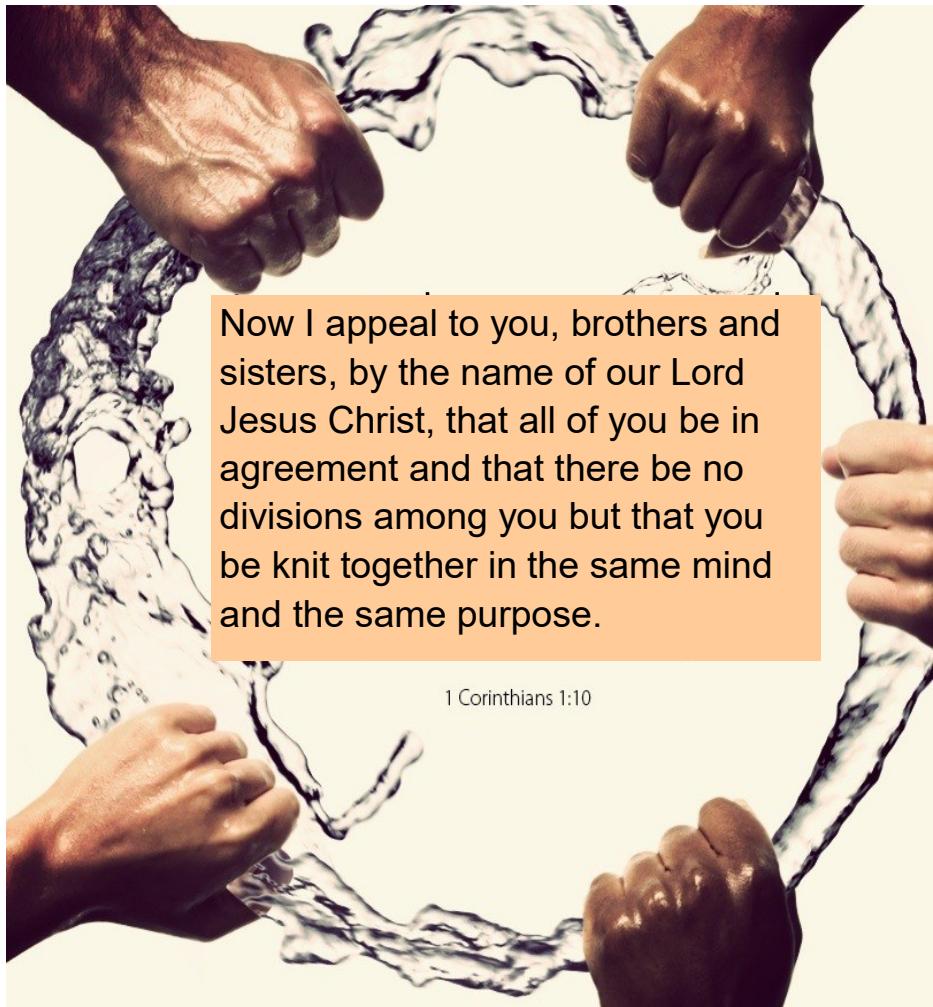


St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose.

1 Corinthians 1:10

Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 25, 2026

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

Prelude

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: **And also with you.**

P: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

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 *"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"*

ELW #645

Kyrie

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Gloria

Page 204

Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Katherine Kelly

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the

Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Tone 9

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then I shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I I be afraid?
⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one I thing I seek;**
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to
gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God I in the temple.
⁵ For in the day of trouble God will I give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- I on a
rock.
⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies I who surround me.**
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I
will sing and make music I to the LORD.
⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, I when I call;
have mercy on me and I answer me.
⁸ **My heart speaks your message— I “Seek my face.”**
Your face, O LORD, I I will seek.
⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- I vant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of I
my salvation.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. ¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

+ Gospel Acclamation

Page 205

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. ²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *“Dealing with Factions”* Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day *“Help Us Accept Each Other”* See Insert

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

Installation of Officers

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

A: Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. 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: Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Anthem

“I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light”

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

 Great Thanksgiving	Page 206
Holy, Holy, Holy	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.
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: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

“Beloved, God’s Chosen”

ELW #648

Dismissal

A: Go forth to love and serve God and every neighbor.

C: Thanks be to God.



