

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025

Why has it come to this? When we ask that question, sometimes we seek to blame ourselves. When Jeremiah asked this question, he was not blaming the people directly. He was holding the leaders accountable especially the kings. When things fall apart, what can we take responsibility for and what must we do despite what others have done?

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 8, page 184)

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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: 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

"God is Here!"

ELW #526

Kyrie

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Gloria

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Shannon Gardner

First Reading

Jeremiah 2:4-13

⁴Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. ⁵Thus says the LORD:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me
that they went far from me,

and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves?

⁶They did not say, "Where is the LORD

who brought us up from the land of Egypt,
who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits,
in a land of drought and deep darkness,
in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?"

⁷I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things.

But when you entered you defiled my land,
and made my heritage an abomination.

⁸The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?"

Those who handle the law did not know me;
the rulers transgressed against me;
the prophets prophesied by Baal,
and went after things that do not profit.

⁹Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD,
and I accuse your children's children.

¹⁰Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look,
send to Kedar and examine with care;
see if there has ever been such a thing.

¹¹Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods?
But my people have changed their glory
for something that does not profit.

¹²Be appalled, O heavens, at this,
be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the LORD,

¹³for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me,
the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves,
cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Tone 6

¹Sing with joy to ¹ God our strength
and raise a loud shout to the ¹ God of Jacob.

¹⁰"**I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the ¹ land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and ¹ I will fill it.**

¹¹Yet my people did not ¹ hear my voice,
and Israel would ¹ not obey me.

¹²**So I gave them over to the stubbornness ¹ of their hearts,
to follow their ¹ own devices.**

¹³Oh, that my people would lis- ¹ ten to me,
that Israel would walk ¹ in my ways!

¹⁴**I would quickly sub- ¹ due their enemies
and turn my hand a- ¹ gainst their foes.**

¹⁵Those who hate the LORD would ¹ cringe in fear,
and their punishment would ¹ last forever.

¹⁶**But I would feed you with the ¹ finest wheat
and satisfy you with honey ¹ from the rock."**

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹Let mutual love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and, men, let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th Chapter.

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

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. ⁷When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; ⁹and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." ¹²He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

✝ Hymn of the Day “Bring Peace to Earth Again” **ELW #700**

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: Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

A: For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all, especially for immigrants and prisoners. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

A: For all the saints who from their labors rest, especially Margarete Walsh, Patricia Bonaker, Betty Davidson, Mike Regnier and Boyd Lester, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Offertory

"In the Singing"

ELW #466

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"Go, My Children, with my Blessing"

ELW #543

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:

Margrit Lawton, 2022

READINGS AND PSALM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33



*"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 24, 2025 Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 58

(IN-PERSON— 41, YOUTUBE - 17

2025 BUDGET-\$177,962

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	1,125.00
Building	\$	0.00
Memorial	\$	50.00
Other	\$	200.00
Total	\$	1,375.00

Serving August 31, 2025

Opener/Closer	Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Allena Sperry
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Katherine Kelly Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

Serving September 7, 2025

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

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
Vance Brooks Funeral
Service
Striffler Hamby Funeral
Service
El Carrizo
E&S Clothing

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

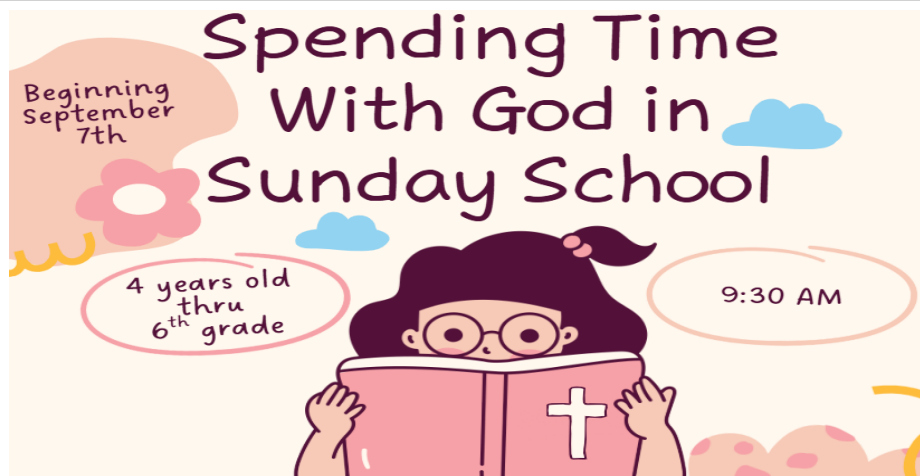
- September 2nd - 10:15 - Bible Study (bring lunch) - Fellowship Hall
- September 5th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea
- September 7th - 9:30 - Sunday School for Children
- September 8th - 11:00 - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- September 14th - God's Work, Our Hands
- September 18th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- September 23rd - 3:00 - Finance Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- September 25th - 5:00 - Men's Group at Mr. Pizza



**WE NEED PAPERBACK BOOKS FOR
GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS,
SEPTEMBER 14TH. PLEASE PLACE IN
BASKET IN THE NARTHEX! THANK YOU!**

HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS LIST FOR WNN: Holiday items needed

Cranberry Sauce	Yams	Jelly
Brownie Mix	Evaporated Milk	Cornbread mix
Green Beans	Cream of Mushroom Soup	Pumpkin pie mix
Corn	Chicken Broth (cans or boxes)	Mac and cheese
Stuffing	Peanut Butter	



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