



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

Celebrating

70
years

The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - September 2026

First, thanks to Dave Bonaker for his telling of our history across the past three newsletters and his ongoing series of "Pillars of Our Church" pieces highlighting individuals and families who have been exemplary leaders in the life and ministry of St. Matthew over the years.

Public schools have gone back into session for the children of our church. Sunday school has resumed for our children as well. Thanks to Lisa Pettit for her leadership.

In worship, choir has resumed (thanks to Sandra Nearhoof and our faithful singers!). We'll conclude our series in Romans mid-month, then start a new series in Acts. Readings from Acts have recently been revised and relocated from Easter Season to the Season after Pentecost. This year, these readings focus on the ministry of Peter.

You will soon be receiving an account of your giving through the first half of the year. We are asking you to consider raising your giving for next year. Later this month, we will ask you to share by what percentage you believe you are able to raise your giving.

Southeastern Synod has reviewed the proposed revisions to our constitution to align it with the 2025 church-wide constitution. You have received a copy of the proposed revised constitution via email. We have additional print copies available in the Narthex. Please review ahead of our Congregational Meeting on November 22, 2026.

Finally, thanks to all of you who pray. We provide a complete prayer list in the bulletin and in our newsletter each month. If you do not yet have a current practice of daily prayer, let me invite you to consider starting each day with the Morning Blessing Martin Luther gave us in the Small Catechism:

"In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say:

"God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen."

"Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you wish, you may in addition recite this little prayer as well: "I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen."

[Pray for the church and the world, using our prayer list].

"After singing a hymn perhaps (for example, one on the Ten Commandments) or whatever else may serve your devotion, you are to go to your work joyfully."

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Taylor

August Craf-Tea



Terri Niederhammer, Allena Sperry, Rose Johnson, and Pastor Taylor attended Revival Synod Day at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Marietta, GA on August 22nd. They attended three Learning Labs: Reviving Worship, Reviving Discipleship, and Reviving Hospitality.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Evelyn Pettit graduated from Beulah High School on May 19, 2026.

She received graduation cords for Band, FCCLA, and Dual Enrollment.

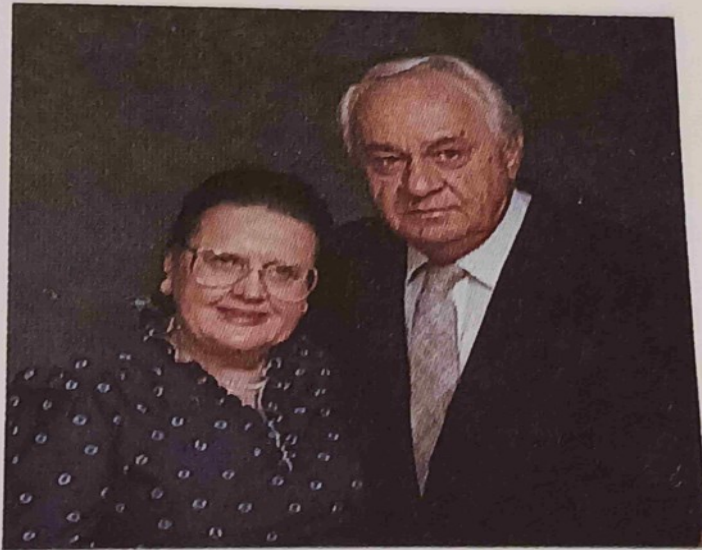
Evelyn will be attending Southern Union Community College for her undergraduate in Cosmetology and Spa Management. She plans to transfer to Auburn University for her Bachelors and Masters degree in Business. Her future plans is to open her own spa business.

Pillars of St. Matthew Dick and Norma Mileham

Dick and Norma chose Columbus as their home when he retired from military service. Dick was in the Navy and stationed in Chicago when they met. They married in 1944 in Appleton, WI where Norma was working for the Ration Board. Dick was already a Pearl Harbor survivor and had been wounded at Guadalcanal in 1942. After WW II, Dick left the Navy and joined the Army where he and Norma could be together. He saw lots of action in Korea, where he was awarded the Silver Star and a battlefield commission.

Norma's parents, Bill and Rose Greenwood, were Lutheran. Dick and Norma brought the Greenwoods here to live with them, and they all joined St. Matthew. They often expressed how they loved our congregation. Dick volunteered with our Scout troop when their grandson was in it.

RIP, dear friends,
Dave Bonaker



MILEHAM, DICK, NORMA

*Happy
September
Birthday!*

<i>1 Elaine Hoag</i>	<i>23 Sonja Metcalf</i>
<i>2 Michael Ingram</i>	<i>27 Connie Sieg</i>
<i>4 Jim Sperry</i>	<i>27 Fabio Vargas</i>
<i>23 Rose Johnson</i>	<i>28 Marga Miller</i>

AVAILABLE

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

If you want to review
Council Meeting minutes,
please contact the office!

Finance Committee Report

	June 2026	Year to Date
Income	\$8,945	\$73,089
Expenses	16,297	\$105,950
Difference	\$-7,352	\$-32,861
2026 Budget = \$185,981		



All Saints

Mario Mion

Prayer Requests

Business Prayer Requests

Mr. Pizza
Quality Inn
Smoke Buddy's
Days Inn
Enterprise
Master Kleen
Octapharma Plasma
Kamoree's Beauty Salon
Broken Tarot Tattoo & Piercing
Beaute' Matrix
5 Fourteen
DQ
Freedom Adult Day Center
Transformation Salon
Menzie Dance Company
Frankie's Hair Design
AMG Financial
Acceptance Auto
Phuong's Tailor Shop
Walgreen's
USPS
Peachtree Immediate Care
Hidden Lake Bottle Shop
Vance Brooks Funeral Service
Striffler Hamby Funeral Service
El Carrizo
M. Bland Salon
Chevron
Grace Apostolic Church
#1 Nails
Mario's Tire's
Mariner Finance
Diamond Kutz

Gold Teeth World
Apparel King & More
Hollywood Barber Shop
The Cell Plug
Title Max
JD Wings
Burger King
Animal General Hospital
Klose Kutz
Xpert Tax Service
Bi-City Driving School
Sunset Finance
Kee J's
Angel's Nails
Y & J Health
Hidden Lake Grocery
Beauty Queen
Brewster's
Waffle House
E & S Clothing
One Financial
Tasha's Dance & Prep
Bargain Furniture
Dollar General
Citgo
Landmark
McKibben Insurance
Rooster's Beer & Wine
Woodville Apartments
Beal Wellness

The Armed Forces, their
families, & victims of war
The ministries of St. Matthew
Bishop Yehiel Curry
Bishop Kevin Strickland
Southeastern Synod Staff
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards
Pastor Rachel Zarnke
St Matthew Congregational
Council
Laura Alexander
Carol Bingemann
Isabelle Clark
Randy Craven
Myrna & Ken Hoag
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
Jean Clemmons
Nancy Edmundson
Lynn Funck
Brandy Garnett
Sandy Gibbs
Moses Glidden
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Frank & Petra Henderson
Laura Jett
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Robert Lowe
John & David Lucas
Michelle Matthias
Brady Meeks
Lynne Meinhold

Tim Moore
Debi Nelson
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Tiffany Richardson
Phyllis Roan
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Eric Young
Martha Zimmerman

Mion Family
Wandersee/
Mackenzie
Families

People of Lebanon
People of Iran
Gaza
Palestinian People
Israel
Ukraine
People of Russia
Eastern Congo
People of Venezuela
People of Columbia
People of Nepal
People of Tibet



hello SEPTEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 <i>Bible Study</i> 10:15AM CH	2	3 <i>Wedding Committee</i> 2:00 - Church House <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	4	5
6- Creation in Christ Sunday <i>Worship 10:30 AM</i> <i>Communion</i>	7 	8 <i>Bible Study</i> 10:15AM CH	9	10 <i>German Klub</i> 5:30 LH <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	11	12
13- 16th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Worship 10:30 AM</i> <i>Communion</i>	14 <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	15 <i>Bible Study</i> 10:15AM CH	16	17 <i>Council Meeting</i> 5:00 PM- FH <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	18 <i>Craf-Tea</i> 10-12 - LH	19
20 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Worship 10:30 AM</i> <i>Communion</i>	21 <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	22 <i>Bible Study</i> 10:15AM CH	23	24 <i>Men's Group</i> 5:30 at Deorio's <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	25	26
27-18th Sunday after Pentecost <i>Worship 10:30 AM</i> <i>Communion</i>	28 <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	29 <i>Bible Study</i> 10:15AM CH	30			

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

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

Sandra Nearhoof
Penny Davis

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Lutheran Church
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Columbus, GA 31907

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED