



December 29, 2024
9:30 AM

“LIVING GOD’S LOVE”

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

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www.stmatthewmedina.org

Please note: This morning's worship service is being livestreamed and recorded onto Facebook and YouTube, and an edited copy posted onto the St. Matthew website. 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

Mary, Did You Know?

arr. by J. Schaefer

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Song**

Let All Together Praise Our God

Hymn 287

***Dialog**

A: Come! Look upon the baby Jesus, cradled in the arms of his mother.

C: Seeing this wondrous sight, may our hearts be comforted and our spirits filled with peace.

A: Come! Listen to choirs of angels announcing good news to all people.

C: Hearing this marvelous song, may we too sing: Glory to God in the highest!

A: Come! Receive this ancient story in your heart, not as history but as a gift.

C: Opening our hearts to this great mystery, may Christ be born in us today.

***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

A: Let us pray.

C: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Word

Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

R: Glory to God in highest heaven,

C: who unto us the Son has given.

Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Hymn 276

Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

R: Glory to God in highest heaven,

C: who unto us the Son has given.

Carol*Angels We Have Heard on High* (vs. 1,3)

Hymn 289

Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

R: Glory to God in highest heaven,

C: who unto us the Son has given.**Carol***Once in Royal David's City*

Hymn 269

Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-4

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

R: Glory to God in highest heaven,

C: who unto us the Son has given.**Carol***From Heaven Above* (vs. 1-3, 5 & 7)

Hymn 268

Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

R: Glory to God in highest heaven,

C: who unto us the Son has given.

Carol

Away in a Manger

Hymn 277

Lesson

John 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever

seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

R: Glory to God in highest heaven,
C: who unto us the Son has given.

Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vs. 1 & 2)* Hymn 270

Lesson Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

R: Glory to God in highest heaven,
C: who unto us the Son has given.

Carol *In the Bleak Midwinter* Hymn 294

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

*Prayers of Intercession

A: Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.

C: Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.

A: You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.

C: Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.

A: You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.

C: Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.

A: You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.

C: May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.

***Peace**

A: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Meal

Offering

Offertory

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (vs. 1)

Hymn 288

Offering Prayer

P: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

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.

***Preface**

***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: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Communion Songs

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Hymn 282

Hymn 275

*Prayer After Communion

P: Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

C: Amen.

Sending

*Blessing

P: The God of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

C: Amen.

*Sending Song

Go Tell it On the Mountain

Hymn 290

*Dismissal

A: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Overture from: *Unto Us a Child is Born*

Bach/arr. Ritter

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PRAYERS

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

First Sunday of Christmas, we worship in person and livestream with one service at 9:30, Lessons & Carols with holy communion.

No Sunday School - Winter Break.

Blood Pressure Screening before and after worship in Brenda's office. (Brenda will be out of the office on Tuesday, December 24 and she will be in the office MONDAY, December 30, instead of Tuesday.)

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Second Sunday of Christmas, 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.

Loads of Love - 1:00-4:00 pm at North Court Laundry, 739 W Liberty St., Medina.

The church office will be closed:

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

Thursday, January 2, 2025

THANKS to all of you for your generosity and love leading up to Christmas.
THANK YOU for the gifts of food, gift cards, books, concert invitations,
beverages, homemade cookies, and the many other items you showered
on me. It means so very much that so many of you thought of me during
this special (and busy) time of the year!

Pastor Steve

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	9:30 - Wyatt Terihay
Readers:	9:30 - Adam Scheid Sandy Andrews Helen Graf Melody Costello Judy McLaughlin
Communion Servers:	9:30 - Helen Graf Brittany Thompson
Sound:	9:30 - Larry Mohler
Video:	9:30 - Rick Sullivan
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier & Shannon Turney

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loads of Love - June 5, 1:00 - 4:00 PM, North Court Laundry, 739 W Liberty St., Medina. 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 volunteers per hour... but if a time slot is filled, please feel free to show up anyway.

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

Annual Reports - Executive Council members and Committee Chairs, please have your annual reports in to the office by January 13, 2025 so that the annual report can be completed and available by the end of February.

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.*

Bible & Brews will not meet December 26 or January 2.

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 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

"Getting to Know You" - St. Matthew started featuring a St. Matthew family in our weekly Shout-Outs as a way to get to know our fellow St. Matthew members. We would love to feature your family! Go to your most recent Shout-Out to access the link to complete your profile. If you have any questions, please send a text to Beth Johnson (Communication Evangelism) at 301-501-0473. We look forward to **GETTING TO KNOW YOU!**

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.