

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

Praise service

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023
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

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.*

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Song** *Because of Your Love*

***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.

***Prayer of the Day**

**C: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call
upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with
compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout
the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message

Bob Maas

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

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

Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Paul writes: ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

***Gospel**

Matthew 15:10-28

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the

crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

Message

The Dandelion Team

Hymn of the Day:

Worthy, Worthy

*Prayers of Intercession

D: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

D: O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick, especially the family of Leitheia, Sierra, Carol, Amy, Sammy, June, Pat, Adam and Family, Loretta, Sandi, Judy, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors. Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

D: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Etude 2
Theo Charlier

Rachel Knaggs

Offertory Prayer

P: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.**

Distribution

Communion Song *At the Cross*

***Prayer after Communion**

P: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed †
bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C: Amen.

***Sending Song:** *Who You Say I Am*

***Dismissal:**

D: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

+++

Song Leaders: Heather Rohde & Lucy Brown-Serban
Guitar: Scott Schwandt
Drums: Lennie Davis
Bass: Karl Hermann

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Judy's 85th birthday by Dave Weir.

Prayers for Healing: The Family of Leithea Obermeier, Sierra (Davis) Trikillas, Carol Muhlbach, Amy Douglass, Sammy Young, June Trenty, Pat Straub, Adam and Family, Loretta Thornton, Sandi, Judy McLaughlin, and Steve Combs.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Dandelion Sunday

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

New Member Class - In the Fellowship Hall following worship.

Constitution/Bylaws Review - In the Sanctuary following worship.

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, we will worship in-person and via livestream at 9:30 with ELW setting 8 and holy communion.

Catechism Orientation - 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

New Members Class - In the Fellowship Hall following worship.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	Reagan Stuchal
Reader:	Tim Brown
Ushers:	Lisa Burke Ron & Katie Heinz
Communion Servers:	Carol Elkins Cindy Rickly
Sound:	Larry Mohler
Video:	Melody Costello
Altar Guild:	Becky Malloy Julie Shrader

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Sincere Thank you to our St. Matthew family for your love, support, cards, and memorial gifts in memory of Leithea. We are so blessed by our church family. *With love, The Obermeier Family*

Our Parish Nurse, Brenda Disbrow, will be in her office Wednesday, August 23 (in place of Tuesday).

An Archive Committee is Forming to make sure that we are keeping the church records (written and video) up to date with what's required of us as a congregation within the ELCA. They will be looking through both old and recent records, converting paper to digital, and ensuring that we have easy and accessible access to locating the information we need. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Pastor Steve.

Directories are here! If you had your photo taken for the directory, you may pick up your free copy from the narthex (look for the directory with your name on it). Otherwise, you may purchase a directory for \$10 - See Melody Costello.

Luther Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, August 19 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in the sanctuary and will sing in worship for the first time on September 3. More information available at rehearsal. Anyone from the congregation that would like to join us is very welcome to do so.

New Member Class is forming. The class will meet with Pastor Steve following worship on Sundays, August 20, 27, and between services on September 3. New members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, September 10. Please contact Pastor Steve if you are interested in joining St. Matthew.

Catechism Orientation for students who will be entering grades 6-8 this fall and their parents - Sunday, August 27 from 11:00-11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. We will discuss the confirmation model and curriculum, share dates for upcoming service and fellowship opportunities, and students will receive their materials for the year as well as acolyte training. Please contact Deacon Lindsay if you have any questions or are unable to attend the orientation.

God's Work Our Hands - It's time to mark your calendars and prepare to have fun helping others. God's Work. Our Hands. Day is Saturday, September 9. Our cluster churches, including St. Matthew, will be packing a minimum of 10,000 meals provided by Rise Against Hunger. This is a project for all ages. There will also be blanket tying for those who would prefer a sit-down project. More information will be coming in a couple of weeks. Mark your calendars now! The last time we did this project, everyone had so much fun, and I heard many comments that it was even more fun having the youth working with them too.

Remember to watch for more information soon. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex. They need a count as lunch will be provided. Questions? Contact Barb Woodard, 330-321-2408 or barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com

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.

St. Matthew Blessings Opportunity

The house at 432 North Broadway has been occupied by Pastor Steve for the last fourteen months and is now vacant with Pastor Steve's purchase of a home in Rittman. This property provides our congregation with many options for the future use of the property. The property might be to support our administrative or meetings needs. Or, to extend our current missions or, other newly identified community support possibilities.

Your ideas are encouraged and can come from anyone in the congregation. All ideas will be evaluated by a working committee with recommendations submitted to the congregation for review. The congregation will vote on recommendations from the working committee on how the property can best serve St. Matthew and our community.

We do not have a deadline for you to provide your ideas or to come up with a recommendation for the property for the congregation to consider. All final recommendation(s) will require a thorough review of 1.) charter of purpose identifying who will be served 2.) identifying an operating budget and, 3.) identifying the St. Matthew support team necessary to support and manage the future use of the property.

There is a blue **432 North Broadway Idea Box** on a window ledge in the Narthex with blank idea forms. Please use ONE form for each of your ideas so that it can be accurately evaluated. Please place your completed forms in the Sunday service offering plate or in Bill Heck's mailbox in the Room of the Cross. If you would want to participate with the working committee in evaluating all ideas provided by the congregation, please let Bill Heck or Pastor Steve know of your interest to serve. *- Bill Heck*

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

	<u>Month of June, 2023</u>	<u>Month of July, 2023</u>	<u>Year-to-Date January-July, 2023</u>
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 32,003.32	\$ 23,717.80	\$ 188,295.54
2023 Approved Mission Plan	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 233,333.31
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ (1,330.01)	\$ (9,615.53)	\$ (45,037.77)

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 June, July, 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 54 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 easy access for donations directly to the Renovation / Refresh Project. Please check it out 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.*

ALL ARE INVITED TO THE **St. Matthew**
ROCK THE BLOCK
COMMUNITY FESTIVAL
4th Saturday
of August 4-7pm

Food
Games
Entertainment

St. Matthew Lutheran Church [400 N. Broadway, Medina] invites the entire community to its "Rock the Block Community Festival". Free \$10 Food Vouchers to the first 75 youth, 17 and younger. Courthouse Pizzeria Food Trailer, Bounce House, Dunk Basket, D.J. Brian Stanis, "Nate the Great" Magician and balloon art, Free Raffle Tickets, Games and Contests.

Looking Ahead

Rally Sunday is September 10.

Please join us, as Sunday School for all ages begins for the new school year.



Our theme this year is

“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.

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

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.