

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

Praise service

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

“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

Please note: This worship service is being livestreamed and recorded onto Facebook and YouTube, and an edited copy posted onto the St. Matthew webpage. By attending this worship service, you may appear as a part of this digital recording. Thank you.

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

***Gathering Song** *Everybody Sing Praise to the Lord*

***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**

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

WORD

First Reading

Jeremiah 11:18-20

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,

"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,

who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

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

Psalm

Psalm 54

¹Save me, O God, by your name;
in your might, defend my cause.

²**Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.**

³For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have sought my life,
those who have no regard for God.

⁴**Behold, God is my helper;
it is the Lord who sustains my life.**

⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
in your faithfulness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.**

⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble,
and my eye looks down on my enemies.

Second Reading

James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish.

¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. ^{4:}

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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

***Gospel**

Mark 9:30-37

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰ Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³ Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴ But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵ He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶ Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷ "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ!

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

***Hymn of the Day:**

Grace Alone

***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: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

D: Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer especially Joan, Jenna, Marliese, Jerry, June, Steve, Tom, Adam and Family, Todd, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, 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 Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

Communion Solo

Broken Vessels

*Prayer after Communion

P: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

*Blessing

P: God all mighty, God most merciful † bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

*Sending Song:

All the People Said Amen

*Dismissal:

D: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Praise Band

Song Leaders: Heather Rohde

Guitar: Scott Schwandt

Drums: Tom Kotick

Pianist: Cindy Piovarchy

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God.

Memorial Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God, in memory of Joyce's mom, Betty Muehlheim, by Joyce and Tom Davis.

Prayers for Healing: Joan Batke, Jenna Saleker, Marliese Leggett, Jerry Jakovcic, June Trenty, Steve Combs, Tom Thornton, Adam and Family, Todd Costello, and Sandi.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, we will worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Praise and communion. *Livestream at 8:30.*

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

Looms of Love, 9:45 a.m., Library.

Nursery Coverage - The nursery will be open and supervised by volunteer, Annabelle Thompson. Thank you, Annabelle.

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, we will worship in person and livestream at 9:30 a.m. with ELW 10 and holy communion.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Faith Taraschke	11:00 - Aubrey Terihay
Reader:	8:30 - Delores Ivan	11:00 - Julie Shrader
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Melanie Brown Nancy McNeal	11:00 - Melody Costello Julie Shrader
Ushers:	8:30 - Brittany, Annabelle, & Trace Thompson, Linda Taraschke	
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Melody Costello	
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God's Work. Our Hands. - **Thank you** to everyone who participated in God's Work. Our Hands. on September 14. We had a great group of people from St. Matthew and our 4 cluster churches who packed 156 bags for the homeless in Cleveland along with emergency blessing bags. We are grateful to our St. Matthew friends who provided food for the luncheon and who helped to prep and clean up. Much appreciation - Barbara, Stephanie & Melody

Emergency Blessing Bags - we have a few bags left for individuals who would like to keep a couple in their car to give out to someone you may encounter who could use one. They are in the narthex if you wish to grab one or two.

College Student and Military Personnel Addresses Needed! The Care Package Ministry team is ready to continue to support our college students and military personnel with care packages, letters and other developing means of communication. Please help the team update and continue to build its network of students and military personnel by filling out the Google forms through the links in the Shout-Out.

The Care Package Ministry Team is making preparations for the next round of care packages for our college students! We are collecting gift cards, notes, and words of encouragement to include in the care packages. Monetary donations are also welcome and appreciated to help cover shipping costs and purchase items for the packages. There will be a container in the Narthex for notes, gift cards, and monetary donations. You can also purchase items directly from our Amazon wishlist to help fill the packages! Simply use the link in the Shout-Out or on our website to view our Wishlist, add the item you wish to purchase to your cart, and select St. Matthew as the shipping address, and it will be delivered directly to the church to be included in the packages!

Senior Fellowship will meet again this month to play games (bring your favorite) and share our time. We'd love for you to join us on Monday, September 23 at 1:00 p.m. in the Brown Room. Hope to see you there.

Luther Middles Food Drive - Sunday, September 29. The Luther Middles will hold their annual drive-thru food drive. They will be collecting non-perishable food items and personal hygiene products from 10:00-10:45 am and 12:00-1:00 pm in the church parking lot. These items will be used to stock our community pantry box located on Pearl Street over the next several month.

Spaghetti Dinner - The Luther League will host the annual Spaghetti Dinner and Dessert Auction on Sunday, September 29 at 5:00 p.m. We hope to see you all there! Please use the link in the Shout-Out to RSVP or sign up in the narthex.

Silent Book Club! Meets the first and third Mondays each month at Faith House (432 N. Broadway). We have a few fun things planned in the upcoming months: Oct 21- Halloween Book Club, Nov. 18-Book Club Food Drive, Dec. 16-Holiday Get Together. *We are still taking donations for the Free Library at Faith House.*

Looms of Love (Hat Making) - Meets the second and fourth Sundays each month at 9:45 a.m. in the Library. *No meeting September 8.*

Cross Penny Ministry - Cross pennies remind us that Jesus was the One sent (cent) to set us free (liberty) from our sins. He rose from the dead so that we could be saved when "In God We Trust". Please take and share cross pennies which can be found in the narthex.



Please join us in showering Deacon Lindsay and Austin with love as they await the birth of their sweet daughter!

Sunday, October 6, 12:30 - 2:30

St. Matthew Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP via the link in the Shout-Out!

They are registered on Amazon.

We have received everything needed for the charcuterie board. Thank you to all who signed up to provide items. Please have the items to Jen Knaggs by Wednesday, October 2.



FUN FELLOWSHIP

Fall
FESTIVAL

FUN FOR THE FAMILY

SUN. OCTOBER 20, 2024

CHILI COOK-OFF, HAYRIDE & PUMPKIN
PICKING, TRUNK OR TREAT FOR THE KIDS!

Richardson's Farm - 6984 Lafayette Road,
Medina 1:00 - 5:00 pm
MORE DETAILS TO COME - SAVE THE DATE!!



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Cindy Piovarchy	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Maintenance Supervisor
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Rachel Knaggs	Kids of the Kingdom Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	Nursery Attendant

Pastor Steve's Contact Information

Email: pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

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Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop
System available.

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Friday: Office Closed