

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2026

This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

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, now 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

"Let the Whole Creation Cry"

ELW #876

Kyrie

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Now the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Wanda Ebright

First Reading

Jeremiah 28:5-9

⁵ The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD and all the exiles. ⁷ But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90:1-4, 15-18

Tone 11

¹ Your love, O LORD, forever¹ will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will pro-¹ claim your
faithfulness.

² **For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is
estab-¹ lished forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly¹ in the
heavens.**

³ “I have made a covenant with my¹ chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to Da-¹ vid my servant:

⁴ **‘I will establish your¹ line forever,
and preserve your throne for all¹
generations.’”**

¹⁵ Happy are the people who know the¹ festal shout!
They walk, O LORD, in the light¹ of your presence.

¹⁶ **They rejoice daily¹ in your name;
they are jubilant¹ in your righteousness.**

¹⁷ For you are the glory¹ of their strength,
and by your favor our might¹ is exalted.

¹⁸ **Truly, our shield belongs¹ to the LORD;
our king to the Holy¹ One of Israel.**

Second Reading

Romans 6:12-23

¹² Do not let sin reign in your mortal bodies, so that you
obey their desires. ¹³ No longer present your members to
sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present
yourselves to God as those who have been brought from
death to life, and present your members to God as
instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no
dominion over you, since you are not under law but
under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Should we sin because we

are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted ¹⁸ and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification. ²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Matthew 10:40-42

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰ “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the

one who sent me. ⁴¹ Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, ⁴² and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *"Blessings for Those Who Receive Us"*
Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day
"When the Poor Ones" **ELW #725**

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: Faithful God, establish your church to offer welcome and proclaim your peace. Nourish us so we can proclaim your hope to the world. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Creator God, bring life to places experiencing drought, deforestation, and pollution. Help us to cultivate and care for the natural world around us. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Loving God, bring an end to conflict and division.
Sustain the work of prophets in our time, and work
through world leaders to foster understanding,
justice, and peace. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Provider God, give your children what they need
physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Bless
caregivers as they show God's hospitality through
their generous service. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Living God, lead us from death to life. Inspire new
ministries and endeavors, renew established ones,
and strengthen our welcoming presence to 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: Eternal God, we remember the faithful departed of
this community and of the wider church and world.
We give thanks for saints of all times and places.
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

Anthem

“The Gift of Love”

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

As the Grains of Wheat

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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

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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: 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

"Rise, Shine, You People!"

ELW #665

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:

Jean Wing, 2014



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





July Birthdays

- 1 Shirley Ashley
- 3 Sandra Nearhoof
- 9 Allena Sperry
- 10 Jacob Vargas
- 16 Danny Alexander

- 16 Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards
- 19 Charlotte Moore
- 25 Katherine Pettit
- 27 Lane Brown
- 29 Anthony Hicks

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY

1776 - 2026



250

YEARS



4TH OF JULY

INDEPENDENCE DAY

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19



*"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*

June 21, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 69

(IN-PERSON — 58, YOUTUBE - 11

2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,065.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other	\$.00
Total	\$ 1,265.00

*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 28, 2026

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Allena Sperry
Lector	Shannon Gardner
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Terri Niederhammer
	Martha Vargas/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

Serving July 5, 2026

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Toni Mion
Ushers	Sandy Craven
	Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson
	Allen 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

Jan Gates

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

Sankey Family

People of Lebanon

People of Iran

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Eastern Congo

People of Venezuela

Freedom Adult Day Center

Transformation Salon

Xpert Tax Service

Bi-City Driving School

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 the final session of our interfaith Bible Study on Wednesday, July 1st at 6:00 pm in Luther Hall, we will be discussing **EXODUS: CORE STORIES OF OUR FAITHS**

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

Save the Date

- June 30th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- July 1st - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study -Luther Hall
- July 9th - 5:30 - Choir Practice
- July 13-15 - 5:30-7:30 - Vacation Bible School
- July 16th - 9:00 am - WNN Care Packing
- July 16th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- July 17th - 10:00 AM - Craft Tea - Luther Hall
- July 23rd - 5:30 - Men's Group - Deorio's

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.



Pick up your own copy of the printed Lord's Prayer in the Narthex. Please feel free to take as many as you would like to have.



The changing table has been removed from the bathroom in order to provide easier access for those on walkers or in wheelchairs. If you have the need for a changing table, please use the one in the nursery.

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