

January, 2026

Unity

Behold, how good
and how pleasant it
is for brethren to dwell
together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

A Saint
Matthew
Missionary
Baptist
Church
Publication

Thursday, January 1

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

The time is
always right
to do
what is
right.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 19, 2026

Sundays

Sunday School
9:30am

Worship Service
10:45am

Wednesdays

**Youth Bible Study
and Activities**
(In Family Life Center)
5-6:30 p.m.

*(Please note: Youth
will not meet on 1/7)*

Adult Bible Study
(In Sanctuary)
6:30 p.m.

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¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:19-23

Let the Word of God Transform You

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

THE LOVE OF GOD I John 4:7-9

Rev. Edwin Washington, Associate Minister, Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

Love comes from God, and when we love one another, we reflect His nature and reveal His love made known through Jesus Christ. This love was fully demonstrated by Jesus, who not only spoke about love but lived it out by giving His life so that we could be saved.

God's love should be clearly seen in the church through the way we treat each other. Even when people come back after being away for a long time, they should feel welcomed and loved. The world is looking for something better than the chaos around them, and they will see God's love by how Christians act. Jesus commanded us to love one another, and that love shows that we are His followers. (John 13:34-35)

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. Because we are loved so completely and powerfully, we are called to live as more than conquerors—sharing that same love with one another and with the world. (Romans 8:37-38)

Submitted by Sister Tara Williams Sunday, November 30, 2025

LIGHT INTO DARKNESS/LIGHT IN A DARK SITUATION Isaiah 9:1-2

Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed her, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

In 1 John 1:4-5, you read a powerful testimony to the revelation of the Messiah, the Son of God. John said He shined in the darkness and the darkness comprehended Him not. The darkness of men's hearts has not changed. Man is very clever and Satan and has learned how to pollute the presence of Jesus Christ in the earth. The history of man is darkness. And in the history of man is the fact that he has always been in search of a deliverer. But they have always wanted a deliverer of their making and likeness. We see our need of a savior when we invented superheroes like Superman or Iron Man. The world knows it needs a savior. The world knows it needs a deliverer. If you are looking for a Savior then the Savior you are looking for is Jesus Christ to make America great.

GOD sent a Savior but they refuse Him. Because of His love for the House of David, God sent a sign letting Ahaz know that a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14) We see God as a caring redeemer.

It looks so bleak today that the godly needs reassurance that God is still on His throne. The Bible reminds us that God is on His throne. There is no need to worry about sexual immorality, homosexuality, drug addiction, alcoholism, hatred, etc..., because Jesus has already fixed it.

Christmas is about a God that sent His Son on a dark night into a dark day to save a dark world. He sent His only begotten Son. All we have to do is trust Him. So, don't worry about the future because God fixed it.

The world is on a down slope. It will get worse before it gets better. We are going to have to trust God and know that the words in the Bible are true and the child of God should never be shocked of things in this world. God has it all under control.

Submitted by Sister Bess Griffin Sunday, December 14, 2025

I NEED YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM WITH YOU **Isaiah 7:10-14**

10 Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11 "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above."

12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!"

13 Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

God wants you to know that you're never alone. God is always there. No matter how big your problems are or how heavy the burden, even if you don't feel Him, God is with you.

Even though Ahaz was an evil king and didn't do what was right, God was still with him. God still loved Ahaz. Ahaz wasn't seeking God but God was seeking Ahaz.

Ahaz found himself in a predicament. He was out there on his own, isolated, and had backed away from life in general. Ahaz had turned his back on God and forgot the promises God made to his father, King David. He didn't want to, but Ahaz needed to learn how to trust God. Instead, Ahaz wanted to do things his way.

Syria, the Northern 10 tribes of Israel, was coming against Judah, was going to take control of the land, and was going to do away with Ahaz. Ahaz got worried and agitated. However, instead of praying and calling on God, he called on Assyria.

Trusting God comes down to trusting what God says verses how you feel. It involves your ability and willingness to trust God's word. *John 14:7 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

If we trust God, He will prove Himself to us. God sent Isaiah to Ahaz to let Ahaz know that He was the one in control of Syria and the Northern Kingdom.

v11 Before Isaiah told Ahaz what God was going to do for him, God let Ahaz know that **God can do it!** He told Ahaz to just ask for a sign.

Too often God will show up in some situation and we'll say, "we were lucky," or we'll thank someone else. God will make Himself known, not just for Ahaz, but for all of us.

v12 Ahaz was still wanting to do his own thing. He wasn't ready to trust in God. It's foolish to know it's God, yet you still go in the opposite direction.

Isaiah 7:9 The head of Ephraim is Samaria, And the head of Samaria is Remaliah's son. If you will not believe, Surely you shall not be established." " God needs us to believe and trust Him. The enemy is moving in the direction to convince us that God isn't real. The only way to deal with life is to trust in God.

v14 This was to the folk around him., Ahaz wasn't paying attention. *Isaiah 8:8 He will pass through Judah, He will overflow and pass over, He will reach up to the neck; And the stretching out of his wings Will fill the breadth of Your land, O Immanuel.*

After Ahaz had rejected God, every now and then the folk would cry out. Hezekiah did what Ahaz didn't do and looked to the Lord. Hezekiah understood what it meant to have God on your side. *Deuteronomy 31:8 And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."*

God loves us so much. *John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams Sunday, December 7, 2025

THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH AND KING

Rev. Edwin Washington,
Associate Minister,
Saint Matthew
Missionary Baptist Church

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Sermon summary submitted by Sister Victoria Williams—December 25, 2025

THE BIRTH - God was sure to let us know the “who” and how.”

Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

Luke 1:26-30 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.

THE GIFT- God loves us and gave us the gift that keeps on giving, Jesus Christ.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

THE KING - Christ is coming back to claim His kingdom! He is coming back as a Warrior King, no longer is He a baby in a manger. **Philippians 2:10-11** - *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

There is none greater than God! He is almighty! God is the forever Ruler, His kingdom is everlasting. He is the Father who protects and the giver of salvation!

These times, we have all kinds of people running in all kinds of races. They may start months ahead of time to be the fastest, to make themselves physically fit to participate in such races.

Today, we're not talking about those type of races. We're talking about the “race of faith” found in *Hebrews 12:1...Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,* This is a different race, it is not given to the swift. This is a chosen race given to a chosen people. Just because you are fit to run doesn't mean you are fit to run for the Lord.

When you're running for the Lord, your training consists of going to Sunday School, worship service, and bible study. Develop a good prayer life, study God's word and ask Him for understanding so that you may do what God commands you to do.

In running for the Lord, you're going to encounter difficult obstacles. This race gets out of control sometimes, it doesn't play fair. Sometimes you get hit below the belt, but you still have to get up and run again. You have to put your heart, mind, and soul in this race.

Jesus Christ died for us and He wants us to live for Him! Jesus will teach you how to follow Him. When you follow Jesus, you are learning from the best. You're going to catch some troubles when you follow Christ, and when you do, you've got to count it all joy.

Don't focus on what you could have done in the past. Take it one day at a time and think about what you can do for the Lord this day forward. In this race, it's not for us to get the glory, it's for us to tell the story.

As child of God, you ought to have compassion and love in your heart. You should press toward the goal of thinking like, looking like, and acting like Jesus.

Let's run this race like we've never run before!

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT WORD SEARCH

BIBLE	HEART	MIND
BLESSED	HONOR	OBEY
CHRIST	HOPE	PATIENCE
GOD	JESUS	PEACE
FAITHFULNESS	JOY	SAVIOR
FRUIT	KINDNESS	SELF CONTROL
GALATIANS	KINGDOM	SOUL
GENTLENESS	LONGSUFFERING	SPIRIT
GOODNESS	LOVE	TRUST

S	E	F	R	U	T	L	E	N	E	S	S	O
J	S	A	V	I	O	R	H	T	R	L	B	S
E	G	I	R	U	B	O	R	K	N	O	Y	S
S	E	I	F	I	P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E
U	P	T	B	E	E	I	I	N	G	G	E	N
S	N	L	S	H	A	L	P	D	E	S	J	E
U	E	N	R	S	C	O	E	N	S	U	O	L
I	S	L	O	V	E	N	A	E	R	F	N	T
A	N	B	F	I	B	M	G	S	U	F	C	N
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Y	S	N	I	H	O	K	V	D	P	R	L	G
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B	Y	C	H	R	I	S	T	B	K	N	L	B
D	O	M	F	S	R	A	V	R	I	G	I	L
E	F	R	U	I	T	A	J	I	O	B	B	K
S	L	R	L	M	T	E	P	O	B	L	E	N
S	E	O	N	R	I	M	D	E	Y	J	Y	E
E	I	N	E	U	J	N	T	D	O	M	I	S
L	U	O	S	U	E	K	D	O	M	K	O	S
B	J	H	S	S	N	A	I	T	A	L	A	G
B	N	A	S	E	L	O	T	S	U	R	T	L

Listed below are some of the 2026 events scheduled at Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church:

Sunday, February 22
Church Anniversary and Black History Program

Sunday, April 5
Youth Easter Program

Sunday, May 24
Friends and Family Day

Sunday, June 14
Youth Sunday

Monday-Friday, June 15-19
Vacation Bible School

Saturday, June 20
Fun Day

Sunday, August 23
Women's Day

Sunday, September 13
Men's Day

Sunday, October 25
Pastor's 26th Anniversary

Saturday, October 31
Docena 10-31

Sunday, December 20
Youth Christmas Program

Let the Word of God Transform You

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER Zechariah 4:6-7

So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts. 'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" ' "

God works behind the scenes; He lets millions/billions of people do what they want to do and yet still bring about the plan/purpose He has designed. God works providentially. God is sovereign. God controls all things. He is omnipotent, all powerful.

God sent word to Zerubbabel, a man of God,...."I got your back." Zerubbabel was the kind of man that would stick to it. Even with that, however, God still saw fit to encourage Him.

Once Zerubbabel laid the foundation of the temple, the enemy started to raise up, opposition came. People stopped working and for 15 years, no one did anything.

God used an old preacher and a new preacher; one to encourage the man of God and the other to stir up the people. From God to Zechariah, "Have Zerubbabel know it's by My Spirit." God said there is an inexhaustible supply of anointing on Zerubbabel's life. This is a vision to encourage the man of God.

The people were use to seeing God working in mighty ways such as at the Red Sea and at the Jordan River. However, at this time, they were not going to see that strong right hand of God. God said He's working providentially; not by power or might but by His Spirit He is protecting and keeping them.

God is God, He is more than feelings. Regardless as to how you feel, God is still God.

*Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams Sunday, December 14, 2025
Pastor Eddie Washington, Guest Speaker
Rev. Dr. Charles R. Winston, Jr's 25th Pastoral Anniversary
New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church*



**Join us for
Bible Study
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

Answers to last month's challenge:

Away in a Manger

The First Noel
Go Tell It on the Mountain
Joy to the World
O Come All Ye Faithful

Ring the Bells
Silent Night
O Holy Night
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ARE YOU READY FOR CHRISTMAS Luke 2:7

7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Glory in the Highest

Luke, being an historian, is profound in the interpretation of the birth of Christ. Christ was born in Bethlehem in a manger. Luke lets us see the providence of God as to how Mary and Joseph ended up in Bethlehem. Why they were there and how God orchestrated the whole thing.

God worked providentially; He brought everybody to where they needed to be. God set the stage for the coming of His Son.

The question today is, "Are you ready for Christmas?" It has nothing to do with shopping or cooking. Is your heart conditioned to get excited about the fact that your Savior is born?!

There is nothing wrong with spending time with family, creating memories, etc... but we have to make Jesus the primary reason in doing what we do.

We need to be mindful that the incarnation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is foundational as to who we are as Christians. Jesus said that God is a Spirit and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth. Well, God is a spirit but spirits can't die. However, the bible says that Jesus, who is God, died for our sins. For that to be true, we have to go back to the beginning of the story; it talks about an incarnation taking place—God becoming flesh. The bible talks about the Holy Spirit overshadowing Mary, a virgin, who conceived and bore a Son. This explains how God can die for our sins. Jesus was God incarnate.

Every born again Christian ought to be excited about the fact that the virgin conceived and brought forth a Son and called His name Immanuel.

Verse seven mentions there was no room in the inn for Christ. There was no vacancy, a lot of folks were not ready. We can have "no vacancy" in our hearts. When we are crammed with so much of what's going on around us our hearts can say "no vacancy." There can be no room left to get ready for Christ.

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Luke 2:8-14

These shepherds were going about their business doing the work of the Lord. They were ready, even though they didn't know it. The shepherds were laboring for the Lord and they were meek and humble in spirit.

To be ready for Christmas you have to have a meekness and humbleness about you. Anytime God shows up, it's only for people who are ready. Get ready so that God can use us!

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, December 21, 2025

We are Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist Church of Docena, AL

Where

Our Vision is that of an all-inclusive church, ministering to the needs of all God's people, too transform and empower them through the teaching and preaching of the Word of God.

Our Mission is to progressively pursue the restoration of the spiritual, physical, and social condition of the community as we actively engage in reaching out to those who do not know Jesus the Christ as Savior and Lord.

Our Motto is "Making a Difference in the Lives of Others for the Kingdom of God," which reflects the heart of this church as we address the needs of the church and the community.

We Believe that our society will be best affected through the ministry of the church. We further believe that the church is the best organization of people to rebuild our battered communities. As the church grows, so do the community, the city, the state, and the country. We are going to make a difference: one person, one family, one community at a time, for the Kingdom of God.

www.stmatthewdocena.org

Facebook: St. Matthew Missionary
Baptist Church Docena Al.

Saint Matthew
Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor
Reverend Eddie Washington, Sr.

"We do not have to raise the standard to become the men and women God wants us to be; we simply have to come up to the one He has already set."

Deacon Board

Brother J.W. Henry, Chairman

Brother Steven Anderson

Brother Antoine Palm

Brother Victor Griffin

Brother Wallace Simmons

Brother Ronald King

Brother Lavone Thomas

Brother Roosevelt McCray

Brother Carlos Williams

Unity
January, 2026

Sunday
Sermons
are archived
under
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on
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