



“But many who are
first will be last,
and the last
will be first.”

Mark 10:31

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

October 10, 2021

8:30 a.m.

ELW Liturgy

“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

GATHERING

** Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our comforter,

C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ✝ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Song

Gather Us In

No. 532

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger

WORD

First Reading

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

⁶Seek the LORD and live,
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

¹⁰They hate the one who reproveth in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,

but you shall not drink their wine.
¹²For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.
¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.
¹⁴Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.
¹⁵Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Psalm

Psalm 90:12-17

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.
¹³**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?
Be gracious to your servants.**
¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.
¹⁵**Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us
and as many years as we suffered adversity.**
¹⁶Show your servants your works,
and your splendor to their children.
¹⁷**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 4:12-16

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.
¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

*Gospel

Mark 10:17-31

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do

you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger

Hymn of the Day:

Take My Life, That I May Be

No. 685

***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**

P: Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P: Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Healing God, we lift up to you those on our prayer list: John Siebert, Jerry Spears, Brenda Disbrow, Mary Baker, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, Greg Mckee, and Ed Berchert. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of guidance, we ask your blessing upon St. Matthew's call committee. Give them insight and a spirit of enthusiasm for their work and raise up for our people a pastor to help lead us. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died. Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***Peace:** *The peace will be an acknowledgement with your neighbor of God's reconciling love by nod or bow.*

MEAL

Offertory

I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord
Raymond H. Haan

Luther Choir

Offering Prayer

P: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer

*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.

*Invitation to Communion

P: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

Communion Hymns: *We Come to the Hungry Feast*

No. 479

*Table Blessing

*Prayer after Communion

P: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

*Sending Song: *God of Grace and God of Glory*

No. 705

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude

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PRAYERS

Prayers for Healing: John Siebert, Jerry Spears, Brenda Disbrow, Mary Baker, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, Greg Mckee, and Ed Berchert.

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Carol Jean Davis by Debra Sherman.

Memorial Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in memory of their parents by Tom and Loretta Thornton

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Today, Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost, we will worship in person at 8:30 a.m. with *ELW* liturgy and communion and 11:00 a.m. with *Rhythm & Blues* liturgy and communion, livestreaming at 8:30 a.m.

Harvest Home Sunday - Today - Thank you to everyone who donated items to help beautify our sanctuary today and to the Altar Guild members who decorated. The Lord provides and we all get to enjoy the benefits. We will enjoy the harvests today and next Sunday.

We Welcome Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger, Executive Director/Campus Minister at United Protestant Campus Ministries of Cleveland as our supply pastor this morning.

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room.

Adult Sunday School - 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger will discuss "UPCaM 101: Serving College Students in Cleveland."

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost, we will worship in person at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with *ELW* liturgy and communion, livestreaming at 8:30 a.m.

Harvest Home Sunday

We Will Welcome Pastor John Butchko, as our supply pastor.

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room.

Adult Sunday School - 9:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Butchko will discuss "What I learned during Covid from Luther Seminary in St. Paul."

Celebration of Life service for Ron Svoboda at St. Matthew, 1:30 p.m.

Message from our Council President

As you know, we've been conversing with the Synod and they are looking for a replacement Interim Pastor for us, but the schedule has slipped a month. Hopefully, that individual will be here early in November.

In the meantime, we will be served by supply pastors and Deacon Lindsay until a new Interim is named.

Our COVID Team continues to monitor pandemic conditions in Medina, and plans to reevaluate our current protocols on October 18. Until that time the status-quo will be maintained, unless things change significantly.

Should this process raise any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

LGL, Rex

WORSHIP SERVANTS				
Date	October 10	October 10	October 17	October 17
Service	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Acolyte	Trevor Rohde	Emma & Luke Gierhard	Mason & Eli Cooper	Lucas Hogan
Reader	Lisa Burke	LaVonne Hauptman		
Ushers	Bruce Reed	Cindy Rickly	Bruce Reed	
Communion Servers	Lisa Burke	Sandy Andrews		
Sound	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse	Joe Obermeier	Mike & Alex Holthouse
Video	Brian Harris	--	Rex Rickly	--
Altar Guild	Nancy McNeal			

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Urgent Need! For ushers at upcoming 11:00 a.m. services. Sign up here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0549a5a622a4f49-worship2>, in the narthex, or contact Sandy Andrews.

Update From Our Parish Nurse - "I continue rehabilitation, now in outpatient PT and OT. I am humbled by the continued support of the members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church."
~Brenda Disbrow

Coffee Bar is Back! We are happy to bring the coffee bar back to St. Matthew to enjoy! Please be mindful of the following: - The coffee bar will be available in between church services (9:45-11:00 a.m.). Please do not utilize the coffee bar during services. - Please remember your LGL mugs that have lids. However, if you need a cup, please make sure a lid is placed or be mindful of preventing spills. - Should you spill, please clean up after yourself. Napkins are available. *NOTE: Hot chocolate will no longer be available - coffee and hot water for tea only.*



Operation HOMES Meal Sign Up - St. Matthew is scheduled to provide meals **October 18-24**. You may sign up to provide a meal through Sign-Up Genius by going to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4eafa722aafc1-stmatthew>. The instructions for dropping off meals and number of guests are listed in this link. Thank you!

Small Groups - Foundry Event - Sunday, November 7, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at 333 Foundry Street, Medina, in the "Big Room". Please come and enjoy an afternoon of fun, including games such as Duckpin Bowling, Shuffleboard, Cards, and more. We will provide lunch during this time, including water and soda. *We are asking for donations toward the cost of food. Collection baskets will be provided at the event.* Hope to see you there for fun and fellowship with your St. Matthew friends! *NOTE: If you and your family wish to stay later, please contact The Foundry directly for reservations - 330-333-9000.*

Men's Bible Study - Join us Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. as we discuss the Gospel of John.

The Luther Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 in the sanctuary. New members to the choir will be most welcome to join us.



Electronic Offering Updates - If anyone needs help in changing their electronic giving (ACH) through Vanco please feel free to contact Thaddeus Neururer 617-360-1342 or email at thaddeus.neururer@gmail.com.

Advent Devotions - This year, St. Matthew invites you to participate in creating our own Advent devotions. A new devotion will be shared each day, via our website, beginning November 28, 2021. Please consider using your God-given gifts to be a blessing to our congregation and community. Go to <https://www.stmatthewmedina.org/advent-devotions> for instructions on signing up and submitting your devotion.



Seeking Nursery Volunteers - Our nursery at St. Matthew is an important service that we provide to our families with young children. It allows the parents the opportunity to worship without the disruption of their children allowing them to fully take in and participate in worship. As we continue to search for a full-time person (or 2 part-time people) to staff the nursery, we are looking for volunteers to be present with our younger members during worship and Sunday School in the nursery. In the interim, member Corey Neururer has agreed to help during Sunday School and the 11:00 a.m. service. If you would be interested in helping, please contact Melody at 330-461-1149.

Nursery Attendant Needed - Our nursery at St. Matthew is an important service that we provide to our families with young children. It allows the parents the opportunity to worship without the disruption of their children allowing them to fully take in and participate in worship.

We are currently looking for one full-time person (or 2 part-time) to staff the nursery. The right candidate should enjoy children; be willing to play with them; change diapers/help them use the toilet, etc. The position would involve, roughly, 4 hours each Sunday (fall through spring) and 1 ½ hours during the summer and is a paid position.

If anyone in the church is interested, please contact Melody at 330-461-1149. If you know someone who could be a fit, please pass along my contact information for further discussion.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

HVAC anti-COVID air treatment / Equipment installed earlier this year

No Singing / Restrictions Lifted

Limiting Attendance / Restrictions Lifted

Keep Exterior Doors Open / Restrictions Lifted

Mask Mandate / Masks are now optional

Fellowship After Worship / Casual fellowship after church is resuming

Ropes to Encourage Social Distance / Ropes removed June 18

Hymnals / Hymnals returned to pews June 18

Communion / Covid protocol still in place

Sharing of the Peace / Covid protocol still in place

Masks and Sanitizer available / Covid protocol still in place

**Finance Report for August and Year-to-Date
St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

St. Matthew had the following revenue
and expenses for August.

	Month of August 2021	Year-to-Date August 2021
Total Revenue	\$ 33,147.78	\$ 250,178.61
Total Expenses	\$ 29,191.53	\$ 238,405.18
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 3,956.25	\$ 11,773.43
Net Other	\$ --	\$ 118.18
Net Revenue	<u>\$ 3,956.25</u>	<u>\$ 11,891.61</u>

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Custodian
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Heather Rohde	Youth Worship Music Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM