

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Second Sunday after Epiphany  
January 14, 2024

*All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.*

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 10, Page 203

† Congregation stands as able

### GATHERING

Prelude

“Wo Gott zum Haus”

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: 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**

“Jesus calls us; o’er the tumult”

**ELW #696**

Kyrie

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Gloria in Excelsis

Page 204

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD

Children’s Message

Geri Regnier

**First Reading**

**1 Samuel 3:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.<sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup>Then the LORD

called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!"<sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.<sup>6</sup> The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."<sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.<sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.<sup>9</sup> Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.<sup>10</sup> Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

**Tone 5**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you have | searched me out;

O LORD, | you have known me.

<sup>2</sup>**You know my sitting down and my | rising up;  
you discern my thoughts | from afar.**

<sup>3</sup>You trace my journeys and my | resting-places  
and are acquainted with | all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>**Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips,  
but you, O LORD, know it | altogether.**

<sup>5</sup>You encompass me, behind | and before,  
and lay your | hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>**Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot at- | tain to it.**

### Second Reading

**1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

<sup>12</sup>All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, "The two shall be one flesh." <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

“ Alleluia”

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P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st Chapter.

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

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup>Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon *Getting Right with Our Bodies* Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day

*"Here I am, Lord"*

ELW #574

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**

*Choose to stand, kneel, or sit for prayers.*

## Prayers of Intercession

A: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A: Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities.  
God of grace.

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace.

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society.  
God of grace.

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration.  
God of grace.

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care.  
God of grace.

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints especially WJ Barrs. God of grace.

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen**

# MEAL

## Flute Solo

Jordi Banitt

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

## Offering Prayer

A: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

## C: Amen

† Great Thanksgiving Page 206

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 207

Acclamation Page 207

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." Page 208

Lamb of God Page 208

## Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and 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: Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

## C: Amen

# SENDING

## Blessing

Sending Hymn *"The church's one foundation"* ELW #654

## Dismissal

**A:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**The Memorial Book Is Open Today to the Glory of God**

**In Memory of:**

*Sandra Hansen, 2021*

**READINGS AND PSALM**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
 Psalm 62:5-12  
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Mark 1:14-20



*“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 7, 2024**  
**Epiphany of our Lord**

ATTENDANCE — 47  
 (IN-PERSON— 45 , ZOOM - 2)

*Thankfully offered*

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$ 2,295.15
Building	\$ 30.00
Memorial	\$ 0.00
Other	\$ 20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,345.15</b>

**Serving January 14, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Allena Sperry
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Sean Jeffery
Ushers	Amanda & Sean Jeffery
Altar Guild	Geri Regnier Lisa Pettit

**Serving January 21, 2024**

Opener/Closer	Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Rachel Zarnke
Communion Assistant	Geri Regnier
Lector	Shannon Gardner
Ushers	Bill Wallace Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry Donna Doughty



# *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  
Persecuted Christians  
The ministries of  
St. Matthew  
Presiding Bishop  
Elizabeth Eaton  
Bishop Kevin  
Strickland  
Southeastern Synod  
Staff  
Pastor Taylor Burton  
Edwards  
Laura Alexander  
Zocia Barr family  
Keandra Bashful  
Carol Bingemann  
Dave Bonaker  
Pat Bonaker  
Eva Brown  
Betty Davidson  
Ken Hoag  
Myrna Hoag  
Bennie Jackson  
Mairetha Jackson  
Marga Miller  
Traudel Mosely

Debby Owen  
Dorothy Redden  
Connie Sieg  
Joan Smith  
Jim Sperry  
Carla Stickles  
Albert VanHousen II  
Margarete Walsh  
Monika Wright  
Gary Anderson  
Judy Bultman  
Kyle Carter  
Jim Chappel  
Jean Clemmons  
Xavier Danguilan  
Brandy Garnett  
Becky Goldsmith  
Estrella Gonzales  
Doris Grier  
Petra Henderson  
Beverly Huckaby  
Norma Kilby  
Ken Korn  
Boyd Lester  
Laura Lester  
Robert Lowe  
Michelle Matthias  
Tim Moore

Gary Nearhoof  
Kimberly O'Malley  
Michael Owen  
Angela Paul  
Vincent Pawlowski  
Dwight Redmond  
Tiffany Richardson  
Dayna Ryan  
Yuliia Savitska  
Shirley Scott  
Ricky Skinner  
Betty Townsend  
Charlie VanHousen  
Dawn VanHousen  
Martha Zimmerman

Libya  
Maui  
Morrocco  
Israel  
Ukraine  
Gaza

Hollywood Barber Shop  
Days Inn  
The Cell Plug  
Enterprise  
Plaza Furniture

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.  
Deadline for February newsletter is January 20.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to St. Matthew:** Jesus Christ offers himself to all. May you be blessed as we celebrate God's love for us. All the baptized are invited to feast with us at the Lord's Table. The wearing of a mask is optional during worship and social distancing is recommended. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday.

**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 4 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:**

- **Mission Focus:** Tackle Hunger - collecting canned goods for Brown Bag of Columbus which provides supplemental groceries to low income elderly age 62 or over.
- Lion's Club: Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones
- Ronald McDonald house: Pop tabs
- Flags to Retire: Bring used American flags that you no longer want or need.
- St. Anne's: Personal hygiene products (travel size), toilet paper, and non-perishable food items

Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex between bathrooms.

**Remembrance Gathering:** Please come to the Remembrance Gathering Tuesday, January 16th at 3:00 PM in the Church House. The gathering is an open invitation to members of our congregation to come together and share personal stories or recollections of someone else's life. We began with stories of World War II and our goal for 2024 is to expand our sharing to include all wars and conflicts.

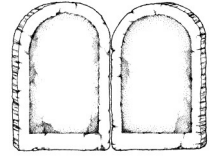
**Spending Plan:** Our Spending Plan for 2024 isn't fully funded yet. If you haven't made a commitment yet, please pick up a green pledge card in the Narthex and return to the basket. Your generous commitment to support the ministries of St. Matthew in 2024, is appreciated no matter how large or small.

**Time and Talent Sheet:** It's a New Year and you may be wondering how you can be involved in church activities? Pick up a Time and Talent sheet in the Narthex, fill it out, and return it to the church in the offering plate. There is no age requirement or limit for being involved!

## *Save the Date*

- January 16th 3:00 PM -Remembrance Gathering Church House
- January 17th 6:00 PM-Ten Commandments Study-Luther Hall
- January 18th 5:00 PM - Council Meeting - Church House
- January 19th 9:00 AM - Growing in Grace
- January 26th 9:00 AM - Growing in Grace

Please come join us for a study of the Ten Commandments led by Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Pastor Taylor. This study will be on Wednesdays, beginning on Wednesday, January 17th at 6:00 PM in Luther Hall. We would love to have you join us!



**TACKLE  
HUNGER  
AT THE  
SOUPER BOWL!**

**FEBRUARY  
18, 2024  
12:00 PM  
FOLLOWING  
CHURCH IN  
LUTHER HALL**

***PLEASE  
DONATE YOUR  
NON-PERISHABLE  
ITEMS TO HELP  
US TACKLE  
HUNGER!  
LET'S GET TO  
THE END ZONE!***

**Dear Heavenly Father**, you will not leave us without a blessing. Wrestle with your church and renew it for the sake of the world. Preserve our life in you, so that we faithfully name you before the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## **St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement**



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

### **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](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)

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)

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

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music  
Penny Davis, Nursery Director