



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

Celebrating

68
years

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

Easter Contemplation

We are currently in the season of Lent. It is once again time to focus our attention on our Lord's journey to Calvary. Jesus knew what the outcome of his journey would be. He chose to do his Father's will even though He knew he would be the ultimate sacrifice. He endured the pain and the humiliation of the scourging, the crown of thorns, the journey to Golgotha, the spikes in his hands and feet, and the lance in his side. That sacrifice exemplifies the love of the Father and the Son. Who among us would sacrifice our only child for the sins of another? That sacrifice, provided by God to atone for our sins, provides us the way to be restored to God the Father. That sacrifice shows that God's love has no limits and is immeasurable.

It is truly difficult to imagine how alone Jesus felt standing beside Pontius Pilate. It is hard to imagine that he had the strength to stand after being beaten, scourged, spat on, and suffering the pain of all that abuse. Even knowing what the outcome would be, it must have been hurtful when the rabble was offered the choice of Jesus or Barrabas; they chose Barrabas. They had the audacity to demand that he be crucified. He was forced to carry his cross, the instrument of his death, to Golgotha. They continued to punish him during his journey to his destiny. They drafted a young man to assist him to carry the cross when he was no longer able. They drove spikes into his hands and his feet. Then they lifted him up. His crucifiers cast lots for his clothing. Even in his dying he was concerned about his mother, charging John to take Mary as his own mother, and Mary to take him as her son. He assured a thief that he would be in paradise with him that day. When he knew he had completed his Father's mission, he gave up his spirit. One of his crucifiers then put a lance in his side to be sure he was dead. In his death, we too, have died.

He was taken down from the cross and placed in a tomb. The tomb was sealed with a stone and guards placed to assure that his body was not taken away by his disciples.

The most beautiful part of our story is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On the third day, he rose again from the dead. In his resurrection we too are resurrected. The resurrection of Jesus is critical to our faith because it demonstrates God's power over death and assures us that we too will be resurrected. Jesus humbled himself to endure the crucifixion, but that was not the end. His resurrection is the beginning of eternal life for all who believe in him.

We are humbled by God's gift of grace. He forgives our sins and restores us to a right relationship with our Heavenly Father. We are underserving of God's grace. He gives it freely even when we don't expect it.

**Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!
Alleluia!!!**

--Allena Sperry
Congregational Council President



SMALL GROUPS

CRAF-TEA

Meets every Friday from 10:00-12:00 PM in Luther Hall. Join us in fellowship and friendship on Friday mornings. Tea and a light snack will be provided. Come to visit and bring a project you are working on or work on a project for the church. Contact Beth Hoag at 706-604-8110 for more information.

Bible Studies

Weekday Bible Study meets in the Church House from 10:15 - 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday reading and discussing the scriptures for the coming Sunday.

Men's Group

Men's Group meeting at 5:00 PM on April 24th at Mr. Pizza.

Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga meets every Monday morning at 11:00 AM in Luther Hall. This is led by Terri Neiderhammer. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.



Having fun at Chair Yoga!

COME JOIN US IN LUTHER HALL EVERY MONDAY AT 11:00!



MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Wynnton Neighborhood Network is celebrating its 40th birthday in May! The network wants to share the celebration with the 555 clients that will be served food in May. They want to make a birthday celebration bag for each client.

Donations needed include:

Cake mix - white/yellow

Birthday plates - 8-16

Birthday candles - 8-16

Tub Frosting - vanilla/chocolate

Birthday Napkins - 8-16

Disposable cake pans - 1 9X13 or 2 9" round



Please place in Narthex. The collection deadline will be April 27th. Monetary donations accepted - please be sure to designate as WNN birthday bag. Thank you for helping WNN celebrate with our clients. If you have questions, contact Allena Sperry at 706-563-3107.

Packing Bags at WNN



We had an amazing time packing care bags at Wynnton Neighborhood Outreach on March 27th! Join us for the next packing opportunity on May 8th at 9:00 AM.

Finance Committee Report

	February 2025	Year to Date
Income	\$12,243	\$29,959
Expenses	\$18,894	\$36,283
Difference	\$(6,651)	\$(6,324)

All Saints

Margarete Walsh
Patricia Bonaker
Betty Davidson
Mike Regnier

EASTER LILIES

We will be decorating our Sanctuary with Easter lilies for the Easter service, Sunday, April 20, 2025. You may purchase the lilies through the Altar Guild.

Remembrances will be noted in our worship bulletin on Easter Sunday. If you wish to purchase a plant(s) for Easter, please complete this form and return to the Church Office or place in the offering plate. The cost of the plants is \$15.00 each. Make checks payable to the 'St. Matthew Altar Guild' and write 'lilies' on your check.

Payment must be received at the time of the order.

Orders are due by **Sunday, April 13, 2025**. Pick up an order form in the Narthex of the church or access a form on our website by clicking (hold down your Ctrl button as well) [here](#).



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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>swrlyworld.com © front of folded greeting card</p>						
		<p>1 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH</p> <p>Online Evening Prayer 5:30 PM</p>	<p>2 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE 5:30 PM</p>	<p>3 Online Evening Prayer 5:30 PM</p> <p>AL-ANON/AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>4 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH</p> <p>Online Evening Prayer 5:30 PM</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 Fifth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>Birthday/Anniversary Celebration</p>	<p>7 CHAIR YOGA 11:00 - LH</p> <p>Online Evening Prayer 5:30 PM</p> <p>AL-ANON/AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>8 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH</p> <p>Online Evening Prayer 5:30 PM</p> <p>Girl Scouts 6-8 PM - FH</p>	<p>9 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE 5:30 PM</p>	<p>10 German Klub 5:30 LH</p> <p>Online Evening Prayer 5:30 PM</p> <p>AL-ANON/AA 8:00 PM - FH</p>	<p>11 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH</p> <p>Online Evening Prayer 5:30 PM</p>	<p>12 Yard Sale Dropoff - Sieg Bldg - 10-12</p>
<p>13 Palm Sunday</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p>	<p>14 CHAIR YOGA 11:00 - LH</p> <p>Online Evening Prayer 5:30 PM</p> <p>AL-ANON/AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>15 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH</p> <p>Online Evening Prayer 5:30 PM</p>	<p>16 Online Evening Prayer 5:30 PM</p>	<p>17 COUNCIL MEETING 5:00 PM- FH</p> <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE-7:00 PM</p> <p>AL-ANON/AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>18 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7:00 PM</p>	<p>19 HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE 10:00 AM</p>
<p>20 Easter Sunday</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p>	<p>21 CHAIR YOGA 11:00 - LH</p> <p>AL-ANON/AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>22 BIBLE STUDY 10:15AM CH</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 MEN'S GROUP 5:00 PM - MR. PIZZA</p> <p>AL-ANON/AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>25 Craf-Tea 10-12:00 LH</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Second Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p>	<p>28 CHAIR YOGA 11:00-LH</p> <p>AL-ANON/AA 8:00 PM - LH</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</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