

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

Praise service

Fourth Sunday of Easter

**April 21, 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** *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 Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us
into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be
whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading

Acts 4:5-12

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas
the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-
priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they
inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with
the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned
today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how
this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of
Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus
Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This
Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given
among mortals by which we must be saved."

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

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

1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel

John 10:11-18

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life

in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ!

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

***Hymn of the Day:** *Jesus, What a Beautiful Name*

***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: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

D: Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems, Diane, Sylvia, Diane, Richard, Karen, Ken, Karen, June, Steve, Tom, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Jerry, Todd, Logan, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith. Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

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 *You Say* Caroline Obermeier & Heather Rohde

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.
C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always.
C: Amen.

***Sending Song:** *Holy Water*

***Dismissal:**

D: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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Song Leaders: Caroline Obermeier

Heather Rohde

Guitar: Scott Schwandt

Drums: Lennie Davis

Pianist: Cindy Piovarchy



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.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Aubrey Terihay	11:00 - Marin Gerspacher
Reader:	8:30 - Delores Ivan	11:00 - Melody Costello
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Melanie Brown Delores Ivan	11:00 - Melody Costello Becky Malloy
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan Bruce Reed	
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Melody Costello	
Altar Guild:	Becky Malloy	

PRAYERS

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

Prayers for Healing: Diane Stahl, Sylvia, Diane, Richard, Karen Rupert, Ken Ault, Karen Strange, June Trenty, Steve Combs, Tom Thornton, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Jerry Jakovcic, Todd Costello, Logan, and Sandi.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Sunday, Fourth Sunday of Easter, we worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with Praise and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

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

"Tree of Life" End-Of-Life Planning Classes - 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Open to all adults,

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

Blood Pressure Screening before and between services in Brenda's office.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 28, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Fifth Sunday of Easter, we will worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with ELW 10 and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Member Classes Forming! Contact Pastor Steve if you are interested in becoming a member of St. Matthew.

“St. Matthew Celebrates” - Spring Edition is available through the Shout-Out or printed copies can be found in the Narthex and the room of the cross.

Attention members! The Luther League is still raising funds to help send 26 high schoolers to New Orleans in July for the ELCA Gathering. Are you wanting to help us? Pick up an envelope in the back of the narthex. If you grab an envelope with the number 5 on it, you can return it to Deacon Lindsay with 5 dollars in it. We won't be upset if you take more than one envelope! Thank you for your continued support. Sincerely, the St. Matthew Luther League

Vacation Bible School registration is open for all children who have completed Preschool through 5th grade. VBS will take place at St. Matthew June 24-28, 9-11:30 a.m. All registrations must be received by Sunday, June 2. Register at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4cdM9dzJV7xUcce1sXgDD_YrHtQXmHmpAZc8OdO8Xxyo9mw/viewform or by using the link through the Shout-Out. **Volunteers needed!**

Welcome to Silent Book Club! Please join us for our first meeting Monday, April 22, 2024, at Faith House (432 N. Broadway). 6:30 Arrival and socializing. 7:00 – 8:00 Silent Reading. Please feel free to bring a beverage (adult or otherwise) and snack if you wish. Most importantly B.Y.O.B. – BRING YOUR OWN BOOK (Paper, Hardback, Audio, Kindle – whatever you enjoy). All ages are welcome! Contact Jennifer Knaggs with any questions.

Looking for living room furniture. Do you have any previously loved comfy furniture that you are looking to rehome? If so, it would be perfect for Silent Book Club to use at Faith House. (Chairs, couches, end tables) Please see or call/text Jen Knaggs 330413-0529. We will move it!

Mission Investment Fund Meeting - On Wednesday, April 24, the Finance Committee is hosting Rev. Kent Peterson at 5:15 pm in the St. Matthew Fellowship Hall and invite all interested members to join us. Rev. Kent Peterson is the Regional Manager of the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and will introduce the features and benefits of MIF's portfolio of loan and investment products to congregations, members and ministries. He will discuss MIF investment opportunities for individuals and congregations, additionally explain loans for church and ministry building projects.

A new Fun Fellowship group has been formed. The purpose of the Fun Fellowship Group is to plan and provide intergenerational activities and gatherings for the congregation as well as other fellowship activities for the varying age groups. The Fun Fellowship Group is open to everyone . If you would like more information or to be a part of this, please contact Helen Graf mhelg6216@yahoo.com or Joyce Davis juiceonmilk@aol.com.

“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 *Get to Know You* better!

Do You Have OLD St. Matthew Treasures? The Archival Committee of St. Matthew is desiring to scan all old, archival, documents and/or photos related to St. Matthew and its ministry, dating back to the late 1930's. If you have old treasures, please share them! Bring them to the church office, or to one of the members of the Archive Committee (Dale Weygandt, Chair, Mary Dunham, Rebekah Neidig, Beth Johnson, Barb Woodard). Once scanned, the documents and/or photos will be safely stored in acid-free folders and boxes in an archival safe... unless you prefer to have them returned for sentimental reasons. Any questions? Contact Dale at (330) 725-5894.

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.

The Pierstorf College Fund was established in 1994 and is a one-of-a-kind Lutheran financial aid program for all Lutheran students pursuing a higher education who live in Ohio. We have awarded over \$13 million in loans to more than 4,000 students since 1994. First time borrowers may be new or returning college students. We do not ask for family income information. The pastor of the applicant is their sole reference.

For more information, please visit www.Pierstorf.org to complete the online application. Applications are open from April 15 through June 30, 2024. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for further updates. We are here to answer your questions. Please contact us at Pierstorf@messiahfp.org or call 440-665-3653.

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.