



December 15, 2024
9:30 a.m.

Youth Christmas Program
3 Wise Guys: Gifts Fit For a King
St. Matt Edition

“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

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 *Jesus Christ is Born* arr. by R. Thygerson

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering Hymn *People Look East* Hymn 248

Greeting

A: 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.**

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Advent Candle Song *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* Hymn 240
(verses 1-3)

***Advent Candle Prayer**

P: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord’s coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: **Amen.**

WORD

Message *3 Wise Guys: St. Matt Edition* St. Matthew Youth

The congregation is invited to join in singing all of the hymns, which will be projected.

Apostles' Creed

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

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.

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. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A: God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. We pray especially for Ed, Judy, Susie, Julie, Marge, Jenna, Jerry, June, Tom, Todd, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

A: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offertory

Lift Your Eyes
Aaron David Miller

Kids of the Kingdom

Offering Prayer

P: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

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.

***Words of Institution**

***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: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Lamb of God

Page 154

Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together
Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Hymn 471

Hymn 656

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank
you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come,
Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God,
our hope for the journey, † bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song:**

Joy to the World

Hymn 267

***Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Joy to the World

arr. by F. Ritter

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THANK YOU to our Luther Littles, Luther Middles, and our Luther League for leading worship today! We are grateful for all of the ways you share your gifts with your St. Matthew family.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Reader	Jen Knaggs
Ushers:	Luther League
Communion Servers:	Luther League
Sound:	Larry Mohler
Video:	Bobby Forsythe
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier & Shannon Turney
Advent Candles:	The Kotick Family
Assisting Minister:	Helen Graf

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 Jakovic, June Trenty, Tom Thornton, Todd Costello, and Sandi.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Third Sunday in Advent, we worship in person with one service at 9:30, our Youth Christmas program, and holy communion.

No Sunday School.

Fun Fellowship Caroling Party - Caroling 3-4 The Echelon of Medina,
Christmas Party 4-8 pm Forest Meadows Community Room

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

Wednesday, we will worship in person at 7:00 p.m. with Holden Evening Prayer.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Fourth Sunday in Advent, we will worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00, ELW 4 and holy communion.

No Sunday School - Winter Break.

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

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE	
8:30 - 80	11:00 - 42
Wednesday Advent - 20	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregation Council - December 17 - 5 pm - ZOOM ONLY. Congregation Council will be having a holiday team building event for this month's meeting on December 17. If you wish to participate in the meeting, please request the Zoom link from the church office.

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

Blood Pressure Screening - Sunday, December 29, before and after the 9:30 worship service in Brenda's office.

Parish Nurse Schedule in December - Brenda will be out of the office on Tuesday, December 24. She will be in the office MONDAY, December 30, instead of Tuesday.

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.*

Annual Reports - Executive Council members and Committee Chairs, please have your annual reports in to the office by January 13, 2025.

Loads of Love - St. Matthew will once again be spreading joy and covering the cost of laundry at North Court Laundry (739 W. Liberty St., Medina) for all of the clients on Sunday, January 5, 1-4 p.m. Please sign using the link in the Shout-Out if you would like to volunteer your time to help supervise, hand out coins... and spread LOVE and JOY! We only need three volunteers per hour... but if a time slot is filled, please feel free to show up anyway.

Bible & Brews - Meets each Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Forest Meadows.

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 everyone in 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



Christmas Eve Services

Candlelight Services
with Communion
4:00 pm & 9:00 p.m.
9:00 pm *livestream*

Lessons and Carols



with Communion
Sunday, December 29
9:30 a.m.
in-person & livestream



Holiday Hours

OFFICE CLOSED

December 24, 25, & 26

December 31

January 1 & 2

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Budgeted General Offerings	Actual General Offerings	Budget vs. Actual YTD
2024 Annual Forecast through November \$320,833.37	Through November 2024 \$325,696.66	Through November 2024 4,863.29
Budgeted General Offerings	Actual General Offerings	Budget vs. Actual
2024 Monthly Forecast \$29,166.67	November 2024 \$39,232.36	November 2024 10,065.69
Restricted Offerings	Restricted Offerings	
Through November 2024 \$103,135.86	November 2024 \$3,445.28	
Budgeted Expenses	Expenses	Budget vs. Actual
2024 Forecast through November \$454,300.00	Through November \$481,463.93	Through November -\$27,163.93
Budgeted Expenses	Expenses	Budget vs. Actual
2024 Monthly Forecast \$41,300.11	November 2024 \$38,657.00	November 2024 2,643.11
2024 Budgeted Annual General Offerings	Through November 2024	Remaining of Budget
\$350,000.00	\$325,696.66	-\$24,303.34
2024 Budgeted Annual Expenses	Through November 2024	Remaining Expenses
\$495,601.00	\$481,463.93	\$14,137.07
2024 Budgeted Deficit	Current Deficit	Remaining of Deficit
145,601.00	\$155,767.27	-\$10,166.27

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.