

**“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”** Matthew 18:20



## *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

September 10, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*ELW Setting 10*

*“Living God’s Love”*

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

400 North Broadway Street ✠ Medina, Ohio 44256

330-725-8885 ✠ [office@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:office@stmatthewmedina.org)

**[www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://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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*"Pages" are in the front of the hymnal.*

*"Hymns" are located toward the back of the hymnal.*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## **GATHERING**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Prelude**

#### **\*Thanksgiving for Baptism** *(You may stand or kneel)*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### **\*Gathering Song:**

*Earth and All Stars*

Hymn 731

#### **\*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.**

#### **\*Kyrie**

*Have Mercy on Us*

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#### **\*Hymn of Praise**

*Come, Let Us Join*

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## \*Prayer of the Day

**C: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Children's Sermon

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

## First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 119:33-40

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;  
give me life in your way.

<sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
which is for those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
because your judgments are good.

<sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for your commandments;  
by your righteousness enliven me.**

## Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

<sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

<sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia*

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## \*Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

D: The holy gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

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

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>15</sup>"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

D: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

## Hymn of the Day:

*God, When Human Bonds are Broken*

Hymn 603

## Reception of New Members

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism and joining us as members of St. Matthew.

*Those making affirmation are presented by a representative of the congregation:*

I present (Evan, Austin, Meghan, Lauren, Dorothy, Todd, Jeffrey, Emerson, Emily, Matt, Evelyn, Dominic, Grady, Kristen, Michael, and Penelope), who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

P: Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## Profession of Faith

*The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.*

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

\*P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

## Affirmation

*The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.*

P: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:  
to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Each person responds:* I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

*The minister addresses the assembly.*

P: People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

P: Stir up in (Evan, Austin, Meghan, Lauren, Dorothy, Todd, Jeffrey, Emerson, Emily, Matt, Evelyn, Dominic, Grady, Kristen, Michael, and Penelope) the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

R: Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ, our newest members of St. Matthew.

**C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

P: Almighty God, who gives you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Prayers of Intercession** (*You may stand or kneel.*)

P: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

P: Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick especially Fran, Dick, Joe, Logan, Una Mae, Sierra, Amy, Sammy, June, Adam and Family, Sandi, Judy, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

### **Offertory**

**Offertory Response**

*For the Fruit of All Creation (vs. 1)*

Hymn 679

### **\*Offertory Prayer**

P: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### **\*Great Thanksgiving**

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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.**

### **\*Proper Preface**

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy**

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**\*Eucharistic Prayer**

**\*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.

**\*Invitation to Communion**

P: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

**\*Lamb of God**

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**Communion Hymn**

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether  
Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup*

Hymn 470  
Hymn 492

**\*Prayer after Communion**

P: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus,  
the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather  
the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In  
Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

**\*Blessing**

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who  
lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:**

*Go, My Children, With My Blessing*

Hymn 543

**\*Dismissal:**

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Postlude**



## WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Eli Cooper	11:00 - Andrew Hogan
Reader:	8:30 - Adam Scheid	11:00 - Jennifer Knaggs
Ushers:	8:30 - Bruce Reed	11:00 - Jennifer Hogan Sophie Hogan
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Sandy Andrews Becky Malloy	11:00 - Jennifer Knaggs Julie Shrader
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 <i>only</i> - Rex Rickly	
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier & Julie Crow	

### Finance Report Update for July, August & Year-to-Date St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

	<u>Month of July, 2023</u>	<u>Month of August, 2023</u>	<u>Year-to-Date January-Aug., 2023</u>
General Offering Unrestricted	\$23,717.80	\$25,329.84	\$213,625.38
2023 Approved Mission Plan	<u>\$33,333.33</u>	<u>\$33,333.33</u>	<u>\$266,666.64</u>
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$(9,615.53)	\$(8,003.49)	\$(53,041.26)

**Financial Update:** *St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church received the unrestricted offerings as compared to the 2023 approved Mission Plan objective shown for the months of July, August, and 2023 year-to-date. Please prayerfully consider increasing your offering to support the church and its mission of Living God's Love. Thank you for your continued generosity.*

*By setting up recurring donations online, you enable us to maintain financial stability and plan for the future of St. Matthew. St. Matthew has 56 (increase 2) member families that contribute through Vanco. Please increase our participation and consider signing up for Simply Giving at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4MP/home>*

**SPECIAL NOTE:** *St. Matthew has set-up in Simply Giving Link easy access for donations directly to the Renovation / Refresh Project. Please select from a one-time donation or recurring donation and contribute as you are able.*

*If you have any questions about your current account or setting up your account, contact our Financial Director Bruce Reed at (412) 848-0219 or email Bruce at [brucerreed@comcast.net](mailto:brucerreed@comcast.net).*

## PRAYERS

**Altar Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God in honor of Missy Davis' 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, by Joyce and Tom Davis.

**Memorial Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God in memory of their son, Brad, by Steve and Diane Hulvey.

**Prayers for Healing:** Fran & Dick Koenig, Joe, Logan, Una Mae Gill, Sierra (Davis) Trikillas, Amy Douglass, Sammy Young, June Trenty, Adam and Family, Sandi, Judy McLaughlin, and Steve Combs.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**, we worship in-person at 8:30 and 11:00 with ELW Setting 10 and holy communion. *Livestream at 8:30.*

**We Welcome New Members** today at both services.

**Rally Day** - "God's Game Plan: Catch the Spirit". We will gather in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. for a Spirit Rally and march across the parking lot to our Rally Day Tailgate where there will be games, snacks, a craft, and more! The ENTIRE congregation is invited and encouraged to attend the Spirit Rally and participate in the tailgate activities.

**New Member Reception** in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 service.

## NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**, we will worship in-person at 8:30 and 11:00 with Praise and holy communion. *Livestream at 8:30.*

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Kids of the Kingdom!!!** St. Matthew's Youth Choir, Kids of the Kingdom will be starting back up this fall!! Kids of the Kingdom is open to all enthusiastic singers who have completed Kindergarten. There will be 2 info sessions: Thursday Sept. 14 at 6 p.m. in the Brown Room & Sunday, Sept. 17 in the sanctuary between services. These info sessions will talk about rehearsals, performance dates, and other important information. You don't have to attend both, there are just two to accommodate schedules! The meetings are mostly for parents, but kids are welcome to join too! If you have any questions feel free to reach out to the director, Rachel Knaggs, at [rknaggsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:rknaggsmusic@gmail.com) or call at 330-591-7093

**Please join us for Dinner and a Show** on Saturday, September 16 at The Haddad Theatre, 144 N. Broadway, to see "Bye, Bye Birdie". It's starring our very own, Jordan Johnston and Rachel Knaggs. Showtime is 7:30pm. If you would like to join us for dinner, we'll be meeting at PJ Marley's at 5:30pm. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.medinashowbiz.org/tickets>. There are other dates/ time's available if you would like to still see the show and support our fellow St. Matthew members. Hope to see you there!

**Altar Guild Luncheon** to be held on Saturday, September 23, at Panera's beginning at noon. If you are currently an Altar Guild member or would like to find out more about what we do, we would love to have you join us. This event will have a little business and a lot of fellowship. Contact Sandy Andrews (330-667-2858 or [sandrews731@aol.com](mailto:sandrews731@aol.com)).

**Renovation Cottage Meeting** - Sunday, September 24, after both 8:30 and 11:00 services.

**Spaghetti Dinner & Dessert Auction** - Our spaghetti dinner will take place Sunday, September 24 at 5:00 p.m. The Dessert Auction has returned and will follow the dinner! Come prepared to eat a lot of spaghetti, bid on delicious desserts, and help support our Luther League as they prepare to attend the Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024. We hope to see you there! *Scan the QR code to the right to RSVP or sign up in the narthex.*



**Save the date!** Kaitlyn Taraschke will be performing in "Legally Blonde Jr." at the Haddad Theatre, 144 N. Broadway, October 6-8. Please support our local theater along with Kaitlyn, tickets on sale soon! Go to [https://buckeyecommunitytheatre.ludus.com/index.php?show\\_id=200441367](https://buckeyecommunitytheatre.ludus.com/index.php?show_id=200441367) to purchase tickets.

## **St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff**

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey	Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach	Director of Youth & Family Ministries
John Burke	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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Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop  
System available.