St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ the King Sunday

November 22, 2026

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Holy Communion *(ELW Setting 7, page 175)*
Evangelical Lutheran Worship

†*Congregation stands as able*

Gathering

Prelude Sandra Nearhoof

†

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives us all our sins, 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
"Crown Him with Many Crowns" **ELW #855**

Kyrie Page 175

Prayer of the Day:
P. Let us pray,
O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message Amy Hoag

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

11 Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my
sheep and will sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort out
their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I
will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the
places to which they have been scattered on a day of
clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from
the peoples and gather them from the countries and
bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on
the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all
the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with
good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall
be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good
grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the
mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of
my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord
God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the
strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will
strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will
destroy. I will feed them with justice. 20 Therefore, thus
says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between

the fat sheep and the lean sheep. [21] Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, [22] I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep. [23] I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. [24] And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

L: The word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95:1-7a **Tone 2**

[1] Come, let us sing | to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
[2] **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the | Lord with psalms.
[3] For you, Lord, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
[4] **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are | also yours.
[5] The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
[6] **Come, let us worship | and bow down,**
let us kneel before the | Lord our maker.
[7a] For the Lord | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.

Second Reading **Ephesians 1:15-23**

[15] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my

prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18] so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. [20] God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. [22] And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: The word of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God.

✝ Gospel Acclamation Page 179

Gospel **Matthew 25:31-46**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [31] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. [32] All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, [33] and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. [34] Then the king will say to

those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, [35] for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36] I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ [37] Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? [38] And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? [39] And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ [40] And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ [41] Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, [42] for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ [44] Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ [45] Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *“Where Do You Invest, Really”*
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

✝ Hymn of the Day *"Jesus Shall Reign"* **ELW #434**

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them….God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
C: Amen.

The Peace Page 180

Meal

Anthem *"Let All Things Now Living"* Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

✝Great Thanksgiving Page 180

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 181

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who…" Page182
Lamb of God Page 182

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: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending

Blessing

Sending Hymn

"Come, Thou Almighty King" **ELW #408**

Dismissal

A: Saints of God, keep awake.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Beatrice "Mary" French, 2018



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:34-37



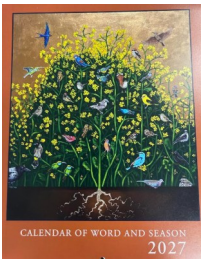
"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me." —Martin Luther

November 15, 2026
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE - 70
(IN-PERSON— 56, YOUTUBE - 14
2026 BUDGET-$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	$	1,680.00
Building	$	130.00
Other	$	275.00
Memorial*	$	50.00
Total	**$**	**2,135.00**



2027 Calendar of Word and Season available for sale. Calendars are $15. Please see Allena Sperry to purchase or you can email her at agsperry@bellsouth.net and let her know how many calendars you want. We only have 2 calendars - so first come, first served!

Serving November 22, 2026

Opener/Closer	Matt & Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Allena Sperry
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Communion Ushers	Randy & Sandy Craven
Altar Guild	Terri Niederhammer
	Allena Sperry
	Jaxson Gardner
Greeter	Isabelle Clark
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

Serving November 29, 2026

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Amy Hoag
Lector	Toni Mion
Communion Ushers	Jim Sperry & Ron Ullman
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson
	Debby Ullman
	Jaxson Gardner
Greeter	Isabelle Clark
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." —1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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
St Matthew Congregational Council
Dan & Laura Alexander
Rigney Cofield
Jutta Cox
Sandy Craven
Jeff Gates
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Jean Clemmons
Nancy Edmundson
Lynne Funck
Brandy Garnett
Moses Glidden
Doris Grier
Frank Henderson
Petra Henderson
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Remi Lindquist
Robert Lowe
David & John Lucas
Michelle Matthias
Brady Meeks
Debi Nelson
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Tiffany Richardson
Phyllis Roan
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Anne Sims
Ricky Skinner
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

People of Lebanon
People of Iran
Gaza
Palestinian People
Israel
Ukraine
People of Russia
Eastern Congo
People of Columbia

Smoke Buddy's
Days Inn
Hollywood Barber Shop
The Cell Plug

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. Changing table available there if needed.

Sunday School: We have Sunday School for pre-school thru 5th grade which meets from 9:15-10:15 each Sunday before our morning service.

Love in Action Opportunities:

- All unused all occasion and holiday cards
- 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
- MCSD Hygiene Closet: Any size toiletries
- SafeHouse/St. Benedict's Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals)
- WNN Non-perishable foods & plastic bags

Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex.

Bible Study: Please join us on Tuesdays at 10:15 in the Church House to review & discuss scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet on the 3rd Friday of each month 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: Meets every Monday at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

The office will be closed Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Save the Date

- November 23rd - YOGA is Cancelled
- November 24th-10:45AM-Bible Study-Church House-Study Room
- November 22nd - Annual Congregational Meeting-After worship
- November 28th - 4:00 PM - Decorate Chrismon Tree/Advent

Wynnton Neighborhood Network needs your help for the holiday giveaways. Please bring the following food items that will serve 250 families at Thanksgiving and 250 at Christmas:

Cranberry sauce
Brownie Mix
Green Beans
Corn
Chicken broth (box or can)
Corn Bread Mix
Pumpkin Pie Mix
Stuffing
Canned Yams
Evaporated Milk
Cream of Mushroom Soup
Jelly
Macaroni and Cheese



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! EVERYONE for:

- Your generosity of Operation Christmas Child items. We had a record turn out and lots of first time packers.
- All the food for Thanksgiving bags at Wynnton Neighborhood Network.
- All who turned to help pack care bags at WNN on November 17th. We will NOT be packing in December.

Your love for our neighbors near and far is heartwarming. Love In Action Committee



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 2:30-5:00 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

Ashleigh Duncan, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director