

*Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt His name together!*

Praise service

January 21, 2024
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Praise

“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

St. Matthew invites you to join us in celebration of Holy Communion!

The Lord's table is open to all who believe and are baptized.

Please join us as we receive the means of grace, where Jesus promises to meet us
in the bread and the wine.

=====

GATHERING

** Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Song** *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

**Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service.
Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message

Julie Shrader

WORD

First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 62:5-12

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel

Mark 1:14-20

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.

²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ!

Sermon

Pastor David Connor

Hymn of the Day:

Jesus, Name Above All Names

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: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain especially Una Mae, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Stevie, Rosemary, Clarence, the Gibeault Family, Ingrid, Judy, Joyce, Brenda, Jerry, Todd,

Logan, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts.
God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory Prayer

P: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Words of Institution**

***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.**

Distribution

Communion Solo

Come to the Table

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song:**

Cry of My Heart

***Dismissal:**

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

+++

Song Leaders: Heather Rohde
Guitar: Scott Schwandt
Drums: Lennie Davis
Pianist: Cindy Piovarchy

PRAYERS

***Prayers for Healing:** Una Mae Gill, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Rosemary, Clarence, Gibeault Family, Ingrid Schaller, Judy Weir, Joyce, Brenda Disbrow, Jerry Jakovcic, Todd Costello, Logan, and Sandi.

**If you, a relative, or friend would like to be added to the prayers, please contact the church office. Your request will be added to the bulletin and Shout-Out, as well as the list of prayers for our Thursday afternoon Prayer Group. Names will be removed from the bulletin and Shout-Out after one month, unless a specific timeframe is requested, but will remain in our Prayer Group's prayers. If you wish to have a name added back to the prayers once it is removed, please contact the office.*

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Third Sunday after Epiphany, we worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with Praise and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

Welcome and Thank You to Pastor David Connor for leading us in worship this morning.

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, we will worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with ELW 4 and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

- ◆ Pastor Steve and Deacon Lindsay will be out of the office January 17-21, attending the ELCA Youth Network's Extravaganza in New Orleans.
- ◆ Pastor Steve and Deacon Lindsay will be out of the office January 23-25, attending the All-Ohio Rostered Ministers Gathering in Sandusky.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Bennett Alt	11:00 - Olivia Naida
Reader:	8:30 - Adam Scheid	11:00 - Becky Matyas
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Mary Dunham	11:00 - Julie Shrader
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan	
Sound:	8:30 - Larry Mohler	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Brian Harris	
Altar Guild:	Nancy McNeal	

****RESCHEDULED****

Luther Middles Tobogganing Outing

Sunday, January 28

The Luther Middles tobogganing outing has been rescheduled! We will eat lunch in the Brown Room from 12:00-12:30 pm and then leave for The Chalet at The Mill Stream Run Recreation Area in Strongsville at 12:30 pm. ***Youth are asked to bring their own lunch.*** We will return to the church at approximately 4:30 PM.

Admission costs for the event will be covered by the funds raised by the Luther Middles Bake Sale this past June. Therefore, **there is no cost** to families for the event! (You may wish to send money for concessions.)

To help Deacon Lindsay in her planning, **please complete the form through the link in the Shout-Out** to indicate if your child will be attending the outing. Completing this form will help Deacon Lindsay purchase the correct number of tickets (advanced purchase is required) and coordinate the number of drivers needed to get youth to/from church. **Please complete the form by Wednesday, January 24.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Reports - Still waiting on several reports! If you have not yet turned in your 2023 Annual Report, please get that to Deb ASAP.

Bible and Brews will not meet on January 25.

High School Sunday School Class - **New Location** - The High School class will now meet at Faith House each Sunday. We will gather in our old Sunday School room and walk over together. We are continuing with our Faith Lens lessons and will always have time to catch up with our weekly highs and lows (Joy, Junk, Jesus) and will be planning our January/February outings. We hope to see you! *Officers: President, Anna Holthouse; VP, August Weight; Secretaries, Emma Geirhart & Gavin Gerspacher; Treasurer, Hope Rohde*

Noisy Offering - Let's get ready to make some noise!! Start saving those coins to support TWO great causes. We will be collecting donations on January 28 for "Loads of Love". Then, the Middle Schoolers will be collecting for Souper Bowl of Caring on February 11. Additional information will be shared on these outreach programs in the coming weeks.

"Loads of Love" - St. Matthew will be spreading joy and covering the cost of laundry for all clients at North Court Laundry, 739 W. Liberty St., from 10 am - 2 pm on Saturday, February 17. Use the Sign-Up Genius link in your Shout-Out (www.signupgenius.com/go/9040544ADA629AAFD0-47171581-loads) if you would like to volunteer your time to hand out coins and spread the JOY! The Evangelism & Communication Committee will provide further details to the volunteers.

Drive-Thru Food Drive - The Evangelism and Communication Committee will hold a drive-thru food drive in the church parking lot on Saturday, March 9, 10 am - Noon.

Are You A Thrivent Member? - Thrivent members receive grant funds each year in the amount of \$250 (or more) based on their Thrivent products. These funds can be used for community projects or necessities in the church. In 2023, our members were able to: purchase coffee for our coffee bar; help with Rock the Block and Operation: HOMES; provide needed items and postage for our care packages to college students; purchase turkeys and hams for Feeding Medina County; help 4 families with Christmas wish items; yarn to make hats; purchase supplies for the senior Thanksgiving Dinner; and baptismal gifts. These grants totaled \$2,000!

Ideas are in the works for projects and how Thrivent members can help in 2024. We have a list of individuals who are members, but is your name on it? Please contact Melody Costello (330) 461-1149 or Pastor Steve if you're a member, so we can add your name to the list and call upon you to apply for projects or needs. *Grants turn over every year, but do not accumulate if not used.* If you're interested in becoming a Thrivent member, see Pastor Steve or Melody; they can connect you with a local representative or visit thrivent.com.

“Getting to Know You” - St. Matthew started featuring a St. Matthew family in our weekly Shout-Outs as a way to get to know our fellow St. Matthew members. We would love to feature your family! Go to your most recent Shout-Out to access the link to complete your profile. If you have any questions, please send a text to Beth Johnson (Communication Evangelism) at 301-501-0473. We look forward to *GETTING TO KNOW YOU!*

Renovation Project Recap for December - No identified renovation expenses. \$422 reno restricted giving in December. Balance as of December 31, 2023 is \$67,167.63.

**Finance Report Update for November, December & Year-to-Date
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

	<i>Month of November, 2023</i>	<i>Month of December, 2023</i>	<i>Year-END-Date January-Dec., 2023</i>
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 70,983.97	\$ 35,820.91	\$ 380,496.24
2023 Approved Mission Plan	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 400,000.00
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ 37,650.64	\$ 2,487.58	\$ (19,503.76)

END OF 2023; December 31, 2023 !!! Financial Update: St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church received the unrestricted offerings as compared to the 2023 approved Mission Plan objective shown for the months of November, December and 2023 year-to-date. Please prayerfully consider increasing your offering to support the church and its mission of Living God’s Love.

Estate planning is for everyone, it is an opportunity to create your legacy at St. Matthew. Thank you for your continued generosity.

By setting up recurring donations online, you enable us to maintain financial stability and plan for the future of St. Matthew. St. Matthew has 62 (increase 2) member families that contribute through Vanco. Please increase our participation and consider signing up for Simply Giving at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4MP/home>

SPECIAL NOTE: St. Matthew has set-up in Simply Giving Link easy access for donations directly to the Renovation / Refresh Project. Please select from a one-time donation or recurring donation and contribute as you are able. If you have any questions about your current account or setting up your account, contact our Financial Director Bruce Reed at (412) 848-0219 or email Bruce at brucerreed@comcast.net.



Finance Committee Chair needed!!

Establishment of the Finance Committee is well under way. According to the updated Constitution the members of the Finance Committee will consist of the Finance Committee Chair, Treasurer, Bookkeeper, Financial Secretary, Rostered Leaders and **at least** two members from the congregation. The current members are:

Finance Committee Chair
Treasurer
Bookkeeper
Financial Secretary
Rostered Leader
Rostered Leader
Congregation Member
Congregation Member
Congregation Member

Open
Teri Uttech
Heather Rohde
Mary Dunham
Pastor Steve
Deacon Lindsay
Bruce Reed, At Large
Austin Stertzbach
Jen Knaggs

The Committee is still in need of a Finance Committee Chair. This individual will be responsible for scheduling the monthly Finance Committee meeting, preparing the agenda with input from the committee, leading the meetings and preparing the minutes to be submitted to the Congregation Council.

If you are interested in serving on the committee but do not wish to Chair it, you are welcome. Contact any member of the committee if you have any questions or are interested in joining us!

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Cindy Piovarchy	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Maintenance Supervisor
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Rachel Knaggs	Kids of the Kingdom Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

Pastor Steve's Contact Information

Email: pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

Email: lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop
System available.