

LARGE PRINT

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

† Congregation stands as able

GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P. Blessed be God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.
C. **And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever.
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.**

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

"Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding"

ELW #246

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Katherine Kelly

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10

Tone 3

¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to
shame, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are
treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

- ⁵Lead me in your ¹ truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all ¹ the day long.
- ⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- ¹ sion and love,
for they are from ¹ everlasting.**
- ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹ my
transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- ¹ ness, O LORD.
- ⁸**You are gracious and up- ¹ right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners ¹ in your way.**
- ⁹You lead the low- ¹ ly in justice
and teach the low- ¹ ly your way.
- ¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast ¹ love and
faithfulness to those who keep your covenant
and your ¹ testimonies.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

† Gospel Acclamation

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P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 21st Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man

coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴Be on guard

so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a

trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon *Take care* Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

† Hymn of the Day
"Lo, he comes with clouds descending"

ELW #435

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the
virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no
end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped**

**and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of
sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. .

A brief silence.

A: God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage those who advocate for policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another, especially through our Reaching Within ministry. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity within our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them...

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died especially Margarete Walsh. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Anthem “*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*” Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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.
and 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: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn *“The king shall come”* **ELW #260**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Margaret Fox, 2009



Within Reach will be providing meals to Charlotte and Joyce Moore in the month of December. Please select a date or dates that you would be willing to assist with that. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you have questions, please see Zocia Barr.

Operation Christmas Child was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who donated items, attended the work session and packing. We are spreading God's love to his children. Also, thanks for helping to keep our neighbors at Safe House warm with the coat and blanket donations!

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

Malachi 3:1-4
 Luke 1:68-79
 Philippians 1:3-11
 Luke 3:1-6



"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 24, 2024
Christ the King Sunday

ATTENDANCE — 71
 (IN-PERSON— 47, YOUTUBE - 24)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	978.50
Building	\$	0.00
Memorial	\$	0.00
Other	\$	335.00
Total	\$	1,313.50

Save the Date

- December 2, 9, 16th - 12:00 - Advent Lunches at St. Thomas
- December 4, 11, 18 - 5:30 - Advent Service
- December 7 - 10:00 - Chrismon Tree Decorating
- December 15 - 3:00 - German Christmas Service
- December 15 - 4:30 Lessons & Carols/Children's Pageant - St. Thomas

Serving December 1, 2024

Opener/Closer	Nancy Gates
Worship Assistant	Donna Doughty
Communion Assistant	Liz McGouirk
Lector	Amy Hoag
Ushers	Sandy Craven Randy Craven
Altar Guild	Rose Johnson Catherine Sayers
Live Streaming	Cecil McGouirk

Serving December 8, 2024

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Raymond Lawton
Ushers	Matt Pettit Jim Sperry
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates Terri Neiderhammer
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.”

5:16-18

—1 Thessalonians

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

Albert VanHousen II
Harold Vinson
Monika Wright
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
Van Henshaw
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Melissa Lancheros
Boyd Lester
Laura Lester
Valerie Karol Louder
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Nearhoof Family

Michael Owen
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Bill Rahm
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Betty Townsend
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

Israel
Ukraine
Gaza
Lebanon
Florida
Winder, GA
Augusta, GA
Western North Carolina

USPS
Beauty Queen
Peachtree Immediate Care
Brewster's
Hidden Lake Bottle Shop
Waffle House

Deadline for bulletins is **Tuesday 10:00 a.m.** prior to the Sunday.
Deadline for January newsletter is December 20.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to St. Matthew: Jesus Christ offers himself to all. May you be blessed as we celebrate God's love for us. All the baptized are invited to feast with us at the Lord's Table. The wearing of a mask is optional during worship and social distancing is recommended. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday.

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:

Mission Focus:

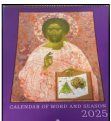
- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| | Warming Tree |
| • Lion's Club: | Glasses, sunglasses and old cell phones |
| • Family House of West GA: | Pop tabs |
| • Flags to Retire: | Bring used American flags that you no longer want or need. |
| • St. Anne's: | Personal hygiene products (travel size), toilet paper, and non-perishable food items |
| • Safe House | Sealed plastic utensils (take-out meals) |
- Leave donations in the labeled containers in the Narthex between bathrooms.

Craf-Tea: This group will meet Fridays 10:00-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. If you enjoy crafts and tea, this group is for you! Please see Beth Hoag for more information.

Our Commitment Sunday is December 15th for your pledge to be placed in the Church shaped box in the Narthex. This commitment will be your financial support toward our 2025 spending plan. In January, you will be able to commit your time and talents to our ministries.



We will be decorating the Christmas Trees on December 7th at 10:00 AM. Everyone is invited to join in the fun!



The 2025 Calendars are now available for \$10 each from Altar Guild members. Proceeds from the calendar sales will support purchases of worship supplies, including everything from communion wafers to palms for Palm Sunday.

December Mission Focus



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. The basket next to our tree is a new addition in response to the need of warm underwear for all ages (donated in original packaging). Our tree will be blessed and lit on December 1st as part of our Advent Celebration. We will take donations thru December 17th. We will deliver our gifts of love to Valley Rescue Women's and Children Center (Damascus Way). If you know of a specific need in our community that our donations can

fulfill, please contact Zocia or Rose. We don't know the strangers whose toes and fingers our donations warm, but we show the warm and caring heart of Christ as we send our love out into our community. Happy decorating!

Upcoming Services

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Midweek Worship
Wednesday 5:30 PM
December 4, 11, 18



Weinachts Service
Sunday, December 15
3:00 PM

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion Service
Tuesday, December 24
7:00 PM



We invite the congregation to join us on Friday, December 6th at 11:00 AM at Fort Moore as we gather together to honor and lay to rest Margarete Walsh.

Lessons & Carols & Children's Pageant followed by a Wassail Party in All Saints Hall of St. Thomas Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 15th at 4:30 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

ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4026 Macon Road, Columbus, Georgia 31907

(706) 561-3406 - Office Hours - Tues & Thurs 2:00-5:00 PM, Friday 9:00-1:00 PM

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards Email: twbe@liturgyfolks.com

Phone: (615) 742-5427

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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

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director