

LARGE PRINT

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 3, page 138)

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P; Alleluia! Christ is resurrected!

C: He is resurrected indeed! Alleluia! (3X)

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

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

"Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

ELW #367

Kyrie

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This is the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Katherine Kelly

First Reading

Ezekiel 34:7-15

⁷ Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD:

⁸ As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have become a prey and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves and have not fed my sheep, ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: ¹⁰ Thus says the Lord GOD: I am against the shepherds, and I will hold them accountable for my sheep and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them. ¹¹ For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. ¹² As

shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

Tone 10

¹ The LORD ¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not ¹ be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.**

³ You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's
sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death, I shall ¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they
¹ comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my
enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running
over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the¹ LORD forever.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. ²² "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." ²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

John 10:1-10

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹ "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the

gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *“The Lord is Our Shepherd”*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

“My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”

ELW #782

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,

**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.**

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

A: Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. 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: Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Anthem *“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

See Insert

Holy, Holy, Holy

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

Page 145

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: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

ELW #774

Dismissal

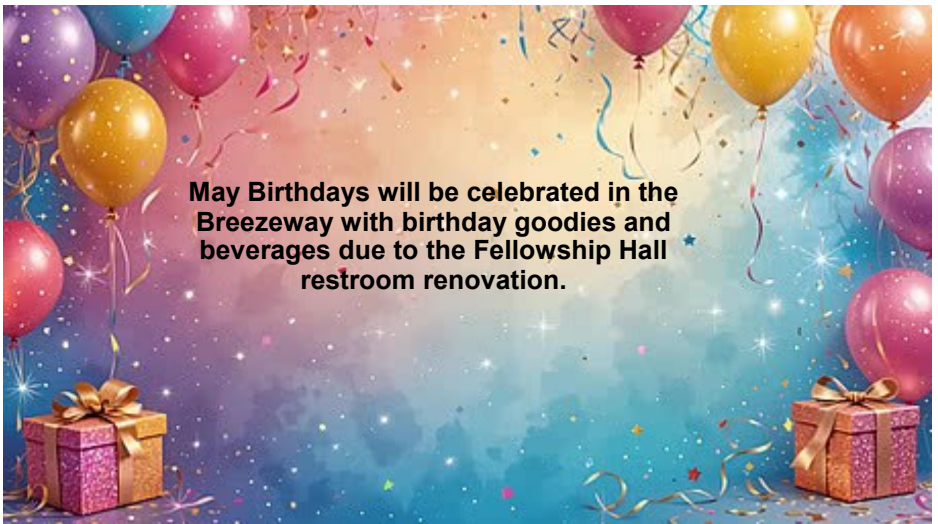
A: Alleluia! Go forth in the power of the resurrected Christ.

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Ryan Jackson, 2007



May Birthdays will be celebrated in the Breezeway with birthday goodies and beverages due to the Fellowship Hall restroom renovation.

**READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026**

Proverbs 4:10-18
Psalm 119:25-32
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-7



“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

**April 19, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter**

ATTENDANCE — 49
(IN-PERSON — 42, YOUTUBE - 7
2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	510.00
Building	\$	100.00
Memorial	\$	575.00
Other	\$	0.00
Total	\$	1,185.00

Memorial gift acknowledgments will be sent/mailed 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 April 26, 2026

Opener/Closer	Dave Bonaker
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Amy Hoag
Lector	Toni Mion
Ushers	James Sperry Ron Ullman
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Martha Vargas/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

Serving May 3, 2026

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Randy Craven Sandy Craven
Altar Guild	Lane Brown Rose Johnson/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

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
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
Amanda Steinagel
Sara Steinagel Sturgis
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Lisa Vieira
Martha Zimmerman

People of Lebanon
People of Iran
Gaza
Palestinian People
Israel
Ukraine
People of Russia
Eastern Congo
People of Nigeria

Angel's Nails
Y & J Health
Hidden Lake Grocery
USPS
Peachtree Immediate Care
Hidden Lake Bottle Shop

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.

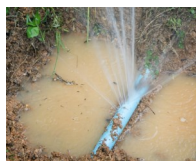
Mission Outreach Opportunities:

- 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
- Brown Bag: Travel 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 4th 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.



The water main in front of the church has been repaired after 16 months of persistence by Jeff Gates, Property Chair. Please be patient as the water may be discolored for a while until the lines are cleared.

Save the Date

- April 28th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- April 24th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- April 30th - 5:00 - Men's Group - Deorio's
- May 24th - 11:30 - Memorial Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall

April Mission

We are collecting food and monetary donations for Wynnton Neighborhood Network!



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.

MENS GROUP FELLOWSHIP

APRIL 30, 2026
5:00 PM



DEORIO'S
1931 AUBURN AVE





Please report any building repairs needed to Jeff Gates by phone at 404-788-8944 or email at jgatesi@aol.com so that all repairs can be done in one service call which saves money.



HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY

5 Carla Stickles	24 Carol Bingemann
7 Liz McGouirk	25 Linnea Grosse
10 Red Mosley	25 Myrna Hoag
12 David Vargas	27 Jaxson Gardner
18 Matthew Pettit	27 Henry James
	25 Scott Sieg

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

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director