



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

Celebrating
69 years

The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - January 2026

Getting our House in Order

The readings for the Time after Epiphany are selected to support two distinct purposes. The Gospel and the reading from the Hebrew Scriptures are to prepare the congregation for its evangelistic work. The epistle reading is a semi-continuous reading from one of Paul's letters aimed at helping the church address matters that may be holding it back from fulfilling its mission.

For the past two years, I've focused on the evangelism track. This year, the focus will be on the getting our house in order track, following the first two chapters of I Corinthians.

This is not to suggest that I think we are broken or way out of line as a congregation! Rather, it is always good to take some time to examine our alignment with what the church can be and make it better if we can at least once every three years. Going through the beginning of Paul's first letter to the church he founded at Corinth will provide us some helpful reminders about who we are and what we are called to be—and not be.

Also, during January, we'll be starting some administrative work to get our local church constitution aligned with the constitution as amended and adopted by Churchwide Assembly last summer. It's also always good to remind ourselves of where we have gone out of line as well as what the lines actually are in the first place.

And, our synod has provided a document for churches to prepare themselves for transitions that we'll start working with as well. Don't worry! I'm not planning to go anywhere! The synod recommends that all congregations use this document so that they have in one place some critical records and statements and processes and procedures so that when a time for transition does come, they will have everything needed together in one place and have plans, as well, for other kinds of transitions—such as in church officers (also not changing this year!) and church staff.

All of these actions—in preaching and in administration—are about helping us assess where we are and pointing us toward ways we can be healthier. Think of them as the annual physical if you will, but, in this case, a "spiritual" and an "administrational" for our church. While not everything about a physical may be pleasant at the time (unless, perhaps, you really like having your blood drawn, X-rays taken, and various kinds of poking and prodding – I'm not a fan of any of these!) the net result is always helpful.

So, let's do this in this season ahead, knowing we can be the better for it!

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Taylor

SMALL GROUPS

Bible Study

Weekday Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall from 10:15 - 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday reading and discussing the scriptures for the coming Sunday.

NEW STUDY: Interfaith Bible Study on King David begins January 14th at 6 PM in Luther Hall

Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga will resume meeting on January 5, 2026 at 11:00 AM in the Luther Hall.

CRAF-TEA

The Craf-Tea group will meet on the 4th Sunday of the month. The first meeting in 2026 will be January 23rd, 2026 at 10:00 am. Contact Linnea Grosse at (706) 392-8697 for more information.

Warming Tree & Holiday Decorations



2026 St Matthew Church Council

Allen Sperry - President/Mission & Ministry
Bill Wallace - Vice President & Property
Nancy Gates - Secretary
Katherine Kelly - Treasurer
Rose Johnson - Worship & Music
Lisa Pettit - Fellowship & Streaming
Matt Pettit - Fellowship & Streaming
Terri Niederhammer - Fellowship & Chair Yoga
Dave Bonaker - Worship & Music/Finance



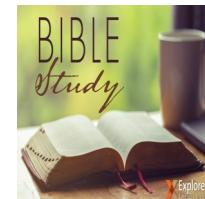
UPCOMING EVENTS



JANUARY
Birthday Celebration
January 4, 2026
After worship service in
the Fellowship Hall.



January 6th - 11:30 AM -
Need help taking down all
the Christmas decorations!
Many hands make light
work!



"David through the eyes
of those who knew him"
led by Pastor Taylor and
Rabbi Beth Schwarz.
This study will begin
January 14th and
meeting each Wednesday thru
February 11th at 6:00 pm in Luther
Hall.

Care Bag Packing
January 29th, 9:00 AM
St Thomas Outreach
Center



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



Finance Committee Report

	November 2025	Year to Date
Income	\$15,971	\$142,973
Expenses	\$8,861	\$191,609
Difference	\$7,110	\$(48,636)



Prayer Requests

Business Prayer Requests

Mr. Pizza
 Quality Inn
 Smoke Buddy's
 Days Inn
 Enterprise
 Master Kleen
 Octapharma Plasma
 Kamoree's Beauty Salon
 Broken Tarot Tattoo & Piercing
 Beaute' Matrix
 5 Fourteen
 DQ
 Freedom Adult Day Center
 Transformation Salon
 Menzie Dance Company
 Frankie's Hair Design
 AMG Financial
 Acceptance Auto
 Phuong's Tailor Shop
 Walgreen's
 USPS
 Peachtree Immediate Care
 Hidden Lake Bottle Shop
 Vance Brooks Funeral Service
 Striffler Hamby Funeral Service
 El Carrizo
 M. Bland Salon
 Chevron
 Grace Apostolic Church
 #1 Nails
 Mario's Tire's
 Mariner Finance
 Diamond Kutz

Gold Teeth World
 Apparel King & More
 Hollywood Barber Shop
 The Cell Plug
 Title Max
 JD Wings
 Burger King
 Animal General Hospital
 Klose Kutz
 Xpert Tax Service
 Bi-City Driving School
 Sunset Finance
 Kee J's
 Angel's Nails
 Y & J Health
 Hidden Lake Grocery
 Beauty Queen
 Brewster's
 Waffle House
 E & S Clothing
 One Financial
 Tasha's Dance & Prep
 Bargain Furniture
 Dollar General
 Citgo
 Landmark
 McKibben Insurance
 Rooster's Beer & Wine
 Woodville Apartments
 Beal Wellness

The Armed Forces, their families, & 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 Moseley
 Debby Owen
 Dorothy Redden
 Gary Anderson
 Eric & Tinisha Bryant
 Jean Clemonns
 Nancy Edmundson
 Lynn Funck
 Brandy Garnett
 Sandy Gibbs
 Moses Glidden
 Estrella Gonzales
 Doris Grier
 Grigsby Family
 Laura Jett
 Norma Kilby
 Ken Korn
 Emma Kump
 Robert Lowe
 John & David Lucas
 Michelle Matthias

Brady Meeks
 Tim Moore
 Debi Nelson
 Vincent Pawlowski
 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
 Jamaica
 Philippines
 Hong Kong
 Thailand
 Indonesia
 Somali Refugees
 Flood victims in Washington
 Brown University
 Jewish community in Australia
 People of Cambodia



HELLO JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2	3
4 - Second Sunday Of Christmas Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion Birthday Celebration	5 Chair Yoga 11:00-LH Al-Anon/AA 8:00pm -LH	6 Bible Study 10:15AM FH	7	8 German Klub 5:30 LH Al-Anon/AA 8:00pm -LH	9	10
11- Baptism of our Lord Sunday Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion	12 Chair Yoga 11:00-LH Al-Anon/AA 8:00pm -LH	13 Bible Study 10:15AM FH	14 Interfaith Bible Study 6:00 - LH	15 Council Meeting 5:00 PM-FH Al-Anon/AA 8:00pm -LH	16	17
18- 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion	19 Chair Yoga 11:00-LH Al-Anon/AA 8:00pm -LH	20 Bible Study 10:15AM FH	21 Interfaith Bible Study 6:00 - LH	22 Al-Anon/AA 8:00pm -LH	23 Craft-Tea 10-12-LH	24
25 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion	26 Chair Yoga 11:00-LH Al-Anon/AA 8:00pm -LH	27 Bible Study 10:15AM FH	28 Interfaith Bible Study 6:00 - LH	29 Care bag packing 9 AM Al-Anon/AA 8:00pm -LH	30	31

Contact Us . . .

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

4026 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31907

(706) 561-3406
office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com

Visit us on the web at
www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com

Worship: Sundays at 10:30 am.
YouTube is also available
[https://www.youtube.com/
@st.matthewlutheranchurch4457](https://www.youtube.com/@st.matthewlutheranchurch4457)

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Friday - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement

*Reach in
to grow in Christ
Reach up
to worship God
Reach out
to welcome and witness*

Staff . . .

Pastor	Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards twbe@liturgyfolks.com
Parish Administrator	Sonja Metcalf office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com
Minister of Music	Sandra Nearhoof
Nursery Attendant	Penny Davis
Sexton	Lisa Pettit

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Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED