

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 2026

There are many ways to interpret the story of the feeding of the 5000. Some focus on the miraculous element. Others on the symbolism based on who was being fed and the number of baskets left over. Still others see this story (especially in John's gospel) as prefiguring the Eucharist. Today, as throughout this series from Matthew's gospel, we focus on how it is a test and call into discipleship to Jesus.

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

"O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts"

ELW #658

Kyrie

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Now the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Katherine Kelly

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-5

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Tone 11

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.
⁹ **LORD, you are ¹ good to all,
and your compassion is over ¹ all your works.**
¹⁴ The Lord upholds all ¹ those who fall
and lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down.
¹⁵ **The eyes of all wait upon ¹ you, O LORD,
and you give them their food ¹ in due season.**
¹⁶ You open ¹ wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every ¹ living thing.
¹⁷ **You are righteous in ¹ all your ways
and loving in ¹ all your works.**
¹⁸ You are near to all who ¹ call upon you,
to all who call up- ¹ on you faithfully.
¹⁹ **You fulfill the desire of ¹ those who fear you;
you hear their ¹ cry and save them.**
²⁰ You watch over all ¹ those who love you,
but all the wicked you ¹ shall destroy.
²¹ **My mouth shall speak the praise ¹ of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forev- ¹ er and
ever.**

Second Reading

Romans 9:1-5

¹ I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit ² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵ to them belong the

patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and treated their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *“Give Them What You Have”*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✝ Hymn of the Day

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

Insert

Apostles’ Creed

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You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray
for the church, those in need, and all of God’s
creation.

A brief silence.

A: For your church in every place, that it may satisfy
those who hunger for your word. Bless the ministry of
readers, translators, Bible study leaders, and writers,
that God’s word may be broken open and shared with
all. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For your wondrous creation and all the bounty it
provides, that your creatures may be fed and
nourished. Bless the work of farmers, farmworkers,
those who fish, and all whose labor brings your
abundance to our tables. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For your children in every nation, that they may learn to love justice and live in harmony. As this week we remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, keep us mindful of the horrors of war; draw our hearts instead toward your reign of love, hope, and peace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For all who cry out with great sorrow and unceasing anguish, that they may be comforted. Feed all who struggle with food insecurity; have mercy on all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For this congregation, that it may bear faithful witness to the abundance and joy of life in you. Bless all your faithful people gathered here, that they may become blessings for this community. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: With thanksgiving for the faithful who now rest in your mercy, especially Mario Mion, that their witness may continue to inspire the church. By their example, may we trust your promises in life and in death. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Hymn *"Praise and Thanksgiving"*

ELW#689

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..."

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Lamb of God

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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: 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

"O Living Bread From Heaven"

ELW #542

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:

Betty Williams, 2008

On August 30th!



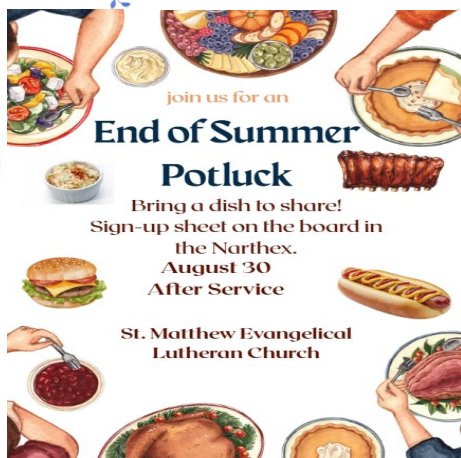
Welcome
Bishop Kevin Strickland
 TO
 St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
 August 30, 2026



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
 EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



August 30, 2026



join us for an
End of Summer Potluck
 Bring a dish to share!
 Sign-up sheet on the board in the Narthex.
 August 30 After Service
 St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION- MARIETTA, GA

Revive Yourself & Your Congregation!

Woven Together
FORWARD IN FAITH

AUG.22

GOAL:
5+
people from each church

Register Today!

REVIVAL DAY

Synod

\$15
per person, includes t-shirt

*"Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?"
 (Psalm 85:6)*

Worship + Meal + Learning Labs



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
 EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



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and Caring for
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To register, go to website
<https://sesleadershipacademy.org>
Or click QR code to the right.

READINGS AND PSALM **SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026**



1 Kings 19:9-18
 Psalm 85:8-13
 Romans 10:5-15
 Matthew 14:22-33

*"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 26, 2026 **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

ATTENDANCE — 45
 (IN-PERSON — 36, YOUTUBE - 9)
 2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 2,660.00
Building	\$ 130.00
Memorial*	\$ 440.00
Other	\$ 300.00
Total	\$ 3,530.00

**Memorial gifts will be acknowledged quarterly.*



Memorial brick orders will be taken until **August 2, 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.

Serving August 2, 2026

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Terri Niederhammer
Lector	Wanda Ebright
Ushers	Katheine Kelly Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson Allena Sperry/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

Serving August 9, 2026

Opener/Closer	Lisa & Matt Pettit
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Allena Sperry
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Ushers	Katherine Kelly Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Lane Brown/Teri Niederhammer Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

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

Charlotte Moore

Traudel Mosely

Debby Owen

Dorothy Redden

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

Mion Family

Wandersee/Mackenzie
Families

People of Lebanon

People of Iran

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Eastern Congo

People of Venezuela

M. Bland Salon

Chevron

Bargain furniture

Dollar General

Citgo

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. Changing table available if needed.

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.



If you have any photos you have taken from events that have happened at the church, please email those to the church office at office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com. We need these for our archives and our newsletter!

Save the Date

- August 2nd - Birthday Celebration - Fellowship Hall
- August 4th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- August 20th - Council Meeting - 5:00 - FH
- August 21st - Craft-Tea - 10:00 - LH
- August 22nd - Revival Day
- August 23rd - Memorial Committee Meeting - FH after service
- August 27th - Men's Group - 5:30 - Deorio's
- August 30th - Bishop Strickland Visit/End of Summer Potluck/God's Work, Our Hands/September Birthday Celebration



Woven Together
FORWARD IN FAITH

Southeastern Synod

Congregational Leaders Zoom

With Bishop Strickland




September 14, 2026 - 7:00 pm (ET)

Register Today!

For Lay and Rostered Leaders



Use the QR code above to register for the Southeastern Synod Congregational Leaders Zoom with Bishop Strickland on September 14, at 7:00 PM.



The Harris County Sheriff's Office of Criminal Investigations Division is presenting a Fraud & Scam Prevention program at Reformation Lutheran Church located at 1045 US Hwy 27, Cataula, GA 31804 on August 13th at 5:30 pm. A Financial Crimes Investigator from the HCSO CID will be presenting a PowerPoint based program covering jury duty, and warrant phone scams, email and text message based scams, false and misleading advertisement scams, friends or family in danger or jail scams, romance and companionship scams, the danger of letting others remote into your device, gift cards, bitcoin, wire transfers, and prepaid debit card scams! At the end of the presentation, the HCSO Investigator will open the floor for questions.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY August

5 Geri Regnier	23 Jutta Ashley
12 Traudel Mosely	23 Ellen Hoag
13 Harold Vinson	27 Dave Bonaker
16 Rigney Cofield	27 Neema Kessey
18 Monika Wright	

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](https://www.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