

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

*James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.*

## 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 *“How Sweet the name of Jesus”*

ELW #620

Kyrie

Page 138

Hymn of Praise

*“This is the Feast”*

Page 140

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

C: **Amen**

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD

Children’s Message

Donna Doughty

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 35:4-7a**

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 146

Tone 1

<sup>1</sup>Hal-<sup>1</sup>lelujah!

Praise the LORD, <sup>1</sup>O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>**I will praise the LORD as long <sup>1</sup>as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I <sup>1</sup>have my being.**

<sup>3</sup>Put not your <sup>1</sup>trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there <sup>1</sup>is no help.

<sup>4</sup>**When they breathe their last, they re-<sup>1</sup>turn to earth,  
and in that day <sup>1</sup>their thoughts perish.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are they who have the God of Jacob <sup>1</sup>for their help,  
whose hope is in the <sup>1</sup>LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup>**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that <sup>1</sup>is in them;  
who keeps promis-<sup>1</sup>es forever;**

<sup>7</sup>who gives justice to those who are oppressed,  
and food to <sup>1</sup>those who hunger.

The LORD sets the <sup>1</sup>captive free.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;  
the LORD lifts up those who <sup>1</sup>are bowed down;  
the LORD <sup>1</sup>loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD cares <sup>1</sup>for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way <sup>1</sup>of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD shall <sup>1</sup>reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah!**

## Second Reading

James 2:1-17

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup>For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup>and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup>Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? <sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you show partiality, you commit sin

and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

<sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

<sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

✠ Gospel Acclamation

"Alleluia"

Page 142

**Gospel**

**Mark 7:31-37**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 7th Chapter.

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

<sup>31</sup>Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup>They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup>He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup>Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup>And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup>They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Ephphatha: Be Opened

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day *"Open your ears, O faithful people"*

**ELW #519**

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: Awaken in our communities of faith a spirit of radical hospitality. Encourage our churches to celebrate and embrace people of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities. Deepen our commitment to ecumenical and interreligious partnerships. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Bring forth water to nourish plants and animals in places suffering from drought. Renew our commitments to protect rivers, lakes, and streams, and make us good stewards of water in our homes and communities. Preserve wetland habitats and the creatures that make their homes there. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Inspire leaders of cities, nations, and tribes to lead with wisdom and humility. Bring peace among peoples in conflict and strengthen global commitments to nonviolent solutions. Guide all who seek refuge from war to a safe haven. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Comfort all who live with chronic illness. Surround them in your tender embrace and sustain all who provide ongoing care and support. Bring hope and healing to people struggling with addiction and nourish the spirits of all who are in recovery. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Nurture in all people the gift of your creating Spirit. Inspire artists and musicians, woodworkers and quilters, poets and dancers. Revive those whose artistic wells have run dry and enliven all who doubt their creative talents. 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: We give you thanks for all who have died and now find their rest in you, especially Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs, Eva Brown, Bishop Davis, Joan Smith, Tom Pettit, Nelda Woods, and Patti Vinson. May their faithful witness guide us in our daily life with 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                      *"Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"*                      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      *“O, for a thousand tongues to sing”*

ELW #886

### 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:**

*Margaret Thein, 2002*

**READINGS AND PSALM**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Psalm 116:1-9  
 James 3:1-12  
 Mark 8:27-38



*“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 1, 2024**

**Feast of God,  
 The Creator**

ATTENDANCE — 51  
 (IN-PERSON— 36 , YOUTUBE - 15)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 4,200.00
Building	\$ 200.00
Memorial	\$ 100.00
Other	\$ 0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,500.00</b>

***Save the Date***

- September 8 - God's Work Our Hands
- September 10 - 1:00-3:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- September 10 - 3:00 - Remembrance Gathering - Church House

**Serving September 8, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Bill Wallace
Ushers	Matt Pettit
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates
	Terri Niederhammer
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner/Paul Hicks

**Serving September 15, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Donna Doughty
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Rose Johnson
Lector	Terri Niederhammer
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit
	Allena Sperry
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk



# *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 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  
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  
Winder, GA

M. Bland Salon  
The Ellands Event Center  
Chevron  
Bargain Furniture  
Dollar General  
Citgo

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:** Our Remembrance Gathering began as an open invitation to members of our congregation to come together sharing personal stories or recollections of someone else's experiences during and post WWII. Our goals going forward will include all conflicts and wars and the invitation extends to our community visitors and guests. For more information please contact Zocia Barr at 706-330-1001. These Gatherings are every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 3:00 PM in the Church House. Our next Gathering will be Tuesday, September 10th.

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.



Please join us after service today for God's work. Our Hands. We will share a potluck meal and work on the following activities:

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



**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

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director