

St. Matthew Celebrates

SPRING 2024

WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING?

- Page 2— A New Song
- Page 3— Getting To Know You
- Page 4— Lent and Holy Week
- Pages 5-6— Luther Littles, Easter Eggstravaganza
- Page 7— Kids in the Kitchen
- Page 8— Luther Middles, Vacation Bible School
- Page 9— Bees to Beads (Luther League)
- Page 10—H.S. Seniors, Fun Fellowship
- Page 11— “Loads of Love”
- Page 12— Care For Children
- Page 13—Penny Ministry, Looms of Love
- Page 14— Drive Through Food Drop Off
- Page 15— Operation H.O.M.E.S.
- Page 16— Blood Drive, Feeding Medina County
- Pages 17-19— Archiving Our Documents
- Page 20— Reaching Out, Thrivent Grants
- Page 21— Work Party, Spring Schedule
- Page 22— Church Leaders, “Low Sunday”



HAVE
YOU
HEARD
?



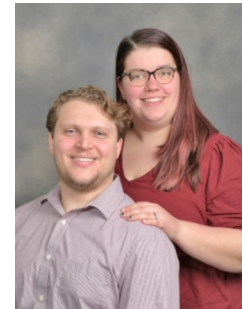
NEW SONG

¹O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. ²Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. ³Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. ⁴For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. Psalm 96:1-4

“That’s what we’re here for: to make the world new. We know what to do: seek justice, love mercy, walk humbly, treat every person as though she were yourself. These are not complicated instructions. It’s much harder to decipher the directions for putting together a child’s tricycle than it is to understand these.” Nancy Mairs

There’s been a “new song” being sung around St. Matthew this past month! Have you heard it? I know I have. As I sat and listened to the 20+ speakers at “The Future as I See It” evening, and the chatter the following 45 minutes after the event was over, I hear a new song being sung. It’s a song that includes hope, and joy, and excitement over what God has in store for us! Have you heard it? If not, maybe you’ve “seen” it being lived out through some of the events of this past month: like the 3 new people that joined the Bible & Brews study of Proverbs; or the 20+ youth that gathered together on a Sunday evening for 2 hours as they prepare for the National Youth Gathering this Summer, and the dozen middle-schoolers that got together on a different Sunday afternoon to go bowling together; or the \$330 dollars offered through a Noisy Offering one Sunday in support of the Loads of Love ministry, and the 25 volunteers that helped out; or the intergenerational event that took place during the Sunday School hour in order to cut and tie 20 blankets given to Akron Children’s Hospital; or the “new” volunteers that are being not only asked to serve, but are doing so with joy and appreciation of being asked; or the many members that were “inactive” for many years that have recently returned; or the fact that I’m once again having to plan another New Member class for those that have expressed interest in becoming a part of the mission and ministry of St. Matthew. Have you seen it? Have you heard it? Thanks be to God!!

Excerpt from Pastor Steve’s Report to Council, February 20, 2024



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Are **YOU** pictured above? If not, please join the fun ... and answer the few questions to share your story in the Shoutout. We would love to get to know you better!

[CLICK HERE TO GET STARTED](#)

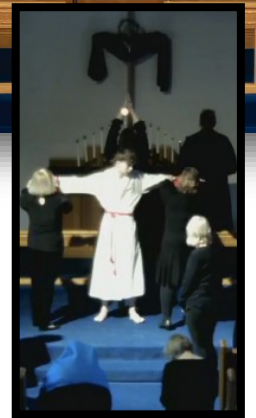
LENTEN MID-WEEK GATHERINGS



During Lent, we partnered with our friends at St. Paul's Episcopal and Medina United Church of Christ for our Wednesday evening Lenten Series, **"Short Stories by Jesus"**. The book review stated, *"In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives. In "Short Stories by Jesus", she analyzes these "problems with parables," taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. "*

- 2/21 - St. Matthew
- 2/28 - St. Paul's Episcopal
- 3/6 - United Church of Christ
- 3/13 - St. Matthew
- 3/20 - United Church of Christ

HOLY WEEK



Altar Guild

- Row 1 -
- Kelly Obermeier
- Liz Linden
- Sandy Andrews
- Row 2 -
- Nancy McNeal
- Julie Shrader



LUTHER LITTLES



The Luther Littles and Middles enjoyed an Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, March 30 with fun activities. It started off with an Easter story read by Deacon Lindsay. Then the kids made a craft and watched a movie with popcorn. Next, there was a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny! After pictures with the bunny, the kids went hunting to find some of the 240 eggs that were hidden. It was a joyous celebration!





Living God's Love
Living God's Love



Kids in the Kitchen

When you ask our Luther League members what they enjoy about being a part of Luther League, you will find that most say “being together” or “being together in the kitchen”. This year we have done just that! We were together in the kitchen for our Spaghetti and Dessert Auction in September, Thanksgiving Dinner in November, our Sub and Soup meal in February and were together again in March cooking and serving Easter breakfast between services. Tommy Malloy, junior, was our pancake guru the last two years. Honestly, we can’t have a better pancake chef. He commands the kitchen and smiles and jokes the entire time.

The Luther League would love to hear what types of meals the congregation would like for us to prepare and serve. It does take a lot of planning, organization, time and manpower, but we’d love to hear your feedback! Thank you for your continued support and love.

Sincerely,
The Kids in the Kitchen



LUTHER MIDDLES

In March, some of the Luther Middles had the opportunity to go to an overnight confirmation camp at HopeWood Pines. On Friday evening after orientation the kids enjoyed games, a campfire, snacks, and devotions. After breakfast on Saturday, they had worship, Discovery Bible study, and team building activities. Following lunch, the kids had activity time. It was a nice sunny day and they were able to choose a hike, craft, or outdoor games. Before packing up, some shopped for souvenirs at the camp store. After driving home, the fun ended with a sweet treat at Dairy Queen!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 24-28

REGISTER HERE

DEADLINE = JUNE 2

VOLUNTEER HERE

During the week of **June 24-28**, St. Matthew will hold Vacation Bible School from **9:00-11:30 AM** for children who have completed **Preschool through 5th grade**. We will be using curriculum provided by ELCA World Hunger. This year's VBS theme is "God's New Creation."

Joyce Davis, *VBS Coordinator* -
Julie Shrader, *Comprehensive Youth Team Leader* -
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach,
Director of Youth + Family Ministries

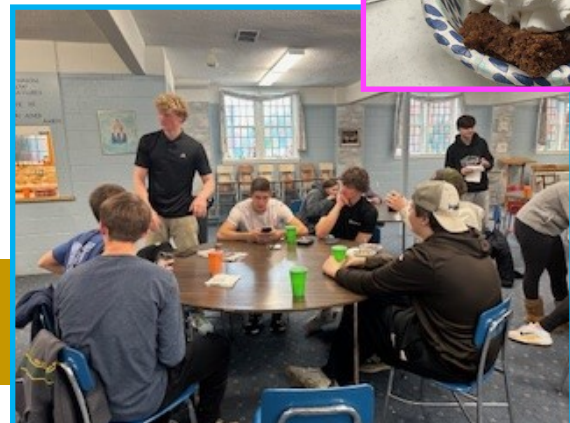
Bees to Beads

Kristin Weight

To say that there is a BUZZ around church and our high schoolers is an understatement! We have **27** high schoolers who will be heading to New Orleans, Louisiana July 15-20 for the ELCA National Gathering. Our students will meet for a total of five Gathering Prep meetings and have already had their first two. Our focus has been to introduce topics that will be discussed at the Gathering, to spend time together and get to know each other better, to share in fellowship and to gather around the table. Our first prep meal was a delicious Chicken Creole that was prepared by Deacon Lindsay. We were treated to Gumbo made by Todd Costello and Pastor Steve has shared that red beans and rice will definitely be a meal that will be shared with the group prior to the trip and Kristin Weight will be making Muffalettas for all to try.

The sharing of food, the learning of a food culture that is unlike what we experience on a regular basis, has been a highlight of our prep meetings. Anna Holthouse, junior at Medina and our current Luther League president, says that she is enjoying “the food and conversations” at our meetings. And when looking ahead to July, she is “looking forward to meeting new people and seeing old church camp friends”. The excitement is building! We have prep meetings on April 14, May 5 and June 23. We do plan to share our experience with the entire congregation when we return, but please talk to our high schoolers now to learn about what they are each excited about.

Our lessons so far have been structured around being BRAVE, and being AUTHENTIC. Going to a new city, being surrounded by thousands of people all with the same bravery is exciting. Being authentic comes from a place of knowing your own beloved-ness. **You are beloved by God. All of you. Every single part.** We ask that you continue to pray for our high schoolers, offer your words of wisdom and strength directly to them and remind them how you will think of them now and when on their adventure.



New Orleans July 15-20, 2024



"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

1 Corinthians 12:12

Congratulations to our Graduating H.S. Seniors

Ethan Baker
Jesse Gabler
Carter Landes
Emerson Lindsley
Hope Rohde
Jacob Thompson



August Weight and Tommy Malloy at worship



"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Matthew 18:20

A new Fun Fellowship group has been formed. The purpose of the Fun Fellowship Group is to plan and provide intergenerational activities and gatherings for the congregation as well as other fellowship activities for the varying age groups. The Fun Fellowship Group is open to everyone . If you would like more information or to be a part of this please contact Helen Graf or Joyce Davis. Upcoming fellowship activities that are being planned are:

April 22 — Silent Book Club, Faith House, 6:30 pm

May 11— Potluck, Fellowship Hall, 5:00 pm

May 13— Silent Book Club, Faith House, 6:30

May 25— Bike Ride with Pastor Steve and cookout at his home

June 9— Tribute to Fathers/Men at Ignite in Brunswick, 5:00-8:00 pm

Please watch for further details.



BEYOND OUR WALLS

LOADS OF LOVE

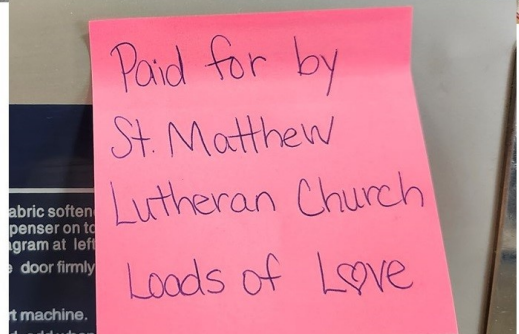


St. Matthew Lutheran Church spread love and joy on Saturday, February 17 at the North Court Laundry,

739 W. Liberty, Medina. Laundry clients had the opportunity to launder their clothes free of charge on February 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (This drop-in event did not require an appointment, but it was “first-come/first serve”!

Upon arriving at the laundromat, all clients were met by our StM caring volunteers who provided the coins needed to wash and dry their clothes and belongings. “Loads of Love” is a ministry that shows love to our community one load at a time.” It was funded by our Noisy Offering on January 28, as well as grant support from Thrivent Financial.

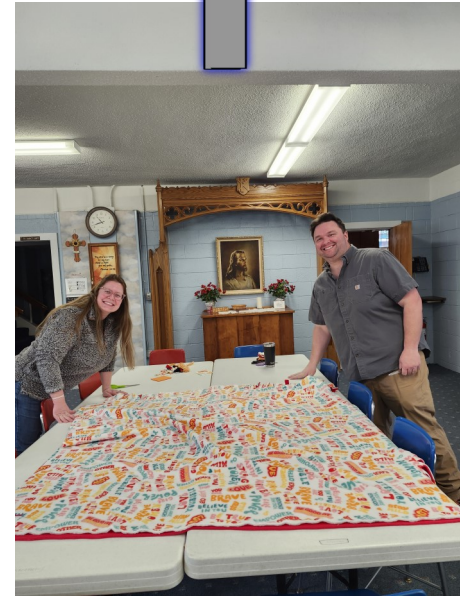
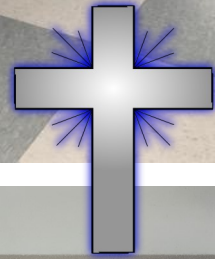
The Evangelism and Communication Committee plans to continue this ministry next on **Sunday, June 9**. The mission is to provide laundry services to families and individuals who are in need. This small gift of love helps free up family finances that could be used for groceries or other necessities.



ANNONYMOUS POST ON FACEBOOK: “There was a church group today that paid to get our 2 totes full of laundry washed, dried and folded at North Court Laundry. I wish I could remember what the name of the church was. When my husband left he cried. Our dryer ended up breaking recently and our 3-month-old child is very sick. It's like they knew how much we were struggling at home. Everyone is going through something. These small acts of kindness truly mean the world. It literally made our day....” (Many responded that the church was St. Matthew Lutheran Church!)

CARE FOR CHILDREN

Led by Melody Costello and Julie Shrader, Care for Children provided essential items to Akron Children's Hospital for children facing illness and hospitalization. With the help of Thrivent members June Trenty, Vernon & Beverly Beard, Karen Strange, Melody & Julie, \$1,500 was secured by Thrivent Action Grants. We purchased toiletries, infant/baby toys, arts & craft supplies, games & toys, books, bears, undergarments & pjs and fleece to make 20 tie blankets. We had an intergenerational Sunday to tie the blankets. Items were blessed during worship services on March 10 and brought to the hospital.



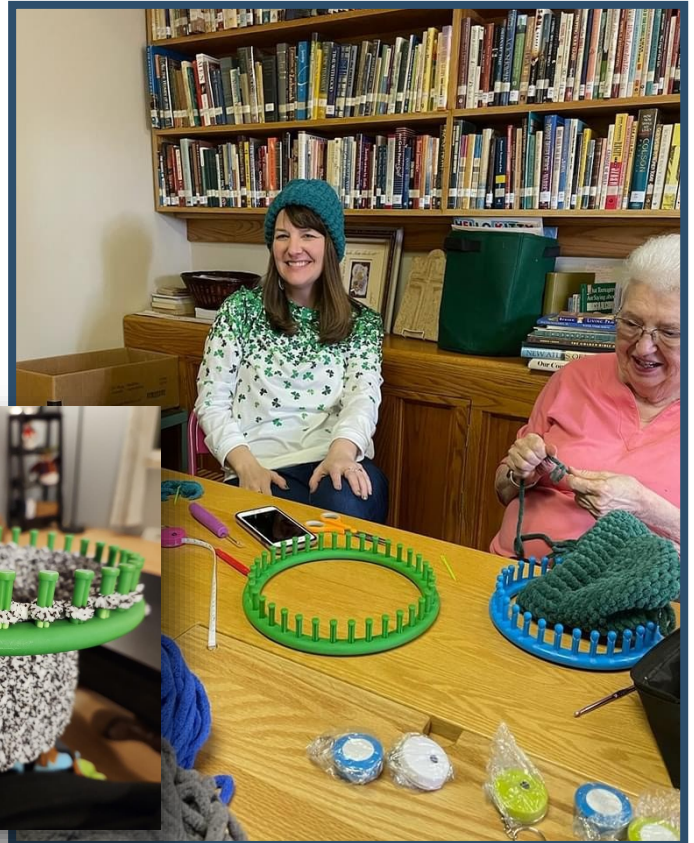
JESUS IS THE ONE SENT (CENT)

Jesus was the "One Sent " (cent) to die and set us free (liberty) from our sins. He rose from the dead so that we could be saved when "In God we Trust".



Share the good news!

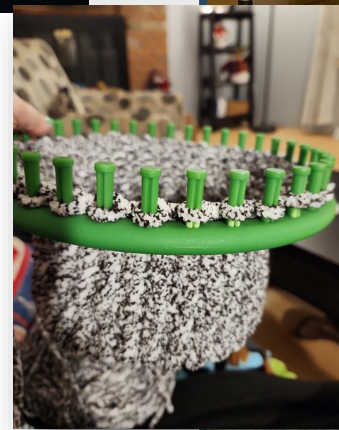
Many thanks to Liz Linden (Thrivent grant) and Carol Elkins for her inspiration!



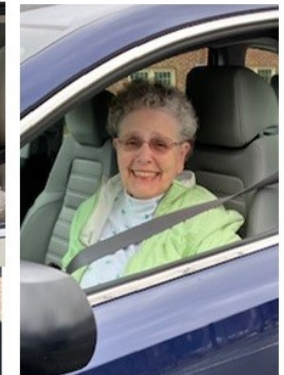
Looms of Love

A group of 10 ladies is currently making hats to be donated to Cups Café this winter. Under the guidance of Judy Weir, we are knitting at home and church in the library on Sundays between services. Our goal is to make 200 hats. (So far they have completed 95 hats... and also 22 hats for babies.)

Funds for supplies to make hats was provided by Thrivent action grants. If you would like to join Looms of Love, contact Judy at 440-789-8178 or find us in the library through May.



DRIVE-THROUGH / DROP-OFF FOOD DRIVE March 9, 2024



THANK YOU!

See "Feeding Medina County" article on page 19.

Operation HOMES



Churches and community organizations working together to provide opportunity and shelter for the homeless.

Jordan Johnston

Operation HOMES is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving those experiencing housing insecurity in Medina County, Ohio for the past 30 years. By rotational partnering with local churches for shelter and food and the administration of life skill programs we provide the opportunity for an individual to be independent, both personally and financially. We are one of the only programs of its kind supporting the needs of the county. We currently have 7 cooperative churches to include, Medina United Church of Christ, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Northside Christian Church, and Medina Community Church.

Our church hosts the Operation HOMES guests 1 week out of every 8. The guests rotate week to week at each church starting on the Monday of each week. The program is designed to be short term (90 days) but oftentimes housing placement becomes an issue due to lack of available affordable housing and landlords not accepting the various vouchers our guests receive for housing. Often time our guests are stuck waiting for an apartment or housing to open up with either the money they saved or the housing voucher they have acquired. At the beginning of 2025, Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority (MMHA) will open the counties first, 28 bed, homeless shelter. In conjunction with MMHA, Operation HOMES will also be transforming our role in the community, to provide another service that is currently being underserved in the county, Transitional Housing. Transitional Housing will serve those families that have graduated, in a sense, from the shelter to the temporary housing program to assist in their quest to find permanent affordable housing.



This is especially near and dear to our church, as St. Matthew previously was the shepherd of Transitional Housing ministry for quite some time. We will begin our full-time transition into this venture come July 2024. St. Matthews also hosts the Day Center, where guests in the program, during the week, have a place to relax, search for jobs, and utilize the myriad of other resources to assist in their search for affordable housing.

If you would like and feel so inclined to donate to operation HOMES, please visit our website at www.operationhomes.org or visit our Facebook page. If you would like more information about how you can help our current mission, we are always looking for individuals to help with overnights and meals at the church; or if you think you have a special skill set that would help in the pursuit of our Transitional Housing project, we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to Jordan Johnston (330-321-2694, Johnston.elite@gmail.com) with any comments, questions, or words of encouragement. Thanks!

St. Matthew is Helping Save Lives

Melody Costello



Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. It is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. Since blood and platelets cannot be manufactured, it must come from generous donors like us. Donating blood takes about an hour. It includes an initial health history; the collection of a pint of blood and a snack in the “canteen”.

In 2022, St. Matthew began hosting blood drives to help collect blood for the American Red Cross. We have held 5 blood drives and collected a total of 130 units of blood. One unit of blood can help up to 3 people. We have St. Matthew members and community members who are regular donors.



Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation. Will you be a donor at our next drive, June 29? Feel free to contact Melody Costello for information about being a donor.

Feeding Medina County

Have you been hungry? Not hungry by missing a meal, but hungry by not having an adequate supply of food? If you're like me, you haven't known this hunger and you feel appreciative for always having a full belly. Maybe, though, you have been in a position of inadequate food.

Four-thousand residents in Medina County are food insecure; meaning they don't know where their next meal is coming from. This number includes children and adults of all ages.

As a church, we committed to donating \$1,000 this year to help Feeding Medina County feed our neighbors in need. They provide various food resources including weekly weekender bags for elementary children throughout the year; monthly bags of food to low-income seniors and 4 monthly food distributions throughout the county for anyone experiencing food insecurity as well as food to those who come to their office.

There are about 25 food pantries throughout Medina County, mostly in churches, providing some type of food resource from groceries to hot meals for those fighting food insecurity. In February, we held our first “drive-thru” food drop off. Food collected was donated to United Methodist Church's food pantry and the fruit cups to Feeding Medina County for the weekender program.

In November 2023, our Luther Middles collected food. That food was organized and bagged and will be given to individuals who come to St. Matthew who may need food. We also have a free food box outside the church where individuals can leave donations and those in need can grab food as needed.

We will be looking at other ways to continue to help the food insecure, so keep your eyes on our various communication sources. St. Matthew is helping to nourish our neighbors and we thank you for your support.





Chairman Dale Weygandt, with Barb Woodard, Rebekah Neidig, Beth Johnson and Mary Dunham

ARCHIVING OUR DOCUMENTS

Dale Weygandt

Late last year our Church Council President asked me to head a committee which would “Do the Archives”! My first task was to assemble a group of interested individuals and together “Do the Archives”. We immediately recognized the need for a policy which would guide us through the many decisions of determining the archival worthiness of the various documents. By using examples from other organizations along with the guidance from our synod and the ELCA, we developed a policy for St Matthew. At this moment the policy is nearly complete.

This project does not just happen. It requires supplies, storage, and many hours of work, scanning, replicating and organizing. Most archivists, including the ELCA require the preserved documents be saved as hard copies, on acid free paper, in acid free folders, in acid free boxes, on acid free shelves, in climate-controlled storage space.

Even in today’s world of digital everything, archival is to be on hard copies. To make the records more accessible we are scanning everything which is archival worthy. The records need to be accessible for our staff and very importantly accessible to anyone with a legitimate desire to do research. It will be much easier to search via the computer than the thousands of documents in storage.

In 1990, paper supply companies began providing acid free copy paper. So, records after 1990 can be stored in acid free folders and boxes, while documents before 1990 need to be replicated on to acid free paper, before being stored.

Several of our church members applied for and received \$250 debit card funds from Thrivent Financial. With these funds, we are securing paper, folders, boxes, external hard drives and miscellaneous items for the job.

Currently, we are replicating all the pre-1990 documents. This is requiring cartons of copy paper and many hours of labor. For example, newspaper articles that have been saved over the years is going to require more than two reams of paper to replicate. (One ream is 500 pages) Newspaper clippings are not archivable because they are not on acid free paper.

Should anyone have documents, pictures, or anything you think helps to tell the story of St Matthew, please contact any of the following committee members or the office.

Many thanks go to the committee members: Barb Woodard, Judy Weir, Rebekah Knaggs Neidig, Beth Johnson, Mary Dunham and Dale Weygandt

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PAST

as written by Oscar Bloch, Circa 1990

St. Matthew Congregation's beginning was on Memorial Day, 1936 when Rev Carl Henkelman and his family came to the Bloch home in Lafayette Township. Since it was rather common custom in those days for a pastor and his family to be invited to dinner by one of the parish families and as members of St. Paul in Berea, my parents invited the Henkelman family to celebrate that holiday with us.

Following dinner and clean-up, we gathered in the living room for a devotional service and also for a blessing of our new home, since we had moved here from Brookpark in early March. Following the service and blessing, the conversation turned to the subject of a Lutheran church in the area. At that time, there were no Lutheran churches in the Medina village. I, quite young at the time, clearly remember being embarrassed by a statement being made by my mother in her fractured German-English language, "It is unpossable that there doesn't be a Lutheran church in Medina." Pastor Henkelman, who was to attend the Annual Ohio Convention in June, informed us he would inquire as to starting a mission church in Medina.

In early July, he brought us some survey forms and informed us we would have to find out how many Lutheran families there were in the area. Although we were not "survey wise", my brother and two sisters made the rounds of families and found, as I recall, fourteen who were Lutheran. This was submitted the following June by Pastor Hinkelman, but we had little hope of having approval for a mission church. God, however, works in strange and beautiful ways, and by His grace, there were two people at the convention who were familiar with the village of Medina and surrounding area; Otto Myers from Zion in Valley City and Dr. Frank Reutter from Zion in Spencer.

They stated there were more than fourteen families in and around Medina and set the stage for a follow-up survey. The move to start the mission gathered momentum and reached its climax on February 6, 1938.

At 2:30 on a warm Sunday, the first service was held in the little store front on West Washington St. It was filled with people, standing room only, both front and rear doors open.

The original store front site was located where the Medina Camera Shop now stands. It was at that time in the third block, with the alley to the west giving access to Wallace Farm Implement Sales.

Mrs. Mildred Reutter played the organ, it being a donation to the congregation by her and her husband.

At that time, St. Matthew was part of a two-fold mission thrust know at St. Peter's. Pastor Waldo E. Byers was the first pastor and would conduct services in Lodi from nine to ten and then drive to Medina to hold services at St. Peter's. In 1940, the Mission in Lodi held its last service. In 1940 or 1941, the mission received its Charter as St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Through the kindness of the Reutter family, a two-bedroom home on St. Elmwood became the rent-free parsonage.

St. Matthew continued to grow under its second pastor, Weldon Bittkoffer, who, by borrowing money from his father, purchased the site where the present-day church is located. Financial assistance for the present sanctuary built in 1950 came from the sale of the "store front church", which had been deeded to the congregation by the Otto Meyer family. It was built with much donated labor by the members and some of our Christian brothers from St. Francis. Rev. Henry Young was our pastor at that time and was really the driving force that convinced the membership that it could be done.



"Store front Church"



Mildred Reutter
(Alice Krull's mother)



Continued next page

Continued.

The picture of the stone church hanging in the south stairway entrance served as a guide for the design used for our present structure. This church, which is in Michigan, was designed by the Akron architect Adam Fichter, who also designed the first educational unit built in 1961.

In 1955, when the new parsonage was built across the street from the church, title to the former parsonage was turned over to the congregation. Proceeds of its sale were used to help pay for the new building. The lot adjacent to Dr. Reutter's office was also deeded to the congregation. Norm Gerspacher, General Contractor of the new parsonage, directed the men of the church in their labor of love. The women of the church provided a good supply of sandwiches and coffee, as well as band aids for bruised fingers.

St. Matthew has been blessed in its first fifty years of life. Many times, after 1950, the Meyers, Reutter and Larabee families generously assisted the congregation through financial hard times far in excess of a tithe.

There is of course much more to the history of St. Matthew. Like any family, there were differences of opinions and members would leave, but these were not disasters but the will of God. Out of one of these times, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church began its life as a mission congregation.

Currently, there are only a handful of people who attended that first service who are still at St. Matthew: Mildred Reutter, Ella Geyer Burke, Florence Hitzelberger Gerspacher, Clara Hitzelberger Gorfido and myself. The daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Schnettler (charter members); Una Mae Gill, Leithea Obermeier, and Lois Davis are still members. Mr. and Mrs. William Garnett, charter members, presently reside in Michigan.

St. Matthew is and always has been a congregation whose members love one another, sharing burdens in times of loss, and rejoicing with one another in times of joy; celebrating good fortune and sharing misfortune. St. Matthew has been blessed and strengthened by its willingness to welcome into its family people of other denominations and this attitude will continue to make St. Matthew unique in its outreach and mission.

When St. Matthew held its first service on that first Sunday afternoon in February, I never believed that God would grant me the privilege to see the day she would celebrate her fiftieth year. Looking back, I count my blessings for me and my family!



Ground Breaking



Construction

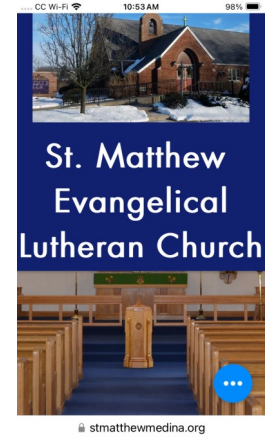
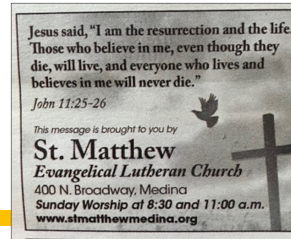







St. Matthew is REACHING OUT!!!

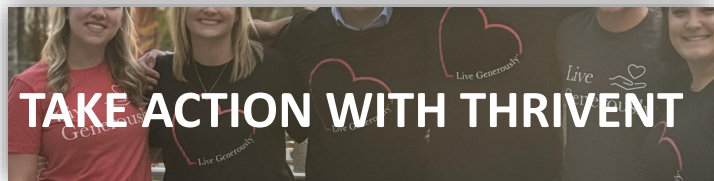


Joe Obermeier and Larry Mohler,
Sound technicians



During the Month of March, 2024:

- **Shoutout** — 262 emailed each week
- **Website** — 590 Visitors in March
- **Facebook** — 396 FB Followers in March 
- **YouTube** — 301 Views (224 live stream views and 77 video views); Five new subscribers 
- **Instagram** — 78 Followers during the month of March 
- **Audio/Video Team (Holy Week)** — 17 viewed Easter service on Facebook and 8 on Youtube. This increased over time, to 40 viewers as of April 2. We had 22 view Palm Sunday on Facebook.
- **Inspirational Messages** are published in the *Medina Weekly* on the first Thursday of each month .
- **MedinaCountyEvents.com** — 669 Viewers of St. Matthew events in March



Thrivent is a Fortune 500 diversified financial services organization, providing advice, investments, insurance, banking and generosity programs and solutions so people can make the most of all they've been given. Giving back is a top priority for both the clients and the company. Clients are provided the opportunity to donate "choice dollars" to a charity/organization of their choice or use action grants to help with fundraisers or projects they wish to lead or contribute to.

