



“The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. *Matthew 13:37-39*”

## *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost*

July 23, 2023

9:30 a.m.

*ELW Setting 8*

*“Living God’s Love”*

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

330-725-8885 † [office@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:office@stmatthewmedina.org)

[www.stmatthewmedina.org](http://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

#### \*Confession and Forgiveness *(You may stand or kneel)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

\***Gathering Song:** *Oh, Worship the King* Hymn 842

#### \*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** *Kyrie Eleison* Page 184

\***Hymn of Praise** *This is the Feast* Page 187

#### \*Prayer of the Day

**C: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that**

**we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Children's Sermon**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

## **WORD**

### **First Reading**

Isaiah 44:6-8

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.

<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,  
let them declare and set it forth before me.  
Who has announced from of old the things to come?  
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

<sup>8</sup>Do not fear, or be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
You are my witnesses!  
Is there any god besides me?  
There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

### **Psalm**

Psalm 86:11-17

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;  
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

<sup>12</sup>**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,  
and glorify your name forevermore.**

<sup>13</sup>For great is your love toward me;  
you have delivered me from the pit of death.

<sup>14</sup>**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks  
my life;  
they have not set you before their eyes.**

<sup>15</sup>But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

<sup>16</sup>**Turn to me and have mercy on me;  
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

<sup>17</sup>**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be  
put to shame;  
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.**

## Second Reading

Romans 8:12-25

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go*

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## \*Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>24</sup>Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.

<sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

<sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ <sup>28</sup>He

answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would

uproot the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; <sup>38</sup>the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the

age, and the reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, <sup>42</sup>and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**Hymn of the Day:**

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Hymn 632

**\*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: 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, you call your church to announce the gospel of reconciliation and truth both near and far. Guide your church as it seeks your wisdom and shares it, trusting your Spirit bearing witness among us. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: You brought forth all creation and called it good. Direct policymakers to protect lands and seas. Bring rain to sun-parched fields and protect areas impacted by natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: You desire peace among nations and peoples. Guard our neighborhoods from hatred, watch over police officers and firefighters, and teach us to advocate for those who live in fear. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: You are gracious and merciful, comforting those who suffer any affliction especially Sierra, Carol, Amy, Sue, Sammy, June, Pat, Adam and Family, Loretta, Leithea, Sandi, Judy, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Sustain your people living with HIV/ AIDS, provide shelter for all who are unhoused, and release any who are unjustly imprisoned. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: You name each of us as your children. Guide our hospitality ministry to welcome all, our education ministry to equip us for faithful living, and our social ministry to enact the gospel in our community. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: You send faithful people to proclaim freedom from bondage and to renew your church. Encourage us by the witness of the faithful departed, so that we live into that same hope. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: 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**

*Rejoice, The Lord is King*  
Darwall/Bonam

Flute Solo

**Offertory Response**

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

Hymn 184

### **\*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**

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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: All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

**\*Lamb of God**

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**Communion Hymn**

*As the Grains of Wheat*

Hymn 465

**\*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:

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Hymn 631

## \*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*Postlude

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## PRAYERS

**Altar Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God in praise and thanks to God for their granddaughter, Carolyn, by Ron and Ann Kolzing.

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

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Eighth Sunday in Pentecost**, we worship in-person and via livestream at 9:30 with ELW setting 8 and holy communion.

**Blood Pressure Screening** before and after worship in Brenda's office.

## NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 30, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Ninth Sunday in Pentecost**, we will worship in-person and via livestream at 9:30 with Rhythm & Blues and holy communion.

**Birthday Cake Reception** - The Obermeier family invites you to join them in the fellowship hall after worship for a cake and coffee reception in celebration of Leithea's 85th birthday.

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolytes: Lucy Brown-Serban  
 Reader: Helen Graf  
 Ushers: Todd & Melody Costello  
 Donald, Liz, Patrick, Adam  
 & Isaac Linden  
 Communion Servers: Becky Malloy  
 Rebekah Neidig  
 Sound: Larry Mohler  
 Video: Rex Rickly  
 Altar Guild: Lisa Burke  
 Liz Linden

### Finance Report Update for April, May & Year-to-Date St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

	<i>Month of</i> April, 2023	<i>Month of</i> May, 2023	<i>Year-to-Date</i> January-May, 2023
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 27,780.49	\$ 22,487.86	\$ 132,574.42
2023 Approved Mission Plan	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 166,666.65
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ (5,552.84)	\$ (10,845.47)	\$ (34,092.23)

**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 April, May and 2023 year-to-date. Please 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. Please consider signing up for Simply Giving at:*  
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z4MP/home>

*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](mailto:brucerreed@comcast.net).*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Giving Statements** - In order to save on postage expense, half-year giving statements are available to be picked up in the narthex. Any statements not picked up by August 13 will be mailed.

**Did you borrow a book from Pastor Steve?** Shortly after Pastor Steve started with us, he let someone borrow his book about his bike trip. He recalls this person seeing it in his office while visiting with him, but can't place who it was. Could this have been you? If so, could you look for the book and if found, return it to Pastor Steve. He would be ever so grateful.

**Guitarists wanted!** Contact Pastor Steve if you are able to play for our outdoor worship service on August 13.

**Bible & Brew Location Change** for Thursday, July 27, 7:00 p.m. Buehler's River Styx Community Room. Snacks and non-alcoholic drinks may be brought in. Beverages containing alcohol may be purchased at the store only.

**Our St. Matthew church family is invited** to celebrate Leithea Obermeier's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on **Sunday, July 30** in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. We will be having a cake & coffee reception. We hope you can join us! If not, please consider sending her a birthday card to her new address: Leithea Obermeier c/o Avenue at Medina, 699 East Smith Road #122, Medina OH 44256. Thank you for helping us celebrate her special birthday! Joe & Kelly Obermeier

**Outdoor Worship** - Sunday, August 13, 10:00 a.m. at Buckeye Woods Park with a backpack blessing. Picnic to immediately follow worship. We are asking everyone to contribute a dish. We are requesting sloppy joes, pulled pork, buns, fruit/veggie trays, side/salad, and desserts. We will also have games such as corn hole and Jenga available. You can bring additional games or equipment for softball, dodgeball, etc. If you would like to fish, you will need to bring your fishing gear. If you plan to attend the picnic, please use the Sign-Up Genius link shown here or sign up in the narthex. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CA8AC22ABFC1-church1>. Please contact Melody Costello with any questions.

**Key Inventory - If you have a key to the church and do not need it, please return it to the office!** Otherwise, contact the church office (330-725-8885 or [office@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:office@stmatthewmedina.org)) and let us know what type of key you have and the number shown on the key.

**Share your favorite hymns with us!** Forms are located in the narthex for you to fill out. Please place completed lists in Pastor Steve's mailbox.

## **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](mailto:pastorsteve@stmatthewmedina.org)

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

### **Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information**

Email: [lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org)

Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop  
System available.