



Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 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

Welcome and Announcements

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:**

Arise! Your Light Has Come

Hymn 314

***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: Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6, 8-10

¹All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- ² **One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
- ³ Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
- ⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the
world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**
- ⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- ⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the
end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
- ⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- ⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**
- ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- ¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² **Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion
over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- ¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in
your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the
body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we
were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all
made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot
would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not
make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not
an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the
body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole
body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God
arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a
single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet

one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

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***Gospel**

Luke 4:14-21

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

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

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

***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: As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons,

pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery especially Ed, Judy, Susie, Julie, Marge, Jenna, Jerry, June, Tom, Todd, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, and beloved friends and family who have died 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

Offertory

Luther Choir (11:00)

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

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: *Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*
One Bread, One Body

Hymn 886
Hymn 496

***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:

We All Are One in Mission

Hymn 576

*Dismissal:

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude

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LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE	
8:30 - 66	11:00 - 34

WORSHIP SERVANTS

THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEK

Acolytes:	8:30 - Reagan Stuchal 11:00 - Brooke Haycook	8:30 - Faith Taraschke 11:00 - Noah Cooper
Reader:	8:30 - Judy McLaughlin 11:00 - Fran Koenig	8:30 - Tim Brown 11:00 - Melody Costello
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Melanie Brown Delores Ivan 11:00 - June Trenty Jen Knaggs	8:30 - David George Marcia George 11:00 - Melody Costello Becky Malloy
Ushers:	8:30 - Taraschke Family	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan 11:00 - Todd & Melody Costello
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier 11:00 - Larry Mohler	8:30 - Joe Obermeier 11:00 - Joe Obermeier
Assisting Minister:	Kristin Weight	Larry Mohler
Video:	Rick Sullivan	Brian Harris
Altar Guild:	Becky Malloy & Liz Linden	Nancy McNeal

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Katie's birthday by the Neate family.

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Third Sunday after Epiphany, we worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with ELW 4 and holy communion., *Livestream at 8:30 a.m.*

Blood Pressure Screening before and between services in Brenda's office.

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

Looms of Love at 9:45 a.m. in the Library.

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, we will 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.

Vision Discussions, 9:45 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are in need of some strong arms to move furniture out of Faith House to the church. We are planning on **February 1** at 9:30 a.m. If the weather is bad, the snow date will be Saturday, February 8. Please contact Bruce Reed, 412-848-0219 or Joyce Davis, 216-780-0965. Thank you!

Luther Middles Souper Bowl of Caring - On Sunday, **February 9**, the Luther Middles will be collecting monetary donations for ELCA World Hunger as a part of the Souper Bowl of Caring effort to help end world hunger. Youth will be present in the Narthex following each service to collect your donations. Thank you for helping us tackle hunger!

National Wear Red Sunday - The American Heart Association takes this time to “raise awareness of the #1 killer of women - cardiovascular (heart) disease.” Please wear anything RED on February 9 to recognize this risk for heart disease in women. If you have a Red Dress pin, wear that too. Thank you, in advance, for your support in the fight against heart disease. B. Disbrow, Parish Nurse

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.*

Kids of the Kingdom Choir (youth) meets **each Thursday** at 6:00 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.

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

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.