



Stewardship of Creation

3rd Sunday of Easter *Earth Day*

April 18, 2021

9:00 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

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font

as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.
We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.
Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Song:** *Morning Has Broken*

No. 556

***Greeting**

***Prayer of the Day**

**Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children.
Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your
Son, 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

Deacon Lindsay Bailey

WORD

First Reading

Acts 3:12-19

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him.

¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.

¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful;
the LORD will hear me when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices,
and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?”
Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

⁷You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

*Gospel

Luke 24:36b-48

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Apostle's Creed**

***Prayers of Intercession**

P: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

P: Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration. Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness especially Melanie Minen, Jim Apana, Bob Lentz, Lloyd Madis, Deacon Lindsay, Chuck Payne, and Esther Svoboda. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Risen Lord, we ask your blessing upon St. Matthew's call committee as they meet this week. Give them insight and a spirit of enthusiasm for their work and raise up for our people a pastor to lead us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God, creator of all, we offer our prayer in gratitude and humility that we might heed your call to care for one another through our care of the least, the lowest, and the most vulnerable of all your blessed creation. Grant, we pray, the courage to speak on behalf of the soft soil under our feet, the running and still waters, the warmth of the sun on our face, and all the crawling, flying, and swimming creatures you love. May our courage to speak translate into actions that protect our planet - so that our children and their children might enjoy the fruits of what we sow. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us (*especially*). Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; 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

His Eye Is On The Sparrow
Gabrial/Schrader

Nancy McNeal

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray. Gracious God,
you bless us with gifts of guidance, new life,
growth in grace, and fruitful labor.
Accept the first fruits of time and toil,
field and orchard we offer here.
Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture
and care of your creation;
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

***Eucharistic Prayer**

***Lord's Prayer**

***Invitation to Communion**

P: The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat, and be satisfied

Communion Hymn:

We Praise You For the Life

***Table Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

P: Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us,
and send us as joyful witnesses,
that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

*Blessing

Follow directions for sending song outside on front lawn.

*Sending Song:

This is My Father's World

No. 824

- 1 This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.
- 2 This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

- 3 This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft
so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901

*Dismissal:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*Postlude

Thank you for observing our protocols for gathering this Sunday.

PRAYERS

Prayers for Healing: Melanie Minen, Jim Apana, Bob Lentz, Lloyd Madis, Deacon Lindsay, Chuck Payne, and Esther Svoboda.

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of their children's birthdays - Kristin, April 10 and David, April 14 - by Brian and Sandi Harris.

TODAY'S WORSHIP & EVENTS

Today, Third Sunday of Easter - Stewardship of Creation, we will worship in person and online at 9:00 a.m. with ELW hymns.

Combined Adult/Youth Sunday School Class at 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall and via Zoom. Forum discussion on the post-Covid church.

Parking Lot Communion at 10:15 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 25, AT ST. MATTHEW

Next Sunday, Fourth Sunday of Easter, we will worship in person and online at 9:00 a.m. with Praise hymns.

Combined Adult/Youth Sunday School Class at 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall and via Zoom. Forum discussion on the post-Covid church.

Parking Lot Communion at 10:15 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVANTS		
Date	April 18	April 25
Service	9:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.
Song Leader	Nancy McNeal	Heather Rohde
Reader	Beth Johnson	Lisa Burke
Ushers	Bruce Reed Brian & Sandi Harris	Bruce Reed
Communion Assistants	Cindy Rickly	
Sound	Larry Mohler	Larry Mohler
Video	Owen Blakslee	Brian Harris
Altar Guild	Nancy McNeal & Sandy Andrews	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Combined Adult/Youth Sunday School Class the next three Sundays - April 18, 25, and May 2 - 10:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall and via Zoom. We will have a forum discussion on the post-Covid church.

Pierstorf Memorial Loan Fund - provides interest-free loans to Lutheran students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. This year, the maximum interest-free loan is \$3,000 for the school year. For information, visit www.Pierstorf.org and complete the 2021-2022 application. Applications open April 15, 2021 and close June 30, 2021.

Operation HOMES Meals - During the pandemic Operation HOMES guests have been given shelter at a local motel due to churches being closed. There is still a need for evening meals to be provided.

St. Matthew's next week that we were supposed to host is April 19 through April 25. Even though we are unable to provide overnight accommodations, we can still provide meals. You may sign up to provide a meal by going to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090d4ca9a62ba5fb6-meals16>. The instructions are listed for dropping the meals at the Super 8 Motel at 5161 Montville Road. We currently have 1 guest in Operation Homes, however we have capacity for 5 rooms and we will likely have more guests by April 19. Thank you!

Luther Ladies Bible Study Spring Series - Back by popular demand! The Luther Ladies Bible study will engage in *Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story* by Angie Smith for a second time. All are welcome to attend. If you participated in the first offering of this study, you are encouraged to join us again.

This 7-session series will be held via Zoom on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30 PM, May 3 - June 21 (except May 31- Memorial Day). An option to attend the study in-person may be added at a later date.

The cost for the Participant Journal that accompanies the study is \$16. Second-time participants may choose to use their journal from the previous study or purchase a new one. Cash/checks can be mailed to the church office and directed to Deacon Lindsay's attention. Please make checks payable to "St. Matthew Lutheran Church". Please contact Deacon Lindsay at lindsay@stmatthewmedina.org with any questions.

Please register by Friday, April 23 using this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeG32dDCNs_plvkgMX9OID3YACVOoFIPN9qPalHm5AYjdYfbQ/viewform

Vacation Bible School - We are excited to offer an in-person VBS this year and we need your help! We are looking for group leaders, Bible/story leader, and a craft leader. In addition, we will need help with opening skits. If you think you'd like to help, or would like to find out more information, please email or call Christy Gabler at mschrispy@aol.com or 330-441-1841 to receive more information about the planning meeting on April 29th at 7:00pm (we will decide closer to that time if it will be via zoom or in person) Vacation Bible School is planned for the week of June 21st and will be shortened to 9:30-11 each day. In addition, we will limit our numbers to only 24 kids to keep Covid risks down.

Anyone entering St. Matthew's Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall can breath easy: Thanks to the good efforts of our Property Team, including Troy Gerspacher, and Tom and Joyce Davis, St Matthew now has installed and functioning Anti-Covid air treatment units on the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall HVAC systems. What this means is that any pathogens in the HVAC air will be reduced if not eliminated, further improving the safety of our in-person worship.

Visit Stmatthewmedina.org Today. Have you had a chance to visit and explore our new website this week? A major improvement is the addition of new posts throughout the month. A brand new 2021 Church Directory listing was added. You can access it by going to the Member page and using the universal password that was mailed out to our members. While on the site, stop by the prayer page, <https://www.stmatthewmedina.org/prayer>, for a weekly reminder of the people we are including in the prayers of the church as well as a link to Prayer Ventures, a monthly ELCA publication which may help to deepen and broaden your prayer life. If you have feedback or would like to contribute to the website, please contact Lisa Burke, Melody Costello or Beth Johnson.

New Care Team Ministry at St. Matthew - You're Invited to prayerfully consider being a part of a new Care Team Ministry at St. Matthew. The Mission of this new ministry is "to live God's love by intentionally caring for, supporting and connecting with the members of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church". If this resonates with you and if you are interested in being part of an exciting new ministry at St. Matthew, please contact Deacon Lindsay. Keep an eye out in the near future for a letter that further explains this exciting new ministry.

Electronic Offering Updates - If anyone needs help in changing their electronic giving (ACH) through Vanco please feel free to contact Dean Hauptman 216-280-7472 or email at dlhauptman73@gmail.com.

**Finance Report for March and Year-to-Date
St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

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

	Month of March 2021	Year-to-Date March 2021
Total Revenue	\$ 32,213.98	\$ 87,708.81
Total Expenses	\$ 29,973.15	\$ 86,793.84
Net Operating Revenue (Loss)	\$ 2,240.83	\$ 914.97
Net Other	\$ 14.77	\$ 59.07
Net Revenue (Loss)	\$ 2,255.60	\$ 974.14

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 Girsis	Nursery Attendant
Nancy McNeal	Luther Choir Director
Heather Rohde	Youth Worship Music Director