

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



**Reformation Sunday
October 29, 2023**

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 1, Page 98

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof

†

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.**

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen**

Gathering Hymn

"A mighty fortress is our God"

ELW #504

Kyrie

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Hymn of Praise

"Glory to God in the Highest"

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rachel Zarnke

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46

Tone 1

¹God is our ref-¹uge and strength,
a very present¹ help in trouble.
²**Therefore we will not fear, though the¹ earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths¹ of the sea;**
³though its waters¹ rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble¹ with its tumult.
⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-¹y of God,
the holy habitation of¹ the Most High.**
⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall¹ not be shaken;
God shall help it at the¹ break of day.
⁶**The nations rage, and the¹ kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth¹ melts away.**
⁷The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold.
⁸**Come now, regard the works¹ of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up-¹ on the earth;**
⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in¹ all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the¹ shields with fire.
¹⁰**Be still, then, and know that¹ I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted¹ in the earth."**
¹¹The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold.

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation through faith in his blood. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia”

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Gospel

John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?" ³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Reverend Rachel Zarnke

† Hymn of the Day *“Lord, keep us steadfast in your word”*

ELW #517

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

Choose to stand, kneel, or sit for prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: God our parent, you call us your children and have made us siblings through your son Jesus. Heal the church's many divisions, bring understanding and peace where there has been contention and strife, and unite us in one body through the love of Christ. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God our creator, your hands have made the heights of the mountains, the depths of the sea, and the life that animates all creation. Bring relief to areas harmed by wildfires, floods, storms, and human carelessness. Renew the face of the earth. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God our ruler, the nations rage and the kingdoms shake, but your word stands fast forever. Let your justice and peace roll down like waters wherever there is strife, injustice, war, or religious conflict. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God our champion, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Draw near to all who suffer. Be their rest and comfort. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God our reformer, you make all things new. Free us from complacency, open us to unexpected ways, and kindle zeal in us for the future. We pray for young people affirming their baptism. With them, stir in us a desire for your wisdom. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them...

C: hear our prayer.

A: God our savior, you made yourself known in the lives of all who have died in the hope of your grace. We give thanks for the witness of reformers like Martin Luther and for all whose example has brought us closer to you. We especially remember Joyce Garver-Messenger, Anneliese Schwarting, Hans Salheiser, Bobby Wright, Joe Stewart, Christine Minor, and Rolene Stewart. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen

MEAL

Anthem

Jordi Banitt, Flute Solo

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen

† Great Thanksgiving

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Holy, Holy, Holy

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Acclamation		Page 109
Amen		Page 109
Lord's Prayer	“Our Father, who...”	Page 112
Lamb of God		Page 112

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

† Prayer After Communion

A: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *“The church of Christ, in every age”* **ELW #729**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Leokadja “Kathy” Howatter, 2004

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 23
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12



"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me." —Martin Luther

October 22, 2023
Twenty-first Sunday
after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 45
(IN-PERSON— 44 , ZOOM - 1)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,664.00
Building	\$ 12.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other	\$ 1,075.00
Total	\$ 2,851.00

Serving today, October 29, 2023

Opener/Closer	Donna Doughty
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Liz McGouirk
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Bill Wallace Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson Catherine Sayers

Servers for Sunday, November 5, 2023

Opener/Closer	Carla Stickles
Crucifer	Ian Jeffery
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Geri Regnier
Lector	Rose Johnson
Offering-bearer	Duncan Jeffery
Ushers	Sandy Craven Randy Carven
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson Catherine Sayers

Pray Without Ceasing



“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The Armed Forces,
their families,
and victims of war
Persecuted Christians
The ministries of
St. Matthew
Presiding Bishop
Elizabeth Eaton
Bishop Kevin
Strickland
Southeastern Synod
Staff
Pastor Taylor Burton
Edwards
Laura Alexander
Zocia Barr family
Keandra Bashful
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Pat Bonaker
Eva Brown
Betty Davidson
Ken Hoag
Myrna Hoag
Bennie Jackson
Mairetha Jackson
Marga Miller
Traudel Mosely

Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg
Joan Smith
Jim Sperry
Carla Stickles
Albert VanHousen II
Margarete Walsh
Gary Anderson
Judy Bultman
Kyle Carter
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Brandy Garnett
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra Henderson
Beverly Huckaby
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Laura Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Tim Moore
Gary Nearhoof
Kimberly O'Malley

Michael Owen
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Dwight Redmond
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Yuliia Savitska
Shirley Scott
Ricky Skinner
Betty Townsend
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

Libya
Maui
Morocco
Israel

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.
Deadline for December newsletter is November 20.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to St. Matthew: Jesus Christ offers himself to all. May you be blessed as we celebrate God's love for us. All the baptized are invited to feast with us at the Lord's Table. The wearing of a mask is optional during worship and social distancing is recommended. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday.

We invite you to join our congregation if you have not yet found a church home. We are people of God that share a living, daring, confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person, questions, complexities and all. Join us, as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Nursery: St. Matthew provides nursery service for children ages 4 and younger. All children are welcome to attend worship with their families. If a child needs a break during the service, they may sit with a parent/guardian in the Narthex.

The Tuesday morning Bible Study meets in the Church House from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. This class reads and talks about the scriptures for the coming Sunday.

Mission Outreach Opportunities:

- **FOCUS:** Operation Christmas Child
10/22-11/12 - List available in the Narthex
- Lion's Club: Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones
- Ronald McDonald house: Pop tabs
- Flags to Retire: Bring used American flags that you no longer want or need.
- St. Anne's: Personal hygiene products (travel size), toilet paper, and non-perishable food items

Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex between bathrooms.

Athanasian Creed: Join us on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM at Mr. Pizza to study the Athanasian Creed and its meaning. **WE WILL NOT BE MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST.**

Remembrance Gathering: A remembrance gathering will be held in the Church House, November 14th at 3:00 PM. We will be sharing your own or family stories related to World War II. Please feel free to invite others to attend! This gathering will happen the second Tuesday of every month. Questions or concerns, contact Zocia Barr at (706) 330-1001.

Sr. Recital: Our own Jordi Banitt will perform in her Senior Recital Concert on Wednesday, November 1st -- 7:30 PM -- Legacy Hall at the River Center. Please come and support Jordi for this performance!

Save the Date

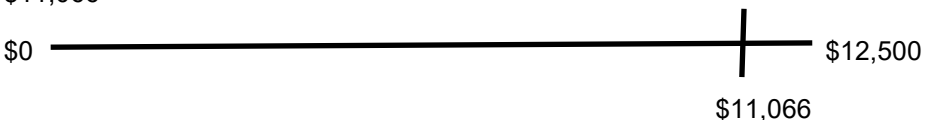
- October 29th 12:00 PM - Oktoberfest in Luther Hall
- November 12th 11:30 AM - Congregational Annual Meeting
- November 14th 3:00 PM - Remembrance Gathering-Church House



**JOIN US AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE TODAY IN LUTHER HALL!
WE HAVE BRATWURST, BUNS, SAUERBRATEN AND ALL THE
TRIMMINGS! WE WILL ALSO HAVE LIVE MUSIC WITH OUR OWN
ZOCIA BARR AS DJ! COME JOIN IN THE FUN!**

REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD

Installation of a streaming system was approved. The total estimated cost of \$12,500 will be funded by a special campaign over and above regular giving. Prayerfully consider giving generously to make this outreach program possible. You may designate your contribution in the OTHER area on your envelope or use a pew envelope. We are checking availability of Thrivent funds. Thank you to those who have already made contributions totaling \$11,066



Dear Heavenly Father, you will not leave us without a blessing. Wrestle with your church and renew it for the sake of the world. Preserve our life in you, so that we faithfully name you before the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement



Reach in to grow in Christ
Reach up to worship God
Reach out to welcome and witness

ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4026 Macon Road, Columbus, Georgia 31907

(706) 561-3406 - Office Hours - Tues & Thurs 2:00 - 5:00 PM, Friday 9:00-1:00 PM

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards Email: twbe@liturgyfolks.com

Office email: office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

Southeastern Synod

www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com

The Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards, Pastor

Kelly Peterson, Media Specialist

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator

Penny Davis, Nursery Director