

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

Praise service

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Praise

“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

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

Good News Moment

***Gathering Song** *Here I Am to Worship*

***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**

**Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured
out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us
by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of
righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Children's Message

Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.
³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
 you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
 the song of the ruthless was stilled.
⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
 a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
 of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
 the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
 the sheet that is spread over all nations;
⁸he will swallow up death forever.
 Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
 and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
 for the LORD has spoken.
⁹It will be said on that day,
 Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
 This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
 let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

Psalm

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
 I shall not be in want.
²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
 and leads me beside still waters.**
³You restore my soul, O LORD,
 and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
⁴**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.**
⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
⁶**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

Philippians 4:1-9

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm
 in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes,
 and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have
 struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the
 rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.
⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be
 known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in

everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

***Gospel**

Matthew 22:1-14

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger

Hymn of the Day:

Above All

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: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

D: For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world, that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. We pray especially for Liz, Garrett, Stevie, Jim, Tom, Fran, Dick, Logan, June, Adam and Family, Sandi, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy, that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through 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: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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.**

Distribution

Communion Song *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: The God of glory, ☩ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song:** *Because He Lives*

***Dismissal:**

D: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Song Leader: Heather Rohde
Guitar: Scott Schwandt
Drums: Lennie Davis
Bass: Karl Hermann

PRAYERS

Harvest Home Sundays - Enjoy the benefits of the harvest today. Thank you to all who supplied items.

Prayers for Healing: Prayers for Healing: Liz Linden, Garrett Shook, Stevie, Jim Kelling, Tom Thornton, Fran & Dick Koenig, Logan, June Trenty, Adam and Family, Sandi, and Steve Combs.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, we will worship in-person at 8:30 and 11:00 with Praise and holy communion. *Livestream at 8:30.*

Welcome & Thank You to Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger for leading worship along with Deacon Lindsay this morning.

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

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost, we will worship in-person at 8:30 and 11:00 with ELW 10 and holy communion. *Livestream at 8:30.*

First Bible Blessing & Presentation during the Children's Sermon.

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

WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING

Acolyte:	8:30 - Evan Hogan	11:00 - Olivia Naida
Reader:	8:30 - Adam Scheid	
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Jennifer Knaggs Nancy McNeal	11:00 - Teri Uttech Sandy Andrews
Ushers:	8:30 - Jennifer & Sophie Hogan	11:00 - Cindy Rickly
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Owen Blakslee	
Altar Guild:	Becky Malloy & Julie Shrader	

Finance Report Update for August, September & Year-to-Date St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

	<i>Month of August, 2023</i>	<i>Month of Sept., 2023</i>	<i>Year-to-Date January-Sept., 2023</i>
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 25,329.84	\$ 25,168.86	\$ 238,794.24
2023 Approved Mission Plan	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 299,999.97
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ (8,003.49)	\$ (8,164.47)	\$ (61,205.73)

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 August, September 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 56 (increase 2) 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 Link easy access for donations directly to the Renovation / Refresh Project. Please select from a one-time donation or recurring donation 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Steve on vacation October 3-16.

Please know that while seeking renewal and rest, he will not be looking at nor responding to emails. Additionally, please honor this important and necessary time away by refraining from texts, calls, instant messages, or other forms of social media communication. Thank you for showing care for your pastor in honoring healthy boundaries.

Parish Nurse, Brenda Disbrow will be out of the office Tuesday, October 17.

Congregational Council Meetings - The regular business meetings of the Congregational Council are the third Tuesday of every month and they are open to the congregation to attend if you are interested. The meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. and are held in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend in person at that time, you can be sent a Zoom link to attend virtually or to review the recording after the meeting. Please reach out to a member of Council or the church office to receive that email. The meeting schedule for the rest of 2023 is: Tuesday, October 17, 2023, Tuesday, November 21, 2023, and Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

Sunshine Meals Ministry - Have you heard of the “Sunshine Meals?” This is a wonderful group of people from St. Matthew who volunteer to periodically make or purchase meals and deliver them to parishioners at a time of need. If you would like to learn more about this ministry or want to volunteer, please contact our Parish Nurse, Brenda Disbrow, or the coordinator of the program, Sue Schwab. If you would like to be a recipient of a meal(s) after a hospitalization, health issue, or loss of a loved one, please contact Sue Schwab at 330-242-3397. A sincere thank you to Sue for her role in supporting the parishioners of St. Matthew and to all the volunteers who lend their time and talent to help others. *Brenda Disbrow, Parish Nurse*

Flower Pot Contest - Check out our St. Matthew flower pot decorated on Medina Square during the month of October, as part of the Mainstream Medina 2023 Fall Flower Pot Contest. Our flower pot is located on Broadway, directly between the old and new courthouse.

2023 Advent Devotions - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PRAEKGXF_55MpXyPolw2CxbJ95klFWIzDEo2h7cvdW4/edit#gid=0

Nominating Committee Volunteers - 2024 is coming and our congregation needs to look for our next leaders of the Congregational Council. The Nominating Committee will seek to identify individuals who want to take part in the leadership team in managing our church affairs. The Nominating Committee will also be seeking and confirming the leaders of our Five Star Ministry Chairs

and Co-Chairs. If you are interested in taking part in the nominating process or feel the call to be nominated for a specific office or Five Star position, please contact Jennifer Knaggs 330-413-0529.

432 North Broadway Use Update - To date, we have over 20 responses from the congregation on what we should be doing with the 432 North Broadway property. The top areas identified are: some form of continued Transitional Housing options, work with Operation Homes to expand their services, and partnering with Habitat for Humanity to house their new home families while they wait for their new home to be completed. These three options were further defined to be short-term uses, two years or less, to enable St. Matthew to continue to serve our community while we take a longer-term view of our development of our facility and grounds. If you have comments or other ideas on what this property should be used for, please contact Bill Heck 330-723-3390.

Directory App - You received an email this past week from Universal Church Directory (UCD), with your family's "unique identifier". Follow the directions to download the "MyUCD" app onto your smart phone and/or desktop. If you want to update your contact information or add a photo, contact our UCD Admin., Beth Johnson or UCD volunteers, Sandy Andrews or Melody Costello.

How you can help with the Renovation Project?

Donations of \$65,755.63 received as of September 30, 2023

How can we help or donate to the Renovation Project?

Mail a check to St. Matthew

OR

Simply Giving Link

1. Go to www.stmatthewmedina.org
2. Click on "Give"
3. At the bottom of the page under "Online," click "Give Here"
4. Select "St. Matthew Refresh/Renovation"
5. Choose from a one-time donation or recurring donation

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

Email: pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

Email: lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop
System available.