

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

Praise service

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 20, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Praise

“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 morning's 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.*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

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

***Greeting**

P: 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**

C: Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

First Reading

Genesis 18:1-10a

¹ The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶ And Abraham hastened into

the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ^{10a} Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 15

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the
LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading

Colossians 1:15-28

¹⁵ Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵ I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his

saints.²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.²⁸ It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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

***Gospel**

Luke 10:38-42

D: The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the tenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸ Now as Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying.⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me."⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things;⁴² there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ!

Sermon

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

***Hymn of the Day**

We Believe

Sacrament of Holy Baptism Jayden Joseph Rood & Monroe June Leigh Moore

***Prayers of Intercession**

D: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

D: Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair especially Brenda Lee, Sue, Darine, Margery, Una Mae, Rosemary, Alan, Loretta, Ed, Jerry, Tom, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: For Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Mary, Martha, and all the saints who attended to your word, we give thanks. Open our ears to your voice until that day when we realize the promise of the gospel with all creation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name 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

Holy Forever (Tomlin)

Praise Band

Offertory Prayer

P: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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 Song

Come to the Table

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song:**

My Redeemer Lives

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

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PRAISE BAND

Vocalist:	Caroline Kane Scott Schwandt
Guitar:	Craig Zavotka Scott Schwandt
Drums:	Lennie Davis
Pianist:	LaVonne DeBois

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

THIS WEEK

NEXT WEEK

Acolytes:	Lucy Brown-Serban	Jacob Shook
Reader:	Judy McLaughlin	Bob Maas
Communion Servers:	Becky Malloy Nancy McNeal	
Ushers:	Joe & Sarah Robinson	Rick & Kathy Grice
Sound:	Brittany Thompson	Joe Obermeier
Video:	Brian Harris	Melody Costello
Altar Guild:	Liz Linden & Brittany Thompson	Liz Linden & Brittany Thompson
Assistant:		Helen Graf

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of the birthday of their granddaughter, Carolyn, by Ron and Ann Kolzing.

Prayers for Healing: Brenda Lee, Sue Schwab, Darine Prok, Margery Murray, Una Mae Gill, Rosemary Evans, Alan Ivan, Jr., Loretta Thornton, Ed, Jerry Jakovcic, & Tom Thornton.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

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

NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 27 AT ST. MATTHEW

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

We Will Welcome Pastor Betti Hazelton as our worship leader.

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

Loads of Love - 1:00-4:00 p.m., South Court Laundromat, West Liberty Rd.
Volunteers still needed.

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE
9:30 - 104

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Giving Statements - If you would like to receive a mid-year giving statement, please contact Mary Dunham at 330-421-4730 (text or call) or email at dunham.jad@gmail.com.

Please Notify Us if you or a family member is in the hospital and would like a visit from Pastor or our Parish Nurse. Privacy laws prohibit us from receiving this information from medical facilities.

Our Property Team Needs Your Help (Phase 2) - to move furniture and tear up carpet downstairs in preparation for new carpeting. Please join us **July 22**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. *Many hands will definitely make lighter work!*

Disaster Relief Trip - If you want to know more about a possible relief trip to an area in the US that has been hit by a natural disaster, please come to an introductory informational meeting on **July 22, 2025** at 7pm at Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church, 28607 Wolf Rd., Bay Village, OH. Pastor Henry Zorn who has organized and participated in many disaster relief trips will be talking about his most recent trip to North Carolina to provide help to people suffering from recent flooding. A future trip would be a collaboration of members from churches in the Northwestern Conference of the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the ELCA. Potential travel time would be this fall. You may also join the meeting by Zoom if you are unable to attend in person. Please contact Pastor Angela Freeman for the Zoom link.
pastor.angela@bethesdaonthebay.org Questions? Contact Bob or Carla Maas.

Cedar Point Outing - Kids of all ages are invited to a fun-filled day at Cedar Point on **Wednesday, July 23, 2025**. 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.

Eucharistic Visitor Ministry - An introductory meeting will be held on August 31, following worship, in the Fellowship Hall, for any interested in participating in the Eucharistic Visitor Ministry (home communion visitors).

Harmony Harvest - Save the Date! Silent auction and Talent Show, **Sunday, November 9**, 5-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds to benefit the Organ Fund. If you are interested in participating in the talent show, use this site to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040544ADA629AAFD0-56531353-organza#/> . If You have an auction item you would like to donate, please use this site to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040544ADA629AAFD0-56530836-signup#/>

Growing Roots - A Small Group Ecumenical Study - “Getting to know Jesus” book series: A guided discovery for groups and individuals by Kevin Perrotta. We will meet every other week for 90 minutes for six week-day mornings starting in the fall. Book cost is approximately \$8.00. If interested, please contact Elaine Stone 330-441-1531.

Amish Country Fun Fellowship - Good news! We have met the 35 person minimum for The **September 13** Amish Country tour and CAN TAKE ANOTHER THREE PEOPLE if anyone is interested. Payment in the amount of \$115 per person can be made by one of the following methods, no later than Sunday, August 17, 2025. -Cash (please put your name on the envelope for tracking) -Check to “Amish Table Talk” -Venmo to: Lavonne-DeBois. If paying by cash or check, you can hand deliver to LaVonne on a Sunday that she is playing piano, or checks can be mailed to her at: LaVonne DeBois, Amish Table Talk, 120 Sturbridge Dr., Medina, Ohio 44256.

Offerings: By setting up recurring offerings online, you enable us to maintain financial stability and plan for the future of St. Matthew. Please consider signing up for Simply Giving at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4MP/home> or use your smart phone with the QR code below. Please prayerfully consider increasing your offering to support the church and its mission of Living God's Love.

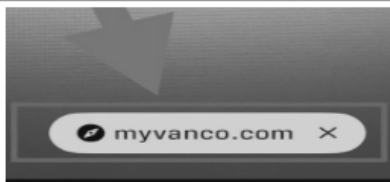
NOTE: You can select between recurring or one time donation for General Church Operations, St. Matthew Renovation/Refresh Project, or choose Other if you'd like to dedicate your offering to another purpose.

Estate planning is for everyone, it is an opportunity to create your legacy at St. Matthew. Thank you for your continued generosity.

If you have any questions about your current account or setting up your account, contact our Financial Recording Secretary, Mary Dunham at 330-421-4730 or via email at Recording_Secretary@stmatthewmedina.org

Instructions:

1. Open Camera
2. Point your phones camera at the QR Code (make sure it's well lit and fully visible)
3. While hovering, in a few seconds a link or notification should pop up
4. (myvanco.com)



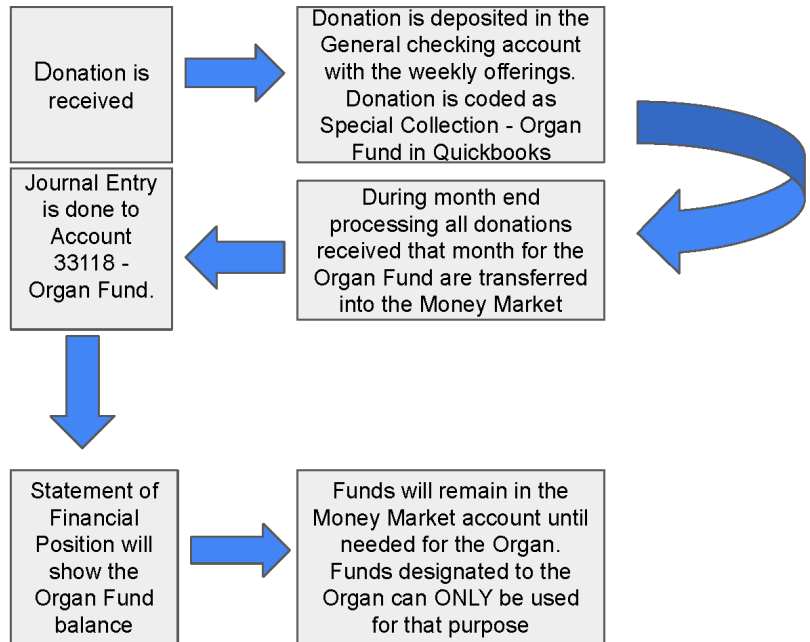
You donated to the Organ Fund... Now What?

The Organ Committee has received questions regarding what happens to the donations received for the organ until it is time to use that money for the purchase of the organ.

The illustration to the right explains how this works.

NOTE: The Statement of Financial Position report is available in the monthly Congregation Council reports on the St. Matthew website.

Reach out to any member of the Organ or Finance Committee if you have any questions.



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
Rachel Knaggs	Kids of the Kingdom Director
Annabelle Thompson	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.