

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026

In today's reading from Romans, Paul addresses three audiences: Gentile Christians, Jewish Christians, and Jewish people who are not Christians. To all, Paul writes God is faithful to God's promises, and faithful to save.

Holy Communion (ELW Setting 4, page 147)
Evangelical Lutheran Worship

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives us all our sins, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

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

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

ELW #886

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Amy Hoag

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹ Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. ⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸ Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

Tone 1

- ¹ May God be merciful to ¹ us and bless us;
may the light of God's face ¹ shine upon us.
- ² **Let your way be known ¹ upon earth,
your saving health a- ¹ mong all nations.**
- ³ Let the peoples praise ¹ you, O God;
let all the ¹ peoples praise you.
- ⁴ **Let the nations be glad and ¹ sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide
all the na- ¹ tions on earth.**
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise ¹ you, O God;
let all the ¹ peoples praise you.
- ⁶ **The earth has brought ¹ forth its increase;
God, our own ¹ God, has blessed us.**
- ⁷ May God ¹ give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth ¹ stand in awe.

Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2a, 13a, 17-18, 24, 29, 32

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people?
By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of
Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has
not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

^{13a} Now I am speaking to you gentiles. ¹⁷ But if some of
the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive
shoot, were grafted among the others to share the rich
root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not boast over the branches. If
you do boast, remember: you do not support the root, but
the root supports you. ²⁴ For if you have been cut from
what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary
to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will
these natural branches be grafted back into their own
olive tree. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are
irrevocable. ³² For God has imprisoned all in
disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

L: The word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *"God's Faithfulness to Save"*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

ELW #733

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,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

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 believers around the world who stream to your
holy mountain, that all may be united in faith and
harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on
earth be a witness to the beloved community of your
heavenly kingdom. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For your wondrous creation, that it may thrive and flourish as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they may heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they may lead and serve justly. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they may find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ in each new face. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith. 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: For all the saints before us whose work is done, especially Mario Mion, that their faithful example may continue to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or 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.

The Peace

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MEAL

Hymn “Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring” **ELW#691**

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you opened your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Lord.

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: O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you
thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of
your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be His
body in the world that we may give you praise and
serve your earth and its many peoples; through Jesus
Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

ELW #656

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:

Giesla Clemens, 2022

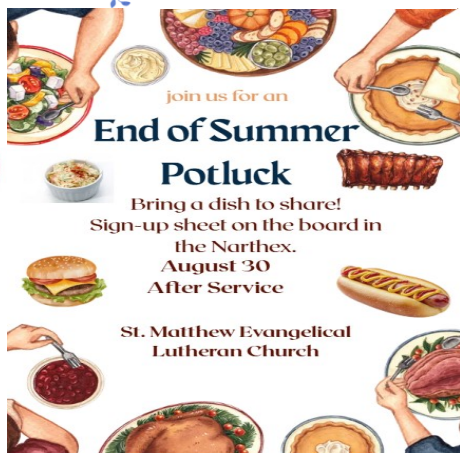


The Mion family would like to express our gratitude to Pastor Taylor for leading the memorial service for Mario and to everyone from St Matthew who shared kind condolences, attended the memorial service, and sent donations after the passing of our dear Mario.

On August 30th!



August 30, 2026





Woven Together
FORWARD IN FAITH

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION- MARIETTA, GA

AUG.22

Revive Yourself & Your
Congregation!

Register Today!



Scan or Visit:
**elca-ses.org/
synod-revival-days**

GOAL:
5+
people from
each church

\$15
*per person, includes dinner

REVIVAL DAY

Synod

"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

READINGS AND PSALM **SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026**



Isaiah 51:1-6
 Psalm 138
 Romans 12:1-8
 Matthew 16:13-20

*"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 9, 2026 **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

ATTENDANCE — 54
 (IN-PERSON — 40, YOUTUBE - 14
 2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,985.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial*	\$ 170.00
Other(70 for 70)	\$ 70.00
Total	\$ 2,325.00



Serving August 16, 2026

Opener/Closer	Nancy & Jeff Gates
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Liz McGouirk
Lector	Toni Mion
Ushers	Randy Craven Sandy Craven
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson/Lisa Pettit, Allena Sperry/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

Serving August 23, 2026

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Terri Niederhammer
Ushers	Jim Sperry Ron Ullman
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

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

Frank Henderson

Petra Henderson

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

Mario's Tire

Mariner Finance

Woodville Apartments

Beal Wellness

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 there 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.

Save the Date

- August 18th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- August 20th - Council Meeting - 5:00 - FH
- August 20th - Choir Practice - 6:00
- August 21st - Craft-Tea - 10:00 - LH
- August 22nd - Revival Day
- August 23rd - 9:30 - Sunday School
- 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.

YARD SALE 2027

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



Thank you for your generous response to the summer snack drive for Wynnton Neighborhood Network.



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!



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 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