

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost  
November 16, 2025

*The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."*

## 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

*"How Firm a Foundation"*

**ELW #796**

Kyrie

Page 98

Gloria

Page 99

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. **Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

### First Reading

**Isaiah 65:17-25**

<sup>17</sup>For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. <sup>18</sup>But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. <sup>19</sup>I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

<sup>20</sup>No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. <sup>21</sup>They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. <sup>22</sup>They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. <sup>23</sup>They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD— and their descendants as well. <sup>24</sup>Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. <sup>25</sup>The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalmody: Isaiah 12:2-6**

**Tone 7**

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not <sup>1</sup>be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,  
and has become <sup>1</sup>my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you <sup>1</sup>will draw water  
from the wells <sup>1</sup>of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day:  
Give thanks to the LORD, call <sup>1</sup>on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations;  
proclaim that this name <sup>1</sup>is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, who has done <sup>1</sup>gloriously;  
let this be known in <sup>1</sup>all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O <sup>1</sup>royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy <sup>1</sup>One of Israel.

### **Second Reading**

### **2 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

<sup>6</sup>Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. <sup>7</sup>For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup>and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. <sup>9</sup>This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup>For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. <sup>11</sup>For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. <sup>12</sup>Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel**

**Luke 21:5-19**

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

<sup>5</sup>When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup>"As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." <sup>7</sup>They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" <sup>8</sup>And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. <sup>9</sup>"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup>there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. <sup>12</sup>"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup>This will give you an opportunity to testify. <sup>14</sup>So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; <sup>15</sup>for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your souls."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon *"The End of the World as They Knew It"*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day

*"O God of Every Nation"*

**ELW #713**

**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: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call.  
Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good.  
Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

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

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and

faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## MEAL

Anthem

*"This is my Father's World"*

Choir

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

**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: God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

**C: Amen.**

# SENDING

Blessing

**Sending Hymn**

*"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"*

**ELW #632**

**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:**

*Cornelia Hollifield, 2000*



# **READINGS AND PSALM** **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025**

Jeremiah 23:1-6  
 Luke 1:68-79  
 Colossians 1:11-20  
 Luke 23:22-43



*"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*

# **November 9, 2025** **Twenty-second Sunday** **after Pentecost**

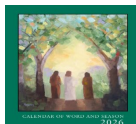
ATTENDANCE — 74

(IN-PERSON — 44, YOUTUBE - 30)

2025 BUDGET-\$177,962

## **OFFERING**

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Benevolence  | \$ 4,285.00        |
| Building     | \$ 100.00          |
| Memorial     | \$ 100.00          |
| Other        | \$ 100.00          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$ 4,585.00</b> |



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 November 16, 2025**

|                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Opener/Closer       | Lisa Pettit                  |
| Worship Assistant   | Dave Bonaker/Shannon Gardner |
| Communion Assistant | Amy Hoag                     |
| Lector              | Shannon Gardner              |
| Ushers              | Jim Sperry                   |
|                     | Bill Wallace                 |
| Altar Guild         | Nancy Gates                  |
|                     | Rose Johnson                 |
|                     | Catherine Sayers-Clean-up    |
| Live Streaming      | Paul Hicks                   |

## **Serving November 23, 2025**

|                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Opener/Closer       | Terri Niederhammer        |
| Worship Assistant   | Shannon Gardner           |
| Communion Assistant | Lisa Pettit               |
| Lector              | Bill Wallace              |
| Ushers              | Jim Sperry                |
|                     | Bill Wallace              |
| Altar Guild         | Allena Sperry             |
|                     | Martha Vargas             |
|                     | Catherine Sayers-Clean-up |
| 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

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

Tim Moore

Debi Nelson

Vincent Pawlowski

Terry Pendergraft

Beth Price

Mark Purushotham

Tiffany Richardson

Dayna Ryan

Shirley Scott

Dou Shizhen

Ricky Skinner

Amanda Steinagel

Sara Steinagel Sturgis

Fred Turpin

Charlie VanHousen

Dawn VanHousen

Martha Zimmerman

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Kerr County, Texas

Jamaica

Philippines

Wynnton Neighborhood

Network

Church of the Annunciation

USPS

Peachtree Immediate Care

Hidden Lake Bottle Shop

Beauty Queen

Brewster's

Waffle House

# 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 November 21st 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.

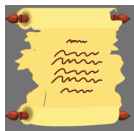
**Chair Yoga:** We are meeting every Monday at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.



Gather with the many Christian and Jewish congregations who support WNN to give thanks for the privilege of serving together. An offering will be received to support this vital ministry. The annual WNN Unity Service will be this Sunday at 6:00 PM at Shearith Israel (6727 River Road)

## ***Save the Date***

- November 16th - 6:00 - Annual WNN Unity Service - Shearith Israel
- November 17th - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- November 18th - 10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- November 18th - 6:00- Lutheran Social Statement @ Deorio's
- November 18th - 12:00-Pack OCC boxes - Luther Hall
- November 23rd - After worship - Congregational Meeting



The proclamation presented to Wynnton Neighborhood Network celebrating 40 years of service is on display in the Narthex. Each church that is a supporting congregation is listed in the proclamation.

# UPGRADE



**THE BREEZEWAY WILL BE RESURFACED FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERYONE!**



**DONATIONS ACCEPTED FOR THIS PROJECT – PLEASE MARK YOUR CHECK AS BREEZEWAY PROJECT!**

# **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