The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Anneliese Schwarting, 2023



ST. MATTHEW
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

WELCOME TO
Our Church Family

We welcome our new members:
Isabelle Clark
Amber Johns
Jutta Ashley
Shirley Ashley

**WE ARE SO BLESSED THAT YOU CHOSE ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH AS YOUR CHURCH HOME!**

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12



"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 18, 2026
Second Sunday after Epiphany

ATTENDANCE — 47

(IN-PERSON — 28, YOUTUBE - 19)

2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	4,870.00
Building	\$	0.00
Memorial	\$	50.00
Other	\$	500.00
Total	\$	5,420.00

St. Matthew Lutheran Church (ELCA) will not engage in any act or public statements to endorse or oppose any candidate for public office.

Serving January 25, 2026

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Amy Hoag
Lector	Terri Niederhammer
Ushers	Katherine Kelly
	James Sperry
Altar Guild	Lane Brown
	Martha Vargas
	Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

Serving February 1, 2026

Opener/Closer	Bill Wallace
Worship Assistant	Dave Bonaker/Raymond Lawton
Communion Assistant	Amy Hoag
Lector	Shannon Gardner
Ushers	James Sperry
	Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Lane Brown
	Rose Johnson
	Catherine Sayers
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."

5:16-18

—1 Thessalonians

The Armed Forces, their families, and victims of war	Sandy Gibbs	
	Moses Glidden	
	Estrella Gonzales	Venezuela
The ministries of St. Matthew	Renee Good Family	Gaza
Bishop Yehiel Curry	Doris Grier	Palestinian People
Bishop Kevin Strickland	Grigsby Family	Israel
Southeastern Synod Staff	Laura Jett	Ukraine
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards	Norma Kilby	People of Russia
Pastor Rachel Zarnke	Ken Korn	Jamaica
St Matthew Congregational Council	Emma Kump	Philippines
Laura Alexander	Robert Lowe	Hong Kong
Carol Bingemann	David & John Lucas	Thailand
Isabelle Clark	Michelle Matthias	Indonesia
Randy Craven	Brady Meeks	Somali Refugees
Myrna & Ken Hoag	Lynne Meinhold	Flood victims in Washington
Marga Miller	Tim Moore	Brown University
Charlotte Moore	Debi Nelson	Jewish community in Australia
Traudel Moseley	Vincent Pawlowski	People of Minneapolis
Debby Owen	Beth Price	People of Portland
Dorothy Redden	Mark Purushotham	Beth Israel Congregation in Jackson, Mississippi
Gary Anderson	Tiffany Richardson	
Eric & Tinisha Bryant	Dayna Ryan	Sunset Finance
Jean Clemons	Shirley Scott	Diamond Kutz
Nancy Edmundson	Dou Shizhen	Kee J's
Lynne Funck	Ricky Skinner	Acceptance Auto
Brandy Garnett	Amanda Steinagel	Phuong's Tailor Shop
	Sara Steinagel Sturgis	Walgreen's
	Fred Turpin	
	Charlie VanHousen	
	Dawn VanHousen	
	Martha Zimmerman	

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.

Mission Outreach 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
- Brown Bag: Travel size toiletries
- SafeHouse/St. Benedict's Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals)

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 and discuss the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet on the 4th 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 Luther Hall. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

Save the Date

- January 26th - 11:00 am - Chair Yoga - Luther Hall
- January 27th -10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- January 28th - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- January 29th - 9:00 - Care Bag Packing
- February 1st - After Worship - Tackle Hunger Potluck - Luther Hall
- February 8th - 12:00-Memorial Committee Meeting
- February 10th - 4:00-Finance Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall



Interfaith Bible Study on King David continues each Wednesday at 6 PM in Luther Hall led by Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards.



Thanks to your generosity, Wynnton Neighborhood Network was able to assist 5950 families with food and 682 families with utility payment assistance in 2025!



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

January Birthdays

2 David Gardner	8 Kenneth Hoag
2 Quinn Snellings	10 Nancy Gates
3 Amber Johns	10 Jackson Howes
3 Connie Newman Goodman	16 Dorothy Redden
4 Pastor Shirley Redmond	17 Bruce Clemens
5 Abigayle Ratliff	17 Valerie Stickles
	21 Evelyn Pettit
	21 Kinsey Williams
	28 Pastor Rachel Barnke

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.matthewlutheranchurch4457streams>

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

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music
Penny Davis, Nursery Director