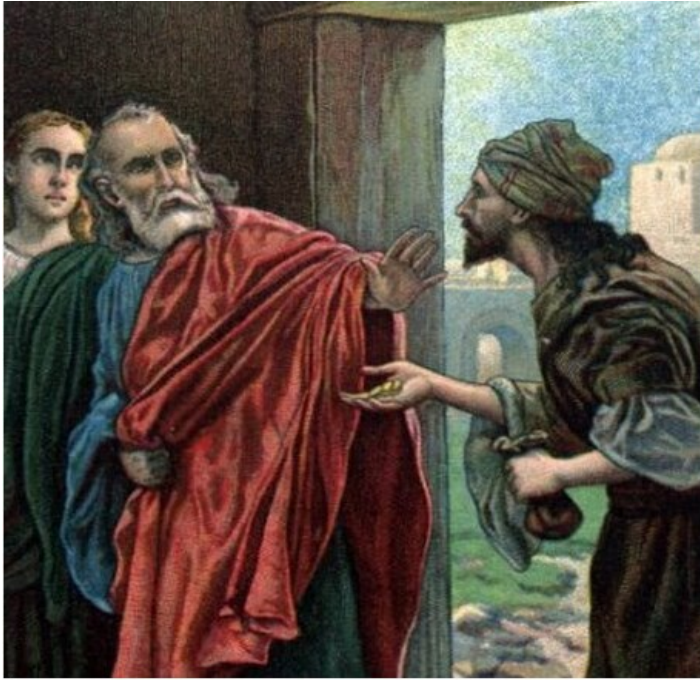


# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 11, 2026

*“Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> saying, ‘Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit’” (Acts 8:18-19, NRSVUE).*

Simon’s request may seem outlandish or offensive? But was it, really? Could we be approaching the work of God in similar ways ourselves? Do we expect to receive something for ourselves when we give money to the church or other ministries? Or might we be tempted to “buy” or otherwise acquire church leadership roles for ourselves, as if they were for sale? What might we learn from what Simon needed to learn?

**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

*"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

**ELW #632**

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C. Amen.**

## **PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD**

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 25:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. <sup>2</sup> For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. <sup>3</sup> Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. <sup>4</sup> For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, <sup>5</sup> the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. <sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. <sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; <sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace

of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. <sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 23**

**Tone 2**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD <sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;

I shall not <sup>1</sup> be in want.

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

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

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

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

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the  
days <sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>1</sup> LORD forever.**

## **Second Reading**

**Acts 8:14-25**

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only

been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup> Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." <sup>20</sup> But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! <sup>21</sup> You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup> Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. <sup>23</sup> For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness." <sup>24</sup> Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me." <sup>25</sup> Now after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news to many villages of the Samaritans.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**†** Gospel Acclamation

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**Gospel**

**Matthew 22:1-14**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

<sup>2</sup> "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup> He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other

slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’<sup>5</sup> But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,<sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.<sup>7</sup> The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.<sup>8</sup> Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.’<sup>9</sup> Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’<sup>10</sup> Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.<sup>11</sup> “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,<sup>12</sup> and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless.<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’<sup>14</sup> For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon *“Peter (and John) in Samaria”*

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

✝ Hymn of the Day

*“The Son of God, Our Christ”*

**ELW #584**

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:** Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on  
your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of  
Churches and all those working across religious  
difference, that the world may know your undivided  
love. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land.  
Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering.  
Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table.  
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 remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, 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

*“Day by Day”*

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

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Lord’s Prayer      “Our Father, who...”

Page 182

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.*

## ✝ 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

*"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"*

**ELW #836**

## Dismissal

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**



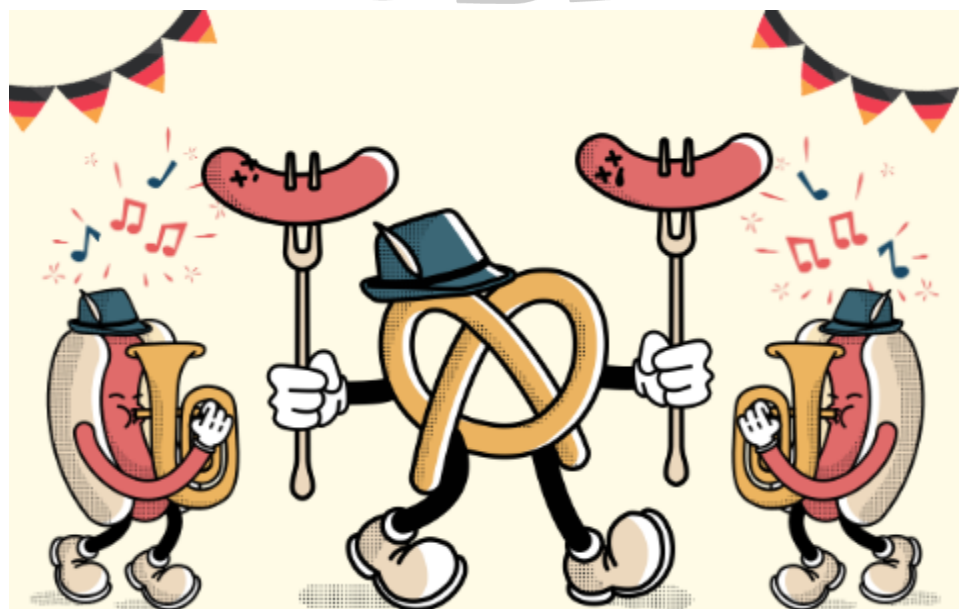
The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

*Gary Nearhoof, 2024*



# TODAY



## OKTOBERFEST & BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**OCTOBER 11, 2026**

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



## READINGS AND PSALM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

Isaiah 45:1-7  
Psalm 96:1-13  
Acts 11:1-18  
Matthew 22:15-22



*"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 4, 2026 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE - 54

(IN-PERSON— 40, YOUTUBE - 14)

2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

### OFFERING

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Benevolence  | \$ 2,075.00        |
| Building     | \$ 100.00          |
| Other        | \$ 0.00            |
| Memorial*    | \$ 150.00          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$ 2,325.00</b> |



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](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com). We need these for our archives and our newsletter!

### Serving October 11, 2026

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Opener/Closer       | Rose Johnson                |
| Worship Assistant   | Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton |
| Communion Assistant | Debra Jarzomkowski          |
| Lector              | Liz McGouirk                |
| Communion Ushers    | Jim Sperry & Ron Ullman     |
| Altar Guild         | Lane Brown                  |
|                     | Rose Johnson/Jaxson Gardner |
| Greeter             | Isabelle Clark              |
| Live Streaming      | Cecil McGouirk              |

### 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                   |

# 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

Dan & 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

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

USPS

Peachtree Immediate Care

Hidden Lake Bottle Shop

Beauty Queen

Brewster's

Waffle House

# 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 11th - 11:30 - Oktoberfest & Birthday Celebration - L Hall
- October 12th - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- October 13th - 10:15 AM-Bible Study - Church House-Study Room
- October 15th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- October 16th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- October 22nd - 5:30 - Men's Group - Deorio's



## YARD SALE 2027

If you have donations, please contact Allena Sperry at 706-563-3107 or [asperry@bellsouth.net](mailto: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.



# **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](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)

Phone: (765) 602-1426

Office email : [office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com)

*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*

*Southeastern Synod*

[www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com](http://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