



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - January 2023

Celebrating **66**
years

You've Got Talent(s)!

You do have talent, and no, the popular TV show is not coming to Columbus, GA for try outs. The talent(s) I'm referring to are gifts that you have or things you like to do that are needed here at our church. In the Bible story of the 5 talents, three men were given talents and told to prosper. If you will recall, two men did that, however, one buried his. Since this one man buried his talents, no one was able to receive anything from his talents. We are not going to bury our talents here at St. Matthew because everyone can do something to help our congregation.

You might ask-what can I do? Your answer might be I'm still working full time, I don't have room on my schedule for one more thing or I can't get to church every Sunday, but, YOU can do something. On Sunday, January 15th, Time and Talent sheets will be handed out as you get your bulletin. These Time and Talent sheets have a multitude of opportunities for you to share your gifts God has given to you. One example is being an usher during Communion to help guide members to the communion rail and back to their seats. We made financial commitments earlier in October to support our church, and now we have the second piece of the commitment to St. Matthew Lutheran Church. I can remember when Dean and I first joined the church our pledge was all that we contributed to St. Matthew, and I knew we both had gifts and talents to share with this congregation. It was not long before I began to teach Sunday School, help with Super Sunday, the Youth group and then choir. Dean was elected to Council and used what he learned in business classes to help give advice on financial matters and made hospital visits to those who had amputations. Being able to share my gifts and talents with our church has been very rewarding and I plan to continue.

As we ring in the New Year, what area would you like to participate in at St. Matthew? I have heard some mighty fine voices in the congregation on Sunday and all of you have some many gifts and talents! We need you all!

“What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year”
- Vern McLellan

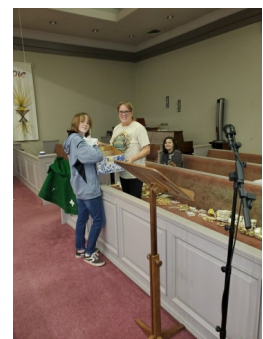
Rose Marie Johnson
Council President

Your talent is Gods
gift to you
What you do with it is
your gift back to God

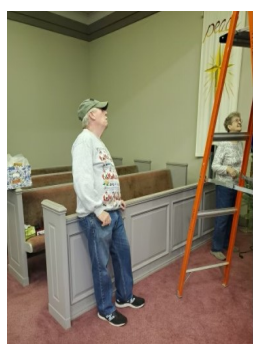


WE HAD FUN IN DECEMBER GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS!

Step 1: Setting out the Chrismons



Step 2: Getting the trees up



Step 3: Decorating the trees



Step 4: Cleaning up!



Sprucing up the Prayer Garden





Dear Saints of St. Matthew,

Thank you for calling me to be your pastor. It has been a privilege to serve you all these years. I enjoyed the wonderful reception you gave me on December 18th. I appreciate your kindness, cards, and gifts. You will continue to be in my prayers for growth in faith and joy in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With love, Pastor Shirley Maria Redmond.

**What a great retirement reception for Pastor Shirley Maria Redmond!
We will miss her!**



CHARITABLE GIVING TIP: ESTABLISH A NAMED ENDOWMENT

Establish an endowment fund in your name or memory of a loved one and ensure the support of the ELCA and the ministries you specify for years and years to come.

With a named endowment fund, you can:

- Leave a legacy in your name, or memory of a loved one
- Provide ongoing, annual support for the ELCA ministries you specify in perpetuity, with the principal of the gift remaining intact
- Fund the endowment via cash, securities or other giving vehicles
- Receive a full tax deduction for each and every gift you contribute to the endowment
- Become a member of the [Legacy Society of the ELCA](#), a group of faithful donors who are committed to the future of this church.

Ready to take the next step? Contact Rev. Ana L. Lugo, the ELCA Foundation Gift Planner serving our Synod for more information. She can be reached at Ana.Lugo@elca.org.

The examples and information provided are for illustrative and educational purposes only and should not be considered tax or legal advice. Please consult with your tax or legal adviser about proceeding with your gift plan.



By the numbers...

Year to date donations received: \$85.38

Thank you for shopping Amazon Smile for St. Matthew!
Visit smile.amazon.com to sign up and shop. If you'd like help signing up, contact Sonja in the church office.



Gracious and loving God, You call us to be stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing Your message to those we serve.

We were not able to give you the October numbers with the December newsletter, so we wanted to make sure to share those with you. Please find both October and November Financial information below.

