



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

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

Celebrating

67
years

MEMORIAL DAY

To come up with a narrative for our May Newsletter, I chose Memorial Day. A day set aside for honoring American servicemen and women who died for their country and is observed by decorating graves and memorials. Some communities expand their celebrating to include a parade.



Through the years celebrations of this meaningful holiday have changed. We live busy lives and enjoying a day off from school or work gives opportunities for sleeping in. Some of us use this time to plant gardens, beautifying our surroundings, or just look forward to spending time with family and friends. For me, the only parade I want to view is the one that's televised. I choose now to reflect and recollect memories of Memorial Days of old as I place dozens of American flags in planters. Sadly, mine seem to be the only ones in view.

My memories take me back and I can still hear my mother's voice giving out instructions to my brothers and me as we left to view our little town's parade. "Behave!". "Don't spend your quarters until you get to the park.". "Where does your hand go when the flag passes by?". Finally, as we run out of the house, mother yells "Make sure to loudly sing the Star Spangled Banner!". We always tried to do what she asked us to do. We were lucky to achieve two out of the four things my mother requested of us!

Attending last year's Memorial Day services Sunday, May 28th was, for me, the end of my COVID isolation. Just being in church brought some tears every now and then. That Sunday's music and choir renditions spoke to me. During the announcements a very tall man in the choir section started to speak as though he was speaking directly to me. David Bonaker was that man. Without any fanfare, he reminded us of a soldier who was a member of St Matthew and gave his life for his country. That soldier's name was Major Tom Pollard. David just wanted to bring to our attention the fact that there used to be a plaque in the Memorial Garden honoring Major Pollard. His plaque was removed, perhaps for renovations to the garden, and he thought it might be a good time to find it and place it back on to the walkway where it used to be. A small effort celebrating in remembrance of a life lost.



I introduced myself that Sunday and told him that his story inspired me. Several months later, I let him know that his inspiration gave birth to the Remembrance Gathering. For some, Memorial Day is every day. It's having a platform to give voice to personal stories or someone else's recollections perhaps bringing not only awareness but hopefully some comfort and compassion. Understanding we are not alone can provide some healing in the process. So let's celebrate individually or together those that did not come home and love those that did because they are the very reason that we can celebrate freely!

Respectfully submitted,
Zocia Barr



Margarete Walsh

She continues to reside at Bethany Village in their memory care unit, but all her mail comes to her son, Bob Walsh. They take great care of her there, and it's only 5 minutes from Bob's house. Her dementia has progressed slowly over the past 5 years, but she is well physically, has a good appetite, and loves her coffee and chocolates. Margarete's 98th birthday is this month!



We need your help with the worship service on Sundays in the areas of Live Streaming, Altar Guild, Ushers, Nursery Helper and Chairman for Coffee Cart. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please see Rose Johnson or Cecil McGouirk.



On behalf of the Church Council, we would like to thank Lisa Pettit for her excellent care for our buildings for the last year and a half. As you may know, Lisa's father-in-law, Tom Pettit, is moving in with the Pettit family, and Lisa will be his primary caregiver. Lisa will not be able to continue to be our Sexton. We need to find someone to fill the opening for Sexton. If you know of an individual that might be interested in this position, please ask them to contact me by email. My email is rose_m_johnson@bellsouth.net and I can send the interested individual the job description.

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.

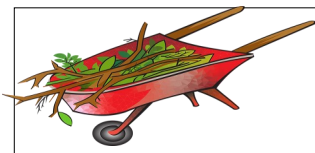
REMEMBRANCE GATHERING

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 **May 14th at 3:00 PM.**

Bible Studies

Weekday Bible Study meets in the Church House from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday reading and discussing the scriptures for the coming Sunday.

The interfaith Bible Study in the Ten Commandments with Rabbi Beth Schwartz, May 1st, May 8th, and 15th at 6:30 PM in Luther Hall.



We had a great turnout for our spring gardens clean up. Thanks to all who came out and worked to beautify our gardens/grounds. It was greatly appreciated. --The Garden Keepers



2024 Southeastern Synod Assembly

May 31 - June 2, 2024

Columbus Convention & Trade Center

Columbus, GA

The Southeastern Synod will gather for Assembly in Columbus, GA, at the Columbus Georgia Convention & Trade Center, May 31 - June 2, 2024. For our keynote speakers, we are welcoming: **Mr. Bryan Stevenson**, founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, and **Deacon Ross Murray**, GLAAD Media and author of several works on Advocacy. We will also welcome **Rev. Amy Reuman**, ELCA Director for Advocacy as our Churchwide Representative.

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
2024 Assembly



Striving for Justice & Peace
in all the World

May 31 - June 2, 2024
Columbus, GA



May Birthdays



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



Prayer Requests

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

Finance Committee Report

	March 2024	Year to Date
Income	\$17,302	\$43,494
Expenses	\$15,855	\$43,251
Difference	\$ 1,447	\$ 243

All Saints

Keandra Bashful
WJ Barrs
Eva Brown
Bishop Davis
Joan Smith




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

May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Bible Study 6:30 Luther Hall	2 AA 8:00 PM - LH	3 GROW WITH GRACE 9:00-11:00	4
5 6th Sunday of Easter Sunday School 9:15 - Luther Hall Worship 10:30 AM Communion Birthday Celebration	6 AA 8:00 PM - LH	7 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH	8 Bible Study 6:30 Luther Hall	9 German Klub 5:00 - LH AA 8:00 PM - FH	10 GROW WITH GRACE 9:00-11:00	11
12 7th Sunday of Easter Sunday School 9:15 - Luther Hall Worship 10:30 AM Communion	13 AA 8:00 PM - LH	14 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH Remembrance Gathering 3:00 CH	15 Bible Study 6:30 Luther Hall	16 COUNCIL MEETING 5:00 AA 8:00 PM - LH	17 GROW WITH GRACE 9:00-11:00	18
19 Pentecost Sunday School 9:15 Luther Hall Worship 10:30 AM Communion	20 AA 8:00 PM - LH	21 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH	22	23 AA 8:00 PM - LH	24 GROW WITH GRACE 9:00-11:00	25
26 Trinity Sunday Sunday School 9:15 Luther Hall Worship 10:30 AM Communion	27 MEMORIAL DAY 	28 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH	29	30 AA 8:00 PM - LH	31 GROW WITH GRACE 9:00-11:00	

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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Columbus, GA 31907

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED