

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

Praise service

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023
9:30 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** *Lord, I Need You*

***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**

**Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples,
and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and
wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

Psalm

Psalm 90:1-12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were
born, from age to age you are God.**
³You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**
⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
⁸**Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly
and we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

¹²**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Sermon Readings (Dandelion Project)

Acts 1:6-11

P: A reading from the book of Acts, the first chapter and Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth, the fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said,

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

God’s Mission

- God’s vision for the world is ...
- What God is up to in this text ...
- Do NOT talk about what we/people are SUPPOSED to do. Stay focused on God!
- “God is _____(verbs)”

Our Purpose

- What are PEOPLE supposed to do as a result (of what is stated in passage)?

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Praise to you O Christ!

God’s Mission

- God’s vision for the world is ...
- What God is up to in this text ...
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Sermon - Dandelion Conversations

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day:

Still

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: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

D: Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

C: You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you especially Melanie, Brenda, Denny, Elizabeth, Jerry, Peg, Isaac, Darine, Todd, Carol, Liz, Stevie, Jim, Tom, Fran, Dick, Logan, Adam and Family, Sandi, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love.

Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

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 all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

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 Duet

Rest

*Prayer after Communion

P: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C: Amen.

SENDING

*Blessing

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

*Sending Song:

Your Grace Is Enough

*Dismissal:

D: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

+++

Song Leaders: Heather Rohde, Shaun Faust

Guitar: Scott Schwandt

Drums: Lennie Davis

Bass: Karl Hermann

Pianist: Cindy Piovarchy

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Otto, Martha, and August by the Weight Family.

Memorial Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in memory of loved ones by Rex and Cindy Rickly.

Prayers for Healing: Elizabeth, Jerry Jakovcic, Peg Huber, Isaac Linden, Darine Prok, Todd Costello, Carol Walter, Liz Linden, Stevie, Jim Kelling, Tom Thornton, Fran & Dick Koenig, Logan, Adam and Family, Sandi, and Steve Combs.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, we worship in person and via livestream at 9:30 with Praise and holy communion.

Congregational Meeting immediately following worship.

No Sunday School this morning.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP, NOVEMBER 22, AT ST. MATTHEW

Thanksgiving Eve, we will worship in person and livestream at 7 p.m. with ELW and holy communion.

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, we will worship in person at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. with ELW 4 and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30.

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

WORSHIP SERVANTS THIS MORNING

Acolyte:	Emma Kotick
Reader:	Melody Costello
Communion	Melody Costello
Servers:	Teri Uttech
	Alan & Delores Ivan
Ushers:	Becky Malloy Bruce Reed
Sound:	Larry Mohler
Video:	Brian Harris
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Cookie Exchange & Soup Luncheon - Please join us on Sunday, December 3, in the Fellowship Hall after the late service. Bring three dozen of your favorite HOMEMADE Christmas cookies to share. Don't forget to bring your containers to take the cookies home. There will be a fun craft for the children. If you don't want to participate in the exchange, feel free to join us for a soup and salad luncheon. Wear your favorite Christmas sweater. We're adding a twist this year, for those who would like to participate ... bring a white elephant gift to exchange (\$10 max). We look forward to sharing the afternoon with you. Please sign up using this Sign-up Genius web address: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A44A9AA2EA5FA7-46110193-stmatthews/1889186#/> or for those who are not "online" you may sign up in the narthex or call the office.

To the parishioners of St. Matthew, Due to my spine surgery on November 15th (to replace a fractured/broken spinal rod) I will be on a medical leave beginning November 14th. The surgeon estimates my time of recovery to be 2-3 months. I plan on communicating with Pastor Steve of my progress – but I will ask Deb Musil to put a monthly note in the bulletin, so that everyone is aware of my progress. I am praying for a positive outcome with the surgery and recovery. Please keep me in your prayers. In His Service, Brenda Disbrow, Parish Nurse

Care Connection - Are you looking for a way to care for your fellow St. Matthew members? The Care Connection Team is a special ministry that is focused on caring for, supporting, and connecting with members throughout the year. Members of this team reach out in a variety of ways, such as phone calls, seasonal mailings, and visits. As a member of this team, you can make a positive impact without a significant commitment of time. We are hoping to have 3-4 new team members join this ministry – if you'd like to learn more, please reach out to Jean Waite (330-321-4266) or Kristine Neate (330-421-0653). We have a meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 16 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall – feel free to join us. All are welcome!

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.

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.

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.**

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.



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

	Month of September, 2023	Month of October, 2023	Year-to-Date January-October, 2023
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 25,168.86	\$ 34,897.12	\$ 273,691.36
2023 Approved Mission Plan	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 33,333.33	\$ 333,333.30
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ (8,164.47)	\$ 1,563.79	\$ (59,641.94)

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 September, October 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 57 (increase 1) 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
Cindy Piovarchy	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

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Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

Email: lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop
System available.