



ST. MATTHEW

# Messenger

*Celebrating*

69  
years

*The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - May 2026*

Spring has fully sprung around St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church. From a sanctuary filled with lilies at Easter to the trimmed and blooming roses and the potted flowers that greet us each Sunday in the front, we see signs of life bursting forth everywhere. And not just in these plants, but in our lives as well in this season where we especially celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

Lying behind many of these signs of new life is the ongoing and often nearly invisible work of administration: Sonja, Sandra and I preparing the bulletins for each Sunday, Sonja working with folks who count offerings on Mondays and Katherine our treasurer throughout the week to make sure our funds are flowing in and out as they are supposed to be, Rose and Sandra recruiting and scheduling worship assistants, communion servers, ushers, openers and closers, lectors, and altar guild members who help worship flow smoothly, Lisa coordinating Sunday School and acolytes, and Lisa and Terri working with others to organize fellowship events (such as birthday Sunday!), and Allena and Katherine working to hire a new sexton.

One of the administrative pieces of our church has become quite visible—construction and repair projects under the management of our property committee, led by Jeff Gates. Right now we're on the cusp of the completion of a redesign of the bathroom in the narthex of the fellowship hall that will make it fully handicap accessible. This will be a needed improvement for some of us and for guests at events at our church.

Another that few see has been ongoing as well—the process of updating and revising our constitution and bylaws. These give us guidance and guardrails to help us administer this congregation in ways that are faithful to you and to our denomination. A small team of the Congregation Council—Bill, Katherine and myself—have been working to align our existing constitution to the ELCA model constitution adopted at Churchwide Assembly in 2025. We've completed our initial work on the constitution and have sent our draft to the Synod for review and comment. With the input of our Synod in hand, we'll create a final version to present to the congregational meeting this fall. Meanwhile, we'll be starting work on a revision of our bylaws shortly.

Be sure to give thanks to all of those who do this work of administration—whether visible or relatively invisible. Know that all of us who do this are grateful for the opportunity to serve in these ways for the sake of making our life together richer and our ministries more faithful and effective.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Taylor

# SMALL GROUPS

## Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga has been discontinued until further notice.

## CRAF-TEA

The CraF-Tea group will meet on the 3rd Friday of the month. The meeting in May will be May 15, 2026 at 10:00 am. Contact Linnea Grosse at (706) 392-8697 for more information.

## Bible Study

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

## Men's Group

Our Men's Group will meet Thursday, May 22nd at 5:00 pm at Deorio's.

# Latest beautiful creations by CraF-tea



Suet & birdseed combined into China cups for bird feeders.

## Voices of the Valley Children's Chorus Spring Concert: *Peace Seekers*

May 9 at 7 pm and May 10 at 2 pm Legacy Hall at the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts, Columbus, GA.

The St. Thomas choir, under the direction of Director of Music, Debbie Anderson, will join the VoV students for these concerts. This concert will feature a piece that VoV had commissioned that uses words the children wrote about Rick McKnight as the lyrics for the song. And the St. Thomas Choir, will sing a song that Philip Wilby wrote in honor of Rick and the Choir.



**Admission is free and open to all. Seats fill fast, so arrive early.**

## Pillars of St. Matthew

Charlie and Betty Davidson were charter members of our congregation. Charlie was a native of Columbus and was a Navy veteran of WW II. Betty was from Danville, VA. Charlie was an outside salesman for several textile supply and equipment companies. Early in their marriage, they moved quite a few times for Charlie's job changes. Betty's mother remarked how they went up and down I-85 so often.

Betty introduced Chrismon tree decorations to us, the first in Columbus. She had a phenomenal memory and kept track of all the folks who came to and left St. Matthew. And if Betty didn't know, Alberta Loney did! Charlie served on the Council many different times and could be counted upon to handle whatever projects needed doing.

When Pat and I first came to the church in 1966, we had a Virginia tag on our car. Betty was so excited to see some "folks from her native state." We explained we had been stationed in Virginia but were from Pennsylvania. Charlie said, "So you're from Shamokin?" That became a running joke ever after – "So how are things in Shamokin?!"

Betty and Charlie donated the hanging microphones on each side of the pulpit, and were generous in so many ways with their time, talent, and treasure. Such wonderful people! RIP, dear friends.



# HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY

5	Carla Stickles	24	Carol Bingemann
7	Liz McGouirk	24	Linnea Grosse
10	Red Mosley	25	Myrna Hoag
12	David Vargas	27	Jaxson Gardner
18	Matthew Pettit	27	Henry James
		25	Scott Sieg

**May Birthdays will be celebrated in the Breezeway with birthday goodies and beverages due to the Fellowship Hall restroom renovation.**

**AVAILABLE**

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?**

If you want to review Council Meeting minutes, please contact the office!

Finance Committee Report		
	March 2026	Year to Date
Income	\$15,301	\$40,181
Expenses	\$16,454	\$47,279
Difference	\$-1,153	\$-7,098
2026 Budget = \$185,981		



## Prayer Requests

### Business Prayer Requests

Mr. Pizza  
 Quality Inn  
 Smoke Buddy's  
 Days Inn  
 Enterprise  
 Master Kleen  
 Octapharma Plasma  
 Kamoree's Beauty Salon  
 Broken Tarot Tattoo & Piercing  
 Beate' Matrix  
 5 Fourteen  
 DQ  
 Freedom Adult Day Center  
 Transformation Salon  
 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  
 Chevron  
 Grace Apostolic Church  
 #1 Nails  
 Mario's Tire's  
 Mariner Finance  
 Diamond Kutz

Gold Teeth World  
 Apparel King & More  
 Hollywood Barber Shop  
 The Cell Plug  
 Title Max  
 JD Wings  
 Burger King  
 Animal General Hospital  
 Klose Kutz  
 Xpert Tax Service  
 Bi-City Driving School  
 Sunset Finance  
 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  
 Rooster's Beer & Wine  
 Woodville Apartments  
 Beal Wellness

The Armed Forces, their families, & victims of war  
 The ministries of St. Matthew  
 Bishop Yehiel Curry  
 Bishop Kevin Strickland  
 Southeastern Synod Staff  
 Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards  
 Pastor Rachel Zarnke  
 St Matthew Congregational Council  
 Laura Alexander  
 Carol Bingemann  
 Isabelle Clark  
 Randy Craven  
 Myrna & Ken Hoag  
 Marga Miller  
 Charlotte Moore  
 Traudel Mosely  
 Debby Owen  
 Dorothy Redden  
 Gary Anderson  
 Eric & Tinisha Bryant  
 Jean Clemmons  
 Nancy Edmundson  
 Lynn Funck  
 Brandy Garnett  
 Sandy Gibbs  
 Moses Glidden  
 Estrella Gonzales  
 Doris Grier  
 Laura Jett  
 Norma Kilby  
 Ken Korn  
 Emma Kump  
 Robert Lowe  
 John & David Lucas  
 Michelle Matthias  
 Brady Meeks  
 Lynne Meinhold

Tim Moore  
 Debi Nelson  
 Vincent Pawlowski  
 Beth Price  
 Mark Purushotham  
 Tiffany Richardson  
 Phyllis Roan  
 Dayna Ryan  
 Shirley Scott  
 Dou Shizhen  
 Ricky Skinner  
 Amanda Steinagel  
 Sara Steinagel Sturgis  
 Fred Turpin  
 Charlie VanHousen  
 Dawn VanHousen  
 Lisa Vieira  
 Martha Zimmerman

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People of Lebanon  
 People of Iran  
 Gaza  
 Palestinian People  
 Israel  
 Ukraine  
 People of Russia  
 Eastern Congo  
 People of Nigeria

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 - Fifth Sunday of Easter Worship 10:30 AM Communion	4 Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	5 Bible Study 10:15AM CH Girl Scouts 6:30	6	7 Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	8	9
10- Sixth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion	11 Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	12 Bible Study 10:15AM CH	13	14 German Klub 5:30 LH Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	15 Craf-Tea 10-12 - LH	16
17- Seventh Sunday of Easter Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion	18 Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	19 Bible Study 10:15AM CH	20	21 Council Meeting 5:00 PM- FH Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	22	23
24 - Pentecost Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion	25 Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	26 Bible Study 10:15AM CH	27	28 Men's Group 5:00 at Deorio's Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH	29	30
31-Trinity Sunday Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion						

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