



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

Celebrating

68
years

The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - December 2024

Happy New Year! Welcome to Advent, Year C.

Just as in Judaism the beginning of the new year (Rosh HaShanah) is shortly followed by a time of self-examination, penitence, and reconciliation (Yom Kippur), so also Christians begin the year with a time of solemn, yet expectant, anticipation of the coming of Christ to judge the living and the dead and bring the fullness of God's kingdom, in a whole new creation, to light.

In Year C, the penitential focus is the strongest of all three. The watchword for this season is "Take care" as in "Take care, lest your hearts be weighed down by dissipation and drunkenness, and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap" (Luke 21:34-35a), as we read in our gospel lesson for Advent 1 (December 1).

So, this Advent we'll be looking carefully at ourselves, seeing where we need to get freed from some habits that are holding us back from expressing fully the love of God poured out on us toward every neighbor and holiness toward God.

That's what Advent in Year C is for.

As part of expressing our love toward every neighbor, we have reintroduced our Warming Tree, where you can bring gloves, scarves, hats, and underwear for adults or children that will be distributed to homeless and domestic violence shelters in our Columbus community.

And as part of expressing our love toward God and one another, we will gather and worship on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm as well as on Sunday mornings.

So may this Advent be solemn, and hopeful; full of diligent attention and personal change. Above all, may our life and work together during this season help you abound in love more and more as together we see the Day of Christ's return ever approaching.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Taylor

OKTOBERFEST





December Birthdays

- 1 .Randall Craven
- 4 Jonathan Thies
- 12 Erik Peterson
- 20 Connor Glau
- 21 Lindsay Brown Ratliff
- 23 Patty Chappel
- 24 Brandon Konnow
- 25 Ian Jeffery
- 26 Zaiga Mion
- 29 David Allen



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). Donations will be taken until December 15th. 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!

You can go to <https://give.elca.org/page/68904/donate/1> 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.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will be decorating our Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve services, Tuesday, December 24, 2024. You may purchase the poinsettias through the Altar Guild.

Remembrances will be noted in our worship bulletin on Christmas Eve. If you wish to offer a plant(s) for Christmas, please complete the form and return to the Church or place in the offering plate. The cost of the plants is \$15.00 each. Make checks payable to St. Matthew and write 'poinsettias' on your check. Payment must be received at the time of the order.

Orders are due by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024.

Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God by (Please Print Clearly)

Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Total Number of Plants _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (\$15 per plant)



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.

Getting ready for Christmas!

Advent & Christmas Services



Midweek Worship

Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.

December 4, 11, 18



Weihnachts Service

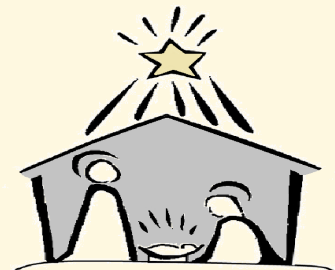
Sunday, December 15 3:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Holy Communion Service

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 p.m.



St. Thomas Episcopal Church will host a series of Advent lunches on Mondays in Advent, December 2, 9, 16 at noon. The theme is "A Healthy Community. Speakers are:
December 2 - Dr. Melissa Pritchard Schley
December 9 - Dr. Asante Hilts, Valley Healthcare and Mr. Jack Lockwood, West Georgia Department of Public Health
December 16 - Dr. Grant Scarborough and Mr. Billy Holbrook from Mercy Med.
Suggested donation of \$5 for lunch - vegan soup and salad plus not necessarily vegan dessert.



Come help us decorate the Christmas trees! We will be in the Sanctuary on December 7th from 10AM - Noon!

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.

All Saints

Margarete Walsh



Finance Committee Report

	October 2024	Year to Date
Income	\$11,414	\$136,570
Expenses	\$13,384	\$148,093
Difference	\$(1,970)	\$(11,523)

Prayer Requests

The Armed Forces, their families, & victims of war	Brandy Garnett
Persecuted Christians	Mike Gewin
The ministries of St. Matthew	Moses Glidden
Bishop Kevin Strickland	Becky Goldsmith
Southeastern Synod Staff	Estrella Gonzales
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards	Doris Grier
Laura Alexander	Petra Henderson
Carol Bingemann	Van Henshaw
Dave Bonaker	Norma Kilby
Pat Bonaker	Ken Korn
Betty Davidson	Emma Kump
Ken Hoag	Melissa Lancheros
Myrna Hoag	Boyd Lester
Bennie Jackson	Laura Lester
Mairetha Jackson	Robert Lowe
Sean Jeffery	Michelle Matthias
Marga Miller	Sandra McPeters
Charlotte Moore	Brady Meeks
Traudel Mosely	Tim Moore
Terri Niederhammer	Nearhoof family
Debby Owen	Michael Owen
Dorothy Redden	Angela Paul
Connie Sieg	Vincent Pawlowski
Carla Stickles	Beth Price
Albert VanHousen II	Mark Purushotham
Harold Vinson	Bill Rahm
Monika Wright	Tiffany Richardson
James Anderson	Dayna Ryan
Roger Anderson	Shirley Scott
Eric & Tinisha Bryant	Dou Shizhen
George Capps	Ricky Skinner
Jim Chappel	Amanda Steinagel
Jean Clemmons	Betty Townsend
Xavier Danguilan	Charlie VanHousen
Penny Davis & Family	Dawn VanHousen
	Martha Zimmerman

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	

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 First Sunday of Advent Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>Birthday & Anniversary Celebration</p>	<p>2 ADVENT LUNCH AT ST. THOMAS-12:00</p>	<p>3 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH</p> <p>Girl Scouts - FH 5-9PM</p>	<p>4 SPECIAL OLYMPICS 2:30-4:30 LH</p> <p>ADVENT SERVICE 5:30</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH</p>	<p>7 Chrismon Tree Decoration 10:00</p> <p>Special Olympics 12-4 LH</p>
<p>8 Second Sunday of Advent Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p>	<p>9 ADVENT LUNCH AT ST. THOMAS-12:00</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM -LH</p>	<p>10 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH</p>	<p>11 ADVENT SERVICE 5:30</p>	<p>12 GERMAN KLUB 5:30</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM -FH</p>	<p>13 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Third Sunday of Advent Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>German Service 3:00</p> <p>Lessons & Carols St. Thomas 4:30</p>	<p>16 ADVENT LUNCH AT ST. THOMAS-12:00</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM -LH</p>	<p>17 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH</p>	<p>18 ADVENT SERVICE 5:30</p>	<p>19 COUNCIL MEETING 5:00 -CH</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM -LH</p>	<p>20 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p>	<p>23 AA 8:00 PM -LH</p>	<p>24 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH</p> <p>Christmas Eve Service 7:00</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 AA 8:00 PM -LH</p>	<p>27 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 First Sunday of Christmas Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>Winter Wonderland After service</p>	<p>30 AA 8:00 PM -LH</p>	<p>31 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH</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 December 30-January 3

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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4026 Macon Road
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED