

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 5, page 156)

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



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

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you, the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

"The King Shall Come"

ELW #260

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Shannon Gardner

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the

mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122

Tone 8

- ¹ I was glad when they ¹ said to me,
"Let us go to the house ¹ of the LORD."
² **Now our ¹ feet are standing
within your gates, ¹ O Jerusalem.**
³ Jerusalem is built ¹ as a city
that is at unity ¹ with itself;
⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes ¹ of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name ¹ of the LORD.**
⁵ For there are the ¹ thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the ¹ house of David.
⁶ **Pray for the peace ¹ of Jerusalem:**
"May they prosper who love you.
⁷ Peace be with- ¹ in your walls
and quietness with- ¹ in your towers.
⁸ **For the sake of my kindred ¹ and companions,
I pray for ¹ your prosperity.**
⁹ Because of the house of the ¹ LORD our God,
I will seek to ¹ do you good."

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon “*Ready for the Days of Noah*”

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day “*Lo! He Come with Clouds Descending*” **ELW #435**

Baptism of Van Maxwell Segars

Page 227

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

A: God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: God of the earth, we see your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

A: God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

- A: God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.
- A: God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.
- A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them....God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.
- A: God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.
- P: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel..
C: Amen.

MEAL


Anthem *"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"* Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Thought this meal, satisfy our parched places that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

 Great Thanksgiving	Page 161
Holy, Holy, Holy	Page 162
Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..."	Page 163
Lamb of God	Page 164

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

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: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"Borning Cry"

ELW #732

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Midweek Worship

Wednesday 5:30 PM

December 3, 10, 17



Weihnacht Service

Sunday, December 14

3:00 PM

Christmas Eve

Holy Communion Service

Wednesday, December 24

7:00 PM



The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Liselotte Paul, 2015



The Advent Wreath for the first Sunday of Advent was lit by the Hicks family.

November 2025

1 Zach Rollinson	11 Mike Taylor
1 Lisa Pettit	14 Cecil McGouirk
2 Sarah Catherine Johnson	14 Debby Ullman
5 Clara Vargas	17 Samantha Thies
5 Gary Marsh	18 Kerry Bingemann
5 Michelle Matthias	18 Katherine Kelly
8 Bella Burns	18 John Schwarting
8 Faith Schwarting	19 Bill Wallace
10 Abigail Peterson	23 Constance Johnson
10 Amanda Regnier	24 Amy Hoag
10 Jeff Stickles	27 Forrest Klein
11 Martha Vargas	29 Van Maxwell Segars

The graphic is decorated with autumn-themed illustrations including pumpkins, gourds, and various types of leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red. At the bottom center, there is an illustration of a roasted turkey on a platter and a small pie on a stand.

READINGS AND PSALM **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025**

Isaiah 11:1-10
 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Romans 15:4-13
 Matthew 3:1-12



*"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*

November 23, 2025 **Christ the King Sunday** **after Pentecost**

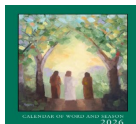
ATTENDANCE — 61

(IN-PERSON — 48, YOUTUBE - 13

2025 BUDGET-\$177,962

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$ 1,760.00
Building	\$ 100.00
Memorial	\$ 50.00
Other	\$ 312.00
Total	\$ 2,222.00



2026 Calendar of Word and Season is now on sale thru the end of the year. Please see Allena Sperry if you want to purchase a calendar for \$13. Please make checks payable to St. Matthew.

Serving November 30, 2025

Opener/Closer	Nancy & Jeff Gates
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Jaxson Gardner
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates
	Rose Johnson
	Catherine Sayers-Clean-up
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

Serving December 7, 2025

Opener/Closer	Bill Wallace
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Liz McGouirk
Lector	Terri Niederhammer
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Lane Brown
	Rose Johnson
	Catherine Sayers-Clean-up
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

St. Matthew Lutheran Church (ELCA) will not engage in any act or public statements to endorse or oppose any candidate for public office.

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

The ministries of
St. Matthew

Bishop Yehiel Curry

Bishop Kevin
Strickland

Southeastern Synod
Staff

Pastor Taylor Burton
Edwards

Pastor Rachel Zarnke
St Matthew

Congregational
Council

Laura Alexander

Carol Bingemann

Isabelle Clark

Randy Craven

Myrna & Ken Hoag

Marga Miller

Charlotte Moore

Traudel Mosely

Debby Owen

Dorothy Redden

Gary Anderson

Eric & Tinisha Bryant

Jean Clemmons

Nancy Edmundson

Lynne Funck

Brandy Garnett

Sandy Gibbs

Moses Glidden

Estrella Gonzales

Doris Grier

Grigsby Family

Laura Jett

Norma Kilby

Ken Korn

Emma Kump

Robert Lowe

David & John Lucas

Michelle Matthias

Brady Meeks

Tim Moore

Debi Nelson

Vincent Pawlowski

Terry Pendergraff

Beth Price

Mark Purushotham

Tiffany Richardson

Dayna Ryan

Shirley Scott

Dou Shizhen

Ricky Skinner

Amanda Steinagel

Sara Steinagel Sturgis

Fred Turpin

Charlie VanHousen

Dawn VanHousen

Martha Zimmerman

Gaza

Palestinian People

Israel

Ukraine

People of Russia

Kerr County, Texas

Jamaica

Philippines

M. Bland Salon

Chevron

Bargain Furniture

Dollar General

Citgo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to St. Matthew: Jesus Christ offers himself to all. All baptized Christians are invited to feast with us at the Lord's Table.

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:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | Operation Christmas Child |
| • Lion's Club: | Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones |
| • Family House of West GA: | Pop tabs |
| • Flags to Retire: | Used flags to dispose of properly |
| • St. Anne's: | Feminine hygiene products, Personal hygiene products (travel size) |
| • SafeHouse/St. Benedict's | Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals) |
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet December 19th at 10:00AM-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Linnea Grosse for more information.

Chair Yoga: We will resume meeting on Monday at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall in the new year. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

December Mission Focus



Our Warming Tree stands in the Narthex awaiting us to decorate it with our gifts of new warm clothing such as socks, mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for adults and children. We will take donations thru December 14th. We will deliver our gifts of love to Freedom House, Trinity House, Faith House, and Brown Bag of Columbus. You can make a monetary donation if you do not want to shop.

Save the Date

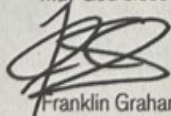
- December 1st - 12:00-1:00 - Advent lunch at St. Thomas
- December 3rd - 5:30 Midweek Advent Service
- December 4th - 9:00 - WNN Care Packing
- December 6th - 10:00 - Chrismon Tree Decorating
- December 6th - 3:00-5:30-Open House at Pastor Taylor's

THANK YOU

FOR PACKING SHOEBOXES!

We appreciate your partnership in bringing great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to boys and girls in need around the world. Each shoebox you packed will communicate God's love to a child and their family, reinforcing the message of eternal hope shared with them by our local ministry partners. Please join us in celebrating that more than 220 million children in over 170 countries and territories have received a gift-filled shoebox and more than 50 million of these recipients have been disciplined through programs such as The Greatest Journey. We praise God for each life transformed by the Gospel!

May God bless you,



Franklin Graham | President, Samaritan's Purse



"Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

—JOHN 20:31

Help the Church Get
Ready for
Christmas!

Chrismon Tree
Decorating

December 6th, 2025
at 10 AM



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement



Reach in to grow in Christ

Reach up to worship God

Reach out to welcome and witness



To give online, please scan the QR code to the left to be taken to the give.tithe.ly website form. You can just fill out the form and click the Give button. You can also go to our website and click on the ONLINE GIVING button.

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

Phone: (765) 602-1426

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