



# *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

April 25, 2021

9:00 a.m.

*Praise Liturgy*

*“Living God’s Love”*

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

330-725-8885 † [office@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:office@stmatthewmedina.org)

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

## GATHERING

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

### Welcome and Announcements

Good News Moment

Call Committee Communication

Todd Costello

### Prelude

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font*

*as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

P: We thank you, risen Christ,  
for these waters where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.  
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us  
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,  
like rains to our thirsting earth,  
like streams that revive our souls,  
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.  
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.  
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.  
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.  
Make us one, risen Christ.  
Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.  
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Gathering Song:**

*Holy Spirit*

**\*Greeting**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold.  
Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you,  
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

**Children's Sermon**

Pastor Bill Diehm

## WORD

**First Reading**

Acts 4:5-12

<sup>5</sup>The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,

whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is  
‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup>There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals  
by which we must be saved.”

## Psalm

Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our  
lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a  
brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will  
know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts  
condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do  
not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask,  
because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and  
love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him,  
and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

## \*Gospel

John 10:11-18

P: The holy gospel according to John.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>11</sup>“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The  
hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and  
leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired  
hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I  
know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I  
lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring  
them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this  
reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes  
it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to  
take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Pastor Bill Diehm

## Hymn of the Day:

*Good, Good Father*

## \*Apostle’s Creed

## **\*Prayers of Intercession**

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

*A brief silence.*

P: Loving Shepherd, you know your own and your own know you. Your voice calls us to your loving embrace. Strengthen your church throughout the world that we bear witness to your expansive love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Gracious Shepherd, you are generous with the gifts of goodness and mercy. Restore your creation to wholeness so that cities and towns, countryside and wilderness, may abound with life. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Hope-giving Shepherd, the nations and peoples are your heritage. Place into the hearts of all leaders and rulers the passion to serve. Crucify any desire to overpower others and give leaders joy in lifting up the lowly. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Abiding Shepherd, your love flows as we reach out to those around us. Move us with your Spirit, so that we lay down our lives for those in need, especially Melanie Minen, Jim Apana, Bob Lentz, Lloyd Madis, Deacon Lindsay, Chuck Payne, and Esther Svoboda.. Help us love one another in truth and action. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Saving Shepherd, you restore us to wholeness. Help our community in our life together and give us vigor as a people of faith. In the midst of challenges and opportunities, fill us anew with you Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Risen Lord, 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. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Eternal Shepherd, you hold us securely in your loving hands. In the assurance of resurrection hope, we remember our loved ones who have died in you. Bring us, with them, to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; 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

### Offering Prayer

P: God of love,  
you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table.  
Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.  
Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world;  
for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

### \*Great Thanksgiving

### \*Eucharistic Prayer

### \*Lord's Prayer

### \*Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ invites us to this table.  
Come, eat, and be satisfied

### Music at Holy Communion

### \*Table Blessing

### \*Prayer after Communion

P: Wellspring of joy,  
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.  
Satisfy the hunger still around us,  
and send us as joyful witnesses,  
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

### \*Blessing

\*Sending Song: *My Redeemer Lives*

### \*Dismissal:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### \*Postlude

*Thank you for observing our protocols for gathering this Sunday.*

## PRAYERS

**Prayers for Healing:** Melanie Minen, Jim Apana, Bob Lentz, Lloyd Madis, Deacon Lindsay, Chuck Payne, and Esther Svoboda.

**Altar Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Today, Fourth Sunday of Easter** - we will worship in person and online at 9:00 a.m. with Praise hymns.

**Combined Adult/Youth Sunday School Class** at 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall and via Zoom. Forum discussion on the post-Covid church.

**Parking Lot Communion** at 10:15 a.m.

## NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 2, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Fifth Sunday of Easter**, we will worship in person and online at 9:00 a.m. with ELW hymns.

**Combined Adult/Youth Sunday School Class** at 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall and via Zoom. Forum discussion on the post-Covid church.

