

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

15617 Mason Road

PO Box 774

Vermilion, Ohio 44089

December 28, 2025, 2025

10:30 AM

First Sunday after Christmas

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

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. The advent wreath remains lit throughout the twelve days of Christmas – until Epiphany on January 6. 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

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
You who sang creation’s story, Now proclaim Messiah’s birth.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God on earth is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ the newborn King.

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 63:7-14	Thanks be to God
Galatian 4:4-7	Thanks be to God
Matthew 2:13-23	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 Now?” Matthew 2:13-23

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 **“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”**

From heaven above to earth I come To bring good news to ev’ry home:
Glad tiding of great joy I bring, Where-of I now will say and sing.

He will on you the gifts bestow Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom bright and fair, You may with us His glory share.

These are the signs that you shall mark: The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.

How glad we'll be to find it so! Then the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us had done In sending us His own dear Son.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For You to dwell within my heart.

Video

When Christmas is over and the lights come down, one man is challenged to consider what it would look like to celebrate Jesus all year long.

Announcements:

Doing the Works of God:

Breakfast cereal, oatmeal packets, granola bars, toilet paper.