



ST. MATTHEW

# Messenger

Celebrating

67  
years

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

## “Weeds”



We have recently read many parables in Matthew that dealt with farming the land and of course weeds came into the parable too. I like to have a small garden in the summer so I can enjoy fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, grape tomatoes to name just a few.

My garden is different from the ones described in Matthew Chapter 13, but alike too. This statement seems confusing so let me explain myself.

I chose good seeds and plants for my garden. I generally buy my seeds and plants from Home Depot because of the success I’ve had over the years. I have in past years tried to use only seeds to grow my vegetables, but unfortunately many of them never sprouted. One time I did have success with grape tomato seeds, and I placed the seedlings outside for sunshine. To my dismay, the wind was strong that day and my seedlings succumbed to the wind, and they died. It was a great disappointment to care for the seedlings and to have them die so quickly. I decided to try to plant seeds again this year using a different technique I read about on Pinterest. I saved the materials needed for the project and bought new seeds. I collected paper rolls from toilet paper, bought new potting soil and I knew this year I would have success. I’m still waiting for the plants to sprout! I’m going to do more research and reading and hopefully I’ll be successful next year.

As I stated, my garden is different from the ones in the Bible too. I don’t plant my vegetables in the ground, but in buckets. As in the parable of the Sower, my soil is a mixture of rock and clay, and my yard is shady part of the day. Using the buckets, I can select the best spot for my vegetables to grow. I also use good potting soil formulated for plants, water during the morning hours but not too much and use natural fertilizers. This year my garden was very successful, and I was able to share with neighbors and family.

One thing in common to my garden and those in the Bible was WEEDS. I found the weeds grew around the buckets, so I needed to pull them up. I didn’t let the weeds stay like the parable we read. I didn’t want the weeds to take over and affect my vegetables. I was very thankful that no weeds came up in the buckets this year, but my flower beds are a different story.

As I thought about the parable, my garden and life, I realized that weeds are a part of my life. I’ve had many wonderful life experiences and sad ones too. Weeds are a part of everyone’s life, and how you use the garden tools of life such as prayer, attending church, reading your Bible, having faith helps get rid of those things I need to change in my life. Weeds can be disguised as envy for something your neighbor has, love of material things and being deceitful to family, friends and co-workers. The list is long, and you understand what I’m trying to say here. During our worship service, we pause for silence and self-examination of what we’ve done the previous week, and this is an excellent opportunity to pull weeds. See you Sunday and let’s pull those weeds!



Rose Johnson  
St. Matthew Church Council President



A big Thank You to all that attended the Binding of Issac Bible Study with Rabbi Beth and Pastor Taylor. It was a wonderful study. We would like to thank all the ladies that bought goodies to share with the group: Linnea G, Sandra C., Katherine K, Carla S., Amanda J., Donna D. and Joyce M. We also had a group of ladies that set up and cleaned up for each meeting. THANK YOU!!!

## REMEMBRANCE GATHERING

Thank you to those who have participated in the remembrance gatherings we have had so far. This is such a meaningful experience . We are having another gathering on Tuesday, September 12th at 3:00 in the Church House. We invite all who would like to share their own or family stories related to World War II. Please feel free to invite others to attend! If you have any questions, please contact Zocia Barr at (706) 330-1001.

## PRAYER MINISTRY

We have begun a prayer ministry called “Praying for our Macon Road Neighbors”. An informational card is being left with businesses on Macon Road letting them know that the people of St. Matthew want to pray for the success of their business and the needs of people who work for them. They can also go to our website and leave prayer requests using a QR code on their card.

Did you know that you can go to our website and leave a prayer request for yourself as well? Just click here <https://forms.wix.com/r/7095504952415486031> to be taken to the prayer request form.

## REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD

The council has approved for St. Matthew to begin an outreach program called Reaching Out to the World based on Romans 10:18.

But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have:

“Their voice has gone out to all the earth and their words to the ends of the world.” -

Romans 10:18

This also aligns with part 3 of our Mission Statement

Reach in to grow in Christ

Reach up to worship God

**Reach out to welcome and witness**

An congregational meeting for the members and friends of St. Matthew is being planned for Sunday, September 24, 2023 after the worship service. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



- We will have a potluck chicken dinner provided in Luther Hall with a work session following. We supply the chicken, you supply the sides and desserts.
- There will be a SPECIAL SURPRISE during the morning service.
- We need paperback books for soldiers and items for St. Anne’s Outreach to make this project a success!

Items needed for St. Anne’s (put in designated containers in Narthex) thru September 3rd:

- ♥ Personal hygiene products (travel size)
- ♥ Toilet paper
- ♥ Non-Perishable food Items



ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

## Annual Congregational Meeting

**When:** Sunday, November 12, 2023 - Following worship

**Where:** In the sanctuary

All voting members of the church (adult members and confirmed youth) are encouraged to attend this meeting to discuss the business of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.

## All Saints

Joyce Garver-Messenger  
 Anneliese Schwarting  
 Hans Salheiser  
 Bobby Wright  
 Joe Stewart  
 Christine Minor  
 Rolene Stewart



## Prayer Requests

The Armed Forces, their families, & victims of war	Jean Clemmons
Persecuted Christians	Xavier Danguilan
The ministries of St. Matthew	Brandy Garnett
Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton	Becky Goldsmith
Bishop Kevin Strickland	Estrella Gonzales
Southeastern Synod Staff	Doris Grier
Seminarian, Brandon Konnow	Petra Henderson
Laura Alexander	Beverly Huckaby
Zocia Barr family	Norma Kilby
Keandra Bashful	Ken Korn
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
Jim Sperry	Betty Townsend
Carla Stickles	Charlie VanHousen
Albert VanHousen II	Dawn VanHousen
Margarete Walsh	Martha Zimmerman
Monika Wright	Mr. Pizza
Gary Anderson	Quality Inn
Judy Bultman	Smoke Buddy's
Kyle Carter	Days Inn
Jim Chappel	Enterprise
	Comfort Inn
	Octapharma Plasma

Birthday Celebration will be on 9/3/2023 this month in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Please join us!

## September Birthdays

1 Elaine Hoag  
 2 Michael Ingram  
 4 Jim Sperry  
 10 Amanda Jeffery  
 22 Amy Glau  
 23 Rose Johnson  
 23 Sonja Metcalf  
 25 Tyler Chappel  
 27 Connie Sieg  
 27 Fabio Vargas  
 28 Marga Miller



**The Athanasian Creed:** Join us each Tuesday at Mr. Pizza at 6:00 PM as we study the Athanasian Creed! We would love to see there for fellowship and the growth of our knowledge of this very important creed in the life of the church.

## Memorial Garden Bricks

Purchase a commemorative brick to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or graduation. You can also purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one. Each brick purchased will become part the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Memorial Garden. See Allena Sperry for more details!

**DEADLINE TO ORDER IS  
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

## Finance Committee Report

	July 2023	Year to Date
Income	\$16,385	\$95,262
Expenses	\$11,917	\$81,547
Difference	\$ 4,468	\$13,715





# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

## September 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
<p>3 14th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>Birthday Celebration after service</p>	<p>4</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p> <p>Athanasian Creed Study at Mr. Pizza 6:00</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM -LH</p>	8	9
<p>10 15th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>God's Work, Our Hands Potluck after service</p>	<p>11</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM -LH</p>	<p>12</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p> <p>Remembrance Gathering 3:00 CH</p> <p>Athanasian Creed Study at Mr. Pizza 6:00</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>Macon Rd Neighbors Prayer Team 2:00</p> <p>GERMAN CLUB 5:00 PM LH</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM -FH</p>	15	16
<p>17 16th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p>	<p>18</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM -LH</p>	<p>19</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p> <p>Athanasian Creed Study at Mr. Pizza 6:00</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM -LH</p>	22	<p>23</p> 
<p>24 17th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>Reaching out to the World congregation meeting after service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM -LH</p>	<p>26</p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH</p> <p>Athanasian Creed Study at Mr. Pizza 6:00</p>	27	<p>28</p> <p>COUNCIL MEETING 4:00</p> <p>AA 8:00 PM -LH</p>	29	30

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.**  
**Zoom is also available**

### 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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Columbus, GA 31907

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED