

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2026

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

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, how 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 *"We Praise You, O God"*

ELW #870

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

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Now the Feast

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve,
to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed
the wounds, to toil and not to seek for shortcuts, to labor
and not to ask for excess reward, except that of knowing
that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord.

C. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Lisa Pettit

First Reading

Jeremiah 20:7-13

⁷ O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you
have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have
become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks
me. ⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out; I must shout,
"Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has
become for me a reproach and derision all day long. ⁹ If I
say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his
name," then within me there is something like a burning
fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot. ¹⁰ For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all
around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my
close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps
he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him and

take our revenge on him.” ¹¹ But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. ¹² O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous; you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. ¹³ Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 69:7-18

Tone 11

⁷ Surely, for your sake I have suf-¹fered reproach,
and shame has cov-¹ered my face.

⁸ **I have become a stranger to¹ my own kindred,
an alien to my¹ mother's children.**

⁹ Zeal for your house has eat-¹en me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fall-¹en upon
me.

¹⁰ **I humbled my-¹self with fasting
but that was turned to¹ my reproach.**

¹¹ I put on¹ sackcloth also,
and became a by-¹word among them.

¹² **Those who sit at the gate mur-¹mur against me,
and the drunkards make¹ songs about me.**

¹³ But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you
have¹ set, O LORD:

“In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your un-
-¹failing help.

¹⁴ **Save me from the mire; do not¹ let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me and
out of¹ the deep waters.**

¹⁵ Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let

the deep swal-¹ low me up;
do not let the pit shut its¹ mouth upon me.
¹⁶ **Answer me, O LORD, for your¹ love is kind;
in your great compassion,¹ turn to me.**
¹⁷ Hide not your face¹ from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am¹ in distress.
¹⁸ **Draw near to me¹ and redeem me;
because of my enemies de-¹ liver me.**

Second Reading

Romans 6:1b-11

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Reverend Andrew Kjørlaug

† Hymn of the Day

“All My hope on God is Founded”

ELW #757

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: Life-giving God, you have called your people to lose their lives for Jesus' sake. Strengthen your church to follow you in the face of difficulty. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Creator God, you know every sparrow that falls to the ground. Protect migrating birds, endangered species, and their natural habitats. Empower us to care for your creation. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Sovereign God, you call us to act justly and love mercy. Protect those with marginalized identities to whom we have not shown the abounding love of Jesus. Bring an end to oppression and bigotry in all forms. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Sustaining God, you promise to provide for us. Help those living with disability. Comfort those experiencing any sort of illness or suffering. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Empowering God, strengthen us to live out our diverse callings. We pray especially for fathers and father figures, that they show your compassion and care. We pray for all for whom this day is difficult or painful. 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: Faithful God, we give thanks for saints who have claimed their baptismal promises. May we follow their example of faith and service. 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.

The Peace

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MEAL

Solo “*Children of the Heavenly Father*” Dave Bonaker

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.

Thanks Be to You

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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

"How Firm a Foundation"

ELW #796

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:

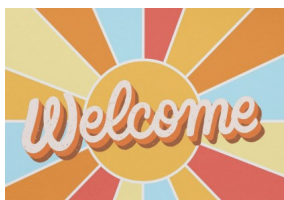
Michael Redmond, 2006



Dear friends,

I wanted to take an opportunity and thank you for volunteering at this year's Southeastern Synod Assembly in Columbus, GA. We had, I thought a smooth, energetic, and faithful assembly. We could not have done all of that, without each of you. It takes many hands to accomplish an assembly. As we gathered under the theme, "Revive us, God: Church for the sake of the World", you helped to offer hospitality and space for that to occur. Thank you! I remain grateful to serve as your bishop and give God thanks for the many ways you serve the church. God bless you!

+The Rev. Dr. Kevin L Strickland, Bishop
ELCA Southeastern Synod



We welcome the Reverend Andrew Kjorlaug to St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church this morning. Reverend Kjorlaug is currently serving as a Chaplain at Fort Benning.



Happy
FATHER'S
DAY
to all dads



Supplying hygiene items to
students in all 58 schools



MCSD

Hygiene Closet

Items needed:

Soap, toothbrush's, toothpaste,
deodorant, and lotion.

Travel or full size welcome

Place in baskets in Narthex



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026

Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42



*"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 14, 2026
Third Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 42

(IN-PERSON — 35, YOUTUBE - 7)

2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 2,210.00
Building	\$ 130.00
Memorial	\$ 50.00
Other-VBS	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 2,490.00

*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 21, 2026

Opener/Closer	Nancy & Jeff Gates
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Allena Sperry
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Ron Ullman
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit
	Debby Ullman/Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

Serving June 28, 2026

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

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 Nigeria

Beaute' Matrix

5 Fourteen

DQ

Burger King

Animal General Hospital

Klose Kutz

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 a new weekly interfaith Bible Study. Beginning May 27th and running for 6 weeks at 6:00 pm in Luther Hall, we will be discussing **EXODUS: CORE STORIES OF OUR FAITHS**

June 24: The Revelation at Mt. Sinai - Ex. 19:1-6, 16029, 20:18-21
July 1: God's "Face" - Ex. 33:12-23 and the Tabernacle - Ex. 40:1-15, 34-38

Save the Date

- June 23rd - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- June 24th - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study -Luther Hall
- June 19th - 10:00 AM - Craft Tea - Luther Hall
- June 25th - 5:30 - Men's Group - Deorio's
- July 13-15 - 5:30-7:30 - Vacation Bible School

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.



Congratulations Graduates!

If you have a high school, college or technical school graduate in your family, we would like to celebrate this joyous occasion with you. Please submit to the office a short description of the degree earned, school attended, and future plans and a photo if you have one. Please submit by June 26th for July newsletter.



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.

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 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