



LET US ALL
Give Thanks

Be thankful
unto him, and
bless his name.
For the Lord is
good.

—Psalm 100:4-5

Thanksgiving Eve
November 27, 2024
7:00 PM

“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.

=====

"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 refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,

C: we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors, following in the servant way of Jesus. Amen.

P: These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are + forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation.

C: Amen.

Hymn

Praise and Thanksgiving

Hymn 689

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

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Word

First Reading

Joel 2:21-27

- ²¹ Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,
for the Lord has done great things!
- ²² Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
- ²³ O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
- ²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
- ²⁵ I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.
- ²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
- ²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

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

- ¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
- ² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**
- ³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.
- ⁴ **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**
- ⁵ Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
- ⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For
there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 6:25-33

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, ²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not

clothed like one of these.³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

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

Thanksgiving Message

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn

Christ, Be Our Light

Hymn 715

Prayers of Intercession

A: Rooted in God’s abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: We praise you, O Lord, for you alone are God. Give to your church a holy curiosity to ask questions and build bridges across difference. Sustain ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. On this day of Thanksgiving, commit us to respectful and faithful dialogue with Indigenous neighbors who find this day difficult. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We praise you for green pastures and abundant harvests. Feed us with the fruit of the earth, the work of human hands. Bless those who labor in fields and factories for the food that nourishes and strengthens us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We praise you for leaders who seek justice and equity for all. For all elected officials, we pray. Guide them to prioritize the common good over narrow individualism. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We praise you for your tender care. Be present with those who weep this day, especially Judy, Susie, Julie, Marge, Jenna, Jerry, June, Tom, Todd, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Lead them through their sorrow and tears into shouts of joy. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We praise you for our community of faith. You have brought us this far by faith. In times of worry and uncertainty, renew our trust in your abundance. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We praise you for your saints who now feast at your eternal banquet. Sustain us by their faithful lives of gratitude until that day when we join them at your table. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Offertory

Offertory Response - Doxology

Hymn 884

Offering Prayer

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C: Amen.

Meal

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.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, on the night you were betrayed you took bread and wine and shared everything equally with your disciples. You gave thanks to God for these gifts and said, Take and eat and drink. This is my body, given for you. This is my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Help us to find a way to share bread with all people, even those we count to be our enemies. Give us a vision of ourselves as waiting on tables at Your Banquet, where all are welcome and have everything they need.

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

C: Grant us your peace.

The 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: There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Distribution

Prayer after Communion

P: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C: Amen!

Blessing

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

Hymn

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

Hymn 694

Dismissal

A: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING

Reader: Delores Ivan
Communion: Melody Costello
Servers: Delores Ivan
Ushers: Melody Costello
Alan & Delores Ivan
Sound: Larry Mohler
Video: Brian Harris
Altar Guild: Brittany Thompson
Assisting Minister: Helen Graf

PRAYERS

Prayers for Healing: Judy Weir, Susie Siebert, Julie, Marge Murray, Jenna Saleker, Jerry Jakovic, June Trenty, Tom Thornton, Todd Costello, and Sandi.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, First Sunday in Advent, we will worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with Now the Feast and holy communion. *Livestream at 8:30.*

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Electronic Giving - If you are making a change to your electronic giving, please be sure to DELETE your old one and then add the new one. If you have any questions please call Mary Dunham 330-421-4730.

Fun Fellowship - Christmas Caroling Party - Save the Date! Sunday, December 15, 2-6 p.m. We will go caroling at The Echelon in Medina, along with lots of other holiday fun! Watch for more details.

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.

Silent Book Club - Due to relocating, the Silent Book Club will take a break for the rest of 2024. We will meet again on Monday, January 6, 2025 in our new space. *Stay tuned for the location and ... keep reading!!* Any questions? Please contact Jen Knaggs.

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

Come and Join the Kids of the Kingdom!! We rehearse Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We are always looking for new members and would love for you to join us! Everyone from 1st through 8th grade is welcome! Contact Rachel Knaggs (330-591-7093) with any questions.

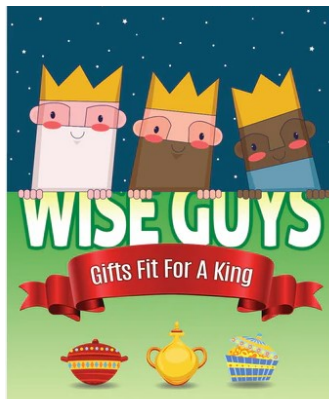
Advent

prayer service

Holden Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays,
December 4, 11, & 18



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.

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



Hearing Loop
System available.