



Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me, but the one who sent me.

Mark 9:37

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 19, 2021

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

ELW Liturgy

“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

GATHERING

** Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Confession & Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our comforter,

C: like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Song

All Are Welcome

No. 641

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Blair Morgan

WORD

First Reading

Jeremiah 11:18-20

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
"Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!"

²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹Save me, O God, by your name;
 in your might, defend my cause.
²**Hear my prayer, O God;**
give ear to the words of my mouth.
³For strangers have risen up against me,
 and the ruthless have sought my life,
 those who have no regard for God.
⁴**Behold, God is my helper;**
it is the Lord who sustains my life.
⁵Render evil to those who spy on me;
 in your faithfulness, destroy them.
⁶**I will offer you a freewill sacrifice**
and praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.
⁷For you have rescued me from every trouble,
 and my eye looks down on my enemies.

Second Reading

James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.⁴

¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

***Gospel**

Mark 9:30-37

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,

³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

***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**

P: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

P: God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. We pray especially for Jerry Spears, Brenda Disbrow, Beau Barrett, Mary Baker, Michael Bazilius, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, Greg Mckee, Ed Berchert, Todd Costello, and Chuck Payne. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today especially the Uttech Family on the death of Richard Uttech, father of Mike Uttech. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***Peace:** *The peace will be an acknowledgement with your neighbor of God's reconciling love by nod or bow.*

MEAL

Offertory

Praise to the Lord!

Luther Choir

Dan R. Edwards

Offering Prayer

P: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

***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 who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

Communion Hymns:

In the Singing

No. 466

***Table Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

*Sending Song:

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

No. 659

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Postlude

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PRAYERS

Prayers for Healing: Family of Richard Uttech, Jerry Spears, Brenda Disbrow, Beau Barrett, Mary Baker, Michael Bazilius, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, Greg Mckee, Ed Berchert, Todd Costello, and Chuck Payne.

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

This Sunday, Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost, we will worship in person at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., livestreaming at 8:30 a.m., with *ELW* liturgy and Holy Communion.

We Welcome Pastor Blair Morgan, our supply pastor for worship again this morning.

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room.

Adult Sunday School Class - 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

God's Work Our Hands - Begin with lunch at Holy Trinity, Brunswick at 12:30 p.m. Meal packing will begin at 1:45 p.m. at Our Saviour, Hinckley.

Planted Flag Brewing - 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. 21 and over! Bring a friend.

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost, we will worship in person at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., livestreaming at 8:30 a.m., with *Praise* liturgy and Holy Communion.

We Will Welcome Pastor Julianne Smith, Director of Evangelical Mission at the Northeastern Ohio Synod ELCA, as our supply pastor.

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in the Brown Room

Adult Sunday School Class - 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Bar is Back! Enjoy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate before or after either service this morning.

Update From Brenda, Parish Nurse - She will be recovering at home by this weekend. Please keep her in your prayers.

Urgent Need! For ushers at upcoming 11:00 a.m. services. Sign up here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0549a5a622a4f49-worship2>, in the narthex, or contact Sandy Andrews.

Seeking Nursery Volunteers - Our nursery at St. Matthew is an important service that we provide to our families with young children. It allows the parents the opportunity to worship without the disruption of their children allowing them to fully take in and participate in worship. As we continue to search for a full-time person (or 2 part-time people) to staff the nursery, we are looking for volunteers to be present with our younger members during worship and Sunday School in the nursery. In the interim, member Corey Neururer has agreed to help during Sunday School and the 11:00 a.m. service. If you would be interested in helping, please contact Melody at 330-461-1149.

Adult Sunday School Class will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. for a three-week study on *The House of Women: A Feminine Presence Under King David's Roof*. Co-facilitators will be Judy McLaughlin and JoAnn Shade, retired Major in The Salvation Army and author of the book. Please join us for an interesting and engaging study.

Men's Bible Study has returned. Join us Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. as we discuss the Gospel of John.

The Luther Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 in the sanctuary. New members to the choir will be most welcome to join us.

Bike-a-Board - Saturday, September 25 - 10:00 a.m. - Meet at Peninsula Train Station with your bike, 1600 Mill Street W., Peninsula, Ohio. We will bike approximately 12 miles to Yours Truly restaurant in Valley View for lunch. After lunch, we will board the Canal Exploration Station at 1:10 p.m. sharp! Cost to ride the train with your bike is \$5 (cash preferred). Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0549A5A622A4F49-bike> or in the narthex.

