

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



A New Day, A New Covenant

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 19, 2025

The new covenant Jeremiah describes is not about Jesus or a Messiah in centuries to come. It was a promise for sixth century BCE exiles to look forward to in the lifetime of the next generation. It is a promise that has continued to be fulfilled among Jewish people since that time and that we share as those baptized into Jesus. How are you living this promise?

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 1, page 94)

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

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: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of +Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

"When Morning Guilds the Skies"

ELW #853

Kyrie

Page 98

Gloria

Page 99

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:27-34

²⁷The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. ²⁸And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. ²⁹In those days they shall no longer say:

"The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are set on edge."

³⁰But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:97-104

Tone 7

⁹⁷Oh, how I ¹love your teaching!

All the day long it is ¹in my mind.

⁹⁸**Your commandment has made me wiser ¹than my enemies,
for it is ¹always with me.**

⁹⁹I have more understanding than ¹all my teachers,
for your decrees ¹are my study.

¹⁰⁰**I am wiser ¹than the elders,
because I observe ¹your commandments.**

¹⁰¹I restrain my feet from every ¹evil way,
that I may ¹keep your word.

¹⁰²**I do not turn aside ¹from your judgments,
because you your- ¹self have taught me.**

¹⁰³How sweet are your words ¹to my taste!

They are sweeter than honey ¹to my mouth.

¹⁰⁴**Through your commandments I gain ¹understanding;
therefore I hate every ¹lying way.**

Second Reading

2 Timothy 3:14--4:5

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1}In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and

wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ Gospel Acclamation

Page 102

Gospel

Luke 18:1-8

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

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

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

"The Aftermath, Part 3: What next?"

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day

"Morning Has Broken"

ELW #556

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,
resurrection of flesh,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

A: We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church. O God, who guides this congregation, give us the Chutzpah to make the changes we need to be effective in witness and service. Nurture our relationships with our communities. Drive us to serve and advocate with those to whom you send us. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ especially Margarete Walsh, Patricia Bonaker, Betty Davidson, Mike Regnier and Boyd Lester. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

MEAL

Offertory *"Break Now the Word of Life"*

ELW #515

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

✠ Great Thanksgiving Page 107

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 108

Lord's Prayer *"Our Father, who..."* Page 112

Lamb of God Page 112

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: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *"O Living Bread from Heaven"*

ELW #542

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:

Sara Macdonald, 2005

READINGS AND PSALM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025

Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14



*"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*

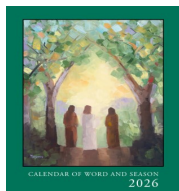
October 12, 2025 Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 50

(IN-PERSON— 29, YOUTUBE - NO SOUND
2025 BUDGET-\$177,962

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 2,510.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial	\$ 250.00
Other	\$ 300.00
Total	\$ 3,160.00



2026 Calendar of Word and Season is now on sale thru the end of the year. Please see Allena Sperry if you want to purchase a calendar for \$13. Please make checks payable to St. Matthew.

Serving October 19, 2025

Opener/Closer	Jeff & Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Shannon Garder
Communion Assistant	Donna Doughty
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates Rose Johnson
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

Serving October 26, 2025

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Bill Wallace
Ushers	Jim Sperry Ron Ullman
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Martha Vargas
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

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

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

Dave Bonaker

Matt Bonaker

Isabelle Clark

Randy Craven

Davidson Family

Myrna & Ken Hoag

Mairetha & Bennie
Jackson

Marga Miller

Charlotte Moore

Traudel Mosely

Debby Owen

Dorothy Redden

Regnier Family

Gary Anderson

Eric & Tinisha Bryant

George Capps

Jean Clemmons

Penny Davis & Family

Nancy Edmundson

Lynne Funck

Brandy Garnett

Sandy Gibbs

Moses Glidden

Becky Goldsmith

Estrella Gonzales

Goodman Family

Doris Grier

Laura Jett

Norma Kilby

Ken Korn

Emma Kump

Laura Lester

Robert Lowe

David & John Lucas

Michelle Matthias

Sandra McPeters

Brady Meeks

Lynn Meinhold

Tim Moore

Nearhoof Family

Debi Nelson

Angela Paul

Vincent Pawlowski

Terry Pendergraff

Beth Price

Mark Purushotham

Bill Rahm

Tiffany Richardson

Dayna Ryan

Shirley Scott

Dou Shizhen

Ricky Skinner

Amanda Steinagel

Sara Steinagel Sturgis

Fred Turpin

Charlie VanHousen

Dawn VanHousen

Molly Wright

Martha Zimmerman

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Western North Carolina

Southeastern Kentucky

Kerr County, Texas

Wynnton Neighborhood
Network

Church of the Annunciation

JD Wings

Beaute' Matrix

5 Fourteen

DQ

Burger King

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:

Mission Focus:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | Operation Christmas Child |
| • 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 |
| • St. Anne's: | Feminine hygiene products, Personal hygiene products (travel size) |
| • SafeHouse/St. Benedict's | Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals) |
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet Fridays 10:00-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Linnea Grosse for more information.

Chair Yoga: We are meeting every Monday at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. **CANCELLED FOR 10/20/25**

THANK YOU! To everyone who helped with the Gardens and Grounds Cleanup on Saturday, October 4th! It is greatly appreciated!

Save the Date

- October 20th - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - CANCELLED FOR TODAY
- October 21st - 10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- October 23rd - 9:00 - Pack care bags at WNN
- October 24th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- October 26th - 12:00 - Oktoberfest - Luther Hall
- October 28th - 6:00- Lutheran Social Statement Study at Mr. Pizza
- October 30th - 5:00 - Men's Group - Mr. Pizza



October Mission Focus

PLEASE SEE THE LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED ON THE SHEET YOU CAN FIND IN THE NARTHEX.

Please place items in labeled basket in the Narthex. Donations can be made by writing a check to the church and putting in the memo line that it is for Operation Christmas Child.



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 2:00-5:00 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

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director