



So the **LAST**
will be
FIRST
and the **FIRST**
LAST.

Matthew 20:1-16

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 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

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:**

Lord of Light

Hymn 688

***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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***Prayer of the Day**

C: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

First Reading

Jonah 3:10--4:11

¹⁰When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

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*Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'
⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'
¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P: The gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day:

Lord of All Hopefulness

Hymn 765

***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** (*You may stand or kneel.*)

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

A brief silence.

D: God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind, especially Jim, Tom, Fran, Dick, Joe, Logan, Sierra, June, Adam and Family, Sandi, Judy, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. 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**

D: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offertory

Praise to the Lord (8:30)
Dane Edwards

Luther Choir

***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 Hymns

Give Me Jesus

Hymn 770

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Hymn 588

*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:

Rise Up, O Saints of God

Hymn 669

*Dismissal:

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude

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WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Bennett Alt	11:00 - Emma Kotick
Reader:	8:30 - Beth Johnson	11:00 - Becky Matyas
Ushers:	8:30 - Becky Malloy Larry & Connie Mohler Bruce Reed	11:00 - Jeff, Linda, and Faith Taraschke
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Mary Dunham Scott Johnson	11:00 - Teri Uttech
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 <i>only</i> - Melody Costello	
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier	

PRAYERS

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

Memorial Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in memory of Betty Muehlheim by Joyce and Tom Davis.

Prayers for Healing: Jim, Tom Thornton, Fran & Dick Koenig, Joe, Logan, Sierra (Davis) Trikillas, June Trenty, Adam and Family, Sandi, Judy McLaughlin, and Steve Combs.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

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

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

Renovation Cottage Meeting after each service this morning.

Luther League Spaghetti Dinner & Dessert Auction - 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, AT ST. MATTHEW

Harvest Home Sunday

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Go to https://buckeyecommunitytheatre.ludus.com/index.php?show_id=200441367 to purchase tickets.

Kids of the Kingdom - Rehearsal will officially start Thursday, **September 28** at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary! Rehearsals will be weekly, at the same time and place. All friends welcome! Hope to see you there! Contact Rachel Knaggs at rknaggsmusic@gmail.com or 330-591-7093 with any questions.

Harvest Home Sundays - (October 1, 8, & 15) The Altar Guild will be decorating for Harvest Home on Sunday, **September 30**, beginning at 9:15 a.m. If you are able to donate items, please bring them to the church by then. Any help provided is definitely appreciated. Any questions, contact Sandy Andrews.

Directory App - You received an email this week from Universal Church Directory (UCD), with your family's "unique identifier". Follow the directions to download the "MyUCD" app onto your smart phone and/or desktop. Contact your UCD Administrator, Beth Johnson at sboyumj@gmail.com to add your family photo, and/or to update your contact information. This way, the online App will be current at all times ... constantly keeping up with changes among our congregation.

Care Package Ministry - You can help us to fill care packages for our college students. Please bring in gift cards in increments up to \$25. *We are collecting until October 8*. Great News! St. Matthew has been awarded a Thrivent grant towards our Care Package Ministry for supplies that will be mailed to our college students prior to their first semester exams. The award is a MATCHING grant, to match YOUR contributions for our Care Package Ministry. Please place a special check (memo: CPM) in the offering plate, or mail to the church.

Fall Fest and Chili Cook-Off - Come join us on Sunday, **October 8**, 4 - 7 pm, in the St. Matthew parking lot. There will be pumpkin painting, a scavenger hunt, cornhole, and more! Put your chef hat on and see if you can win a prize for the best chili or dessert. Please sign up via sign up genius (scroll down for the link) or in the narthex. Please indicate if you are bringing a chili, appetizer/side, or a dessert. Hope to see you there!

Pull Tab Collection - We continue to collect tabs to support Ronald McDonald House in Akron and Cleveland. All pull tabs are accepted! (pet food, soup, veggies, beverages, etc.) There are containers located in the Narthex and the Room of the Cross to deposit your pull tabs. If you have any questions, call Joyce at 216-780-0965.

How you can help with the Renovation Project?

We are seeking help with raising funds through grants. If you have experience writing grants, please reach out to Emily Faust. emilyfaust25@gmail.com



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.

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.