Nursery Attendant Needed - Our nursery at St. Matthew is an important service that we provide to our families with young children. It allows the parents the opportunity to worship without the disruption of their children allowing them to fully take in and participate in worship.

We are currently looking for one full-time person (or 2 part-time) to staff the nursery. The right candidate should enjoy children; be willing to play with them; change diapers/help them use the toilet, etc. The position would involve, roughly, 4 hours each Sunday (fall through spring) and 1 ½ hours during the summer and is a paid position.

If anyone in the church is interested, please contact Melody at 330-461-1149. If you know someone who could be a fit, please pass along my contact information for further discussion.

Electronic Offering Updates - If anyone needs help in changing their electronic giving (ACH) through Vanco please feel free to contact Thaddeus Neururer 617-360-1342 or email at thaddeus.neururer@gmail.com.

Message from our Council President

As you know, we've been conversing with the Synod and they are looking for a replacement Interim Pastor for us, intending to have that individual at St. Matthew early in October.

In the meantime, we will be served by supply pastors and Deacon Lindsay until a new Interim is named.

Our COVID Team continues to monitor pandemic conditions in Medina, and plans to reevaluate our current protocols in mid-October. Until that time the status-quo will be maintained unless things change significantly.

Should this process raise any questions, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

LGL, Rex

WORSHIP SERVANTS				
Date	September 19	September 19	September 26	September 26
Service	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Reader	Owen Blakslee	Melody Costello		
Ushers	Bruce Reed Becky Malloy		Bruce Reed Becky Malloy	
Communion Servers	Nancy McNeal	Melody Costello		
Sound	Larry Mohler	Larry Mohler	Larry Mohler	Larry Mohler
Video	Rex Rickly	--	Owen Blakslee	--
Altar Guild	Becky Malloy			

WELCOMING STRANGERS

Afghan Refugee Resettlement

Join this short webinar series with faith partners and refugee resettlement agencies about Afghan refugee resettlement in Northeast Ohio.

Tuesday, September 21, 2021
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. EST

Join US Together to hear about its work. Learn ways that you or your organization can contribute to assisting Afghan families resettling in Northeast Ohio.

Tuesday, September 28, 2021
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. EST

Join The Refugee Response and faith partners to learn about welcoming strangers from a faith perspective. Learn about The Refugee Response and how you might partner in its work to contribute to assisting Afghan families resettling in Northeast Ohio.



TO REGISTER, GO TO:
welcomingstrangers.eventbrite.com



East Ohio Conference

The United Methodist Church



THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF OHIO



Northeastern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

MEDINA COUNTY PRESENTS:

We are
**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

A THREE NIGHT UNITY REVIVAL



FEATURING PASTORS

MARK GIAIMO LUKE LINDON ARTHUR RUFFIN
CORNERSTONE CHAPEL MEDINA UCC SECOND BAPTIST

+ MASS COMMUNITY CHOIR

SEPTEMBER 28-30

CORNERSTONE CHAPEL

3939 GRANGER RD. MEDINA, OH 44256

NIGHTLY AT 7PM

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

HVAC anti-COVID air treatment / Equipment installed earlier this year
No Singing / Restrictions Lifted
Limiting Attendance / Restrictions Lifted
Keep Exterior Doors Open / Restrictions Lifted
Mask Mandate / Masks are now optional
Fellowship After Worship /
Casual fellowship after church is resuming
Ropes to Encourage Social Distance / Ropes removed June 18
Hymnals / Hymnals returned to pews June 18
Communion / Covid protocol still in place
Sharing of the Peace / Covid protocol still in place
Masks and Sanitizer available / Covid protocol still in place

Finance Report for July and Year-to-Date

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

St. Matthew had the following revenue
and expenses for July.

	Month of July 2021	Year-to-Date July 2021
Total Revenue	\$ 40,675.42	\$ 217,030.83
Total Expenses	\$ 27,734.43	\$ 209,213.65
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 12,940.99	\$ 7,817.18
Net Other	\$ 14.78	\$ 118.18
Net Revenue	\$ 12,955.77	\$ 7,935.36

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Custodian
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Heather Rohde	Youth Worship Music Director

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Friday 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM