



## *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

August 27, 2023

9:30 a.m.

*ELW Setting 8*

*“Living God’s Love”*

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

400 North Broadway Street † Medina, Ohio 44256

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[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)*

D: 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.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

D: 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.**

D: 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:** *O Holy Spirit, Enter In* Hymn 786

#### \*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.**

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

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

## \*Prayer of the Day

**C: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Children's Sermon

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

## WORD

### First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,  
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places,  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation;  
for a teaching will go out from me,  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,  
my salvation has gone out  
and my arms will rule the peoples;  
the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.

<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

<sup>3</sup>When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.

<sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways of the LORD,  
that great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup>**You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

## Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 16:13-20

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

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

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

**Sermon**

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

**Hymn of the Day:**

*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

Hymn 597

**\*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: God of Sarah and Abraham, inspire your church to pursue righteousness in its ministry. Equip us to share your compassion that unites us as one family of faith. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: Remind us that from the beginning of creation, you knit together a world meant for harmony. Protect and restore the wasted places to joy and gladness. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: Stir the leaders of nations and towns, militaries and courts, to respond to your teachings. Let your call for justice reach all people and bring deliverance where there is oppression. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: Show your steadfast love and faithfulness to those in despair. Increase their strength, care for all who feel low, keep safe any in the midst of trouble, and protect vulnerable people from harm. We pray especially for Logan, Una Mae, Sierra, Carol, Amy, Sammy, June, Pat, Adam and Family, Sandi, Judy, Steve, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: Encourage those who offer their gifts and talents in service to your church. Energize this congregation's rostered and lay leaders, musicians, teachers, greeters, and administrators so they may be transformed in sharing your grace. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: God of all the saints, death is overcome in Christ's resurrection. We rejoice with the faithful departed. Sustain us in hope until we come at last to our heavenly home. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

D: 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**

### **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**

*Let Us Break Bread Together  
Father, We Thank You*

Hymn 471  
Hymn 478

**\*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:

*Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

Hymn 547

## \*Dismissal:

D: 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 by The Hulvey Family.

**Prayers for Healing:** Logan, Una Mae Gill, Sierra (Davis) Trikillas, Carol Muhlback, Amy Douglass, Sammy Young, June Trenty, Pat Straub, Adam and Family, Sandi, Judy McLaughlin, and Steve Combs.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

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

**Catechism Orientation** - 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

**New Members Class** with Pastor Steve in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

## NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, AT ST. MATTHEW

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

**New Members Class** with Pastor Steve in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

## Rally Sunday is September 10.

Join us as a new Sunday School year begins for all ages.

Our theme this year is

**“God’s Game Plan: Catch the Spirit”.**



We will gather in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. for a Spirit Rally and march across the parking lot to our Rally Day Tailgate where there will be games, snacks, a craft, and more! The ENTIRE congregation is invited and encouraged to attend the Spirit Rally and participate in the tailgate activities.

## WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolytes: Faith Taraschke  
 Reader: LaVonne Hauptman  
 Ushers: Bruce Reed  
 Linda Taraschke  
 Communion: Lisa Burke  
 Servers: Becky Malloy  
 Sound: Joe Obermeier  
 Video: Rex Rickly  
 Altar Guild: Becky Malloy  
 Julie Shrader

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

	<u>Month of June, 2023</u>	<u>Month of July, 2023</u>	<u>Year-to-Date January-July, 2023</u>
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 32,003.32	\$ 23,717.80	\$ 188,295.54
2023 Approved Mission Plan	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 233,333.31</u>
Budget Variance (Loss)	\$ (1,330.01)	\$ (9,615.53)	\$ (45,037.77)

**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 June, July, 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>*

**SPECIAL NOTE:** *St. Matthew has set-up in Simply Giving easy access for donations directly to the Renovation / Refresh Project. Please check it out 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](mailto:brucerreed@comcast.net).*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SAVE THE DATE** – We are planning a night out to support our local theatre group, Showbiz Medina, and two of our members, Jordan Johnston and Rachel Knaggs. Jordan and Rachel are starring in Bye Bye Birdie. We will be seeing it on September 16 at 7:30 pm with dinner before on the square. Watch for additional details and ticket ordering information.

**New Member Classes Continue** with Pastor Steve, following worship on Sundays, August 27 and 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.

**An Archive Committee is Forming** to make sure that we are keeping the church records (written and video) up to date with what's required of us as a congregation within the ELCA. They will be looking through both old and recent records, converting paper to digital, and ensuring that we have easy and accessible access to locating the information we need. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Pastor Steve.

**Directories are here!** If you had your photo taken for the directory, you may pick up your free copy from the narthex (look for the directory with your name on it). Otherwise, you may purchase a directory for \$10 - See Melody Costello.

**God's Work Our Hands** - On God's Work. Our Hands. Day, join the cluster churches to pack 10,000+ meals provided by Rise Against Hunger, or you have a choice of tying blankets. Meet at Our Saviour Lutheran, 1605 Center Road, Hinckley, on **Saturday, September 9, no later than 9:15 am**. Please eat breakfast and/or have your coffee before you attend. There will be no food or beverage allowed while working the assembly line. You may wear your GWOH yellow shirt if you have one, or wear a different yellow shirt if you can. Lunch will be provided by Zion Lutheran following the packing, and two desserts from each of the cluster churches. Those from St. Matthew have been promised. Please be sure you have **signed up by September 1** in the Narthex, or contact Barbara Woodard, 330-321-2408 or [barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com](mailto:barbwoodard.bw@gmail.com).

**Next Blood Pressure Check** will take place before each service on Sunday, September 17 in the Parish Nurse's office.

**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.

## **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.