

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 2026

What is salvation? How are faith and confession related to it? Paul explores these themes in the first of our five week series in Romans.

† *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 *“Oh, Sing to the Lord”*

ELW #822

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

Backpack Blessing

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

First Reading

1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He

answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:8-13

Tone 1

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to
those who turn their | hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who
fear you,**

that your glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

Second Reading

Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” ¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *"Salvation, Confession and Faith"*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day
"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" **ELW #774**

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: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray
for the church, those in need, and all of God's
creation.

A brief silence.

A: We pray for the servants of your gospel in every
place, that your word may be heard. Where your
voice is scorned and your people persecuted,
strengthen the church in its faithful witness.
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For this congregation and its ministries, that we may reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide council members, elders, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us, especially Mario Mion. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may join them in the age to come. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace

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MEAL

Hymn “We Give Thee but Thine Own” **ELW#686**

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you opened your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer and Lord.

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.

Prayer after Communion

A: O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you
thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of
your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be His
body in the world that we may give you praise and
serve your earth and its many peoples; through
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"

ELW #763

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

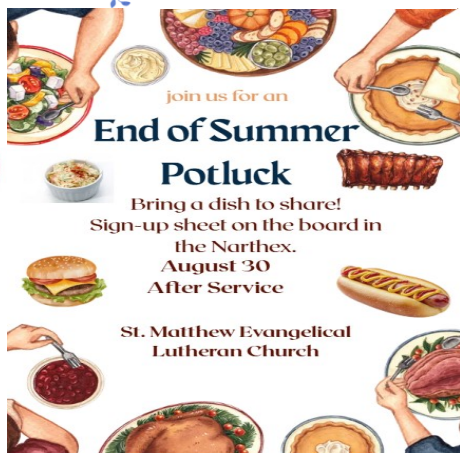
In Memory of:

Louise Eysel, 2014

On August 30th!



August 30, 2026





Woven Together
FORWARD IN FAITH

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION- MARIETTA, GA

AUG.22

Revive Yourself & Your
Congregation!

Register Today!



Scan or Visit:
**elca-ses.org/
synod-revival-days**

GOAL:
5+
people from
each church

\$15
*per person, includes dinner

REVIVAL DAY

Synod

"Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?"
(Psalm 85:6)

Worship + Meal + Learning Labs



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

READINGS AND PSALM **SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026**



Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15:10-28

*"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*

August 2, 2026

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE —52

(IN-PERSON— 33, YOUTUBE - 19

2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 2,880.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial*	\$ 200.00
Other(70 for 70)	\$ 70.00
Total	\$ 3,250.00

**Memorial gifts will be acknowledged quarterly.*



Thank you for your generous response to the
summer snack drive for Wynnton
Neighborhood Network.

Serving August 9, 2026

Opener/Closer	Lisa & Matt Pettit
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Allena Sperry
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Ushers	Katherine Kelly
	Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Lane Brown/Teri Niederhammer
	Jaxson Gardner
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

Serving August 16, 2026

Opener/Closer	Nancy & Jeff Gates
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Liz McGouirk
Lector	Toni Mion
Ushers	Randy Craven
	Sandy Craven
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson/Lisa Pettit,
	Allena Sperry/Jaxson Gardner
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

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

Mion Family
Wandersee/Mackenzie
Families

People of Lebanon

People of Iran

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Eastern Congo

People of Venezuela

Grace Apostolic Church

#1 Nails

Landmark

McKibben Insurance

Rooster's Beer & Wine

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.

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.



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. We need these for our archives and our newsletter!

Save the Date

- August 11th - 10:15 AM - Bible Study - Church House-Back Room
- August 20th - Council Meeting - 5:00 - FH
- August 21st - Craft-Tea - 10:00 - LH
- August 22nd - Revival Day
- August 23rd - Memorial Committee Meeting - FH after service
- August 27th - Men's Group - 5:30 - Deorio's
- August 30th - Bishop Strickland Visit/End of Summer Potluck/God's Work, Our Hands/September Birthday Celebration



Woven Together
FORWARD IN FAITH

Southeastern Synod

**Congregational
Leaders Zoom**
With Bishop Strickland




September 14, 2026 - 7:00 pm (ET)

Register Today!

For Lay and
Rostered
Leaders



Use the QR code above to register for the Southeastern Synod Congregational Leaders Zoom with Bishop Strickland on September 14, at 7:00 PM.



The Harris County Sheriff's Office of Criminal Investigations Division is presenting a Fraud & Scam Prevention program at Reformation Lutheran Church located at 1045 US Hwy 27, Cataula, GA 31804 on August 13th at 5:30 pm. A Financial Crimes Investigator from the HCSO CID will be presenting a PowerPoint based program covering jury duty, and warrant phone scams, email and text message based scams, false and misleading advertisement scams, friends or family in danger or jail scams, romance and companionship scams, the danger of letting others remote into your device, gift cards, bitcoin, wire transfers, and prepaid debit card scams! At the end of the presentation, the HCSO Investigator will open the floor for questions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



August

5 Geri Regnier	23 Jutta Ashley
12 Traudel Mosely	23 Ellen Hoag
13 Harold Vinson	27 Dave Bonaker
16 Rigney Cofield	27 Neema Kessey
18 Monika Wright	



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

Obra Williams, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director