



December 3, 2023  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*Now the Feast & Celebration*  
*Marty Haugen*

*"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](http://www.stmatthewmedina.org)



# WORD

Isaiah 64:1-9

## First Reading

<sup>1</sup>O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
<sup>2</sup>as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
<sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
<sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
<sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
<sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup>Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and do not remember iniquity forever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**  
<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>17</sup>**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>19</sup>**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

## **Second Reading**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **\*Gospel Verse**

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

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

## **\*Gospel**

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said: <sup>24</sup>“In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

<sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**Hymn of the Day**

*Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

Hymn 246

**\*Apostles' Creed**

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**\*Prayers of Intercession**

D: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*A brief silence.*

D: Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief especially the Naysmith Family the Family of Roger, Joyce, Melanie, Brenda, Denny, Elizabeth, Jerry, Peg, Darine, Todd, Stevie, Tom, Logan, Adam and Family, Sandi, Steve, and

those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Peace**

D: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## MEAL

**Offering**

**Offertory**

*Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* (11:00)

Luther Choir

**\*Song**

*As the Grains of Wheat*

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**\*Prayer**

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**\*Great Thanksgiving**

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**\*Preface**

**\*Song**

*Holy*

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**\*Eucharistic Prayer**

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**\*Eucharistic Acclamations**

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**Song**

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**\*Lord's Prayer**

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**Lamb of God**

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**Communion Hymn**

*Christ, Be Our Light*

Hymn 715

# SENDING

## \*Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for the blessings of this table.  
May our lives be made new by these gifts of grace and may your love be  
made known through us.

C: Amen.

## \*Sending Song

*Soon and Very Soon*

No. 439

## \*Trinitarian Blessing & Dismissal

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## Postlude

*Noel in G*  
arr. Steven Scott

Louis-Claude Daquin

+++

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Lucy Brown-Serban	11:00 - Marin Gerspacher
Reader:	8:30 - Delores Ivan	11:00 - Beth Johnson
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Mary Dunham Delores Ivan	11:00 - Sandy Andrews Nancy McNeal
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan Bruce Reed	11:00 - Brittany, Annabelle, & Trace Thompson
Sound:	8:30 - Larry Mohler	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Brian Harris	
Advent Candles	8:30 - The Hogan Family	11:00 - The Gerspacher Family

## Upcoming Worship Services

- Wednesday, 12/6** - Holden Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm (Soup supper, 6 pm)
- Sunday, 12/10** - 8:30 & 11:00 am, Praise worship with Communion
- Wednesday, 12/13** - Holden Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm (Soup supper, 6 pm)
- Sunday, 12/17** - 9:30 am, Youth-Led worship with Communion
- Wednesday, 12/20** - Holden Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm (Soup supper, 6 pm)
- Sunday, 12/24** - 9:30 am, ELW worship with Communion  
7:00 & 9:00 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight worship
- Sunday, 12/31** - 9:30 am, Lessons & Carols



## PRAYERS

**Altar Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Tom's birthday by Joyce Davis.

**Memorial Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God in memory of Larry Kennedy by Joyce and Tom Davis.

**Prayers for Healing:** The Naysmith Family, Family of Roger Mahaffey, Joyce, Melanie, Brenda Disbrow, Denny, Elizabeth, Jerry Jakovcic, Peg Huber, Darine Prok, Todd Costello, Stevie, Tom Thornton, Logan, Adam and Family, Sandi, and Steve Combs.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**First Sunday of Advent**, we will worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Now the Feast and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

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

**Christmas Program Rehearsal** - Luther Littles and Middles to rehearse for the Youth-Led Christmas program during the Sunday School hour.

**Cookie Exchange & Luncheon** after the late service, in the Fellowship Hall.

## NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Second Sunday of Advent**, 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.

**Christmas Program Rehearsal** - Luther Littles and Middles to rehearse for the Youth-Led Christmas program during the Sunday School hour.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Update from Our Parish Nurse** - Brenda has been discharged to home. Home care/PT/OT will continue. Although she is not up to phone calls or visits yet, she appreciates all your thoughts and prayers.

**Youth-Led Christmas Program** - Sunday, December 17, single worship service (9:30 am. Our Luther Littles and Luther Middles will lead worship and our Luther Leaguers will service as our Lay Assistants during worship.

**“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!*

**Congregational Council Meetings** - The regular business meetings of the Congregational Council are the third Tuesday of every month and they are open to the congregation to attend if you are interested. The meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. and are held in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend in person at that time, you can be sent a Zoom link to attend the live meeting. The next meeting is: Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

**How can you help with the Renovation Project?** *Mail a check to St. Matthew OR Simply Giving Link* - Go to [www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://www.stmatthewmedina.org), Click on “Give”, At the bottom of the page under “Online,” click “Give Here”, Select “St. Matthew Refresh/Renovation”, Choose from a one-time donation or recurring donation. Recap for October: No identified renovation expenses. \$710 reno restricted giving in October. Balance as of October 31, 2023 is \$66,465.63.

**Pull Tabs** - We continue to collect all types of pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Collection bins are located in the Narthex and the Room of the Cross.

**Finance Report Update for September, October & Year-to-Date  
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

	Month of September, 2023	Month of October, 2023	Year-to-Date January-October, 2023
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 25,168.86	\$ 34,897.12	\$ 273,691.36
2023 Approved Mission Plan	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 333,333.30
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ (8,164.47)	\$ 1,563.79	\$ (59,641.94)

**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 September, October and 2023 year-to-date. Please prayerfully consider increasing your offering to support the church and its mission of Living God's Love. 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 57 (increase 1) 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](mailto: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**

Email: [pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org)

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149.

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

Email: [lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org)

Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop  
System available.