Finance Committee Report		
	October 2022	Year to Date
Income	\$24,260	\$119,567
Expenses	\$16,043	\$158,762
Difference	\$8,217	-\$39,195*
<i>*We are not in debt - any shortfalls are being covered by our investments.</i>		



Finance Committee Report		
	November 2022	Year to Date
Income	\$11,508	\$131,075
Expenses	\$14,920	\$173,682
Difference	-\$3,412	-\$42,607*
<i>*We are not in debt - any shortfalls are being covered by our investments.</i>		

Prayer Requests

The Armed Forces, their families, and victims of war	Kyle Carter
Persecuted Christians	Jim Chappel
The ministries of St. Matthew	Jean Clemmons
Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton	Xavier Danguilan
Bishop Kevin Strickland	Becky Goldsmith
Southeastern Synod Staff	Estrella Gonzales
Seminarian, Brandon Konnow	Doris Grier
Laura Alexander	Beverly Huckaby
Zocia Barr family	Norma Kilby
Keandra Bashful	Ken Korn
Carol Bingemann	Michelle Matthias
Dave Bonaker	Tim Moore
Pat Bonaker	Gary Nearhoof
Eva Brown	Kimberly O'Malley
Betty Davidson	Michael Owen
Joyce Garver-Messenger	Angela Paul
Ken Hoag	Vincent Powlowski
Bennie Jackson	Dwight Redmond
Mairetha Jackson	Tiffany Richardson
Marga Miller	Dayna Ryan
Christine Minor	Yuliia Savitska
Traudel Mosely	Shirley Scott
Debby Owen	Ricky Skinner
Dorothy Redden	Betty Townsend
Anneliese Schwarting	Charlie VanHousen
Connie Sieg	Dawn VanHousen
Joan Smith	Martha Zimmerman
Jim Sperry	
Carla Stickles	
Albert VanHousen II	
Margarete Walsh	
Gary Anderson	
Judy Bultman	

All Saints

MEMBERS WE LOST IN 2022 WHO WILL ALWAYS BE IN OUR HEARTS!

Kathryn Schiavone	March 2022
Duke Barron	May 2022
Gisela Clemens	August 2022
Gary Stickles	August 2022
Margrit Lawton	August 2022
Richard Davidson	September 2022
Ruth Redmond	September 2022



Save the Date

- **Cabinet Cleanup/Chrismon Tree Takedown:** January 7th (10:00 AM)
- **Congregation Council Meeting:** January 26th (4:00 pm)
- **Souper Bowl of Caring Potluck:** January 29th (11:30 am)



Birthday Celebration will be on 1/1/2023 this year in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Myrna Hoag and Amanda Jeffery will be supplying the cake.

January Birthdays

- 2 David Gardner
- 3 Connie Newman
- 4 Pastor Shirley Redmond
- 5 Abigayle Ratliff
- 6 Jason Allen
- 8 Kenneth Hoag
- 10 Nancy Gates
- 11 Alexander Clevers
- 13 Duncan Jeffery
- 16 Dorothy Redden
- 17 Bruce Clemens
- 17 Valerie Stickles
- 18 Kirsten Schwarting
- 27 Evelyn Pettit
- 28 W.J. Barrs



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 1st Sunday after Christmas</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM</p> <p>Birthday Celebration after Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>3</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Cabinet Cleanup Chrismon Tree Takedown - 10:00 AM</p>
<p>8 Baptism of our Lord</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion Sunday</p>	<p>9</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>10</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>GERMAN CLUB 5:00 PM LH</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion Sunday</p>	<p>16</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>17</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 3rd Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM</p>	<p>23</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>24</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>CONGREGATION COUNCIL 4:00PM CH</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 4th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM</p> <p>Souper Bowl of Caring Potluck after worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>31</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p>				

Contact Us . . .

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

4026 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31907

(706) 561-3406
office@stmatthewcolumbusga.org

Visit us on the web at
www.stmatthewcolumbusga.org

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Statement



*Reach in
to grow in Christ
Reach up
to worship God
Reach out
to welcome and witness*

Inside in-person worship *with zoom* is at
10:30 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday/Thursday 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Friday - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Staff . . .

Parish Administrator	Sonja Metcalf <i>office@stmatthewcolumbusga.org</i>
Minister of Music	Sandra Nearhoof
Nursery Attendant	Penny Davis
Web Master	Laurence Mosely <i>webmaster@stmatthewcolumbusga.org</i>
Website	<i>www.stmatthewcolumbusga.org</i>
Media Specialist	Kelly Peterson <i>office@stmatthewcolumbusga.org</i>
Sexton	Lisa Pettit

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED