

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

# *Praise* service

*Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

July 14, 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**

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

**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**

**\*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**

**O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Youth Gathering Commissioning**

**WORD**

**First Reading**

Amos 7:7-15

<sup>7</sup> This is what the Lord GOD showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line  
in the midst of my people Israel;  
I will never again pass them by;

<sup>9</sup> the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,  
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,  
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

<sup>10</sup> Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. <sup>11</sup> For thus Amos has said, ‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.’”

<sup>12</sup> And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; <sup>13</sup> but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

<sup>14</sup> Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, <sup>15</sup> and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 85:8-13

<sup>8</sup> I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup> **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup> **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup> The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup> **Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

## Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope

on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

**\*Gospel**

Mark 6:14-29

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

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

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard of the disciples' preaching, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup> But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." <sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. <sup>18</sup> For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup> And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup> for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup> But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." <sup>23</sup> And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup> Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup> The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup> brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O Christ!**

**Sermon**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**\*Hymn of the Day:**

*Because He Lives*

## **\*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: One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

D: You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. In your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. We pray especially for Jerry, Marliese, Catherine, Sylvia, Karen, June, Steve, Tom, Adam and Family, Todd, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. In your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities. Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations. In your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you. In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

D: Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**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**

*Communion Song*

**\*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:**

*This is Amazing Grace*

**\*Dismissal:**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

+++

Song Leader: Heather Rohde

Guitar: Scott Schwandt

Drums: Tom Kotick

Pianist: Cindy Piovarchy

## PRAYERS

**Altar Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God in celebration of her parents, Vernon and Beverly Beard's, 57<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Julie Shrader.

**Memorial Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God in memory of her husband, Dennis Straub, on his birthday, by Pat Straub.

**Prayers for Healing:** Jerry Jakovcic, Marliese Leggett, Catherine Forsythe, Sylvia, Karen Rupert, June Trenty, Steve Combs, Tom Thornton, Adam and Family, Todd Costello, and Sandi.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

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

**Drive-Thru Shoe Drive Drop Off** - 11 am - 1 pm, St. Matthew parking lot.

## NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 21, AT ST. MATTHEW

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

**Blood Pressure Screening** before and after worship in Brenda's Office.

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	9:30 - Luke Rohde
Reader:	9:30 - Ron Heinz
Communion Servers:	9:30 - Delores Ivan Julie Shrader
Ushers:	9:30 - Todd & Melody Costello Ron & Katie Heinz
Sound:	9:30 - Joe Obermeier
Video:	9:30 - Brian Harris
Altar Guild:	Julie Crow, Kelly Obermeier



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Deacon Lindsay and Pastor Steve will be out of the office July 15-21.** As a result they will be unavailable to respond to text messages, emails, or phone calls. If you have a concern or an emergency, please contact the church office (330-725-8885) and Deb will contact the appropriate person. Please know Nurse Brenda is available during this time for medical emergencies, and an emergency pastor is in place if there's a pastoral emergency.

**Deb Musil, Office Administrator, out of the Office July 29 - August 1.** Deadline for July 28 and August 4 Bulletins and Shout-Outs is Monday, July 22 by 10:00 a.m.

**Cedar Point** - Kids of all ages are invited to a fun-filled day at Cedar Point on Tuesday, July 23, 2024. If you would like to carpool, a group will be meeting in the church parking lot at 8:45 a.m. If you prefer to drive straight to the park, we will all meet inside the gates around 10:00 a.m. The park closes at 10:00 p.m., so plan on getting home late. If you do not have a season pass and need a ticket, please visit the Cedar Point website (<https://www.cedarpoint.com/daily-tickets>). Everyone is responsible for his/her own meals. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Shrader at 330-635-8685. Sign up through the link in the Shout-Out.

**Attention Seniors! Activity Planning:** Would you enjoy having fellowship with other seniors at St. Matthew? Please come to a meeting to share ideas of things we could do and what sounds like fun to you. Please meet at the church in the Brown Room on Monday, July 22, at 1:30.

**Mid-Year Statements** - If you would like a mid year statement please contact Mary Dunham at [jadunham@zoominternet.net](mailto:jadunham@zoominternet.net) or 330-421-4730.

**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](mailto:rknaggsmusic@gmail.com) or Nancy McNeal at 330-722-1948.

**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 7/29, 8/12, 8/26 @ 6:30 pm. BYOBook! See you there!

**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.*

**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!

**Gift Cards** - The church office has a need for gift cards (Buehler's, Walmart, Fast Food, etc.) for local residents in need. Any denomination you wish to donate is greatly appreciated!

**Cross Penny Ministry - TAKE A PENNY. SHARE A PENNY.** 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.

**The Getting to Know You** segment 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 Get to Know You better!

## God's Work. Our Hands. Day

This is the eleventh year for this event for the ELCA. We will be sharing this time with the cluster churches. The date will be Saturday morning, **September 14, 2024, at 10 AM at St. Matthew**. There will be a sign up sheet soon with the addition of sizes for those who wish to purchase t-shirts.

Barb Woodard, Melody Costello, and Stephanie Hess are members of the cluster church planning committee. St. Matthew will be hosting the event. We will need volunteers to help out. Closer to September 14, we will be asking for volunteers to help set up, tear down, and fix food for the luncheon. Keep the date open on your calendar and be ready to volunteer.



For an organization, “For the Greater Good”, we will be assembling 150 packages of care kits for the homeless men in Cuyahoga County. We plan to have stations and an assembly method that is inclusive for those with mobility challenges to be able to participate. 50 additional kits will be distributed to members of our congregations to be passed out upon encountering someone in need.

### **We are asking for the following donations of items for the above kits for men:**

Deodorant	Toothbrush	Shampoo
Combs/hair picks	Band-Aids	Bar soap
Canvas/plastic re-usable grocery shopping bags to package the care kits		

**Cash donations** are being accepted, including Thrivent grant dollars, to be used to purchase (in bulk) the following items to be included in the kits: Men’s white t-shirts (various sizes), men’s underwear, men’s crew socks, wash cloths, and gallon-size zip lock bags to pack the hygiene items in the care kits.

**The deadline for collecting items and cash donations is Sunday, August 18. Checks should be made out to “St. Matthew Lutheran Church” with a memo note “GWOH”.**

## 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](mailto:pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org)

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

### **Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information**

Email: [lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto: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