



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

Celebrating

68
years

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

“My siblings in Christ:

“The early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

“During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church.

“In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew the commitments made at baptism.

“I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self–examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self–denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word.

“”To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us confess our sin the presence of God and of one another.”

These words are the historic “Invitation to the Season of Lent.” You will hear them when you attend our Ash Wednesday service, in person or online, on March 5 at 5:30 p.m. They are both a solemn reminder of what these 40 days ahead of us are for, and a serious call to you individually and to us as a church to examine our lives and make needed course corrections where we have not lived out our baptismal vows as fully as we can.

At the heart of the practices that help us make this examination is an enhanced attention to scripture and prayer through this time. Together, we embody that enhanced attention to both by holding a service of evening prayer each Wednesday at 5:30 in addition to our regular Sunday service of Word and Table. The readings we will use each Wednesday come from the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings listed in our hymnal beginning on page 1121, and which you can also find listed and printed out in full at the Vanderbilt Divinity School Lectionary website:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily-readings/>

I invite you to consider using these readings each day during Lent. If you have family at home, you may find it helpful to set aside time each day to read them together. If you do not, you may read them yourself each day, or ask another person in the church or a small group for time each day to read them together, whether in person, over the phone, or through an online meeting platform such as Zoom or Facebook Messenger.

May this be a holy Lent for each of us and for us all as a congregation.

May the Holy Spirit both prune us and prepare us to blossom.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Taylor

February was a time of celebration! Birthdays & Anniversaries



Pastor's Installation



Tackle Hunger was a great success with so many attending and over \$375 dollars raised!

Tackle Hunger



IN FEBRUARY WE HAD A SERVICE OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION FOR OUR LAST CHARTER MEMBER **BETTY DAVIDSON**



Memories of Betty Davidson

When I moved to the Phenix City-Columbus area back in 1978, one of the first things I wanted to do is find a church home. I visited several churches in Phenix City and Columbus. When I was newly married and my parents came over for the weekend, we attended church at St. Matthew. I had visited on my own on



Sundays and quickly darted out when service was over. This would all change that Sunday. My parents spotted Betty and Charlie Davidson or vice versa,

but I was blessed for over 45 plus years getting to know her again. She knew me from birth and told me that Richard and I were in the church nursery at the church. She treated me as a daughter and she became a part of the family when our first daughter, Constance, was born in 1981 to Dean and me. Betty was Constance's godmother, and stood with Dean and me at the altar as we committed to raise our daughter in the Lutheran faith and at St. Matthew.

As the years passed by, we added 2 more children to our family and Betty added grandchildren to hers. She became a very special lady to my family. We shared happy celebrations such as the weddings of her grandchildren and her 50th wedding anniversary, high school graduation parties. We also shared the sad times such as the death of her grandson Ryan, her husband, Charlie and her sons, Steve and Richard.

She was always willing to do anything she could to help me out as a young working mother. She was also a leader in the church by serving on Women's Circle group and Altar Guild. She made sure I participated in all these activities. Her most cherished work was bringing Chrismons to St. Matthew. She came to one of the youth meetings to show the youth how to make Chrismons for the trees. I still look for the ones we made that year when decorating the trees.



As time moved forward, Betty sold her home on Buena Vista Road and moved to Anglin Place. Visiting her there I experienced what a sports fan she was! One visit we watched the Braves play in her den and if someone called, she didn't answer. She said they can leave a message, and she would call them back. Betty loved her home on Anglin Place and as we sat in the den or kitchen, she would tell me all about the bushes in her yard. Her next move took her to Covenant Woods and visiting her I learned about her love for chocolate, peppermints and cokes. When I visited, I would bring peppermints to refill her candy dish that was on the coffee table. She enjoyed living at Covenant Woods and participating in the activities there. One evening she fell and wasn't discovered until the next day so it was determined that Betty needed care from a rehabilitation hospital and assistance for daily life. My youngest, Sarah Catherine, assisted in her therapy twice. It was during these stays we became closer. I was able to visit more, and Sundays became our day. I knew what we would talk about upon my arrival. First, I would give her the church bulletin and I would tell her who all came to church, and if I didn't mention someone she would ask if they were at church. She also wanted to know how the members were doing if she knew they were sick. She knew things before I usually did! If the television was on in her room and if the Braves or Falcons were playing, I found the right channel. We enjoyed watching sports on Sundays, and I learned a lot about football from her. As we watched the Sunday games before the Super Bowl, we were both sideline referees! She enjoyed having a few chocolates and coke during the game. She told me stories of her life in Danville, being a den mother when the boys were in Scouts, and how she loved school.

She was an amazing friend, example of a Christian mother and grandmother, and I will miss her dearly. ---Rose Johnson

Finance Committee Report

	January 2025	Year to Date
Income	\$17,716	\$17,716
Expenses	\$17,389	\$17,389
Difference \$	327	\$ 327



All Saints

Margarete Walsh
Patricia Bonaker
Betty Davidson

Prayer Requests

The Armed Forces, their families, & victims of war
Persecuted Christians
The ministries of St. Matthew
Bishop Kevin Strickland
Southeastern Synod Staff
Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards
St Matthew Congregational Council

Laura Alexander
Carol Bingemann
Dave Bonaker
Bonaker Family
Davidson Family
Myrna & Ken Hoag
Mairetha & Bennie Jackson
Sean Jeffery
Marga Miller
Charlotte Moore
Traudel Mosely
Terri Niederhammer
Debby Owen
Dorothy Redden
Connie Sieg
Allena Sperry
Carla Stickles
Albert VanHousen II
Harold Vinson
Eric & Tinisha Bryant
George Capps
Jim Chappel
Jean Clemmons
Xavier Danguilan
Penny Davis & Family
Brandy Garnett

Mike Gewin
Moses Glidden
Becky Goldsmith
Estrella Gonzales
Doris Grier
Petra & Franklin-Henderson
Norma Kilby
Ken Korn
Emma Kump
Melissa Lancheros
Laura & Boyd Lester
Robert Lowe
Michelle Matthias
Sandra McPeters
Brady Meeks
Tim Moore
Nearhoof family
Angela Paul
Vincent Pawlowski
Beth Price
Mark Purushotham
Bill Rahm
Tiffany Richardson
Dayna Ryan
Shirley Scott
Dou Shizhen
Ricky Skinner
Amanda Steinagel
Torrijos Family
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Martha Zimmerman



Business Prayer Requests

Mr. Pizza
Quality Inn
Smoke Buddy's
Days Inn
Enterprise
Guthrie's
Octapharma Plasma
Kamoree's Beauty Salon
Broken Tarot Tattoo & Piercing
Beaute' Matrix
5 Fourteen
DQ
Freedom Adult Day Center
Transformation Salon
Pathway Worship Center
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
The Ellands Event Center
Chevron
Grace Apostolic Church
#1 Nails
Rooster's Beer & Wine
Mario's Tire
Mariner Finance

Gold Teeth World
Apparel King & More
Hollywood Barber Shop
The Cell Plug
Master-Kleen
Title Max
JD Wings
Burger King
Animal General Hospital
Klose Kutz
Xpert Tax Service
Family Worship Center
Bi-City Driving School
Sunset Finance
Diamond Kutz
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
Woodville Apartments
Beal Wellness

March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Transfiguration Sunday Worship 10:30 AM Communion Birthday/Anniversary Celebration	3 CHAIR YOGA 11:00-LH AA 8:00 PM - LH	4 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH Shrove Tuesday 5:30-St. Thomas Girl Scouts 6-8 PM - FH	5 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 5:30 PM	6 AA 8:00 PM - LH	7 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH	8
9 First Sunday of Lent Worship 10:30 AM Communion Daylight Savings Time Begins	10 CHAIR YOGA 11:00-LH AA 8:00 PM - LH	11 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH	12 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE 5:30 PM	13 German Klub 5:30 LH AA 8:00 PM - FH	14 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH	15 Yard Sale Dropoff - Sieg Bldg - 10-12
16 Second Sunday of Lent Worship 10:30 AM Communion	17 CHAIR YOGA 11:00-LH AA 8:00 PM - LH ST PATRICK'S DAY	18 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH	19 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE 5:30 PM	20 COUNCIL MEETING 5:00 PM-FH AA 8:00 PM - LH	21 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH Happy Valentines Day!	22
23 Third Sunday of Lent Worship 10:30 AM Communion	24 CHAIR YOGA 11:00-LH AA 8:00 PM - LH	25 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH	26 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE 5:30 PM	27 MEN'S GROUP 5:30 PM - MR. PIZZA AA 8:00 PM - LH	28 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH	29
30 Third Sunday of Lent Worship 10:30 AM Communion	31 CHAIR YOGA 11:00-LH AA 8:00 PM - LH	 <p>Spring Forward DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR *** Sunday, March 9, 2025, AT 2:00 AM ***</p>				

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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED