

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

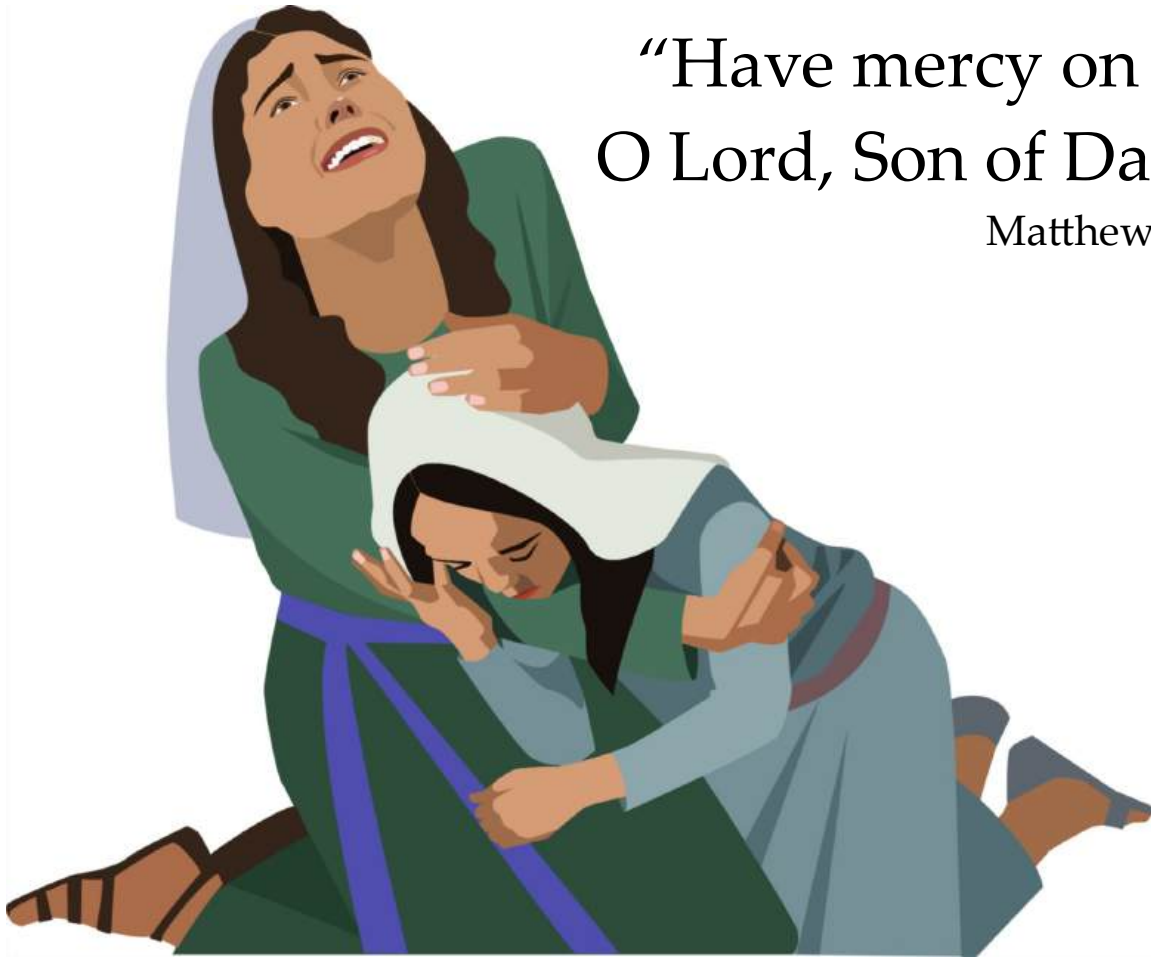
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 15, 2026

6:00 PM

“Have mercy on me,
O Lord, Son of David!”

Matthew 15:22



OUR MISSION

As a Lutheran community of faith, we continue our history of proclaiming Christ crucified through Word and Sacrament in joyful service to God and our neighbor.

OUR VISION

A welcoming family, encouraging lives of service to Christ

WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the American Association of Lutheran Churches (taalc.org)

We welcome all who worship with us today. We gather as the Body of Christ to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise to God. Ushers are available to answer any of your questions. The church is equipped with a hearing impaired system. If you need a listening device, it may be obtained from an usher. In the minutes prior to the beginning of each service, the doors to the nave are closed, and quiet is encouraged. Music is offered which prepares worshipers to receive God's gifts from His Hand – the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Celebrating Holy Communion: We believe, teach, and confess the Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the earthly elements of bread and wine. We refer to this as the sacramental union. All baptized Christians, who share this belief, are invited to receive Jesus as He comes in the Holy Communion to forgive the sins of the penitent. Children and others who are not yet receiving the sacrament or are unable to commune with us are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this.

