

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

Praise service

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023
8:30 & 11:00 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** *Build Your Kingdom Here*

***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: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of
forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and
adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

***Gospel**

Matthew 18:21-35

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day:

Grace Alone

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

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 pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy especially Alan, 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: We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. 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.

***Sharing of the Peace**

D: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

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**

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 *The Table*

*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: *Multiplied*

*Dismissal:

D: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

+++

Song Leader: Heather Rohde
Guitar: Scott Schwandt
Drums: Lennie Davis
Bass: Karl Hermann

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Tom and Loretta Thornton's 60th wedding anniversary by Debbie Hicks.

Memorial Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in honor of loved ones by Sandy and Gary Kelling.

Prayers for Healing: Alan Ivan, Jim Kelling, 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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, we worship in-person at 8:30 and 11:00 with Praise and holy communion. *Livestream at 8:30.*

Blood Pressure Checks before and between services in Brenda's office.

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

Kids of the Kingdom information session at 9:45 in the sanctuary.

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Seventeenth Sunday of Easter, 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 worship service.

Luther League Spaghetti Dinner & Dessert Auction - 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. (*See full details and RSVP instructions on page 10.*)

WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING

Acolyte:	8:30 - Luke Rohde	11:00 - Olivia Naida
Reader:	8:30 - Melody Costello	11:00 - Lisa Burke
Ushers:	8:30 - Connie Mohler Bruce Reed	11:00 - Tom & Amanda Kotick Cindy Rickly
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Melody Costello Carol Elkins	11:00 - Lisa Burke Cindy Rickly
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 <i>only</i> - Brian Harris	
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier	

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you to everyone for their thoughts and prayers during my recovery from knee surgery. *Carol Muhlbach*

College Care Packages - 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.

Kids of the Kingdom - Info session Today, September 17, between services in the sanctuary. If you're unable to attend, but still interested, please fill out the Google form using the QR code shown here. Rehearsals start Thursday, September 28 - more info to come!



Altar Guild Luncheon to be held on Saturday, September 23, at Panera's beginning at noon. If you are currently an Atar Guild member or would like to find out more about what we do, we would love to have you join us. This event will have a little business and a lot of fellowship. Contact Sandy Andrews (330-667-2858 or sandrews731@aol.com).

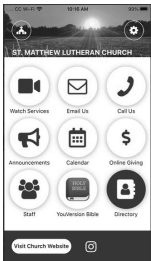
Renovation Cottage Meeting - Sunday, September 24, after both 8:30 and 11:00 services.

Spaghetti Dinner & Dessert Auction - Our spaghetti dinner will take place Sunday, September 24 at 5:00 p.m. The Dessert Auction has returned and will follow the dinner! Come prepared to eat a lot of spaghetti, bid on delicious desserts, and help support our Luther League as they prepare to attend the Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024. We hope to see you there! *Scan the QR code to the right to RSVP or sign up in the narthex.*



Spaghetti Sign up!

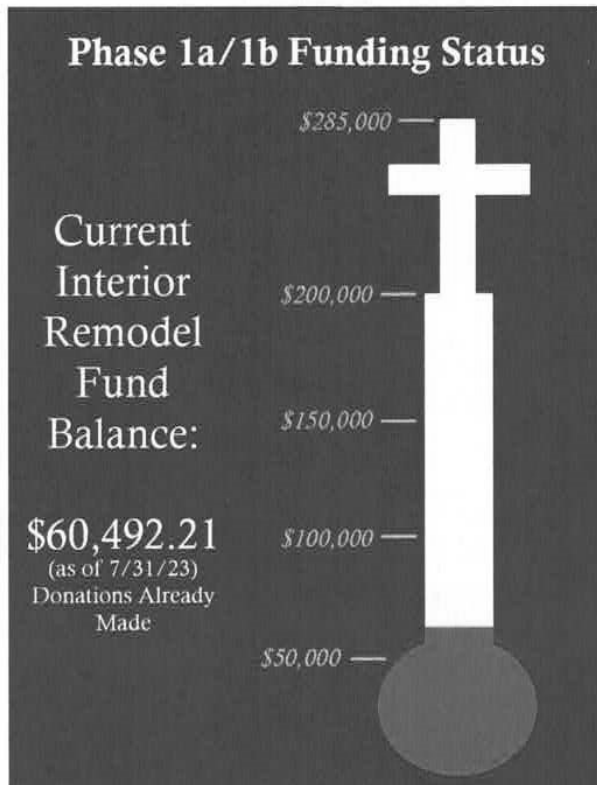
Save the date! Kaitlyn Taraschke will be performing in "Legally Blonde Jr." at the Haddad Theatre, 144 N. Broadway, October 6-8. Please support our local theater along with Kaitlyn, tickets on sale soon! Go to https://buckeyecommunitytheatre.ludus.com/index.php?show_id=200441367 to purchase tickets.



Directory App - You can now download the app MyUCD on your smart phone and/or desktop. Your "unique identifier" will be emailed to you during the week of September 17, 2023. If you want it prior to that time, please contact our UCD administrator, Beth Johnson, at sboyumj@gmail.com

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



How can we help or donate?

Mail a check to St. Matthew

OR

Simply Giving Link

1. Go to www.stmatthewmedina.org
2. Click on "Give"
3. At the bottom on the page under "Online," click "Give Here"
4. Select "St. Matthew Refresh/Renovation"
5. Choose from a one-time donation or recurring donation

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.