



November 26, 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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Song:** *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing* Hymn 389

***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** Page 147

***Hymn of Praise** *This is the Feast* Page 149

*Prayer of the Day

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, 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

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

WORD

First Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 95:1-7a

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

^{7a}For the LORD is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia

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***Gospel**

Matthew 25:31-46

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will

answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?' ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?' ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

Sermon - Dandelion Conversations

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn of the Day:

O Christ, What Can It Mean For Us

Hymn 431

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: Holy God, from Christ we receive our call to feed, clothe, and welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. We pray for those who suffer especially Roger, Joyce, Melanie, Brenda, Denny, Elizabeth, Jerry, Peg, Darine, Todd, Stevie, Tom, 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: In Christ we are made the people of his pasture. Inspire the outreach and social ministries of this congregation. We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

D: Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us. Unite us with them as one body of Christ. 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

Offertory

God Has Gone Up With a Shout

Luther Choir

Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards be Fruitful

Hymn 184

Offering 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 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: There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Lamb of God

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Communion Hymn

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Hymn 502

***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:**

Rejoice, for Christ is King

Hymn 430

***Dismissal:**

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

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

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WORSHIP SERVANTS

Acolyte:	8:30 - Faith Taraschke	11:00 - Reagan Stuchal
Reader:	8:30 - Judy McLaughlin	11:00 - Julie Shrader
Communion Servers:	8:30 - Delores Ivan	11:00 - Becky Malloy Julie Shrader
Ushers:	8:30 - Linda & Jeff Taraschke	11:00 - Tom & Amanda Kotick
Sound:	8:30 - Joe Obermeier	11:00 - Larry Mohler
Video:	8:30 - Melody Costello	
Altar Guild:	Kelly Obermeier	

PRAYERS

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in in honor of her family who are always there for her by Pat Straub.

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in by Joan Batke.

Prayers for Healing: Roger, Joyce, Melanie, Brenda Disbrow, Denny, Elizabeth, Jerry Jakovic, Peg Huber, Darine Prok, Todd Costello, Stevie, Tom Thornton, Logan, Adam and Family, Sandi, and Steve Combs.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Christ the King Sunday, we 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.

Christmas Program Rehearsal - Luther Littles and Middles to rehearse for the Youth-Led Christmas program during the Sunday School hour.

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, First Sunday in Advent, we will worship in person at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with Now the Feast and holy communion. Livestream at 8:30

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

Cookie Exchange & Luncheon after the late service, in the Fellowship Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Guild will be decorating for Advent/Christmas on Friday, December 1, beginning at 10 a.m. If you are able to help, you are welcome to attend. Many hands make light work!

Update from Our Parish Nurse - Brenda has been discharged to home this week. Home care/PT/OT will continue. Although she is not up to phone calls or visits yet, she appreciates all your thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

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.

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 next meeting is: 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. **Recap for October:** No identified renovation expenses. \$710 reno restricted giving in October. Balance as of October 31, 2023 is \$66,465.63.

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*



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

Cell Phone: 740-525-6149

Deacon Lindsay's Contact Information

Email: lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org

Cell Phone: 440-376-8338



Hearing Loop
System available.