

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 2023**

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 3, Page 138

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof

†

P: The grace of our Lord +Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

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

"God is here!"

ELW #526

Kyrie

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Hymn of Praise

"Glory to God in the Highest"

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.

Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Geri Regnier

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:33-40

Tone 1

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way ¹ of your statutes,
and I shall keep it ¹ to the end.
³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall ¹ keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with ¹ all my heart.**
³⁵Lead me in the path of ¹ your commandments,
for that is ¹ my desire.
³⁶**Incline my heart to ¹ your decrees
and not to ¹ unjust gain.**
³⁷Turn my eyes from be- ¹ holding falsehood;
give me life ¹ in your way.
³⁸**Fulfill your promise ¹ to your servant,
which is for ¹ those who fear you.**
³⁹Turn away the reproach ¹ that I dread,
because your judg- ¹ ments are good.
⁴⁰**Behold, I long for ¹ your commandments;
by your righteousness en- ¹ liven me.**

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness,

not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia ”

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Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th Chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

“Meditating on Torah”

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

“Draw us in the Spirit’s tether”

ELW #470

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

Choose to stand, kneel, or sit for prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

A: Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick. Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them...

C: receive our prayer.

A: Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith especially Joyce Garver-Messenger, Anneliese Schwarting, Hans Salheiser, Bobby Wright, Joe Stewart, Christine Minor, and Rolene Stewart. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

MEAL

Anthem

Flute Solo by Jordi Banitt

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| † Great Thanksgiving | Page 144 |
| Holy, Holy, Holy | Page 144 |
| Acclamation | Page 145 |
| Amen | Page 145 |
| Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." | Page 145 |
| Lamb of God | Page 146 |

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and 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: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

“Go, my children, with my blessing”

ELW #543

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Serve the Risen Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Joseph Kopiness, 2005

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:1-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35



*"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*

September 3, 2023
Fourteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 42
(IN-PERSON— 42, ZOOM - 0)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Benevolence | \$ 2,095.00 |
| Building | \$ 100.00 |
| Memorial | \$ 100.00 |
| Other | \$ 100.00 |
| Total | \$ 2,395.00 |

Serving today, September 10, 2023

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Opener/Closer | Rose Johnson |
| Crucifer | Ian Jeffery |
| Worship Assistants | Rose Johnson |
| Communion Assistant | Liz McGouirk |
| Lector | Katherine Kelly |
| Offering-bearer | Duncan Jeffery |
| Ushers | Connie Sieg Bill Wallace |
| Altar Guild | Lisa Pettit Donna Doughty |

Servers for Sunday, September 17, 2023

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Opener/Closer | Allena Sperry |
| Crucifer | Ian Jeffery |
| Worship Assistant | Lisa Pettit |
| Communion Assistant | Rachel Zarnke |
| Lector | Joyce Moore |
| Offering-bearer | Duncan Jeffery |
| Ushers | Amanda Jeffery Sean Jeffery |
| Altar Guild | Rose Johnson Catherine Sayers |

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
Persecuted Christians
The ministries of
St. Matthew
Presiding Bishop
Elizabeth Eaton
Bishop Kevin
Strickland
Southeastern Synod
Staff
Seminarian,
Brandon Konnow
Laura Alexander
Zocia Barr family
Keandra Bashful
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Pat Bonaker
Eva Brown
Betty Davidson
Ken Hoag
Myrna Hoag
Bennie Jackson
Mairetha Jackson
Marga Miller
Traudel Mosely

Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg
Joan Smith
Jim Sperry
Carla Stickles
Albert VanHousen II
Margarete Walsh
Gary Anderson
Judy Bultman
Kyle Carter
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Brandy Garnett
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra Henderson
Beverly Huckaby
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Laura Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Tim Moore
Gary Nearhoof
Kimberly O'Malley

Michael Owen
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Dwight Redmond
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Yuliia Savitska
Shirley Scott
Ricky Skinner
Betty Townsend
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

Mr. Pizza
Quality Inn
Smoke Buddy's
Days Inn
Enterprise
Comfort Inn
Octapharma Plasma

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.
Deadline for October newsletter is September 20.

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 wearing of a mask is optional during worship and social distancing is recommended. 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 4 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.

The Tuesday morning Bible Study meets in the Church House from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. This class reads and talks about the scriptures for the coming Sunday.

Mission Outreach Opportunities:

- Lion's Club: Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones
- Ronald McDonald house: Pop tabs
- Flags to Retire: Bring used American flags that you no longer want or need.
- St. Anne's: Personal hygiene products (travel size), toilet paper, and non-perishable food items.
July 1st - September 3.
- Paperbacks For soldiers

Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex between bathrooms.

Athanasian Creed: Join us on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM at Mr. Pizza to study the Athanasian Creed and its meaning.

Remembrance Gathering: A remembrance gathering will be held in the Church House, September 12th at 3:00 PM. We will be sharing your own or family stories related to World War II. Please feel free to invite others to attend! This gathering will happen the second Tuesday of every month. Questions or concerns, contact Zocia Barr at (706) 330-1001.

Save the Date

- **September 10th 11:30 AM:** God's work, Our Hands celebration after the worship service
- **September 12th 3:00 PM:** World War II remembrance gathering in the church house
- **September 12th 6:00 PM:** Mr. Pizza to study the Athanasian Creed
- **September 14th 2:00 PM:** Macon Road Neighbors Prayer Team
- **September 30th:** Deadline for ordering Memorial Garden Bricks

TODAY!!!



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



- We will have a potluck chicken dinner provided in Luther Hall with a work session following.
- There will be a **SPECIAL SURPRISE** during the morning service.
- All are invited to attend the potluck

**St. Matthew Lutheran
Glory To God
Faithful Members**

Memorial Garden Bricks:
Purchase a commemorative brick to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or graduation. You can also purchase one in honor or memory of a loved

one. Each brick purchased will become part the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Memorial Garden. \$50 per brick. See Allena Sperry for more details! **DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

Dear Heavenly Father, you will not leave us without a blessing. Wrestle with your church and renew it for the sake of the world. Preserve our life in you, so that we faithfully name you before the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement



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

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

Office email: office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

Southeastern Synod

www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com

The Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards, Pastor

Kelly Peterson, Media Specialist

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator

Penny Davis, Nursery Director