

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



June 7, 2026

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector. As we gather each Lord's day we rejoice to share table with the one who welcomes tax collectors and sinners.

Holy Communion

Now the Feast and Celebration

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof

P: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: Have mercy on us. We confess to you that 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 trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved on another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.

P: Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gathering Hymn *"Morning Has Broken"*

ELW #556

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.

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Katherine Kelly

First Reading

Hosea 5:15--6:6

¹⁵ I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor: ^{6:1} "Come, let us return to the LORD, for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. ² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. ³ Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth." ⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. ⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. ⁶ For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 50:7-15

Tone 11

- ⁷ “Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you;
for I am ¹ God, your God.
- ⁸ **I do not accuse you because ¹ of your sacrifices;
your burnt offerings are al- ¹ ways before me.**
- ⁹ I will not accept a calf ¹ from your stalls,
nor goats ¹ from your pens;
- ¹⁰ **for all the wild animals of the for- ¹ est are mine,
the cattle on a ¹ thousand hills.**
- ¹¹ I know every bird ¹ of the mountains,
and the creatures of the ¹ fields are mine.
- ¹² **If I were hungry, I ¹ would not tell you,
for the whole world is mine and all ¹ that is in it.**
- ¹³ Do you think I eat the ¹ flesh of bulls,
or drink the ¹ blood of goats?
- ¹⁴ **Offer to God a sacrifice ¹ of thanksgiving
and make good your vows to ¹ the Most High.**
- ¹⁵ Call upon me in the ¹ day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall ¹ honor me.

Second Reading

Romans 4:13-25

- ¹³ The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.
- ¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls

into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³ Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax

collectors and sinners?" ¹² But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon "*Foundation: Mercy, not Sacrifice*"
Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day
"*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*" **ELW #587**

Apostles' Creed

NTF-Page 9

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Gathered together by the Holy spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

A: God of mercy, you call us to a life filled with acts of mercy. Ground us in following Christ, that we might extend the mercy we receive. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of creation, all you have made is yours. Revive lands in need of healing and make us wise stewards of all you have given us to tend. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of the nations, you promise to deliver those who call on you. Bring an end to conflict, bigotry, and injustice in all their forms wherever they are found.
God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of comfort, you provide for those in need. Bring an end to addiction. Comfort people as they mourn. Provide tenderly for those in need. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of blessings, you send the Holy Spirit to provide varieties of gifts in the body of Christ. Accompany those who travel this summer, make our gatherings joyous, and grant us a spirit of hospitality and togetherness. 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: God of life, we give you thanks for saints whose lives revealed your faithfulness. May remembering their faithfulness strengthen our own. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Offertory *"Have No Fear, Little Flock"* **ELW #764**

The gifts may be brought forward.

As the Grains of Wheat NTF-Page 10

Offering Prayer

A: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

C: Amen.

✠ Great Thanksgiving NTF-Page 11

Holy, Holy, Holy NTF-Page 11

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." NTF-Page 13

Lamb of God NTF-Page 14

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: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

ELW #836

Dismissal

A: Go forth in the name of our Triune God.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Stanley Smith, 2006

YOU ARE INVITED!

ST MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



**JUNE 7, 2026,
FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

4026 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31907

Seventy Years of St. Matthew

Part 1

By the Grace of God, St. Matthew was organized as a mission congregation of the Georgia-Alabama Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America, through its Board of American Missions. Our Pastor-Developer was Rev. Richard Hollinger, a veteran of WW II, like so many of his parishioners. The congregation held its first public service on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1956, at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church on 17th Street in Columbus. Organization Day was Sunday, June 10, 1956. There were 69 confirmed and 109 baptized members.

On April 3, 1957, the congregation purchased our Macon Road property of 2.5 acres and a house, which sat where our current sanctuary is. Our members converted the house into a suitable chapel, and on June 9 the first service was held in the House-Chapel. The building had a large chapel room, several smaller rooms, and complete kitchen facilities. I'm told that on dinner-on-the grounds Sundays, the aroma of bacon frying set many mouths watering during the service!

In 1959 a drive was begun to build a new sanctuary and Sunday church school building. With the help of the Board of American Missions, our members raised the required funds of \$79,997. This is our current Fellowship Hall and the connected rooms along the breezeway. The first service in the new sanctuary was June 5, 1960. Seating in the Nave was on folding chairs. The room that's now the kitchen was pastor's office, and the area next to it was the church secretary's office. Parking was west and south of the SS rooms on gravel and grass among the trees, and along the ellipse in front.

Pastor Hollinger resigned effective August 15, 1962, to accept a call to a church in Greenville, SC. While the pastorate was vacant, chaplains from Ft. Benning supplied our pulpit. Our next pastor, Rev. William Kaiser, accepted the call and came to us in November 1962 from Gainesville, FL. The congregation grew to more than 300 members during his tenure. He left us in June 1964 to go to a church in Jackson, MS. Again Ft. Benning chaplains filled in until February 1965 when Rev. John Satterwhite came to us.

We began a building program in April 1966 to provide more Sunday School and meeting space. Also, that year Marie Scruggs and Joyce Baldwin became the first women council members. And Betty Davidson began a Chrismon workshop in August. In 1967, the Board of American Missions approved the plans for the new education building, now Luther Hall. Ground was broken in November 1967. The building was dedicated on June 23, 1968. The old House-Chapel was removed. A horticulture committee, chaired by Carolyn Gnann and including Margaret Thein and Betty Simmons, was formed to beautify the church grounds. In March 1969, a memorial walkway was dedicated to honor Maj. Thomas Pollard, our member who was killed in Vietnam.

Pr. Satterwhite resigned the pastorate effective January 15, 1970, to accept a call to a church in Columbia, SC. Again, the chaplains from Ft. Benning supplied our pulpit. CH Neal Davidson was appointed our Vice Pastor on April 1. Our Council, in consultation with Synod Pres. Dr. Harvey Huntley and Rev. Dr. Gerald Troutman, issued a Call to Rev. Charles Macmurphy, who joined us as our Pastor on June 15, 1970.

In 1971 we established a softball team to compete in the church league. Serving communion to 10-year-olds after pastoral counseling was approved. Our outdoor Chapel in the Woods was established on the east side of Luther Hall. In 1972 we began using banners in the sanctuary as visual aids to worship. Also, that year we hosted a joint Reformation service including all area Lutheran churches. Our Council approved a blacktop driveway circling the sanctuary and education building. The Boy Scout troop we sponsored was reorganized by Robert and Dean Novotny. 1972 was the year we began giving more to Synod than we were receiving in support.

More to come, Dave Bonaker

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026

Exodus 19:2-8a
 Psalm 100
 Romans 5:1-8
 Matthew 9:35--10:1, 5a, 7-10



*"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*

May 31, 2026
Holy Trinity Sunday

ATTENDANCE — 53
 (IN-PERSON — 33, YOUTUBE - 20
 2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 2,170.00
Building	\$ 180.00
Memorial	\$ 150.00
Other	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 2,550.00

*Memorial gifts will be acknowledged
 quarterly.*

*St. Matthew Lutheran Church (ELCA) will not engage in any act or public
 statements to endorse or oppose any candidate for public office.*

Serving June 7, 2026

Opener/Closer	Bill Wallace
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Toni Mion
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Randy Craven Sandy Craven
Altar Guild	Lane Brown Rose Johnson/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

Serving June 14, 2026

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Elizabeth McGouirk
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates Allena Sperry/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

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

Gary Anderson

Eric & Tinisha Bryant

Jean Clemmons

Nancy Edmundson

Lynne Funck

Brandy Garnett

Sandy Gibbs

Moses Glidden

Estrella Gonzales

Doris Grier

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

Ricky Skinner

Fred Turpin

Charlie VanHousen

Dawn VanHousen

Martha Zimmerman

Carlson Family

People of Lebanon

People of Iran

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Eastern Congo

People of Nigeria

Gold Teeth World

Apparel King & More

Hollywood Barber Shop

Days Inn

Enterprise

The Cell Plug

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.

Mission Outreach 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)
- 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.

We invite you to join us for a new weekly interfaith Bible Study. Beginning May 27th and running for 6 weeks at 6:00 pm in Luther Hall, we will be discussing **EXODUS: CORE STORIES OF OUR FAITHS**

June 10: The last plague and Passover - Ex. 12:1-20, 13:8

June 17: Jethro - Ex. 18:13-27 and If an ox gores - Ex. 21:28-37, 22:20-26

June 24: The Revelation at Mt. Sinai - Ex. 19:1-6, 16029, 20:18-21

July 1: God's "Face" - Ex. 33:12-23 and the Tabernacle - Ex. 40:1-15, 34-38

Save the Date

- June 9th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- June 10th - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study -Luther Hall
- June 11th - 5:30 PM - Choir practice
- June 18th - 5:00 PM - Council Meeting
- June 19th - 10:00 AM - Craft Tea - Luther Hall

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.



Memorial brick orders will be taken until August 1, 2026. Order forms are available in the Narthex. Place order with payment attached and put into the offering plate or turn into the office. Bricks are \$50 each and will be dedicated in the Memorial Garden, All Saints Day, November 1, 2026.

We are collecting food and monetary donations for Wynnton Neighborhood Network!

Congratulations Graduates!

If you have a high school, college or technical school graduate in your family, we would like to celebrate this joyous occasion with you. Please submit to the office a short description of the degree earned, school attended, and future plans and a photo if you have one. Please submit by June 26th for July newsletter.



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

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director