



Peace be with you

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Rhythm & Blues

“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

GATHERING

** Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font

as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Song:** *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

***Greeting**

***Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon

WORD

First Reading

Acts 4:32-35

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything ³³they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

¹How good and how pleasant it is,
 when kindred live together in unity!
²**It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
 upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**
³It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.
 For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

Second Reading

1 John 1:1 -- 2:2

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

***Gospel**

John 20:19-31

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day:

The Old Rugged Cross

*Apostle's Creed

*Prayers of Intercession

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

P: You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You proclaim the blessing of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority, that they shepherd their peoples in the ways of your love. Defeat in us our impulse to war. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we provide for the needs of others. We pray for those on our prayer list: Family of William Taraschke, Melanie Minen, Jim Apana, Bob Lentz, Howard Wolff, Lloyd Madis, Deacon Lindsay, Carolyn Grenfell, Chuck Payne, and Esther Svoboda. Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You give us fellowship with one another in this faith community. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we live in love for one another and our joy may be complete. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Risen Lord, we ask your blessing upon St. Matthew's call committee as they meet this week. Give them insight and a spirit of enthusiasm for their work and raise up for our people a pastor to lead us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy (*especially*). Unite us with them in resurrection hope. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*Peace: *The peace will be an acknowledgement with your neighbor of God's reconciling love by nod or bow.*

MEAL

Offertory Solo

Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving

***Eucharistic Prayer**

***Lord's Prayer**

***Invitation to Communion**

P: The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat, and be satisfied

Communion Hymn: *Let Us Break Bread Together*

***Table Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

Follow directions for sending song outside on front lawn.

***Sending Song:** *Trust and Obey*

***Dismissal:**

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

***Postlude**

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Thank you for observing our protocols for gathering this Sunday.

PRAYERS

Prayers for Healing: Family of William Taraschke, Melanie Minen, Jim Apana, Bob Lentz, Howard Wolff, Lloyd Madis, Deacon Lindsay, Carolyn Grenfell, Chuck Payne, and Esther Svoboda.

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Gary and Sandy Kelling in memory of Gary's mother, Helen Donaldson's birthday on April 7. *Love and miss you!*

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Today, Second Sunday of Easter, we will worship IN PERSON and online at 9:00 a.m. with Rhythm and Blues music.

Parking Lot Communion at 10:15 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 18, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Third Sunday of Easter, we will worship in person and online at 9:00 a.m. with ELW hymns.

Parking Lot Communion at 10:15 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVANTS		
Date	April 11	April 18
Service	9:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.
Song Leader	Jenny Naida	
Reader	Melody Costello	Beth Johnson
Ushers	Brian & Sandi Harris Bruce Reed	
Communion	Lisa Burke	
Sound	Larry Mohler	Larry Mohler
Video	Rex Rickly	Owen Blakslee
Altar Guild	Nancy McNeal & Sandy Andrews	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Just in time for in-person worship, anyone entering St. Matthew's Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall can breath easy: Thanks to the good efforts of our Property Team, including Troy Gerspacher, and Tom and Joyce Davis, St Matthew now has installed and functioning Anti-Covid air treatment units on the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall HVAC systems. What this means is that any pathogens in the HVAC air will be reduced if not eliminated, further improving the safety of our in-person worship.

Operation HOMES Meals - During the pandemic Operation HOMES guests have been given shelter at a local motel due to churches being closed. There is still a need for evening meals to be provided.

St. Matthew's next week that we were supposed to host is April 19 through April 25. Even though we are unable to provide overnight accommodations, we can still provide meals. You may sign up to provide a meal by going to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4ca9a62ba5fb6-meals16>. The instructions are listed for dropping the meals at the Super 8 Motel at 5161 Montville Road. We currently have 1 guest in Operation Homes, however we have capacity for 5 rooms and we will likely have more guests by April 19. Thank you!

Luther Ladies Bible Study Spring Series - Back by popular demand! The Luther Ladies Bible study will engage in *Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story* by Angie Smith for a second time. All are welcome to attend. If you participated in the first offering of this study, you are encouraged to join us again.

This 7-session series will be held via Zoom on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30 PM, May 3 - June 21 (except May 31- Memorial Day). An option to attend the study in-person may be added at a later date.

The cost for the Participant Journal that accompanies the study is \$16. Second-time participants may choose to use their journal from the previous study or purchase a new one. Cash/checks can be mailed to the church office and directed to Deacon Lindsay's attention. Please make checks payable to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church". Please contact Deacon Lindsay at lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org with any questions.

Please register by Friday, April 23 using this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeG32dDCNs_plvkqMX9OID3YACVOoFIPN9qPalHm5AYjdYfbQ/viewform

Vacation Bible School - We are excited to offer an in-person VBS this year and we need your help! We are looking for group leaders, Bible/story leader, and a craft leader. In addition, we will need help with opening skits. If you think you'd like to help, or would like to find out more information, please email or call Christy Gabler at mschrispy@aol.com or 330-441-1841 to receive more information about the planning meeting on April 29th at 7:00pm (we will decide closer to that time if it will be via zoom or in person) Vacation Bible School is planned for the week of June 21st and will be shortened to 9:30-11 each day. In addition, we will limit our numbers to only 24 kids to keep Covid risks down.

Visit Stmatthewmedina.org Today. Have you had a chance to visit and explore our new website this week? A major improvement is the addition of new posts throughout the month. A brand new 2021 Church Directory listing was added. You can access it by going to the Member page and using the universal password that was mailed out to our members. While on the site, stop by the

prayer page, <https://www.stmatthewmedina.org/prayer>, for a weekly reminder of the people we are including in the prayers of the church as well as a link to Prayer Ventures, a monthly ELCA publication which may help to deepen and broaden your prayer life. If you have feedback or would like to contribute to the website, please contact Lisa Burke, Melody Costello or Beth Johnson.

New Care Team Ministry at St. Matthew - You're Invited to prayerfully consider being a part of a new Care Team Ministry at St. Matthew. The Mission of this new ministry is "to live God's love by intentionally caring for, supporting and connecting with the members of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church". If this resonates with you and if you are interested in being part of an exciting new ministry at St. Matthew, please contact Deacon Lindsay. Keep an eye out in the near future for a letter that further explains this exciting new ministry.

ELCA's World Hunger 40 Days of Giving. You are invited to study, pray, reflect and give during the 40 days of Lent for people locally and around the world who are in hunger. The number of people who are hungry has risen dramatically with the pandemic. Go to <https://community.elca.org/40days> to access a Lenten devotional calendar, prayers, reflections, stories and study guide related to global hunger. There is also a link to donate directly to ELCA World Hunger.

Electronic Offering Updates - If anyone needs help in changing their electronic giving (ACH) through Vanco please feel free to contact Dean Hauptman 216-280-7472 or email at dlhauptman73@gmail.com.

**Finance Report for February and Year-to-Date
St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

St. Matthew had the following revenue
and expenses for February.

	Month of	Year-to-Date
	<u>February 2021</u>	<u>February 2021</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 29,093.43	\$ 55,494.83
Total Expenses	\$ 22,670.56	\$ 56,820.69
Net Operating Revenue (Loss)	\$ 6,422.87	\$ (1,325.86)
Net Other	\$ 22.15	\$ 44.30
Net Revenue (Loss)	\$ 6,445.02	\$ (1,281.56)

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. William Diehm	Interim Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Custodian
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Sue Gircsis	Nursery Attendant
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Heather Rohde	Youth Worship Music Director