

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

Today we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them a flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome the children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

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

"Thy holy wings"

ELW #613

Kyrie

Page 138

Hymn of Praise

"This is the Feast"

Page 140

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Shannon Gardner

First Reading

Jeremiah 11:18-20

¹⁸It was the LORD who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. ¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" ²⁰But you, O LORD of hosts, who judge

righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 54

Tone 6

¹Save me, O God, ¹ by your name;
in your might, de- ¹ fend my cause.

²**Hear my ¹ prayer, O God;**
give ear to the words ¹ of my mouth.

³For strangers have risen up against me,
and the ruthless have ¹ sought my life,
those who have no re- ¹ gard for God.

⁴**Behold, God ¹ is my helper;**
it is the Lord who sus- ¹ tains my life.

⁵Render evil to those who ¹ spy on me;
in your faithful- ¹ ness, destroy them.

⁶**I will offer you a ¹ freewill sacrifice**
and praise your name, O LORD, for ¹ it is good.

⁷For you have rescued me from ¹ every trouble,
and my eye looks down ¹ on my enemies.

Second Reading

James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth.

¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

^{4:1}Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

Page 142

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 9th Chapter.

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

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Reverend Rachel Zarnke

✠ Hymn of the Day *"Children of the heavenly Father"*

ELW #781

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: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: Loving God, you welcome all at your table of grace. Instill in your church a spirit of humility and curiosity, that we embrace all who seek you. We pray especially for ministries of hospitality and faith formation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, you shape the world so there is more than enough for all. Curb our habits of overuse, and guide us toward more sustainable sources of energy, food, and water. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious God, your peace brings justice and solidarity. Encourage peace among peoples, tribes, and nations; heal divisions in our country and local communities, that together we might cooperate for the good of all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Faithful God, you draw near to you all who are in need. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer. Transform economic, political, and social systems that oppress vulnerable people, especially systems of structural racism and generational poverty. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Transforming God, you accompany all through changes and transitions. Help us to see where you are calling this community to new ways of living the gospel promise; assure us that even as change brings loss, it also brings hope and life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Merciful God, you embrace us on our final pilgrimage from this life. Accompany all who have died, especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs, Eva Brown, Bishop Davis, Joan Smith, Tom Pettit, Nelda Woods, and Patti Vinson console those who mourn, and at the last, show us the way to eternal life in you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen

MEAL

Anthem

"When You Break the Bread"

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 *"Lord of all hopefulness"* **ELW #765**

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:

Richard Davidson, 2022

• HAPPY SEPTEMBER •

Birthday!

TO YOU

1 - Ellen Hoag

2 - Michael Ingram

4 - Jim Sperry

10 - Amanda Jeffery

22 - Amy Glau

23 - Rose Johnson

23 - Sonja Metcalf

25 - Tyler Chappel

27 - Connie Sieg

27 - Fabio Vargas

28 - Marga Miller



Within Reach

A ministry of our church focused solely on members of our church family.



For more information contact Zocia Barr at (706) 330-1001

Within Reach is our church's response to providing assistance focused solely on members of our church family. Our first family will consist of two adults who have asked for our help. They are in need of some meals as one recovers from surgery. We are asking everyone who is able, as you prepare meals for your family, to add an extra meal, freeze that meal and have it available on short notice. There will be some planning involved so please sign up on the signup sheet in the Narthex. With your help we can reach out and make a difference. There will be more information on this ministry in the October newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Zocia Barr at (706) 330-1001.

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
 Psalm 19:7-14
 James 5:13-20
 Mark 9:38-41



"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

September 15, 2024
Seventeenth Sunday after
Pentecost

ATTENDANCE — 55
 (IN-PERSON— 41, YOUTUBE - 14)

Thankfully offered

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,715.00
Building	\$ 115.00
Memorial	\$ 150.00
Other	\$ 165.00
Total	\$ 2,145.00

Save the Date

- September 24 - 1:00-3:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- September 26 - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Church House
- September 28 - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Church grounds cleanup
- October 16-November 20 (Wednesday) - 6:00 More Than Just Stories Bible Study-Luther

Serving September 22, 2024

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Evelyn Pettit
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Katherine Kelly Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Catherine Sayers Debby Ullman
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit/Jaxson Gardner

Serving September 29, 2024

Opener/Closer	Rose Johnson
Worship Assistant	Matt Bonaker
Communion Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Ushers	Katherine Kelly Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates Terri Niederhammer
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.”

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
Rigney Cofield
Betty Davidson
Ken Hoag
Myrna Hoag
Bennie Jackson
Mairetha Jackson
Marga Miller
Traudel Mosely
Louie Niederhammer
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg

Carla Stickle
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
Harold
Petra Henderson
Van Henshaw
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Boyd Lester
Laura Lester
Valerie Karol Louder
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Gary Nearhoof
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
Winder, GA

Mario's Tire
Woodville Apartments
Mariner Finance

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.
Deadline for October newsletter is October 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 the Church House. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Beth Hoag for more information.

Remembrance Gathering: Our Remembrance Gathering scheduled for Tuesday, October 8th at 3:00 PM in the Church House will be our last for 2024. In 2025, we will gather quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month. Celebrate on October 8th with us by sharing your favorite memory. We will also be setting an agenda for 2025. Our invitations will continue to extend out to the community and will include all conflicts and wars. Thank you to our church family for providing us a safe place in which to not only share out memories but encourage others to do so. Our first meeting in 2025 will be January 14 at 3:00 PM.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

This amazing event was enjoyed by 42 people. The food was great! Books were labeled for Fort Moore basic Trainees libraries. Many enjoyed painting bowls for the Empty Bowl Spring fundraiser benefitting

Feeding the Valley.

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.

Garden and grounds cleanup
Saturday, September 28th
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Please bring your own tools, including weed eaters, blowers and tools to trim shrubs.

**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

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director