

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Feast of God, the Creator

September 1, 2024

Today we celebrate God as Creator of all that is, has been, and is to come. We hear the word creation and we may think primarily of the beginning of all things long ago. But God our Creator is still creating, and this work not completed. The Creator sustains us in this life in this present age, and uncreates this age to prepare for the new creation in the age to come. Our readings today cover this whole scope: beginning, sustaining and destroying to make way for a final new beginning.

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 3, Page 138

† *Congregation stands as able*

## GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all our sin, who creates, sustains and renews us and all creation.

C: **Amen**

P: To you, O God,

C: **all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

P: By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of +Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

C: **Amen**

Gathering Hymn

*"Morning has broken"*

**ELW #556**

Kyrie

Page 138

Hymn of Praise

*"This is the Feast"*

Page 140

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Katherine Kelly

**First Reading**

**Proverbs 8:22-31**

<sup>22</sup> The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. <sup>23</sup> Ages ago I was setup, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

<sup>24</sup> When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. <sup>25</sup> Before the mountains had been shaped, before the

hills, I was brought forth--<sup>26</sup> when he had not yet made the earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. <sup>27</sup>When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, <sup>28</sup>when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, <sup>29</sup>when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, <sup>30</sup>then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, <sup>31</sup>rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 104:1-4, 14-24**

**Tone 1**

<sup>1</sup>Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, you are <sup>1</sup>very great! You are clothed with majes- <sup>1</sup>ty and splendor.

<sup>2</sup>**You wrap yourself with light as <sup>1</sup>with a cloak and stretch out the heavens <sup>1</sup>like a tent.**

<sup>3</sup>You lay the beams of your chambers in the wa- <sup>1</sup>ters above; you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings <sup>1</sup>of the wind.

<sup>4</sup>**You make the <sup>1</sup>winds your messengers and flames of <sup>1</sup>fire your servants.**

<sup>14</sup>You make grass grow for the cattle, and plants to serve <sup>1</sup>humankind; that they may bring forth food <sup>1</sup>from the earth,

<sup>15</sup>**wine to gladden human hearts, oil to <sup>1</sup>make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the <sup>1</sup>human heart.**

<sup>16</sup>The trees of the Lord are <sup>1</sup>well supplied, the cedars of Lebanon <sup>1</sup>that you planted,

<sup>17</sup>**in which the birds <sup>1</sup>build their nests, while the stork makes the fir <sup>1</sup>trees <sup>1</sup>its dwelling.**

<sup>18</sup>The high hills belong to the <sup>1</sup>mountain goats, and the stony cliffs are a refuge <sup>1</sup>for the badgers.

<sup>19</sup>**You made the moon to <sup>1</sup>mark the seasons, and the sun knows the time <sup>1</sup>of its setting.**

<sup>20</sup>You bring on darkness that it <sup>1</sup>may be night, in which all the beasts of the <sup>1</sup>forest prowl.

<sup>21</sup>**The lions roar <sup>1</sup>for their prey seeking their <sup>1</sup>food from God.**

<sup>22</sup>The sun rises, and <sup>1</sup>they withdraw and lay themselves down <sup>1</sup>in their dens.

<sup>23</sup>**People go forth <sup>1</sup>to their work and to their labor un- <sup>1</sup>til the evening.**

<sup>24</sup>How manifold are your <sup>1</sup>works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full <sup>1</sup>of your creatures.

### **Second Reading**

**2 Peter 3:3-13**

<sup>3</sup>First of all you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts <sup>4</sup>and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!" <sup>5</sup>They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water, <sup>6</sup>through which the world of that time was deluged with water and perished. <sup>7</sup>But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of **the godless.** <sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord

one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be destroyed with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and destroyed, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

Page 142

**Gospel**

**Mark 13:21-27**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th Chapter.

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

<sup>21</sup>And if anyone says to you at that time, 'Look! Here is the Messiah!' or 'Look! There he is!' — do not believe it. <sup>22</sup>False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. <sup>23</sup>But be alert; I have already told you everything. <sup>24</sup>But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

*“My Lord, what a morning”*  
(Verse 1)

*“I sing the almighty power of God”*  
*“Many and great, O God”*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

**ELW #438**

Insert  
**ELW #837**

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,**

true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his  
kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen

*You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

A: Creator of us all, we bring to you the needs of your creation in all its forms,  
all that lives, and all that is.

*A brief silence.*

A: Creator of all that is true, keep our minds and senses ever attentive to you.  
Bless and strengthen all who direct us to you--deacons, pastors, teachers,  
synod and churchwide staff, bishops, and lay and clergy leaders in your  
church. Make them bold in their witness, faithful in their speech, and  
compassionate in their actions. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Creator of the age to come, we groan with all creation suffering the effects  
of climate change which we have partly caused. Forgive our reticence or  
feigned helplessness to do better, and raise up leaders everywhere who will  
establish policies and practices that reduce harms done and reduce their  
long term effects as we wait for your new creation to be revealed.

God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Creator of this present age, of the universe as we know it from ages past, and the myriad interactions of what you have made, bless communities of every kind and those who lead them, that they may diligently pursue the common good of all. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Creator difference and distinction, you have filled the earth with great diversity, creatures and people doing many different things. Bless all who labor, and all who ensure the work they do is safe and fairly compensated. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Creator whose work is full of play and delights, inspire creativity that blesses your creatures. We pray for dancers, musicians, artists of every kind, and for wisdom in our leaders in governments and corporations to promote these gifts and those most gifted in them. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Creator who has never stopped sustaining what you have made, we pray for those who now especially need your physical or mental healing to restore and sustain their lives, and all who can be part of that healing. Tend the sick and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

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

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: Creator of life, we remember before you those who have died and await with their beloved the promise of resurrection and the hope of life in your new creation, especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs, Eva Brown, Bishop Davis, Joan Smith, Tom Pettit, Nelda Woods, and Patti Vinson. May we share with them in the fullness of your kingdom. God in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, Creator, in the name of your beloved son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: **Amen**

## MEAL

Anthem

*"This is my Father's world"*

Choir

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

† Great Thanksgiving	Page 144
Holy, Holy, Holy	Page 144
Lord's Prayer	“Our Father, who...” Page 145
Lamb of God	Page 146

**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: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

**SENDING**

**Blessing**

**Sending Hymn**                      *“Let all things now living”*                      **ELW #881**

**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:**

*Ferdinand “Fred” Eysel, 2004*

**READINGS AND PSALM**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**

Isaiah 35:4-7a  
 Psalm 146  
 James 2:1-17  
 Mark 7:31-37



*“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 25 2024**  
**Fourteenth Sunday after**  
**Pentecost**

ATTENDANCE — 59  
 (IN-PERSON— 52 , YOUTUBE - 7)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$	967.50
Building	\$	107.50
Memorial	\$	100.00
Other	\$	1,200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,375.00</b>

***Save the Date***

- September 1 - 11:30 - Birthday Celebration - Fellowship Hall
- September 8 - God's Work Our Hands
- September 10 - 3:00 - Remembrance Gathering - Church House

**Serving September 1, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	Randy Craven Sandy Craven
Altar Guild	Catherine Sayers Rose Johnson
Live Streaming	Sean Jeffery

**Serving September 8, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Bill Wallace
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates Terri Niederhammer
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner/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  
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  
Louie Niederhammer  
Debby Owen  
Dorothy Redden  
Connie Sieg  
Carla Stuckles

Albert VanHousen II  
Harold Vinson  
Margarete Walsh  
Monika Wright  
George Capps  
Jim Chappel  
Jean Clemmons  
Xavier Danguilan  
Penny Davis & Family  
Brandy Garnett  
Moses Glidden  
Becky Goldsmith  
Estrella Gonzales  
Doris Grier  
Petra Henderson  
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  
Michael Owen  
Angela Paul  
Vincent Pawlowski

Beth Price  
Mark Purushotham  
Dwight Redmond  
Tiffany Richardson  
Phillip Roan  
Dayna Ryan  
Shirley Scott  
Dou Shizhen  
Ricky Skinner  
Betty Townsend  
Charlie VanHousen  
Dawn VanHousen  
Martha Zimmerman

Maui  
Morocco  
Israel  
Ukraine  
Gaza

Vance Brooks Funeral  
Service  
E&S Clothing  
Striffler Hamby Funeral  
Service  
One Financial  
El Carrizo  
Tasha's Dance & Prep

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

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
|                            | Damascus Way   |
| • 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.

**Craf-Tea:** This group is meeting every Tuesday, beginning September 10th from 1:00-3:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Beth Hoag for more information.

**Remembrance Gathering:** Please come to the Remembrance Gathering Tuesday, September 10th at 3:00 PM in the Church House. The gathering is an open invitation to come together and share personal stories or recollections of someone else's life. We share stories to include all wars and conflicts.



Fried Chicken provided. Please sign up for desserts and sides on the list posted in the Narthex.

### **Activities:**

- Labeling paperback books for soldiers at Fort Moore
- Painting bowls for Feeding the Valley's "Empty Bowl" fundraiser

For the Damascus Way, Women and Children's Shelter, we will be collecting:

- Cleaning supplies
- Personal care items:
  - ◇ razors,
  - ◇ hair brushes
  - ◇ hair products
- Children's diapers (sizes 4,5 & pull-ups)
- Women's and Children's underwear - all sizes
- individual snacks( gold fish, chips, crackers)
- bottled water
- juice boxes
- Chef Boyardee microwaveable bowls
- Mac & Cheese microwaveable bowls
- Monetary donations

September  
Mission  
Focus

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)

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*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

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director