



December 8, 2024
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: This 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

This is the House of the Lord

arr. Russell Mauldin

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy ,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Song:** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Hymn 254

***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.

***Kyrie**

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***Prayer of the Day**

C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 1-2)

***Advent Candle Prayer**

P: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Psalm

Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹ **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
⁷¹ from the hands of all who hate us,
⁷² **to show mercy to our forebears,
 and to remember your holy covenant.**
⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
**free to worship you without fear,
⁷⁵ holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**
⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
⁷⁷ **to give God's people knowledge of salvation
 by the forgiveness of their sins.**
⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every
 one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the
 first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work
 among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to
 think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you
 share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and
 confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the
 compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow
 more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is
 best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having
 produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the
 glory and praise of God.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

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*Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was
 governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of
 the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the
 high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of
 Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan,
 proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in

the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,
“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day:

Prepare the Royal Highway

Hymn 264

***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: 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: Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering, especially Judy, Susie, Julie, Marge, Jenna, Jerry, June, Tom, Todd, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. 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

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God (8:30)

Luther Choir

Angerman/Harris

Knowing You, Jesus (11:00)

La Vonne De Bois

Offertory Response

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1-2)

Hymn 257

***Offertory 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**

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

***Lamb of God**

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Communion Hymn:

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Hymn 241

***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:**

Hark, the Glad Sound

Hymn 239

***Dismissal:**

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

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

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PRAYERS

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

Prayers for Healing: 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 in Advent, 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.

Luther Littles & Middles, 9:45 a.m., Christmas Program rehearsal in the Sanctuary.

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

Poinsettia Orders - See a member of Altar Guild in the Narthex to order poinsettias or to make a donation toward the evergreen crosses and mini swags.

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

Wednesday, we will worship in person at 7:00 p.m. with Holden Evening Prayer (no communion).

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Third Sunday in Advent, we will worship in person with one service at 9:30, our children's Christmas program and holy communion. *The service will not be livestreamed, but will be available to view on the Member's Page of our website soon after.*

No Sunday School.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE	
8:30 - 59	11:00 - 55
Thanksgiving Eve - 48	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Thank You! Thank You! for your continued support of our College/Military Care Package Ministry. We have names and addresses for 12 of our young adults currently in college/graduate school who will be enjoying a box full of goodies along with well wishes and words of encouragement to finish their semester out strong. If you missed out, not to worry...we will send another package in the spring. We are always accepting donations. Thank you for helping us spread love and support!

Poinsettia Orders - The Altar Guild will be taking orders for poinsettias the first two Sundays in December (Dec. 1 & 8). There will be two sizes for \$14 and \$25. Checks should be payable to St. Matthew Lutheran Church. We are also taking donations toward the evergreen crosses and mini swags. Poinsettias will be available to take home after the 9:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

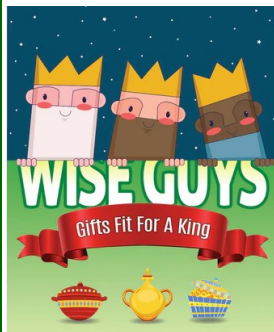
2025 Altar/Memorial Flower Charts - The 2025 Altar/Memorial Flower charts are displayed in the narthex and available for you to pick your preferred dates. When you sign up for altar flowers, please fill out a form for the office with the information you would like printed in the bulletin. The forms are available underneath the chart. *Place the form and payment in the office administrator's mailbox. Checks made payable to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, with the memo "altar flowers".*

Fun Fellowship Christmas Caroling Party, Sunday, December 15, 2024
2:00pm – 6:00pm. All Ages Welcome! **Caroling at The Echelon of Medina**
3:00 - Assisted Living; 3:30 - Independent Living. If you would like to carpool, meet at Forest Meadows Community Room at 2:45 pm. Party will follow at Forest Meadows Community Room from 4 - 8 p.m. The following will be provided: Italian beef, macaroni & cheese, Rigatoni and sausage, punch, hot chocolate, beer, and wine. *(Bring your own beverage if you prefer.)* Use the sign-up link in the Shout-Out for appetizers, side dishes, dessert, and/or items for the charcuterie table. *(Please specify the item.)* **Have items for the charcuterie table labeled and to the church kitchen by Saturday, December 14.**

Adult Sunday School - Topic: The ELCA social statements. What are they? Why does the ELCA have them? Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we learn about and discuss the social statements.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolytes:	8:30 - Lucy Brown-Serban	11:00 - Addison Wierzchowski
Reader:	8:30 - Helen Graf	11:00 - LaVonne Hauptman
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Carol Elkins Delores Ivan	11:00 - Julie Shrader
Ushers:	8:30 - Tim Brown, Bruce Reed Alan & Delores Ivan	11:00 - Tom & Amanda Kotick
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Assisting Minister:	8:30 - Scott Johnson	11:00 - Scott Johnson
Advent Candles:	8:30 - Jean Waite Arla Simonis	11:00 - David & Marcia George
Video:	Rick Sullivan	
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier & Shannon Turney	



Please join us for our annual Children's Christmas program, featuring our Luther Littles & Middles, on Sunday, December 15, during our single service at 9:30 a.m.

Our Luther Leaguers will be serving as Greeters, Ushers, and Communion Servers that morning.

Christmas Eve Services

Candlelight Services

4:00 pm & 9:00 p.m.

9:00 pm livestream

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.