



## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 18, 2022

10:00 a.m.

*Youth Christmas Program*  
*A "Beastly" Christmas*

*"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**

## GATHERING

### Welcome/Announcements

### Prelude

### Gathering Hymn

*Canticle of the Turning*

No. 723

### Greeting

L: 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

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, 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*  
(verses 1-4)

No. 240

### \*Advent Candle Prayer

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### Message

*A "Beastly" Christmas*  
written by John O. Eby

St. Matthew Youth

*The congregation is invited to join in singing all of the hymns, which will be projected.*

### Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

L: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

L: God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery especially The Family of LaVerne Ling, The

Family of Pat Prichard, Marge Murray, Sandi, Bob Madey, Arline, Judy McLaughlin, Peggy, Pat, and Steve Combs. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**Offertory**

*Waiting for the Promise*  
Larson

Luther Choir

**Offering Prayer**

P: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

**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.**

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*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: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

**Lamb of God**

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**Communion Hymn**

*The King Shall Come*

No. 260

**\*Prayer after Communion**

P: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

**\*Blessing**

L: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

No. 631

**\*Dismissal:**

L: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**THANK YOU** to our Luther Littles, Luther Middles, and our Luther League for leading worship today! We are grateful for all of the ways you share your gifts with your St. Matthew family.

## PRAYERS

**Altar Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God in celebration of the coming birth of Christ by Joyce and Tom Davis.

**Memorial Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God in memory of family and friends by Larry and Connie Mohler.

**Prayers for Healing:** The Family of LaVerne Ling, The Family of Pat Prichard, Marge Murray, Sandi, Bob Madey, Arline, Judy McLaughlin, Peggy, Pat, and Steve Combs.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Today, Fourth Sunday of Advent,** we worship in person and livestream at 10:00 a.m. with our Youth Christmas Program and Holy Communion.

**Congregational Meeting** immediately after worship.

**No Sunday School** this week.

## CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Christmas Eve,** we will Worship at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m., *The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord* with Holy Communion. Livestream at 7:00 p.m.

## NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Christmas Day,** open from 9:00-10:00 a.m. Drop in to pray, read, reflect, commune, and pause to listen to Christmas music playing in the background.

**No Sunday School.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Guitar Players Wanted!** If you would like to play guitar Christmas Eve, please contact Pastor Steve.

**Altar Guild** will be decorating for Christmas on Friday, December 23, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

**Senior Happy Hour** is on winter break and will resume on Monday, January 9 at 10:30 a.m. Beginning that day, we will start watching season 3 of "The Chosen".

**Bible & Brews** will not meet this week. We will meet again, Thursday, December 29 at Forest Meadows at 7:00 p.m.

**Advent Devotions** - Each day during Advent, a link to a new devotion, written by our members, will appear on our church website homepage. All completed devotions will be available on an archived webpage.

**Annual Reports** - Executive Council members and Five-Star Ministry Chairs, please have your annual reports in to the office by January 15, 2023.

**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!

**For Sale! Sound Mixer** - We are selling our Mackie SR24-4 analog mixer. It's 25 years old and still in good working condition. Asking \$280. Contact Larry Mohler at 330-391-0130 with questions or interest in buying. (Still on premises if you are interested in purchasing and want to see it first.)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Watch your bulletins and Shout-Outs for details.*

Monday, December 19, 8:00 am, Men's Breakfast at Yours Truly.

Tuesday, December 20, 6:30 am, Men's Bible Study.

Tuesday, December 20, 4:00 pm, Executive Council meeting.

Saturday, December 24, 7:00 & 9:00 pm, Christmas Eve Worship.

Sunday, December 25, 9:00 am, Christmas Worship.

Saturday, December 31, 5:00 pm, New Year's Eve Worship.

Sunday, January 1, 10:00 am, Lesson & Carols

## **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**

Email: [pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org)

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

### **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.