St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

Holy Communion *(ELW Setting 7, page 175)*
Evangelical Lutheran Worship

†*Congregation stands as able*

Gathering

Prelude Sandra Nearhoof

†

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives us all our sins, whose mercy endures forever.
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
"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" **ELW #632**

Kyrie Page 175

Prayer of the Day:
P. Let us pray,
O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message Amy Hoag

First Reading Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do
you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the
wall and was bitten by a snake. 20 Is not the day of the
Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness
in it? 21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no
delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 Even though you
offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will
not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your
fatted animals I will not look upon. 23 Take away from me
the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of
your harps. 24 But let justice roll down like water and
righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Psalm 70 **Tone 2**

[1] Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O Lord, make | haste to help me.
[2] **Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and | be disgraced.
[3] Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
[4] **Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the Lord!"
[5] But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, | do not tarry.

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
[15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.
[16] For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever.
[18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Gospel **Matthew 25:1-13**

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

Sermon *"Keep Awake"*
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

✝ Hymn of the Day
"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" **ELW #436**

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: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them….God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

A: You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
C: Amen.

The Peace Page 180

Meal

Anthem *"All Things Bright and Beautiful"* Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer
A: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

✝ Great Thanksgiving Page 180

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 181

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who…" Page182

Lamb of God Page 182

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: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Sending

Blessing

Sending Hymn
"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" **ELW #244**

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:

Scott Miller, Jr., 2013



A Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank you for birds that sing, Thank you for
friends and family who gather for Thanksgiving.
Thank you for a warm loving house hold,
Thank you for the bible stories we have told.
Thank you for friends that care,
Thank you when we wake up and you are there.
Thank you for the church we live in,
Thank you for the forgiveness of sin.
Thank you for sun and rain,
Thank you for wheat and grain.
Thank you for a nation that is free,
Thank you for our St. Matthew's church family.
Amen

aleks

Ecole

Brittney Garver

Super Sunday Nov. 2001

Rachel Loney

Jessica Garver

David

Katherina Muller

Rebecca Loney

Zachary

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL *Meeting*



St Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

NOV | 22nd | 2026

Right after the worship service!
Please help us celebrate 2026
and look forward to 2027!

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8, 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

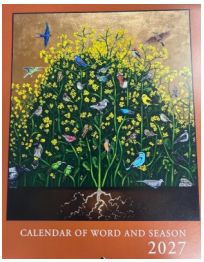


"The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me." —Martin Luther

November 1, 2026
All Saints Sunday
ATTENDANCE - 59
(IN-PERSON— 50, YOUTUBE - 8
2026 BUDGET-$185,981

OFFERING

Benevolence	$	2,495.00
Building	$	100.00
Other	$	100.00
Memorial*	$	150.00
Total	**$**	**2,845.00**



2027 Calendar of Word and Season available for sale. Calendars are $15. Please see Allena Sperry to purchase or you can email her at agsperry@bellsouth.net and let her know how many calendars you want. We only have 8 calendars - so first come, first served!

Serving November 8, 2026

Opener/Closer	Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant	Debra Jarzomkowski
Lector	Jordi Banitt
Communion Ushers	Jim Sperry & Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Terri Niederhammer
	Catherine Sayers
	Jaxson Gardner
Greeter	Isabelle Clark
Live Streaming	Matt Pettit

Serving November 15, 2026

Opener/Closer	Matt & Lisa Pettit
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Allena Sperry
Lector	Dave Bonaker
Communion Ushers	Randy & Sandy Craven
Altar Guild	Terri Niederhammer
	Allena Sperry
	Jaxson Gardner
Greeter	Isabelle Clark
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

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

Mario's Tire
Mariner Finance
Woodville Apartments
Beal Wellness

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 8th - After Service - Called Council Meeting
- November 9th - 11:00 AM - Chair Yoga - Fellowship Hall
- November 10th - 10:15 AM-Bible Study - CH-Study Room
- November 14th-10:00 am-Operation Christmas Child Packing-LH
- November 15th - After Service - Memorial Committee Meeteing
- November 15th-6:00 PM- WNN Unity Service-Living Grace Church
- November 17th-9:00 AM - WNN Care Packing
- November 17th-10:45AM-Bible Study-Church House-Study Room
- November 19th - 5:00 PM - Council Meeting
- November 20th - 10:00 AM - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- November 22nd - Annual Congregational Meeting-After worship

Wynnton Neighborhood Network needs your help for the holiday giveaways. Please bring the following food items that will serve 250 families at Thanksgiving and 250 at Christmas:

Cranberry sauce
Brownie Mix
Green Beans
Corn
Chicken broth (box or can)
Corn Bread Mix
Pumpkin Pie Mix
Stuffing
Canned Yams
Evaporated Milk
Cream of Mushroom Soup
Jelly
Macaroni and Cheese

Wynnton Neighborhood Network Unity Service

Sunday, November 15, 2026

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Living Grace Church
3969 Edgewood Circle
Shearith Israel Synagogue will offer the message this year. An offering will be received (food or money) to support the food pantry. Gather to give thanks for this holy partnership of people of faith and for the multiplied impact we have together.



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