St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026

Stir up your power, and come! Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. “Stir up your strength and come to help us!” (Psalm 80:2), has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Jesus calls his disciples then and now to be on the watch for these very things. In fact, in our reading this morning, he says this three times. Are you on the watch? What are you watching for?

Holy Communion *(ELW Setting 2, page 116)*
Evangelical Lutheran Worship

†*Congregation stands as able*

Gathering

Prelude Sandra Nearhoof

†

P: Blessed be God, Father, +Son and Holy Spirit.
C: And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.

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: 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 *"The King Shall Come"* **ELW #260**

Kyrie Page 120

Prayer of the Day:
P. Let us pray,
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message Shannon Gardner

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come
down, so that the mountains would quake at your
presence—2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire
causes water to boil—to make your name known to your
adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your
presence! 3 When you did awesome deeds that we did
not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at
your presence. 4 From ages past no one has heard, no
ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides
you, who works for those who wait for him. 5 You meet
those who gladly do right, those who remember you in
your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed. 6 We have
all become like one who is unclean, and all our
righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a
leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to
take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. 8 Yet,
O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are
our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be
exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember
iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Tone 8

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
3 Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
4 **O Lord | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
19 **Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind

6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened
among you 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as
you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He
will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be
blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 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 124

Gospel **Mark 13:34-37**

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

34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves
home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work,
and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.
35 Therefore, be on watch, for you do not know when the
master of the house will come, in the evening or at
midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may
find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I
say to you I say to all: Be on watch."

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

Sermon *"Being on Watch"*
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

✝ Hymn of the Day
"Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" **ELW #435**

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: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

A: Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: All creation signals your presence, O God: the vastness of the cosmos, the turn of the seasons, and living things that both rest and flourish. Rekindle our commitment to care for the earth. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Let the nations tremble at your holy presence, that justice and liberation may prevail in all corners of the earth. Restore peace to nations in conflict, teach righteousness to corrupt leaders and systems, and bring stability to areas facing uncertain futures. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Enrich the spirits of all who feel hopeless, fearful, or despairing. Stay close to those who await healing or relief. Deliver all in any need. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Be with those who keep awake at night: nurses working overnight shifts, caregivers of newborns and aging adults, stargazers, those who are anxious, or those who are traveling. Reveal to all that the dark can be a place of calm and comfort filled with your presence. 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: You have sent out your angels and gathered your faithful people from every time and place, calling them into one fellowship of saints. Bless the witness of those who dwell in your eternal presence. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy,
C: Amen.

The Peace Page 128

Meal

Anthem *"Call to Advent"* Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty, Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving Page 129

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 130

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who…" Page134

Lamb of God Page 135

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: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Sending

Blessing

Sending Hymn *"Soon and Very Soon"* **ELW #439**

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:

Julta Luhring, 2014



The Advent Wreath for the first Sunday of Advent was lit by the Gardner family.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Midweek Worship
Wednesday 5:30 PM
December 2nd, 9th, 16th





Weihnacht Service
Sunday, December 13
3:00 PM

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion Service
Thursday, December 24
7:00 PM



READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY,DECEMBER 6, 2026

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8



"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 22, 2026
Christ the King Sunday

ATTENDANCE - 57
(IN-PERSON— 44, YOUTUBE - 13
2026 BUDGET-$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	$	3,705.00
Building	$	100.00
Other	$	205.00
Memorial*	$	350.00
Total	**$**	**4,360.00**

Serving November 29, 2026

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
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

Serving December 2, 2026

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Lector	Amy Hoag
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson

Serving December 6, 2026

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Terri Niederhammer
Lector	Marc Baroncini
Communion Ushers	Randy & Sandy Craven
Altar Guild	Lane Brown
	Rose Johnson
	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
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

Enterprise
Master Kleen
Title Max
JD Wings

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 30th - 10:00 AM - Chair Yoga - Fellowship Hall
- December 1st- 10:15AM-Bible Study-Church House-Study Room
- December 2nd - 5:30 PM - Midweek Advent Service
- December 5th - 3:00-5:00 - Open House at Pastor's Home
- December 6th - After Service-Birthday Celebration-Fellowship Hall
- December 9th - 5:30 PM - Midweek Advent Service
- December 13th - 3:00 PM - German Weihnacht Service
- December 16th - 5:30 PM - Midweek Advent Service
- December 17th - 5:00 PM - Council Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- December 18th - 10:00 AM - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall


SAVE THE DATE FOR
THIS AMAZING CONCERT:
THE LEGACY
BRASS QUINTET
From OSU's Schwob School of Music
Thursday, December 3
St. Paul Sanctuary
6:00 pm
Free Admission


Warming Tree
Donations
given to our neighbors at:
Faith House –
Women and Children
Truth Springs Academy –
Pre-K through Fifth Grade
Men's Ministry at
Valley Rescue Mission
We would like to have hats, scarves, gloves, socks, coats, plastic rain ponchos, and small umbrellas.
All sizes are needed for men, women, and children.
Thank you for your generosity!


WEIHNACHT
SERVICE
DECEMBER 13, 2026
3:00 PM
ST MATTHEW EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH


HAPPY
December
BIRTHDAY
1 Randall Craven
4 Jonathan Thies
21 Lindsay Brown Ratliff
24 Ronald Sprecher
26 Zaiga Mion

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