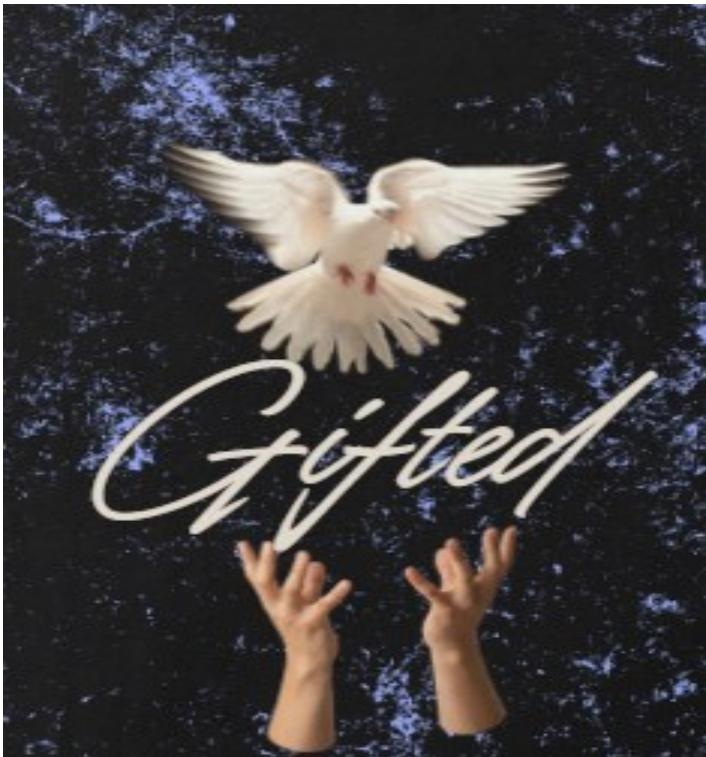


# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Second Sunday after Epiphany  
January 18, 2026

How do you start to address people who need to make significant changes? Paul's answer is to remind them first and foremost that they are gifted, able to face whatever they need to.

† *Congregation stands as able*

## GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



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

C: **And also with you.**

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

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

*“Come Down, O Love Divine”*

ELW #804

Kyrie

Page 203

Gloria

Page 204

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. **Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Rose Johnson

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 49:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me.<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid

me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD and my reward with my God."<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—<sup>6</sup> he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 40:1-11**

**Tone 9**

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently up-<sup>1</sup> on the LORD,  
    who stooped to me and<sup>1</sup> heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the<sup>1</sup> miry clay,  
    and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my<sup>1</sup> footing sure.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise<sup>1</sup> to our God;  
    many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust<sup>1</sup> in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they who trust<sup>1</sup> in the LORD!**  
    They do not turn to enemies or to those who<sup>1</sup> follow lies.

<sup>5</sup> Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us,  
    none can be com-<sup>1</sup> pared with you!  
    Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than<sup>1</sup> I  
    can count.

<sup>6</sup> **Sacrifice and offering you do<sup>1</sup> not desire;  
    you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have<sup>1</sup>  
    not required.**

<sup>7</sup> And so I said, "Here I<sup>1</sup> am; I come.  
    In the scroll of the book it is writ-<sup>1</sup> ten of me:

<sup>8</sup> **'I love to do your will,<sup>1</sup> O my God;  
    your law is<sup>1</sup> deep within me.'**

<sup>9</sup> I proclaimed righteousness in the<sup>1</sup> great assembly;  
    I have not restrained my lips, O<sup>1</sup> LORD, you know.

<sup>10</sup> **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your  
    faithfulness and<sup>1</sup> your deliverance;  
    I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the<sup>1</sup> great  
    assembly.**

<sup>11</sup> You are the LORD; do not withhold your compas-<sup>1</sup> sion from me;  
    may your steadfast love and your truth continually<sup>1</sup> keep me safe.

## Second Reading

## 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

 Gospel Acclamation

Page 205

**Gospel**

**John 1:29-42**

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

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

<sup>29</sup> [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.” <sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**H** Hymn of the Day    *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*    **ELW #678**

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: 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: Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**



## ✚ 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**

*“Rise, Shine, You People!”*

**ELW #665**

### Dismissal

A: Go forth to love and serve God and every neighbor.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



**The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God**

**In Memory of:**

*Sandra Sieg Hansen, 2021*



**READINGS AND PSALM  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026**

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

*"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 11, 2026  
Baptism of our Lord Sunday**

ATTENDANCE — 79

(IN-PERSON — 64, YOUTUBE — 15)

2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$	2,955.00
Building	\$	180.00
Memorial	\$	150.00
Other	\$	300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,585.00</b>

*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 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
	Allen Sperry
	Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

**Serving January 25, 2026**

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Amy Hoag
Lector	Terri Niederhammer
Ushers	Katherine Kelly
	James Sperry
Altar Guild	Lane Brown
	Martha Vargas
	Catherine Sayers
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	Sandy Gibbs	Venezuela
The ministries of St. Matthew	Moses Glidden	Gaza
Bishop Yehiel Curry	Estrella Gonzales	Palestinian People
Bishop Kevin Strickland	Renee Good Family	Israel
Southeastern Synod Staff	Doris Grier	Ukraine
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards	Grigsby Family	People of Russia
Pastor Rachel Zarnke	Laura Jett	Jamaica
St Matthew Congregational Council	Norma Kilby	Philippines
Laura Alexander	Ken Korn	Hong Kong
Carol Bingemann	Emma Kump	Thailand
Isabelle Clark	Robert Lowe	Indonesia
Randy Craven	David & John Lucas	Somali Refugees
Myrna & Ken Hoag	Michelle Matthias	Flood victims in Washington
Marga Miller	Brady Meeks	Brown University
Charlotte Moore	Tim Moore	Jewish community in Australia
Traudel Moseley	Debi Nelson	People of Minneapolis
Debby Owen	Vincent Pawlowski	People of Portland
Dorothy Redden	Beth Price	Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Mississippi
Gary Anderson	Mark Purushotham	
Eric & Tinisha Bryant	Tiffany Richardson	Xpert Tax Service
Jean Clemons	Dayna Ryan	Bi-city Driving School
Nancy Edmundson	Shirley Scott	Menzie Dance Company
Lynne Funck	Dou Shizhen	Frankie's Hair Design
Brandy Garnett	Ricky Skinner	AMG Financial
	Amanda Steinagel	
	Sara Steinagel Sturgis	
	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 19th - 11:00 am - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- January 20th - 10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- January 21st - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther 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 continues each Wednesday 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.

**January Birthdays**

2 David Gardner	8 Kenneth Hoag
2 Quinn Snellings	10 Nancy Gates
3 Amber Johns	10 Jackson Howes
3 Connie Newman Goodman	16 Dorothy Redden
4 Pastor Shirley Redmond	17 Bruce Clemens
5 Abigayle Ratliff	17 Valerie Stickles
	21 Evelyn Pettit
	21 Kinsey Williams
	28 Pastor Rachel Barnke

# 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](https://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](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)  
Phone: (765) 602-1426

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.matthewlutheranchurch4457streams>

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

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music  
Penny Davis, Nursery Director