



Christ the King Sunday

November 20, 2021

11:00 a.m.

Native American Sunday

“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

Native American Sunday

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Billy Crowbeak, Flute

Gathering Prayer

God of all creation, we gather as your people on this day you have made. We give thanks for the evidence of your presence found all around us. Open us to a deeper understanding of who we are in relation with one another. Remind us that the Native peoples of the Untied States provided so many with the means of survival in times past. Help us to recognize the value of the road each has walked to arrive at this place and the value of the shared journey before us all. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gathering Song

Thank You for This Day

Native American Church

Dm



Thank you for— this day, Lord— Thank you for— this
sky
world
church



1 2
day. day. This heal - ing, — this
sky sky
world world
church church



heal - ing, — this heal - ing day. This
sky
world
church

Call and Response Litany

P: Give thanks to the Creator each morning upon rising and each evening before sleeping. Seek the courage and strength to be a better person.

C: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18a)

P: Showing respect is a basic law of life.

C: Show proper respect to everyone, love your fellow believers, fear God.
(1 Peter 2:17)

P: Be truthful at all times.

C: These are the things you should do: Speak the truth to one another. In the courts give real justice—the kind that brings peace. (Zec 8:16)

P: Always treat your guests with honor and consideration.

C: In everything do to others as you would have them do to you;
(Matthew 7:12)

P: The hurt of one is the hurt of all. The honor of one is the honor of all.

C: Do nothing from selfishness or empty council, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself. (Philippians 2:3)

P: Receive strangers and outsiders kindly.

C: for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
(Matthew 25:35)

P: All races are children of Creator and must be respected.

C: “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.” (Mark 10:14)

P: To serve others and be of use to family, community or nation is one of the purposes for which people draw breath on this side.

C: Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I, therefore, command you, “Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.” (Deuteronomy 15:11)

P: Expect guidance to come in many forms – in prayer – in dreams – in solitude and in the words and actions of Elders and true friends.

C: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Written by Shannon Perez, Dine

Children’s Message - Native American 1st Thanksgiving Story

John Burke

First Reading - *Sacred Circles*

Richard Rohr, Franciscan Priest

God is an infinite sphere, whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere. — Alain of Lille, The Rules of Theology

Father Richard views the Trinity as a mutual “circle dance” of love and communion. Many mystics understood the circle as a more appropriate geometric shape than a pyramid to describe the shape of God and reality. In the conference “The Shape of God: Deepening the Mystery of the Trinity,” Richard said:

Those of us who grew up with the common Trinitarian notion of God probably saw reality, consciously or unconsciously, as a pyramid-shaped universe, with God at the top of the triangle and all else beneath. We like the pyramid.

Knowing the line of authority or the pecking order can take away our anxiety. But this is exactly what the Trinity is not—the early fathers of the church said that the closest metaphor we can get for God is a circle dance of communion.

It’s not hierarchical, monarchical, or a pyramid. [1]

The following passage from Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley, a theologian and Cherokee descendant, describes the power of understanding life through the symbol of the circle:

One model of understanding our relationship to everything is a simple symbol used among Native Americans: the circle. The harmony way of living is often referred to symbolically as a circle or a hoop. . . . Perhaps you remember when you were a child and an adult said something like, “OK, kids, gather around” or “Let’s get in a circle,” or simply, “Circle up.” Circles are found in nature; perhaps that’s why we are so comfortable imitating the pattern. . . .

The circle has no beginning and no end, so one can enter at any place or stage. The circle can explain stages of life, values, and different people groups. Circles can explain the seasons, how they all continue on to create harmony and balance.

Life is a sacred circle. When we gather in a circle, the praying has already begun. When we gather in a circle, we communicate with each other and with Great Mystery, even without a word being spoken. [2]

In a previous book, Randy Woodley further described the symbolism of the circle for Native peoples and the earth itself:

The circle or hoop as a symbol of life is found in nearly all Native North American tribes. The symbol is a powerful representation of the earth, life, seasons, cycles of maturity, etcetera. The symbolism of the circle is one of the oldest in North America, having been found in various parts of the country in ancient petroglyphs. It is included in Native American traditions. Many of the ceremonies, such as Sundance, Powwow, Native American Church, and Ghost Dance, are fashioned intentionally in a circle. In observing the outdoors, you will find that a circle is a common and natural shape. Trees, rocks, whirlpools, tornadoes, flowers, etcetera all bear a common resemblance to circular objects rather than triangles or squares. In general, right angles do not naturally occur in nature without assistance from human beings. [3]

Psalm - *Round Dance*

Second Reading - *Native American Sunday*

What does the Bible tell us about praying? In Thessalonians 5:16-18, it says, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”.

Jesus spent a lot of time talking to his followers about prayer. He encouraged them to pray when he said, “The first and most important command is that we love God and we do that in prayer”. Luke tells us that Jesus emphasized that his followers should be persistent in prayer.

Similarly, the duty of prayer is also important to American Indians. Charles Eastman, a Lakota Sioux, who lived from 1858-1939, wrote the following in one of his books. “In the life of the Indian, there was only one inevitable duty - the duty of prayer - daily recognition of the Unseen and Eternal. His daily devotions were more necessary to him than daily food. He wakes at day break, puts on his moccasins, and

steps down to the water's edge. After bathing, he stands erect before the advancing dawn, facing the sun and offers his unspoken prayer. Each soul meets the morning sun and the Great Creator alone. Whenever in the course of the daily hunt, the red hunter comes upon a scene that is strikingly beautiful, a black thundercloud with the rainbow glowing arch above the mountain, a white waterfall tinged with the blood-red sunset - he pauses for an instant in the attitude of worship in prayer. He sees no need for setting one day in seven as a holy day, since to him, all days are God's".

Gospel Acclamation

"Helenyan"



1* 2 3

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

Gospel

Luke 23:33-43

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Steven Mahaffey

Hymn of the day

Many and Great, O God

ELW No. 837

Prayers of Intercession

P: United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

P: We pray for your church. Embolden denominations and faith-based organizations in creative and collaborative ministries and increase our work for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for the earth. Protect waterways from pollution and animal habitats from destruction. Guide us in careful stewardship of waters, plant life, and animals. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for the nations of the world. Instill in every leader's heart a desire for justice and peace. Support the work of international collaborations that seek the goals of health and joy for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for all who are undermined or oppressed. Amplify the voices of the unheard and break open stubborn systems of injustice. Bring about your righteousness and fill us all with your redeeming light. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for those who are sick or need guidance, especially the family of Tom Blevins, Tim Brown, Sandi, Jaggar Haught, Pat Pritchard, Bob Madey, Arline, Don Baker, Judy McLaughlin, Pat, Steve Combs, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for this assembly. Guide our pastor, deacon, and council members in discernment, and nurture new leaders with fresh ideas. Give this congregation a spirit of discipleship and service. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We give thanks for all who have died in the faith. Console us who mourn and comfort us with the beautiful promise of life in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Peace

Offering

Solo

Billy Crowbeak, Flute

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray ...

C: We return thanks to our mother, the earth, which sustains us. We return thanks to the rivers and streams, which supply us with water. We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases. We return thanks to the moon and stars, which have given to us their light when the sun was gone. We return thanks to the sun, that has looked upon the earth with a beneficent eye. Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit, in Whom is embodied all goodness, and Who directs all things for the good of Her children. 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Chinook Lord's Prayer

P: *Nesika papa klaksta mitlite kopa saghalie*

C: Our Father Who dwells in High

P: *Kloshe kopa nesika tumtum mika nem.*

C: Good for our hearts Your Name.

P: *Kloske mika tyee kopa konaway tillikum;*

C: Good you Chief of all people;

P: *Kloshe mika tumtum kopa illabee kabkwa kopa saghalie;*

C: Good Your heart to make our country such as Yours up above;

P: *Potlach konaway sun nesika muckamuck,*

C: Give us all days our food,

P: *Pee kopet-kumtux donaway nesika mesachie,*

C: And stop remembering all our sins we make to them,

P: *Kabkwa nesilka mamook kopa klasksta spose mamook mesachie kopa nesia;*

C: As we suppose not their sin against us;

P: *Mahab siah kopa nesika konaway mesachie.*

C: Throw far away from us all evil.

P: *Kloshe kabkwa.*

C: Amen.

Communion Music - Solo

Billy Crowbeak, Flute

Benediction

P: As God has loved you, go forth and love the circle of life created by God's hand.
As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in Christ.
May you be a blessing to all whose paths cross your own.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW No. 879

Dismissal

+++

"Helenyan"

Music: Muscogee (Creek) Indian; transc. Charles H. Webb, b. 1933
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About Our Service This Morning:

Our special Guest today is Native American Flutist, Billy Crowbeak Faluski

We welcome Billy Crowbeak Faluski, who has been a Native American flute maker since the 1980's. He was mentored in Native flute making early on by an elder he met at a pow-wow. Billy enjoys sharing his flutes and helping people find the song they carry in their hearts. He is of Cherokee heritage on his mother's side and his father was Russian.

Today's Psalm

In place of the Psalm, we will do a Round Dance in which everyone can participate. The origins of the Round Dance are in healing and spiritual dances of the Plains Indians tribes. Everyone is invited to participate.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Date	Sunday November 20	Sunday November 20	Sunday November 27	Sunday November 27
Service	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Acolyte		Faith Taraschke	Lucy Brown-Serban	Devin Shrader
Reader	Melody Costello	Lisa Burke		
Ushers	Alan Ivan Delores Ivan Bruce Reed	Linda Taraschke		
Communion Assistants	Melody Costello Mary Dunham Jen Knaggs	Sandy Andrews Lisa Burke		
Sound	Joe Obermeier	Larry Mohler	Joe Obermeier	Larry Mohler
Video	Owen Blakslee	--	Rex Rickly	--
Altar Guild	Becky Malloy & Julie Shrader			

UPCOMING EVENTS

Watch your bulletins and Shout-Outs for details.

Monday, November 21, 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Yours Truly.

Thursday, November 24, 10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Day worship.

Wednesday, November 30, 2:00-8:30 pm, Directory Pictures. *Communication Evangelism*

Thursday, December 1, 2:00-8:30 pm, Directory Pictures. *Communication Evangelism*

Saturday, December 3, 3:45 if meeting for dinner. (4:45 in parking lot). Journey to Bethlehem in Walnut Creek. *Comprehensive Youth*. All invited!

Sunday, December 4, 12:30 pm - Annual cookie exchange and evergreen cross making, fellowship hall. *Small Groups*

Friday, December 9, 7:00 p.m. Christmas Groove Concert at Akron Civic Theatre.

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God with thankfulness by Joyce and Tom Davis.

Memorial Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in memory of loved ones by Cindy and Rex Rickly.

Prayers for Healing: The family of Tom Blevins, Tim Brown, Sandi, Jaggar Haught, Pat Pritchard, Bob Madey, Arline, Don Baker, Judy McLaughlin, Peggy, Pat, and Steve Combs.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Today, Christ the King Sunday, we worship in person at 8:30 a.m. with *ELW setting 4* liturgy and Holy Communion and at 11:00 a.m. with *Native American service* and Holy Communion. Livestream at 8:30 a.m.

Adult Sunday School - Thanksgiving According to the Native Americans - 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. John Burke will lead a discussion on Native American traditional Thanksgiving ceremonies and their participation in the first Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims.

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

Blood Pressure Screening before each service in Brenda's office.

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, First Sunday in Advent, we will worship in person at 8:30 a.m. with *Praise* liturgy and Holy Communion and at 11:00 a.m. with *ELW setting 4* and Holy Communion. Livestream at 8:30 a.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Lindsay is on Vacation November 16-30.

Seeking all Thrivent members! If you belong to Thrivent, please contact Pastor Steve.

Bible and Brew Update - We will not meet November 24, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thank you, Luther League for a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner provided to our Seniors on Sunday, November 13. What a great way to thank our older population for all that they have done over the years. Thank you, too, to Thrivent Financial for the Thrivent Action Team grant that made a positive impact through the efforts of our youth.

Operation HOMES Day Center Update - Most recently we have been at capacity. To serve our guests, we are open Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to noon. The number of guests on any one day varies by their work schedule. We offer any guest an opportunity to do laundry, take a hot shower and/or just relax. Our host makes certain the guests have all the necessities needed to complete those tasks. Our biggest opportunity is simply welcoming each guest and making them feel comfortable. **We are in need of volunteers.** Could you spare some time to make our guests feel welcome? Please call Rick Sullivan at 330-391-0222.

Advent Devotions - Thank you to everyone who volunteered to write a 2022 Advent Devotion! Each day during Advent (beginning Sunday, November 27), a link to a new devotion, written by our members, will appear on our church website homepage. All completed devotions will all be available on an archived webpage.

Ways to Serve Your Church - The Nominating Committee is seeking to fill three positions to complete our 2023 Slate of Elected positions. The Executive Council position of Financial Director; the Chair of Comprehensive Youth; and the Chair of Social Concerns. These positions are well supported by past and present elected officers of St. Matthew and you will be offering a great service to your St. Matthew family. If you are interested in learning more about any of these positions, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Lisa Burke, Kelly Obermeier, Rick Grice, Jean Waite, and Bill Heck, chair.

Journey to Bethlehem - We are once again planning a group event to see the Journey to Bethlehem in Walnut Creek, December 3, 2022. We will meet for dinner at Der Dutchmen at 3:45 (if you don't plan to have dinner, please indicate that and meet us in the parking lot at 4:45) and then "journey" by caravan around Walnut Creek experiencing the immersive Journey to Bethlehem. While this is sponsored by Comprehensive Youth, we invite and encourage all members to join us! If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Christy Gabler 330-441-1841. Please sign up in the narthex or via this link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054FADAE2DA46-journey>

Christmas Cookie Exchange & Evergreen Cross Craft - Sunday, December 4 at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy lunch provided by Small Groups, followed by the Cookie Exchange and Evergreen Cross making. A craft for kids will be provided and door prizes will be awarded for the most festive Christmas outfit. Please bring three dozen **HOMEMADE** cookies for the exchange, along with a container to take your exchanged cookies home. Immediately after the cookie exchange, we will craft our evergreen crosses. This will take approximately 30 minutes. Cost is \$40. *Please pay Corey Neururer via cash, check, PayPal, or Venmo (caneururer@yahoo.com) by Sunday, November 27*, so we know how much material to prepare, etc. There are picture examples in the narthex of the evergreen crosses. Join us for one or all of these activities. Please contact a member of Small Groups with any questions. We hope to see you for fun, fellowship, and to enjoy the Christmas spirit. Please sign up in the narthex or by using this site: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/5080a45afae2cabff2-cookie>

Christmas Groove Concert - Ring in the Christmas season with a wonderful, family friendly, benefit concert, Christmas Groove. This concert has been providing free music and collecting money for a variety of non-profits since 2004. A group of St. Matthew friends will be going together on Friday, December 9. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Akron Civic Theatre. You can view additional information and hear past songs at <https://www.christmasgroove.org/>. The concert is free and no tickets are needed. A free-will offering will be collected and will benefit Akron Canton Foodbank. We are working on transportation for those who can't drive, but would like to attend. Please call Melody at 330-461-1149 if you need a ride or are interested in attending.

Book Club - The next book that we will be reading is *Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. We will read the book on our own and see the movie when it comes out in January. We will gather together to discuss at Wingz after the movie. Additional details will follow. Happy reading!

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Custodian
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

Pastor Steve's Contact Information

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Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

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Cell Phone: 440-376-8338

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.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM



Hearing Loop
System available.