

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Baptism of Our Lord Sunday January 11, 2026

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

† *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

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”

ELW #310

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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

Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised

reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29

Tone 9

¹ Ascribe to the ¹ LORD, you gods,

 ascribe to the LORD glo-¹ ry and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory ¹ due God's name;**
 worship the LORD in the beau-¹ ty of holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of ¹ glory thunders;
 the LORD is upon the ¹ mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a pow-¹ erful voice;**
 the voice of the LORD is a ¹ voice of splendor.

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the ¹ cedar trees;
 the LORD breaks the ce-¹ dars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip ¹ like a calf,**
 and Mount Hermon like a ¹ young wild ox.

⁷ The voice ¹ of the LORD
 bursts forth in ¹ lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the LORD ¹ shakes the wilderness;**
 the LORD shakes the wilder-¹ ness of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the ¹ forests bare.
 And in the temple of the LORD all are ¹ crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned a-¹ bove the flood;**
 the LORD sits enthroned as king for-¹ evermore.

¹¹ O LORD, give strength ¹ to your people;
 give them, O LORD, the bless-¹ ings of peace.

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him.³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a

tree,⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

 Gospel Acclamation

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Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

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

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

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

“Setting Out”

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

 Hymn of the Day *“When Jesus Came to Jordan”* **ELW #305**

BAPTISM WITH CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION

ELW #227

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: As God’s beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

A: Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: receive our prayer.

A: Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Offertory Hymn *"Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"* ELW #304

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

 Great Thanksgiving

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Holy, Holy, Holy

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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: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"* **ELW #800**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.
C: Thanks be to God.



The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Patricia Bonaker, 2025



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

"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



January 4, 2026
Second Sunday of Christmas

ATTENDANCE — 55

(IN-PERSON — 41, YOUTUBE — 14)

2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	2,465.00
Building	\$	100.00
Memorial	\$	300.00
Other	\$	113.00
Total	\$	2,978.00

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

Serving January 11, 2026

Opener/Closer	Lisa & Matt Pettit
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Allena Sperry
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates
	Terri Niederhammer
	Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

Serving January 18, 2026

Opener/Closer	Nancy & Jeff Gates
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Toni Mion
Ushers	Jim Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit
	Allena Sperry
	Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

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	Sandy Gibbs	Venezuela
	Moses Glidden	Gaza
	Estrella Gonzales	Palestinian People
The ministries of St. Matthew	Doris Grier	Israel
Bishop Yehiel Curry	Grigsby Family	Ukraine
Bishop Kevin Strickland	Laura Jett	People of Russia
Southeastern Synod Staff	Norma Kilby	Jamaica
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards	Ken Korn	Philippines
Pastor Rachel Zarnke	Emma Kump	Hong Kong
St Matthew Congregational Council	Robert Lowe	Thailand
Laura Alexander	David & John Lucas	Indonesia
Carol Bingemann	Michelle Matthias	Somali Refugees
Isabelle Clark	Brady Meeks	Flood victims in Washington
Randy Craven	Tim Moore	Brown University
Myrna & Ken Hoag	Debi Nelson	Jewish community in Australia
Marga Miller	Vincent Pawlowski	People of Cambodia
Charlotte Moore	Beth Price	Burger King
Traudel Moseley	Mark Purushotham	Animal General Hospital
Debby Owen	Tiffany Richardson	Klose Kutz
Dorothy Redden	Dayna Ryan	Freedom Adult Day Center
Gary Anderson	Shirley Scott	Transformation Salon
Eric & Tinisha Bryant	Dou Shizhen	
Jean Clemons	Ricky Skinner	
Nancy Edmundson	Amanda Steinagel	
Lynne Funck	Sara Steinagel Sturgis	
Brandy Garnett	Fred Turpin	
	Charlie VanHousen	
	Dawn VanHousen	
	Martha Zimmerman	

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:

- 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
- 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.

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

Craf-Tea: This group will meet on the 4th Friday of each month beginning in January 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 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

Save the Date

- January 12th - 11:00 am - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- January 13th -10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- January 14th - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- January 15th - 5:00 - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- January 23rd - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- January 29th - 9:00 - Care Bag Packing
- February 1st - After Worship - Tackle Hunger Potluck - Luther Hall



Interfaith Bible Study on King David begins January 14th at 6 PM in Luther Hall led by Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards.



Ever wonder what to do with leftover holiday wrappings? We will be collecting holiday wrappings, paper, ribbon, gift bags and bows. Please place those in the basket in the Narthex.



February 1, 2026 - Tackle Hunger Potluck! Please sign up on the list in the Narthex to bring your tailgate favorite! Food and monetary donations going to Brown Bag of Columbus. We will also recognize February birthdays.



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.matthewlutheranchurch4457streams>

The Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards, Pastor
Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator
Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music
Penny Davis, Nursery Director