

Make an Advent promise to be a part  
of our Community of faith in FELLOWSHIP.



*Fourth Sunday in Advent*

December 19, 2021

8:30 a.m.

*ELW Liturgy*

*“Living God’s Love”*

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

330-725-8885 † [office@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:office@stmatthewmedina.org)

[www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://www.stmatthewmedina.org)

# GATHERING

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

### \*Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✚ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**C: Amen.**

### \*Gathering Song

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

No. 254

### \*Greeting

### \*Prayer of the Day

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### Noisy Offering

*Go Tell It On the Mountain*

No. 290

## WORD

### First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

### **Advent Candle Prayer**

**Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

**Advent Candle Song**      *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*      No. 240  
(verses 1-4)

### **Second Reading**

Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

### **\*Gospel**

Luke 1:39-55

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

Pastor John Butchko

**Hymn of the Day**

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

No. 263

**\*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: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

P: Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need especially Lennie Davis, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, and Greg McKee. We also pray for all suffering from Covid-19. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Loving God, be with us as we look to the future of our Transitional Housing ministry. Guide us and help us to be open to your voice as we discern how we will continue to offer help to those in need. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Guiding God, we ask your blessing upon St. Matthew's Call Committee. Give them insight and a spirit of enthusiasm for their work and raise up for our people a pastor to help lead us. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Peace:** *The peace will be an acknowledgement with your neighbor of God's reconciling love by nod or bow.*

## **MEAL**

### **Offertory**

#### **Offering Prayer**

P: God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**C: Amen.**

#### **\*Great Thanksgiving**

#### **\*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: Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

**Communion Hymn**                      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*                      No.257  
(vs. 1,2,6,7)

**\*Table Blessing**

**\*Prayer after Communion**

P: Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING**

**Blessing**

**\*Sending Song**                      *All Earth is Hopeful*                      No. 266

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Postlude**

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<b>WORSHIP SERVANTS</b>					
<b>Date</b>	<b>December 19</b>	<b>December 19</b>	<b>December 24</b>	<b>December 24</b>	<b>December 26</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>9:00 p.m.</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>		Evan Hogan			
<b>Reader</b>	Kristin Weight	<i>Youth</i>		Melody Costello	
<b>Ushers</b>	Bruce Reed	Brian Harris	Cindy Rickly	Cindy Rickly	Bruce Reed
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Mary Dunham	Nancy McNeal		Melody Costello	
<b>Sound</b>	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse	Larry Mohler	Larry Mohler	Larry Mohler
<b>Video</b>	Brian Harris	--	Rex Rickly	Rex Rickly	Brian Harris
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Sandy Kelling				Becky Malloy

## **COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

**Mask Mandate / Masks optional, but recommended**

**HVAC anti-COVID air treatment / Equipment installed earlier this year**

**No Singing / Restrictions Lifted**

**Limiting Attendance / Restrictions Lifted**

**Keep Exterior Doors Open / Restrictions Lifted**

**Fellowship After Worship / Casual fellowship after church is resuming**

**Ropes to Encourage Social Distance / Ropes removed June 18**

**Hymnals / Hymnals returned to pews June 18**

**Communion / Covid protocol still in place**

**Sharing of the Peace / Covid protocol still in place**

**Masks and Sanitizer available / Covid protocol still in place**

## PRAYERS

**Prayers for Healing:** Lennie Davis, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, and Greg McKee.

**Altar Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God by the Obermeier family.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Today, Fourth Sunday in Advent,** we worship in person at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with *ELW* liturgy and communion, livestreaming at 8:30 a.m.

**11:00 a.m. Worship** - Luther Littles singing and Youth-led worship with Christmas Narrative "Manger Tales".

**We Welcome** Pastor John Butchko, our Supply Pastor this morning.

**Noisy Offering** this morning will be donated to Lutheran Disaster Response to help those affected by the devastating tornadoes in Kentucky last week. You may also donate by going to the following link: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/>.

**Annual Congregational Meeting** - 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. *Anyone wishing to social distance due to Covid concerns during the congregation meeting, is welcome to do so and vote in the Fellowship Hall, where the televised meeting can be viewed.*

**Youth Sunday School** - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room.

**No Adult Sunday School.**

**Movie "The Star"** - Come watch "The Star" with us at Hickory Ridge Theater at 3:00 this afternoon. Free admission. All are welcome.

## CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Office is Closed.**

**Family Worship** - 7:00 p.m. with communion.

**Candlelight Worship** - 9:00 p.m. with communion.

## NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, First Sunday of Christmas,** we will worship in person at 10:00 a.m. with a *Jazz / Lessons & Carols* service, and via livestream.

**No Sunday School today!** Sunday School will resume January 9, 2022.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank You** for the continued prayers, thoughts, and cards. They mean more to me than I can say. Recovery is going slowly, but surely. Christmas blessings to you all. ~*Brenda Disbrow, Parish Nurse*

**Senior Happy Hour** will not meet December 20 or 27. They will resume January 3, 2022.

**Christmas Decorating** - On Friday, December 24, we will add the poinsettias. We will meet at 9:15 (please note change in time for decorating, come when you can) in the sanctuary.

**The Office Will Be Closed** Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24 and Monday, December 27 for the Christmas holiday.

**Advent Online Devotions** - Start your day with an Advent Devotion, written by members of our own congregation. Go to the Home Page of our church website, [www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://www.stmatthewmedina.org), and you will find a link to a new devotion each day. If you miss a day or two, a "Devotion Archive" will be available for past devotions. May this be an Advent blessing for all!

**Worship Team** - Anyone interested and feeling the call to join or lead our Worship Team at St. Matthew is asked to please contact Cindy Rickly, Chair of Congregational Life, at [cindyrickly@gmail.com](mailto:cindyrickly@gmail.com) or 330-321-9071.

**Electronic Offering Updates** - If anyone needs help in changing their electronic giving (ACH) through Vanco please feel free to contact Thaddeus Neururer 617-360-1342 or email at [thaddeus.neururer@gmail.com](mailto:thaddeus.neururer@gmail.com).

# Help Needed at St. Matthew

**Video Help Needed** - This past year our video ministry has become more important than ever. It has allowed St. Matthew to livestream worship services so we could still worship together. As with all ministries in our community of faith, it takes volunteers to make it happen. We are seeking a few more volunteers who would be willing to video our services on Sunday mornings (8:30 a.m. service, with occasional 11:00 a.m.) If you have interest or have questions about what is involved, please contact Lisa Burke or Melody Costello from Communication Evangelism or Brian Harris or Owen Blakslee, who can answer all your questions.

**Seeking Nursery Volunteers** - Our nursery at St. Matthew is an important service that we provide to our families with young children. It allows the parents the opportunity to worship without the disruption of their children allowing them to fully take in and participate in worship. As we continue to search for a full-time person (or 2 part-time people) to staff the nursery, we are looking for volunteers to be present with our younger members during worship and Sunday School in the nursery. In the interim, member Corey Neururer has agreed to help during Sunday School and the 11:00 a.m. service. If you would be interested in helping, please contact Melody at 330-461-1149.

**Nursery Attendant Needed** - Our nursery at St. Matthew is an important service that we provide to our families with young children. It allows the parents the opportunity to worship without the disruption of their children allowing them to fully take in and participate in worship.

We are currently looking for one full-time person (or 2 part-time) to staff the nursery. The right candidate should enjoy children; be willing to play with them; change diapers/help them use the toilet, etc. The position would involve, roughly, 4 hours each Sunday (fall through spring) and 1 ½ hours during the summer and is a paid position.

If anyone in the church is interested, please contact Melody at 330-461-1149. If you know someone who could be a fit, please pass along my contact information for further discussion.

**Finance Report for September and Year-to-Date  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

St. Matthew had the following revenue  
and expenses for October.

	<b>Month of October 2021</b>	<b>Year-to-Date October 2021</b>
Total Revenue	\$ 23,486.82	\$ 318,049.39
Total Expenses	\$ 17,900.16	\$ 288,258.62
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 10,596.66	\$ 29,790.77
Net Other	\$ 14.78	\$ 162.52
Net Revenue	<u>\$ 10,611.44</u>	<u>\$ 29,953.29</u>

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff**

Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Custodian
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM**

**Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

**\*\*OFFICE CLOSED\*\***

**Friday, December 24**

**Monday, December 27**

**Friday, December 31 (Closes at Noon)**

**Monday, January 3, 2022**