Ushers will direct communicants to the altar where you may kneel or stand. Please receive the host in your flattened palm. The ceramic cup is for intinction, in which you dip the host. Unless otherwise announced, the metal cup is the common cup from which you drink after having consumed the host. If you cannot receive alcohol, please touch the host to the outside of the chalice. If you need a gluten free host, please ask the pastor when he approaches you. Once you have communed, please return to your seat. If you need to be communed at your seat, please inform an usher. The pastor will come to you.

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God and given by Sharon Callender in honor of her grandson, Leonard (Michael) Jackson, Jr., for his birthday, and by Tom Russell in loving memory of Margo, for their wedding anniversary.

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS! On this Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, our Lord Jesus discovers great faith in a Canaanite mother, whose love for her child makes her persistent in seeking Jesus' help. Senior Pastor Samuel David Zumwalt preaches "Holy Worship: Love the Children" (Matthew 15:21-28). How persistent in prayer are you on behalf of loved ones bound by sin, death, and the devil.

I will strive to ... **Pray daily**
Worship weekly
Read the Bible
Serve at and beyond St. Matthew's
Be in Relationship to encourage spiritual growth in others
Give of God's time, talents and resources

Those Serving in Worship

Greeter:

Lector:

Acolytes and Crucifers:

Ushers: Dave and Diane Sundberg **Altar Guild:** Peggy Davis



Portions of today's liturgy and hymns are reprinted from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 Concordia Publishing House, and Lutheran Book of Worship © 1978 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Concordia Publishing Liturgy license 000010164, Concordia Publishing Hymn license 100010164, Augsburg Fortress licenses 9245-L, 26780, SAS006780, and CCLI license 2014768. Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Streaming: CCLI license 20580893.

(* Please stand as you are able.)

Silence for Meditation

THE PRELUDE

Prelude in D Major

Johann C.F. Fischer

THE WELCOME

* THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Congregation: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

Congregation: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

Congregation: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

* THE OPENING HYMN

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

LBW 559



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He breaks the pow'r of can-celed sin; he sets the pris-'ner free.
5 To God all glor-y, praise, and love be now and ev-er giv'n



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
His blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a-vails for me.
by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

* THE GREETING

2 Corinthians 13:14

Pastor: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation: And also with you.

* THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty, eternal God, increase in us your gifts of faith, hope and love. And in order that love may abide in us, help us to celebrate what your love has done for us. Through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, For My salvation is about to come, And My righteousness to be revealed..."⁶ "Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, And to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants—Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant—"⁷ Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."⁸ The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, "Yet I will gather to him Others besides those who are gathered to him."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 67

God be merciful to us and bless us,
And cause His face to shine upon us, Selah
**That Your way may be known on earth,
Your salvation among all nations.**
Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.
**Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!
For You shall judge the people righteously,
And govern the nations on earth. Selah**
Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.
**Then the earth shall yield her increase;
God, our own God, shall bless us.**
God shall bless us,
And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.² God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew ...¹³ For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, ¹⁴ if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ...²⁸ Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, ³¹ even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. ³² For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*** THE VERSE**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

John 6:68

*** THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Pastor: The HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

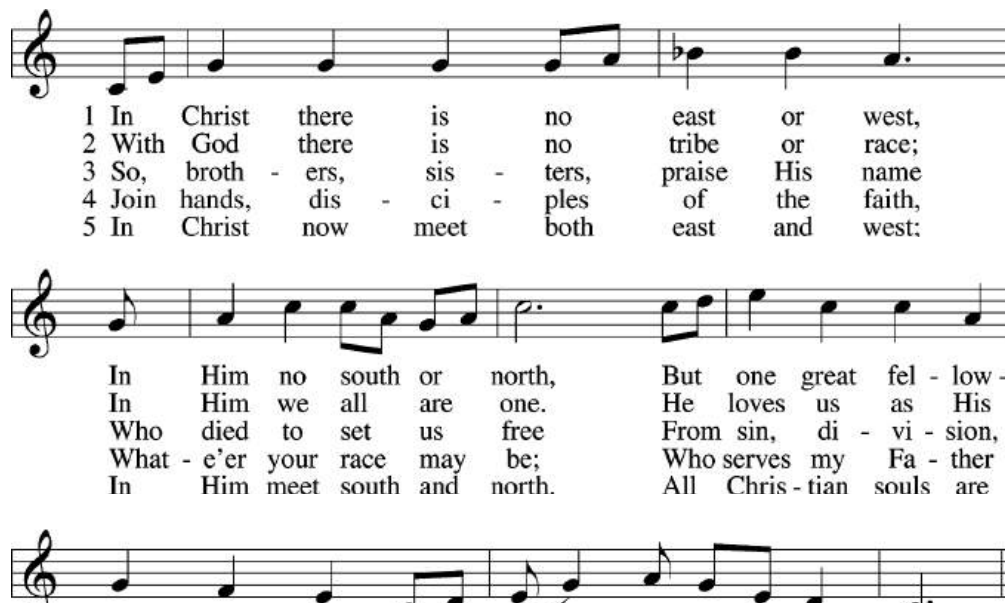
Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." ²³ But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." ²⁴ But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" ²⁶ But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." ²⁷ And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

* THE HYMN OF THE DAY

In Christ There is No East or West


1 In Christ there is no east or west,
 2 With God there is no tribe or race;
 3 So, broth - ers, sis - ters, praise His name
 4 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith,
 5 In Christ now meet both east and west;

In Him no south or north, But one great fel - low -
 In Him we all are one. He loves us as His
 Who died to set us free From sin, di - vi - sion,
 What - e'er your race may be; Who serves my Fa - ther
 In Him meet south and north. All Chris - tian souls are

ship of love Through-out the whole wide earth.
 chil - dren through Our faith in His dear Son.
 hate, and shame, From spite and en - mi - ty!
 as His child Is sure - ly kin to me.
 one in Him Through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941, sts. 1, 4-5, alt.; Mark A. Jeske, b. 1952, st. 2, © 1993 Mark A. Jeske;
 Michael A. Perry, 1942-96, st. 3, © 1982 Jubilate Hymns Ltd; admin. Hope Publishing Co.
 Music: African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

* THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

* THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Assisting Minister: Lord, in your mercy.

Congregation: Hear our prayers.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

* THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation: And also with you.

THE OFFERING

All I Need is Found in Thee
 Alan Richey, bass

* THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise him, all creatures here below;
 Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*** THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Almighty Father,

Congregation: you open your hand with a harvest that can satisfy all your creatures. With these offerings we pledge to share your gifts. Help us to see you working through our charity. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

Congregation: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed....

*** THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Pastor: We give you thanks...both now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*** THE DISTRIBUTION** (*An usher will direct you to the altar rail.*)

John 1:29

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace. Amen

*** THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: O Lord, may we who have received you in the eating and drinking of this Sacrament, forever abide in you because you now abide in us. We bless you now and evermore.

Congregation: Amen.

Congregation: I will strive to pray daily, worship weekly, read the Bible, serve at and beyond St. Matthew's, be in relationship to encourage spiritual growth in others, and give of God's time, talents, and resources.

*** THE BENEDICTION**

Matthew 28:19

Pastor: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

*** THE CLOSING HYMN**

Jesus Shall Reign

LBW 530 (next page)

(At this time anyone desiring prayer for healing is invited to approach the altar rail.)

THE DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Grand Postlude

Paul Fey

LESSONS for NEXT WEEK:

Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 11:33-12:8; Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus Shall Reign

LBW 530



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

Holy Worship: Love the Children

Praying

“O God, You declare Your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of Your grace, that we, running to obtain Your promises, may become partakers of Your heavenly treasure; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen” (*Sacred Hours: The Lutheran Daily Office*, 115).

Listening

Matthew 15:22 “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David...”

St. Hilary of Poitiers (4th century Bishop of Poitiers, “the Athanasius of the West”): “Intermingled with the Jews, therefore, these people came from the Gentiles. And since a portion of those among the crowds who believed were proselytes, this Canaanite woman most likely had left her territory, preferring the status of a proselyte – that is, coming out from the Gentiles to the neighboring people” (*Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 14-28*, 27-28).

Matthew 15:22 “...my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”

St. Hilary of Poitiers: “She was appealing on behalf of her daughter, who was a type for all the Gentile people. And since she knew the Lord from the law, she addressed him as Son of David...This woman, who professed Christ as both Lord and Son of David, did not need any healing. Rather, she was begging for help for her daughter – that is, the Gentile people in the grips of unclean spirits” (28).

Matthew 15:26 “It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.”

Epiphanius the Latin (late 5th – early 6th century bishop): “Then, in the face of the Jews who were rejecting him, this Gentile woman asked him to heal her daughter. But the Lord turned a deaf ear to her. She fell down at his feet and adored him, saying, ‘Lord, help me.’...Plainly he implied that they [the Jews] were children and called the Gentiles ‘dogs.’ The woman agreed, saying... ‘Yes, Lord’” (29).

Matthew 15:28 “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.”

Epiphanius the Latin (possibly Bishop of Benevento or Seville): “What they rejected give to us who are asking for it. Knowing the importunate faith of this woman, our Lord said, ‘O woman, your faith is great! Let it be done for you as you desire.’ Faith accepts what work does not merit, and through faith the Gentiles were made children out of dogs. As the Lord spoke through the prophet: ‘In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people’ it shall be said to them, ‘Sons of the living God.’” (29).

Reflecting

1. Do I come before the Lord in prayer with the sense that I am owed whatever I demand?
2. Do I understand that only Jesus can cast out the demons oppressing me and my dear ones? That my only proper posture before the Lord is one of begging and pleading?

Learning

Table of Duties (from Martin Luther's Small Catechism)

Certain passages of scripture for various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities

To Youth

Young men [and women], in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. 1 Peter 5:5-6

To Widows

The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. 1 Tim. 5:5-6

To Everyone

The commandments . . . are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Romans 13:9

I urge . . . that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone. 1 Timothy 2:1

Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.

Doing

1. Pray for every unbaptized child, youth, and adult you know and for the child's parents, too.
2. Pray for your unchurched loved ones and friends. Invite one or more of them to worship.
3. Discuss with your spouse, your family, or a friend the difficulty of, living your calling as child of God especially when you are dealing with difficult people in daily life and a culture hostile to God. How might you and those you love (especially children and youth) find greater support for life's challenges in both regular worship and in spiritual friendships at church this week?

For Husbands and Wives

Repeat daily: "I (name) take you (name) to be my wedded wife (husband), to have and to hold from this day forward; for better, for worse; for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish until death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance, and thereto I pledge you my faith."

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

The family of Penelope Wamboldt, Judy Daniels, Mary Pat Jones, Barbara Ulisnik, Connie Forler, Michael, Donna Adams, Elyssia Eubanks, Ed Ludacer, Brigitte Walters, Marti Felter, Christi Everette, Carol Stacherski, Erika Braje, Dianne Zenz, Sondra Tullous, Patty Macino

MEMBERS

Donna Siegmund	Denis and Janet Hall	Chris Tennant
Kenn and Wanda Slocum	Dwight Crim	Lou and Jenny Painter
George Schwenzer	Todd and Tracy Darnell	Ruth Rice
Laura and Micki Matthes	Joe Huppmann	Sally Birnstein
Christine Dingfelder	Alex Schwartz	Frank Felter
Fran Perry	Laurie Tobin	Helen Knoll
Terry Miller	Howard and Lani Beuerman	Helen Stansbury
Donna Lawhorn	Tina Medlin	Karen Schmoke
Ken and Jenny Manning	Beth Jarrott	Leah Sparks
Butch Ruefle	Doris Isaacs	Mike Burns
Joe Mayfield	Rachel Shaltanis	Brad Cook
Betty LaFave	Alex Monroe	Bev Miller
Steve Weidman	Rod Andrew	
Sheila Leach	Grace Koder	

FRIENDS/FAMILY OF MEMBERS

Amie Knauer	Amy Johnston	Janet Kiley
David Schwartz	Bonnie Gaspari	Daniel O'Neill
Megan McKinney	Vance and Ann Alphin	Karin Yoshimura
Rev. Dr. William White	Natalie Pressley	Tom Howard
Fred Peck	Robert Zenz	Betty Mowrey
Bill Pearson	Virginia Mough	David Medlin, Sr.
Albert Rossetti	Russ Kuhn	Levi Fritz
John Jones	Paulette Myers	Rhonda Melton
Janet Nix	Lorraine Fritz	Rafa Sanabia
Scott Howl	David Pearson	Debbie Kosh
Vic Weidman	Janice Hilliard	Elizabeth Kincaid
Angie Barlow	Pr. Joe Christina	Diane Risberg
Matthew Hall	David Searle	Damian Walters
Chuck Teigland	Luke Corbin	Tim Ford
Jean Brooks	Judy Constantino	Katelyn Schwenzer
Frank Britton	Emily Smith	Jimmy Romano
Jill Miller	Carol Roberts	Jonathon Santini
Cat Garcia Miller	Franklin Alvarez	Suzanne Harrell
Gene Przybranowski	Michele Watson	Kilie Styers
Luke	Rev. Patrick Rooney	Pr. Brack East
Ruth Schucker	Evan Scott	

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS:

Don Butzin	Ruthann Getsinger	Nancy Miller
Jane Dove	Pat Mahl	Elaine Nelson

<u>Operating Fund: July 2026 FINAL</u>		
	Month	YTD
Revenues:	51,057.95	358,152.19
Expenses:	<u>61,546.97</u>	<u>425,415.56</u>
Income/ (Loss)	(10,489.02)	(67,263.37)

<u>Operating Fund for August 2026</u>	
	Avg. Monthly
Anticipated expenses:	75,350.00
Received for the month:	<u>14,812.81</u>
Additional needed:	60,537.19

Want to give online to St. Matthew's? Please open the QR code with your phone's camera.



Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday - Eucharist, 6 p.m. Sunday - Traditional Eucharist. 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
2nd and 4th Sundays - Contemporary Eucharist, 8:30 a.m. Monday - Evening Prayer and Bible Study, 6 p.m.
Wednesday - Eucharist and Healing Prayer, 12:00 p.m.

A nursery is provided for all Sunday Services and during the Sunday School hour.

First Time Visitors - Please stop by our **Welcome Center** to sign our guest book and get information about St. Matthew's.

Baby changing tables are available in the two restrooms across from the church offices and in the nursery.

This Week at St. Matthew's

Sunday, August 16 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 Traditional Eucharist
11:00 Traditional Eucharist
12:30 Trivia Time and Potluck Luncheon

Monday, August 17

9:00 Counting Team - Finance Office
12:00 Conversations - Rm. 117
6:00 Evening Prayer
7:00 Midtown AA
7:00 Harbour Towne Band

Tuesday, August 18

9:30 Staff Meeting
10:00 Calendar Planning Meeting
10:00 Prayer Group - Rm. 117
6:30 Stephen Ministry

Wednesday, August 19

8:30 Men's Bible Study - McCombs
12:00 Healing Prayer and Eucharist
6:00 Handbells

Thursday, August 20

10:00 Quilt Ministry - Rm. 117
7:00 Midtown AA - McCombs

Friday, August 21

Saturday, August 22 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

6:00 Eucharist

Sunday, August 23 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 Contemporary Eucharist
11:00 Traditional Eucharist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP! St. Matthew's is in desperate need of a servant to be the Team Leader of the Church Property Team. This team is responsible for the maintenance and protection of all property of the congregation. Currently there is a small group of individuals that perform various functions related to property maintenance, but a leader is needed to conduct team meetings, organize required work and provide guidance to the team members. Also, the Team Leader is required to report monthly to the church council, through the council liaison, the accomplishments and needs of the team. If you feel a call to serve this important function, please contact Dusty Pilcher by email at dustman343@mail.com, call 717-542-1818, or speak to him at church to further discuss your interest.

Youth Kickoff for all 6th-12th graders is at Cardinal Lanes Beach Bowl on Saturday, September 13th, from 4:15-6:00 p.m. See details and sign up in the Narthex by **August 16th**, to reserve your spot. We can't wait to see you there!

Harbor Kids (3rd-5th graders) will kick off the year with a day at the Trampoline Park on Saturday, September 19th, from 3-5 p.m. See details and sign up in the Narthex by **August 23rd** to reserve your spot. **Parents:** we need chaperones for this trip. If you're available to help, please consider signing up. Your support helps create a safe and fun experience for everyone!

Rally Day is Sunday, August 30th. Rally Day activities begin at 9:45am. There will be a Rally Day Potluck Lunch at 12:30 p.m. in McSwain Center. The Fellowship Team will provide drinks, plates, utensils, and napkins. Let's start the new program year well by having great participation! Sign up in the Narthex to bring enough food for your household to share with other households. We will have a bouncy slide and games for all ages and we hope to see you there!

Training for Stephen Ministry will begin in September. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or have questions, please contact one of our leaders: Ana María Jackson 910-599-5622, Jon Lindsay 770-356-5093, Terry Miller 910-619-3742, Pastor Sam Zumwalt 910-538-6705.

Altar Flowers are still needed for September 20 and 27. Please be sure to fill out a dedication form when signing up.

Christkindlmarkt is our annual event for the benefit of all ministries of our church. Please support our efforts by being a Sponsor. Our goal for 2026 is \$18,000 to cover expenses. There are several levels to choose from and forms are available in the narthex.



St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

910-791-4582 ♦

The Rev. Dr. Samuel D. Zumwalt ♦

612 S. College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403

www.stmatthewsch.org

♦ szumwalt@stmatthewsch.org

