

*Fifth Sunday of Easter
Luther League Led Worship
Senior Recognition*

**May 7, 2023
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.**

Now the Feast & Celebration

“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. Mathew 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.

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Now the Feast and Celebration

Marty Haugen

"Pages" found in the Now the Feast and Celebration booklet.

"Hymns" found toward the back of the red hymnal.

(* Please stand as you are able.)

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Senior Recognition

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

C: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing!

P: Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his.

C: We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

P: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

C: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

P: A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, the fourth chapter:

⁴ I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴ there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

P: God fashions us in love, equips us with gifts, and empowers us to achieve great things. Today we celebrate the achievements of the four young adults as they graduate from high school, as well as those in our congregation that have completed their higher education.

P: Let us pray:

P: God of endless possibility, we praise you for fashioning us in your image and equipping us with gifts that demonstrate your love for us. We celebrate your power at work in Hallie, Jesse, Colin, Martha, Caleb, Andrew, Rachel, Katie, Nathan, Jenna, and Mitch and pray that you give them gratitude for your goodness and joy in their achievement. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Give us grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

P: God of endless possibility, we praise you for the wondrous diversity of gifts and abilities you make available to our community through one another. Open our hearts to these varied expressions of your goodness in ourselves and others. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Give us grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

P: God of endless possibility, we praise you that, through the gift of your Son, each day is an unfolding of new opportunities for us to love and serve you. Give us the wisdom to discern your will and the courage to embrace it, that the gifts and abilities you entrust to us may be used for the good of all. God, in your mercy,

C: Give us grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

P: In Jesus name we pray,

C: Amen

P: May the God of endless possibility gather us in love, equip us with grace, and empower us to service,

C: According to the measure of Christ's gift!

Prelude

***Confession and Forgiveness** Page 2

***Gathering Song** *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen* Hymn 377

***Greeting** Page 2

***Kyrie** Page 3

***Song** *Now the Feast* Page 4

***Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Anna Holthouse

WORD

First Reading

Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

²**Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;

for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴**Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵**My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who
persecute me.**

¹⁶Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:2-10

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸and

“A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel**

John 14:1-14

L: The holy gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Prayers of Intercession**

L: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

L: God of life, strengthen your church to proclaim your gospel even in times of trouble. As we remember Stephen, we give thanks for diaconal ministry. Bless all deacons and strengthen them for their bridge-building ministry between church and world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Creating God, you show your steadfast love through mighty waters, towering mountains, verdant fields, and arid deserts. Protect the earth's diverse habitats from the forces of pollution, erosion, extinction, and global warming. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Mighty God, your Spirit guides us into all truth. Give wisdom to world and local leaders and organizations as they begin, build, or renew relationships. Strengthen leaders and aid organizations in areas needing to be rebuilt following conflict, unrest, or natural disaster. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Loving God, you make your home among us. Abide with refugees, those experiencing homelessness, those fleeing war and poverty, and all who question if there is a home in your heart. We pray for all who are sick especially Leithea, Lisa, Lindsay, John, Al, Jen, Bob, Heidi, Willy, Dylan, Andrew, Brittany, Becky, Sandi, Judy, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Assuring God, you accompany your people amid uncertainty and change. Uphold people in this community who have recently moved, changed jobs or schools, retired, or are going through transitions of any kind. Lead us in your ways. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Renewing God, you gather the saints at your heavenly banquet. We give you thanks for the care shown us by those who have gone before us. Grant confidence and comfort for all awaiting the place you have prepared. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C: Amen.

***Peace**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory *As the Grains of Wheat* Page 10

***Prayer** Page 11

***Great Thanksgiving** Page 11

*Preface

***Song** *Holy* Page 11

***Eucharistic Prayer** Page 12

***Eucharistic Acclamations** Page 12

Song *Through Christ, With Christ, In Christ* Page 13

***Lord's Prayer** Page 13

Lamb of God Page 14

Communion Hymns *Let Us Break Bread Together* Hymn 471
Beautiful Savior Hymn 838

*Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for the blessings of this table. May our lives be made new by these gifts of grace and may your love be made known through us.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Sending Song**

The Church's One Foundation

Hymn 654

***Dismissal**

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Postlude

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WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Reagan Stuchal	11:00 - Lexi Hess
Greeters:	8:30 - Tommy Malloy	
Readers:	8:30 - Addy Shook Martha Weight	11:00 - Addy Shook Kaitlyn Taraschke Martha Weight
Ushers:	8:30 - Emma Gierhart Addy Shook Colin Shrader August Weigh	11:00 - Addy Shook Colin Shrader August Weight
Communion Servers:	8:30 - August Weight	11:00 - August Weight
Sound:	8:30 - Larry Mohler	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Brian Harris	11:00 - Melody Costello
Altar Guild:	Julie Crow & Nancy McNeal	

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Pastor Steve's one year anniversary of serving at St. Matthew, by his sister and brother-in-law, Julie and Bill Crow.

Memorial Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in memory of her parents, Miles and Louise Davis, by Louise Cadwallader.

Prayers for Healing: Leithea, Lisa Grice-Walser, Deacon Lindsay, John Baker, Al, Jen Knaggs, Bob Forsythe, Heidi Jones, Willy Boggs, Dylan, Andrew & Brittany Harr, Becky, Sandi, Judy McLaughlin, and Steve Combs.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Fifth Sunday of Easter, we worship in-person at 8:30 and 11:00 with Now the Feast and holy communion. *Luther League will lead both services.* Livestream at 8:30.

Senior Recognition during each worship service. Please join us in the fellowship hall between services for a reception.

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

Welcome and Thank You to Cindy Piovarchy, our guest accompanist at the 11:00 service this morning.

Women's Luncheon - 12:30 in the fellowship hall.

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 14, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Sixth Sunday of Easter, we will worship in-person at 8:30 and 11:00 with ELW Setting 10 and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Lindsay had reconstructive hip surgery on April 24. She will be working from home until she has recovered enough to be present in the office.

Share your favorite hymns with us! Forms are located in the narthex for you to fill out. Please place completed lists in Pastor Steve's mailbox.

VBS Volunteers - We are in need of volunteers to assist with VBS, more specifically leaders that are able to guide kids with tasks, etc. throughout the week. VBS is taking place Monday-Friday, June 26-30, from 9am to 11:30am. Please let Corey Neururer know if you are able to fulfill this very important mission. Thank you! caneururer@yahoo.com

Ladies! Thursday, May 11 at 5 p.m. is Ladies Night on the square. Please meet at 5 p.m. at the gazebo for a goodie bag and then we will walk around the square and enjoy what our community has to offer. Hope you are able to join us! *Note - Bibles and Brews begins at 7 p.m. that night.*

A Church yard work day has been scheduled for May 13 from 8:00 a.m.-noon. If you are willing to help, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA8AC22ABFC1-church>. Thank you in advance for helping to beautify our grounds.

