



**January 7, 2024  
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**

**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 found in the *Now the Feast & Celebration* booklet.  
“Hymns” are located toward the back of the red hymnal.

\*Please stand as you are able.

**GATHERING**

**Prelude** *Minuetto 5th Concerto Grosso*  
GF Handel / arr. J. Pasquet

**Welcome and Announcements**

- \*Confession and Forgiveness Page 2
- \*Gathering Song *Shall We Gather at the River* Hymn 423
- \*Greeting Page 2
- \*Kyrie Page 3
- \*Song *Now the Feast* Page 4
- \*Prayer of the Day

**Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Children’s Sermon** Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**WORD**

**First Reading** Genesis 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

- <sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- <sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- <sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- <sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- <sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- <sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- <sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- <sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
- <sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
- <sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

**Second Reading**

Acts 19:1-7

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup>Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup>Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." <sup>5</sup>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—<sup>7</sup>altogether there were about twelve of them.

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 first chapter.

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

## \*Gospel

Mark 1:4-11

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

## Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

## Hymn of the Day

*When Jesus Came to Jordan*

Hymn 305

## \*Apostles' Creed

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## \*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: Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering especially 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: Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. 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.**

**\*Peace**

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

**C: And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

**Offering**

**Offertory**

*How Far Is It To Bethlehem* (11:00)  
arr. Milly Ijames

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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<b>Song</b>		Page 13
<b>*Lord's Prayer</b>		Page 13
<b>Lamb of God</b>		Page 14
<b>Communion Hymn</b>	<i>Wade in the Water</i>	Hymn 459

**\*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**

<b>*Sending Song</b>	<i>God, Whose Almighty Word</i>	No. 673
<b>*Trinitarian Blessing &amp; Dismissal</b>		Page 16
<b>Postlude</b>	<i>Christ, the Cornerstone</i> Steven Scott	

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## WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Faith Taraschke	11:00 - Reagan Stuchal
Reader:	8:30 - Delores Ivan	11:00 - Jen Knaggs
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Carol Elkins Delores Ivan	11:00 - Jen Knaggs
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan Bruce Reed	11:00 - Todd & Melody Costello
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Robert Forsythe	
Altar Guild:	Nancy McNeal	

## St. Matthew Choirs Invite You to Join Us!

### *Luther Choir (adults)*

Rehearsals are held each Wednesday,  
7:00 pm in the Brown Room.

Contact Nancy McNeal with any questions.  
1musiclady46@gmail.com

### *Kids of the Kingdom (youth)*

Rehearsals are held each Thursday,  
6:00-6:45 pm in the sanctuary.

Contact Rachel Knaggs with any questions.  
rknaggsmusic@gmail.com

## **PRAYERS**

**Prayers for Healing:** Rosemary, Clarence, Gibeault Family, Ingrid Schaller, Judy Weir, Joyce, Brenda Disbrow, Jerry Jakovcic, Todd Costello, Logan, and Sandi.

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS**

**Sunday, Baptism of Our Lord,** we worship in person at 8:30 & 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.

## **NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, AT ST. MATTHEW**

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

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

**Luther Middles Tobogganing Outing** - Lunch in the Brown Room at 12:15 pm. Leave for The Chalet at 1:00.



# Office Updates

- ◆ Deb will be out of the office, Monday, January 8.
- ◆ The office will be closed, Monday, January 15, for the MLK Jr. Day 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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Annual Reports** - The deadline is approaching quickly! **2023 Congregation Council members and Five-Star Ministry Chairs**, please have your annual reports in to the office by January 15, 2024 so that Deb can have the annual report completed and available for the February Annual Meeting.

**Luther Middles Tobogganing Outing** - Sunday, January 14. Youth are asked to bring their own lunch. We will eat lunch in the Brown Room from 12:15-1:00 pm, then head to The Chalet at The Mill Stream Run Recreation Area in Strongsville at 1:00.

Admission cost for the event will be covered by the funds raised by the Luther Middles Bake Sale this past June; therefore, there is no cost to families for this event! You may wish, however, to send money for concessions.

To help Deacon Lindsay with planning, please scroll down to the “Tobogganing RSVP” tab. Advance ticket purchase is required and the number of drivers needs to be coordinated. **Please complete the RSVP form by Wednesday, January 10.** Contact Deacon Lindsay with any questions.

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

**We Want You! Communication Evangelism** - If you are interested in learning more about Communication, Social Media, Audio-Visual, and/or working with the church website, please consider joining our team! The Communication Evangelism Committee will meet in the library at 5:15 on Monday, January 8. **YOU ARE INVITED!**

**2024 Altar Flowers** - The 2024 Altar/Memorial Flowers charts are displayed in the narthex and available for you to pick your preferred dates. When you sign up for altar flowers, please fill out a form for the office with the information you would like printed in the bulletin. The forms are available at the bottom of the Altar Flowers chart. *Place the postcard and payment in the office administrator's mailbox. Checks made payable to St. Matthew Lutheran Church.*

**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](http://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 November** - No identified renovation expenses. Recap for November: No identified renovation expenses. \$280 reno restricted giving in November. Balance as of November 30, 2023 is \$66,745.63.

**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.

**Egg Carton Collection**- We continue to collect egg cartons for local farmers. They can be placed in the plastic bin in the narthex.

**The Don Hodek Memorial Library** has many books on a variety of Christian topics, and is located in the hallway down the stairs by the elevator entrance. Please stop by and take as many books as you would like, and share with friends.

**Reminder for those with hearing difficulties** - Our audio equipment in the sanctuary includes a hearing Loop System. Most persons with hearing aids can tune in to the Loop. Some 85% of hearing aids have a T-coil channel already installed. You may need to have your hearing aid specialist activate the T-coil in your hearing aid. Look for the Hearing Loop symbol around town. Other venues have also installed the loop system and we are happy to be on board. If you don't have assistive devices or an active t-coil, we have temporary devices to wear during a church service. Ask an usher for assistance.



## 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.