

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

Praise service

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023
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.

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GATHERING

** Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome and Announcements

Good News Moment

***Gathering Song** *You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)*

***Greeting**

D: 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**

**C: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your
gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our
hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message

Deacon Lindsay Bailey

WORD

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him;

for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no
evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel

John 9:1-41

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become

his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day:

We Believe

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

D: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

D: Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve especially Family of Warren, Sue, Becky, Arline, Adam and family, Bill, Carl, Pat, Dorothy, Sandi, Judy, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: O God, call us into a deeper relationship to be your church for the sake of the world. Help us to see with new eyes the injustices within church and society. Call us to have a loving heart that respects and uplifts the humanity and dignity of every person; open our ears to listen to and learn from the experiences of people of color. Open our mouths to speak up and about injustices. Join us with others to work for racial equity and inclusion for all people. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

D: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory

Lenten Meditation (8:30)

Luther Choir

Jay Althouse

Offertory Prayer

P: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

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: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear
the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

C: Amen.

SENDING

*Blessing

P: God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the
Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: Amen.

*Sending Song:

The Only Name (Yours Will Be)

*Dismissal:

D: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

+++

Vocalists: Heather Rohde, Mason Cooper

Guitar: Scott Schwandt

Drums: Tom Kotick

Bass: Karl Hermann

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte: 8:30 - Lucy Brown-Serban

Reader: 8:30 - Adam Scheid

Ushers: 8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan

Communion Servers: 8:30 - Mary Dunham & Carol Elkins

Sound: 8:30 - Joe Obermeier 11:00 - Larry Mohler

Video: 8:30 *only* - Rex Rickly

Altar Guild: Becky Malloy & Julie Shrader

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Gary's 87th birthday (March 18) by Sandy and Gary Kelling.

Prayers for Healing: Family of Warren, Sue Lucht, Becky, Arline, Adam and Family, Pastor Bill Lucht, Carl Ulich, Dorothy Ulich, Sandi, Judy McLaughlin, and Steve Combs.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Fourth Sunday in Lent, we worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with *Praise* and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30 a.m.

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

First Communion Reception - Please join us between services for a reception in honor of those receiving their first communion this morning.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, AT ST. MATTHEW

Lenten Meal/Gathering - 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Lenten Worship - 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 26, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Fifth Sunday in Lent, we worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with *ELW Setting 3* and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30 a.m.

We Welcome Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger as our supply pastor.

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

Blood Pressure Screenings before each service in our Parish Nurse's office.

Worship Assistants Needed - Readers, Ushers, and Communion Assistants. Please sign up in the narthex. Readers can also sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0544AFAC2CA4FA7-stmatthew>. Please contact Sandy Andrews with any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Flowers - Members of Altar Guild will be taking orders for Easter flowers today and next Sunday, after both services. Lilies are available for \$12.50 & \$25.00. Spring flowers: tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths, for \$11.00. Help to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday by ordering a flower or two.

Easter Breakfast - The Luther League will be serving breakfast between services on Easter morning. They will provide eggs, pancakes and sausage. They will be taking donations of pastries and juice. Please see the sign up chart in the narthex if you are interested in contributing to the breakfast.

Looking for a reliable vehicle. If you know of a vehicle, free or for which payments can be made, please contact the office.

Blood Pressure Screening - Sunday, March 26, before each service in the Parish Nurse's office.

Passion Walk - Zion Lutheran Church is having their annual "Passion Walk" on Saturday and Sunday, April 1 and 2, 6:15 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. It is free and no tickets required.

Medical Equipment Closet - Walkers/walkers with seats – at this time we have 12 walkers in stock and 3 canes with legs/quad canes, and are no longer in need of any more walker/quad cane donations at this time. *But we are in need of "like-new adjustable" **walking cane with cushioned hand grip.** If anyone has one they no longer need, and would like to donate it to the church, please bring it to the Parish Nurse office. Thank you to all who have helped this project continue throughout the years.

Progressive Dinner - Deadline to sign up for our Progressive Dinner is Sunday, April 9 (Easter). Please sign up via Sign Up Genius below or in the Narthex. You will be contacted shortly afterwards regarding where to meet, possible duties, etc.

<https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/5080A45AFAE2CABFF2-progressive>

Block Party Planning Meeting - April 10, 6:00 p.m. A new committee is forming to make plans for our next Block Party (August 26)! If you would like to have some fun, please join us for our first planning session. Pizza will be provided. All are welcome. Please contact Jill Heck or Beth Johnson with any questions.

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

Hearing Assistance Available - We have upgraded our audio equipment in the sanctuary to include a hearing Loop System. Most persons with hearing aids can tune in to the Loop. Some 85% of hearing aids have a T-coil channel already installed. You may need to have your hearing aid specialist activate the T-coil in your hearing aid. Look for the Hearing Loop symbol around town. Other venues have also installed the loop system and we are happy to be on board. If you don't have assistive devices or an active t-coil, we have temporary devices to wear during a church service. Ask an usher for assistance.



Electronic Giving – To set up an online giving account or to make changes to your online giving, scan the QR code or go to stmatthewmedina.org, click on the Give tab, scroll down to “*How Can I Give?*” and click on Give Here. If you already have an account, log in. You can then update any of your information (contact information, giving amount, and which funds you support). If you wish to *begin* donating electronically, click on Sign Up. You will fill each field as you are prompted to set up your account. If you have any questions, please contact our Finance Director, Bruce Reed at financedir@stmatthewmedina.org or 412-848-0219.



SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, May 7, 12:30 pm - Women's Luncheon (*Small Groups*)

June 26-30, 9 - 11 am - VBS (*Comprehensive Youth*)

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL 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



Hearing Loop
System available.