

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement



Reach in to grow in Christ
Reach up to worship God
Reach out to welcome and witness



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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

Ashleigh Duncan, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost October 18, 2026

Why does the book of Acts tell the story of Peter and Cornelius three different times in three different ways across five chapters? While we may never know the intent of the author exactly, we can know the effect. High emphasis means high importance. At least one important thing that happened here is the recognition that life in the church may be very different in different cultural, religious, and political settings. At the same time, we affirm we are one in Christ.

Holy Communion (ELW Setting 7, page 175)
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 "You Servants of God" **ELW #825**

Kyrie Page 175



YARD SALE 2027

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



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Garden cleanup on October 3rd. Both gardens and the roses in front of the Fellowship Hall look beautiful.



2 Beth Hoag

14 Thoryn Hoag

4 Laura Alexander

20 Catherine Sayers

8 Wanda Ebright

20 Ron Ullman

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.

Sunday School: We have Sunday School for pre-school thru 5th grade which meets from 9:15-10:15 each Sunday before our morning service.

Love in Action 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)
 - WNN Non-perishable foods & plastic bags
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex.

Bible Study: Please join us on Tuesdays at 10:15 in 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.

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

Save the Date

- October 19th - Chair Yoga cancelled
- October 20th - 10:15 AM-Bible Study - Church House-Study Room
- October 22nd - 5:30 - Men's Group - Deorio's

Gloria

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Amy Hoag

First Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96:1-13

Tone 2

- ¹ Sing to the Lord ¹ a new song;
sing to the Lord, ¹ all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the Lord, bless the name ¹ of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from ¹ day to day.**
- ³ Declare God's glory a- ¹ mong the nations
and God's wonders a- ¹ mong all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly ¹ to be praised,
more to be feared ¹ than all gods.**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they ¹ are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have ¹ made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are ¹ in your presence;
power and splendor are in your ¹ sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families ¹ of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- ¹ or and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the ¹ holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts ¹ of the Lord.**
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, ¹ all the earth.
- ¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The ¹ Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it
cannot be moved will judge the peo- ¹ ples with
equity."**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the ¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be
joyful and all that ¹ is therein.
- ¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at
your com- ¹ ing, O Lord,
for you come to ¹ judge the earth.**
- ¹³ You will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peoples ¹ with your truth.

Second Reading

Acts 11:1-18

¹ Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were
in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the
word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the

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."
—1 Thessalonians
5:16-18*

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
Dan & Laura
Alexander
Carol Bingemann
Isabelle Clark
Rigney Cofield
Myrna & Ken Hoag
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
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
Remi Lindquist
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
Anne Sims
Ricky Skinner
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Eric Young
Martha Zimmerman

Hicks Family
Mion Family
Wandersee/Mackenzie
Families

People of Nepal
People of Tibet
People of Lebanon
People of Iran
Gaza
Palestinian People
Israel
Ukraine
People of Russia
Eastern Congo
People of Venezuela
People of Columbia

Vance Brooks Funeral
Service
Striffler Hamby Funeral
Service
El Carrizo
E&S Clothing
One Financial
Tasha's Dance & Prep

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
 Psalm 1
 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
 Matthew 22:34-46



*"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*

**Memorial gifts will be
 acknowledged quarterly.*

October 11, 2026
Twentieth Sunday after
Pentecost

ATTENDANCE - 54
 (IN-PERSON— 51, YOUTUBE - 15
 2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 3,025.00
Building	\$ 130.00
Other	\$ 300.00
Memorial*	\$ 150.00
Total	\$ 3,605.00



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!

Serving October 18, 2026

Opener/Closer	Jeff & Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Gracie Thies
Lector	Toni Mion
Communion Ushers	Cecil McGouirk & Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson Allena Sperry/Jaxson Gardner
Greeter	Isabelle Clark
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

Serving October 25, 2026

Opener/Closer	Dave Bonaker
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Amy Hoag
Lector	Katherine Kelly
Communion Ushers	Jim Sperry & Ron Ullman
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Martha Vargas/Jaxson Gardner
Greeter	Isabelle Clark
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *"Peter Reports to HQ"*

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day *"This Is My Song"*

ELW #887



The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Richard Hansen, 2000



✠ 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: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *"Lead On, O King Eternal!"* **ELW #805**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new,
we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

A: Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans.
Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all
those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You have made homes for all peoples within the
community of your church. Help us to recognize you
at work in people who are different from us.
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who
hold positions of authority around the world, that they
act with compassion, seeking the good of all.
Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for all people who work in dangerous or
degrading environments. Grant them safety and
courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or
suffering. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet,
unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their
work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We thank you for our ancestors who have died,
especially Mario Mion. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up
these spoken prayers and those in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace

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MEAL

Anthem

"Be Still My Soul"

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs
forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us
generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our
abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love
to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

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Holy, Holy, Holy

Page 181

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

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Lamb of God

Page 182

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person may respond, Amen.