



2nd Sunday after Epiphany

January 14, 2024
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

ELW Setting 4

“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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"Pages" are in the front of the hymnal.

"Hymns" are located toward the back of the hymnal.

*Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING

Prelude

Italian Hymn and Azmon
arr. Anna Laura Page

Jane Irvine

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our rock and refuge,

C: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.

P: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Song:**

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

Hymn 520

***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.

***Kyrie**

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***Hymn of Praise**

This is the Feast

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*Prayer of the Day

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Children's Sermon

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

WORD

First Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-20

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

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

Psalm

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

¹LORD, you have searched me out;

O LORD, you have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.**

⁵You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.**

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were
written in your book;**

my days were fashioned before they came to be.

¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹²"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator

sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

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

***Gospel Acclamation**

Listen, God is Calling
(refrain, vs. 1, refrain)

Hymn 513

***Gospel**

John 1:43-51

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the forty-third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."

⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day:

Here I Am Lord

Hymn 574

Nicene Creed (8:30)

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (11:00 - see insert)

***Prayers of Intercession**

D: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

D: Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of

racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration especially Una Mae, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Stevie, Rosemary, Clarence, the Gibeault Family, Ingrid, Judy, Joyce, Brenda, Jerry, Todd, Logan, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

*Sharing of the Peace

D: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offertory

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
arr. Ken W. Staton

Luther Choir

Offertory Response

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymn 884

Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

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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.

*Proper Preface

*Holy, Holy, Holy

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*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: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

Lamb of God

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Communion Hymn

Take My Life, That I May Be

Hymn 685

Table Blessing (*"The body and blood..."*)

Thankful Hearts

Hymn 204

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, + bless you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song:**

Lord, Speak To Us, That We May Speak

Hymn 676

***Dismissal:**

D: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

Hymn to Joy
Al Travis

Jane Irvine

+++

PRAYERS

***Prayers for Healing:** Una Mae Gill, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Rosemary, Clarence, Gibeault Family, Ingrid Schaller, Judy Weir, Joyce, Brenda Disbrow, Jerry Jakovic, 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

Second Sunday after Epiphany, we worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with ELW 4 and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

Welcome and Thank you to Jane Irvine, our guest accompanist this morning.

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Third Sunday after Epiphany, we will worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with Praise and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Luke Rohde	11:00 - Ella Supanich
Reader:	8:30 - Melody Costello	11:00 - Ron Heinz
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Melody Costello Delores Ivan	11:00 - Thompson Family
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan Bruce Reed	11:00 - Thompson Family
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Scott Johnson	
Altar Guild:	Nancy McNeal	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Reports Are due tomorrow, January 15! 2023 Congregation Council members and Five-Star Ministry Chairs, please have your annual reports in the office tomorrow so that Deb can have the annual report completed and available for the February Annual Meeting.

Bible and Brews will not meet on January 18 and 25.

High School Sunday School Class - **New Location** - The High School class will now meet at Faith House each Sunday. We will gather in our old Sunday School room and walk over together. We are continuing with our Faith Lens lessons and will always have time to catch up with our weekly highs and lows (Joy, Junk, Jesus) and will be planning our January/February outings. We hope to see you! *Officers: President, Anna Holthouse; VP, August Weight; Secretaries, Emma Geirhart & Gavin Gerspacher; Treasurer, Hope Rohde*

Noisy Offering - Let's get ready to make some noise!! Start saving those coins to support TWO great causes. We will be collecting donations on January 28 for "Loads of Love". Then, the Middle Schoolers will be collecting for Souper Bowl of Caring on February 11. Additional information will be shared on these outreach programs in the coming weeks.

"Loads of Love" - St. Matthew will be spreading joy and covering the cost of laundry for all clients at North Court Laundry, 739 W. Liberty St., from 10 am - 2 pm. Use the Sign-Up Genius link in your Shout-Out (www.signupgenius.com/go/9040544ADA629AAFD0-47171581-loads) if you would like to volunteer your time to hand out coins and spread the JOY! The Evangelism & Communication Committee will provide further details to the volunteers.

Drive Thru Food Drive - In the church parking lot on Saturday, March 9, 10 am - Noon. Stay tuned for further details.

Are You A Thrivent Member? - Thrivent members receive grant funds each year in the amount of \$250 (or more) based on their Thrivent products. These funds can be used for community projects or necessities in the church. In 2023, our members were able to: purchase coffee for our coffee bar; help with Rock the Block and Operation: HOMES; provide needed items and postage for our care packages to college students; purchase turkeys and hams for Feeding Medina County; help 4 families with Christmas wish items; yarn to make hats; purchase supplies for the senior Thanksgiving Dinner; and baptismal gifts. These grants totaled \$2,000!

Ideas are in the works for projects and how Thrivent members can help in 2024. We have a list of individuals who are members, but is your name on it? Please contact Melody Costello (330) 461-1149 or Pastor Steve if you're a member, so we can add your name to the list and call upon you to apply for projects or needs. *Grants turn over every year, but do not accumulate if not used.* If you're interested in becoming a Thrivent member, see Pastor Steve or Melody; they can connect you with a local representative or visit thrivent.com.

“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!*

Renovation Project Recap for December - No identified renovation expenses. \$422 reno restricted giving in December. Balance as of December 31, 2023 is \$67,167.63.

Office Updates

- ◆ The office will be closed, Monday, January 15, for the MLK Holiday.
- ◆ Pastor Steve and Deacon Lindsay will be out of the office January 17-21 - attending the ELCA Youth Network’s Extravaganza in New Orleans.
- ◆ Pastor Steve and Deacon Lindsay will be out of the office January 23-25 - attending the All-Ohio Rostered Ministers Gathering in Sandusky.

Finance Report Update for November, December & Year-to-Date St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

	<u>Month of November, 2023</u>	<u>Month of December, 2023</u>	<u>Year-END-Date January-Dec., 2023</u>
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 70,983.97	\$ 35,820.91	\$ 380,496.24
2023 Approved Mission Plan	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 400,000.00</u>
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ 37,650.64	\$ 2,487.58	\$ (19,503.76)

END OF 2023; December 31, 2023 !!! Financial Update: *St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church received the unrestricted offerings as compared to the 2023 approved Mission Plan objective shown for the months of November, December and 2023 year-to-date. Please prayerfully consider increasing your offering to support the church and its mission of Living God’s Love.*

Estate planning is for everyone, it is an opportunity to create your legacy at St. Matthew. Thank you for your continued generosity.

By setting up recurring donations online, you enable us to maintain financial stability and plan for the future of St. Matthew. St. Matthew has 62 (increase 2) member families that contribute through Vanco. Please increase our participation and consider signing up for Simply Giving at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4MP/home>

SPECIAL NOTE: *St. Matthew has set-up in Simply Giving Link easy access for donations directly to the Renovation / Refresh Project. Please select from a one-time donation or recurring donation and contribute as you are able. If you have any questions about your current account or setting up your account, contact our Financial Director Bruce Reed at (412) 848-0219 or email Bruce at brucerreed@comcast.net.*



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

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Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

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Hearing Loop
System available.