

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 30, 2026

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Holy Communion (ELW Setting 4, page 147)
Evangelical Lutheran Worship

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives us all our sins, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Beautiful Savior"

ELW #838

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Shannon Gardner

First Reading

Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the

LORD. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 26:1-8

Tone 1

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived ¹ with integrity;

I have trusted in the LORD and ¹ have not faltered.

² **Test me, O ¹ LORD, and try me;
examine my heart ¹ and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is be- ¹ fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- ¹ ly with you.

⁴ **I have not sat ¹ with the worthless,
nor do I consort with ¹ the deceitful.**

⁵ I have hated the company of ¹ evildoers;
I will not sit down ¹ with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in inno- ¹ cence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession ¹ round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song ¹ of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- ¹ derful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in ¹ which you dwell
and the place where your glo- ¹ ry abides.**

Second Reading

Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do

not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Matthew 16:21-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those

who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Bishop Kevin Strickland

† Hymn of the Day *“Take Up Your Cross”* **ELW #667**

Welcoming New Members **ELW #236**

Debra Jarzomkowski & Ernest Washington, Jr.

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

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

A: For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry may be anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For the nations and all in authority, that they may seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For all those in need, that they may be satisfied.
Ensure all your children have safe access to food,
water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all
who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit. Merciful
God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For this congregation gathered here to serve you,
that we may remain strong in faith and united in
purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and
other meetings toward honesty and humility, always
seeking genuine love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: For those who have died, especially Mario Mion, that
their witness may continue to strengthen and guide
the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this
life and the life to come. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you
have promised. All this we ask in the name of your
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace

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MEAL

Anthem

"As the Deer"

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you opened your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Lord.

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving Page 152

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 153

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." Page 154

Lamb of God Page 154

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, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be His body in the world that we may give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *“O Day of Peace”*

ELW #711

Dismissal

A: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

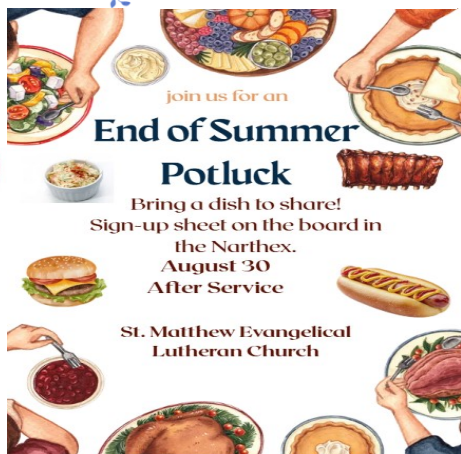
C: Thanks be to God.

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Margrit Lawton, 2022

On August 30th!



Use the QR code above to register for the Southeastern Synod Congregational Leaders Zoom with Bishop Strickland on September 14, at 7:00 PM.

READINGS AND PSALM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20



"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

August 23, 2026 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE —60

(IN-PERSON— 48, YOUTUBE - 12

2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,540.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial*	\$ 150.00
Other	\$ 285.00
Total	\$ 2,075.00



**Memorial gifts will be acknowledged quarterly.*

Serving August 30, 2026

Opener/Closer	Rose Johnson
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Toni Mion
Lector	Katherine Kelly
Ushers	Randy Craven Sandy Craven
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman/Martha Vargas, Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

Serving September 6, 2026

Opener/Closer	Dave Bonaker
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Rose Johnson
Lector	Terri Niederhammer
Ushers	Randy Craven Sandy Craven
Altar Guild	Lane Brown
Live Streaming	Rose Johnson/Jaxson Gardner 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

Eric & Tinisha Bryant

Jean Clemmons

Nancy Edmundson

Lynne Funck

Brandy Garnett

Sandy Gibbs

Moses Glidden

Estrella Gonzales

Doris Grier

Frank Henderson

Petra Henderson

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

Mion Family

Wandersee/Mackenzie
Families

People of Nepal

People of Tibet

People of Lebanon

People of Iran

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Eastern Congo

People of Venezuela

People of Columbia

Days Inn

Enterprise

The Cell Plug

Octapharma Plasma

Kamoree's Beauty Salon

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. Changing table available there if needed.

Love in Action 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)
- WNN Non-perishable foods

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.

Save the Date

- August 30th - Bishop Strickland Visit/End of Summer Potluck/God's Work, Our Hands/September Birthday Celebration
- September 1st - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- September 3rd - 2:00 - Wedding Policy Committee-Church House
- September 6th - Sunday School - 9:30 am
- September 7th - Labor Day
- September 17th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- September 18th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- September 24th- Men's Group - 5:30 - 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.



Wedding Policy Committee will meet Thursday, September 3rd at 2:00 pm in the Church House.

Happy September Birthday!

1 Elaine Hoag	23 Sonja Metcalf
2 Michael Ingram	27 Connie Sieg
4 Jim Sperry	27 Fabio Vargas
23 Rose Johnson	28 Marga Miller

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

Obra Williams, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director