ST. MATTHEW
Messenger
Celebrating 70 years
The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - November 2026

Gratitude to the Father

The season of Thanksgiving is upon us evoking gratitude to God the Father for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. What is gratitude? Webster defines gratitude as a state of being grateful. Every day is a gift from God to be appreciated and enjoyed. We should be thankful every morning we open our eyes to another day in God's grand creation. Gratitude takes the focus from things that we lack, enabling us to see the many blessings we do have. Count your blessings and add up your reasons to express your gratitude.

Be joyful, pray, and give thanks, no matter what happens. Do not concentrate on the weeds in your life. Gratitude is always an option. Whatever comes our way, we should choose to give thanks to God. We are reminded daily of the innumerable blessings God has poured out on our lives. When we remember His many gifts to us, we can not help but be filled with gratitude and joy. We only need to look at the seas, the skies, the mountains, and the trees to understand how insignificant we truly are. Yet God is mindful of each of us. The gifts we have received from God are immeasurable. We are blessed beyond what we can imagine or deserve. We should praise God every day of our lives for our faith, our families, our friends, the love that is in our lives, and all the many blessings that He continues to bestow on us.

We worship our Lord with gladness for His steadfast, unfailing love and faithfulness. May He continue to light our way as we face the future with courage and compassion which you provide. We thank God for his Son, a gift too wonderful for words. We give thanks for salvation, faith, heaven, miracles, our church family, unfailing love, faithfulness, honor, goodness, and laughter.

We can show our gratitude to God through praise, prayer, worship, giving, and obedience to the Father. Thankfulness to God can be shown through service to our church, family, neighbors, community, and the world.

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18. What are you grateful for?

Blessings to all of my brothers and sisters in Christ in this season of gratitude. Thanks be to God!

Allena Sperry
Council President



We will be celebrating 2026 and looking forward to 2027. Please plan on staying after the worship service on 11/22/26 if you are a voting member. We need your input for the 2027 year as we look forward to continuing to serve Christ in our community.



Memorial bricks will be dedicated in the Memorial Garden immediately following the November 1st Sunday service. Please join us for this special time.

Bricks given in honor or memory of:

Ann Stevens Edwards
Dr. James B Edwards
Gaila Ruth Edwards
Mario Romano Mion
Ken & Myrna Hoag-70th anniversary
Louie Niederhammer
Eva Brown
Sandra Nearhoof
Rachel
Patricia Bonaker
Katherine Kelly
Patti Young Vinson



Chrismon Tree Decoration! We will be decorating the sanctuary and the Chrismon trees on Saturday, November 28th. Please plan on joining us for good fellowship and fun in getting our sanctuary ready for the Christmas season!



Happy 99th Birthday Marga Miller!





October Craf-Tea










Turkey Magnets



2027 Calendar of Word and Season available for sale. Calendars are $15. Please see Allena Sperry to purchase or you can email her at agsperry@bellsouth.net and let her know how many calendars you want. We only have 11 calendars - so first come, first served!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



We will be decorating our Sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve services, Thursday, December 24, 2026. 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 13, 2026.

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)

Mission Opportunities

We invite you to join us on Saturday, November 14th at 10:00 AM in Luther Hall to pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

The following items are needed to pack into the boxes by Sunday November 8th:

Paddle Balls	Sunglasses
Finger Puppets	Washable Markers
Harmonicas	Socks
Yo-Yo	Stickers
Jump Ropes	Bandanas
Slinky	Solar Flashlights
Small Hairbrushes	Glue Sticks
Band-Aids (no camo)	Solar Calculators

Wynnton Neighborhood Network needs your help for the holiday giveaways. Please bring the following food items that will serve 250 families at Thanksgiving and 250 at Christmas:

Cranberry sauce	Stuffing
Brownie Mix	Canned Yams
Green Beans	Evaporated Milk
Corn	Cream of Mushroom Soup
Chicken broth (box or can)	Jelly
Corn Bread Mix	Macaroni and Cheese
Pumpkin Pie Mix	

Wynnton Neighborhood Network Unity Service

Sunday, November 15, 2026

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Living Grace Church
3969 Edgewood Circle
Shearith Israel Synagogue will offer the message this year. An offering will be received (food or money) to support the food pantry. Gather to give thanks for this holy partnership of people of faith and for the multiplied impact we have together.



Finance Committee Report

	September 2026	Year to Date
Income	$13,830	$119,439
Expenses	$15,231	$147,759
Difference	$-1,401	$-28,320

2026 Budget = $185,981



All Saints

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



Prayer Requests

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
St Matthew Congregational Council
Dan & Laura Alexander
Rigney Cofield
Jeff Gates
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
Jean Clemmons
Nancy Edmundson
Lynn Funck
Brandy Garnett
Moses Glidden
Doris Grier
Frank & Petra Henderson
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Remi Lindquist
Robert Lowe
John & David Lucas
Michelle Matthias
Brady Meeks
Debi Nelson
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Tiffany Richardson
Phyllis Roan
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott

Dou Shizhen
Anne Sims
Ricky Skinner
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman

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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 - All Saints Sunday *Sunday School 9:15-10:15* *Worship 10:30 AM* *Brick Dedication* *Birthday Celebration*	*2* *Chair Yoga 11:00 - FH* *Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH*	*3* *Bible Study 10:15 AM CH* *Girl Scouts 6:00 pm - FH*	*4*	*5* *Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH*	*6*	*7*
8- 24th Sunday after Pentecost *Sunday School 9:15-10:15* *Worship 10:30 AM* *Communion* *Council Mtg- Sanctuary*	*9* *Chair Yoga 11:00 - FH* *Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH*	*10* *Bible Study 10:15AM CH*	11	*12* *German Klub 5:30 LH* *Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH*	*13*	*14* *OCC Packing 10-12 LH*
15- 25th Sunday after Pentecost *Sunday School 9:15-10:15* *Worship 10:30 AM* *Communion* *WNN Unity Service- 6:00 - Living Grace*	*16* *Chair Yoga 11:00-LH* *Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH*	17 *Bible Study 10:15AM CH*	18	*19* *Council Meeting 5:00 PM- FH* *Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH*	*20* *Craf-Tea 10-12 - LH*	*21*
22- Christ the King *9:15-10:15* *Worship 10:30 AM* *Communion* *Congregational Meeting-Sanctuary*	*23* *Chair Yoga 11:00 - LH* *Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH*	*24* *Bible Study 10:15AM CH*	25	*26*  	*27* *Office Closed*	*28* *Chrismon Tree Decoration 10-12*
29 - 1st Sunday of Advent *Sunday School 9:15-10-15* *Worship 10:30 AM* *Communion*	*30* *Chair Yoga 11:00 - LH* *Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH*					

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

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Friday - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

The office will be closed November 26-27 for the Thanksgiving Holidays.

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	**Sandra Nearhoof**
Nursery Attendant	**Penny Davis**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED