



December 1, 2024
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Now the Feast & Celebration

“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.

Now the Feast and Celebration

Marty Haugen

(* Please stand as you are able.)

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

- *Confession and Forgiveness Page 2
- *Gathering Song *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* Hymn 244
- *Greeting Page 2
- *Kyrie Page 3
- *Song *Now the Feast* Page 4

*Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, 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* No. 240
(verse 1)

*Advent Candle Prayer

P: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. 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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10

¹ To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰ **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Verse**

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel**

Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said: ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day

Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying

Hymn 436

***Apostles’ Creed**

Page 9

***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 of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering, especially Judy, Susie, Julie, Marge, Jenna, Jerry, June, Tom, Todd, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. 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.

***Peace**

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory

***Song**

As the Grains of Wheat

Page 10

***Prayer**

Page 11

*Great Thanksgiving		Page 11
*Preface		
*Song	<i>Holy</i>	Page 11
*Eucharistic Prayer		Page 12
*Eucharistic Acclamations		Page 12
Song		Page 13
*Lord's Prayer		Page 13
Lamb of God		Page 14
Communion Hymn	<i>Christ, Be Our Light</i>	Hymn 715

SENDING

***Post Communion Prayer**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for the blessings of this table.
 May our lives be made new by these gifts of grace and may your love be made known through us.

C: Amen.

*Sending Song	<i>People, Look East</i>	Hymn 248
*Trinitarian Blessing & Dismissal		Page 16
*Dismissal		Page 16
Postlude		

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WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolytes:	8:30 - James Walker	11:00 - Brooke Haycook
Reader:	8:30 - Bob Maas	11:00 - Melody Costello
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Melanie Brown Mary Dunham	11:00 - Julie Shrader
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan Thompson Family	11:00 - Melody Costello
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Mike Holthouse
Assisting Minister:	8:30 - Larry Mohler	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Advent Candles:	8:30 - The Walker Family	11:00 - The Shrader Family
Video:	Scott Johnson	
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier & Shannon Turney	

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE	
8:30 - 75	11:00 - 43

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God as we enter the season of Advent, by the Neate Family.

Memorial Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in memory of Joyce's dad, Larry Kennedy, by Joyce and Tom Davis.

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

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

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

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

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

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

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Second Sunday in Advent, we will 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Guild will be decorating for Advent/Christmas on Saturday, December 7, beginning at 9:30. Many hands make light work! Hope to see you there.

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.

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.

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

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.

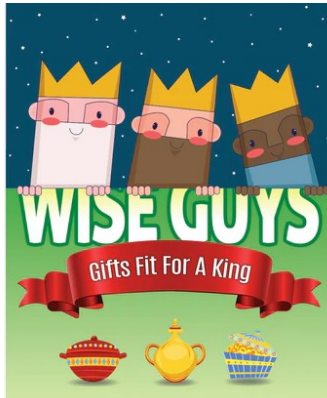


Advent prayer service

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.

Church Office Hours

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

Friday: Office Closed



Hearing Loop
System available.