



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

Celebrating

70
years

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

Seventy Years of St. Matthew Part 4

1985 – This year was marked by struggles with finances and concerns about additional staff. We had to discontinue the part-time position held by Katherine Kelly. Property upkeep and repairs were very costly. The organ in the sanctuary was about worn out; George and Eva Brown gave a substantial donation toward the purchase of a new organ. Council approved the purchase provided that no debt be incurred and no budgeted funds be used. The \$19,600 cost of the selected organ was divided to give a cost for each key. The congregation rallied to the appeal for funds, and the cost was completely subscribed. The new organ was dedicated on Sept. 22. Our office secretary, Gail Davis, resigned in April to take a job with AFLAC. Katherine Kelly filled in as secretary until the end of the year, then began her career as a certified lay professional of the LCA. Council encouraged Katherine in this pursuit and offered her the position of lay associate in 1986, with administrative, educational, clerical and secretarial duties.

1986 – Katherine was commissioned by Bishop Troutman as a certified lay professional. Paula Bonaker volunteered to help with the youth, but the work required more time than she could give. Vicki Townsend stepped in as youth minister and built a very active program. Our organist, Debbie Ambrose, moved out of town and Alberta Loney filled in as organist until we hired Kim Davis in April. We decided to have two worship services rather than three on Sundays. The 9:30 service subtracted from Sunday School support, which was a vital part of our ministry. Services would now be at 8:30 and 11:00, with SS at 9:45. It was now obvious we needed more worship space, and time to take definite steps to bring that to fruition. Several members gave substantial gifts as seed money to get the building project underway. Tom Donaldson rendered amazing service as stewardship chair. Joel Williamson gave a strong witness emphasizing tithing. We were involved in two campaigns for financial support at once, our own new sanctuary project, and a One in Mission appeal supporting the merger of the LCA with other Lutheran bodies to become our current ELCA. The congregation really got behind both in spectacular fashion. Separate kick-off dinners were held for each at China Star restaurant. Pastor Richard Hollinger, our pastor-developer and a truly dynamic speaker, gave the keynote address at the new sanctuary dinner. He challenged us to be people in mission, moving forward vigorously with our building program and growth in ministry. Pastor William Kaiser died at home in FL just before our 30th anniversary celebration in June. Pastor John Satterwhite retired from the ministry this same year and is at home in Columbia, SC.

1987 – The new ELCA was constituted. Our congregation voted on May 24 to build a new sanctuary. The vote was preceded by cottage meetings held to discuss the project and generate support for it. These were very well attended. At the May meeting, 153 confirmed, communing and contributing members cast ballots. We voted to approve the building program, to hire an architect, and to retain Lutheran Laity Movement to raise funds. The Council appointed five people to oversee the project: Dave Bonaker, Chairperson; Craig DuPriest, Plans and Construction; Earl Giese, Celebrations and Special Events; Keith Tilton, Memorials and Special Gifts; Vicki Townsend, Furnishings and Equipment. We interviewed several architects and selected Ed Burdeshaw of Hecht, Burdeshaw and Johnson. Mr. Burdeshaw was commissioned on Reformation Sunday to develop and oversee the construction of a sanctuary to seat 350 people, a parking lot of 176 spaces, and to provide a long-range plan for future development. The overall budget was set at \$500,000. Pledges totaling \$200,000, to be paid over 3 years, were needed in order to secure a construction loan to begin the project. Michelle Pratt organized a Super Sunday group for our younger children, complementing the active youth program. Jule Stahl began directing a children's choir. Eleven boys of our Scout troop received their Eagle awards this year, and scoutmaster Fred Sieg received the Lamb Award, the highest religious award given by Scouting. Our organist, Kim Davis, left us to get married, and Alberta Loney again filled in until we hired Sandra Nearhoof in time to play for Easter services.

More to come... Dave Bonaker

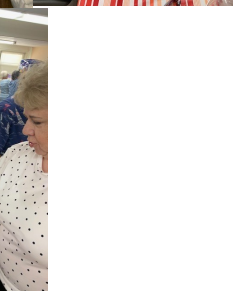


September Craf-Tea



8/30 was a busy day!

End of Summer Potluck, God's Work, Birthday, New Members & Bishop Strickland



AVAILABLE

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

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

Finance Committee Report

	August 2026	Year to Date
Income	\$19,435	\$105,609
Expenses	12,761	\$132,528
Difference	\$6,674	\$-26,919
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
Anne Sims
Ricky Skinner
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Eric Young
Martha Zimmerman

Hicks Family
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 Nepal
People of Tibet





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Wedding Committee 2:00 - Church House Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	2	3 Gardens Refresh 9-12
4- 19th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday School 9:15-10:15 Worship 10:30 AM Communion	5	6 Bible Study 10:15AM CH Finance Meeting 5:00-FH Girl Scouts 6:00-FH	7	8 German Klub 5:30 LH Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	9	10
11- 20th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday School 9:15-10:15 Worship 10:30 AM Communion Oktoberfest/Birthday Celebration	12 Chair Yoga 11:00-LH Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	13 Bible Study 10:15AM CH	14	15 Council Meeting 5:00 PM-FH Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	16 Craf-Tea 10-12 - LH	17
18- 21st Sunday after Pentecost Sunday School 9:15-10:15 Worship 10:30 AM Communion	19 Chair Yoga 11:00 - LH Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	20 Bible Study 10:15AM CH	21	22 Men's Group 5:30 at Deorio's Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	23	24
25-Reformation Sunday Sunday School 9:15-10-15 Worship 10:30 AM Communion	26 Chair Yoga 11:00 - LH Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	27 Bible Study 10:15AM CH	28	29 Girl Scouts Juliet Lowe Celebration-FH 5-9	30	31

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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED