



Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 5, 2021

8:30 & 11:00 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

(8:30) Mason Cooper

*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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

No. 858

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

Presentation by Council President

Rex Rickly

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Psalm

Psalm 146

¹Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²**I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴**When they breathe their last, they return to earth,**

and in that day¹ their thoughts perish.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares¹ for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading

James 2:1-17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

*Gospel

Mark 7:24-37

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵ but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Bill Diehm

Hymn of the Day:

My Faith Looks up to Thee

No. 759

*Sacrament of Baptism (11:00)

ELW Page 227

*Apostle's Creed (8:30)

**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: Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. Unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for all those on our prayer list: Tallen Hulvey, Brenda Disbrow, Beau Barrett, Mary Baker, Michael Bazilius, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, Caleb Johnston, Greg Mckee, Ed Berchert, Todd Costello, John Siebert, and Chuck Payne. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation especially 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 lead us. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. 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

An Irish Prayer
by Ruth Elaine Schram

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:	<i>We Come to the Hungry Feast</i>	No. 479
	<i>O Living Bread from heaven</i>	No. 542

***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:	<i>God Be With You Till We Meet Again</i>	No. 536
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***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: Tallen Hulvey, Brenda Disbrow, Beau Barrett, Mary Baker, Michael Bazilius, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, Caleb Johnston, Greg Mckee, Ed Berchert, Todd Costello, John Siebert, and Chuck Payne.

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Ron Svoboda and in honor of his 87th birthday on September 9 with love from his wife, Esther, and daughter, Karen Sandberg, and family.

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Kacey Costello's 18th birthday on September 11. Love, Mom, Dad, & Emily.

Memorial Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in honor of Jagger Haught's baptism by his family.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Today, Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost, we worship in person at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., livestreaming at 8:30 a.m., with *ELW* liturgy and Holy Communion.

Holy Baptism - We welcome Jagger Brian Haught, by his baptism, into the mission of St. Matthew, Living God's Love.

Thank You to Cindy Piovarchy for providing our accompaniment for this morning's worship service.

Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall between services.

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost, we will worship in person at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., livestreaming at 8:30 a.m., with *Rhythm & Blues* liturgy and Holy Communion.

We Will Welcome Pastor Blair Morgan, our supply pastor for worship this morning. He has previously served parishes in Maumee, OH and Pittsburgh, PA. He also served as the director for Evangelical Mission in Pittsburgh with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA.

Sunday School - Rally Day - 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from our Council President - As you know, Pastor Diehm will be leading our worship for the last time this morning, as he concludes his two-year stint as our Interim Pastor.

You may also be wondering what happens next. We've been conversing with the Synod and they are looking for a replacement Interim, intending to have that individual at St. Matthew early in October.

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

I hope you feel as I do, that our congregation has been richly blessed by having Pastor Bill and Sue with us for the past 24 months. And we wish them Godspeed for the next chapter of their ministry, and in their lives.

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

LGL,
Rex Rickly

Rally Sunday - Sunday School begins next Sunday, September 12 at 9:45 a.m. *See page 12 of this bulletin for more details.*

Planted Flag Brewing - Sunday, September 19 - 4:00-6:00 p.m. **21 and over!** Bring a friend and enjoy learning about and making some amazing brews. We will brew 2-3 varieties, depending on time. Cost is \$30, collected that evening. Includes one free beer while there and one free beer upon brewing completion. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0549a5a622a4f49-planted> or in the narthex.

Bike-a-Board - Saturday, September 25 - 10:00 a.m. - Meet at Peninsula Train Station with your bike, 1600 Mill Street W., Peninsula, Ohio. We will bike approximately 12 miles to Yours Truly restaurant in Valley View for lunch. After lunch, we will board the Canal Exploration Station at 1:10 p.m. sharp! Cost to ride the train with your bike is \$5 (cash preferred). Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549A5A622A4F49-bike> or in the narthex.

Afghan Allies Fund - Monetary donations are being accepted to assist Afghanistan refugees through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Your gift will provide food, housing assistance, clothing, and other basic needs while they await official services available to them.

https://secure2.convio.net/lirs/site/Donation2?df_id=4079&4079.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T/

Gods Work Our Hands will take place Sunday, September 19. St Matthew will be participating in meal packing with Rise Against Hunger, an organization whose goal is to end world hunger. Please see their website for more information about their mission.

<https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/global-impact/>. We will be packing 10,800 meals!

We will be participating with our cluster churches (Holy Trinity, New Horizons, Our Saviour, and Zion). Holy Trinity in Brunswick will be providing lunch at their outdoor pavilion at 12:30pm before the meal packing event. Please bring your own beverage. The meal packing will begin at 1:45pm at Our Saviour in Hinckley, and should last until around 4pm. Masks are required due to meal prep, and Covid guidelines. Please note that lunch is at Holy Trinity and the packing event is at Our Saviour.

There is also a need for volunteers to help set up at Our Saviour at noon, as well as volunteers for clean up after the event.

An accurate count for both lunch and meal packing is requested from the host churches, as well as if you want to help with set up or clean up. If you are planning on

attending either the lunch or meal packing, please **RSVP to the church office by Sept 12th**. You may email or phone your response. Please indicate what you will be participating in, as well as if you are volunteering for set up or clean up.

Thank you!

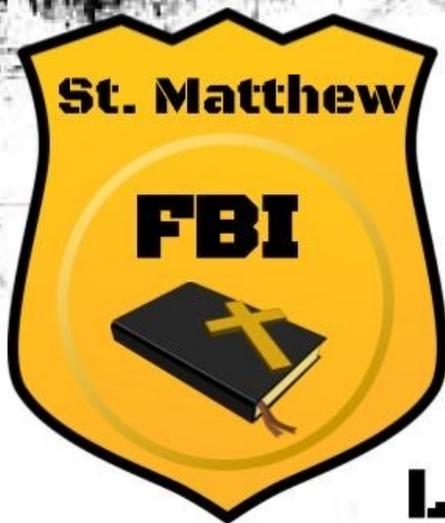
Nursery Attendant Needed - Our nursery at St. Matthew is an important service that we provide to our families with young children. It allows the parents the opportunity to worship without the disruption of their children allowing them to fully take in and participate in worship.

We are currently looking for someone 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.

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.

WORSHIP SERVANTS				
Date	September 5	September 5	September 12	September 12
Service	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Reader	Judy McLaughlin	Judy McLaughlin		LaVonne Hauptman
Ushers	Bruce Reed		Bruce Reed	
Communion Servers	Nancy McNeal	Nancy McNeal		
Sound	Larry Mohler	Larry Mohler		
Video	Owen Blakslee	Owen Blakslee		
Altar Guild	Becky Malloy			



**You are Invited
to be an
FBI Agent
at St. Matthew
Evangelical
Lutheran Church!**

**Please join us for Sunday
School starting **Sunday,**
September 12 at 9:45 a.m. in
the sanctuary.**



**Faithful
Bible
Investigator**

MEDINA COUNTY PRESENTS:

We are
**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

A THREE NIGHT UNITY REVIVAL



FEATURING PASTORS

MARK GIAIMO LUKE LINDON ARTHUR RUFFIN
CORNERSTONE CHAPEL MEDINA UCC SECOND BAPTIST

+ MASS COMMUNITY CHOIR

SEPTEMBER 28-30

CORNERSTONE CHAPEL

3939 GRANGER RD. MEDINA, OH 44256

NIGHTLY AT 7PM

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 July and Year-to-Date

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

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

	Month of July 2021	Year-to-Date July 2021
Total Revenue	\$ 40,675.42	\$ 217,030.83
Total Expenses	\$ 27,734.43	\$ 209,213.65
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 12,940.99	\$ 7,817.18
Net Other	\$ 14.78	\$ 118.18
Net Revenue	\$ 12,955.77	\$ 7,935.36

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. William Diehm	Interim Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Custodian
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Sue Gircsis	Nursery Attendant
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Heather Rohde	Youth Worship Music Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

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

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM