

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



Second Sunday in Advent

December 5, 2021

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 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

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

Prepare the Royal Highway

No. 264

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 Sermon

Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger

WORD

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of

hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Advent Candle Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, 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
(verse 1-2)

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

***Gospel**

Luke 3:1-6

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the

region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger

Hymn of the Day

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

No. 255

***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: You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill especially Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, and Greg Mckee. Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. 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

A Hymn for Advent (11:00)
John Ness Beck

Luther Choir

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

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

No. 256

***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**

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

No. 246

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude**

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WORSHIP SERVANTS				
Date	December 5	December 5	December 12	December 12
Service	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Acolyte	Trevor Rohde	Jacob Gabler		Lucas Hogan
Reader		Melody Costello		
Ushers	Bruce Reed		Bruce Reed	
Communion Servers		Melody Costello		
Sound	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse
Video	Rex Rickly	--	Brian Harris	--
Altar Guild				

PRAYERS

Prayers for Healing: 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.

Memorial Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in memory of Walter Harvey's birthday, December 2, father of Sandy, by Gary and Sandy Kelling. *Love and miss you dad.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Today, Second 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.

We Welcome Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger as our Supply Pastor.

Thank You to Cindy Piovarchy, our guest accompanist for worship this morning.

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

Adult Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, led by Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger.

Cookie Exchange - 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you are not participating in the cookie exchange, you are invited to join us for a soup and salad lunch.

MID-WEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

Advent Mid-Week - Wednesday, December 8, in the Fellowship Hall. 6:00 p.m. - Meal with Family Craft. 7:00 p.m. Brief Advent Worship Narrative.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Third Sunday in Advent, we will worship in person at 8:30 a.m. with *ELW* liturgy and communion and at 11:00 a.m. with *Praise* Liturgy and communion, livestreaming at 8:30 a.m.

We Will Welcome Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger as our Supply Pastor.

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

Adult Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, led by Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger.



**St. Matthew's
ANNUAL MEETING will be
Sunday, December 19.**

**Additional details about time and
format will be shared in early
December.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Sunday School Families! We will be exploring the wonder of Christmas over the next few Sundays! You don't want to miss it! (We will be meeting in the Brown room as usual!)

It's an exciting night in the stable Mary and Joseph are there keeping watch over the newborn baby Jesus, who is asleep in the manger. The animals are gathered together keeping warm. Imagine, with us, as each animal shares its unique perspective of the Christmas miracle.

We will finish out the lessons by recapping everything during the late service on December 19th, where we will sing the special song we are learning. And later that day, we will have a family gathering to watch "The Star". Watch for more info to come.

Operation HOMES Meals - St. Matthew will provide meals for Operation HOMES the week of December 6-12. See the link in the Shout-Out to sign up.

Poinsettias and Greens for Christmas - Help to beautify our sanctuary on Christmas! A member of the Altar Guild will be in the narthex following each Sunday worship service through Sunday, December 12 taking orders for poinsettias and payment toward greens.

There will be three sizes of poinsettias - single stem, double stem, and triple stems.

Donations are welcomed to cover the cost of the evergreen crosses used on the doors and evergreen swags in the windows outside the NW entrance of St. Matthew and other special items purchased throughout the year by Altar Guild.

Payment, cash or checks made out to *St. Matthew Lutheran Church*, is appreciated at the time of the order. See an Altar Guild member (clip board with poinsettia) in the narthex following worship.

Advent Decorating - Altar Guild will begin decorating during Advent for Christmas. On December 4, we will decorate the window sills on December 11, we will decorate the evergreen crosses and swags and hang them. December 18 will be the day we decorate our trees and 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.

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, 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 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.

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

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.

	Month of October 2021	Year-to-Date October 2021
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	\$ 10,611.44	\$ 29,953.29

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
Heather Rohde	Youth Worship Music Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

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