

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 18, 2024

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 4, Page 147

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof

†

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all our sin, 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

"When in our music God is glorified"

ELW #851

Kyrie

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Hymn of Praise

"Glory to God in the Highest"

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

First Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6

¹Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.

²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. ³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,

⁴"You that are simple, turn in here!" To those without sense she says,

⁵"Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:9-14

Tone 4

⁹Fear the LORD, you saints | of the LORD,
for those who fear the | LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰**The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing | that is good.**

¹¹Come, children, and lis- | ten to me;
I will teach you reverence | for the LORD.

¹²**Who among you takes plea- | sure in life
and desires long life to en- | joy prosperity?**

¹³Keep your | tongue from evil
and your lips from | lying words.

¹⁴**Turn from evil | and do good;
seek peace | and pursue it.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

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Gospel

John 6:51-58

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." ⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down

from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon "Wisdom to delight us"

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

"Earth and all stars!"

ELW #731

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: Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation. Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions.
Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: God our Teacher, bless all in our communities whose vocation is teaching and learning. Give parents, students, administrators, and teachers inquiring minds and open hearts to offer and receive what each can bring with gratitude and mutual respect. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

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

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs, Eva Brown, Bishop Davis, Joan Smith, Tom Pettit, Nelda Woods, and Patti Vinson. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

P: We lift us these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

C: **Amen**

MEAL

Anthem

"All things bright and beautiful"

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C: Amen

† Great Thanksgiving	Page 152
Holy, Holy, Holy	Page 153
Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..."	Page 154
Lamb of God	Page 154

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: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

C: **Amen**

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *"Praise and thanksgiving"* **ELW #689**

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:

Gary Stickle, 2022

Happy August Birthday

We pray you're enjoying
your special day. Happiest of birthdays!

August 1 - Mason Stickles

August 3 - Jack Steinagel

August 5 - Geri Regnier

August 12 - Traudel Mosley

August 13 - Harold Vinson

August 15 - Judy Harrison

August 16 - Rigney Cofield

August 18 - Monika Wright

August 23 - Ellen Hoag

August 27 - Dave Bonaker

August 28 - Ron Klein



Thank you to everyone for donating 152 food items and \$650 to Wynnton Neighborhood Network. In addition, we collected 56 food donations for St. Anne's Outreach during Vacation Bible School.

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
 Psalm 34:15-22
 Ephesians 6:10-20
 John 6:56-69



“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 11 2024

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 58

(IN-PERSON— 46 , YOUTUBE - 12)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,220.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial	\$ 150.00
Other	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 1,470.00

Save the Date

- August 25th - 11:30 - Congregational Meeting

Serving August 18, 2024

Opener/Closer	Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Communion Assistant	Donna Doughty
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Bill Wallace
	Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit
	Allena Sperry
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

Serving August 25, 2024

Opener/Closer	Zocia Barr/Rose Johnson
Worship Assistant	Matt Bonaker
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Ushers	Katherine Kelly
	Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Catherine Sayers
	Debby Ullman
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit/Jaxson Gardner

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.”
—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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 Stickles

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
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Ricky Skinner
Betty Townsend
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

Maui
Morocco
Israel
Ukraine
Gaza

Acceptance Auto
Phuong's Tailor Shop
Walgreen's
Angel's Nails
Y & J Health
Hidden Lake Grocery

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

Growing in Grace: This group is taking a break during the summer. We will let you know when it will resume.

Remembrance Gathering: This group is taking a break during the summer. The group will resume meeting September 10, 2024 at 3:00 in the Church House.

	<p>Thank you to everyone for your food donations for the reception after Patti's funeral service, prayers and many kindnesses show to the Vinson family during this difficult time of Patti's loss. Your caring meant so much to the family..</p>
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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

Aug/Sept
Mission
Focus

Please place items in labeled basket in the Narthex.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH

After the 10:30 worship service

We need all voting members to attend!

Topic of Discussion

Extending a traditional part-time call to Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

For more information: office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com OR 706-561-3406

**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

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
Ellen Hoag, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music
Penny Davis, Nursery Director