

Now the Feast and Celebration

Seventh Sunday of Easter

June 1, 2025

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

Please note: The 8:30 am worship service is being livestreamed and recorded onto Facebook and YouTube, and an edited copy posted onto the St. Matthew website. By attending this worship service, you may appear as a part of this digital recording. Thank you.

Now the Feast and Celebration

Marty Haugen

(* Please stand as you are able.)

GATHERING

Prelude

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Bradbury

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sins to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Most Merciful God,

C: have mercy on us.

We confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.

P: With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

C: thanks be to God!

*Gathering Song

Crown Him With Many Crowns (v. 1,3,5)

Hymn 855

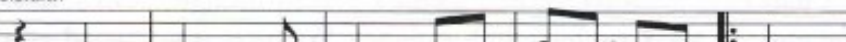
*Greeting

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.


***Kyrie**

Assistant:



In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Congregation:




Lord, have mer - cy.

3rd time to Coda

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer -

Assistant:



For the Reign of God, and for peace through - out the
For your peo - ple here, who have come to give you

cy.

world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the

⊕ Coda

Help, save, and de - fend us, O

cy.

Ending for Kyrie

God.

A - - - men.

***Song**

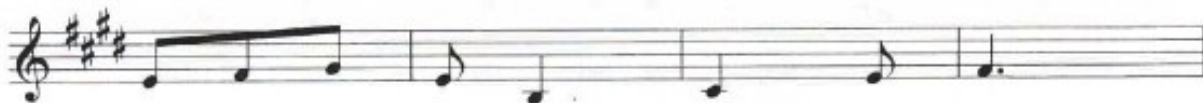
Now the Feast

Refrain

Congregation:



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,



all of cre - a - tion sings for joy



to the God of life and love and



free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -



er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:



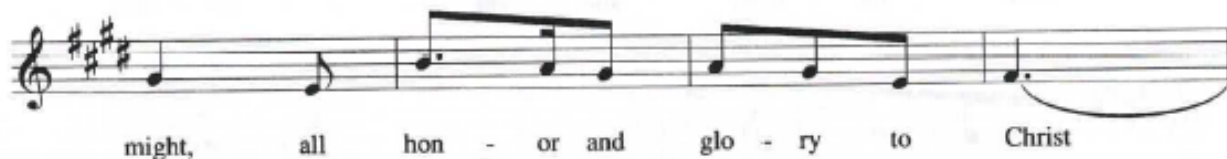
Now is the feast of the Lamb once



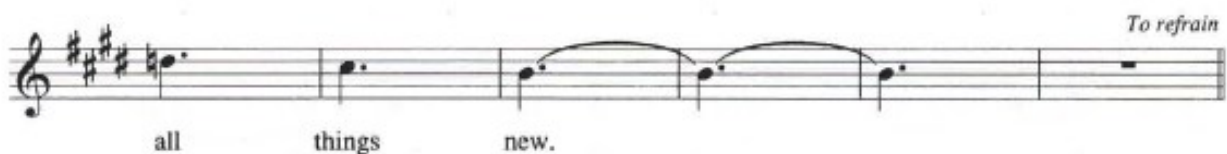
slain, whose blood has freed and u -



Verse 2



Verse 3



*Prayer of the Day



D: Let us pray,

C: O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading

Acts 16:16-34

¹⁶ One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling.

¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities.

²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews ²¹ and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he

took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 97

- ¹ The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- ² **Clouds and darkness surround the LORD,
righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.**
- ³ Fire goes before the LORD,
burning up enemies on every side.
- ⁴ **Lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.**
- ⁵ The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
- ⁶ **The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD,
and all the peoples see your glory.**
- ⁷ Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods!
Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.
- ⁸ **Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O LORD.**
- ⁹ For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
- ¹⁰ **You who love the LORD, hate evil!
God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**
- ¹¹ Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the honest of heart.
- ¹² **Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous,
and give thanks to God's holy name.**

Second Reading

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

- ¹² "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."
- ¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.
- ¹⁶ "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."
- ¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."
And let everyone who hears say, "Come."
And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

²⁰ The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

*Gospel Verse

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Gospel

John 17:20-26

Jesus prayed: ²⁰ "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

***Apostles' Creed**

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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: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church,
the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

