



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

Celebrating **69** years

The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - October 2025

Operation Christmas Child

This time of the year is always exciting as we prepare for Operation Christmas Child. St. Matthew is celebrating our 20th year of packing shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We were introduced to Operation Christmas Child by Patrea Bonaker in 2005. After Patrea and her husband, Mike moved away, we at St. Matthew continued to pack shoe boxes every year.

Since its creation in 1993, Operation Christmas Child has distributed 232,000,000 shoe boxes which were packed with the love of our Lord, Jesus Christ. For most of the children receiving these shoe boxes, it is their first exposure to the love of God and the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life. These shoe boxes are distributed to 170 countries and territories. The boxes are packed by faithful partners in the United States and eleven other nations worldwide. "God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Romans 5:2).

Children who receive these shoe boxes are invited to participate in "The Greatest Journey" program (discipleship classes in 12 lessons). In 2024, 57% of "The Greatest Journey" participants committed their lives to Christ. They learned about God and His word. They learned how to share their faith with their families and friends. God be praised. Families and communities are being transformed through the gospel witnessing of these young disciples.

The \$10 donation for each shoe box defrays the cost of the following items:

- ♥ "The Greatest Journey"-12 lessons and workbooks in their own languages
- ♥ A beautifully illustrated children's bible
- ♥ A graduation certificate
- ♥ Additional training and resources for "The Greatest Journey" teachers
- ♥ Shipping and processing costs

These precious shoe boxes provide God's love in a tangible way to children around the world. We will once again prepare and pack 50 boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

- ♦ Saturday-November 15th -10:00AM till 12:00PM at Luther Hall
- ♦ Tuesday-November 18th -After bible study at Luther Hall

We as disciples of Jesus Christ once again have an opportunity to serve our Father in heaven. We will be blessing the children of God with a chance to meet God through Operation Christmas Child.

Allena Sperry
Council President

SMALL GROUPS

Bible Study

Weekday Bible Study meets in the Fellowship Hall from 10:15 - 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday reading and discussing the scriptures for the coming Sunday.

Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga meets every Monday morning at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. This is led by Terri Neiderhammer. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

CRAF-TEA

The Craf-Tea group will meet on 10/17 and 10/24 from 10-12:00 in Luther Hall. 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 Linnea Grosse at (706) 392-8697 for more information.

Men's Group

Men's Group meeting at 5:00 PM on October 30th at Mr. Pizza.

Social Statement Study

This study on the Social Statement of the ELCA will meet on 10/14, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11 and 11/18 at 6:00 PM at Mr. Pizza.





If you have been thinking about joining the Church Choir, please join us for practice on Thursday, October 9th at 5:30 PM. We would love to have you join us!



Have you ever wanted to play handbells? Please join us on Thursday, October 9th at 6:30 PM for handbell practice on with our newly refurbished handbells! Learn why Happiness is Ringing Handbells!



Please tune in for the installation of Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry on Saturday, October 4th at 3:00 PM. You can view by going to elca.org/installation.

NEW STUDY GROUP ON THE ELCA SOCIAL STATEMENTS

ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, discernment and thoughtful engagement with current social issues as we participate in God's work in the world. Social statements also set policy for the ELCA and guide its advocacy and work as a publicly engaged church. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA churchwide assembly.

Please join us at 6:00 PM at Mr. Pizza as we focus on our Evangelical Lutheran Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life developed over the past six years and approved in final form by churchwide Assembly this July. This group will meet for five weeks on 10/14, 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, and 11/18. We hope that you will join us!

CHRISTMAS FOR WNN: Holiday items needed

Cranberry Sauce	Yams	Jelly
Brownie Mix	Evaporated Milk	Cornbread mix
Green Beans	Cream of Mushroom Soup	Pumpkin pie mix
Corn	Chicken Broth (cans or boxes)	Mac and cheese
Stuffing	Peanut Butter	

**PUT ITEMS IN THE MARKED CONTAINER IN THE NARTHEX!
THANK YOU!**



The event this year was a great success! We had 34 participants! After a delicious fried chicken potluck lunch, books were labeled for the USO library at Ft. Benning and care bags were assembled for Wynnton Neighborhood Network. Thanks to everyone who helped with these projects!



THANK YOU FOR PRAYERS!

From Pastor Rachel Zarnke:

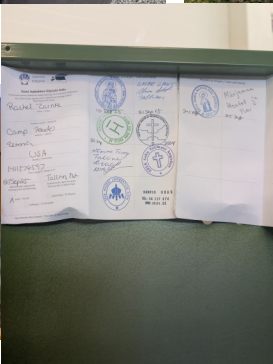
"Hello All!!

Thank you so much for supporting our Eestie Jaakobitee Pilgrims in prayer. We had 23 people successfully, safely make the journey. This was an event to remember forever, and I know your prayers were with us along the way.

I have attached some photos from the event, I am a terrible photographer, but I do my best!!

If any of you/your communities are ever considering walking Camino, either in Spain, across Europe, or a pilgrimage in your backyard - please let me know! I have so many tips, insight, support to offer.

Best,
Rachel"



We need all hands to help on October 4th from 9-12:00 to get our gardens and grounds ready for the Fall/ Christmas season! Please come prepared with any yard tools that you have! Thank you in advance for your help and care of our church home!

AVAILABLE

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

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

Finance Committee Report

	August 2025	Year to Date
Income	\$10,868	\$104,320
Expenses	\$18,202	\$155,431
Difference	\$(7,334)	\$(51,111)



All Saints

Margarete Walsh
Patricia Bonaker
Betty Davidson
Mike Regnier
Boyd Lester

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
Persecuted Christians
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
Dave Bonaker
Matt Bonaker
Sandy Craven
Davidson Family
Myrna & Ken Hoag
Mairetha & Bennie Jackson
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Regnier Family
Connie Sieg
Carla Stickles
Harold Vinson
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
George Capps
Chappel Family
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Nancy Edmundson
Lynn Funck
Brandy Garnett
Sandy Gibbs
Mike Gewin

Moses Glidden
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Sarah Goodman
Doris Grier
Petra & Franklin
Henderson
Laura Jett
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Laura Lester
Robert Lowe
John & David Lucas
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Lynn Meinhold
Tim Moore
Moser Family
Nearhoof family
Debi Nelson
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Terry Pendergraff
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Bill Rahm
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Amanda Steinagel
Sara Steinagel Sturgis
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Molly Wright
Martha Zimmerman



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 <i>AI-Non/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	3	4 <i>Garden and Grounds Cleanup Day 9-12 Installation for presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry - 3:00</i>
5 - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion</i>	6 <i>Chair Yoga 11:00 - LH AI-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	7 <i>Bible Study 10:15AM FH Finance Committee Meeting 3:00-LH Girl Scouts 6-8-FH</i>	8	9 <i>German Klub 5:30 LH Choir Rehearsal 5:30 Bell Rehearsal 6:30 AI-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - FH</i>	10 <i>Deli Day Shabbat 6:00 PM Temple Israel</i>	11
12 - Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion</i>	13 <i>Chair Yoga 11:00 - FH AI-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	14 <i>Bible Study 10:15AM FH Finance Committee Meeting 3:00-FH Social Statement Study-6:00 Mr. Pizza</i>	15	16 <i>Council Meeting 5:00 PM- FH AI-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	17 <i>Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH</i>	18
19- Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion</i>	20 <i>Chair Yoga 11:00 - LH AI-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	21 <i>Bible Study 10:15AM FH Finance Meeting 3:00</i>	22	23 <i>WNN care packing 9:00 AI-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	24 <i>Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH Girl Scouts 5:30-9:00</i>	25
26- Reformation Sunday <i>Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion</i>	27 <i>Chair Yoga 11:00 - LH AI-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	28 <i>Bible Study 10:15AM FH Social Statement Study-6:00 Mr. Pizza</i>	29	30 <i>Men's Group 5:00 Mr. Pizza AI-Anon/AA 8:00 pm-LH</i>	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
Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof
Penny Davis
Lisa Pettit

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Columbus, GA 31907

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED