

# Now the Feast and Celebration

*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

September 3, 2023

9:30 a.m.

*Now the Feast & Celebration*

*“Living God’s Love”*

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

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[www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://www.stmatthewmedina.org)

# **St. Mathew 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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## **Now the Feast and Celebration**

*Marty Haugen*

*"Pages" found in the Now the Feast and Celebration booklet.*

*"Hymns" found toward the back of the red hymnal.*

(\* Please stand as you are able.)

## **GATHERING**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Prelude**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness** Page 2

**\*Gathering Song** *For the Beauty of the Earth* Hymn 879

**\*Greeting** Page 2

**\*Kyrie** Page 3

**\*Song** *Now the Feast* Page 4

**\*Salutation** Page 7

#### **\*Prayer of the Day**

**O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

#### **Children's Sermon**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

## **WORD**

### **First Reading**

Jeremiah 15:15-21

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy

and the delight of my heart;  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:

If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.

If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 26:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

<sup>2</sup>**Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**

<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.

<sup>4</sup>**I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.

<sup>6</sup>**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

<sup>8</sup>**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides.**

## **Second Reading**

Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **\*Gospel Verse**

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## **\*Gospel**

Matthew 16:21-28

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.      **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**Hymn of the Day**

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

Hymn 798

**\*Apostles' Creed**

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**\*Prayers of Intercession**

D: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

D: God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. We pray especially for Fran, Dick, Joe, Logan, Una Mae, Sierra, Carol, Amy, Sammy, June, Pat, Adam and Family, Sandi, Judy, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor. Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

D: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Peace**

D: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**MEAL**

<b>Offering</b>	<i>There is a Trustworthy Saying</i> Thomas Gieschen	Luther Choir
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>As the Grains of Wheat</i>	Page 10
<b>*Prayer</b>		Page 11
<b>*Great Thanksgiving</b>		Page 11
<b>*Preface</b>		
<b>*Song</b>	<i>Holy</i>	Page 11
<b>*Eucharistic Prayer</b>		Page 12
<b>*Eucharistic Acclamations</b>		Page 12
<b>Song</b>	<i>Through Christ, With Christ, In Christ</i>	Page 13
<b>*Lord's Prayer</b>		Page 13
<b>Lamb of God</b>		Page 14
<b>Communion Hymns</b>	<i>Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song</i>	Hymn 808

## **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for the blessings of this table.  
May our lives be made new by these gifts of grace and may your love be  
made known through us.

C: **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

**\*Sending Song**                    *Let Streams of Living Justice*

Hymn 710

**\*Trinitarian Blessing & Dismissal**

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**Postlude**

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## **WORSHIP SERVANTS**

Acolyte:	Lucy Brown-Serban Luke Gierhart
Reader:	Delores Ivan
Ushers:	Jen & Sophie Hogan Bruce Reed
Communion Servers:	Melody Costello Julie Shrader
Sound:	Larry Mohler
Video:	Owen Blakslee
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier

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## PRAYERS

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

**Prayers for Healing:** Fran & Dick Koenig, Joe, Logan, Una Mae Gill, Sierra (Davis) Trikillas, Carol Muhlbach, Amy Douglass, Sammy Young, June Trenty, Pat Straub, Adam and Family, Sandi, Judy McLaughlin, and Steve Combs.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**, we worship in-person and via livestream at 9:30 with Now the Feast and Celebration and holy communion.

**Thank you and Welcome** to Cindy Piovarchy, our accompanist for worship this morning.

**New Member Class** in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Steve, following worship.

## NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, AT ST. MATTHEW

### *Rally Day - Return to two services*

**Next Sunday, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost** - We worship in-person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with ELW setting 10. *Livestream at 8:30 a.m.*

**Rally Day** - "God's Game Plan: Catch the Spirit". We will gather in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. for a Spirit Rally and march across the parking lot to our Rally Day Tailgate where there will be games, snacks, a craft, and more! The ENTIRE congregation is invited and encouraged to attend the Spirit Rally and participate in the tailgate activities.

**New Member Reception** in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 service.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SAVE THE DATE** – We are planning a night out to support our local theatre group, Showbiz Medina, and two of our members, Jordan Johnston and Rachel Knaggs. Jordan and Rachel are starring in Bye Bye Birdie. We will be seeing it on September 16 at 7:30 pm with dinner before on the square. Watch for additional details and ticket ordering information.

**New Member Classes Continue** with Pastor Steve following worship on Sundays, August 27 and September 3. New members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, September 10. Please contact Pastor Steve if you are interested in joining St. Matthew.

**An Archive Committee is Forming** to make sure that we are keeping the church records (written and video) up to date with what's required of us as a congregation within the ELCA. They will be looking through both old and recent records, converting paper to digital, and ensuring that we have easy and accessible access to locating the information we need. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Pastor Steve.

**Directories are here!** If you had your photo taken for the directory, you may pick up your free copy from the narthex (look for the directory with your name on it). Otherwise, you may purchase a directory for \$10 - See Melody Costello.

**God's Work Our Hands** - On God's Work. Our Hands. Day, join the cluster churches to pack 10,000+ meals provided by Rise Against Hunger, or you have a choice of tying blankets. Meet at Our Saviour Lutheran, 1605 Center Road, Hinckley, on **Saturday, September 9, no later than 9:15 am**. Please eat breakfast and/or have your coffee before you attend. There will be no food or beverage allowed while working the assembly line. You may wear your GWOH yellow shirt if you have one, or wear a different yellow shirt if you can. Lunch will be provided by Zion Lutheran following the packing, and two desserts from each of the cluster churches. Those from St. Matthew have been promised. Please be sure you have **signed up by September 1** in the Narthex, or contact Barbara Woodard, 330-321-2408 or [barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com](mailto:barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com).

**NURSERY NEWS** - On Sunday, September 10, our nursery attendant will not be available for the 11:00 service. The nursery will be open for parents to supervise their own child unless we have a volunteer offer to serve. The nursery is provided downstairs during our worship services. Kaitlyn Taraschke is trained in nursery care and serves as our attendant.

For the safety of the children, it is wise practice to have two attendants at all times. There are multiple reasons for this. One being that if Kaitlyn needs to be with a child in the restroom, someone needs to be with the rest of the children in the nursery. If you are interested in serving as an assistant to Kaitlyn on a regular basis, please let Pastor Steve, Deacon Lindsay, or Barb Woodard

([barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com](mailto:barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com) or 330-321-2408) know.

We also need a list of names of people who would be interested in filling in when one of the attendants is absent. If you are interested, please let us know.

**Next Blood Pressure Check** will take place before and between services on Sunday, September 17 in the Parish Nurse's office.

**Pull Tab Collection** - We continue to collect tabs to support Ronald McDonald House in Akron and Cleveland. All pull tabs are accepted! (pet food, soup, veggies, beverages, etc.) There are containers located in the Narthex and the Room of the Cross to deposit your pull tabs. If you have any questions, call Joyce at 216-780-0965.

### **A note from our Parish Nurse**

Just a friendly reminder on hospitalizations, or when you are ill:

- The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) prohibit hospitals from making a list of hospitalized patients for public viewing. This has been done as privacy protection for the patient. If you do not want anyone to know you are in the hospital, you have the right to keep that information private.
- If you want a visit from your pastor, Parish Nurse, family or friends, you must take the responsibility to let these people know. (If you are unable to do so, designate a family member or close friend to do so.)
- What can you do if you want care and love from the church and friends when you are hospitalized? You can always contact the **Spiritual Care Department** of the hospital. When you give them your verbal consent, they can contact your church. The best thing you can do, if you are able, is to personally call the church office at (330) 725-8885 and either speak with one of the staff members – or leave a message.
- If you are transferred to a rehabilitation center, or discharged to home – please inform the church of those details also.
- Hopefully, this clarifies any questions or concerns. B. Disbrow, Parish Nurse

*"I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me..."*  
Matthew 25:36

## Finance Report Update for June, July & Year-to-Date St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

	<i>Month of June, 2023</i>	<i>Month of July, 2023</i>	<i>Year-to-Date January-July, 2023</i>
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 32,003.32	\$ 23,717.80	\$ 188,295.54
2023 Approved Mission Plan	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 233,333.31</u>
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ (1,330.01)	\$ (9,615.53)	\$ (45,037.77)

**Financial Update:** *St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church received the unrestricted offerings as compared to the 2023 approved Mission Plan objective shown for the months of June, July, and 2023 year-to-date. Please prayerfully consider increasing your offering to support the church and its mission of Living God's Love. Thank you for your continued generosity.*

*By setting up recurring donations online, you enable us to maintain financial stability and plan for the future of St. Matthew. St. Matthew has 54 member families that contribute through Vanco. Please increase our participation and consider signing up for Simply Giving at:*

*<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4MP/home>*

**SPECIAL NOTE:** *St. Matthew has set-up in Simply Giving easy access for donations directly to the Renovation / Refresh Project. Please check it out and contribute as you are able. If you have any questions about your current account or setting up your account, contact our Financial Director Bruce Reed at (412) 848-0219 or email Bruce at [brucerreed@comcast.net](mailto:brucerreed@comcast.net).*

## **St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff**

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
John Burke	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**

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### **Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information**

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Hearing Loop  
System available.