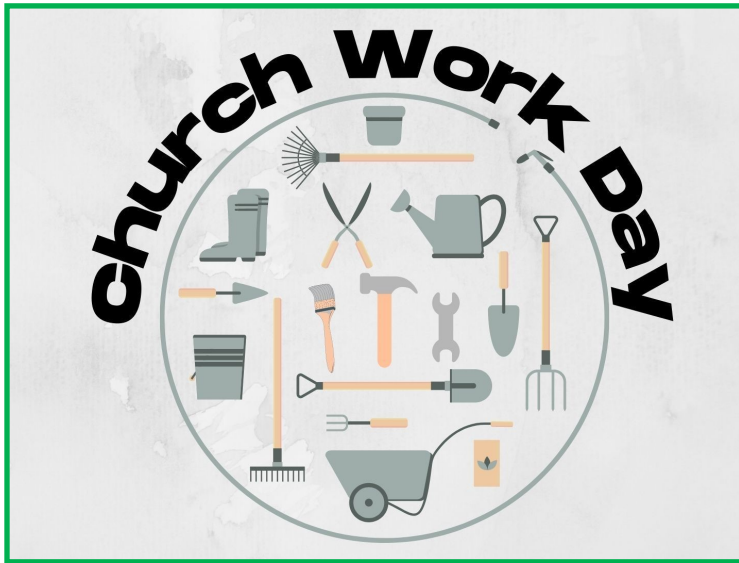
St. Matthew has 30 members who are Thrivent clients. Last year, \$3,000 in action grants were applied for. These grants purchased yarn to make hats for

Cups Café; purchased items for 4 families at Christmas; purchased coffee & creamer for the coffee bar; items for our Block Party; Operation: HOMES; baptismal gifts hams/turkeys for Feeding Medina County and help with the college/military care package ministry.

This year we have already requested \$2,500 in grants! A few of those projects are highlighted in this issue of our Spring newsletter. We will continue to find opportunities for our Thrivent members to do good and extend the opportunity for help with projects to our congregation. **To God be the glory!**

****To find out more about Thrivent and their services, visit thrivent.com or contact a local Thrivent representative.****

FAITH IN ACTION



SATURDAY, MAY 11

(Back-Up Date = May 18)



Joyce Davis is getting ready!

QUESTION: Who is the Youth Representative on the NEO Synod Council?

ANSWER: Our own H.S. Sophomore, August Weight!

Spring/Summer Schedule

APRIL

- 15 Men's Breakfast, Yours Truly, 8:00am
- 22 Silent Book Club, Faith House, 6:30pm

MAY

- 5 First Communion w/ reception
- 11 St. Matthew Work Day (18 = Back-up Day)
- 11 Potluck Dinner, Fellowship Hall, 5:00pm
- 12 Mother's Day; HS youth will lead the service
- 13 Silent Book Club, Faith House, 6:30pm
- 17 Buckeye HS Commencement
- 18 Medina HS Commencement
- 19 Last Day of Sunday School
Luther Middles Bake Sale
- 20 Men's Breakfast, Yours Truly, 8:00am
- 25 Bike Ride with Pastor Steve and cookout at his home

JUNE

- 2 VBS Registration Deadline
- 9 "Loads of Love", North Court Laundry
- 9 Tribute to fathers/men at Ignite in Brunswick (5-8pm)
- 17 Men's Breakfast, Yours Truly, 8am
- 19 Luther League *Swings n Things* outing
- 24-28 Vacation Bible School
- 29 Blood Drive

JULY

- 15-20 ELCA National Youth Gathering
- 23 Cedar Point Trip

AUGUST

- 11 Sunday School Teachers Meeting
- 18 Back to School Blessing

SEPT

- 8 Rally Sunday + SS teacher Installation

*Don't forget about **ongoing** activities and meetings like:*

*Prayer Group—Thursdays at 2:00 pm
Bible and Brews—Thursdays at 7:00 pm
Luther Choir—Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
(through May)
Hat Making w/ Judy—Sundays at 9:45
Youth Gathering Preparations*

The Reverend Steven Mahaffey

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

Deb Musil, Office Administrator

Brenda Disbrow, Parish Nurse

Congregation Council

President: Jennifer Knaggs

Vice President: Kristine Neate

Secretary: Delores Ivan

Treasurer: Teri Uttech

At Large:

Amanda Kotick

Bruce Reed

Jim Woodard



After the joy of celebrating Christ's Resurrection, the Sunday after Easter is often called "Low Sunday" because attendance often decreases along with worshipers' enthusiasm. Our congregation proved that's not always the case as we had many in attendance.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!

This *Celebrate* newsletter is a gift to you from the **Evangelism and Communication** team of St. Matthew.

Beth Johnson, Editor, Publisher

Melody Costello

Carol Elkins

Bobby Forsythe

Stephanie Hess

Brian Harris

Dale Weygandt

Owen Blakslee

Jim Woodard, Council Rep.

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

400 N. Broadway Street

Medina, Ohio 44256

(330) 725-8885

<http://www.stmatthewmedina.org>

