

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 28, 2024

*Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.*

## 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

*"Lord, whose love in humble service"*

**ELW #712**

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,

O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Donna Doughty

First Reading

**2 Kings 4:42-44**

<sup>42</sup>A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha], the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat."<sup>43</sup>But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people

and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, "They shall eat and have some left."  
<sup>44</sup>He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 145:10-18**

**Tone 2**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise | you, O LORD,  
and your faithful | ones shall bless you.  
<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom and speak | of your power,**  
<sup>12</sup>that all people may know | of your power  
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.  
<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;**  
**your dominion endures through- | out all ages.**  
**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words,**  
**and loving in | all your works.**  
<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all | those who fall  
and lifts up those who | are bowed down.  
<sup>15</sup>**The eyes of all wait upon | you, O LORD,**  
**and you give them their food | in due season.**  
<sup>16</sup>You open | wide your hand  
and satisfy the desire of every | living thing.  
<sup>17</sup>**You are righteous in | all your ways**  
**and loving in | all your works.**  
<sup>18</sup>You are near to all who | call upon you,  
to all who call up- | on you faithfully.

**Second Reading**

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup>Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

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**Gospel**

**John 6:1-21**

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup>When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people? <sup>10</sup>Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

<sup>15</sup>When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

<sup>16</sup>When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup>got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup>The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup>But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup>Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon *"Love to unite us in community"* Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

*"What wondrous love is this"*

**ELW #666**

**Please refer to insert - Welcoming New Members to the Congregation**

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

### **Prayers of Intercession**

A: One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

- A: God of generations, you work in us far more than we can ask or imagine. Bless the church you have called into being across time and space, and fill it with the power of the Spirit for loving service. In your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God of field and forest, streams and seas, you are the fullness of all things. As grains of wheat grow upon the earth and fish swim in the waters, sustain your creation. Protect harvests and give every person food in due season. In your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God beyond borders, you rule all in all. Bless the work of humanitarians and peacekeepers, shield those who live, work, or serve in harm's way, and bring an end to war and conflict. In your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God of healing, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We remember any who are sick or suffering, families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and our beloved for whom death is near. In your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God of grace, you root us and ground us in love. As you inspired our ancestors in this place in their ministry, sustain us also in new endeavors, that your glory may be made known, and your lovingkindness shared anew. In your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**
- A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them...  
**C: hear our prayer.**
- A: We give you thanks for Louie and Teresa Niederhammer, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others. In your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**
- A: God of all, your love in Christ surpasses all knowledge. We give thanks for the departed who have come to know the fullness of your grace especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs, Eva Brown, Bishop Davis, Joan Smith, Tom Pettit, Nelda Woods, and Patti Vinson. Join our voices with theirs and all the saints in singing your praises. In your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.  
**C: Amen**

## MEAL

Anthem

*“Awake, O sleeper”*

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

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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.

*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      *“The church of Christ, in every age”*

ELW #729

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:**

*William Horan, 2004*



***Save the Date***

- July 30th - 6:00 PM - Mr. Pizza Nicene Creed Study
- August 25th - 11:30 - Congregational Meeting

**READINGS AND PSALM  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024**

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15  
Psalm 78:23-29  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:24-35



*“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*

**July 21 2024**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

ATTENDANCE — 53

(IN-PERSON— 43 , YOUTUBE - 10)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 1,501.00
Building	\$ 0.00
Memorial	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 210.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,711.00</b>

During the summer, if the temperature on Sunday is above 95 degrees, Pastor Taylor, Worship Assistants, Sandra Nearhoof and choir members will not wear their robes. When the temperature cools back down, robes will be worn. Thank you for your understanding!



**Serving July 28, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Communion Assistant	Rose Johnson
Lector	Katherine Kelly
Ushers	Katherine Kelly
	Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Debby Ullman
	Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit/Jaxson Gardner

**Serving August 4, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Donna Doughty
Worship Assistant	Liz McGouirk, Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Ushers	Sandy Craven
	Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson
	Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Sean Jeffery



# *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  
Beverly Huckaby  
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

Beaute' Matrix  
5 Fourteen  
DQ  
Burger King  
Animal General Hospital  
Klose Kutz

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:**

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
|                            | Wynnton Neighborhood Network   |
| • 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.

## **Damascus Way Women and Children's Shelter**

This 56-bed facility provides both long-term and short-term programs for women and children. Typically, clients in the long-term program stay for 6-9 months, and clients in the short-term stay from 3-6 months. Each program is dependent upon individual circumstances and needs. Life skills, spiritual development, GED, Bible studies and counseling are among the many classes which the women attend.

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)
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)

Office email: [office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com](mailto:office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com)

*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  
Ellen Hoag, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music  
Penny Davis, Nursery Director