

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

15617 Mason Road

PO Box 774

Vermilion, Ohio 44089

December 14, 2025

10:30 AM

Third Sunday in Advent

<https://stmatthewvermilion.wixsite.com/home>

Today we light the third candle with a pink ribbon. We take a rest from the blue candles of repentance. The candle represents JOY. It is known as the **Shepherd's Candle**. We are reminded of the joy of the shepherds at the announcement of the angels and their excitement at seeing the long-promised Messiah.

Opening Song

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:
Look up. For golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

Invocation & Prayer

Confession & Forgiveness

P: Almighty God, all hearts and desires are known to You. No secrets are ever hidden from You. We ask You now to come to us and help us so that we might turn away from our rebellion against Your will and live according to Your will alone. Send to us Your Holy Spirit so that we may hear Your Word with our hearts and follow it as we -- confess our sins --

receive Your forgiveness -- and mature into the full likeness of Jesus, Who is our Lord and Redeemer.

ALL: Almighty and merciful Father, I am a deeply troubled and sorrowful sinner. I come to You confessing all that I have said and done that is not in accord with Your Word and will. I know that I have disrespected and ignored You and deserve nothing from You but punishment. I beg in the name of Jesus that You would give me Your underserved mercy and forgive my sinful disobedience. May Your Holy Spirit dwell in my heart and help me to respect You and be obedient to You in all things, and through the sacrifice of Jesus bring me to eternal life in Your presence. Amen.

P: As the called servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare to you that God forgives all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God's Word Is Proclaimed

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-11

Matthew 11:2-15

Thanks be to God

Thanks be to God

Glory to You, O Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

We Declare Our Faith

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hades. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will return to judge both the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church – the fellowship of saints – the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Song “While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks by Night” # 109

Message “**Angels and Shepherds**” Luke 2:8-15

The Messiah Was a Messenger

Angels – **ANGELOS** (Gk) **MALAKIM** (Heb)

Luke 4:16–22

Mark 1:14-15

Mark 10:45

The Messiah Was a Shepherd

John 10:11-15

Matthew 8:20

John 1:1-3 & 14

Philippians 2:8–11

Presenting Our Tithes & Offerings

(We rise to sing the Doxology)

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father Who is in heaven, holy be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. **And forgive our sins as we forgive the sins of others.** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Jesus

Sharing the Sacrament

We believe that in, with, and under the simple elements of the consecrated bread and wine we truly receive the body and blood of Jesus and His forgiveness for our disobedience. If you have questions, please speak to the Pastor.

Prayer & Blessing

Song “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” #94 vs. 1-3

Video

On the night Jesus was born, God created a strange union of mighty angels and lowly shepherds to be messengers of the Good News. Their mission was to share the life-changing news that the Savior had been born with anyone who would listen. As a result, God created a way for us, the lowly, to be joined with Him, the mighty, forever.

Announcements:

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Live Nativity!

Today is the last day for the Mitten Tree ministry collection. Thank you for helping us reach out to children and adults with winter gear.

Doing the Works of God:

Rice side dishes; canned/ packaged soups; fruit cups.

Thank you for caring and helping!