saleker, Jerry Jakovcic, June Trenty, Tom Thornton, & Todd Costello.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Baptism of Our Lord, we 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.

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Second 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Reports - Deadline January 13! - Congregation Council members and Committee Chairs, please have your annual reports in to the office next week!

Luther Middles Tobogganing Outing - Sunday, January 19. We will have lunch at the church (bring a bag lunch) at 12:15 p.m., then leave for The Chalet at the Mill Stream Run recreation area in Strongsville at 1:00 p.m. We will return to St. Matthew at 4:30 p.m. Cost is FREE, but you may wish to send money for concessions. Please complete the form that was emailed to all Luther Middles by January 14, so that we can be sure to order the correct amount of tickets (advance purchase is required).

Thank You from Akron Children's Hospital - "Thank you for your 2024 donation of (hats) for the patients at Akron Children's Hospital. We are grateful for the support we receive from our community and appreciate your part in making our patients' stay much brighter. Thank you for thinking of those in our care. Please know you have made a difference in the lives of our patients and we truly appreciate your kind generosity. Sincerely, Vicki Parisi, MAOL, Director, Volunteer & Visitor Services."

Blood Pressure Screening - January 26, before and between services in Brenda's office.

Egg Cartons - We are suspending the collection of egg cartons through the winter months. We will resume collection in May 2025.

2025 Altar Flowers - The 2025 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.*

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. *They will not meet this month, January 20, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.*

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

Looking for Volunteers to deliver a Children's Sermon - Is your talent sharing God's word with others - particularly children? These short sermons can be based on the day's scripture readings, personal stories, or just sharing the Good News in a way to help children understand. Please let Pastor Steve know if you would like to sign up! *"Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God."* -Leo Buscaglia

Kids of the Kingdom Choir (youth) meets **each Tuesday** at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. New members are always welcome! Please join us.

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

Vision Discussions

Sunday February 2, 2025 and Sunday February 9, 2025 – during Sunday School Hour in the Fellowship Hall.

Please come and share your thoughts, ideas, enthusiasm as to how we as a congregation can begin to build off the information provided by the survey for the utilization of the Promise Place funds and how best we can steward these funds. And prayerfully consider if there is something you perhaps feel strongly about spearheading.

Of the 80 responses that were given – this is a break-down of how the majority of people recommend the funds be put to use.

50% - Property Renovations

10% - Youth Ministry

10% - General Operating expenses

20% - Investments

10% - Social Ministry

We look forward to seeing you there!

St. Matthew Finance Committee

**** Reminder to the congregation that **Congregational Council Meetings** are open to all - the dates for 2025 are below. If you wish to attend via Zoom, please contact the Church Office for the link. The contact information for the Congregational Council Members are also listed below. We are striving for open, healthy, productive conversations and dialogue, so please do not hesitate to reach out to a Council Member or our Rostered Leaders. ****

2025 Meeting Dates

January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16.

2025 Congregational Council

President - Jennifer Knaggs

Vice President - Kristine Neate

Secretary - Delores Ivan

Treasurer - Teri Uttech

At-Large - Amanda Kotick, Bruce Reed, & Marcia George

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

Friday: Office Closed



Hearing Loop
System available.