



Make an Advent promise to be a part
of our Community of faith in WORSHIP.

First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021

8:30 a.m.

Praise Liturgy

“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 alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God for whom we wait,

C: in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, + your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Song

Because of Your Love

*Greeting

*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.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Bernie Dougherty

WORD

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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."

Advent Candle Prayer

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candle on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

Advent Candle Song *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* No. 240
(verse 1)

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

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

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And 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.

***Gospel**

Luke 21:25-36

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[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. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven 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, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be 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 Bernie Dougherty

Hymn of the Day

Grace Alone

***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: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

A brief silence.

P: God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind especially the Family of Warren "Bud" Breese, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, and Greg Mckee. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of Compassion, 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of Guidance, 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

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

MEAL

Offertory

Offering Prayer

P: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

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 Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Communion Hymn *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

***Table Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

***Sending Song** *My Redeemer Lives*

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

+++

WORSHIP SERVANTS				
Date	November 28	November 28	December 5	December 5
Service	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Acolyte		Evan Hogan	Trevor Rohde	Jacob Gabler
Reader	Sandy Andrews	Beth Johnson		
Ushers	Bruce Reed		Bruce Reed	
Communion Servers	Sandy Andrews	Nancy McNeal		
Sound	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse
Video	Brian Harris	--	Rex Rickly	--
Altar Guild	Louise Cadwallader & Kelly Obermeier			

PRAYERS

Prayers for Healing: The Family of Warren “Bud” Breese, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, and Greg Mckee.

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God.

TODAY’S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Today, First Sunday in Advent, we worship in person at 8:30 a.m. with *Praise* liturgy and communion and at 11:00 a.m. with *ELW* Liturgy and communion, livestreaming at 8:30 a.m.

Deacon Lindsay is on Vacation this week. She will be back for worship next Sunday, December 5.

We Welcome Pastor Bernie Dougherty as our Supply Pastor.

Thank You to Cindy Piovarchy, our guest accompanist for worship this morning.

Youth Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room.

Adult Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, led by Pastor Bernie Dougherty.

MID-WEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

Advent Mid-Week - Wednesday, December 1, in the Fellowship Hall. 6:00 p.m. - Meal with Family Craft. 7:00 p.m. Brief Advent Worship Narrative.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Second Sunday in Advent, we will worship in person at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with *ELW* Liturgy and communion, livestreaming at 8:30 a.m.

We Will Welcome Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger as our Supply Pastor.

Youth Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room.

Adult Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, led by Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger.

Cookie Exchange - 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you are not participating in the cookie exchange, you are invited to join us for a soup and salad lunch.



**St. Matthew's
ANNUAL MEETING will be
Sunday, December 19.**

**Additional details about time
and format will be shared in
early December.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You for all your prayers, get well cards, and notes of encouragement. Your thoughtfulness and kindness were truly appreciated. ~*Mary Baker*

Advent Online Devotions - Beginning **today**, November 28, start your day with an Advent Devotion, written by members of our own congregation. Go to the Home Page of our church website, www.stmatthewmedina.org, and you will find a link to a new devotion each day. If you miss a day or two, a "Devotion Archive" will be available for past devotions. May this be an Advent blessing for all!

Poinsettias and Greens for Christmas - Help to beautify our sanctuary on Christmas! A member of the Altar Guild will be in the narthex following each Sunday worship service beginning **today**, November 28, through Sunday, December 12 taking orders for poinsettias and payment toward greens.

There will be three sizes of poinsettias - single stem, double stem, and triple stems.

Donations are welcomed to cover the cost of the evergreen crosses used on the doors and evergreen swags in the windows outside the NW entrance of St. Matthew and other special items purchased throughout the year by Altar Guild.

Payment, cash or checks made out to *St. Matthew Lutheran Church*, is appreciated at the time of the order. See an Altar Guild member (clip board with poinsettia) in the narthex following worship.

Christmas Cookie Exchange - Please join us Sunday, December 5 after the late service (about 12:15 p.m.) in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Cookie Exchange. Bring three dozen of your favorite homemade (no store bought) cookies to exchange. Don't forget to bring a container for your cookies to take home. We will have prizes for the most festive Christmas outfit! Can't wait to see everyone's attire. If you do not wish to participate in the Cookie Exchange,

please still come for our soup and salad luncheon, not to mention fellowship.
Please RSVP here
<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showRSVPSignUp/10c0a44a9aa2ea5fa7-stmatthew3> or in the narthex.

Advent Decorating - Altar Guild will begin decorating during Advent for Christmas. On December 4, we will decorate the window sills. on December 11, we will decorate the evergreen crosses and swags and hang them. December 18 will be the day we decorate our trees and on Friday, December 24, we will add the poinsettias. We will meet at 9:15 (please note change in time for decorating, come when you can) in the sanctuary.

Worship Team - Anyone interested and feeling the call to join or lead our Worship Team at St. Matthew is asked to please contact Cindy Rickly, Chair of Congregational Life, at cindyrickly@gmail.com or 330-321-9071.

Parish Nurse Update - As you know, our Parish Nurse, Brenda Disbrow, has been recovering from a car accident. Recently, she had to have an extensive, orthopedic surgery. This will require a lengthy recovery and rehabilitation, but her surgeon feels she will make a good recovery in time. At this time, Brenda has requested a Leave of Absence until sometime in the new year when she can return to her position healthy and able. Please keep Brenda in your prayers as she continues to heal.

If you need health assistance or have health related questions, you should continue to follow up with your health care provider.

Electronic Offering Updates - If anyone needs help in changing their electronic giving (ACH) through Vanco please feel free to contact Thaddeus Neururer 617-360-1342 or email at thaddeus.neururer@gmail.com.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Mask Mandate / Masks optional, but recommended
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

Help Needed at St. Matthew

Video Help Needed - This past year our video ministry has become more important than ever. It has allowed St. Matthew to livestream worship services so we could still worship together. As with all ministries in our community of faith, it takes volunteers to make it happen. We are seeking a few more volunteers who would be willing to video our services on Sunday mornings (8:30 a.m. service, with occasional 11:00 a.m.) If you have interest or have questions about what is involved, please contact Lisa Burke or Melody Costello from Communication Evangelism or Brian Harris or Owen Blakslee, who can answer all your questions.

Seeking Nursery Volunteers - Our nursery at St. Matthew is an important service that we provide to our families with young children. It allows the parents the opportunity to worship without the disruption of their children allowing them to fully take in and participate in worship. As we continue to search for a full-time person (or 2 part-time people) to staff the nursery, we are looking for volunteers to be present with our younger members during worship and Sunday School in the nursery. In the interim, member Corey Neururer has agreed to help during Sunday School and the 11:00 a.m. service. If you would be interested in helping, please contact Melody at 330-461-1149.

Nursery Attendant Needed - Our nursery at St. Matthew is an important service that we provide to our families with young children. It allows the parents the opportunity to worship without the disruption of their children allowing them to fully take in and participate in worship.

We are currently looking for one full-time person (or 2 part-time) to staff the nursery. The right candidate should enjoy children; be willing to play with them; change diapers/help them use the toilet, etc. The position would involve, roughly, 4 hours each Sunday (fall through spring) and 1 ½ hours during the summer and is a paid position.

If anyone in the church is interested, please contact Melody at 330-461-1149. If you know someone who could be a fit, please pass along my contact information for further discussion.

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

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

	Month of October 2021	Year-to-Date October 2021
Total Revenue	\$ 23,486.82	\$ 318,049.39
Total Expenses	\$ 17,900.16	\$ 288,258.62
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 10,596.66	\$ 29,790.77
Net Other	\$ 14.78	\$ 162.52
Net Revenue	\$ 10,611.44	\$ 29,953.29

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
Heather Rohde	Youth Worship Music Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Copyright © 2021 All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission.
Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB122803
One License Annual License with Podcasting #A-708578
CCLI Annual License #11156715