



Be:
*quick to listen,
slow to speak,
slow to anger*

James 1:19

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 29, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Praise 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: In the name of the father, ✝ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our provider,

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live.

We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

*Gathering Song

The Only Name

*Greeting

*Prayer of the Day

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Bill Diehm

WORD

First Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Psalm

Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading

James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

*Gospel

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

P: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.

²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Bill Diehm

Hymn of the Day: *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)*

***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: We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for individuals in positions of authority. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for this congregation, especially those beginning a new school year. Empower teachers and school administrators. Guide students in their learning and development. Accompany parents, foster parents, and caregivers who provide encouragement and love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for those on our prayer list: Brenda Disbrow, Beau Barrett, the family of Ron Svoboda, Mary Baker, Michael Bazilius, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, Caleb Johnston, Greg Mckee, Ed Berchert, Todd Costello, John Siebert, and Chuck Payne. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We ask your blessing upon St. Matthew's call committee. Give them insight and a spirit of enthusiasm for their work and raise up for our people a pastor to lead us. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We give thanks for the faithful departed who showed us how to honor God with our heart. Inspire us by their example and renew our faith, trusting that we will be united with them in glory. 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

Offering Prayer

P: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

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: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Communion Solo:

Come to the Table

Heather Rohde

***Table Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

***Sending Song:**

We Believe

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude**

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PRAYERS

Prayers for Healing: Brenda Disbrow, Beau Barrett, Family of Ron Svoboda, Mary Baker, Michael Bazilius, Alexis Scala, Joyce Henschel, Caleb Johnston, Greg Mckee, Ed Berchert, Todd Costello, John Siebert, and Chuck Payne.

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Today, Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost, we worship in person and online at 10:00 a.m. with *Praise liturgy* and Holy Communion.

First Communion - These youth will receive their First Communion today: Eli Cooper, Zachary Faust, Evan Hogan, and Devin Shrader.

Pastor's Book Study - *The Universal Christ*. 11:15 a.m. in person and Zoom.

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, AT ST. MATTHEW

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

Holy Baptism - We will welcome Jagger Haught, by his baptism, into the mission of St. Matthew, Living God's Love.

WORSHIP SERVANTS			
Date	August 29	September 5	September 5
Service	10:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Song Leader	Heather Rohde		
Reader	Melody Costello		
Ushers	Bruce Reed		
Communion Servers	Christy Gabler		
Sound	Larry Mohler	Larry Mohler	Larry Mohler
Video	Rex Rickly	Owen Blakslee	Owen Blakslee
Altar Guild	Sandy Andrews		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor's Book Study - Today is the final session of Pastor Bill's book study on Richard Rohr's new work, **The Universal Christ** . You can join us in person at 11:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall or via Zoom.

Luther Choir to resume September 2, 2021. The Luther Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will be singing Sunday, September 5 at both services. Current members, please find your folders and bring them with you. The music you need for rehearsal is in that folder. Anyone wishing to join the choir is welcome to attend this rehearsal also. We really need some more men, as we are down to four. All Covid protocols will be observed during this rehearsal. Please join us.

Afghan Allies Fund - Monetary donations are being accepted to assist Afghanistan refugees through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Your gift will provide food, housing assistance, clothing, and other basic needs while they await official services available to them.

https://secure2.convio.net/lirs/site/Donation2?df_id=4079&4079.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T/

Gods Work Our Hands will take place Sunday, September 19. St Matthew will be participating in meal packing with Rise Against Hunger, an organization whose goal is to end world hunger. Please see their website for more information about their mission.

<https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/global-impact/>. We will be packing 10,800 meals!

We will be participating with our cluster churches (Holy Trinity, New Horizons, Our Saviour, and Zion). Holy Trinity in Brunswick will be providing lunch at their outdoor pavilion at 12:30pm before the meal packing event. Please bring your own beverage. The meal packing will begin at 1:45pm at Our Saviour in Hinckley, and should last until around 4pm. Masks are required due to meal prep, and Covid guidelines. Please note that lunch is at Holy Trinity and the packing event is at Our Saviour.

There is also a need for volunteers to help set up at Our Saviour at noon, as well as volunteers for clean up after the event.

An accurate count for both lunch and meal packing is requested from the host churches, as well as if you want to help with set up or clean up. If you are planning on attending either the lunch or meal packing, please RSVP to the church office by Sept 12th. You may email or phone your response. Please indicate what you will be participating in, as well as if you are volunteering for set up or clean up.

Thank you!

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 someone 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.

We Are Now Live Streaming on YouTube! Subscribe at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbMSkGvyBcRUoHWduYpW8EA> so you can view worship services as an alternative to Facebook and our videos.

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.

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 May 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	<u>\$ 12,955.77</u>	<u>\$ 7,935.36</u>

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. William Diehm	Interim Pastor
Deacon Lindsay Bailey	Director of LGL Ministries
John Burke	Organist
Deb Musil	Office Administrator
Joyce Davis	Custodian
Brenda Disbrow	Parish Nurse
Sue Gircsis	Nursery Attendant
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