



Jesus answered, “It is  
said: ‘Do not put the  
Lord your God to the  
test.’”

LUKE 4:12

*First Sunday in Lent*

March 9, 2025  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*ELW Setting 3*

*“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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate One,

**C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Gathering Song:** *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*

Hymn 774

**\*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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**\*Prayer of the Day**

**A: O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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 Message**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**WORD**

**First Reading**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

<sup>1</sup> When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup> you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup> You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup> you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

- <sup>1</sup> You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—  
<sup>2</sup> **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I put my trust.”**
- <sup>9</sup> Because you have made the LORD your refuge,  
and the Most High your habitation,  
<sup>10</sup> **no evil will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**
- <sup>11</sup> For God will give the angels charge over you,  
to guard you in all your ways.  
<sup>12</sup> **Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
- <sup>13</sup> You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.  
<sup>14</sup> **I will deliver those who cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**
- <sup>15</sup> They will call me, and I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.  
<sup>16</sup> **With long life will I satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.**

## Second Reading

Romans 10:8b-13

<sup>8b</sup> “The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart”  
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> because if you confess with your  
lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the  
dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For one believes with the heart and so is justified,  
and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, “No  
one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction  
between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all  
who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be  
saved.”

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gospel Acclamation

*Return to the Lord*

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## \*Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit  
in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate  
nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread."<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.'"

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,'

<sup>11</sup> and

'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**\*Hymn of the Day:**

*Oh, Love, How Deep* (v. 1-4)

Hymn 322

**Reception of New Members**

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism and joining us as members of St. Matthew.

I present (Shannon, Debra, Mike, Jerica, Monroe, Julie, Jerry, Carolyn, Elaine, Brian, Willia, Dan, Hillary, James, Mikey, and Joan), who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## Profession of Faith

*The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.*

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

\*P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

## Affirmation

*The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.*

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Together respond:* I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

*The minister addresses the assembly.*

P: People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

P: Stir up in (Shannon, Debra, Mike, Jerica, Monroe, Julie, Jerry, Carolyn, Elaine, Brian, Willia, Dan, Hillary, James, Mikey, and Joan) the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ, our newest members of St. Matthew.

**C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

### **\*Prayers of Intercession**

A: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill, especially Una Mae, Rosemary, Shannon, Wyatt, Alan, Dave, Loretta, Carol, Ed, Judy, Jerry, June, Tom, Todd, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**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)**

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

*Bode/Larson*

**Offertory (11:00)**

**\*Offertory Response**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Hymn 186

**\*Offering Prayer**

P: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**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 him 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: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

**\*Lamb of God**

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**Communion Hymns**

*I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*

Hymn 325

*Eat This Bread*

Hymn 472

**\*Prayer after Communion**

P: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that  
your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of  
the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*Blessing**

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:**

*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

Hymn 326

**\*Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Postlude**

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

### THIS WEEK

### NEXT WEEK

Acolytes:	8:30 - Kara Landes 11:00 - Addison Wierzchowski	8:30 - Lucy Brown-Serban 11:00 - Wyatt Terihay
Reader:	8:30 - Helen Graf 11:00 - Fran Koenig	8:30 - Adam Scheid 11:00 - Fran Koenig
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Carol Elkins Sue Schwab 11:00 - Marcia George Julie Shrader	8:30 - Rick Grice Mary Dunham 11:00 - Julie Shrader Sandy Andrews
Ushers:	8:30 - Bruce Reed Becky Malloy 11:00 - Brian Harris Connie Mohler	8:30 - Linden Family
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier 11:00 - Joe Obermeier	8:30 - Joe Obermeier 11:00 - Larry Mohler
Assisting Minister:	Larry Mohler	Helen Graf
Video:	Melody Costello	Scott Johnson
Altar Guild:	Ron & Peg Huber, Shannon Turney	

### **LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE**

8:30 - 57

11:00 - 42

## PRAYERS

**Altar Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God in memory of Carrie's grandma, Rosemary Koenig, by Carrie and Fran Koenig.

