

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

John 1:1



Second Sunday after Christmas

January 5, 2025
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Now the Feast & Celebration

“Living God’s Love”

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

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www.stmatthewmedina.org

those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 147:12-20

¹² Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Verse**

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel**

John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn 270

***Apostles' Creed**

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***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: O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness especially Ed, Judy,

Susie, Julie, Marge, Jenna, Jerry, June, Tom, Todd, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the incarnation. Transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You reveal yourself in the lives of your holy ones. We give you thanks for those who set their hope on you, trusting the inheritance we receive in you. 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.

***Peace**

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering		
Offertory	<i>Hallelujah</i>	L. Cohen
*Song	<i>As the Grains of Wheat</i>	Page 10
*Prayer		Page 11
*Great Thanksgiving		Page 11
*Preface		
*Song	<i>Holy</i>	Page 11
*Eucharistic Prayer		Page 12
*Eucharistic Acclamations		Page 12
Song		Page 13
*Lord's Prayer		Page 13
Lamb of God		Page 14

Communion Hymns

Love Has Come
This Little Light of Mine

Hymn 292
Hymn 677

SENDING

***Post Communion Prayer**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for the blessings of this table.
May our lives be made new by these gifts of grace and may your love be
made known through us.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song**

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Hymn 671

***Trinitarian Blessing & Dismissal**

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***Dismissal**

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Postlude

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WORSHIP SERVANTS

THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEK

Acolytes:	8:30 - Luke Rohde 11:00 - Kara Landes	8:30 - Bennett Alt 11:00 - Emma Kotick
Reader:	8:30 - Delores Ivan 11:00 - Helen Graf	8:30 - Beth Johnson 11:00 - Fran Koenig
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Delores Ivan Brittany Thompson 11:00 - Melody Costello Rebekah Knaggs	8:30 - Carol Elkins Kristin Weight 11:00 - June Trenty Becky Malloy
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan 11:00 - Todd & Melody Costello	8:30 - Linden Family 11:00 - John Baker
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier 11:00 - Larry Mohler	8:30 - Joe Obermeier 11:00 - Larry Mohler
Assisting Minister:	Helen Graf	Scott Johnson
Video:	Rick Sullivan	Melody Costello
Altar Guild:	Becky Malloy & Liz Linden	

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

9:30 - 106

PRAYERS

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

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Second Sunday of Christmas, we worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with Now the Feast and holy communion. *Livestream at 8:30 a.m.*

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

Loads of Love, 1-4 pm, at North Court Laundry (739 W. Liberty St., Medina).

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Baptism of Our Lord, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Annual Reports - Executive Council members and Committee Chairs, please have your annual reports in to the office by January 13, 2025 so that the annual report can be completed and available by the end of February.

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.*

Bible & Brews will not meet December 26 or January 2.

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

Thrivent T-Shirts - We have an overabundance of Thrivent Action Team T-Shirts! There are children and adult sizes available. They are displayed in the Fellowship hall and lower level hallway. Grab one for yourself or for your family.

Children's Sermons - Is your talent sharing God's word with others-particularly children? Over the next 6 months (but actually always!), to assist Pastor Steve while Deacon Lindsay is on leave, would you be willing to share a children's sermon? 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

"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!*



Greetings Parishioners,

Recently, a parishioner approached me with a question: How do I properly dispose of a medication/prescription? After doing some research, I thought the topic would be beneficial to anyone who has expired medications/prescriptions at home.

HOW TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF UNWANTED OR EXPIRED MEDICATION

Did you know that the federal government has guidelines for throwing out prescription drugs that may help curb drug abuse, accidental overdose, and protect U.S. water sources?

Guidelines recommend:

- **Simply take the medication to one of the local D.U.M.P (Dispose of Unused Medications Properly) locations in the county and the medicine will be safely destroyed.** *Mark out any identifying information, or remove label and place bottle in a plastic zip lock bag. Drop back in disposal box. (Please note locations below) Note: ****no needles/syringes permitted.**
- ***Do not flush old prescriptions drugs down the toilet.** Unless otherwise stated on the label or in the drug information pamphlet given to you by your pharmacist, **do not flush** unwanted prescription medication down the toilet. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently researching how prescription drugs affect U. S. waterways.
- **For more information on disposal guidelines visit: Office of National Drug Control Policy.**

D.U.M.P. Locations:

- Medina Hospital/Cleveland Clinic Ambulatory Pharmacy – located near the main entrance of the hospital, 1000 E. Washington St., Medina. Note: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Medina County Sheriff's Office, 555 Independence Drive, Medina – in front entrance lobby.
- Medina Township Police Dept., 4877 Fenn Road, Medina – located outside the police building.
- Medina City Police Dept., 150 W. Friendship St., Medina – located inside the lobby/entrance.
- Montville Township Police Dept., 6665 Wadsworth Road, Medina
Village of Seville, 120 Royal Crest Drive, Seville – in lobby

“Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?” James 3:11

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.