



ST. MATTHEW

# Messenger

*Celebrating* 69 *years*

*The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - December 2025*

## Looking to Our Past and to Our Future

As we look back on 2025 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, it is important to express our gratitude to God, our Father, as we reflect on the many ways, we have experienced His presence, love, and protection in the past year. Let us take time to "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; and His love endures forever (1 Chronicles 16:34). We have experienced spiritual growth within our congregation. We have also experienced growth in our outreach to our community. God is at work right here where we live. We never know who God will bring into our community here at St. Matthew, or the community in which live and work. May we provide comfort to all who come seeking God's guidance.

Many of our brothers and sisters have made it possible for St. Matthew to thrive this year. Pastor Taylor has provided our foundation, as well as Church Council, Worship and Music Committee, Altar Guild, Choir, streaming operators, and many others who have provided expertise and institutional knowledge in many areas. Our church has been made safer, more accessible, and more pleasing to the eye for everyone.

As we work to serve God as individuals and as a congregation, the tasks God has called us do are best done with each other. May we use the skills that God has granted us to achieve the outcome that points us to God.

As we gather to pray with and for one another, we will live out our faith in our community sharing with others what God has done for us. May we then love, serve, and invite others into a relationship with Christ, our Savior.

Looking forward to 2026 and the celebration of St. Matthew's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we must never forget those who came before us. They provided us with a spiritual foundation and physical location in which we may praise God. We will continue focus on our heritage as we continue to expand our spiritual growth and continue to make necessary repairs and upgrades to our house of worship. May God guide us in our service to our community.

May we continue to move forward as we plot our course for 2026. May we continue to trust our God who holds the map.

*Allena Sperry*  
Council President



# 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 7th at 6 PM in Luther Hall

## **Chair Yoga**

Chair Yoga will resume meeting in the new year! Have a blessed holiday season!

## **CRAF-TEA**

The Craf-Tea group will meet on 12/19 from 10-12:00 in Luther Hall. Tea and a light snack will be provided. Come to visit and bring a project you are working on or work on a project for the church. Contact Linnea Grosse at (706) 392-8697 for more information.



Please join us for practice on Thursday, December 11th at 5:30 PM. We would love to have you join us!

# MISSION FOCUS



The response to Operation Christmas Child and Wynnton Neighborhood Network was AMAZING!

Thanks for your generosity to those in need near and far.

**THANK YOU** FOR PACKING SHOEBOXES!

We appreciate your partnership in bringing great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to boys and girls in need around the world. Each shoebox you packed will communicate God's love to a child and their family, reinforcing the message of eternal hope shared with them by our local ministry partners. Please join us in celebrating that more than 220 million children in over 170 countries and territories have received a gift-filled shoebox and more than 50 million of these recipients have been disciplined through programs such as The Greatest Journey. We praise God for each life transformed by the Gospel!

May God bless you,

*Franklin Graham*  
Franklin Graham | President, Samaritan's Purse

"Believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."  
—JOHN 20:31

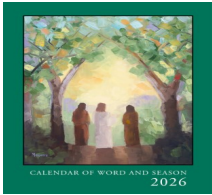


Our Warming Tree stands in the Narthex awaiting us to decorate it with our gifts of new warm clothing such as socks, mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for adults and children. We will take donations thru December 14th. We will deliver our gifts of love to Freedom House, Trinity House, Faith House, and Brown Bag of Columbus. You can make a monetary donation if you do not want to shop. Please make sure to put "Warming Tree" on the memo line of your check.



Join us December 4th at 9:00 am at the St Thomas Outreach Center to pack WNN care packages for those in need this holiday season.

# GETTING READY FOR THE SEASON



2026 Calendar of Word and Season is now on sale thru the end of the year. Please see Allena Sperry if you want to purchase a calendar for \$13. Please make checks payable to St. Matthew.

## ADVENT LUNCHES

MONDAYS IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 8, & 15

NOON TO 1 PM IN THE

PARISH HALL AT

Help the Church Get  
Ready for  
Christmas!

Christmas Tree  
Decorating

December 6th, 2025  
at 10 AM



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will be decorating our Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve services, Wednesday, December 24, 2025. You may purchase the poinsettias through the Altar Guild.

Remembrances will be noted in our worship bulletin on Christmas Eve. If you wish to offer a plant(s) for Christmas, please complete the form and return to the Church or place in the offering plate. The cost of the plants is \$15.00 each. Make checks payable to St. Matthew and write 'poinsettias' on your check. Payment must be received at the time of the order.

Orders are due by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025.**

Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God by (Please Print Clearly)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Plants \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15 per plant)





# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES



## Midweek Worship

Wednesday 5:30 PM

December 3, 10, 17



## Weihnacht Service

Sunday, December 14

3:00 PM



## Christmas Eve

Holy Communion Service

Wednesday, December 24

7:00 PM



## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

11/30	Hicks Family
12/7	Gates Family
12/14	Marga Miller & Raymond Lawton
12/21	Rose Johnson & Children
12/24	Gardner Family



# HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

1 RANDALL CRAVEN	24 BRANDON KONNOW
4 JONATHAN THIES	25 IAN JEFFERY
20 CONNOR GLAU	26 ZAIGA MION
21 LINDSAY BROWN RATLIFF	27 KATHY SKELLY
23 PATTY CHAPPEL	29 DAVID ALLEN





**AVAILABLE**

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?**

If you want to review Council Meeting minutes, please contact the office!

## Finance Committee Report

	October 2025	Year to Date
Income	\$12,482	\$126,822
Expenses	\$11,434	\$182,748
Difference	\$1,048	\$(55,926)



## 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 Mosely  
Debby Owen  
Dorothy Redden  
Gary Anderson  
Eric & Tinisha Bryant  
Jean Clemmons  
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  
Terry Pendergraff  
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  
Kerr County, Texas  
Jamaica  
Philippines

# Hello December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	2  Bible Study 10:15 am FH	3  Mid-week Worship 5:30 pm	4  Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - FH	5	6 -Decorate Chrismon Tree 10:00 AM  Special Olympics 12:30-3:30 LH
7 - Second Sunday Of Advent  Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion	8  Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	9  Bible Study 10:15AM FH	10  Mid-week Worship 5:30 pm	11 German Klub 5:30 LH Choir Rehearsal 5:30 AA/Al-Anon Business Meeting 6:30-8:30 Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	12 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH	13
14- Third Sunday Of Advent  Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion Weihnacht Service 3:00 pm	15  Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	16  Bible Study 10:15AM FH	17  Mid-week Worship 5:30 pm	18 Council Meeting 5:00 PM-FH  Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	19  Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH	20
21- Fourth Sunday Of Advent  Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion	22  Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	25- Christ mas Day  Merry Christmas	26  Office Closed	27
28 - First Sunday of Christmas Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion	29  Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	30  Office Closed	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

**Office closed December 25-January 2 for the holidays.**

### 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**  
**Nursery Attendant**  
**Sexton**

**Sandra Nearhoof**  
**Penny Davis**  
**Lisa Pettit**

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Lutheran Church  
4026 Macon Road  
Columbus, GA 31907

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED