

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 23, 2024

*<sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."*

*This is often how God leads us to share our faith with others. There are no directions about what to say, no expectations about what the encounter may be. Simply to join another person on their journey. Maybe our best opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 7, Page 175

† Congregation stands as able

## GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all our sin, 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

*"I love to tell the story"*

ELW #661

Kyrie

Page 175

Hymn of Praise

*"Glory to God in the Highest"*

Page 176

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Donna Doughty

First Reading

Job 38:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: <sup>2</sup>"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? <sup>3</sup>Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. <sup>4</sup>"Where were you when I laid the

foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. <sup>5</sup>Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? <sup>6</sup>On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone <sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? <sup>8</sup>“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?—<sup>9</sup>when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, <sup>10</sup>and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, <sup>11</sup>and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped?’”

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32**

**Tone 1**

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

<sup>23</sup>**Some went down to the sea in ships,  
plying their trade in deep waters.**

<sup>24</sup>They beheld the works of the LORD,  
God's wonderful works in the deep.

<sup>25</sup>**Then God spoke, and a stormy wind arose,  
which tossed high the waves of the sea.**

<sup>26</sup>They mounted up to the heavens and descended to the depths;  
their souls melted away in their peril.

<sup>27</sup>**They staggered and reeled like drunkards,  
and all their skill was of no avail.**

<sup>28</sup>Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD,  
and you delivered them from their distress.

<sup>29</sup>**You stilled the storm to a whisper  
and silenced the waves of the sea.**

<sup>30</sup>Then were they glad when it grew calm,  
when you guided them to the harbor they desired.

<sup>31</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.**

<sup>32</sup>Let them exalt you in the assembly of the people;  
in the council of the elders, let them sing hallelujah!

### **Second Reading**

**Acts 8:26-40**

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup>He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in

and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

Page 179

**Gospel**

**Mark 4:35-41**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 4th Chapter.

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

<sup>35</sup>When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup>And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup>A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.

<sup>38</sup>But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup>He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. <sup>40</sup>He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup>And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon *Evangelizing One on One*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day

*"This little light of mine"*

**ELW #677**

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: We come before the Triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

*A brief silence.*

A: Equip your faithful people to approach this world with a sense of wonder. Make your church a safe place to explore big questions, troubling doubts, and honest laments. Humble our hearts to repent of the ways that communities of faith have inflicted pain or trauma. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: You spoke creation into order from the chaos of the swirling deep. May your name be praised by rivers and seas, wetlands and waterfalls. Secure clean water for all people and protect water sources from contamination or exploitation. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Amid whirlwinds of division, violence, and conflict, remind us again that you are as steadfast as the foundations of the earth. Rejuvenate peacemakers, advocates, and community organizers when they feel weary in their work. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Deliver your people from their distress, O God. We lift before you all who are sick or struggling. Grant consolation and peace to all who live with chronic, terminal, or persistent illness. In times of affliction or hardship, sustain us in faith. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Enfold all travelers with your protection. Bless the comings and goings of this assembly as we travel for leisure or for work. Let all journeys be met with hospitality on the way, and let community members return to us with celebration. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation for all the redeemed of the Lord. Joined together with the great cloud of witnesses, especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs, Eva Brown, Bishop Davis, Joan Smith, and Tom Pettit, we give thanks for your steadfast love and your wonderful works. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen**

## MEAL

Anthem                      When Peace Like a River                      Choir

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**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.

*and 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: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: Amen

**SENDING**

**Blessing**

**Sending Hymn**

*“Sent forth by God’s blessing ”*

**ELW #547**

**Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

**The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God**

**In Memory of:**

*L'Everne Franklin Luhring, 2006*



Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2024 yard sale an amazing success! \$2,000 was raised to support projects which will show God’s love in our community and the world!