**Memorial Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Linda's mother, Marliese Leggett, by Tory and Linda Cirincione and family.

**Prayers for Healing:** Una Mae Gill, Rosemary Evans, Shannon, 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

**First Sunday in Lent**, we worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with ELW 3 and holy communion., *Livestream at 8:30 a.m.*

**Sunday School** for all ages at 9:45 a.m. **No Adult Sunday School today.**

**New Member Reception** - 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall.

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

**\*Quilter Bees**, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Sunday School room downstairs.

## NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 16, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Second Sunday in Lent**, 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.

**Rachel Knaggs' Trumpet Recital**, 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**\*\*Quilter Bees**, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Sunday School room downstairs.

## Update From the Organ Committee

Fundraising efforts have started for our new GX336 Allen Organ. We have many fundraising events planned in addition to our St. Matthew envelope board, including a community summer cookout, an ornament sale, and a “smash the spinet” event. The organ cost is \$116,000 and our immediate goal is to raise \$58,000 as soon as possible in order to lock in that price. Thank you so much for helping to keep beautiful organ music at St. Matthew. If you have any questions, please reach out to an organ committee member.

*Thank you to those who have already taken an envelope from the organ envelope board in the narthex.*



# ECUMENICAL WEDNESDAYS

**Weekly At 6 p.m.**

**March 12: Jerusalem: Risking Reputation**

**Location: UCC, Congregational**

**217 E. Liberty St.**

**March 19: The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger**

**Location: St. Matthew's Lutheran**

**400 N. Broadway St.**

**March 26: Teachings: Risking Challenge**

**Location: St. Paul's Episcopal**

**317 E. Liberty St.**

**April 2: The First Dinner: Risking Rejection**

**Location: UCC, Congregational**

**217 E. Liberty St.**

**April 9: The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends**

**Location: St. Paul's Episcopal**

**317 E. Liberty St.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Attention Luther League!** Don't forget to sign up for our Whirlyball event!

**Trumpet Recital** - As part of finishing her masters degree, Rachel Knaggs will be giving a lecture recital on the history of the trumpet. Come join her, **March 16** at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary to enjoy some live music and learn some history. This is open to all congregation and community members, so bring any family and friends who would be interested!

**Ladies of St. Matthew**, grab your friends and join us for a fun-filled night just for women with ASPIRE. It will be a night full of laughter, learning, stories and music. An event you'll always remember. Aspire is faith based and part of Extreme Faith Productions. Their purpose is to inspire, encourage and remind women of God's love and purpose for their lives. The event is SATURDAY, **APRIL 12**, 6:00-9:00 in North Olmsted at the North Olmsted Friends Church. Doors open at 5:00. Ticket price is \$30 general admission OR \$25 each for groups of 10 or more. Please RSVP to Helen Graf 330-421-2403 or Joyce Davis 216-780-0965 by MARCH 16.

**\*Would You Like to be a "Quilter Bee"?** Please join Beth Johnson on Sunday afternoons during Lent, to learn how to hand-quilt (or refresh your quilting skills), as we prepare a wall hanging of a cross, prior to Easter. Our quilting session will take place in the Sunday school room near the Fellowship Hall, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on **Sundays, March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6**. All quilting supplies will be provided. All that is needed is your eagerness to participate! Come as often as you can. Any questions? Ask Beth at (301) 501-0473. *This project is supported by a grant from Thrivent.*

**Blood Drive** - In the Fellowship Hall at St. Matthew Saturday, **March 22**, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Log into [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter Sponsor Code MEDINA or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule your appointment.

**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](http://stmatthewmedina.org) in the Community Assistance, Financial Aid section.

**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.

**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.

**Bible & Brews** meets **each Thursday** at 7 p.m. at Forest Meadows. Watch bulletin announcements, Shout-Outs, and Facebook 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](mailto: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.