

he was not the Light
but came to testify
about the

LIGHT

John 1:8

Knowing Jesus.com

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 2, 2022

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

“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 sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

C: Amen.

P: In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God.

C: we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

P: I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ✝ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Song

Word of God, Come Down to Earth

No. 510

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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

Deacon Lindsay Bailey

WORD

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

- ¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,
¹³**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**
¹⁴God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁵**God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**
¹⁶God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.
¹⁷**God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**
¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.
¹⁹**God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**
²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor John Butchko

Hymn of the Day

Cold December Flies Away

No. 299

***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: Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P: You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need especially Lennie Davis, Steve Combs, Jim Frame, John Siebert, Brenda Disbrow, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, and Greg McKee. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

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. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

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. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities. As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service. Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in 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

How Far is Bethlehem (11:00)
Molly Ijames

Luther Choir

Offering Prayer

P: Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

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: In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

Communion Hymn

What Child is This

No. 296

***Table Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

P: We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

***Sending Song**

Let All Together Praise Our God

No. 287

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

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PRAYERS

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Next Sunday, Second Sunday of Christmas, Worship times will return to 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Both services will follow ELW liturgy, with livestream at 8:30 a.m.

Thank You to Pastor John Butchko, our supply pastor this morning.

No Sunday School today! Sunday School will resume next week.

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Second Sunday of Christmas, Worship times: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., with livestream at 8:30 a.m.

We Welcome Pastor Betti Hazelton as our Supply Pastor.

Sunday School Resumes! Youth meet in the Brown Room at 9:45 a.m.

Adult Sunday School meets in the Fellowship Hall, led by Pastor Betti Hazelton.

WORSHIP SERVANTS				
Date	January 2	January 2	January 9	January 9
Service	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Acolyte			Logan Naida	Trevor Terihay
Reader		Jen Knaggs		
Ushers	Bruce Reed	Brian Harris	Bruce Reed	
Communion Servers	Nancy McNeal	Nancy McNeal		
Sound	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse
Video	Brian Harris	--	Brian Harris	--
Altar Guild	Nancy McNeal			

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You to everyone who donated to the Noisy Offering for Lutheran Disaster Response that benefitted people in need after the devastating tornadoes in the Kentucky area. A total of \$500 was collected.

Senior Happy Hour will be on a hiatus until further notice.

The Office Will Be Closed Monday, January 3 for the holiday.

Worship Team - Anyone interested and feeling the call to join or lead our Worship Team at St. Matthew is asked to please contact the church office.

Deacon Lindsay will be having outpatient hip surgery on Friday, January 14.

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 Required for in-person worship****

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 November.

	Month of November 2021	Year-to-Date November 2021
Total Revenue	\$ 25,552.46	\$ 343,601.85
Total Expenses	\$ 20,233.34	\$ 307,741.04
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 5,319.12	\$ 35,860.81
Net Other	\$ 14.78	\$ 177.30
Net Revenue	<u>\$ 5,333.90</u>	<u>\$ 36,038.11</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
Heather Rohde	Youth Worship Music Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM