

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 4, 2026

Peter and John are facing their first real test as apostles. Having been arrested for healing a person born disabled, they stand before the authorities who ordered their arrest. How will they respond? Will they seek to preserve themselves or will they continue to proclaim the name of Jesus, resurrected. Their plight calls us to consider our own response if we face similar circumstances.

**Holy Communion** (ELW Setting 7, page 175)  
*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

*"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"*

**ELW #634**

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C. Amen.**

## **PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD**

Children's Message

Katherine Kelly

### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 5:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. <sup>3</sup> And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. <sup>4</sup> What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? <sup>5</sup> And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. <sup>6</sup> I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. <sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

L: The word of the Lord  
C: Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 80:7-15**

**Tone 1**

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, O <sup>1</sup> God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we <sup>1</sup> shall be saved.  
<sup>8</sup> **You have brought a vine <sup>1</sup> out of Egypt;**  
**you cast out the nations and <sup>1</sup> planted it.**  
<sup>9</sup> You cleared the <sup>1</sup> ground for it;  
it took root and <sup>1</sup> filled the land.  
<sup>10</sup> **The mountains were covered <sup>1</sup> by its shadow**  
**and the towering cedar trees <sup>1</sup> by its boughs. R**  
<sup>11</sup> You stretched out its tendrils <sup>1</sup> to the sea  
and its branches <sup>1</sup> to the river.  
<sup>12</sup> **Why have you broken <sup>1</sup> down its wall,**  
**so that all who pass by pluck <sup>1</sup> off its grapes?**  
<sup>13</sup> The wild boar of the forest has <sup>1</sup> ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have <sup>1</sup> grazed upon it.  
<sup>14</sup> **Turn now, O <sup>1</sup> God of hosts,**  
**look <sup>1</sup> down from heaven;**  
<sup>15</sup> behold and <sup>1</sup> tend this vine;  
preserve what your right <sup>1</sup> hand has planted.

**Second Reading**

**Acts 4:5-12**

<sup>5</sup> The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes  
assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup> with Annas the high priest,  
Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the  
high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup> When they had made the prisoners  
stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by  
what name did you do this?" <sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the  
Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and  
elders, <sup>9</sup> if we are being questioned today because of a  
good deed done to someone who was sick and are being  
asked how this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup> let it be known  
to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man  
is standing before you in good health by the name of

Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. <sup>11</sup> This Jesus is  
‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup> “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

✝ Gospel Acclamation

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**Gospel**

**Matthew 21:33-46**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>33</sup> “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. <sup>34</sup> When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. <sup>35</sup> But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. <sup>36</sup> Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. <sup>37</sup> Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ <sup>38</sup> But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ <sup>39</sup> So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup> Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” <sup>41</sup> They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce

at the harvest time.” <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? <sup>43</sup> “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. <sup>44</sup> The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” <sup>45</sup> When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. <sup>46</sup> They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon *“Peter Speaks in Custody”*

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

*“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”*

**ELW #611**

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: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new,  
we pray for the church and the world.

*A brief silence.*

A: God of every generation, we give thanks for all who  
have sought to renew and transform your holy  
church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own  
day. Hear us, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of every creature, bless and protect the earth  
and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for  
those who have helped us to see your Spirit in  
creation. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the  
world's conflict zones, and shelter those who live  
within them. We pray especially for the safety of  
displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. 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 the living and the dead, comfort all who mourn and grant rest to all who have died, especially Mario Mion. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

The Peace

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## MEAL

Anthem    *"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"*    Choir

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

## Offering Prayer

**A:** God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

**C: Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving Page 180

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 181

Lord's Prayer      "Our Father, who..." Page 182

Lamb of God Page 182

## 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:** Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

# SENDING

Blessing

## Sending Hymn

*"Savior, Again to Your Dear Name"*

**ELW #534**

## Dismissal

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

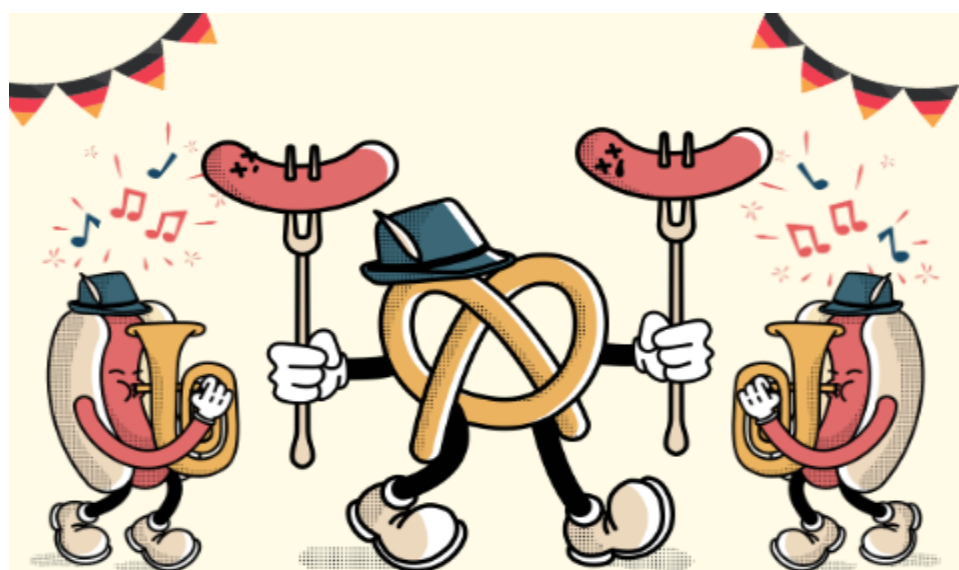


**The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God**

**In Memory of:**

*Louie Niederhammer, 2024*

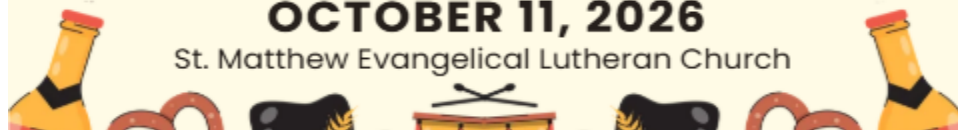




# **OKTOBERFEST & BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

**OCTOBER 11, 2026**

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



## READINGS AND PSALM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026

Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalms 23

Acts 8:14-25

Matthew 22:1-14



*"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*

*\*Memorial gifts will be acknowledged quarterly.*

## September 27, 2026 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE - 64

(IN-PERSON— 49, YOUTUBE - 15)

2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

### OFFERING

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Benevolence  | \$ 2,160.00        |
| Building     | \$ 180.00          |
| Other        | \$ 0.00            |
| Memorial*    | \$ 150.00          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$ 2,490.00</b> |



If you have any photos you have taken from events that have happened at the church, please email those to the church office at [office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com). We need these for our archives and our newsletter!

### Serving October 4, 2026

|                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Opener/Closer       | Katherine Kelly                 |
| Worship Assistant   | Shannon Gardner                 |
| Communion Assistant | Allena Sperry                   |
| Lector              | Amy Hoag                        |
| Communion Ushers    | Randy & Sandy Craven            |
| Altar Guild         | Terri Niederhammer              |
|                     | Catherine Sayers/Jaxson Gardner |
| Greeter             | Isabelle Clark                  |
| Live Streaming      | Jaxson Gardner                  |

### Serving October 11, 2026

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Opener/Closer       | Rose Johnson                |
| Worship Assistant   | Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton |
| Communion Assistant | Debra Jarzomkowski          |
| Lector              | Shannon Gardner             |
| Communion Ushers    | Bill Wallace & Jim Sperry   |
| Altar Guild         | Lane Brown                  |
|                     | Rose Johnson/Jaxson Gardner |
| Greeter             | Isabelle Clark              |
| Live Streaming      | Cecil McGouirk              |

# 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

Anne Sims

Ricky Skinner

Fred Turpin

Charlie VanHousen

Dawn VanHousen

Eric Young

Martha Zimmerman

Hicks Family

Mion Family

Wandersee/Mackenzie  
Families

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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

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Acceptance Auto

Phuong's Tailor Shop

Walgreen's

Angel's Nails

Y & J Health

Hidden Lake Grocery

# 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.

**Sunday School:** We have Sunday School for pre-school thru 5th grade which meets from 9:15-10:15 each Sunday before our morning service.

## ***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 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.

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

## ***Save the Date***

- October 5th - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- October 6th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- October 8th - 9:00 - WNN Care Packing
- October 8th - 5:00 - Wedding Policy Committee - Church House
- October 8th - 5:30 - Choir Rehearsal
- October 11th - 11:30 - Oktoberfest & Birthday Celebration - L Hall
- October 15th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- October 16th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- October 22nd - 5:30 - Men's Group - Deorio's



Are you willing to learn something new? The Live Streaming committee has an opportunity for you! Cecil McGouirk is going to have a training session or two if you would like to help out once a month to record our Sunday worship service. See Cecil for more details.



## YARD SALE 2027

If you have donations, please contact Allena Sperry at 706-563-3107 or [asperry@bellsouth.net](mailto:asperry@bellsouth.net) to coordinate drop off at your earliest convenience.



# **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 2:30-5:00 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

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director