

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 2025

*Destruction comes, great losses pile up,
where is God? Does God care? Can God
be trusted anymore?
Jeremiah offers lament, naming what is lost
so it can be acknowledged and mourned.*

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 8, page 184)

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: In the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, Three-in-One+ and One-in-Three.

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 *"Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me"*

ELW #767

Kyrie

Page 184

Gloria

Page 185

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Jeremiah 8:18--9:1

¹⁸My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick.

¹⁹Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land:

"Is the LORD not in Zion?

Is her King not in her?"

("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their

foreign idols?")

²⁰"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

²¹For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

²²Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

^{9:1}O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 79:1-9

See Insert

Second Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation

Page 188

Gospel

Luke 16:1-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 16th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property.

²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷Then he asked another, 'And how much

do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon "*Lamenting Destruction Under Way*" Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day "*O God, Why Are You Silent*" **ELW #703**

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: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need..

A brief silence.

- A: O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.
- A: Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.
- A: Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.
- A: Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones. May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.
- A: God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.
- A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them...God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.
- A: Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints, especially Margarete Walsh, Patricia Bonaker, Betty Davidson, Mike Regnier and Boyd Lester, who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace,
C: receive our prayer.
- P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
C: Amen.

MEAL

Offertory

"O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come"

ELW #610

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving Page 190

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 190

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." Page 191

Lamb of God Page 191

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, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *"Children of the Heavenly Father"* **ELW #781**

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:

Ruth Redmond, 2022

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
 1 Timothy 6:6-19
 Luke 16:19-31



*"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*

September 14, 2025
Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 62

(IN-PERSON— 48, YOUTUBE - 14

2025 BUDGET-\$177,962

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	3,713.00
Building	\$	100.00
Memorial	\$	150.00
Other	\$	0.00
Total	\$	3,963.00

Serving September 21, 2025

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Cecil McGouirk
Lector	Shannon Gardner
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Terri Niederhammer Allena Sperry
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

Serving September 28, 2025

Opener/Closer	Jeff/Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Bill Wallace
Ushers	Matt Pettit Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman Martha Vargas
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

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
Persecuted Christians
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
Dave Bonaker
Matt Bonaker
Sandy Craven
Davidson Family
Myrna & Ken Hoag
Mairetha & Bennie
Jackson
Sean Jeffery
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden

Regnier Family
Connie Sieg
Carla Stickles
Harold Vinson
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
George Capps
Chappel Family
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Nancy Edmundson
Lynne Funck
Brandy Garnett
Mike Gewin
Sandy Gibbs
Moses Glidden
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Sarah Goodman
Doris Grier
Petra & Franklin
Henderson
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Laura Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Lynn Meinhold
Tim Moore

Moser Family
Nearhoof Family
Debi Nelson
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Bill Rahm
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Amanda Steinagel
Sara Steinagel Sturgis
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Molly Wright
Martha Zimmerman
Gaza
Israel
Ukraine
Western North Carolina
Southeastern Kentucky
Kerr County, Texas
Wynnton Neighborhood
Network
Church of the Anunciation

Mario's Tire
Mariner Finance
Woodville Apartments
Beal Wellness

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 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:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | Holiday Christmas list for WNN |
| • 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 Fridays 10:00-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Beth Hoag for more information.

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

Save the Date

- September 22nd - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- September 23rd- 10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- September 26th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea
- September 23rd - 3:00 - Finance Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- September 25th - 5:00 - Men's Group at Mr. Pizza
- October 4th - 9:00-12:00 - Garden & Grounds Cleanup
- October 23 - 9:00 - Pack care bags at WNN



Garden and Grounds Cleanup Day!
October 4th
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Bring yard tools!

THANK YOU!



God's Work Our Hands was enjoyed by 34 participants! After a delicious fried chicken potluck lunch, books were labeled for the USO library at Ft. Benning and care bags were assembled for Wynnton Neighborhood Network. Thanks to everyone who helped with these projects.

*Happy
September
Birthday!*

<i>1 Elaine Hoag</i>	<i>23 Sonja Metcalf</i>
<i>2 Michael Ingram</i>	<i>25 Tyler Chappel</i>
<i>4 Jim Sperry</i>	<i>27 Connie Sieg</i>
<i>10 Amanda Jeffery</i>	<i>27 Fabio Vargas</i>
<i>22 Amy Glau</i>	<i>28 Marga Miller</i>
<i>23 Rose Johnson</i>	

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

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(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

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

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director