



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 17, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Opening Songs

I Will Call Upon the Lord

I will call upon the Lord
who is worthy to be praised.
So shall I be saved from my enemies.
I will call upon the Lord.

The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock,
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock,
and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

(Repeat)

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first, the Kingdom of God;
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added
unto you.
Allelu, Allelujah.

Ask and it shall be given unto you;
See and ye shall find;
Knock and it shall be opened unto
you.
Allelu, Allelujah.

Peace Like a River

Page 19

Opening

D: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Song

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Page 2

Blessing of the Backpacks

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 82

¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
² **"How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?**
³ Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;
⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**
⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
⁶ **Now I say to you, 'You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**
⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.'"
⁸ **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:29--12:2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 12:49-56

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Jesus said: ⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Song

They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Page 3

Prayers

D: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

D: Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound especially Don, Brenda Lee, Sue, Darine, Margery, Una Mae, Rosemary, Alan, Loretta, Ed, Jerry, Tom, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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.**

Holy Communion

Let Us Break Bread Together

Page 17

Prayer after Communion

P: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Song

Pass It On

Page 1

Dismissal

D: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP SERVANTS - SUMMER WORSHIP - 9:30 A.M.

THIS WEEK

Acolytes: Aubrey Terihay
Reader: Delores Ivan
Communion Servers: Melody Costello
Rick Grice
Ushers: Alan & Delores Ivan
Bruce Reed
Sound: Larry Mohler
Video: N/A
Altar Guild: Shannon Turney
Guitar: Rachel Knaggs
Pastor Steve Mahaffey
Scott Schwandt
Craig Zavotka

NEXT WEEK

Bennett Alt
June Trenty

Joe Obermeier
Brian Harris
Shannon Turney

PRAYERS

Memorial Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God, marking one year on August 21 - "Gary has been gone from my side - Still missing you", by Sandy Kelling.

Prayers for Healing: Don Linden, Brenda Lee, Sue Schwab, Darine Prok, Margery Murray, Una Mae Gill, Rosemary Evans, Alan Ivan, Jr., Loretta Thornton, Ed, Jerry Jakovcic, & Tom Thornton.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, we worship outdoors in person at 10:00 a.m. at Buckeye Woods with holy communion and a backpack blessing.

Potluck Picnic following worship.

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 24 AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, we will worship in person at 9:30 a.m. with Praise and holy communion.

Sunday School Teacher Meeting - 10:45 a.m. in the Upper Room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Disaster Relief Ministry Trip - Please contact Bob or Carla Maas TODAY if you are interested in participating. Members of St. Matthew will be traveling to Carter County Tennessee **November 2-7, 2025**. We will assist those who suffered great loss from Hurricane Helene last September. This is our congregation's first disaster relief trip and a gospel-inspired addition to our church's mission. For the people unable to travel with us, you can provide support by praying for us and the people impacted in Carter County, help us collect tangible items to take with us for distribution, help with communication to the congregation and help raise funds to defer the costs of the trip. Stay tuned for more information.

Amish Country Fun Fellowship - September 13. Payment is Due Today if you are signed up! Cash (please put your name on the envelope for tracking) -Check to "Amish Table Talk" -Venmo to: Lavonne-DeBois. If paying by cash or check, you can hand deliver to LaVonne on a Sunday that she is playing piano, or checks can be mailed to her at: LaVonne DeBois, Amish Table Talk, 120 Sturbridge Dr., Medina, Ohio 44256.

Catechism Orientation - Sunday, September 7, during the Sunday School hour (9:45 - 10:45 a.m.) in the Upper Room. For children entering grades 6-8 and their parents. Discussion will cover the confirmation model and curriculum, dates for upcoming service and fellowship opportunities, and students will receive their materials for the year, as well as acolyte training.

Fall Acolyte Sign-Up - The Sign-Up Genius with the acolyte schedule is available for September - December 2025. Each catechism student is required to acolyte at least twice during this time period. Please select your dates and sign up no later than Sunday, August 24. Any remaining slots after that will be filled in at random, beginning with those who are not signed up for the requested number of dates. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080949A9AE22A1F85-57724852-acolyte#

Sunday School Teacher Meeting - Sunday, August 24 at 10:45 a.m. in the Upper Room. We will discuss Rally Day (Sept. 14), curriculum, teacher rotations, safety procedures, and upcoming Comprehensive Youth activities. If you are interested in assisting with youth events or Sunday School, please join us.

Eucharistic Visitor Ministry - An introductory meeting will be held on **August 31**, following worship, in the Fellowship Hall, for any interested in participating in the Eucharistic Visitor Ministry (home communion visitors).

Growing Roots - A Small Group Ecumenical Study - "Getting to Know Jesus" book series: A Guided Discovery for Groups and Individuals. We will study the gospel of Mark. Cost is approx. \$8.00. We will meet every other week, on Wednesday, for 90 minutes, beginning at 9:30 am, **September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22, November 5 & 19**. Meet at Elaine Stone's apartment: 1151 N. Jefferson, Unit 9, Medina.

Piano & Organ Concert - September 21, 3:00-4:30 pm in the sanctuary. Come enjoy an afternoon of both piano and organ music. A free will offering will be taken to help raise money for the organ fund. La Vonne De Bois will showcase pieces on the piano and Cindy Piovarchy will feature selections on the organ. They will also share in a few organ and piano duets. We hope to see you there.

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Cindy Piovarchy	Organist
LaVonne DeBois	Associate Pianist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Heather Rohde	Bookkeeper
Joyce Davis	Maintenance Supervisor
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Rachel Knaggs	Kids of the Kingdom Director
Annabelle Thompson	Nursery Attendant
Scott Schwandt	Praise Team Leader

Pastor Steve's Contact Information

Email: pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

Email: lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 440-376-8338

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm (excluding holidays)

Friday: Office Closed

“Living God’s Love”

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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