D: Welcoming God, you invite all people to come and encounter your love. Give
your church open hearts and minds to embrace all who seek your presence.
Increase the capacity for cooperation between denominations and
congregations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Creating God, your might is seen in storms and in silence. Where drought
threatens, bring rain. Where waters flood, ease them back. Where fire,
earthquake, hurricane, or tornado destroy, shelter your people and restore your
land. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Discerning God, fill the hearts of leaders with your passion for justice and
mercy. Call the nations of this world to tables of peace and collaboration.
Encourage governments to seek avenues of collective benefit and joy. Hear us,
O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Abiding God, all people are held in your care. Accompany survivors of abuse, trauma, and exploitation. Strengthen our resolve to listen and advocate on behalf of all who are unnoticed. Hear our prayers for those close to our heart especially Darine, Margery, Una Mae, Rosemary, Alan, Loretta, Ed, Judy, Jerry, Tom, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Rejoicing God, be with this congregation as summer begins in the northern hemisphere. Keep travelers safe. Keep the vulnerable cool. Invigorate summer ministry efforts in our community, and support the well-being of children and young people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Loving God, the beginning and the end, you are with us throughout our lives. In gratitude for the saints who have died, we look toward your coming again among us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

***Peace**

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

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory

Thy Word

Smith/Grant

***Song**

As the Grains of Wheat

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Refrain

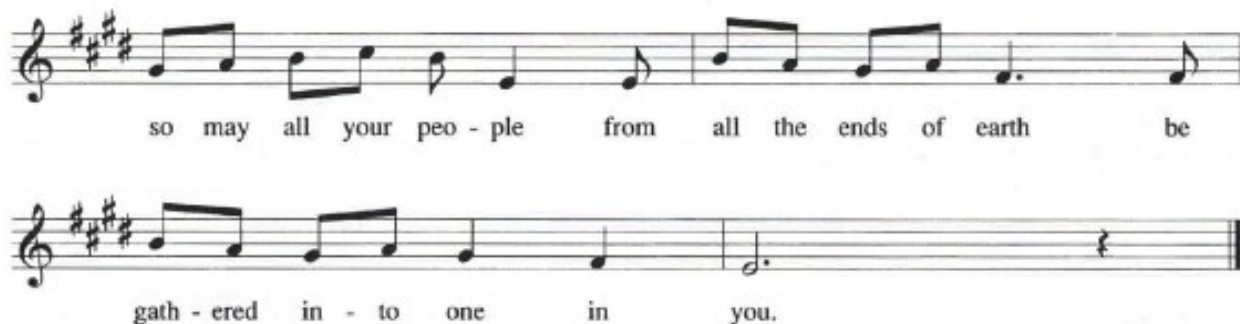
Congregation:



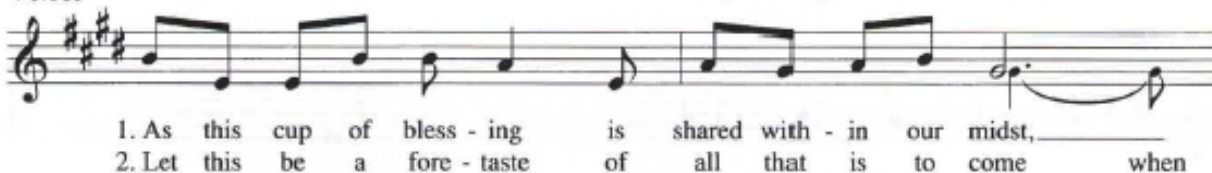
As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were



gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



Verses

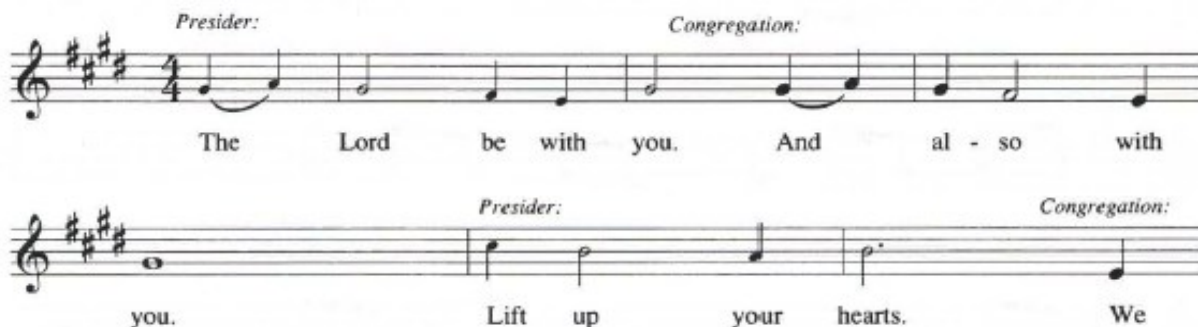


*Prayer

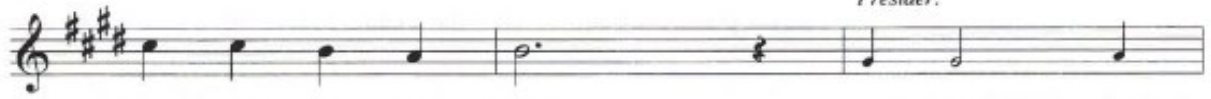
P: Let us Pray. Merciful God,

C: everything in heaven and earth belongs to you. We joyfully release what you have entrusted to us. May these gifts be signs of our whole lives returned to you, dedicated to the healing and unity of all creation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving




Presider:

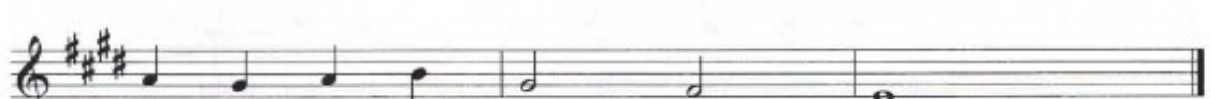


lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation:

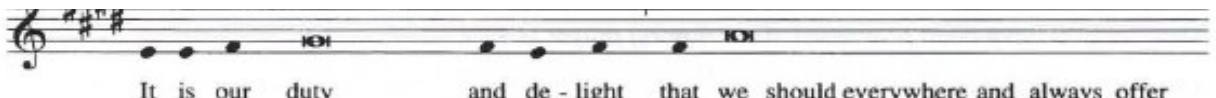


thanks to the Lord our God. It is




right to give God thanks and praise.

*Preface




It is our duty and de-light that we should everywhere and always offer




thanks and praise to you, O God, through Je - sus Christ...

P: Who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to áll creation



...and so with the church on earth, all creation and the



host of heaven we praise your name and join their un - end - ing

in rhythm



hymn: _____

To Holy, Holy

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

***Eucharistic Prayer**

P: You are indeed holy, gracious and merciful God; everything is filled with your glory. We give you thanks for your promise and presence which have sustained the faithful in this and every generation. Above all, we give you thanks for Jesus, born of Mary, who in word and deed announced your gentle rule of justice, reconciliation and peace.

On the night of his betrayal our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you... Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering his command to love one another, his life and death, his resurrection and his ascension, we pray for his coming again, even as we cry:

*Eucharistic Acclamations

Presider:

A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus. A -

Congregation:

men. Come, Lord Je - sus. A - men. Come, Lord

Je - sus. A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that all of your promises may come to us and your whole creation

Presider:

A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. A -

Congregation:

men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it. A - men. Come, Ho - ly

Spir - it. A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

P: This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our friend.

Song

Congregation:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the
u - ni - ty of the Spir - it, all glo - ry and hon - or is
yours, O God, now and for ev - er.
A - men.

P: Make us bold, O merciful God, to pray as our Savior taught us:

*Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and ever. Amen.

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

* you break the chains of ha - tred and

you are the way of jus - tice and

you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

fear: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

peace: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

love: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

Final time Cong. or assistant:

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns*Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness*

Hymn 488

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

*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.

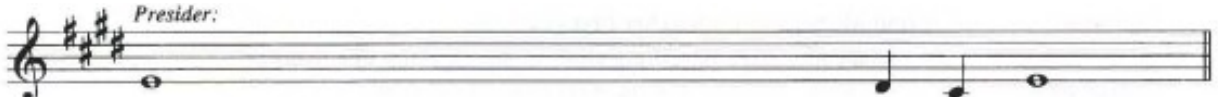
*Sending Song

O Christ, Our Hope

Hymn 604

*Trinitarian Blessing & Dismissal

Presider:



May God bless us and keep us.
May God's face shine on us and be gracious to us.
May God look on us with favor and + give us peace.

Congregation:



A - men.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

O Christ, Our Hope

Herman

+++

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of 40 years of marriage by Larry and Connie Mohler.

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for His abundant blessings by Joe and Kelly Obermeier.

Prayers for Healing: Darine Prok, Margery Murray, Una Mae Gill, Rosemary Evans, Alan Ivan, Jr., Loretta Thornton, Ed, Judy Weir, Jerry Jakovic, & Tom Thornton.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Seventh Sunday of Easter, we worship in person and livestream at 9:30 a.m. with Now the Feast and holy communion.

Luther Middles Bake Sale - before and after worship in the Narthex. The funds raised from this sale will be used for fellowship activities in the upcoming program year.

Loads of Love - 1:00-4:00 p.m. at North Court Laundry.

NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 8, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Day of Pentecost, (Wear Red) we will worship in person and livestream at 9:30 a.m. with ELW 4 and holy communion.

Looms of Love - 9:45 a.m., Library.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE	
8:30 - 95	11:00 - 32

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

THIS WEEK

Acolytes:
Reader: Sarah Robinson
Communion Melody Costello
Servers: Rick Grice
Ushers: Taraschke Family
Sound: Joe Obermeier
Video: Bobby Forsythe
Altar Guild: Becky Malloy

NEXT WEEK

Addison Wierzchowski
Adam Scheid
Helen Graf
Alan & Delores Ivan
Larry Mohler
Melody Costello
Becky Malloy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wear Red for Pentecost next Sunday, June 8.

Looms of Love - Beginning **June 8** and continuing through the summer, we will only meet on the **Second Sunday** of the month following the 9:30 service.

The Evangelism and Communication Team is looking for additional members! Help spread the Good News - Share information about church, and the great things that are happening at St. Matthew - Work with social media (Facebook, YouTube, our website) - Help with our Audio/Video teams - Reach out to those in need. We meet on the second Monday of each month at 5:15 p.m., in the library. All are welcome! Please contact Beth Johnson (301-501-0473) with any questions. **We are currently in need of a Facebook administrator. If that is something you are interested in taking over, contact Melody Costello.**

Help Wanted - Treasurer - The Congregation Council is looking for an individual to take over the Treasurer duties beginning in January 2026, due to the current Treasurer, Teri Uttech, completing her term at the end of this year. Ideally, a replacement will be identified early enough to begin training in the fall to allow for a smooth transition. The Treasurer is responsible for paying the church bills and managing the church finances along with the finance committee. If you have any interest in learning more about the responsibilities, please contact Teri Uttech at 330-321-7569 or at teriuttech@gmail.com.

Silent Book Club - Meets the first Monday of every month in the Upper Room. 6:30-7:00 p.m. gather and fellowship, 7:00-8:00 p.m. enjoy silent reading of your choice. The Free Library is back as well in the Upper Room - donate a book, borrow a book, keep it if you like it. All types of books are welcome.

Amish Country Fun Fellowship is in the works for Saturday, **September 13**. It will include attending the musical "The Road to Damascus" at the Ohio Star Theater in Sugarcreek. It is based on the Old Testament reading Acts 9:1-20. *Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.* Watch for more information. There will be a sign-up in the Narthex for those interested in participating.

Quilter Bees - We have begun working on our second quilt. Please join us. In June, we will be switching to one service at 9:30 a.m., perhaps gathering after that service to quilt together would be a good time. However, you are welcome to come and quilt at any time. Newcomers are always welcome, as we look forward to sharing our "skills". The 80"X80" quilt will be auctioned off in the Fall to raise money for our new organ.



Vacation Bible School (VBS) - June 23 - 27

Registration is Open!

9:00-11:30 am for children who have completed Pre-school through 5th grade. Our theme this year is Road Trip: *On the Go with God*. At VBS, we will learn how God is always with us, no matter what! God goes with us on the journey, stays with us when we go off course, rejoices with us when we're joyful, comforts us when we're lonely, and promises to be with us both near and far.

Please use the following link to register: <https://forms.gle/nqr1wg6ok2jV2m498>

ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY, JUNE 15!

We are in need of volunteers to help make VBS a success! If you are interested in volunteering, please click the following link to indicate ways you may be willing and able to serve: <https://forms.gle/8M5jnYcRcfesxdIN8>

If you have any questions about registration or volunteering, please contact Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries* at lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org.

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
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Rachel Knaggs	Kids of the Kingdom Director
Kaitlyn Taraschke	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

Friday: Office Closed



Hearing Loop
System available.