

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

Praise service

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 16, 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** *Come, Now is the Time to Worship*

***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**

**C: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.
By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it,
and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;

instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

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

Psalm

Psalm 65:1-13

¹You are to be praised, O God, in Zion;
to you shall vows be fulfilled.

²**To you, the one who answers prayer,
to you all flesh shall come.**

³Our sins are stronger than we are,
but you blot out our transgressions.

⁴**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of
your temple.**

⁵Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our
salvation, O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

⁶**You make firm the mountains by your power;
you are girded about with might.**

⁷You still the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous
signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the
river of God is full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**

¹¹You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak
themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

Second Reading

Romans 8:1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

***Gospel**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!"

¹⁸"Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

Hymn of the Day: *Shout to the Lord*

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: 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: Guide your church, O God, to sow seeds of forgiveness and righteousness on good soil. Direct your people to proclaim your love in this congregation and throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Sustain your creation, O God, by sending favorable weather, causing trees and fields to grow, protecting waterways from pollution, and instilling in all people the need to be good stewards. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Maintain peace among all people, O God, and raise up lawyers to work for justice in the courts, advocates to speak for the downtrodden, and politicians to work on behalf of the common good. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Heal those who are sick, O God especially 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. Guide health care workers to care for those who suffer, scientists to conduct lifesaving research, and counselors to care for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Answer the prayers of those gathered in worship, O God. Protect those who travel near and far, accompany visitors to this congregation, and nurture our faith. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Inspire us by the faithful departed, O God, examples of your embodied love, whose confidence in the resurrection guides us in living lives worthy of the gospel. 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 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**

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 Song *Show Me Your Ways*

***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:** *My Redeemer Lives*

***Dismissal:**

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Song Leader: Jen Knaggs
Drums: Lennie Davis

Guitar: Scott Schwandt
Bass: Karl Hermann

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte: Evan Hogan
Reader: Judy McLaughlin
Ushers: Tim & Melanie Brown
Connie Mohler
Communion Servers: Nancy McNeal
Bekah Knaggs
Sue Schwab
Sound: Joe Obermeier
Video: Melody Costello
Altar Guild: Lisa Burke & Liz Linden

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Vern and Bev's 56th wedding anniversary by Vernon and Beverly Beard and Julie Shrader.

Memorial Flowers This Morning are given to the glory of God in memory of her husband, Dennis Straub, by Pat Straub.

Prayers for Healing: Carol Muhlbach, Amy Douglas, Sammy Young, June Trenty, Pat Straub, Adam and Family, Loretta Thornton, Leithea Obermeier, Sandi, Judy McLaughlin, and Steve Combs.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

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

National Youth Gathering Meeting for youth eligible to attend the 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, Louisiana and their parents. 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 23, AT ST. MATTHEW

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Our St. Matthew church family is invited to celebrate Leithe Obermeier's 85th 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: Leithe 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

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) 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.

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

	<i>Month of April, 2023</i>	<i>Month of May, 2023</i>	<i>Year-to-Date January-May, 2023</i>
General Offering Unrestricted	\$ 27,780.49	\$ 22,487.86	\$ 132,574.42
2023 Approved Mission Plan	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 33,333.33</u>	<u>\$ 166,666.65</u>
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.

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.