



Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

February 20, 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** *All Creatures, Worship God Most High* No. 835

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Deacon Lindsay Bailey

WORD

First Reading

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalm

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

¹Do not be provoked by evildoers;
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

²**For they shall soon wither like the grass,
and like the green grass fade away.**

³Put your trust in the LORD and do good;
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴**Take delight in the LORD,
who shall give you your heart’s desire.**

⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD,
and see what God will do.

⁶**The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸**Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.
¹⁰**In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

¹¹But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.

³⁹**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD;
you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

⁴⁰You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them;
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you
they seek refuge.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

*Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Blair Morgan

Hymn of the Day

Light Dawns on a Weary World

No. 726

***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: You teach us to love our neighbors and enemies alike. Encourage your church to follow the leading of your love, especially when it is risky or difficult. Help us to show mercy just as we have first received mercy. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Nurture fields that lie dormant, resting until it is time to bloom again. Bless farmers and all who cultivate fields and urban gardens. Give favorable weather for planting. Bring forth from buried seed an abundant harvest, and guard against famine and disease. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Look upon our world with mercy, that we delight in an abundance of peace. Protect all whose lives are marred by war and civil unrest. Release political prisoners and amplify the voices that challenge us to seek forgiveness and pursue nonviolence. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your people cry out for mercy. Console hearts that long for forgiveness. Mend broken relationships. Heal bodies that suffer chronic pain or illness. Strengthen and deliver all whose spirits are troubled, especially Family of Jim Gowe, Bill Carter, Esther Svoboda, Lennie Davis, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, and all people suffering from Covid-19. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You bind us together into one family. Teach us to forgive one another and to resolve conflicts with humility and patience. Bless families of all shapes and sizes, and show love to those who are lonely or grieving. 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. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We praise you for the saints who have inherited the fullness of your kingdom. As you have raised them to imperishable and eternal life, sustain us in faith by the promise of resurrection. 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

High Upon a Mountain (8:30)
Larson/Jordan

Luther Choir

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 *One Bread, One Body* No. 496

***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** *God, When Human Bonds Are Broken* No. 603

***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.

Prayers for Healing: Family of Jim Gowe, Bill Carter, Esther Svoboda, Lennie Davis, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, and all people suffering from Covid-19.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Today, Seventh 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.

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

Adult Sunday School will meet in the fellowship hall at 9:45 a.m., led by Pastor Shelley.

Ice Skating - 2:00-4:00 at Lock 3 in Akron.

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Transfiguration of Our Lord, we will worship at 10:00 a.m. with Rhythm & Blues liturgy and Holy Communion. Livestream at 10:00.

We Will Welcome Pastor Mitch Phillips, who will be leading worship this morning.

Meet & Greet with Pastoral Candidate 8:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Special Congregational Meeting 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 27

8:45 a.m. - Meet & Greet with Pastoral Candidate (Fellowship Hall)

10:00 a.m. - Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00 a.m. - Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)

The purpose of this meeting is to vote to extend a call to the selected pastoral candidate and to approve the already negotiated compensation package.

A Note from Luther League

Dear St. Matthew Congregation and Friends,

With Covid-19 still a concern, we have decided to hold a "Pasta Take and Bake" event in place of our sit down spaghetti dinner and dessert auction. We will be packaging meals for 2 and 4.

Precooked meals will be available for pick up on Sunday, March 6th between 12-3 PM. The meal will be served cold and will need to be reheated. The meal will include:

Penne pasta w/meat red sauce or meatless red sauce, breadsticks and a dessert.

Meals for 2 will be \$10 and meals for 4 will be \$20.

*We will provide cheese to bake on top of the pasta. If you do not wish to have cheese, please answer no for cheese.

Please use this form <https://tinyurl.com/veers2bk> to let us know your quantity and preferences. Consider buying a meal or two for your neighbors and feel free to share the link with all local friends!

The funds raised from this event will be used for our future Luther League events such as a future Winter Gathering, National Gathering, local mission trips and social events. We greatly appreciate your love and support.

With gratitude,
The St. Matthew Luther League

Deadline to sign up is February 28th!!

WORSHIP SERVANTS			
Date	February 20	February 20	February 27
Service	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Acolyte		Addy Shook	Evan Hogan
Reader	Tim Brown		Jen Knaggs
Ushers	Bruce Reed	Jeremy, Christy, Jessie & Jacob Gabler	Bruce Reed, Cindy Rickly & Pat Straub
Communion Servers	Melanie Brown	Cindy Rickly	Nancy McNeal
Sound	Joe Obermeier	Larry Mohler	Larry Mohler
Video	Brian Harris	--	Brian Harris
Altar Guild	Kelly Obermeier		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ice Skating – Join us at Lock 3 in Akron from 2:00 – 4:00 TODAY. 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 Haycock or Corey Neuruer.

Hearing Assist System Upgrade – St. Matthew has had a system in place for the hearing impaired for about 20 years to hear the services better. As with everything, the time has come to upgrade our existing system to be more compatible with the technology available for the hearing impaired. Communication Evangelism presented a proposal to Executive Council to update our system. At the EC meeting on February 15, they voted to upgrade our system. The cost is \$4,900 of which we have \$2,200 designated. We are reaching out to the congregation for funding to help with the additional \$2,700. If you are willing to donate to this project, please send a check to the church with “Hearing Assist” in the memo line, or you can donate online (<https://tinyurl.com/243fytap>) and designate for Hearing Assist. Thank you in advance for your support of this project. ~Melody Costello & Bobby Forsythe, Co-chairs, Communication Evangelism

Pull Tab Collection - Join in tab collecting with others in our area to support Ronald McDonald House in Akron and Cleveland. All pull tabs are accepted! (pet food, soup, veggies, beverages, etc.) There are containers located in the Narthex and the Room of the Cross to deposit your pull tabs. In 2019 they collected 350 pounds of tabs and 1,320 pounds in 2020. Year to date they have collected an estimated 1,672,440 tabs to support Ronald McDonald House. If you have any questions, call Joyce at 216-780-0965.

Game Night – 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. Our next gathering is March 18. If you have questions, contact Melody Costello or Cindy Rickly.

Care Connection - You are invited to prayerfully consider being a part of our Care Connection at St. Matthew. The mission of this new ministry is “to live God’s love by intentionally caring for, supporting, and connecting with the members of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church”. We have Care Teams who pray for and look out after our members. We also have teams who make deliveries to homes throughout the year. If this resonates with you and if you are interested in being part of this exciting ministry at St. Matthew, please contact Jill Heck or Beth Johnson.

Finance Report for January and Year-to-Date

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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

	Month of January 2022	Year-to-Date January 2022
Total Revenue	\$ 35,135.12	\$ 35,135.12
Total Expenses	\$ 29,003.47	\$ 29,003.47
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 6,131.65	\$ 6,131.65
Net Other	\$ 11.10	\$ 11.10
Net Revenue	<u>\$ 6,142.75</u>	<u>\$ 6,142.75</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
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM