

**Blessed  
Are You**



*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*

February 13, 2022

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

*ELW*

*“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 creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

P: Rejoice in this good news: ✝ Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

**C: Amen.**

### \*Gathering Song

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

No. 858

### \*Greeting

### \*Prayer of the Day

**Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Children's Sermon**

Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger

# WORD

## First Reading

Jeremiah 17:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

<sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?

<sup>10</sup>I the LORD test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

## Psalm

Psalm 1

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due  
season, with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

## \*Gospel

Luke 6:17-26

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

<sup>17</sup>[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup>“Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup>“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

<sup>24</sup>“But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup>“Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup>“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger

**Hymn of the Day**

*Let Justice Flow like Streams*

No. 717

**\*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: The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

*A brief silence.*

P: Blessed are those whose trust is in you. Strengthen the faith of those who profess your name and bring reassurance to those who doubt or fear. Through your church speak continued blessing into the world. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Those who trust in you are like trees planted by streams of water. Bless fruit trees with an abundant harvest. Protect rainforests from destruction. Restore land that has eroded after deforestation. Resurrect woodlands after forest fires. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Search the hearts of those who govern, that they lead with humility. Inspire leaders to collaborate on policies that protect people and the planet. Sustain truth-tellers and social movements that challenge society to become more honest and just. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Send your blessings of mercy upon those who long for consolation. Tend to those struggling with poverty, unemployment, or uncertainty. Provide for all who are hungry. Console those who face persecution. Grant peace to all who suffer, especially Christopher Bogas, Tim Reber, Eva Reber, Bill Carter, Esther Svoboda, Lennie Davis, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, Greg McKee, and all people suffering from Covid-19. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Renew this congregation in our shared mission. As we plan and dream for the future you are preparing, inspire us by the examples of Martin Luther and all the reformers. Bless new projects and new ministry partnerships. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: 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. God of Grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: 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.

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Christ is raised from the dead, and so we cling to the hope of the resurrection. We praise you for the lives of the saints who lived and died in the hope of eternal life with you. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

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

## **MEAL**

**Offertory**

*For the Glory of the Lord (8:30)*  
Paris/Wolaver

Luther Choir

**Offering Prayer**

P: Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light.

**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 God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

**Communion Hymn**

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

No. 471

**\*Table Blessing**

**\*Prayer after Communion**

P: We give you thanks, gracious God, for we have feasted on the abundance of your house. Send us to bring good news and to proclaim your favor to all, strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING**

**Blessing**

**\*Sending Song**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

No. 631

**\*Dismissal**

P: Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Postlude**

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, February 27**

8:45 a.m. - Meet & Greet with Pastoral Candidate (Fellowship Hall)

10:00 a.m. - Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00 a.m. - Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)

The purpose of this meeting is to vote to extend a call to the selected pastoral candidate and to approve the already negotiated compensation package.



## PRAYERS

**Altar Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of their beloved grandson, Koi Griffin, by Dean and LaVonne Hauptman.

**Prayers for Healing:** Christopher Bogas, Tim Reber, Eva Reber, Bill Carter, Esther Svoboda, Lennie Davis, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, Greg McKee, and all people suffering from Covid-19.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Today, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany,** we will worship at 8:30 and at 11:00 a.m. with ELW liturgy and Holy Communion. Livestream at 8:30 a.m.

**Thank You** Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger, our supply pastor this morning.

**Thank You** Nathan Kenny, our guest accompanist this morning.

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

**Adult Sunday School** will meet in the fellowship hall at 9:45 a.m., led by Pastor Shelley.

## NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, AT ST. MATTHEW

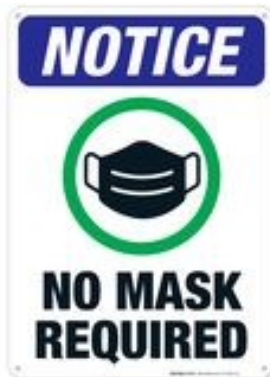
**Next Sunday, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany,** we will worship at 8:30 and at 11:00 a.m. with ELW liturgy and Holy Communion. Livestream at 8:30 a.m.

**We Will Welcome** Pastor Blair Morgan as our supply pastor.

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

**Adult Sunday School** meets in the fellowship hall at 9:45 a.m., led by Pastor Morgan.

**Mentoring Debrief** - 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.



# A Note from Luther League

Dear St. Matthew Congregation and Friends,

With Covid-19 still a concern, we have decided to hold a "Pasta Take and Bake" event in place of our sit down spaghetti dinner and dessert auction. We will be packaging meals for 2 and 4.

Precooked meals will be available for pick up on Sunday, March 6th between 12-3 PM. The meal will be served cold and will need to be reheated. The meal will include:

Penne pasta w/meat red sauce or meatless red sauce, breadsticks and a dessert.

Meals for 2 will be \$10 and meals for 4 will be \$20.

\*We will provide cheese to bake on top of the pasta. If you do not wish to have cheese, please answer no for cheese.

Please use this form <https://tinyurl.com/veers2bk> to let us know your quantity and preferences. Consider buying a meal or two for your neighbors and feel free to share the link with all local friends!

The funds raised from this event will be used for our future Luther League events such as a future Winter Gathering, National Gathering, local mission trips and social events. We greatly appreciate your love and support.

With gratitude,  
The St. Matthew Luther League

***Deadline to sign up is February 28th!!***

## **COVID-19 PROTOCOLS**

**▶▶ Mask Mandate / Restriction Lifted ◀◀**

**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**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Ice Skating** – Join us at Lock 3 in Akron from 2:00 – 4:00 on February 20 for ice skating. The cost is \$5 for admission and skates, unless you bring your own skates. If we have 20 or more people, a \$1 discount is given on skate rental. There are other things to rent/participate in if you choose to do so. You can view options at <https://www.downtownakron.com/go/lock-3>. Concessions are also available. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Haycock or Corey Neuruer.

**Game Night** – We are excited to bring back our monthly game night beginning in February. Join us in the fellowship hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 7:00pm for a variety of games. Bring your favorite game or a deck of cards plus a snack/beverage to share. If you have questions, contact Melody Costello or Cindy Rickly.

**Care Connection** - You are invited to prayerfully consider being a part of our Care Connection at St. Matthew. The mission of this new ministry is “to live God’s love by intentionally caring for, supporting, and connecting with the members of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church”. We have Care Teams who pray for and look out after our members. We also have teams who make deliveries to homes throughout the year. If this resonates with you and if you are interested in being part of this exciting ministry at St. Matthew, please contact Jill Heck or Beth Johnson.

<b>WORSHIP SERVANTS</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>February 13</b>	<b>February 13</b>	<b>February 20</b>	<b>February 20</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>		Lucas Hogan		Addy Shook
<b>Reader</b>	Jen Knaggs	Melody Costello	Tim Brown	
<b>Ushers</b>	Bruce Reed	Cindy Rickly	Bruce Reed	
<b>Communion Servers</b>	Mary Dunham	Melody Costello		Cindy Rickly
<b>Sound</b>	Joe Obermeier	Larry Mohler	Joe Obermeier	Larry Mohler
<b>Video</b>	Rex Rickly	--	Brian Harris	--
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kelly Obermeier			

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

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

	<b>Month of December 2021</b>	<b>Year-to-Date December 2021</b>
Total Revenue	\$ 57,800.00	\$ 401,401.85
Total Expenses	\$ 24,657.10	\$ 332,398.14
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 33,142.90	\$ 69,003.71
Net Other	\$ 11.10	\$ 188.40
Net Revenue	<u>\$ 33,154.00</u>	<u>\$ 69,192.11</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
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

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

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