

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 24, 2025

Imprisonment is often a state of isolation. Even people only under house arrest tend to limit their contacts with people they do not already know. Paul, by contrast, used his house arrest in Rome as an opportunity to forge deeper connections within the city and to share the gospel. What physical limitations do you face? How do you use these limitations to reach out rather than isolate yourself further?

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 8, page 184)

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 *"Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather"*

ELW #530

Kyrie

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Gloria

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Donna Doughty

First Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';

for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸Do not be afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."

⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,

to pluck up and to pull down,

to destroy and to overthrow,

to build and to plant."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 71:1-6

Tone 6

¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

²**In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴**Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

⁵For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,
my confidence since I was young.

⁶**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;
from my mother's womb you have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.**

Second Reading

Acts 28:16-22, 30

¹⁶When we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him. ¹⁷Three days later he called together the local leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them, "Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, yet I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. ¹⁸When they had examined me, the Romans wanted to release me because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. ¹⁹But when some of the Jewish leaders there objected, I was compelled to appeal to the emperor—even though I had no charge to bring against my people. ²⁰For this reason therefore I asked to see you and speak with you, since it is for the sake of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain." ²¹They replied, "We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken anything evil about you. ²²But we would like to hear from you what you think, for with regard to this sect we know that everywhere it is spoken against. ³⁰He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him,

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

+ Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Luke 13:10-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[¹⁰Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." ¹⁵But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? ¹⁶And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" ¹⁷When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon "*Continuing Under House Arrest*" Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

+ Hymn of the Day

"Faith of Our Fathers"

ELW #812

Apostles 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,
resurrection of flesh,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

A: You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness. Manifest your healing presence in their midst. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this assembly in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

A: With all your apostles, prophets, and saints, especially Margarete Walsh, Patricia Bonaker, Betty Davidson, Mike Regnier and Boyd Lester we give thanks and bless your holy name. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

C: **Amen.**

MEAL

Offertory

"As the Grains of Wheat"

ELW #465

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

✝ Great Thanksgiving Page 190

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 190

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." Page 191

Lamb of God Page 191

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.**

Prayer after Communion

A: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

ELW #836

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:

Gary Stickles, 2022

READINGS AND PSALM **SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025**



Jeremiah 2:4-13
 Psalm 81:1, 10-16
 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
 Luke 14:1, 7-14

*"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*

August 17, 2025 **Tenth Sunday of Pentecost**

ATTENDANCE — 42

(IN-PERSON— 28, YOUTUBE - 14

2025 BUDGET-\$177,962

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	1,113.00
Building	\$	0.00
Memorial	\$	50.00
Other	\$	50.00
Total	\$	1,213.00

Serving August 24, 2025

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Ushers	Matt Pettit
	Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman
	Martha Vargas
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

Serving August 31, 2025

Opener/Closer	Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Rose Johnson
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Katherine Kelly
	Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates
	Lisa Pettit
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

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

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
Persecuted Christians
The ministries of
St. Matthew
Bishop Yehiel Curry
Bishop Kevin
Strickland
Southeastern Synod
Staff
Pastor Taylor Burton
Edwards
St Matthew
Congregational
Council
Laura Alexander
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Matt Bonaker
Sandy Craven
Davidson Family
Myrna & Ken Hoag
Mairetha & Bennie
Jackson
Sean Jeffery
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Regnier Family

Connie Sieg
Carla Stickle
Harold Vinson
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
George Capps
Chappel Family
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Nancy Edmundson
Lynne Funck
Brandy Garnett
Mike Gewin
Sandy Gibbs
Moses Glidden
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Sarah Goodman
Doris Grier
Petra & Franklin
Henderson
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Laura Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Lynn Meinhold
Tim Moore
Moser Family

Nearhoof Family
Debi Nelson
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Bill Rahm
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Amanda Steinagel
Sara Steinagel Sturgis
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Molly Wright
Pastor Rachel Zarnke
Martha Zimmerman
Gaza
Israel
Ukraine
Western North Carolina
Southeastern Kentucky
Kerr County, Texas
Wynnton Neighborhood
Network

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. 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 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 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:

Mission Focus:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| | Holiday Christmas list for WNN |
| • 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 |
| • St. Anne's: | Feminine hygiene products, Personal hygiene products (travel size), and non-perishable food items |
| • SafeHouse/St. Benedict's | Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals) |
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet Fridays 10:00-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Beth Hoag for more information.

Chair Yoga: We are meeting every Monday at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

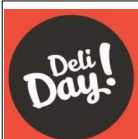
Save the Date

- August 25th - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- August 26th - 10:15 - Bible Study (bring lunch) - Fellowship Hall
- August 28th - 5:00 - Men's Group at Mr. Pizza
- September 1st - 10:00 - Craf-Tea
- September 14th - God's Work, Our Hands



**WE NEED PAPERBACK BOOKS FOR
GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS,
SEPTEMBER 14TH. PLEASE PLACE IN
BASKET IN THE NARTHEX! THANK YOU!**

CRAF-TEA IS CANCELLED FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 29TH.



Friday, October 10th, Deli Day Shabbat honoring Wynnton Neighborhood Network at Temple Israel at 6PM available for 20 people from St. Matthew. If you are interested in doing this, contact the church office **no later than August 25th** at office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com or call at 706-561-3406.

HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS LIST FOR WNN: Holiday items needed

Cranberry Sauce	Yams	Jelly
Brownie Mix	Evaporated Milk	Cornbread mix
Green Beans	Cream of Mushroom Soup	Pumpkin pie mix
Corn	Chicken Broth (cans or boxes)	Mac and cheese
Stuffing	Peanut Butter	

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

1 Mason Stickles
3 Jack Steinagel
5 Geri Regnier
12 Traudel Mosley
13 Harold Vinson
16 Rigney Cofield
18 Monika Wright
23 Ellen Hoag
27 Dave Bonaker
28 Ron Klein
28 Richard Schwarting

Wishing you nothing but the best on your birthday
and always. Enjoy your special day!

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 2:00-5:00 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

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director