

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

Praise service

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

**June 16, 2024
9:30 a.m.**

“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

Father's Day Litany

P: For fathers everywhere, who have given us life and love, that we may show them respect and love.

C: Holy God, hear this prayer for our fathers.

P: For fathers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them.

C: Holy God, hear this prayer for our fathers that mourn.

P: For men who may or may not have children of their own, but act like a father to someone in need of advice, support, nurturing, and love.

C: Holy God, hear this prayer for our father figures.

P: For step-fathers who have assumed that role with love and joy, who have loved the children of another as their own, and created a new family.

C: Holy God, hear this prayer for step-fathers.

P: For adoptive fathers, who have heard the call of God to lovingly step forward for those that need their care.

C: Holy God, hear this prayer for adoptive fathers.

P: For fathers who have been unable to be a source of strength, who have not responded to the needs of their children, and have not sustained their families.

C: Holy God, have mercy on absentee fathers.

P: For fathers who struggle with temptation, violence, or addiction. For those who do harm, and for those whom they have harmed.

C: Holy God, have mercy on fathers that struggle.

P: For new fathers, full of hope. For long-time fathers, full of wisdom. For the fathers yet to be, and fathers soon to be.

C: Holy God, hear our prayer for the fathers of your Church.

P: For those that have shaped our lives without claim of family or kinship. For those who have taught us, guided us, shaped us and molded us into servants of Christ our Lord.

C: Holy God, hear our prayer for the fathers of our faith.

P: God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Song** *Come, Now is the Time 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**

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

WORD

First Reading

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

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

Psalm

Psalm 92:1-4,12-15

¹It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High;
²**to herald your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night;**
³on the psaltery, and on the lyre,
and to the melody of the harp.
⁴**For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**
¹²The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.
¹³**Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**
¹⁴they shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be green and succulent;
¹⁵**that they may show how upright the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is no injustice.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-10-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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

***Gospel**

Mark 4:26-34

P: The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ!

Sermon

Pastor David Conner

***Hymn of the Day:**

Shout to the Lord

***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: We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

A brief silence.

D: Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place in history. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: You raise the lowly and humble those in high regard. Raise up all who are victims of marginalization, discrimination, and hate. As we anticipate Juneteenth, banish white supremacy and bigotry from the hearts of your people and remove the inclination toward anger and violence. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Tend to all who journey by faith and who wait with patience for the fulfillment of your healing promises especially Jen, Catherine, Sylvia, Karen, June, Steve, Tom, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Todd, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Grant perseverance to people doing physical and occupational therapy, people living with mobility concerns, and people facing chronic pain. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: With gratitude, we remember the saints who are now at home with you. Plant seeds of their wisdom and witness in our hearts, that we grow in faith until we join them in your heavenly dwelling. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

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: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

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.

Communion

Jesus, What a Beautiful Name

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song:**

Because of Your Love

***Dismissal:**

D: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

+++

Song Leader: Caroline Obermeier

Drums: Lennie Davis

Pianist: Cindy Piovarchy

PRAYERS

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

Prayers for Healing: Jen Knaggs, Catherine Forsythe, Sylvia, Karen Rupert, June Trenty, Steve Combs, Tom Thornton, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Todd Costello, and Sandi.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Happy Father's Day!

Next Sunday, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, worship in person and livestream at 9:30 a.m., Praise and holy communion.

Welcome and Thank You to Pastor David Conner for leading worship along with Deacon Lindsay this morning.

NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 23, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, we will worship in person and livestream at 9:30 a.m., ELW 8 and holy communion.

Gathering Prep - 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	9:30 - Andrew Hogan
Reader:	9:30 - Delores Ivan
Communion Servers:	9:30 - Bob & Carla Maas
Ushers:	9:30 - Todd & Melody Costello Bruce Reed
Sound:	9:30 - Larry Mohler
Video:	9:30 - Rick Sullivan
Altar Guild:	Nancy McNeal, Becky Malloy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VBS Donations - We are in need of a few items for VBS (June 24-28) and we invite the congregation to consider donating: bottled water, juice boxes, juice pouches, paper plates, and napkins. Donations can be placed in the Narthex in (or near) the box provided near the coffee station.

Calling All Luther Leaguers - Let's extend our final Gathering Meeting on June 23rd and head over to the Weight House for a bonfire. If you are not attending the gathering, you are still invited! We will meet at the Weight House at 7:45 p.m. We also need to solidify a date for the carwash. Please fill out the Google form through the link in the Shout-Out for the bonfire and carwash dates.

Looms of Love/Hat Making is making hats for the homeless in Cleveland to be distributed at Christmas. They meet every other Monday at Faith House from 6:30-7:30 pm. If you would like to help, please contact Judy Weir. Next meeting: June 24.

Shoe Drive Fundraiser - We are collecting new and *Gently Used* Shoes to benefit our High School Youth Group! Please clean out your closets and drop them in the box in the narthex or contact Amanda Kotick for a pick-up, 330-321-5318. Please make sure they are clean and have no holes! Any size, ANY style!! Our GOAL is 2250 PAIRS of shoes! Every pair you donate turns into funds for us, is kept out of landfills and helps micro-entrepreneurs around the world! Please share the word and ask your family and friends! Thank you so much!!!

Musicians Wanted - If you are a musician/vocalist who would like to share your gifts at St. Matthew during worship, please contact Rachel Knaggs at rknaggsmusic@gmail.com or Nancy McNeal at 330-242-2116.

Morning Coffee Bar - We are looking for your help to prepare and clean-up the coffee bar in the Narthex. Responsibilities include, arriving at 7:45 to plug the coffee maker in and prep the coffee maker to brew. You would also be responsible for clean-up. Thank you so much for your help with this enjoyable part of our Sunday morning experience together. Specific instructions can be found in the Shout-Out and posted by the coffee maker. A sign-up link is available through the Shout-Outs.

Silent Book Club! Meets every other Monday at Faith House (432 N. Broadway). Upcoming dates are 6/17, 7/1, and 7/15 @ 6:30 pm. BYOBook! See you there!

Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Matthew June 29, 8 am - 1 pm. Please share with your friends and family. We have a goal of 40 donors! This is another way we are reaching out beyond our walls (within our walls) to help the sick in our community. Go to the Red Cross website to sign up or use the link in the Shout-Out.

Free Library - Help us build a free library at Faith House. The best books are shared! Leave a book, take a book, love a book, keep a book. Bring books to Silent Book Club gatherings or contact Jen Knaggs. *As a reminder: You can also borrow books from the library on the first floor of the church, as well as take a free book from the Don Hodek Memorial Library on the lower level.*

Cross Penny Ministry - Jesus Cross pennies remind us that Jesus was the One sent (cent) to set us free (liberty) from our sins. He rose from the dead so that we could be saved when "In God We Trust". Please take and share cross pennies which can be found in the narthex.

"Getting to Know You" - The *Getting to Know You* segment in the Shout-Out has been received very positively! Please take a couple minutes to respond to the few questions through the link in the Shout-Out or you can find the form in the Narthex. We would love to

Organ Focus Group - Our organ was installed in 1972. In addition to its needed yearly maintenance, it is in need of repair. The worship team has been proactive in having our organ evaluated by three different reputable organ companies and have received feedback on both the needed basic maintenance and repairs, as well as costs involved at all levels of service. In order to make the best decisions not only for the current status of our organ but for its future, we would like to think about how we want the organ to serve us as a congregation. How do we see the organ impacting our worship experience? We would like to create an Organ Focus Group to further discuss the impact of our second most valuable church asset, behind number one, our physical building. If you are interested in participating in this focus group, please contact Rachel Knaggs (330-591-7093/rknaggsmusic@gmail.com) or Kristin Weight (330-416-5730/kristinweight@gmail.com).

St. Matthew Risk Management Team - In years past, faithful members organized this group to develop plans/coordinate ideas to promote safety for our St. Matthew family, our building and facilities. Thank you! Congregational Council is actively wanting to move forward with what they put together, add to it, and implement an overall preparedness/safety plan.

Members of Congregational Council had the opportunity to attend a presentation by the Medina Police Department and Ohio Homeland Security to discuss safety/security-oriented resources for Faith Based Organizations and Houses of Worship. It was a very informative presentation with a wealth of information and resources that are available to us, including grants and funding options. This would serve in a variety of safety/security ways including medical, weather, fire, accident, and personal safety. A working knowledge or background in any of those areas would be helpful, but is not needed. We will be forming a group to move forward with these ideas and procedures, and are looking for people who would feel called to work on this. Please reach out to Jen Knaggs, or any member of Congregational Council if you have any questions or you would be willing to participate. Thank you!

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Cindy Piovarchy	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.

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Friday: Office Closed