



ST. MATTHEW

Celebrating

67
years

Messenger

The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - March 2024

Reach in through Discipleship!

“All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

This passage from Matthew 28 verses 19-20 is a familiar passage that serves as a directive from Jesus that I should follow. It is the focus of the Great Commission, and Jesus calls each of us to be disciples by spreading his word throughout the world. The “Reach In” retreat held the weekend of the 15th and 16th of February brought this message closer to me.

Rachel Zarnke described her idea for this retreat to the church council a few months ago. A committee was formed to investigate all the possible venues and logistics that needed to be worked out before Lent. I began to wonder what more could I learn about discipleship. I had the opportunity the third week in January to share the story of Peter and Simon and their calling to follow Jesus with the children and congregation. By early January, all the details were worked out and the retreat date had been set and St. Thomas Episcopal Church was our location. At the same meeting, walking outside to the labyrinth was mentioned as an activity. My interest peaked because I had no idea what a labyrinth was. I also was aware of the biblical knowledge both Pastor Taylor and Rachel have so I was very much looking forward to the retreat.

As we gathered on Friday evening, we began the retreat with the Affirmation of Baptism, which became the support of our discipleship guide. We each affirmed our faith through answering the questions to continue the covenant God made with us through Holy Baptism and to support and pray for one another in our live in Christ. Wow, you could feel the energy in the room as we raised our voices in these affirmations. What transpired next is hard to write down in words because through readings, self-reflection and sharing each of us discovered how we classified ourselves as exploring, committing, growing, maturing or Christ like in seven different discipleship areas. We studied, read, shared aloud, gave feedback to other group members and made decisions for our next steps.

Do I know it all now concerning discipleship? No, not at all. I do feel having attended this retreat that I have a plan for growth in being a better disciple.

Rose Johnson
Council President

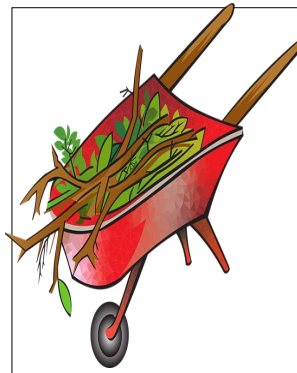
Lent Worship Schedule

LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP
EVENING PRAYER

MARCH 6, 13, 20
5:30 P.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY
MARCH 28
7:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 29
7:00 P.M.



Garden and grounds spring cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd & 9th from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Please bring tools you need for work. If you are unable to participate in the cleanup, please consider making a donation for pine straw or spring plants. Place donation in a pew envelope and mark for gardens. Thank you for your assistance. Please contact Allena Sperry for questions at 706-563-3107
--The Garden Keepers

SMALL GROUPS

GROWING IN GRACE

Meets every Friday from 9:00-11:00 AM in the Church House. God's grace is freely given to us. Join the group to learn to cultivate an attitude of grace in your daily life by learning about and adopting habits to move into a state of grace. Contact Beth Hoag at 706-604-8110 for more information.

REMEMBRANCE GATHERING

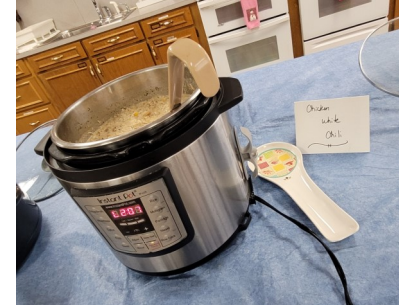
This group meets on the second Tuesday at 3 PM in the Church House each month. The Gathering is an open invitation to share personal stories or recollections of someone else's life from all wars and conflicts. Please come share your ideas or just support those of others this coming **March 12th at 3:00 PM.**

Bible Study

This group meets in the Church House from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday where they read and talk about the scriptures for the coming Sunday.

We Worked To Tackle Hunger!

WHAT A TACKLE!!! Tackle Hunger potluck was enjoyed by 53 people with great food and fellowship. Donations at the potluck totaled \$126. This will be added to other donations that have been received throughout the month. Thank you so much to everyone who donated to Brown Bag of Columbus!





March Birthdays



8	Aidan Gardner	17	Callie Gardner
9	Eileen Barrs	18	Debby Owen
9	Jon Hoag	24	Joseph Steinagel
14	Erin Thies	26	Evelyn Seames
15	Brandon Hoag	27	Rev Grace Burton Edwards

Birthday Celebration will be on 3/3/2024 this month in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Please join us!

Finance Committee Report

	January 2024	Year to Date
Income	\$13,733	\$13,733
Expenses	\$16,802	\$16,802
Difference	\$-3,069	\$-3,069



Prayer Requests

The Armed Forces, their families, & victims of war	Becky Goldsmith
Persecuted Christians	Estrella Gonzales
The ministries of St. Matthew	Doris Grier
Bishop Kevin Strickland	Petra Henderson
Southeastern Synod Staff	Beverly Huckaby
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards	Norma Kilby
Laura Alexander	Ken Korn
Zocia Barr family	Boyd Lester
Carol Bingemann	Laura Lester
Dave Bonaker	Robert Lowe
Pat Bonaker	Michelle Matthias
Eva Brown	Tim Moore
Betty Davidson	Gary Nearhoof
Ken Hoag	Kimberly O'Malley
Myrna Hoag	Michael Owen
Bennie Jackson	Angela Paul
Mairetha Jackson	Vincent Pawlowski
Marga Miller	Dwight Redmond
Traudel Mosely	Tiffany Richardson
Debby Owen	Dayna Ryan
Dorothy Redden	Yuliia Savitska
Connie Sieg	Shirley Scott
Joan Smith	Ricky Skinner
Carla Stickles	Betty Townsend
Albert VanHousen II	Charlie VanHousen
Margarete Walsh	Dawn VanHousen
Monika Wright	Martha Zimmerman
Gary Anderson	
Judy Bultman	
George Capps	
Kyle Carter	
Jim Chappel	
Jean Clemmons	
Xavier Danguilan	
Brandy Garnett	



All Saints

Keandra Bashful
WJ Barrs
Eva Brown

Business Prayer Requests

Mr. Pizza	Gold Teeth World
Quality Inn	Apparel King & More
Smoke Buddy's	Hollywood Barber Shop
Days Inn	The Cell Plug
Enterprise	Plaza Furniture
Comfort Inn	Guthrie's
Octapharma Plasma	Master-Kleen
Kamoree's Beauty Salon	Title Max
Broken Tarot Tattoo & Piercing	JD Wings
Beaute' Matrix	Burger King
5 Fourteen	Animal General Hospital
DQ	Klose Kutz
Freedom Adult Day Center	Xpert Tax Service
Transformation Salon	Family Worship Center
Pathway Worship Center	Bi-City Driving School
Menzie Dance Company	Sunset Finance
Frankie's Hair Design	Diamond Kutz
AMG Financial	Kee J's
Acceptance Auto	Angel's Nails
Phuong's Tailor Shop	Y & J Health
Walgreen's	Hidden Lake Grocery
USPS	Beauty Queen
Peachtree Immediate Care	Brewster's
Hidden Lake Bottle Shop	Waffle House
Vance Brooks Funeral Service	E&S Clothing
Striffler Hamby Funeral Service	One Financial
El Carrizo	Tasha's Dance & Prep
M. Bland Salon	Bargain Furniture
The Ellands Event Center	Dollar General
Chevron	Citgo
Grace Apostolic Church	Landmark
#1 Nails	McKibben Insurance
Valley Rescue Donation Center	Rooster's Beer & Wine
Mario's Tire	Woodville Apartments
Mariner Finance	

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 GROW WITH GRACE 9:00-11:00	2 Spring cleanup day outdoors 9:00 - 1:00 PM
3 Third Sunday of Lent Worship 10:30 AM Communion Birthday Celebration after service	4	5	6 LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE AT 5:30 PM	7	8 GROW WITH GRACE 9:00-11:00	9 Spring cleanup day outdoors 9:00 - 1:00 PM Spring forward at 2:00 AM
10 Fourth Sunday of Lent Worship 10:30 AM Communion	11 AA 8:00 PM - LH	12 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH Remembrance Gathering 3:00 CH	13 LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE AT 5:30 PM	14 AA 8:00 PM - FH	15 GROW WITH GRACE 9:00-11:00	16
17 Fifth Sunday of Lent Worship 10:30 AM Communion St. Patrick's Day	18 AA 8:00 PM - LH	19 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH	20 LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE AT 5:30 PM	21 COUNCIL MEETING 5:00 AA 8:00 PM - FH	22 GROW WITH GRACE 9:00-11:00	23
24 Palm Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Communion	25 AA 8:00 PM - FH	26 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH	27	28 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 AA 8:00 PM - FH	29 GROW WITH GRACE 9:00-11:00 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT 7:00 PM	30 Easter Vigil at St. Thomas Episcopal Church at 6:30 PM
31 Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast - 9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM						

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
Parish Administrator

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards
Sonja Metcalf
office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com

Minister of Music
Nursery Attendant
Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof
Penny Davis
Lisa Pettit

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Lutheran Church
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED