



The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
December 24, 2022

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
400 N. Broadway Street + Medina, OH 44256
330-725-8885 + office@stmatthewmedina.org

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

(*Please stand, if you are able)

GATHERING

Prelude

O Holy Night

Mason Cooper & Pastor Steve

***Proclamation of the Birth of Christ**

***Carol**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 283

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of life,

C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

C: Amen.

***Carol**

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 289

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles

D: Tonight, in addition to the Advent candles of this circle of light, we light the Christ candle. Jesus the Christ is the light of the world.

D: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message (7:00)

Deacon Lindsay Bailey

WORD

First Reading

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.

³ You 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.

⁴ For 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.

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

⁶ For 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.

⁷ His 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: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Solo

I Wonder as I Wander

Carol Muhlbach

*Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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.

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. 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.

P: The gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Christmas Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Anthem

Silver and Shadows
Martin/Nix

Luther Choir

MEAL

Offering

*Offertory

O Little Town of Bethlehem
vs. 1 & 4

No. 279

*Offertory Prayer

P: God of abundance,

C: receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration.

Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

*The 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.

*The Preface

*Holy, Holy, Holy

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*Eucharistic Prayer

*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: Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

Communion Hymns

The First Noel
What Child is This

No. 300

No. 296

***Post-Communion Prayer**

P: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

***Blessing**

D: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

C: Amen.

D: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

C: Amen.

D: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

C: Amen.

D: And the blessing of God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Candle Lighting

***Carol**

Silent Night

No. 281

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

SENDING

***Dismissal**

D: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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WORSHIP AT ST. MATTHEW

(There will be no Sunday School on December 25 or January 1.)

Sunday, December 25

9:00 -10:00 a.m.

(Self-guided worship)

Stop in to pray, read, reflect, commune,
and pause to listen to Christmas music
playing in the background.

In-person only.

Saturday, December 31

5:00 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer
and Healing Service.

Sunday, January 1

10:00 a.m.

Lessons & Carols

With communion.

Worship Servants:

12/24	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Communion Server</u>	<u>Sound</u>	<u>Video</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>
7:00p	Jen Knaggs	Alan & Delores Ivan	Jen Knaggs Sandy Andrews	Larry Mohler	Rex Rickly	Peg & Ron Huber
9:00p	Peg Huber		Peg Huber Bekah Knaggs	Larry Mohler	--	Sandy Andrews

The church office will be closed:

Monday, December 26

Friday, December 31

Monday, January 2

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

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Hearing Loop
System available.