

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
February 8, 2026

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. Jesus calls his followers the light of the world and encourages them to let the light of their good works shine before others. And we, says Paul, have the mind of Christ.

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 10, page 203)

† 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

*“Come Down, O Love Divine”*

**ELW #804**

Kyrie

Page 203

Gloria

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Prayer of the Day:

P. Let us pray,

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. **Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD

Children’s Message

Amy Hoag

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 59:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced

righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. <sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup>You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? <sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. <sup>9a</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” <sup>9b</sup>If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

**Psalm 112:1-10**

**Tone 9**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD  
and have great delight in <sup>1</sup> God’s commandments!  
<sup>2</sup> **Their descendants will be mighty <sup>1</sup> in the land;**  
**the generation of the upright <sup>1</sup> will be blessed.**  
<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be <sup>1</sup> in their house,  
and their righteousness will <sup>1</sup> last forever.  
<sup>4</sup> **Light shines in the darkness <sup>1</sup> for the upright;**  
**the righteous are merciful and full <sup>1</sup> of compassion.**  
<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be gener- <sup>1</sup> ous in lending  
and to manage their af- <sup>1</sup> fairs with justice.  
<sup>6</sup> **For they will nev- <sup>1</sup> er be shaken;**  
**the righteous will be kept in everlast- <sup>1</sup> ing remembrance.**  
<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any <sup>1</sup> evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting <sup>1</sup> in the LORD.  
<sup>8</sup> **Their heart is established and <sup>1</sup> will not shrink,**  
**until they see their desire up- <sup>1</sup> on their enemies.**  
<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands <sup>1</sup> fast  
forever; they will hold up their <sup>1</sup> head with honor.  
<sup>10</sup> **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and <sup>1</sup> pine**  
**away; the desires of the wick- <sup>1</sup> ed will perish.**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-12, 16

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. <sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory <sup>8</sup>and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—<sup>10</sup>God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. <sup>16</sup>"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

† Gospel Acclamation

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**Gospel**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

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

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

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. <sup>14</sup>"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon "Having the Mind of Christ" Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"

**ELW #722**

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**

*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: Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ.  
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: Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love.  
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                      *"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"*                      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**      *“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”*

**ELW #551**

**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:**

*Sarah Garrett, 2021*

# THANK YOU!

Tackle hunger lunch was enjoyed by 33 attendees and \$195.00 was collected. Monetary contributions and food will be collected the month of February. All food and monetary donations benefit Brown Bag of Columbus.

**READINGS AND PSALM**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

Exodus 24:12-18  
 Psalm 2  
 2 Peter 1:16-21  
 Matthew 17:1-9



*“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*

**February 1, 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

ATTENDANCE — 56  
 (IN-PERSON— 41, YOUTUBE - 15  
 2026 BUDGET-\$185,981

**OFFERING**

Benevolence	\$	3,895.00
Building	\$	255.00
Memorial	\$	50.00
Other	\$	190.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,390.00</b>

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

**Serving February 8, 2026**

Opener/Closer	Rose Johnson
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Terri Niederhammer
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Ushers	Katherine Kelly
	James Sperry
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates
	Terri Niederhammer
	Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

**Serving February 15, 2026**

Opener/Closer	Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Lisa Pettit
Communion Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Lector	Terri Niederhammer
Ushers	Matt Pettit
	James Sperry
Altar Guild	Lisa Pettit
	Allena Sperry
	Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Jaxson Gardner

# *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  
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  
Lynne Funck  
Brandy Garnett

Sandy Gibbs  
Moses Glidden  
Estrella Gonzales  
Renee Good Family  
Doris Grier  
Grigsby Family  
Laura Jett  
Norma Kilby  
Ken Korn  
Emma Kump  
Robert Lowe  
David & John Lucas  
Michelle Matthias  
Brady Meeks  
Lynne Meinhold  
Tim Moore  
Debi Nelson  
Vincent Pawlowski  
Beth Price  
Mark Purushotham  
Tiffany Richardson  
Dayna Ryan  
Savage Family  
Shirley Scott  
Dou Shizhen  
Ricky Skinner  
Amanda Steinagel  
Sara Steinagel Sturgis  
Fred Turpin  
Charlie VanHousen  
Dawn VanHousen  
Martha Zimmerman

Venezuela  
Gaza  
Palestinian People  
Israel  
Ukraine  
People of Russia  
Somali Refugees  
Jewish community in  
Australia  
People of Minneapolis  
Beth Israel Congregation in  
Jackson, Mississippi  
Family of Alex Pretti  
Eastern Congo  
People of Nigeria  
  
USPS  
Peachtree Immediate Care  
Hidden Lake Bottle Shop  
Beauty Queen  
Brewster's  
Waffle House

# 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**

- February 8th - 12:00-Memorial Committee Meeting
- February 10th - 4:00-Finance Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall
- February 11th - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study- Luther Hall
- February 15th - 5:00 - Contemplative Service @ St. Thomas
- February 17th - 5:30 - Shrove Tuesday at St Thomas
- February 18th - 5:30 - Ash Wednesday Service
- February 19th - 5:00 - Council Meeting
- February 25th - 5:30 - Midweek Lenten Service
- February 25th - 6:00 - Choir Practice
- February 27th - 10:00 - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall

# LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

18  
FEBRUARY

ASH WEDNESDAY  
5:30 PM

25  
FEBRUARY

MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE  
5:30 PM

4,11,  
18,25  
MARCH

MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE  
5:30 PM

2  
APRIL

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE  
7:00 PM

3  
APRIL

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE  
7:00 PM

4  
APRIL

HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE  
10:00 AM



ST MATTHEW EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
4026 MACON ROAD  
COLUMBUS, GA 31907

CONTEMPLATIVE  
WORSHIP



Join us at St Thomas  
Episcopal Church  
2100 Hilton Ave  
Columbus, GA

February 15th  
Contemplative  
Worship Service at 5:00  
pm

February 17th  
Shrove Tuesday  
at 5:30 pm -Please call  
or email office if you  
plan to attend as we  
have to provide a count  
to St. Thomas.

## Shrove Tuesday



St Thomas Episcopal Church  
5:30 PM, FEBRUARY 17, 2025

## February BIRTHDAYS

1 SHANNON GARDNER  
20 MATT BONAKER  
21 SANDRA CRAVEN  
21 ISABELLE CLARK  
24 CHARLOTTE OWEN  
28 PENNY DAVIS

# 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](https://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](mailto:twbe@liturgyfolks.com)

Phone: (765) 602-1426

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)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@st.matthewlutheranchurch4457/streams>

The Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards, Pastor

Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director