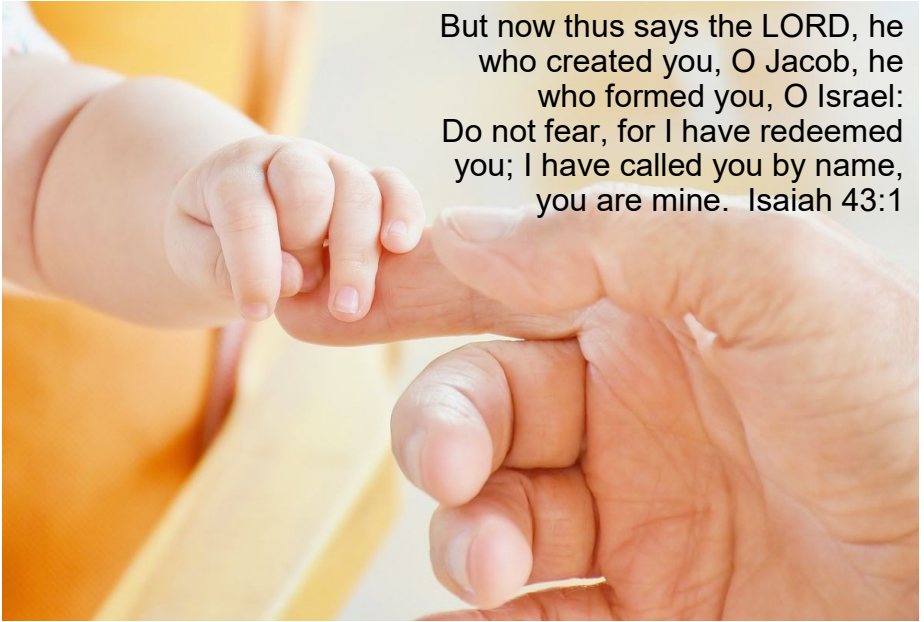


St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



But now thus says the LORD, he
who created you, O Jacob, he
who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed
you; I have called you by name,
you are mine. Isaiah 43:1

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW) Setting 7, page 175

† 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. Most merciful God,

C. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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, When for Us You Were Baptized"*

ELW #304

Kyrie

Page 175

Gloria

Page 176

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Children's Message

Amy Hoag

First Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29

Tone 1

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo-ry and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Second Reading

Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit

had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

L: The word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ Gospel Acclamation

Page 179

Gospel

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd Chapter.

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

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Baptismal Courage

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day

"How Firm a Foundation"

ELW #796

Affirmation of Baptism

Page 234

Profession of Faith

Page 235

Affirmation by the Assembly

Page 237

You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

A: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: hear our prayer.

A: You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints especially Margarete Walsh, whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Anthem

“When Jesus Came to Jordan “

Choir

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

A: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance of the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

C: Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving Page 180

Holy, Holy, Holy Page 181

Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..." Page 182

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: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food
and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good
news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of
Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn "Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen" **ELW #548**

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Christ is born!

C: Thanks be to God.

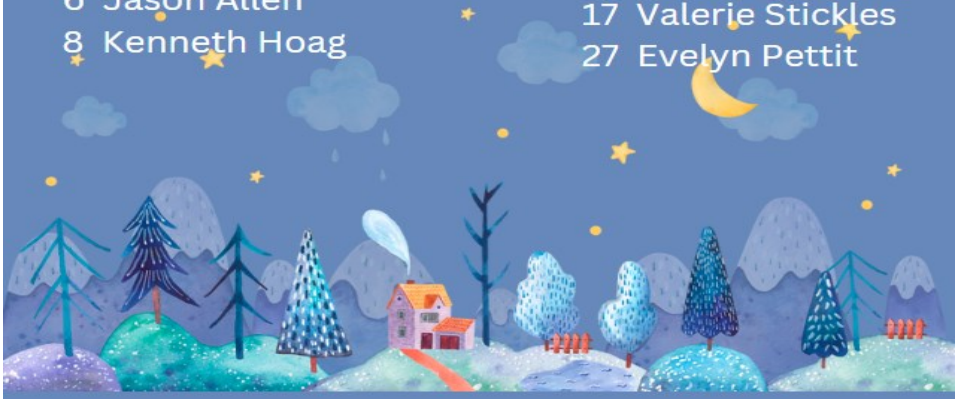
The Memorial Book is open today to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Sandra Sieg Hansen, 2021

January Birthdays

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



It's Time to let your Talent Shine

**YOUR
CHURCH
NEEDS
YOU!**



Wonder
where
you could
fit in?

**Fill out the Time &
Talent sheet and put it
in the little church!**

READINGS AND PSALM
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025

Isaiah 62:1-5
 Psalm 36:5-10
 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
 John 2:1-11



*"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 5, 2025
Epiphany Sunday

ATTENDANCE — 59

(IN-PERSON— 48, YOUTUBE - 11)

OFFERING

Benevolence	\$	2,890.00
Building	\$	30.00
Memorial	\$.00
Other	\$	10.00
Total	\$	2,930.00

Save the Date

- January 14th - 10:15 - Bible Study - Church House
- January 14th - 3:00 - Remembrance Gathering - Church House
- January 15th - 6:00 - Interfaith Bible Study - Luther Hall
- January 16th - 4:00 - Finance Meeting 5:00 Council Meeting
- January 17th - 10:00 AM - Craf-Tea - Luther Hall
- January 23rd - 5:30 - Men's Group - Fellowship Hall
- January 26th - During Worship - Installation of 2025 Council
- February 8th - 11:30 - Tackle Hunger - Luther Hall

Serving January 12, 2025

Opener/Closer	Katherine Kelly/ Terri Niederhammer
Worship Assistant	Shannon Gardner
Communion Assistant	Katherine Kelly
Lector	Cecil McGouirk
Ushers	Jim Sperry Bill Wallace
Altar Guild	Nancy Gates Terri Niederhammer
Live Streaming	Paul Hicks

Serving January 19, 2025

Opener/Closer	Nancy & Jeff Gates
Worship Assistant	Liz McGouirk
Communion Assistant	Raymond Lawton
Lector	Teri Niederhammer
Ushers	Jim Sperry Matt Pettit
Altar Guild	Allena Sperry Lisa Pettit
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.”

—1 Thessalonians

5:16-18

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
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 Stickle
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
Franklin Henderson
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

Israel
Ukraine
Gaza
Lebanon
Western North Carolina
New Orleans
Los Angeles

Days Inn
Enterprise
The Cell Plug
Guthrie's

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

Remembrance Gathering: Our quarterly Remembrance Gathering will be held on Tuesday, January 14th at 3:00 pm in the Church House. This will be a time to come together and share personal stories or recollections of someone else's experience of any conflicts or wars. For more information, please contact Zocia Barr at 706-330-1001.

New service opportunity at Wynnton Neighborhood Network. We will be packing care bags at 9am, 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.

New Men's group meeting the 4th Thursday of each month beginning January 23rd at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

January Mission Focus

January is our assigned Wynnnton 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

Warming Tree News!

A generous financial donation made it possible to provide 12 men at Valley Rescue warm underwear along with several pair of insulated socks. This donation allowed Valley Rescue to fulfill their wish list of needed items for 2024. Thank you for spreading the warmth.

Within Reach

A ministry of our church focused solely on members of our church family.

Within Reach focuses on the needs of our church family members. In the past, volunteers provided meal prep along with companionship. Do you need a ride to some of the small gatherings? Please let Zocia know how our church family can assist you.

For more information contact Zocia Barr at (706) 330-1001



Interfaith Bible Study beginning on January 15th and meeting each Wednesday thru February 19th. Micah: Words of Judgment, Words of Hope - Jewish and Christian Understandings. We hope to see you at 6:00 in Luther Hall for this study with Pastor Taylor and Rabbi Beth Schwartz.

James Tissot: Prophet Micah, 1896.
Public Domain

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: (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

Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music

Penny Davis, Nursery Director