

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Creation in Christ Sunday September 6, 2026

Since the seventh century, September 1 has symbolized the day of the creation of the world in the Byzantine tradition and has been the opening feast of its liturgical year (known as the Feast of the Indiction), in parallel with Rosh Hashanah marking the Jewish New Year. Creation in Christ celebrates the ongoing creation of the world in and through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all created things. We hear today of the triune God who creates all things: sun and moon, shining stars, sea monsters, creeping things and flying birds—and, yes, even human beings. God-in-Christ still takes care of all things and invites us to join in as caretakers of God's good creation.

Holy Communion

(ELW Setting 4, page 147)

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

"All Creatures, Worship God Most High" **ELW #838**

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Katherine Kelly

First Reading

Genesis 2:4b-25

^{4b} In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵ when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no vegetation of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground, ⁶ but a stream would rise from the earth and water the whole face of the ground—⁷ then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. ¹¹ The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold, ¹² and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and

onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. ¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." ²⁴ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

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

Psalm 148

Tone 1

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD¹ from the heavens;
praise God¹ in the heights.
- ² **Praise the LORD,¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you¹ hosts of heaven.**
- ³ Praise the LORD,¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you¹ shining stars.
- ⁴ **Praise the LORD, heav-¹ en of heavens,
and you waters a-¹ bove the heavens.**
- ⁵ Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
who commanded, and they¹ were created,
- ⁶ **who made them stand fast forev-¹ er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not¹ pass away.**
- ⁷ Praise the LORD¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters¹ and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail,¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do-¹ ing God's will;**
- ⁹ mountains¹ and all hills,
fruit trees¹ and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and¹ flying birds;**
- ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth¹ and all peoples,
princes and all rulers¹ of the world;
- ¹² **young¹ men and maidens,
old and¹ young together.**
- ¹³ Let them praise the name¹ of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over¹
earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all¹ faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the
LORD.¹ Hallelujah!**

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-24a

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

John 1:1-5

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

† Hymn of the Day
“Holy God, We Praise Your Name” **ELW #414**

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: We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need, responding to each petition with the words "Your mercy is great."

A brief silence.

A: O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray: that churches around the globe may collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized may nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation: Hear us, O God, source of life,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For the earth we pray: that this bounteous creation may receive continued divine blessing, that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plenteous and clean, that the land be treasured, and that animals be

protected. Grant that what on earth has been despoiled may be healed: Hear us, O God, our creator

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For the nations we pray: that farmers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers may provide the food humans need, that legislators may strive in all things for the common good, and that science and technology may lead us toward more responsible ways to live. Hear us, O God, our stronghold:

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For our country we pray: that national parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded, that all natural resources may benefit the whole population, and that our children may learn respect for nature. Hear us, O God, our guardian:

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For those in need we pray: that humankind may be sheltered from pandemic and from extreme weather, and that all who are sick or suffering may receive medical attention and communal support. Hear us, O God, our healer:

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We praise you for all who have lived and died. Especially Mario Mion. Hear us, O God, the beginning and the end:

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we
comment ourselves and your whole creation, trusting
in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace

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MEAL

Anthem

“Be Thou My Vision”

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast
love embraces all creation. You send rain and
sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its
bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw
us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to
bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’
name.

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

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Holy, Holy, Holy

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Lord’s Prayer “Our Father, who...”

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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: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

ELW #679

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Care for this creation, hope for the new creation.

C: Thanks be to God.

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:8-13
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*

August 30, 2026
Fourteenth Sunday after
Pentecost

ATTENDANCE —73

(IN-PERSON— 60, YOUTUBE - 13

2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 6,035.00
Building	\$ 130.00
Memorial*	\$ 450.00
Other	\$ 240.00
Total	\$ 6,855.00

**Memorial gifts will be acknowledged quarterly.*

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Fred Eysel, 2004

Serving September 6, 2026

Opener/Closer	Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Rose Johnson
Lector	Terri Niederhammer
Ushers	Randy Craven Sandy Craven
Altar Guild	Lane Brown Rose Johnson/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

Serving September 13, 2026

Opener/Closer	Dave Bonaker
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Matt Pettit
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Ushers	Katherine Kelly Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Lane Brown Allena Sperry/Jaxson Gardner
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

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

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

Broken Tarot Tattoo &
Piercing

Master-Kleen

Title Max

JD Wings

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.

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

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 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.



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!

Save the Date

- September 7th - Labor Day
- September 8th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- September 14th - 11:00 AM - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- September 17th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- September 18th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- September 24th- Men's Group - 5:30 - Deorio's



Southeastern Synod

Congregational Leaders Zoom
With Bishop Strickland

September 14, 2026 - 7:00 pm (ET)

Register Today!

For Lay and Rostered Leaders



Use the QR code above to register for the Southeastern Synod Congregational Leaders Zoom with Bishop Strickland on September 14, at 7:00 PM.

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 to make Celebration Sunday a success. The food was delicious. 400 care bags were filled for Wynnton Neighborhood Network and cards written to members unable to attend services.

With grateful hearts,
God's Work our Hands & Fellowship Committee

Happy September Birthday!

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 Elaine Hoag | 23 Sonja Metcalf |
| 2 Michael Ingram | 27 Connie Sieg |
| 4 Jim Sperry | 27 Fabio Vargas |
| 23 Rose Johnson | 28 Marga Miller |

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

Obra Williams, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director