

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



June 14, 2026

Moses tells the Israelites that they are called to be a priestly kingdom and a holy people. Jesus sends out the disciples as laborers into the harvest. In baptism we are anointed for ministry, sharing God's compassion with our needy world. From the Lord's table we go forth to proclaim the good news, to heal the sick, to raise the dead and to cast out demons.

Holy Communion

Now the Feast and Celebration

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof

P: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: And blessed be God's kingdom, how and forever.
Amen.**

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 one 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

"Soli Deo Gloria"

ELW #878

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.**

Kyrie

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Now the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Amy Hoag

First Reading

Exodus 19:2-8a

²[The Israelites] journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain.³ Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: ⁴'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, ⁶ but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."⁷ So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words

that the LORD had commanded him. ^{8a} The people all answered as one, “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 100

Tone 11

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, ¹ all you lands!

² Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God's presence ¹ with a song.

³ **Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom ¹ we belong;**

we are God's people and the sheep ¹ of God's pasture.

⁴ Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the ¹ courts with praise;

give thanks and bless God's ¹ holy name.

⁵ **Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is ¹ everlasting,**

whose faithfulness endures from ¹ age to age.

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-8

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps

for a good person someone might actually dare to die.⁸
But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Matthew 9:35--10:1, 5a, 7-10

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵ Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness.³⁶

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

^{10:1} Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to attend to people with every disease and every sickness.⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'⁸ Attend to the sick; raise the dead; cleanse the lepers; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.⁹ Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts,¹⁰ no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *"The Mission"*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

"Lord, You Give the Great Commission" **ELW #579**

Apostles' Creed

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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 freedom, you ransomed Israel from slavery to
be a holy people. As we observe Juneteenth this
coming week, free us also to be a people who
proclaim your liberating love. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of creation, you call all the earth to make a joyful
noise to you. Let us join the chorus of the natural
world in proclaiming your glory. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of the nations, you sent Jesus as peace for all of
humankind. Bring an end to war and conflict, bring
hope to places devastated by destruction. and sustain
those who advocate for peace. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of grace, you pour hope and love into our hearts in times of shame and doubt. Protect those experiencing housing insecurity. Uplift anyone struggling with hopelessness, illness, or other worries. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: God of all, you call your children to serve in a plentiful harvest. Give us the wisdom to know how best to serve our local community and our neighbors. 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 faith, we give thanks for the saints who earnestly seek you. Guide us as we seek to follow those who have led your church. 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.

The Peace

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MEAL

Anthem “We All Are One in Mission” Choir

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.

Thanks Be to You NTF-Page 15

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

"The Son of God, Our Christ"

ELW #584

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:

LeVerne Franklin Luhring, 2006

Thank You

FROM THE HEART OF THE

BISHOP

Dear friends,

I wanted to take an opportunity and thank you for volunteering at this year's Southeastern Synod Assembly in Columbus, GA. We had, I thought a smooth, energetic, and faithful assembly. We could not have done all of that, without each of you. It takes many hands to accomplish an assembly. As we gathered under the theme, "Revive us, God: Church for the sake of the World", you helped to offer hospitality and space for that to occur. Thank you! I remain grateful to serve as your bishop and give God thanks for the many ways you serve the church. God bless you!

+The Rev. Dr. Kevin L Strickland, Bishop
ELCA Southeastern Synod



Supplying hygiene items to
students in all 58 schools



MCS D

Hygiene Closet

Items needed:
Soap, toothbrush's, toothpaste,
deodorant, and lotion.
Travel or full size welcome
Place in baskets in Narthex





Thank you to everyone who attended and brought food for the 70th anniversary celebration. It was a great success. Dave Bonaker was a great tour guide/historian of the significant items in the Fellowship Hall/original sanctuary. Thanks to Pastor Taylor for the dedication of the renovated handicap restroom. The renovation was made possible by the Eva Brown bequest.



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2026

Jeremiah 20:7-13
 Psalm 69:7-18
 Romans 6:1b-11
 Matthew 10:24-31



*"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*

June 7, 2026
Second Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 61
 (IN-PERSON— 49, YOUTUBE - 12
 2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 3,685.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial	\$ 350.00
Other	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 4,135.00

*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 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

Serving June 21, 2026

Opener/Closer	Nancy & Jeff Gates
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Allena Sperry
Lector	Bill Wallace
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Ron Ullman
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit
	Debby Ullman/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

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

Eric Young

Martha Zimmerman

Carlson Family

People of Lebanon

People of Iran

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Eastern Congo

People of Nigeria

Octapharma Plasma

Kamoree's Beauty Salon

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.

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 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 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 16th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- June 17th - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study -Luther Hall
- June 18th - 5:00 PM - Council Meeting
- June 19th - 10:00 AM - Craft Tea - Luther Hall
- July 13-15 - 5:30-7:30 PM - Vacation Bible School

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.



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.



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.

WNN SPECIAL REQUEST!!

WNN is requesting healthy snacks for the summer to be added to food bags for families with children. Suggested snacks include individual packages of:

- Dried fruit
- Fruit cups
- Goldfish
- Crackers with fillings
- Pretzels
- Trail Mix
- Fruit roll-ups
- Popcorn
- Granola



Place donations in the WNN basket in the Narthex.

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

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