



“And now faith, hope, and
love abide, these three;
and the greatest of
these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13
NRSV

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 30, 2022

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

ELW

“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

** Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

P: Rejoice in this good news: ✝ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Song

Rise, Shine, You People!

No. 665

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Mitch Phillips

WORD

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

- ⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,
⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only
a boy.” ⁷But the LORD said to me,
“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
⁸Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”
⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said
to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.
¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

Psalm

Psalm 71:1-6

- ¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
²**In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**
³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.
⁴**Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**
⁵For you are my hope, O Lord God,
my confidence since I was young.
⁶**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother’s
womb you have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

*Gospel

Luke 4:21-30

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.

²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Apostle's 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**

P: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

P: Guide your church in the ways of faith, hope, and love. Cultivate ministries and communities of compassion that bear witness to your enduring presence among us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Teach us to live in humility on the earth. Curb arrogance that leads to destruction of natural resources and disregard for future generations. Inspire the work of scientists who urge us to live in harmony with your creation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You are the refuge of all who seek hope and freedom. Accompany immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers who cross borders to find safety and opportunity. Embolden leaders to draft compassionate policies on behalf of migrants and those who assist them. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Love bears, believes, hopes, and endures all things. Comfort with your love all who are lonely, fearful, or brokenhearted. Sustain the hope of all those who suffer in body or spirit especially Gary Kelling, Tim Reber, Eva Reber, Bill Carter, Esther Svoboda, Otto Weight, Lennie Davis, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, Greg McKee, and all people suffering from Covid-19. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your grace falls upon young and old alike. Bless the gifts of children in this congregation and in this community. Give us humble hearts to follow their leadership. Inspire us with their laughter, their insight, and their curiosity. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Be with us as we look to the future of our Transitional Housing ministry. Guide us and help us to be open to your voice as we discern how we will continue to offer help to those in need. God of Grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We ask your blessing upon St. Matthew's Call Committee. Give them insight and a spirit of enthusiasm for their work and raise up for our people a pastor to help lead us.

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We praise you for those who have gone before us and now see you face to face. Abide with us in this mortal life until we rest in the arms of your never ending love. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

***Peace:** *The peace will be an acknowledgement with your neighbor of God's reconciling love by nod or bow.*

MEAL

Offertory

Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace (8:30)

Luther Choir

Mary McDonald

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light.

C: Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

***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: Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

Communion Hymn *He Comes to Us as One Unknown* No. 737

***Table Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

P: We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

*Sending Song

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

No. 543

*Dismissal

P: Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude

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PRAYERS

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary by Brian and Sandi Harris.

Prayers for Healing: Gary Kelling, Tim Reber, Eva Reber, Bill Carter, Esther Svoboda, Otto Weight, Lennie Davis, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, Greg McKee, and all people suffering from Covid-19.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Today, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, we worship at 8:30 and at 11:00 a.m. with ELW liturgy and Holy Communion. Livestream at 8:30 a.m.

Thank You Pastor Mitch Phillips, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership, our supply pastor this morning.

Thank You Cindy Piovarchy, our guest accompanist this morning.

No Youth Sunday School Today. We will resume next Sunday, February 6.

Adult Sunday School will meet in the fellowship hall at 9:45 a.m. Pastor Mitch will lead an open forum on the call process and welcoming a new pastor.

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, we will worship at 8:30 and at 11:00 a.m. with ELW liturgy and Holy Communion. Livestream at 8:30 a.m.

We Will Welcome Pastor Betti Hazelton as our supply pastor.

Sunday School Resumes! 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room.

Adult Sunday School meets in the fellowship hall at 9:45 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVANTS				
Date	January 30	January 30	February 6	February 6
Service	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Acolyte		Trevor Terihay		Logan Naida
Reader	Adam Scheid			
Ushers	Bruce Reed	Cindy Rickly Pat Straub	Bruce Reed	Pat Straub
Communion Servers	Nancy McNeal			
Sound	Joe Obermeier	Larry Mohler	Joe Obermeier	Larry Mohler
Video	Rex Rickly	--	Brian Harris	--
Altar Guild	Nancy McNeal			

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

****Mask Mandate / Masks Required for in-person worship****

HVAC anti-COVID air treatment / Equipment installed earlier this year

No Singing / Restrictions Lifted

Limiting Attendance / Restrictions Lifted

Keep Exterior Doors Open / Restrictions Lifted

Fellowship After Worship / Casual fellowship after church is resuming

Ropes to Encourage Social Distance / Ropes removed June 18

Hymnals / Hymnals returned to pews June 18

Communion / Covid protocol still in place

Sharing of the Peace / Covid protocol still in place

Masks and Sanitizer available / Covid protocol still in place

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Council Voted in December to give a year-end gift to the ELCA, in addition to its budgeted amount for 2021. This was made possible because of God's abundant blessings, and the generosity of the St. Matthew congregation providing for a 2021 budget surplus. It also reflected St. Matthew's appreciation for the ELCA's synodical and congregational support throughout the year. May we continue to *Live God's Love* through our giving and our being. Thank you!

God's Work Our Hands - Information received from Rise Against Hunger: "We are delighted to announce that the meals from your Rise Against Hunger Experience on 9/19/2021 have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Pittsburgh warehouse. The meals will be received by our in-country partner, World Hope International of Haiti."



Care Team Ministry - Come join us tomorrow as we meet to re-energize the care and delivery teams in our mission to *Live God's Love* by intentionally caring for, supporting, and connecting with the members of St. Matthew. If you are called to be a part of this ministry, join us tomorrow, January 31, at 7:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, either in person or via Zoom. Contact Beth Johnson at sboyumj@gmail.com if you need the Zoom link. We hope to see you there!
~Jill Heck and Beth Johnson, Co-Chairs

Ice Skating – Join us at Lock 3 in Akron from 2:00 – 4:00 on February 20 for ice skating. The cost is \$5 for admission and skates, unless you bring your own skates. If we have 20 or more people, a \$1 discount is given on skate rental. There are other things to rent/participate in if you choose to do so. You can view options at <https://www.downtownakron.com/go/lock-3>. Concessions are also available. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Haycook or Corey Neuruer.

Game Night – We are excited to bring back our monthly game night beginning in February. Join us in the fellowship hall on the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:00pm for a variety of games. Bring your favorite game or a deck of cards plus a snack/beverage to share. If you have questions, contact Melody Costello or Cindy Rickly.

**Finance Report for December and Year-to-Date
St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

St. Matthew had the following revenue
and expenses for December.

	Month of December 2021	Year-to-Date December 2021
Total Revenue	\$ 57,800.00	\$ 401,401.85
Total Expenses	\$ 24,657.10	\$ 332,398.14
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 33,142.90	\$ 69,003.71
Net Other	\$ 11.10	\$ 188.40
Net Revenue	<u>\$ 33,154.00</u>	<u>\$ 69,192.11</u>

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM