

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 20, 2025

The image above depicts a Roman proconsul seated at Paphos on the island of Cyprus when he called for Paul and Barnabas to expand upon the gospel they were proclaiming. It may look like a fight. It was certainly a confrontation. The gospel is opposed to the vision of personal enrichment that Paul's opponent, Elymas, represented.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 4, page 147)

† *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 *"Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak"*

ELW #676

Kyrie

Page 147

Gloria

Page 148

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Amos 8:1-12

This is what the Lord GOD showed me—a basket of summer fruit. ²He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me,

"The end has come upon my people Israel;
 I will never again pass them by.
³The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day,"
 says the Lord GOD; "the dead bodies shall be many,
 cast out in every place. Be silent!"
⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
 and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over
 so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath,
 so that we may offer wheat for sale?
 We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
 and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals,
 and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
 Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.
⁸Shall not the land tremble on this account,
 and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile,
 and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?
⁹On that day, says the Lord GOD, I will make the sun go down at noon,
 and darken the earth in broad daylight.
¹⁰I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation;
 I will bring sackcloth on all loins, and baldness on every head;
 I will make it like the mourning for an only son,
 and the end of it like a bitter day.
¹¹The time is surely coming, says the Lord GOD,
 when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, or a
 thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.
¹²They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east;
 they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD,
 but they shall not find it.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 52

Tone 4

¹You mighty, why do you ¹boast of wickedness
 against the godly ¹all day long?
²**Continually ¹you plot ruin;**
your tongue is like a sharpened razor that com- ¹mits deceit.
³You love evil ¹more than good
 and lying more than speak- ¹ing the truth.
⁴**You love all words ¹that devour,**
O you de- ¹ceitful tongue.
⁵Oh, that God would demol- ¹ish you utterly,
 topple you, and snatch you from your dwelling,
 and root you out of the land ¹of the living!
⁶**The righteous shall see ¹and be awestruck,**
and they shall laugh ¹at you, saying,

⁷"This is the one who did not take God ¹ for a refuge,
but trusted in great wealth and found strength ¹ in destruction."

**⁸But I am like a green olive tree in the ¹ house of God;
I trust in the steadfast love of God forev-¹ er and ever.**

⁹I will thank you forever for what ¹ you have done;
in the presence of the faithful I will long for your name,
for ¹ it is good.

Second Reading

Acts 13:1-12

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a childhood friend of Herod the ruler, and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. ⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. And they had John also to assist them. ⁶ When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they met a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet, named Bar-Jesus. ⁷ He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man who summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God. ⁸ But the magician Elymas (for that is the translation of his name) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ But Saul, also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰ and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? ¹¹ And now listen—the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind for a while, unable to see the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he fumbled about for someone to lead him by the hand. ¹² When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

Page 151

Gospel

Luke 10:38-42

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 10th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

"Confronting the Charlatan"

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✝ Hymn of the Day *"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"* **ELW #656**

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: In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

A: Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

- A: Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. God of grace,
C: **hear our prayer.**
- A: Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair. Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace,
C: **hear our prayer.**
- A: Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. 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: For Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Mary, Martha, and all the saints who attended to your word, especially Margarete Walsh, Patricia Bonaker, Betty Davidson, Mike Regnier and Boyd Lester, we give thanks. Open our ears to your voice until that day when we realize the promise of the gospel with all creation. God of grace,
C: **hear our prayer.**
- P: Trusting in your loving kindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.
C: **Amen.**

MEAL


Offertory *"Open Your Ears, O Faithful People"* **ELW #519**

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 152
Holy, Holy, Holy	Page 153
Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..."	Page 154
Lamb of God	Page 154

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 *“Now Thank We All Our God”* **ELW #840**

Dismissal
A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025



Hosea 1:2-10

Psalm 85

Acts 17:1-12

Luke 11:1-13

*"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 13, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 66

(IN-PERSON — 48, YOUTUBE - 18)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	4,510.00
Building	\$	0.00
Memorial	\$	150.00
Other	\$	860.00
Total	\$	5,520.00

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Elfie Salheiser, 2016

Serving July 20, 2025

Opener/Closer	Bill Wallace
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker
	Terri Niederhammer
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Toni Mion
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates/Allena Sperry
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

Serving July 27, 2025

Opener/Closer	Jeff/Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman/Martha Vargas
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

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 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
Terri Niederhammer
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Regnier Family

Connie Sieg
Carla Stickles
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
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
Israel
Iran
Ukraine
Gaza
Lebanon
Western North Carolina
Southeastern Kentucky
Kerr County, Texas
Wynnton Neighborhood
Network
Broken Tarot Tattoo &
Piercing
Master-Kleen
Title Max
JD Wings

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:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| | Christmas in July 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 |
| • Safe House | 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.

Men's Group: This group will meet, Thursday, June 26th at 5:00 at Mr. Pizza.

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

Save the Date

- July 21st - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- July 22nd - 10:15 - Bible Study (bring lunch) - Fellowship Hall
- July 23rd - 6:00 - Psalms Bible Study - Luther Hall
- July 26th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- July 24th - 5:00 - Men's Group at Mr. Pizza
- July 28-30th - 5:30-7:15 - Vacation Bible School
- July 28-August 2nd - Church wide Assembly (<https://www.elca.org>)
- July 31st - 9:00 - WNN Care Bag Packing

New Bible Study

P S A L M S :

This Bible study will be led by Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards and Rabbi Beth Swartz. We will meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in Luther Hall. We hope you will join us as travel thru the Psalms.

July 23: Healing (16, 30, 22)
August 6: Praise/Thanksgiving (113-118)



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

CHRISTMAS IN JULY 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	

**What is the meaning
of
Communion?**

Join us July 28th-30th
5:30-7:15 PM as we explore this with our children in a
fun and informative way at Vacation Bible School

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
4026 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31907

Email: office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com
Website: stmatthewcolumbusga.com



Register your child for
VBS by using the QR
code above.
We hope to see you
there!

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