

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2026

In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. Having both weeds and wheat among us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

Holy Communion

Now the Feast and Celebration

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof

P: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.
Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: Have mercy on us. We confess to you that 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may love and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.

P: Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gathering Hymn

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

ELW #693

Kyrie

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Now the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Wanda Ebright

Children's Hymn

ELW #482

First Reading

Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19

¹³ There is no god besides you whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly. ¹⁶ Your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. ¹⁷ For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. ¹⁸ Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge fairly, and with great forbearance you govern us; you have power to act whenever you choose. ¹⁹ Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and

you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 86:11-17

Tone 11

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk ¹ in your truth;

give me an undivided heart to re- ¹ vere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with ¹ all my heart, and glorify your name for- ¹ evermore.**

¹³ For great is your ¹ love toward me;

you have delivered me from the ¹ pit of death.

¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people ¹ seeks my life; they have not set you be- ¹ fore their eyes.**

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full ¹ of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kind- ¹ ness and truth.

¹⁶ **Turn to me and have mer- ¹ cy on me;**

give your strength to your servant, and save the child ¹ of your handmaid.

¹⁷ **Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be ¹ put to shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and com- ¹ forted me.**

Second Reading

Romans 8:12-25

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we

cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was

asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *"We're Not the Reapers"*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

"The Reign of God, like Farmer's Field"

See Insert

Apostles' Creed

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You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them....God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God our hope, the message of your salvation is planted among us in all times and places. We give you thanks for the witness of all the saints who shine like the sun in your presence. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundance grace of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

The Peace

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MEAL

Hymn *"For the Fruit of All Creation"*

ELW#679

The gifts may be brought forward.

As the Grains of Wheat

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Offering Prayer

A: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

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Holy, Holy, Holy

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Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." NTF-Page 13

Lamb of God NTF-Page 14

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

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.

Thanks Be to You NTF-Page 15

Prayer after Communion

A: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

ELW #694

Dismissal

A: Go forth in the name of our Triune God.

C: Thanks be to God.



The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

William Horan, Sr., 2004



\$11 per person

Columbus
CLINGSTONESTM

DOUBLE-A AFFILIATE OF THE ATLANTA BRAVES

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 | 6:05 PM

WE ARE WELCOMING ALL FAITHS FOR PRE-GAME MUSIC
AND LIVE TESTIMONIALS BEFORE THE GAME!

GATES OPEN AT 5 PM!



**FEATURING POST-GAME
KIDS RUN THE BASES
PRESENTED BY RAISING CANE'S**

July Birthdays

1 Shirley Ashley
3 Sandra Nearhoof
9 Allena Sperry
10 Jacob Vargas
16 Danny Alexander

16 Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards
19 Charlotte Moore
25 Katherine Pettit
27 Lane Brown
29 Anthony Hicks

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026



1 Kings 3:5-12
 Psalm 119:129-136
 Romans 8:26-39
 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

*"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*

July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 51

(IN-PERSON — 36, YOUTUBE - 15)

2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,490.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial	\$ 400.00
Other (70 for 70)	\$ 70.00
Total	\$ 1,990.00

*Memorial gifts will be acknowledged
 quarterly.*

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church (ELCA) will not engage in any act or public
 statements to endorse or oppose any candidate for public office.*

Serving July 19, 2026

Opener/Closer	Dave Bonaker
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Liz McGouirk
Lector	Terri Niederhammer
Ushers	Raymond Lawton
	Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit
	Lane Brown/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

Serving July 26, 2026

Opener/Closer	Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman
	Martha Vargas/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

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."

5:16-18

—1 Thessalonians

The Armed Forces,
their families,
and victims of war

The ministries of
St. Matthew

Bishop Yehiel Curry

Bishop Kevin
Strickland

Southeastern Synod
Staff

Pastor Taylor Burton
Edwards

Pastor Rachel Zarnke
St Matthew

Congregational
Council

Laura Alexander

Carol Bingemann

Isabelle Clark

Randy Craven

Myrna & Ken Hoag

Marga Miller

Mario Mion

Charlotte Moore

Traudel Mosely

Debby Owen

Dorothy Redden

Gary Anderson

Eric & Tinisha Bryant

Jean Clemmons

Nancy Edmundson

Lynne Funck

Brandy Garnett

Sandy Gibbs

Moses Glidden

Estrella Gonzales

Doris Grier

Laura Jett

Norma Kilby

Ken Korn

Emma Kump

Robert Lowe

David & John Lucas

Michelle Matthias

Brady Meeks

Lynne Meinhold

Tim Moore

Debi Nelson

Vincent Pawlowski

Beth Price

Mark Purushotham

Tiffany Richardson

Phyllis Roan

Dayna Ryan

Shirley Scott

Dou Shizhen

Ricky Skinner

Fred Turpin

Charlie VanHousen

Dawn VanHousen

Eric Young

Martha Zimmerman

Carlson Family

Gates Family

Sankey Family

People of Lebanon

People of Iran

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Eastern Congo

People of Venezuela

USPS

Peachtree Immediate Care

Hidden Lake Bottle Shop

Beauty Queen

Brewster's

Waffle House

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to St. Matthew: Jesus Christ offers himself to all. All baptized Christians are invited to feast with us at the Lord's Table.

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 6 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.

Mission Outreach Opportunities:

- All unused all occasion and holiday cards
 - Lion's Club: Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones
 - Family House of West GA: Pop tabs
 - Flags to Retire: Used flags to dispose of properly
 - MCSD Hygiene Closet: Any size toiletries
 - SafeHouse/St. Benedict's Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals)
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex.

Bible Study: Please join us on Tuesdays at 10:15 in the Back Room of the Church House to review & discuss scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at 10:00AM-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Linnea Grosse for more information.



Pick up your own copy of the printed Lord's Prayer in the Narthex. Please feel free to take as many as you would like to have.

Save the Date

- July 21st - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- July 23rd - 5:30 - Men's Group - Deorio's
- August 1st - Brick orders due
- August 2nd - Birthday Celebration - Fellowship Hall



Memorial brick orders will be taken until **August 1, 2026.**

Order forms are available in the Narthex. Place order with payment attached and put into the offering plate or turn into the office. Bricks are \$50 each and will be dedicated

in the Memorial Garden, All Saints Day, November 1, 2026.

Supplying hygiene items to students in all 58 schools

MCSD Hygiene Closet

Items needed:
Soap, toothbrush's, toothpaste, deodorant, and lotion.
Travel or full size welcome
Place in baskets in Narthex

YARD SALE 2027

If you have donations, please contact Allena Sperry at 706-563-3107 or asperry@bellsouth.net to coordinate drop off at your earliest convenience.

WNN SPECIAL REQUEST!!

WNN is requesting healthy snacks for the summer to be added to food bags for families with children. Suggested snacks include individual packages of:

- Dried fruit
- Fruit cups
- Goldfish
- Crackers with fillings
- Pretzels
- Trail Mix
- Fruit roll-ups
- Popcorn
- Granola



Place donations in the WNN basket in the Narthex.

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement



Reach in to grow in Christ

Reach up to worship God

Reach out to welcome and witness



To give online, please scan the QR code to the left to be taken to the give.tithe.ly website form. You can just fill out the form and click the Give button. You can also go to our website and click on the ONLINE GIVING button.

ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4026 Macon Road, Columbus, Georgia 31907

(706) 561-3406 - Office Hours - Tues & Thurs 2:30-5:00 PM, Friday 9:00-1:00 PM

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards Email: twbe@liturgyfolks.com

Phone: (765) 602-1426

Office email : office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

Southeastern Synod

www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@st.matthewlutheranchurch4457/streams>

The Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards, Pastor

Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator

Obra Williams, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director