



Reformation Sunday

October 29, 2023
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

ELW Setting 4

“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

Confession and Forgiveness

D: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, + Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C: Amen.

D: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

D: Steadfast and faithful God,

C: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

D: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Song:** *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* *See Projection*

*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

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*Hymn of Praise

This is the Feast

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*Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Sermon (8:30)

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Choir Anthem (11:00)

Kids of the Kingdom

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**
¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

*Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

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*Gospel

John 8:31-36

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day:

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Hymn 708

Apostle's Creed (8:30)

**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.**

Choir Anthem (11:00)

You Called Me

Luther Choir

***Affirmation of Baptism (11:00)**

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***Prayers of Intercession**

D: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

D: God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer especially Carol, Liz, Garrett, Stevie, Jim, Tom, Fran, Dick, Logan, Adam and Family, Sandi, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Be their rest and comfort. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. We pray for young people affirming their baptism. With them, stir in us a desire for your wisdom. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

D: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through 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

Offertory

Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful

Hymn 184

Offering 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 him 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 Hymn

That Precious Grace
Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Hymn 591

Hymn 204

***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:**

Thy Strong Word

Hymn 511

***Dismissal:**

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

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of their 19 year wedding anniversary by Thaddeus and Corey Neururer.

Memorial Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in thanksgiving for and in celebration of the life of her son, Ben Reber (1980-2017), by Judy Reber McLaughlin. "He has gone no further from us than to God, and God is very near."

Prayers for Healing: Carol Walter, Liz Linden, Garrett Shook, Stevie, Jim Kelling, Tom Thornton, Fran & Dick Koenig, Logan, Adam and Family, Sandi, and Steve Combs.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Reformation Sunday, we worship in-person at 8:30 and 11:00 with ELW 4 and holy communion. *Livestream at 8:00.*

Thank you to Cindy Piovarchy, our accompanist for worship this morning.

Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) during the 11:00 service.

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

Reception for Confirmands in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. Confirmands are Kaiden Capeles, Marin Gerspacher, Luke Gierhart, Avri Hess, Lexi Hess, Logan Naida, Ella Supanich, Ben Thompson, Sean Thompson, and Brandon Wierzchowski.

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, All Saints Sunday, we will worship in-person and via livestream at 11:00 with Now the Feast and holy communion.

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

Special Congregational Meeting immediately following worship in the sanctuary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Luther League 65+ Thanksgiving Dinner - Please join us on Sunday, November 12 at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We would like to say Thank You to the seniors of our congregation for the faithful support that you continually give to the high school youth. Thank you for supporting and encouraging us. We hope to see you on the 12th. Sincerely, The St. Matthew Luther League

Congregational Council Meetings - The regular business meetings of the Congregational Council are the third Tuesday of every month and they are open to the congregation to attend if you are interested. The meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. and are held in the Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend in person at that time, you can be sent a Zoom link to attend the live meeting. The meeting schedule for the rest of 2023 is: Tuesday, November 21, 2023, and Tuesday, December 19, 2023. **Please note:** The Congregation Council, at a closed meeting, decided that given the sensitivity of some of the issues the congregation is currently addressing, that recordings will no longer be shared so as to not add fuel to the fire as well as in an attempt to answer any questions and/or concerns at the time of the meetings. With that said, they are encouraging members to either attend in person or request the link for the live meeting on the day in which it occurs. Additionally, the written minutes are also available on the Members page of the website.

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.

Sunshine Meals Ministry - Have you heard of the "Sunshine Meals?" This is a wonderful group of people from St. Matthew who volunteer to periodically make/or purchase meals and deliver them to parishioners at a time of need. If you would like to learn more about this ministry or want to volunteer, please contact our Parish Nurse, Brenda Disbrow, or the coordinator of the program, Sue Schwab. If you would like to be a recipient of a meal(s) after a hospitalization, health issue, or loss of a loved one, please contact Sue Schwab at 330-242-3397. A sincere thank you to Sue for her role in supporting the parishioners of St. Matthew and to all the volunteers who lend their time and talent to help others. *Brenda Disbrow, Parish Nurse*

2023 Advent Devotions - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PRAEKGXF_55MpXyPolw2CxbJ95kIFWlzDEo2h7cvdW4/edit#gid=0

How can you help with the Renovation Project? Mail a check to St. Matthew OR Simply Giving Link - Go to www.stmatthewmedina.org, Click on “Give”, At the bottom of the page under “Online,” click “Give Here”, Select “St. Matthew Refresh/Renovation”, Choose from a one-time donation or recurring donation. **Donations of \$65,755.63 received as of September 30, 2023.**

The Communication Evangelism Team is looking for new members. Meetings are held in the church library on the second Monday of each month at 5:15 pm. Contact Beth Johnson or Jill Heck with any questions.

Directory App - Download this app on your smart phone and/or desktop computer. You received an email during the week of September 17 with your “Unique Identifier”. Contact your UCD Administrator, Beth Johnson at sboyumj@gmail.com or our UCD volunteers: Sandy Andrews or Melody Costello to add your family photo, and/or to update your contact information.



WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Faith Taraschke	11:00 - Devin Shrader
Reader:	8:30 - Judy McLaughlin	11:00 - Melody Costello
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Mary Dunham Becky Malloy	11:00 - Melody Costello
Ushers:	8:30 - Alan Ivan	11:00 - Julie Shrader
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Brian Harris	
Altar Guild:	Becky Malloy & Julie Shrader	

**Finance Report Update for August, September & Year-to-Date
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

	<u>Month of August, 2023</u>	<u>Month of Sept., 2023</u>	<u>Year-to-Date January-Sept., 2023</u>
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 25,329.84	\$ 25,168.86	\$ 238,794.24
2023 Approved Mission Plan	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 299,999.97
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ (8,003.49)	\$ (8,164.47)	\$ (61,205.73)

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 August, September 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.