

“Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” *Matthew 25:13*

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

ELW Setting 4

“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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"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

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

arr. Diane Bish

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through + Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Song:

Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand

Hymn 441

*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.

*Kyrie

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*Hymn of Praise

This is the Feast

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*Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

First Reading

Amos 5:18-24

- ¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light;
¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.
²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Psalm

Psalm 70

- ¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.
²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**
³Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**
⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

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*Gospel

John 20:19-23

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

God's Mission

- God's vision for the world is ...
- What God is up to in this text ...
- Do NOT talk about what we/people are SUPPOSED to do. Stay focused on God!
- "God is _____(verbs)"

Our Purpose

- What are PEOPLE supposed to do as a result (of what is stated in passage)?

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Hymn 244

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**

P: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day especially

Elizabeth, Jerry, Peg, Isaac, Darine, Todd, Carol, Liz, Stevie, Jim, Tom, Fran, Dick, Logan, Adam and Family, Sandi, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offertory *Worship the King of Kings* Luther Choir

Offertory Response *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful* Hymn 184

Offering Prayer

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

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 him thanks and praise.

***Proper Preface**

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

***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: There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Lamb of God

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Communion Hymn

Blessed Assurance
Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Hymn 638

Hymn 204

*Prayer after Communion

P: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C: Amen.

SENDING

*Blessing

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

*Sending Song:

Soon and Very Soon

Hymn 439

*Dismissal:

P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Postlude

Soon and Very Soon
Andraè Crouch, arr. William Farley Smith

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Lorine and Mary Frances McNeal's anniversary (November 15) by Nancy McNeal.

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Pastor Steve's birthday by Julie Crow.

Prayers for Healing: Elizabeth, Jerry Jakovcic, Peg Huber, Isaac Linden, Darine Prok, Todd Costello, Carol Walter, Liz Linden, Stevie, Jim Kelling, Tom Thornton, Fran & Dick Koenig, Logan, Adam and Family, Sandi, and Steve Combs.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, we worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with *ELW setting 4* and Holy Communion. *Livestream at 8:30.*

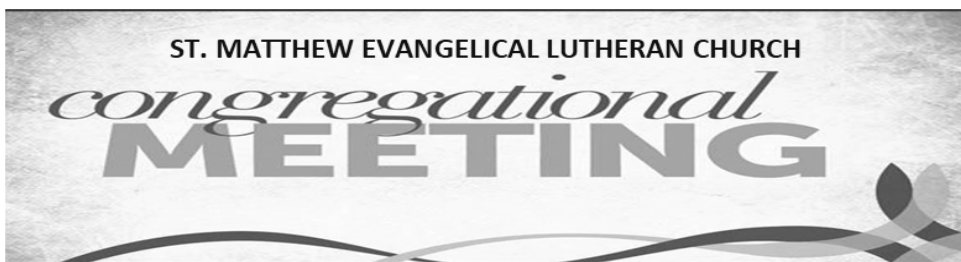
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

Luther Middles Food Drive - Luther Middles, meet in the middle school Sunday School Room at 9:45 a.m.

Luther League 65+ Thanksgiving Dinner - 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, we will worship in person and via livestream at 9:30 with Praise and holy communion.



Please join us for a congregational meeting to elect 2024 officers and vote on the 2024 budget.

We will have one worship service at 9:30 am, with the meeting immediately following.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

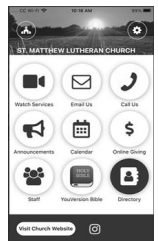
Congregational Council Meetings - The regular business meetings of the Congregational Council are the third Tuesday of every month and they are open to the congregation to attend if you are interested. The meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. and are held in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend in person at that time, you can be sent a Zoom link to attend the live meeting. The meeting schedule for the rest of 2023 is: Tuesday, November 21, 2023, and Tuesday, December 19, 2023. **Please note:** The Congregation Council, at a closed meeting, decided that given the sensitivity of some of the issues the congregation is currently addressing, that recordings will no longer be shared so as to not add fuel to the fire as well as in an attempt to answer any questions and/or concerns at the time of the meetings. With that said, they are encouraging members to either attend in person or request the link for the live meeting on the day in which it occurs. Additionally, the written minutes are also available on the Members page of the website.

Care Connection - Are you looking for a way to care for your fellow St. Matthew members? The Care Connection Team is a special ministry that is focused on caring for, supporting, and connecting with members throughout the year. Members of this team reach out in a variety of ways, such as phone calls, seasonal mailings, and visits. As a member of this team, you can make a positive impact without a significant commitment of time. We are hoping to have 3-4 new team members join this ministry – if you'd like to learn more, please reach out to Jean Waite (330-321-4266) or Kristine Neate (330-421-0653). We have a meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 16 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall – feel free to join us. All are welcome!

The Communication Evangelism Team is looking for new members. Meetings are held in the church library on the second Monday of each month at 5:15 pm. Contact Beth Johnson or Jill Heck with any questions.

How can you help with the Renovation Project? *Mail a check to St. Matthew OR Simply Giving Link* - Go to www.stmatthewmedina.org, Click on "Give", At the bottom of the page under "Online," click "Give Here", Select "St. Matthew Refresh/Renovation", Choose from a one-time donation or recurring donation. **Donations of \$65,755.63 received as of September 30, 2023.**

Directory App - Download this app on your smart phone and/or desktop computer. You received an email during the week of September 17 with your "Unique Identifier". Contact your UCD Administrator, Beth Johnson at sboyumj@gmail.com or our UCD volunteers: Sandy Andrews or Melody Costello to add your family photo, and/or to update your contact information.



To the parishioners of St. Matthew,

Due to my spine surgery on November 15th (to replace a fractured/broken spinal rod) I will be on a medical leave beginning November 14th. The surgeon estimates my time of recovery to be 2-3 months. I plan on communicating with Pastor Steve of my progress – but I will ask Deb Musil to put a monthly note in the bulletin, so that everyone is aware of my progress. I am praying for a positive outcome with the surgery and recovery. Please keep me in your prayers.

In His Service,
Brenda Disbrow
Parish Nurse

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Lucy Brown-Serban	11:00 - Brooke Haycook
Reader:	8:30 - Adam Scheid	11:00 - Julie Shrader
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Carol Elkins Sue Schwab	11:00 - Peg Huber Julie Shrader
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan Bruce Reed	11:00 - Tom & Amanda Kotick
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Rex Rickly	
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier	

**Finance Report Update for September, October & Year-to-Date
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

	Month of September, 2023	Month of October, 2023	Year-to-Date January-October, 2023
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 25,168.86	\$ 34,897.12	\$ 273,691.36
2023 Approved Mission Plan	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 333,333.30</u>
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ (8,164.47)	\$ 1,563.79	\$ (59,641.94)

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 September, October 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 57 (increase 1) 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 .*



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.