

*Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt His name together!*

Praise service

First Sunday in Lent

**February 18, 2024
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.**

“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

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.

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GATHERING

** Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Song**

Holy Spirit

***Greeting**

P: 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**

**Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the
chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from
sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that
the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my
covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living
creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of
the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant
with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and
never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the
sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature
that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and
it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring
clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my
covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and
the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow
is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between

God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-10

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."
¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ!

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

*Hymn of the Day:

Worthy is the Lamb

*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: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

P: God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling, especially June, Steve, Tom, Una Mae, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Stevie, Rosemary, Clarence, the Gibeault Family, Judy, Jerry, Todd, Logan, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory Prayer

P: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

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 our 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.

Distribution

Communion Duet

Something in the Water

*Prayer after Communion

P: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: Amen.

SENDING

*Blessing

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

*Sending Song:

All Things Are Possible

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

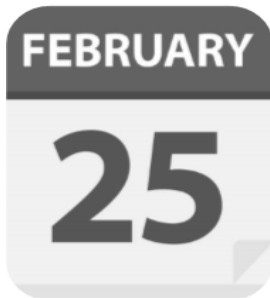
C: Thanks be to God.

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Song Leaders: Heather Rohde
Caroline Obermeier
Guitar: Scott Schwandt
Drums: Lennie Davis
Pianist: Cindy Piovarchy

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Reagan Stuchal	11:00 - Emma Kotick
Reader:	8:30 - Adam Scheid	11:00 - Ron Heinz
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Sandy Andrews Helen Graf Delores Ivan	11:00 - Sandy Andrews Peg Huber Nancy McNeal
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan	11:00 - Tom & Amanda Kotick
Sound:	8:30 - Larry Mohler	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Melody Costello	
Altar Guild:	Julie Crow	



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 25 in the church sanctuary. We will vote to ratify the updated constitution and bylaws document. All members of St. Matthew are encouraged to attend.

We will have one worship service at 9:30 am, with the meeting immediately following.

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God.

Memorial Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Persis Snoke, mother of Mary Dunham.

***Prayers for Healing:** June Trenty, Steve Combs, Tom Thornton, Una Mae Gill, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Stevie, Rosemary, Clarence, Gibeault Family, Judy Weir, Jerry Jakovcic, Todd Costello, Logan, and Sandi.

**If you, a relative, or friend would like to be added to the prayers, please contact the church office. Your request will be added to the bulletin and Shout-Out, as well as the list of prayers for our Thursday afternoon Prayer Group. Names will be removed from the bulletin and Shout-Out after one month, unless a specific timeframe is requested, but will remain in our Prayer Group's prayers. If you wish to have a name added back to the prayers once it is removed, please contact the office.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

First Sunday in Lent, we worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with Praise and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

Blood Pressure Screening before and between services in Brenda's office.

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. All are invited to help with **Blanket Tying** between services in the Fellowship Hall.

Wear Red for Go Red for Women Week - The American Heart Association raises awareness for women's heart disease each year; and encourages all of us to "make healthy lifestyle changes." For more information go to <https://www.goredforwomen.org>

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Second Sunday in Lent, we will worship in person and via livestream at 9:30 a.m. with ELW 3 and holy communion.

No Sunday School.

Annual Meeting following worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Closed Monday, February 19, Presidents' Day.

Deacon Lindsay on Vacation February 12-20. She will be out of the country and unable to tend to any texts, calls, emails or emergencies.

Brenda Disbrow, Parish Nurse will be in her office on Monday, February 19, instead of Tuesday this week.

The Church's AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is located in the Pearl Street entrance area, next to the coat rack. It also has a Narcan kit in the box. Today there will be heart-shaped balloons attached to it. Please feel free to take a look, but, please don't touch.

Hats for Cups Café - We are going to start working on hats for Cups Café and we need more help to get them done for fall. Judy Weir will be starting a class soon to show folks how to make them on a loom. She has several extra looms, so you do not need to buy one. We also have extra yarn to get everyone started. Please call Judy at 440-789-8178 to let her know you would like to help.

Drive Thru Food Drive - The Evangelism & Communication Committee will hold a drive-thru food drive in the church parking lot on Saturday, March 9, 10 am - Noon. Pull up, pop your trunk, and volunteers will be here to unload without you having to get out of your car. Food donations to benefit local food pantries.

"Getting to Know You" - St. Matthew started featuring a St. Matthew family in our weekly Shout-Outs as a way to get to know our fellow St. Matthew members. We would love to feature your family! Go to your most recent Shout-Out to access the link to complete your profile. If you have any questions, please send a text to Beth Johnson (Communication Evangelism) at 301-501-0473. We look forward to *GETTING TO KNOW YOU!*

Passion Walk - Zion Lutheran Church in Valley City invites you to their fourteenth annual Passion Walk. The Walk will be held on two evenings, Saturday, March 23, and Palm Sunday evening, March 24. The Jerusalem marketplace will open at 6:00 and the guided walks will begin at 6:15, beginning at the Upper Room and ending at the sealed tomb of Good Friday. The walks will begin every 15 minutes until 8:00, and all spaces are handicapped accessible. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is located at 2233 Abbeyville Road in Valley City. For more information, call 330-483-3873. The web site is www.zionvc.org.

Renovation Project Recap for January - No identified renovation expenses. \$309.84 Reno restricted giving in January. Balance: \$67,477.47.

Finance Committee Chair needed!!

I am pleased to announce that Steve Pamer will be serving as the Finance Committee Chair! Members of the Finance Committee are:

Finance Committee Chair	Steve Pamer
Treasurer	Teri Uttech
Bookkeeper	Heather Rohde
Financial Secretary	Mary Dunham
Rostered Leader	Pastor Steve
Rostered Leader	Deacon Lindsay
Congregation Member	Bruce Reed, Council-At Large
Congregation Member	Austin Stertzbach
Congregation Member	Jen Knaggs

We always welcome additional committee members. If you are interested in joining the Finance Committee, please contact a committee member for more information.

Thank you, Steve and all the members of the committee, for your willingness to serve.

Teri Uttech, Treasurer

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Cindy Piovarchy	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Maintenance Supervisor
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Rachel Knaggs	Kids of the Kingdom Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

Pastor Steve's Contact Information

Email: pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

Email: lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop
System available.