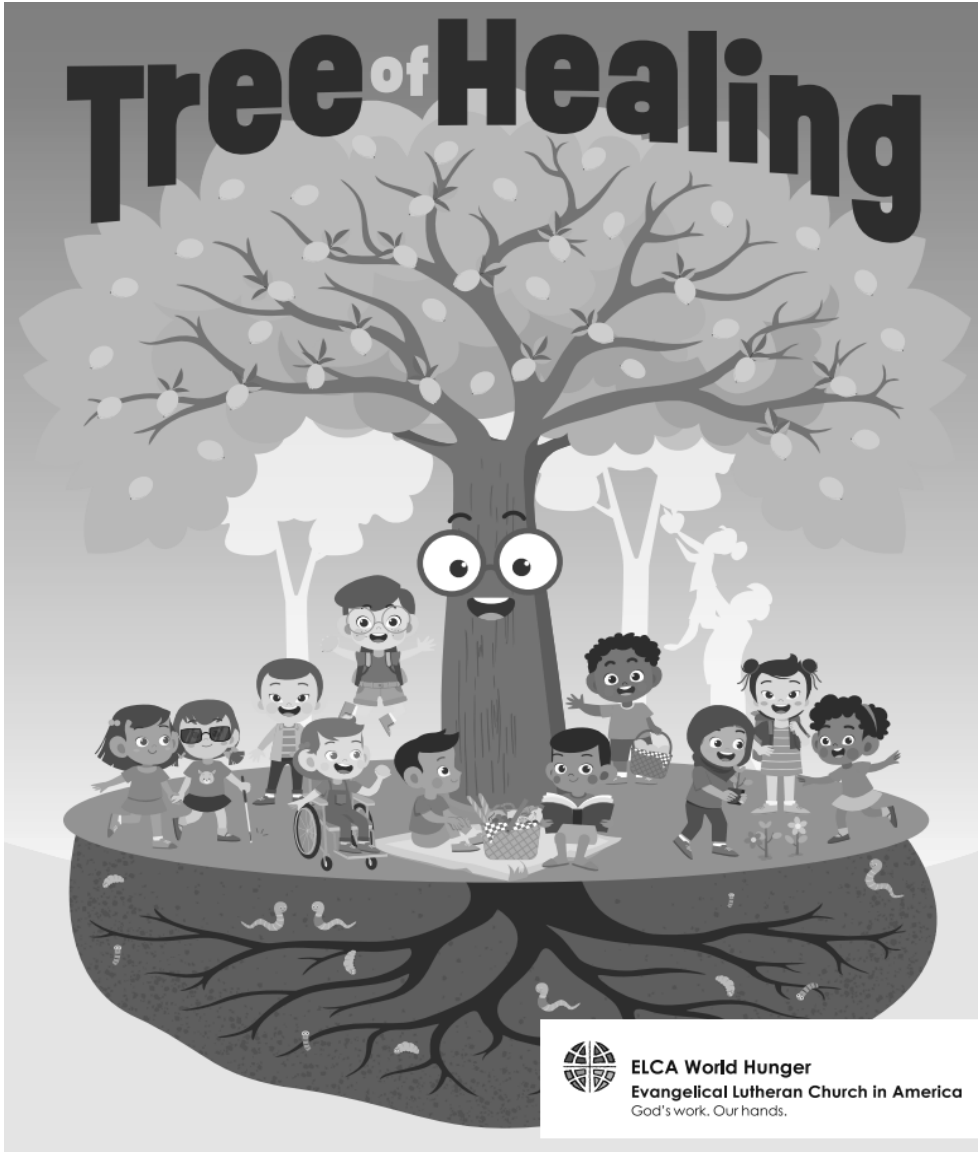
Yard Sale - In conjunction with the Founder's Way North yard sale, we will be having one here as well. Operation Homes will be working the sale. All proceeds will also go to support this mission here at St. Matthew. If you have items you would like to donate to this sale, please bring to church starting May 15. The sale is neighborhood-wide, June 2 & 3, 9 am - 3 pm. Please contact Joyce Davis, 216-780-0965 or Jordan Johnston, 330-321-2694 with any questions.

Naloxone (Narcan) Kits can be obtained from the Medina County Health Department (if you are 18 years or older). You can read the information, and the link, in the Parish Nurse ministry portion of the St. Matthew website. Or, you can contact the Medina County Health Department at 330-723-9688, option 2.

Key Inventory - We are running short on our key cards and fobs and need to update our key inventory. If you have a church key, swipe card, or fob, contact the church office (330-725-8885 or office@stmatthewmedina.org) and let us know what type of key you have and the number shown on the key. If you no longer participate in council or another committee and don't need a key to the church, please return it to the church office.

Children's Sermons are now available to view on YouTube. The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbMSkGvyBcRUoHWduYpW8EA>.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



JUNE 26-30, 2023

9:00 - 11:30 AM

Children who have completed Preschool-5th Grade.

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Maintenance Supervisor
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir 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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM



Hearing Loop
System available.