**READINGS AND PSALM  
SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024**

Job 38:1-11  
Psalm 30  
Acts 11:16-30  
Mark 5:21-43



*“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*

**June 16, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

ATTENDANCE — 60  
(IN-PERSON— 46 , YOUTUBE - 14)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 1,375.00
Building	\$ 150.00
Memorial	\$ 50.00
Other	\$ 100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,675.00</b>

**Serving June 23, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Raymond Lawton, Liz McGouirk
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Catherine Sayers Debby Ullman
Live Streaming	Sean Jeffery

**Serving June 30, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Zocia Barr
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Joyce Moore
Ushers	Jim Sperry Katherine Kelly
Altar Guild	Catherine Sayers Zach F, Rose Johnson
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.”*  
—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

The Armed Forces,  
their families,  
and victims of war  
Persecuted Christians  
The ministries of  
St. Matthew  
Bishop Kevin  
Strickland  
Acting Bishop  
Jill Henning  
Southeastern Synod  
Staff  
Pastor Taylor Burton  
Edwards  
Laura Alexander  
Carol Bingemann  
Dave Bonaker  
Pat Bonaker  
Betty Davidson  
Ken Hoag  
Myrna Hoag  
Bennie Jackson  
Mairetha Jackson  
Marga Miller  
Traudel Mosely  
Debby Owen  
Dorothy Redden  
Connie Sieg  
Carla Stickles  
Albert VanHousen II

Margarete Walsh  
Monika Wright  
Gary Anderson  
Judy Bultman  
George Capps  
Kyle Carter  
Jim Chappel  
Jean Clemmons  
Rich Curtis  
Xavier Danguilan  
Penny Davis & Family  
Brandy Garnett  
Becky Goldsmith  
Estrella Gonzales  
Doris Grier  
Petra Henderson  
Beverly Huckaby  
Norma Kilby  
Ken Korn  
Emma Kump  
Boyd Lester  
Laura Lester  
Valerie Karol Louder  
Robert Lowe  
Michelle Matthias  
Brady Meeks  
Tim Moore  
Gary Nearhoof  
Louie Niederhammer  
Kimberly O’Malley

Michael Owen  
Angela Paul  
Vincent Pawlowski  
Beth Price  
Mark Purushotham  
Dwight Redmond  
Tiffany Richardson  
Dayna Ryan  
Yuliia Savitska  
Shirley Scott  
Ricky Skinner  
Betty Townsend  
Charlie VanHousen  
Dawn VanHousen  
Martha Zimmerman

Maui  
Morocco  
Israel  
Ukraine  
Gaza

The Ellands Event Center  
Dollar General  
Chevron  
Citgo  
Grace Apostolic Church  
Landmark

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.  
Deadline for August newsletter is July 20.

# 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 wearing of a mask is optional during worship and social distancing is recommended. 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:**

- |                            |                                                                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                            | Wynnton Neighborhood Network                                                         |
| • Lion's Club:             | Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones                                              |
| • Family House of West GA: | Pop tabs                                                                             |
| • Flags to Retire:         | Bring used American flags that you no longer want or need.                           |
| • St. Anne's:              | Personal hygiene products (travel size), toilet paper, and non-perishable food items |
| • Safe House               | Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals)                                             |
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex between bathrooms.

**Growing in Grace:** Meets every Friday from 9:00-11:00 AM in the Church House. God's grace is freely given to us. Join the group to learn to cultivate an attitude of grace in your daily life by learning about and adopting habits to move into a state of grace. Contact Beth Hoag at 706-604-8110 for more information.

**Repair Updates:** All repairs have been completed!! Thank you so much for all of your contributions to these projects.

## ***Save the Date***

- **June 25th** - 6:00 PM - Mr. Pizza Bible Study
- **June 28th** - 9:00 AM - Grow in Grace - Church House
- **June 30th** - 11:30 AM - Summer Potluck - 11:30 AM
- **July 2nd** - 6:00 PM - Mr. Pizza Bible Study
- **July 5th** - 9:00 AM - Grow in Grace- Church House
- **July 9th** - 6:00 PM - Mr. Pizza Bible Study
- **July 12th** - 9:00 AM - Grow in Grace - Church House
- **July 24-26** - 5:45-7:30 - VBS - Baptismal Tai-Chi

## **Wynnton Neighborhood Network June/July Mission Focus**

We are collecting for WNN the following items:

- Canned Veggies: Sweet peas, corn, carrots, green beans, black beans
- Canned Meat: Chicken, ham, tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Spaghetti sauce and noodles
- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned tomato products
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Soup
- Rice
- Cereals
- Monetary donations

Please place items in labeled 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

## **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)

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  
Ellen Hoag, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music  
Penny Davis, Nursery Director