

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
October 5, 2025

*When you hear from others that things are broken, ruined, or lost in their lives, what do you say? It could be worse? Things will be better some day? Just trust and praise God? Neither Lamentations nor our Psalm models such advice. They face and name the brokenness, the reality of the ruin. Whatever healing or comfort may come, it starts amidst what is broken.*

## 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

*"In Deepest Night"*

**ELW #699**

Kyrie

Page 98

Gloria

Page 99

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. **Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Amy Hoag

### First Reading

**Lamentations 1:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>How lonely sits the city that once was full of people!

How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations!

She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal.

<sup>2</sup>She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her,

they have become her enemies.

<sup>3</sup>Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude; she lives now among the nations, and finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

<sup>4</sup>The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate, her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter.

<sup>5</sup>Her foes have become the masters, her enemies prosper, because the LORD has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe.

<sup>6</sup>From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty. Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 137

**Tone 7**

<sup>1</sup>By the waters of Babylon we sat <sup>1</sup>down and wept,  
when we remembered <sup>1</sup>you, O Zion.

**<sup>2</sup>As for our harps, we <sup>1</sup>hung them up  
on the trees in the midst <sup>1</sup>of that land.**

<sup>3</sup>For those who led us away captive asked us for a song,  
and our oppressors <sup>1</sup>called for mirth:

"Sing us one of the <sup>1</sup>songs of Zion."

**<sup>4</sup>How shall we sing <sup>1</sup>the LORD's song  
upon an <sup>1</sup>alien soil?**

<sup>5</sup>If I forget you, <sup>1</sup>O Jerusalem,  
let my right hand for-<sup>1</sup>get its skill.

**<sup>6</sup>Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth  
if I do not re-<sup>1</sup>member you,  
if I do not set Jerusalem above my <sup>1</sup>highest joy.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember the day of Jerusalem, O LORD,  
against the peo-<sup>1</sup>ple of Edom,  
who said, "Down with it! down with it! even <sup>1</sup>to the ground!"

**<sup>8</sup>O daughter of Babylon, doomed <sup>1</sup>to destruction,  
happy shall they be who repay you  
for what you have <sup>1</sup>done to us!**

<sup>9</sup>Happy shall they be who take your <sup>1</sup>little ones  
and dash them a-<sup>1</sup>gainst the rock!

## Second Reading

**2 Timothy 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day.

<sup>4</sup>Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of

my hands; <sup>7</sup>for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup>Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup>but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup>For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, <sup>12</sup>and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. <sup>13</sup>Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

 Gospel Acclamation

Page 102

**Gospel**

**Luke 17:5-10**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 17th Chapter.

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

<sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup>The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

<sup>7</sup>Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? <sup>8</sup>Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup>Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup>So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

*"The Aftermath, Part 1: Breaking"*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

 Hymn of the Day *"Once We Sang and Danced"*

**ELW #701**

**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: O God of the church, you give the church a treasure in Jesus Christ. Draw  
us into the gift of faith passed down from generation to generation. Remind  
your people that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: O God of creation, you nourish the earth with grace and mercy. Bring  
favorable weather during the harvest season and sustain all creation along  
with all who labor in the field. Ensure the welfare of animal companions  
whose presence offers comfort, safety, and joy. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: O God of nations and communities, you govern and guard the world. Give  
leaders and people in authority a spirit of making just and righteous laws.  
Bring peace to countries affected by war and violence. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: O God of those in need, you care for those who are sick, oppressed,  
bereaved, lonely, and poor. Come to the help of all in need. Help us to trust  
that you will come to us at the right time. God of grace,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: O God of this congregation, you nurture our faith. Thank you for those of all ages who teach, lead, and learn in this congregation and beyond. Give growth to the seeds of faith watered by faithful examples of baptismal living. 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: O God of ages past, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith, especially Margarete Walsh, Patricia Bonaker, Betty Davidson, Mike Regnier and Boyd Lester. May the faith of those who now rest in your merciful arms, like Lois and Eunice, shape our faith in your Son, Jesus Christ. 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

*"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

**ELW #759**

*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**

*"How Firm a Foundation"*

**ELW #796**

**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:**

*Edeltraud "Trudy" Minor, 2016*

## READINGS AND PSALM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7  
Psalm 66:1-12  
2 Timothy 2:8-15  
Luke 17:11-19



*"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 28, 2025 Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost

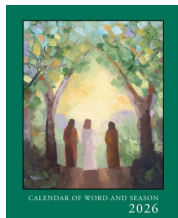
ATTENDANCE — 68

(IN-PERSON— 55, YOUTUBE - 13

2025 BUDGET-\$177,962

### OFFERING

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Benevolence  | \$ 2,485.00        |
| Building     | \$ 80.00           |
| Memorial     | \$ 150.00          |
| Other        | \$ 0.00            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$ 2,715.00</b> |



2026 Calendar of Word and Season will go on sale beginning October 12th 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 5, 2025

|                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Opener/Closer       | Allena Sperry                    |
| Worship Assistant   | Shannon Gardner                  |
| Communion Assistant | Allena Sperry                    |
| Lector              | Wanda Ebright                    |
| Ushers              | Katherine Kelly<br>Jim Sperry    |
| Altar Guild         | Rose Johnson<br>Catherine Sayers |
| Live Streaming      | Jaxson Gardner                   |

### Serving October 12, 2025

|                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Opener/Closer       | Katherine Kelly              |
| Worship Assistant   | Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton  |
| Communion Assistant | Terri Niederhammer           |
| Lector              | Lisa Pettit                  |
| Ushers              | Jim Sperry<br>Bill Wallace   |
| Altar Guild         | Lisa Pettit<br>Allena Sperry |
| Live Streaming      | Matt Pettit                  |

*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  
Persecuted Christians  
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  
Sandy Craven  
Davidson Family  
Myrna & Ken Hoag  
Mairetha & Bennie  
Jackson  
Marga Miller  
Charlotte Moore  
Traudel Mosely  
Debby Owen  
Dorothy Redden  
Regnier Family

Connie Sieg  
Carla Stickles  
Harold Vinson  
Gary Anderson  
Eric & Tinisha Bryant  
George Capps  
Chappel Family  
Jean Clemmons  
Xavier Danguilan  
Penny Davis & Family  
Nancy Edmundson  
Lynne Funck  
Brandy Garnett  
Mike Gewin  
Sandy Gibbs  
Moses Glidden  
Becky Goldsmith  
Estrella Gonzales  
Sarah Goodman  
Doris Grier  
Petra & Franklin  
Henderson  
Norma Kilby  
Ken Korn  
Emma Kump  
Laura Lester  
Robert Lowe  
Michelle Matthias  
Sandra McPeters  
Brady Meeks  
Lynn Meinhold  
Tim Moore

Moser Family  
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  
Israel  
Ukraine  
Western North Carolina  
Southeastern Kentucky  
Kerr County, Texas  
Wynnton Neighborhood  
Network  
Church of the Anunciation  
  
Hollywood Barber Shop  
Days Inn  
Enterprise  
The Cell Plug

# 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 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 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:**

- |                            |                                                                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                            | Holiday Christmas list for WNN                                     |
| • 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 Beth Hoag for more information.

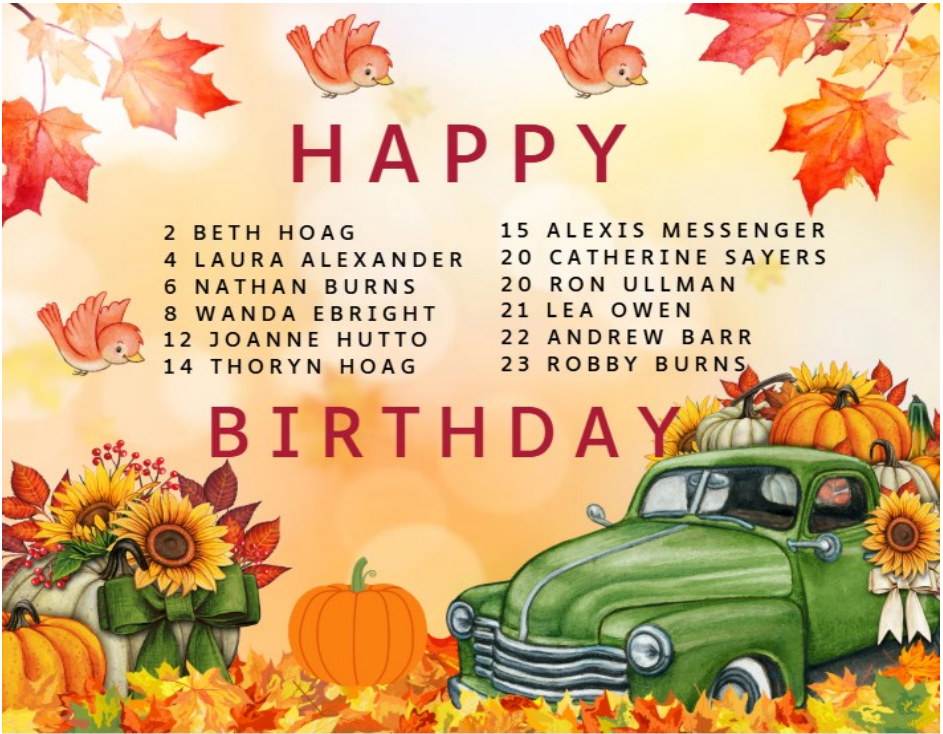
**Chair Yoga:** We are meeting every Monday at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

## ***Save the Date***

- October 6th - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- October 7th - 10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- October 14th - 6:00- Lutheran Social Statement Study at Mr. Pizza
- October 17th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- October 23rd - 9:00 - Pack care bags at WNN



The Baptismal Font has been refurbished as part of the 69th anniversary celebration. The baptismal vessel was made in 2002 by Edie Klein, a St. Matthew member for many years who now rests in the arms of Christ.



# **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://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](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)

Phone: (765) 602-1426

Office email : [office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com)

*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*

*Southeastern Synod*

[www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com](http://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