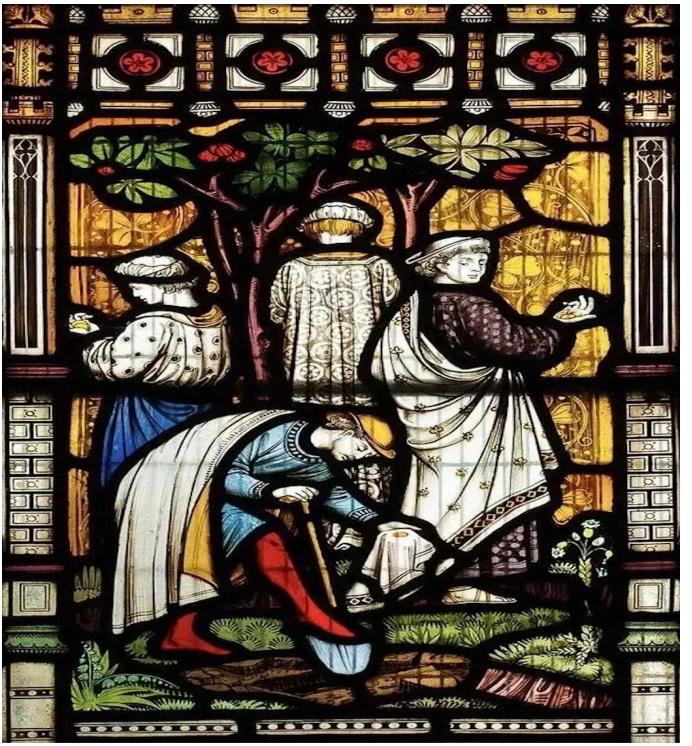
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

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 *"We Praise You, O God"* **ELW #870**

Kyrie Page 175

Prayer of the Day:
P. Let us pray,
Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message Rose Johnson

First Reading Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is
at hand! The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has
consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search
Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who
settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." 13 Their
wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine
from them. 14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and
hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of
wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and
devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of
clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and
battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty
battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon people that
they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned
against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like
dust and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor
their gold will be able to save them on the day of the

Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

Psalm 90:1-12 **Tone 2**

1 Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.
3 You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past**
and like a watch | in the night;
5 you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
7 For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.
12 **So teach us to num- | ber our days**
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden

destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!
4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

✝Gospel Acclamation Page 179

Gospel **Matthew 25:14-30**

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But

the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.
19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

Sermon *"Invest in God's Kingdom Now"*
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day *"As Saints of Old"* **ELW #695**

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

A brief silence.

A: You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Drive us to give our time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel.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: The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you.
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 *"This Is My Father's World"* 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

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
"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" **ELW #685**

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:

Vesta Lambert, 2002

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL *Meeting*



St Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

NOV | 22nd | 2026

Right after the worship service!
Please help us celebrate 2026
and look forward to 2027!

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46



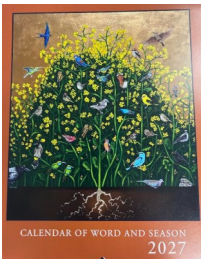
"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me." —Martin Luther

November 8, 2026
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

ATTENDANCE - 68
(IN-PERSON— 54, YOUTUBE - 14
2026 BUDGET-$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	$	3,040.00
Building	$	100.00
Other	$	155.00
Memorial*	$	125.00
Total	**$**	**3,420.00**



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 3 calendars - so first come, first served!

Serving November 15, 2026

Opener/Closer	Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Debra Jarzomkowski
Lector	Jordi Banitt
Communion Ushers	Jim Sperry & Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Terri Niederhammer
	Catherine Sayers
	Jaxson Gardner
Greeter	Isabelle Clark
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

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

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
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

Mr. Pizza
Quality Inn
Gold Teeth World
Apparel King & More

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 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

Save the Date

- November 15th-6:00 PM- WNN Unity Service-Living Grace Church
- November 16th - 11:00 AM - Chair Yoga - Fellowship Hall
- November 17th-9:00 AM - WNN Care Packing
- November 17th-10:45AM-Bible Study-Church House-Study Room
- November 19th - 5:00 PM - Council Meeting
- November 20th - 10:00 AM - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- 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

Wynnton Neighborhood Network Unity Service

Sunday, November 15, 2026

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Living Grace Church
3969 Edgewood Circle
Shearith Israel Synagogue will offer the message this year. An offering will be received (food or money) to support the food pantry. Gather to give thanks for this holy partnership of people of faith and for the multiplied impact we have together.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! EVERYONE for your generosity of Operation Christmas Child items and food for Thanksgiving bags at Wynnton Neighborhood Network. 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