

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

15617 Mason Road

PO Box 774

Vermilion, Ohio 44089

December 21, 2025, 2025

10:30 AM

Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

Today we light the fourth candle with a blue ribbon. It symbolizes PEACE – not necessarily worldly peace but rather the peace which only God can provide. Known as the **Angels' Candle** it reminds us of the message of the angels who sang, "peace on earth, good will toward men."

Traditionally, the white candle at the center of the advent wreath is lit on Christmas Day. It is known as the **Christ Candle** and reminds us of the true light from heaven breaking forth in a world of disobedience and darkness. That light has not gone from this world. Rather, it resides in the hearts of all who follow Jesus as their Master and Savior in ways that duplicate the light of His character to all people through their words and living.

Opening Song

"Oh, Come, All You Faithful"

Oh, come all you faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him Born the king of angels;
Oh, come let us adore Him, Oh come let us adore Him,
Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing all you citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God: Glory in the highest:
Oh, come let us adore Him, Oh come let us adore Him,
Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yes, Lord we greet You, Born this happy morning;
Come you, oh come you to Bethlehem
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing
Oh, come let us adore Him, Oh come let us adore Him,

Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

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 7:10-17

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

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 “Joy to the World” #87

Message “What Is So Great about Christmas?”
Luke 2:1-18, Matthew 2:1-12

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 “Silent Night” #646

Video

It all began in a lowly stable under a starry sky. The weight of the world was in that place and fell on the shoulders of a Savior. Jesus, our Messiah, our

Redeemer, our Deliverer. The plan of redemption was set in motion that night...in a manger.

Announcements:

Doing the Works of God:

Any item from the Works of God” list. Copies are available in the lobby.