



ST. MATTHEW

# Messenger

*Celebrating*

68  
years

*The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - November 2024*



## It's Fall Ya'll!

The air has gotten nippy in the mornings, our garden has almost dried up, colorful fall mums can be found on porches, and pumpkins are everywhere in the stores. These are signal to me that maybe Fall has arrived in our area. Hopefully, the high 90's won't return before next May or June. Who knows?

The change in the season reminds me of the changes I need to make in my own personal life. Should I take up a new hobby, be more encouraging to friends, seek out new ways to volunteer at church or my community? Do you have these same thoughts? What can we do?

We have several events in the coming months to help make changes around and in our church. The first Saturday in November weather permitting, we will clean up around the outside of the church. We do have bushes that need pruning, weeds to be pulled, pine straw to spread out in the flower beds and more! If you can't help outside, no worries! Operation Christmas boxes will need to be packed with donations from members for children on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. I find this activity extremely rewarding as well as shopping for the items to be put in boxes. Our Warming Tree will be put up in the Narthex as we collect warm gloves, mittens, hats, scarves and underwear for men, women and children in our area that need these items to stay warm this coming winter. In November, we will also collect jackets, coats and blankets for Safe House as they minister to the homeless in our area.

I pray that this fall you will find a way to be involved in making a change for the homeless in our area, brightening our grounds or helping pack a Christmas Child box this month.



# OCTOBER BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY FUN!





Our friends at St. Matthews, 9/16/24  
 Thank you so much for your generous donation to St. Anne Community Outreach! We are able to serve the community because of the generosity of groups like yours. ♡  
 Serving beside you.  
 The St. Anne Outreach team.



*Within Reach* is a congregational response to providing requested assistance focused solely on members of our church family. It is the opposite of outreach hence the name of *Within Reach*. For a small congregation, we are giants when it comes to mission outreach opportunities. Our monthly mission focus shows how our outreach addresses the needs of our neighbors and the community at large. As part of *Within Reach*, we have been assisting Nancy & Jeff Gates as Nancy recovers from surgery. Thank you to all who participated in meal preps and visits to the Gates. Through *Within Reach* we continue a connection with one another. Nancy, with Jeff's and our help, is recovering

beautifully and even returned to take minutes at the October Council meeting! Just proves that when two or more Lutherans get together discussing needs, whether world-wide or close to home, miraculously, a casserole appears and all is well again. *Within Reach*, with your help, can expand to include other voluntary assistance making our small gatherings accessible to all.

-Zocia Barr

# Operation Christmas Child



The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.



Thanks to your generosity, the baskets are overflowing! Please keep Operation Christmas Child in your prayers.

Final Activities we need your help with!

- ♥ November 16th (Saturday) - 10:00-12:00 - OCC work session - Luther Hall
- ♥ November 19th (Tuesday) - 12:00 - 2:00 OCC Shoebox Packing Day - Luther Hall

## November Mission Focus



We are planning to set up our 2024 Warming Tree in the Narthex on Sunday, November 24th. Please mark your calendar and join us in this fun and joy filled activity. We chose the 24th in conjunction with celebrating Thanksgiving as we give thanks for all the blessings we enjoy and are able to celebrate together. The Warming Tree will be blessed and lit Sunday, December 1st as part of our Advent celebration. We will canvas our community to better assess where there are needs. The decorations, of course, will be new articles of warm clothing such as scarves, hats, mittens, gloves and socks. These may be individually placed on the tree. The sheltered and the homeless have requested warm underwear. The Warming tree will accept these items providing a basket next to the tree. These items will be accepted in their original packaging. Our gifts will be for children of all ages and adults. So join us on November 24th to start the party! For questions, contact 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 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday reading and discussing the scriptures for the coming Sunday.

**November 6th, 13th, 20th, join us at 6:00PM on Wednesday nights in Luther Hall for "More Than Just Stories" with Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards.**

**Special Note**

Our last Remembrance Gathering for 2024 came together on Tuesday, October 8th. Thank you church family for your continued support and encouragement by sharing your memories and engaging in our story telling. We are seeing some community involvement and look forward to expanding our reach to include all conflicts and wars. See you as we resume our Gatherings on January 14, 2025.

**Put it on  
the calendar!**



## THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL

Celebrate 2024 and  
plan for 2025

*Meeting*

All voting members of the church (adult contributing members and confirmed youth) are encouraged to attend

Voting members consist of those who are contributing members of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church. Please make plans to attend this meeting!



# Our Synod at Work

## Southeastern Synod Assembly 5/31 to 6/2/24

The congregation selected Nancy and I to be the voting representatives at the Synod assembly. We had never attended an assembly before and were not sure what we would contribute or learn from the experience. We had an awakening.

The Friday night speaker, Bryan Stevenson, was very impactful. His perspective on the prison system, racism and unfair justice meted out, particularly in the South, was eye-opening. When we watched the film of his story, “Just Mercy”, in our break-out group, it confirmed the inequality and injustice.

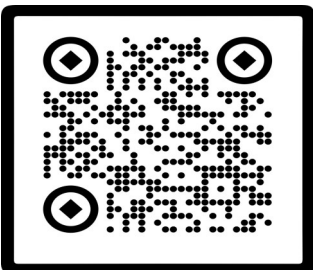
The three worship services were wonderful. Nancy loved the Saturday service that included the choir, liturgical dancers, and ministers. It was full of energy, led by the young people of the ELCA.

On a sad note, despite the efforts of inclusion, some of our ELCA members are turned away by their families because of their sexual orientation. It opened our eyes to the struggles of the LGBTQ community. I cannot imagine turning my back on any of our five children because of their lifestyle. We are thankful that these members have found a haven in their church family, that they could not find in their own families.

We also were proud to see the amount of volunteer support from our St. Matthew family at the assembly. We should be proud of the efforts of all the volunteers. Plus, we thought Pastor Taylor with his neon vest did an excellent job as chairperson for the election voting.

We hope everyone will consider volunteering for the 2025 Synod which will return to Columbus in late May.

Best Regards,  
Jeff Gates



You can use the QR code to the left to donate to the Lutheran Disaster Response for hurricane relief. Please consider donating as so many need our help to recover from these devastating hurricanes.

Lutheran Disaster Response

# Getting ready for Christmas!

## Advent & Christmas Services



### Midweek Worship

Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

December 4, 11, 18



### Weihnachts Service

Sunday, December 15

3:00 p.m.

### Christmas Eve

Holy Communion Service

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 p.m.



## Calendars

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.



CALENDAR OF WORD AND SEASON  
2025

## All Saints

Keandra Bashful  
 WJ Barrs  
 Eva Brown  
 Bishop Davis  
 Joan Smith  
 Tom Pettit  
 Nelda Woods  
 Patti Vinson  
 Louie Niederhammer  
 Gary Nearhoof  
 John Bonaker



## Finance Committee Report

	September 2024	Year to Date
Income	\$12,479	\$125,156
Expenses	\$14,320	\$134,784
Difference	\$(1,841)	\$(9,628)

## Prayer Requests

The Armed Forces, their families, & victims of war	Estrella Gonzales
Persecuted Christians	Doris Grier
The ministries of St. Matthew	Petra Henderson
Bishop Kevin Strickland	Van Henshaw
Acting Bishop - Jill Henning	Norma Kilby
Southeastern Synod Staff	Ken Korn
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards	Emma Kump
Laura Alexander	Boyd Lester
Carol Bingemann	Laura Lester
Dave Bonaker	Valerie Louder
Pat Bonaker	Robert Lowe
Rigney Cofield	Michelle Matthias
Betty Davidson	Sandra McPeters
Ken Hoag	Brady Meeks
Myrna Hoag	Tim Moore
Bennie Jackson	Michael Owen
Mairetha Jackson	Angela Paul
Marga Miller	Vincent Pawlowski
Traudel Mosely	Beth Price
Debby Owen	Mark Purushotham
Dorothy Redden	Dwight Redmond
Connie Sieg	Tiffany Richardson
Carla Stickles	Dayna Ryan
Albert VanHousen II	Shirley Scott
Harold Vinson	Dou Shizhen
Margarete Walsh	Ricky Skinner
Monika Wright	Betty Townsend
George Capps	Charlie VanHousen
Jim Chappel	Dawn VanHousen
Jean Clemmons	Martha Zimmerman
Xavier Danguilan	
Penny Davis & Family	
Brandy Garnett	
Moses Glidden	
Becky Goldsmith	

## Business Prayer Requests

Mr. Pizza	Gold Teeth World
Quality Inn	Apparel King & More
Smoke Buddy's	Hollywood Barber Shop
Days Inn	The Cell Plug
Enterprise	
Guthrie's	Master-Kleen
Octapharma Plasma	Title Max
Kamoree's Beauty Salon	JD Wings
Broken Tarot Tattoo & Piercing	Burger King
Beaute' Matrix	Animal General Hospital
5 Fourteen	Klose Kutz
DQ	Xpert Tax Service
Freedom Adult Day Center	Family Worship Center
Transformation Salon	Bi-City Driving School
Pathway Worship Center	Sunset Finance
Menzie Dance Company	Diamond Kutz
Frankie's Hair Design	Kee J's
AMG Financial	Angel's Nails
Acceptance Auto	Y & J Health
Phuong's Tailor Shop	Hidden Lake Grocery
Walgreen's	Beauty Queen
USPS	Brewster's
Peachtree Immediate Care	Waffle House
Hidden Lake Bottle Shop	E&S Clothing
Vance Brooks Funeral Service	One Financial
Striffler Hamby Funeral Service	Tasha's Dance & Prep
El Carrizo	Bargain Furniture
M. Bland Salon	Dollar General
The Ellands Event Center	Citgo
Chevron	Landmark
Grace Apostolic Church	McKibben Insurance
#1 Nails	Rooster's Beer & Wine
Valley Rescue Donation Center	Woodville Apartments
Mario's Tire	Beal Wellness
Mariner Finance	



# NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
<p>3 <i>All Saints Sunday</i></p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>Birthday &amp; Anniversary Celebration</p>	<p>4</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>5</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p>	<p>6</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 6:00 - LH</p>	<p>7</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - FH</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 25th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>12</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p>	<p>13</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 6:00 - LH</p>	<p>14</p> <p>GERMAN KLUB 5:30</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH</p>	<p>16</p> <p>OCC - Work Session 10:00- 12:00 - LH</p>
<p>17 26th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>Unity Service at St. Paul</p>	<p>18</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>19</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p> <p>OCC - PACK BOXES - 12:00- 2:00 - LH</p>	<p>20</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 6:00 - LH</p>	<p>21</p> <p>COUNCIL MEETING 5:00 - CH</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>22</p> <p>MEMORIAL SER- VICE FOR GARY NEARHOOF 11:00</p> <p>Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Christ the King Sunday</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>Setup Warming Tree</p>	<p>25</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>26</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

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

**Office will be closed November 28th and 29th  
For Thanksgiving holiday.**

### 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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED