



*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

March 10, 2024  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*ELW Setting 3*

*"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

### Welcome and Announcements

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of  
one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Holy God,

**C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.  
We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We  
speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak  
up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all  
these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to  
us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the  
promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

\***Gathering Song:**                      *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*                      Hymn 335

### \*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

Page 138

## \*Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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

Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

## Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*Gospel Acclamation

*Return to the Lord*

Page 142

## \*Gospel

John 3:14-21

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

\*Hymn of the Day:

*God Loved the World*

Hymn 323

\*Nicene Creed

**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.**

\*Prayers of Intercession

D: 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.*

D: Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. We pray especially for Karen, June, Steve, Tom, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Stevie, Clarence, 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.**

D: Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: 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**

D: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**Offertory**

*I Must Tell Jesus* (8:30)  
Gilbert Martin

Luther Choir

**\*Offertory Response**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Hymn 186

**\*Offering 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**

Page 144

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**

Page 144

**\*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: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**\*Lamb of God**

Page 146

**Communion Hymns**

*Lord Jesus, Think On Me*

Hymn 599

*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*

Hymn 326

**\*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:**

*Amazing Grace*

Hymn 779

**\*Dismissal:**

D: Go in peace. Share your bread.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Postlude**

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**WORSHIP SERVANTS**

Acolyte:	8:30 - Luke Rohde	11:00 - Trace Thompson
Reader:	8:30 - Beth Johnson	11:00 - Julie Shrader
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Helen Graf Jen Knaggs	11:00 - Julie Shrader
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan	11:00 - Brittany, Annabelle, & Trace Thompson
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Scott Johnson	
Altar Guild:	Becky Malloy	



## PRAYERS

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

**\*Prayers for Healing:** Karen Strange, June Trenty, Steve Combs, Tom Thornton, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Stevie, Clarence, Jerry Jakovcic, Todd Costello, Logan, and Sandi.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**, we worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with ELW 3 and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

**Welcome and Thank You** to Paul Watkins, our guest accompanist this morning.

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

**BP Screening** - Before and between services in Brenda's office.

**Youth Gathering Prep.** - 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 17, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Fifth Sunday in Lent**, we will worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Praise and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

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

**Comprehensive Youth Meeting** - 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Red Cross Blood Drive** at St. Matthew Saturday, March 23, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

**CPR/AED/Fire Extinguisher Class** - Tuesday, April 30, 5-8 p.m. at Medina Fire Station 1, 300 W. Reagan Pkwy. (behind the movie theater). Minimum of 8 participants (Max. 12). This is an American Heart Association (AHA) "Friends and Family" class that Capt. Steve is offering to teach at NO CHARGE. \*You must be present for the entire class.\* No book or text involved; only participation and demonstration. Contact Brenda, Parish Nurse, at [bdisbrow@zoominternet.net](mailto:bdisbrow@zoominternet.net) or leave a note in her mailbox if you would like to attend.

**The Personnel Committee** is still in need of a list of members who are willing to volunteer to watch the children in the nursery on occasion. This is a service we have for parents who want a safe place for their preschool children during worship services. Our current nursery attendant is conscientious about being here each Sunday morning, but there are times when she is unable. Please see Barb or Jim Woodard or Jan Sullivan. We will call those on the list to fill in on occasion. **There will not be an attendant in the nursery during the March 24 services, so please contact us asap.** If we do not have an attendant, parents may sit with their child in the nursery at their discretion.

**The St. Matthew Prayer Group** meets on Thursdays at 2:00 to lift intercessory prayers to God. You are welcome to join us whenever you are able. We also have members who pray from wherever they are. If that works better for you, we will add your name to our email list and will send updates if you are unable to attend on Thursdays. If you have prayer requests you would like for us to pray, please leave the information in our Prayer Group mailbox. Or you may email the information to [barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com](mailto:barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com). Please be sure that the person we are praying for knows that you have shared that information. We assure you that we keep the details of the prayer confidential.

**The LGL Samaritan Fund** Board of Trustees meets the second Thursday of each month to discern the division of the quarterly grant received to help members of our congregation and other residents of Medina County who are in financial need. Our purpose is to help those who need assistance in gaining a foot up in their financial needs. If you need financial help, please pick up an application on the table in the hallway by the staffs' offices, fill it out and place it in the LGL Samaritan Fund mailbox in the large brown envelope that remains in the mailbox. All applications need to be received by the Friday prior to the second Thursday of each month to allow time for processing. You may give an application to a family member in need, or to a non-member friend who lives in Medina County, or suggest they pick one up. Additional applications are in the drop box by the office outside entrance door. Or you can find the application at [stmatthewmedina.org](http://stmatthewmedina.org) and fill it out online or print it off

and fill it out by hand. For more information, please see Pastor Steve, Deacon Lindsay, Barb Woodard, or Emily Faust. You can also find more information about the LGL Samaritan Fund in the 2023 Annual Report.

**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.

**Blood Pressure Cuff** - A new blood pressure cuff/monitor is now located in the narthex closet (next to the first aid kit) to be used for any medical issue or emergency.

**Church Directory Photographs** - The Evangelism & Communication Committee will be adding and updating photos for St. Matthew's Online Church Directory on an ongoing basis. If your individual or family photo is not currently available in the directory or you would like to update it, please contact Stephanie Hess at [hessstephanie15@gmail.com](mailto:hessstephanie15@gmail.com) or 330-441-1130. You can provide your own image or a photograph of you can be taken at St. Matthew before or after church services.

**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](http://www.zionvc.org).

**"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!*



Cross pennies remind us that Jesus was the One sent (cent) to set us free (liberty) from our sins. He rose from the dead so that we could be saved when "In God We Trust". Please take and share cross pennies which can be found in the narthex.

## 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](mailto:pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org)

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

### **Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information**

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Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop  
System available.