

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

Praise service

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024
8:30 & 11:00 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

***Gathering Song** *You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)*

***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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you
receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,
that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. Amen.**

Lenten Anthem (8:30)

Kids of the Kingdom

Children's Message (11:00)

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant
that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out
of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,
says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it
on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer
shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they
shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will
forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by
the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud
cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was
heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned
obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he
became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been
designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel

John 12:20-33

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ!

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

*Hymn of the Day: *10,000 Reasons*

*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 God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

D: God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. We pray especially for Ken, Karen, June, Steve, Tom, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Stevie and Family, Clarence, Jerry, Todd, Logan, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, 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: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

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 Duet

Here's My Heart

Shaun Faust & Heather Rohde

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song:**

The Only Name (Yours Will Be)

***Dismissal:**

D: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

+++

Song Leaders: Shaun Faust & Heather Rohde

Guitar: Shaun Faust & Scott Schwandt

Drums: Tom Kotick

Pianist: Cindy Piovarchy

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Lucy Brown-Serban	11:00 - Devin Shrader
Reader:	8:30 - Adam Scheid	11:00 - Becky Matyas
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Melanie Brown Carol Elkins	11:00 - Marcia George Helen Graf
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan	
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Rick Sullivan	
Altar Guild:	Mary Dunham	

PRAYERS

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

Memorial Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in memory of Richard Obermeier and Susan Fuller by the Obermeier Family.

***Prayers for Healing:** Ken Ault, Karen Strange, June Trenty, Steve Combs, Tom Thornton, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Stevie Bogas & Family, Clarence, Jerry Jakovcic, Todd Costello, Logan, and Sandi.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Fifth Sunday in Lent, we will worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Praise and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

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

Hat Making at 9:45 a.m. in the Library.

Comprehensive Youth Meeting - 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 24, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Passion/Palm Sunday, we will worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with ELW 4 and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

Hat Making at 9:45 a.m. in the Library.

No Sunday School - Spring break.



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renovation Recap for February - No identified Reno expenses. \$412.24 Reno restricted giving. Balance: \$67,889.71

Red Cross Blood Drive at St. Matthew Saturday, March 23, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

Passion Walk - Zion Lutheran Church in Valley City invites you to their fourteenth annual Passion Walk. The Walk will be held on two evenings, Saturday, March 23, and Palm Sunday evening, March 24. The Jerusalem marketplace will open at 6:00 and the guided walks will begin at 6:15, beginning at the Upper Room and ending at the sealed tomb of Good Friday. The walks will begin every 15 minutes until 8:00, and all spaces are handicapped accessible. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is located at 2233 Abbeyville Road in Valley City. For more information, call 330-483-3873. The web site is www.zionvc.org.

CPR/AED/Fire Extinguisher Class - Tuesday, April 30, 5-8 p.m. at Medina Fire Station 1, 300 W. Reagan Pkwy. (behind the movie theater). Minimum of 8 participants (Max. 12). This is an American Heart Association (AHA) "Friends and Family" class that Capt. Steve is offering to teach at NO CHARGE. *You must be present for the entire class.* No book or test involved; only participation and demonstration. Contact Brenda, Parish Nurse, at bdisbrow@zoominternet.net or leave a note in her mailbox if you would like to attend.

Nursery Attendants -The Personnel Committee is still in need of a list of members who are willing to volunteer to watch the children in the nursery on occasion. This is a service we have for parents who want a safe place for their preschool children during worship services. Our current nursery attendant is conscientious about being here each Sunday morning, but there are times when she is unable. Please see Barb or Jim Woodard or Jan Sullivan. We will call those on the list to fill in on occasion. **There will not be an attendant in the nursery during the March 24 services, so please contact us asap.** If we do not have an attendant, parents may sit with their child in the nursery at their discretion.

"Tree of Life" End-Of-Life Planning Classes - The adult Christian education class at St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, Medina, will be focusing on end-of-life planning on April 7, 14, and 21, at 9:45 AM. Each participant will be preparing a "Book of Life" to have in a prominent place in their homes with the information for their next of kin to be sure their wishes are carried out. Topics covered will include legal forms, funeral home assistance, important documents, and inventories. The class is open to all adults.

Blood Pressure Cuff - A new blood pressure cuff/monitor is now located in the narthex closet (next to the first aid kit) to be used for any medical issue or emergency.

The St. Matthew Prayer Group meets on Thursdays at 2:00 to lift intercessory prayers to God. You are welcome to join us whenever you are able. We also have members who pray from wherever they are. If that works better for you, we will add your name to our email list and will send updates if you are unable to attend on Thursdays. If you have prayer requests you would like for us to pray, please leave the information in our Prayer Group mailbox. Or you may email the information to barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com. Please be sure that the person we are praying for knows that you have shared that information. We assure you that we keep the details of the prayer confidential.

The LGL Samaritan Fund Board of Trustees meets the second Thursday of each month to discern the division of the quarterly grant received to help members of our congregation and other residents of Medina County who are in financial need. Our purpose is to help those who need assistance in gaining a foot up in their financial needs. If you need financial help, please pick up an application on the table in the hallway by the staffs' offices, fill it out and place it in the LGL Samaritan Fund mailbox in the large brown envelope that remains in the mailbox. All applications need to be received by the Friday prior to the second Thursday of each month to allow time for processing. You may give an application to a family member in need, or to a non-member friend who lives in Medina County, or suggest they pick one up. Additional applications are in the drop box by the office outside entrance door. Or you can find the application at stmatthewmedina.org and fill it out online or print it off and fill it out by hand. For more information, please see Pastor Steve, Deacon Lindsay, Barb Woodard, or Emily Faust. You can also find more information about the LGL Samaritan Fund in the 2023 Annual Report.

Church Directory Photographs - The Evangelism & Communication Committee will be adding and updating photos for St. Matthew's Online Church Directory on an ongoing basis. If your individual or family photo is not currently available in the directory or you would like to update it, please contact Stephanie Hess at hessstephanie15@gmail.com or 330-441-1130. You can provide your own image or a photograph of you can be taken at St. Matthew before or after church services.

“Getting to Know You” - St. Matthew started featuring a St. Matthew family in our weekly Shout-Outs as a way to get to know our fellow St. Matthew members. We would love to feature your family! Go to your most recent Shout-Out to access the link to complete your profile. If you have any questions, please send a text to Beth Johnson (Communication Evangelism) at 301-501-0473. We look forward to *GETTING TO KNOW 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

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Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

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Hearing Loop
System available.