



Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 23, 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:** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High* Hymn 835

***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** Page 147

***Hymn of Praise** *This is the Feast* Page 149

***Prayer of the Day**

C: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

Psalm

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

- ¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- ² **For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**
- ³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- ⁴ **Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart's desire.**
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.
- ⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- ⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**
- ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.
- ¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**
- ¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- ³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**
- ⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

- ³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.
- ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual.
- ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.

⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

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***Gospel**

Luke 6:27-38

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day: *God, When Human Bonds are Broken*

Hymn 603

***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: Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care especially Wyatt, Alan, Dave, Loretta, Carol, Ed, Judy, Jerry, June, Tom, Todd, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. 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)

For the Glory of the Lord

Paris/Wolaver

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:

*We Come to the Hungry Feast
Here is Bread*

Hymn 479

Hymn 483

***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:**

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is calling

Hymn 608

***Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

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WORSHIP SERVANTS

THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEK

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Acolytes: | 8:30 - Jacob Shook 11:00 - Kara Landes | 8:30 - Faith Taraschke 11:00 - Brooke Haycook |
| Reader: | 8:30 - Judy McLaughlin 11:00 - Beth Johnson | 8:30 - Jen Knaggs 11:00 - Helen Graf |
| Communion Servers: | 8:30 - David & Marcia George 11:00 - Becky Malloy Mary Dunham | 8:30 - Sandy Andrews Melanie Brown 11:00 - Rebekah Knaggs Peg Huber |
| Ushers: | 8:30 - Taraschke Family 11:00 - Shrader Family | 8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan |
| Sound: | 8:30 - Joe Obermeier 11:00 - Larry Mohler | 8:30 - Joe Obermeier 11:00 - Larry Mohler |
| Assisting Minister: | Scott Johnson | Jen Knaggs |
| Video: | Brian Harris | Rick Sullivan |
| Altar Guild: | Nancy McNeal | Ron & Peg Huber Shannon Turney |

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

8:30 - 61

11:00 - 31

PRAYERS

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

Prayers for Healing: Wyatt, Alan Ivan, Jr. Dave Anderson, Loretta Thornton, Carol Muhlbach, Ed, Judy Weir, Jerry Jakovcic, June Trenty, Tom Thornton, & Todd Costello.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Seventh 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.*

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

Adult Sunday School will not meet today. We will resume next week.

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

New Member Class at 9:45 a.m. with Pastor Steve.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 2, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Transfiguration of Our Lord, we will worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with ELW 4 and holy communion. ELW 4, *Livestream at 8:30 a.m.*

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

Adult Sunday School Resumes with our discussion of the ELCA Social Message on immigration.

Loads of Love, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., North Court Laundry, 739 W. Liberty.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bible & Brews - No study on February 27.

LGL Samaritan Fund - Financial Needs? The St. Matthew LGL Samaritan Fund would like to help. The Fund receives 25 applications a month, but rarely has requests from St. Matthew members. When created in 2006, the donor wanted to first help St. Matthew members and that remains the priority. Information and a confidential application can be found at stmatthewmedina.org in the Community Assistance, Financial Aid section.

Loads of Love - Sunday, **March 2**, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at North Court Laundry, 739 W. Liberty. St. Matthew will once again be spreading joy and covering the cost of laundry for all of the clients during this three-hour period. Please sign up here if you would like to volunteer your time to help supervise, hand out coins... and spread LOVE and JOY! We only need three or four volunteers per hour... but if a time slot is filled, please feel free to show up anyway.

Are You a Thrivent Member? If so, we'd like to know. Thrivent members can receive Action Dollars worth \$250 with certain products they have. These Action Dollars can help support ministries within and outside the walls of St. Matthew. Last year, our Thrivent members were awarded \$7,500 in Action Dollars! Examples of a few projects: turkeys purchased for Feeding Medina County; clothing purchased for homeless bags; fleece blankets made for Akron Children's Hospital; hats loomed for adults, children and infants; recycling bins for the church. Please see Melody Costello or Pastor Steve if you are a Thrivent member able to help with various projects.

Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday, **March 5**. We will worship at St. Matthew at 7:00 p.m. Throughout Lent, we will meet together with UCC, Congregational and St. Paul's Episcopal on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for a study of Amy-Jill Levine's book and DVD series, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*. This schedule of locations and topics is as follows:

Mar 12: *Jerusalem: Risking Reputation*, UCC, Congregational, 217 E. Liberty St.

Mar 19: *The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger*, St. Matthew

Mar 26: *Teachings: Risking Challenge*, St. Paul Episcopal, 317 E. Liberty St.

Apr 2: *The First Dinner: Risking Rejection*, UCC, Congregational, 217 E. Liberty St.

Apr 9: *The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends*, St. Paul Episcopal, 317 E. Liberty St.

Our St. Matthew church family is invited to celebrate Lois Davis's 90th birthday on Sunday, **March 16** in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the late service for a cake & coffee reception. We hope you can join us! -Lennie Davis

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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.