

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



Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 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

www.stmatthewmedina.org

GATHERING

** Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome and Announcements

Good News Moment

Prelude

***Gathering Song** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* No. 242

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

ELW Page 227

WORD

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Advent Candle Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, 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 1-3)

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

***Gospel**

Luke 3:7-18

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort

money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger

Hymn of the Day

He Came Down

No. 253

***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: Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day especially Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, and Greg McKee. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians. With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Compassionate 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: We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. 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 Winter's Song
J. Martin

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 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!* No. 246

***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** *People, Look East* No. 248

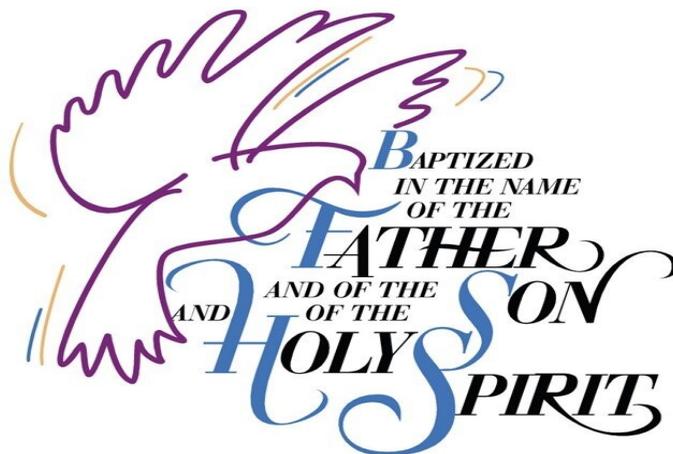
***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

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**We welcome into the mission of St. Matthew,
Living God's Love, by their baptisms this morning:**

DeeAnne Kimberly Minek

John William Minek

Daniel Frank Minek

Alixandria Marie Brlan

Frankie Marie Brlan

Sophia Anna Brlan

Amelia Jae Brlan

Gayle Marie Vacha

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 by the Obermeier family.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Today, Third Sunday in Advent, we 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 Welcome Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger as our Supply Pastor.

Youth Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room. Exploring the Wonder of Christmas.

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

Last Day To Order Poinsettias! Help to beautify our sanctuary on Christmas Eve! Members of Altar Guild will be in the narthex taking orders for Poinsettias following worship today, December 12. There will be three sizes of poinsettias - singles for \$14.00, doubles for \$24.00, and triples for \$32.00. Donations are also appreciated to cover the evergreen door crosses and mini bunches at the north entrance windows and other special items purchased throughout the year by the Altar Guild. Look for Nancy McNeal after this morning's 8:30 service and Kelly Obermeier after the 11:00 service.

This year you will be able to pick up your poinsettias after 9 PM worship on Christmas Eve.

MID-WEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

Advent Mid-Week - Wednesday, December 15, in the Fellowship Hall. 6:00 p.m. - Meal with Family Craft. 7:00 p.m. Brief Advent Worship Narrative.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Fourth Sunday in Advent, we will 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 Will Welcome Pastor John Butchko as our Supply Pastor.

Annual Congregational Meeting - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room.

Youth Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room. Exploring the Wonder of Christmas.

No Adult Sunday School.

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!)*

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 - Thank you to everyone who volunteered to prepare and deliver meals. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Advent Decorating - Altar Guild will decorate the window sills on December 11, and 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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 19, 2021

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

In Person in the Sanctuary

WORSHIP SERVANTS				
Date	December 12	December 12	December 19	December 19
Service	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Acolyte	Ella Heinz	Lucas Hogan		Evan Hogan
Reader	Adam Scheid	Melody Costello	Kristin Weight	<i>Youth</i>
Ushers	Jeff, Linda, Kaitlyn, & Faith Taraschke	Todd & Melody Costello	Bruce Reed	
Communion Servers	Nancy McNeal	Christy Gabler		
Sound	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse
Video	Rex Rickly	--	Brian Harris	--
Altar Guild	Sandy Andrews		Sandy Kelling	

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.

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

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	<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
Heather Rohde	Youth Worship Music Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM