

Now the Feast and Celebration

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 2023
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Now the Feast & Celebration

“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. Mathew 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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Now the Feast and Celebration

Marty Haugen

"Pages" found in the Now the Feast and Celebration booklet.

"Hymns" found toward the back of the red hymnal.

(* Please stand as you are able.)

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Confession and Forgiveness Page 2

*Gathering Song *God is Here* Hymn 526

*Greeting Page 2

*Kyrie Page 3

*Song *Now the Feast* Page 4

*Salutation Page 7

*Prayer of the Day

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 25:1-9

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard

others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Verse**

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***Gospel**

Matthew 21:23-32

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'

²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard

John as a prophet.”²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.²⁸” “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day

O God, My Faithful God

Hymn 806

***Apostles’ Creed**

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***Prayers of Intercession**

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: We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority. Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way especially Jim, Tom, Fran, Dick, Joe, Logan, Sierra, June, Adam and Family, Sandi, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: We give thanks for all the saints who died secure in the knowledge of salvation. Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of your resurrection. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: 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.

***Peace**

D: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering	<i>Praise to the Lord (11:00)</i> Dan R. Edwards	Luther Choir
Offertory	<i>As the Grains of Wheat</i>	Page 10
*Prayer		Page 11
*Great Thanksgiving		Page 11
*Preface		
*Song	<i>Holy</i>	Page 11
*Eucharistic Prayer		Page 12
*Eucharistic Acclamations		Page 12
Song	<i>Through Christ, With Christ, In Christ</i>	Page 13
*Lord's Prayer		Page 13
Lamb of God		Page 14
Communion Hymns	<i>O Blessed Spring</i>	Hymn 447
*Post-Communion Prayer		

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for the blessings of this table. May our lives be made new by these gifts of grace and may your love be made known through us.

C: Amen.

SENDING

***Sending Song** *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

Hymn 538

***Trinitarian Blessing & Dismissal**

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Postlude

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WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Lucy Brown-Serban	11:00 - Luke Gierhart
Reader:	8:30 - Judy McLaughlin	11:00 - Beth Johnson
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan & Delores Ivan Bruce Reed	11:00 - Cindy Rickly
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Carol Elkins Carla Maas	11:00 - Sandy Andrews Scott Johnson
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Brian Harris	
Altar Guild:	Becky Malloy & Julie Shrader	

PRAYERS

Harvest Home Sunday - Today is one of our Harvest Home Sundays. The Lord provides and we all get to enjoy the benefits. Thank you to all who provided items for our Sanctuary and helped decorate.

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

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. (*Luther League* meeting at Cool Beans.)

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Nineteenth 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Lindsay on vacation October 3-9.

Pastor Steve on vacation October 3-16.

Please know that while seeking renewal and rest, they will not be looking at nor responding to emails. Additionally, please honor this important and necessary time away by refraining from texts, calls, instant messages, or other forms of social media communication. Thank you for showing care for your pastor and deacon in honoring healthy boundaries.

Thank you, St. Matthew, for supporting our high schoolers as they raise funds for the 2024 Youth Gathering. You helped to raise over \$3,000 at our spaghetti dinner on Sunday. We cannot thank you enough! *Sincerely, the Luther League*

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.

Flower Pot Contest - Check out our St. Matthew flower pot decorated on Medina Square during the month of October, as part of the Mainstream Medina 2023 Fall Flower Pot Contest. Our flower pot is located on Broadway, directly between the old and new courthouse.

Blood Pressure Screening - October 8, before and between services, in Brenda's office.

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!

2023 Advent Devotions - Sign-ups have begun for the 2023 Advent Devotions. All are invited to contribute a devotion. Use this website to add your name.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/>

[d/1PRAEKGXF_55MpXyPolw2CxbJ95kIFWlzDEo2h7cvdW4/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PRAEKGXF_55MpXyPolw2CxbJ95kIFWlzDEo2h7cvdW4/edit#gid=0)

Suggested scriptural references are listed, as well as verses from the Advent hymn, *Fling Wide the Door*, which is our theme for 2023.

Nominating Committee Volunteers - 2024 is coming and our congregation needs to look for our next leaders of the Congregational Council. The Nominating Committee will seek to identify individuals who want to take part in the leadership team in managing our church affairs. The Nominating Committee will also be seeking and confirming the leaders of our Five Star Ministry Chairs and Co-Chairs. If you are interested in taking part in the nominating process or feel the call to be nominated for a specific office or Five Star position, please contact Jennifer Knaggs 330-413-0529.

432 North Broadway Use Update - To date, we have over 20 responses from the congregation on what we should be doing with the 432 North Broadway property. The top areas identified are: some form of continued Transitional Housing options, work with Operation Homes to expand their services, and partnering with Habitat for Humanity to house their new home families while they wait for their new home to be completed. These three options were further defined to be short-term uses, two years or less, to enable St. Matthew to continue to serve our community while we take a longer-term view of our development of our facility and grounds. If you have comments or other ideas on what this property should be used for, please contact Bill Heck 330-723-3390.

Directory App - You received an email this past 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.

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.

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	\$33,333.33	\$33,333.33	\$266,666.64
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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Hearing Loop
System available.