**Parking Lot Communion** at 10:15 a.m.

<b>WORSHIP SERVANTS</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>April 25</b>	<b>May 2</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Song Leader</b>	Helen Graf	
<b>Reader</b>	Lisa Burke	Lisa Burke
<b>Ushers</b>	Bruce Reed Melody Costello Todd Costello	Melody Costello Todd Costello Kacey Costello
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Lisa Burke	Melody Costello
<b>Sound</b>	Larry Mohler	Larry Mohler
<b>Video</b>	Brian Harris	Rex Rickly
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Nancy McNeal & Sandy Andrews	Helen Graf

## NEWS FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

April 23, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

Greetings from the Call Committee! We know that you have been hearing our committee mentioned in the prayers that you may keep us in your thoughts and pray for our efforts in this process to call a new pastor to the ministry of St. Matthew. We are following a 9-step process as outlined by the ELCA on the Call Process. Happy to report that we have checked off the first 3 steps! As a team, we are working through step 4, which is one of the more involved and timely processes. Let's reintroduce you to the Call Committee and the roles that we have taken within the group:

Jill Heck - Chairperson  
Christy Gabler - Vice Chairperson  
Kate Ilg - Historian / Ice breakers  
Troy Gerspacher - Liaison to Executive Council  
Todd Costello - Liaison to the congregation  
Jen Knaggs - Prayer Warrior / Devotions  
Aaron Reising - Technology  
John Burke - Technology

We thought we might share with you part of the language we are using to guide and perform this duty of "calling" a new pastor to St. Matthew.

### **What is a Call?**

The Call Process is NOT a pageant in which contestants present themselves to their best advantage so they will be the winners. The Lutheran Call Process is unique because it is an effort to discern what God wants for the local church and for the whole Church in order that the Gospel may be proclaimed and the sacraments administered in accordance with the Gospel. The Call Committee, the Council, and eventually the entire congregation participate fully in the process. In the Call Process the Bishop, the Congregation, and prospective pastor work together with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to bring about a new partnership that is faithful to the Gospel, empowers the local church in its ministry, and strengthens the whole Church as people of God.

The Call Committee, with input from the congregation, and approval by the council, puts together a ministry site profile [MSP] which states the congregation's reason for being, its mission, and the needed leadership skills and gifts of a pastor to work with them toward that mission.

At this point, we have had introductory and kickoff meetings with Pastor Bill and with the assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Karl Bierman. We have also gathered multiple documents for review and discernment. They include the Pastoral Search Survey from 2020, the Transition Task Force Summary, and additional support documents from the NEO Synod office on NEO church demographics, the call process, and the MSP.

Our goal is to be as transparent as we are able without jeopardizing the level of confidentiality we have been entrusted with. We hope to bring you good news as we reach milestones in this process and continue to ask for your prayers, patience, and support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [tmc1168@gmail.com](mailto:tmc1168@gmail.com) or 330-391-1309.

Yours in Christ,

Todd Costello  
2021 Call Committee - Liaison to the congregation

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Combined Adult/Youth Sunday School Class** - April 18, 25, and May 2 - 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall and via Zoom. We will have a forum discussion on the post-Covid church.

**Pierstorf Memorial Loan Fund** - provides interest-free loans to Lutheran students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. This year, the maximum interest-free loan is \$3,000 for the school year. For information, visit [www.Pierstorf.org](http://www.Pierstorf.org) and complete the 2021-2022 application. Applications open April 15, 2021 and close June 30, 2021.

**Operation HOMES Meals** - Thank you so much to everyone who provided meals for our Operation HOMES guests this past week. Your generosity is very much appreciated. Looking ahead, our next week will be June 7 to June 13.

**The Five Star Ministry structure** at St. Matthew has served us well for many years. As the website team evaluated how St. Matthew is viewed by both members and guests, it became apparent that it might be time for a change. A task force has been formed to consider our goals for the future and what structure for ministry will best meet the needs of St. Matthew. Anyone in the congregation who might be interested in taking a deep dive into our ministry areas and finding an excellent new composition for lay leadership is welcome to join this effort. The new task force will be meeting for the first time on Wednesday, May 5, at 8:00 p.m., immediately following the Communication Evangelism (CE) Team meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. All are welcome! If you have input or questions, please contact either Lisa Burke or Melody Costello.

**Vacation Bible School Call For Help!** We are looking for group leaders, Bible/story leader, and a craft leader. In addition, we will need help with opening skits. If you would like to help, or would like to find out more information, please contact Christy Gabler at [mschrispy@aol.com](mailto:mschrispy@aol.com) or 330-441-1841, Deacon Lindsay at [lindsay@stmatthewmedinda.org](mailto:lindsay@stmatthewmedinda.org), or Julie Shrader at [jshrader@buckeyeschools.org](mailto:jshrader@buckeyeschools.org). A planning meeting will be held on April 29 at 7:00pm (we will decide closer to that time if it will be via zoom or in person).

**Vacation Bible School Registration** - This year St. Matthew will be holding a shortened and abridged VBS for children who recently completed Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. During the week of **June 21-25**, VBS will be held outside at St. Matthew from **9:30-11:00 a.m.** (Inclement weather plans are being developed with safe distancing practices in mind.) This year's theme is "On Earth As In Heaven" and will center around the different petitions of the Lord's Prayer. Due to Covid protocols, registration will be capped at 24 children! Social distancing measures will be observed and masks will be required. **All registrations must be received by June 4.** Register at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemOEF-8mkLCNvGOTxqXPTx0Qg8sfvnlZFwLi4SdvZA0a31HQ/viewform>

**Anyone entering St. Matthew's Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall can breath easy:** Thanks to the good efforts of our Property Team, including Troy Gerspacher, and Tom and Joyce Davis, St Matthew now has installed and functioning Anti-Covid air treatment units on the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall HVAC systems. What this means is that any pathogens in the HVAC air will be reduced if not eliminated, further improving the safety of our in-person worship.

**Visit Stmatthewmedina.org:** The new home page for our website is dynamic, user friendly and reflects the signs of the season. Relive the beauty of the sanctuary on Easter Sunday by visiting the home page. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and see the most recent important announcements for the week. An addition to the website this week is the new Call Committee page that can be found under the About tab. To stay updated on the progress of the Call process check back on a regular basis.

**New Care Team Ministry at St. Matthew** - You're Invited to prayerfully consider being a part of a new Care Team Ministry at St. Matthew. The Mission of this new ministry is "to live God's love by intentionally caring for, supporting and connecting with the members of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church". If this resonates with you and if you are interested in being part of an exciting new ministry at St. Matthew, please contact Deacon Lindsay. Keep an eye out in the near future for a letter that further explains this exciting new ministry.

**Electronic Offering Updates** - If anyone needs help in changing their electronic giving (ACH) through Vanco please feel free to contact Dean Hauptman 216-280-7472 or email at [dlhauptman73@gmail.com](mailto:dlhauptman73@gmail.com).

**Finance Report for March and Year-to-Date  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

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

	<b>Month of</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>
	<b>March 2021</b>	<b>March 2021</b>
Total Revenue	\$ 32,213.98	\$ 87,708.81
Total Expenses	\$ 29,973.15	\$ 86,793.84
Net Operating Revenue (Loss)	\$ 2,240.83	\$ 914.97
Net Other	\$ 14.77	\$ 59.07
Net Revenue (Loss)	\$ 2,255.60	\$ 974.14



**As We Begin to hold In-Person meetings again ...  
Remember to:**

- ◆ Observe Social Distancing
- ◆ Wear Face Masks
- ◆ Clean Surfaces After Your Meeting
- ◆ Notify the Office to Update the Calendar

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Total Revenue	\$ 32,213.98	\$ 87,708.81
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 29,973.15</u>	<u>\$ 86,793.84</u>
Net Operating Revenue (Loss)	\$ 2,240.83	\$ 914.97
Net Other	\$ 14.77	\$ 59.07
Net Revenue (Loss)	<u>\$ 2,255.60</u>	<u>\$ 974.14</u>

**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 Girsis	Nursery Attendant
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Heather Rohde	Youth Worship Music Director