



# Rhythm & Blues

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church  
*Living God's Love in Medina, Ohio*

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

July 30, 2023

9:30 a.m.

*Rhythm & Blues*

*“Living God’s Love”*

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

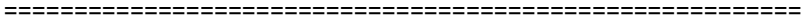
330-725-8885 † [office@stmatthewmedina.org](mailto:office@stmatthewmedina.org)

[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.



*“Pages” are found in the Rhythm & Blues booklet.*

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

**GATHERING**

**Gathering Music**

**Announcements**

**\*Gathering Song** *We’ve Fallen Short* Page 3

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

**\*Greeting** Page 4

**\*Kyrie** Page 4

**\*Hymn of Praise and Salutation** Page 4

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Children’s Sermon** Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

**WORD**

**First Reading** 1 Kings 3:5-12

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able

to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

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

## Psalm

Psalm 119:129-136

<sup>129</sup>Your decrees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

<sup>130</sup>**When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup>I open my mouth and pant  
because I long for your commandments.

<sup>132</sup>**Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup>Order my footsteps in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup>**Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**

<sup>135</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup>**My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.**

## Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup>The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

<sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It

is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**\*Gospel**

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

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

<sup>31</sup>Jesus put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup>it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup>He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup>on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup>when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup>So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup>and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup>“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup>And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

D: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

P: 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.*

P: Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick, especially Sierra, Carol, Amy, Sammy, June, Pat, Adam and Family, Loretta, Leithea, Sandi, Judy, Steve and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. 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.**

## MEAL

### Offering

**\*Offertory Response**

Page 6

**\*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.**

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

Page 8

**\*Lamb of God**

Page 8

### Holy Communion

**Communion Hymn**

*I Want Jesus to Walk With Me*

Hymn 325

*Just a Closer Walk With Thee (vs 1-2)*

Hymn 697

## 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**

*Do Lord*

**\*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 celebration of Leithea Obermeier's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday by Joe and Kelly Obermeier.

**Altar Flowers This Morning** are given to the glory of God in celebration of their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary by Judy and Dave Weir.

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

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**, we worship in-person and via livestream at 9:30 a.m. 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 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, AT ST. MATTHEW

**Next Sunday, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**, we will worship in-person and via livestream at 9:30 with Now the Feast and Celebration and holy communion.

**Comprehensive Youth Team Meeting** - 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolytes:	Brooke Haycock
Reader:	Ron Heinz
Ushers:	Bill & Jill Heck Alan & Delores Ivan
Communion	Delores Ivan
Servers:	Jen Knaggs
Sound:	Larry Mohler
Video:	Owen Blakslee
Altar Guild:	Lisa Burke Liz Linden

# 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.

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

**Next Blood Pressure Screening** - Sunday, August 6, before and after worship in Brenda's office.

**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.

**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.

**Operation Homes Update** - Currently we have four people in the program; Michele, Sarah and her 4-year old daughter, Aria, and Sean. All are working to find available apartments and are close to finding them. I would like to give a special shout out to Westfield Insurance and our own Kristine Neate. Westfield is celebrating their 175<sup>th</sup> year in business and are allowing their employees to work one day at any charity of their choosing during regular business hours. Kristen chose Operation Homes Day Center in the days following Covid and shortage of volunteers. What a blessing! Thank you, Westfield. I hope this becomes a new model for other businesses. The Operation Homes Day Center is looking for volunteers who can work in support of our guests. If you are interested, call Rick Sullivan 330-391-0222. Very easy! Very important!

**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.



**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.

## *Looking Ahead*

**Rally Sunday is September 10.**

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



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

	Month of May, 2023	Month of June, 2023	Year-to-Date January-June, 2023
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 22,487.86	\$ 32,003.32	\$ 164,577.74
2023 Approved Mission Plan	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 199,999.98</u>
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ (10,845.47)	\$ (1,330.01)	\$ (35,422.24)

**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 May, June 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>*

*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).*

# ROCK THE BLOCK

## COMMUNITY FESTIVAL



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

**4:00-7:00 PM**

*All of Medina is invited!*

**FIRST 75 YOUTH**

**(17 & younger)**

**FREE \$10 FOOD**

**VOUCHER**

Courthouse Pizzeria Trailer  
Nate the Great, Magic Show  
DJ, Brian Stanis  
Combo Bounce House  
Splash Tower (Dunk Bucket)  
Balloon Art  
Carnival Games  
Free Raffle Tickets  
Face Painting  
Water - Based Tattoos  
Contests

## **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**

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Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop  
System available.