



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

Celebrating

68
years

The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - January 2025

Welcome to Ordinary Time 2025, Part 1!

This Sunday, January 5, we'll celebrate Epiphany, marking the close of Christmas Season. And that brings us to the first of two Ordinary Times in the church year. (The other occurs from Trinity Sunday through Christ the King).

Ordinary Time may sound, well, ordinary—regular, usual, perhaps even unexciting or boring.

But in the church year, Ordinary Time refers to a period of the calendar in which the Sundays are named by “ordinal” numbers—first, second, third, and so on—after a significant event in the calendar cycle. Starting January 7, we are in Ordinary Time after Epiphany. This means that January 12, when we also celebrate the Baptism of our Lord and therein re-affirm our own baptismal promises, will be The First Sunday after Epiphany.

Some things during this season will be “regular.” We'll use one of the most familiar musical settings, Setting 4, but with its version of This Is the Feast instead of the Gloria in Excelsis. After January 19, we'll be working in an orderly way through Luke chapters 4-6, one section at a time. Starting January 12, we'll be back to the Apostles Creed for every Sunday except March 2, Transfiguration of our Lord, which concludes the season. And the color of these Sundays, except for the first and the last of them, will be green.

We'll also be pursuing one of the regular themes of this season— the invitation to discipleship to Jesus. (The other is “getting our own house in order,” focused on the Epistle readings for this season).

Our Tuesday Bible Study will also meet as usual at 10:15 a.m. in the Church House.

As we always do at this time of the year, we'll be “de-Christmasifying” the sanctuary—meet at the church at 10 a.m. on January 8 if you want to help.

And on January 12, we will resume our youth studies in the Social Statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

These regularities provide the foundation for several new things that will be happening during January and February.

On January 9, we have a special morning of service with Wynnton Neighborhood Network at the Outreach Center at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

On January 14, the Remembrance Gathering launches in its new quarterly format at the Church House at 3 p.m.

On January 15, and continuing through February 19, Rabbi Beth Schwartz and I will begin a new interfaith Bible Study, Micah: Words of Judgment, Words of Hope. This will be our first time working through an entire book of the Bible together. The study will meet in Luther Hall starting at 6 p.m.

On January 23, we'll be launching a new men's group at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall, which will then start meeting regularly on the fourth Thursday of each month. The group will focus on fellowship, spiritual sharing and growth, and service, with the goal of becoming a Lutheran Men in Mission chapter in time.

And coming soon, either in January or February, Terry Niederhammer will be starting a series of Chair Yoga classes in the fellowship hall on Mondays—time and starting date to be determined.

So, far from just ordinary, this Ordinary Time provides many new opportunities for us to be engaged in our discipleship and to invite others to join us to learn what it means to live as his disciples.

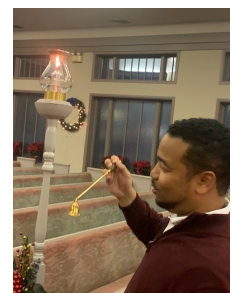
Peace in Christ,
Pastor Taylor

Christmas was beautiful at St. Matthew!

First we decorated



Then we worshiped





*James Tissot:
Prophet Micah,
1896.
Public Domain*

Interfaith Bible Study

Micah: Words of Judgment, Words of Hope
Jewish and Christian Understandings



Rabbi Beth Schwartz



The Rev. Taylor W Burton
Edwards

*Hosted by St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
Luther Hall, 4026 Macon Road
6:00 p.m. Wednesdays starting January 15*

January 15: Micah 1
January 22: Micah 2
January 29: Micah 3
February 5: Micah 6
February 12: Micah 4-5
February 19: Micah 7

For More Information rabbibeth@gmail.com or twbe@liturgyfolks.com

**Come join us as
we explore the book of Micah**

January Mission Focus

January is our assigned Wynnton Neighborhood Network food collection month. We are collecting for WNN the following items:

- Canned Veggies: Sweet peas, corn, carrots, green beans, black beans
- Canned Meat: Chicken, ham, tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Spaghetti sauce and noodles
- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned tomato products
- Peanut butter and Jelly
- Soup
- Rice
- Cereals
- Monetary donations

New service opportunity at Wynnton Neighborhood Network. We will be packing care bags at 9am, January 9 and February 27, 2025 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church outreach center (back of church). Please let Allena Sperry know if you will be participating at agsperry@bellsouth.net or 706-563-3107.

Thank you for December Mission Focus

Our 2024 Warming Tree was setup in the Narthex Sunday, November 24th in conjunction with celebrating Thanksgiving. The Tree was blessed and lit Sunday, December 1st as part of our Advent Celebration. It wasn't very long before the Tree was covered with the traditional new items of warm clothing (scarves, hats, mittens, gloves and socks) for children of all ages and adults. This year we honored a request for specifically warm underwear. These we accepted in their original packaging. On December 18th, we sorted, packaged in holiday bags and delivered our donations to the Safe House, Damascus Way, and was able to spread the warmth to Valley Rescue through a generous financial contribution. Each bag also contained an open invitation to anyone who would like to join us in celebration of Christmas Eve in the church Tuesday, December 24th at 7pm. These items we donated are not all that these folks need. Yet, they are the items they specifically requested just to get by. The recipient's were extremely appreciative and wanted to relay their gratitude to our church family. Perhaps, in spreading the warmth we have also lifted not only their spirits but ours as well. Thank you for your generosity.

Zocia Barr



SMALL GROUPS

CRAF-TEA

Meets every Friday from 10:00-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. Join us in fellowship and friendship on Friday mornings. 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 Beth Hoag at 706-604-8110 for more information.

Bible Studies

Weekday Bible Study meets in the Church House from 10:15 - 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday reading and discussing the scriptures for the coming Sunday.

Interfaith study of the book of Micah - Wednesdays at 6:00 PM in Luther Hall beginning January 15th thru February 19th.

Men's Group

New Men's group meeting the 4th Thursday of each month beginning January 23rd at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.



Chair Yoga classes with Terri Niederhammer. These will be starting in January or February! Watch for more information to come!

Our family would like to send our deepest thanks to the members that supported our Mother, Grandmother/Oma in preparing and graciously executing all the tasks involved in our father/Gramps/Opa's service and reception. We are heart-varmed and grateful for your generous time and efforts. God Bless You!!!

-The Neerhoffs
O'Malley's
and Cobbs

Finance Committee Report

	November 2024	Year to Date
Income	\$ 9,864	\$146,433
Expenses	\$11,654	\$159,747
Difference	\$(1,790)	\$(13,314)



All Saints

Margarete Walsh



Prayer Requests

The Armed Forces, their families, & victims of war
Persecuted Christians
The ministries of St. Matthew
Bishop Kevin Strickland
Southeastern Synod Staff
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards
St Matthew Congregational Council

Laura Alexander
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Pat Bonaker
Betty Davidson
Ken Hoag
Myrna Hoag
Bennie Jackson
Mairetha Jackson
Sean Jeffery
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Terri Niederhammer
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg
Carla Stickles
Albert VanHousen II
Harold Vinson
James Anderson
Roger Anderson
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
George Capps
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan

Penny Davis & Family
Brandy Garnett
Mike Gewin
Moses Glidden
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra Henderson
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Melissa Lancheros
Boyd Lester
Laura Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Nearhoof family
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Bill Rahm
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Amanda Steinagel
Betty Townsend
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

January Birthdays

2 David Gardner	10 Nancy Gates
3 Connie Newman	13 Duncan Jeffery
4 Rev. Shirley Redmond	16 Dorothy Redden
5 Abigayle Ratliff	17 Bruce Clemens
6 Jason Allen	17 Valerie Stickles
8 Kenneth Hoag	27 Evelyn Pettit



Business Prayer Requests

Mr. Pizza
Quality Inn
Smoke Buddy's
Days Inn
Enterprise
Guthrie's
Octapharma Plasma
Kamoree's Beauty Salon
Broken Tarot Tattoo & Piercing
Beaute' Matrix
5 Fourteen
DQ
Freedom Adult Day Center
Transformation Salon
Pathway Worship Center
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
The Ellands Event Center
Chevron
Grace Apostolic Church
#1 Nails
Rooster's Beer & Wine
Mario's Tire
Mariner Finance

Gold Teeth World
Apparel King & More
Hollywood Barber Shop
The Cell Plug
Master-Kleen
Title Max
JD Wings
Burger King
Animal General Hospital
Klose Kutz
Xpert Tax Service
Family Worship Center
Bi-City Driving School
Sunset Finance
Diamond Kutz
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
Woodville Apartments
Beal Wellness

Hello
JANUARY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!	2	3	4
5 Epiphany Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Communion Birthday/Anniversary Celebration	6 AA 8:00 PM - LH	7 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH Girl Scouts 6-8 PM - FH	8 Remove Chrismon Decorations - 10:00 AM	9 PACK CARE BAGS AT ST. THOMAS - 9:00 GERMAN KLUB 5:30 AA 8:00 PM - FH	10 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH	11
12 Baptism of our Lord Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Communion	13 AA 8:00 PM - LH	14 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH Remembrance Gathering 3:00 - CH	15 INTERFAITH BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM - LH	16 COUNCIL MEETING 5:00 - FH AA 8:00 PM - LH	17 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH	18
19 Second Sunday of Epiphany Worship 10:30 AM Communion	20 AA 8:00 PM - LH	21 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH	22 INTERFAITH BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM - LH	23 AA 8:00 PM - LH	24 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH	25
26 Third Sunday of Epiphany Worship 10:30 AM Communion	27 AA 8:00 PM - LH	28 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH	29 INTERFAITH BIBLE STUDY 6:00 PM - LH	30	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

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
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED