



December 22, 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: 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

How Beautiful are the Feet of Them

Handel/Smith

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:** *All Earth is Hopeful* Hymn 266

***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** Page 147

***Hymn of Praise** *This is the Feast* Page 149

***Prayer of the Day**

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Advent Candle Song *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* Hymn 240
(verses 1-4)

***Advent Candle Prayer**

P: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. 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

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

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

Psalm

Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵² **casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices
and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to
the law), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first
in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been
sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

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***Gospel**

Luke 1:39-55

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day:

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

Hymn 251

***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: God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill especially Ed, Judy, Susie, Julie, Marge, Jenna, Jerry, June, Steve, Tom, Todd, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. 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 8:30
11:00

An Advent Acclamation (arr. S. Nordmeyer)

Luther Choir

One Silent Night (arr. K. Bowen)

Kids of the Kingdom

Offertory Response

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 3-4)

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: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

Hymn 265

***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:

Soon and Very Soon

Hymn 439

*Dismissal:

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude

Soon and Very Soon

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WORSHIP SERVANTS

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Acolytes: | 8:30 - Addison Wierzchowski | 11:00 - Jacob Shook |
| Readers: | 8:30 - Adam Scheid | 11:00 - Helen Graf |
| Communion Servers: | 8:30 - Mary Dunham Jen Knaggs | 11:00 - Julie Shrader |
| Sound: | 8:30 - Joe Obermeier | 11:00 - Joe Obermeier |
| Ushers: | 8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan | 11:00 - Jeff, Linda, & Faith Taraschke |
| Video: | Melody Costello | |
| Altar Guild: | Kelly Obermeier & Shannon Turney | |
| Assisting Minister: | Larry Mohler | |

| LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE |
|------------------------|
| 9:30 - 139 |
| Wednesday Advent - 40 |

PRAYERS

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

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

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

No Sunday School - Winter Break.

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

***Nursery Note*:** Our nursery attendant will not be here during the 8:30 service. Parents are welcome to supervise their children in the nursery if needed.

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, AT ST. MATTHEW

Candlelight Services - 4:00 & 9:00 p.m. Livestream at 9:00.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, First Sunday of Christmas, we will 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.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Loads of Love - 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

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Friday: Office Closed



Hearing Loop
System available.