



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

Celebrating

67
years

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



We are Easter People My Easter Story

It was a wonderful Easter Sunday, April 9th at our church and for me personally. When our church and fellowship activities were not existent, Easter for me was missing something. I missed terribly our Lenten and Easter activities at St. Matthew.

As a young child growing up in Montgomery, AL, my family once attended a sunrise service in the city-wide stadium. I can remember how the darkness of night gave way to the light of the morning, the loud and frightening sounds of the soldiers and huge stone being rolled away. This experience shaped my meaning of Easter.

As I grew older, new sights and sounds filled my Easter Sundays- lilies, beautiful trumpet accompaniments, hand bell music, favorite choir anthems and hymns. I did have a slight detour when our children were born, however. It seemed finding or making matching outfits for our children, scheduling the neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt at our house, getting to both of grandparents' houses for lunch was more important. I wasn't an Easter person at all anymore.

This continued for several years as Easter traditions changed in our family. But, we still knew the importance of the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

It wasn't until I became more involved in scripture that the Easter person I am came back. When I began to attend and participate in the weekly Bible studies, Lenten services and Holy Week services, experience death of two precious loved ones and numerous questions I asked Pastor Taylor, Rachel Zarnke and Donna Doughty about scriptures, did I find Easter inside of me.

This year the readings from scripture each Sunday and Lenten service on Wednesday seemed to come alive. I felt I was in the crowd that yelled "Crucify him", and this made me very uncomfortable. I also felt I was Jesus' mother, Mary, at the cross watching her beloved son breathe his last breath. Then I realized my dormant Easter person was reborn!

I know my precious loved ones are with him and together with him. They are the Easter people and so am I. As my Children's Message main point from Sunday was believing without seeing and not doubting, that message is our Easter promise daily.

As I reflect on this past Easter, I see the Easter promise in all of you on Sunday morning, Tuesday morning and evening at Bible Study, Wednesday evening services and especially on Saturday morning work and clean up days. Our church has opened back up to many wonderful and new ways to show we are Easter people!



Rose Johnson
Church Council President

WE ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE!!



Thank you to all of you that worked outside and inside the church to prepare our Sanctuary for Lent and Easter. The Prayer and Memorial Garden are blooming with beautiful flowers in the flower beds. The Easter Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt and Worship service preparations didn't go unnoticed either. We have amazing cooks at St. Matthew and the sounds of laughter from the children and adults was incredible!





All Saints

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



Prayer Requests

The Armed Forces, their families, and victims of war
 Persecuted Christians
 The ministries of St. Matthew
 Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
 Bishop Kevin Strickland
 Southeastern Synod Staff
 Seminarian, Brandon Konnow
 Laura Alexander
 Zocia Barr family
 Keandra Bashful
 Carol Bingemann
 Dave Bonaker
 Pat Bonaker
 Eva Brown
 Betty Davidson
 Ken Hoag
 Bennie Jackson
 Mairetha Jackson
 Marga Miller
 Christine Minor
 Traudel Mosely
 Debby Owen
 Dorothy Redden
 Connie Sieg
 Joan Smith
 Jim Sperry
 Carla Stickles
 Albert VanHousen II
 Margarete Walsh
 Monika Wright
 Gary Anderson
 Judy Bultman
 Kyle Carter

Jim Chappel
 Jean Clemmons
 Xavier Danguilan
 Becky Goldsmith
 Estrella Gonzales
 Doris Grier
 Beverly Huckaby
 Norma Kilby
 Ken Korn
 Michelle Matthias
 Tim Moore
 Gary Nearhoof
 Kimberly O'Malley
 Michael Owen
 Angela Paul
 Vincent Powlowski
 Dwight Redmond
 Tiffany Richardson
 Dayna Ryan
 Yuliia Savitska
 Shirley Scott
 Ricky Skinner
 Betty Townsend
 Charlie VanHousen
 Dawn VanHousen
 Martha Zimmerman



Birthday Celebration will be on 5/7/2023 this month in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Please join us!



May Birthdays

4	Christine Minor	18	Matthew Pettit
5	Carla Stickles	24	Carol Bingemann
7	Liz McGouirk	24	Linnea Grosse
9	Sean Jeffery	25	Myrna Hoag
10	Red Mosley	25	Gary Nearhoof
10	Brenda Ritch	26	Albert VanHousen
10	Margarete Walsh	27	Jaxson Gardner
11	Brad Glau	28	Scott Sieg
12	David Vargas	29	Barbara VanHousen
13	Ryan Burns		

From the Worship and Music Committee
Lectors will begin to read from the pulpit starting immediately. If you feel uncomfortable climbing the steps, the Music stand will be available by the right side of the pew. Worship Assistants will wear a mic so members can hear what you sing or read and those listening on Zoom. Thank you for your dedication to serve our church.

Save the Date

- Pub Theology (Mr. Pizza): May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 (6:00 pm)
- Congregation Council Meeting: May 25 (4:00 pm)

Finance Committee Report

	March 2023	Year to Date
Income	\$12,568	\$39,707
Expenses	\$13,576	\$31,147
Difference	\$-1,008	\$ 8,560



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 5th Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30 AM Communion	8 AA 8:00 PM - LH	9 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH Pub Theology 6:00 PM at Mr. Pizza	10	11 AA 8:00 PM - LH	12	13
14 6th Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30 AM Communion Mother's Day	15 AA 8:00 PM - LH	16 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH Pub Theology 6:00 PM at Mr. Pizza	17	18 GERMAN CLUB 5:00 PM LH AA 8:00 PM - LH	19	20
21 Seventh Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30 AM Communion	22 AA 8:00 PM - LH	23 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH Pub Theology 6:00 PM at Mr. Pizza	24	25 AA 8:00 PM - LH COUNCIL MEETING 4:00	26	27
28 Pentecost Worship 10:30 AM Communion	29 MEMORIAL DAY AA 8:00 PM - LH	30 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH Pub Theology 6:00 PM at Mr. Pizza	31			

Contact Us . . .

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

4026 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31907

(706) 561-3406
office@stmatthewcolumbusga.org

Visit us on the web at
www.stmatthewcolumbusga.org

**Worship: Sundays at 10:30 am.
Zoom is also available**

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday/Thursday 2:30 PM - 5:30 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*

Staff . . .

Pastor	Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards
Parish Administrator	Sonja Metcalf <i>office@stmatthewcolumbusga.org</i>
Minister of Music	Sandra Nearhoof
Nursery Attendant	Penny Davis
Sexton	Lisa Pettit
Web Master	Laurence Mosely <i>webmaster@stmatthewcolumbusga.org</i>
Website Media Specialist	<i>www.stmatthewcolumbusga.org</i> Kelly Peterson

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED