



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

Celebrating

70
years

The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - August 2026

Seventy Years of St. Matthew Part 3

1980 – Our congregation co-sponsored, with two other Lutheran congregations, a summer youth camp at FDR State Park. This turned into an annual event. Our sexton for 10 years, J.C. Jones, died in July. Mia French succeeded him.

1981 – We occupied the newly-acquired church house. The pastor's and secretary's offices were relocated there. We now had additional classrooms and meeting space for varied activities. The former garage, now the Sieg Building, was turned over to our scout troop for their use. This was our silver anniversary year. All our former pastors and their wives attended the celebration. We published a new pictorial directory.

1982 – We formed a committee to study ways of augmenting our professional ministry staff. We received a student pastor from Germany, Eva-Marie Hagemann, through the Lutheran World Federation. She did many visitations, led a discussion group on world issues, and assisted with worship and our youth. The Lively Ones and the Spares & Pairs were combined into a new fellowship group called the Merry-makers. At its Convention, our Lutheran Church in America voted to merge with other Lutheran bodies in our country to form the current ELCA. Our Pastor Mac attended the convention as delegate from the Southeastern Synod. Pr. Mac obtained the services of Pastor Calvin Jordan to work as an intern, thus allowing him to complete his reinstatement as an ordained minister. Pr. Jordan helped organize the Food Bank in Columbus and assisted with worship and visitation. He accepted a Call to a Baltimore congregation. For the first time, our Council chose a woman, Katherine Kelly, as president of the congregation.

1983 – Our Council, in consultation with Dr. Charles Thompson of the Bishop's staff, studied our needs for ongoing staff. They concluded that a lay person could adequately fulfill our present needs. Council appointed a personnel committee to formulate job descriptions and to guide the formation of a Mutual Ministry committee. Charlie Davidson was the Chairman, and Dave Bonaker, Craig DuPriest and Suzanne Sieg were members. Our volunteer office manager, Norma Horan, having served us for 14 years, was ready to retire. The committee realized we'd have to update all our office equipment in order to attract a competent secretary. Council approved the committee's recommendation to purchase a new IBM typewriter, a Canon copier and a secretarial desk. In June we were able to hire an experienced secretary, Brenda Gilkey, who was between jobs. She taught us how to use the new equipment. Others were also ready to retire; Alberta Loney, our organist, and Betty Simmons, our financial secretary, wanted to step out as soon as we could spare them. Patricia Bonaker got Sam Roney to accept the organist job. Newly hired Brenda accepted the financial secretary duties, as well as office receptionist, Pastor's secretary, and recording secretary for the Council. We feted the three retirees, Norma, Alberta and Betty at a dinner at the Columbus Woman's Club, recognizing their dedication and service. Bill Horan, our Sunday School Superintendent, was also ready to step down. Joe and Brenda Ritch came forward to handle that job. The year saw many facility repairs and improvements shepherded by Ralph Loney, our property chairman. New security lights, paving of the driveway and parking lot, new roof on the rooms along the breezeway and a new piano for (now) Luther Hall were among these. A funding campaign called Care & Repair was conducted, quite successfully, to defray the cost of all the expenditures.

1984 – Our secretary, Brenda Gilkey, left to resume her career in real estate. Sam Roney, our organist, resigned to accept a teaching job overseas. Alberta filled in until we hired Debbie Ambrose as regular organist. Dave Bonaker had a coworker whose wife was a secretary who wanted a job, and we hired Gail Davis, who took over the duties Brenda had been handling. Katherine Kelly, whose position at Columbus College had been phased out, agreed to work part-time as an administrator to develop a programmatic approach to staff and leadership. More property improvements – siding on the Church House, electrical rewiring and removal of trees.

Dave Bonaker

Pillars of St. Matthew

Fred and Louise Eysel came to us courtesy of the Army. They were both career military and chose Columbus as their retirement home. Fred was from New York City; as soon as he opened his mouth you heard Flatbush speaking. He was a very talented artist; the portrait of St. Matthew in our Fellowship Hall is his work. Louise was an Army Nurse. When she left the service, she became director of nursing at St.



Francis Hospital in Columbus. She stood for no nonsense. Whenever our church members were hospitalized at St. Francis, she made sure they received the best of care. They were loving, generous people.

RIP, dear friends.

Dave Bonaker



WE HAD A GREAT VBS!



ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!

If you have any photos you have taken from events that have happened at the church, please email those to the church office at office@stmatthewcolumbusga.com. We need these for our archives and our newsletter!

39 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE! THANK YOU SANDRA!



August Happenings!



Faith & Family Night at Synovus Park to watch the Clingstones! August 8th at 6:05 PM. Tickets are \$11 per person.



The Harris County Sheriff's Office of Criminal Investigations Division is presenting a Fraud & Scam Prevention program at Reformation Lutheran Church located at 1045 US Hwy 27, Cataula, GA 31804 on August 13th at 5:30 pm. A Financial Crimes Investigator from the HCSO CID will be presenting a PowerPoint based program covering jury duty, and warrant phone scams, email and text message based scams, false and misleading advertisement scams, friends or family in danger or jail scams, romance and companionship scams, the danger of letting others remote into your device, gift cards, bitcoin, wire transfers, and prepaid debit card scams! At the end of the presentation, the HCSO Investigator will open the floor for questions.



Woven Together
FORWARD IN FAITH

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE
RESURRECTION- MARIETTA, GA

AUG.22

Revive Yourself & Your
Congregation!

Register Today!



Scan or Visit:
**elca-ses.org/
synod-revival-days**

GOAL:
5+
people from
each church

\$15
*per person, includes lunch

REVIVAL DAY

Synod

"Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?"
(Psalm 85:6)

Worship + Meal + Learning Labs



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Ending August with... On August 30th!



Isabelle Clark showed the Craf-Tea group how to create artwork using different objects such as chains and balloons.

AVAILABLE

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

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

Finance Committee Report

	June 2026	Year to Date
Income	\$8,945	\$73,089
Expenses	16,297	\$105,950
Difference	\$-7,352	\$-32,861
2026 Budget = \$185,981		



All Saints

Mario Mion

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
Beaute' 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
Fred Turpin
Charlie VanHousen
Dawn VanHousen
Eric Young
Martha Zimmerman

Mion Family
Wandersee/
Mackenzie
Families

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





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2-10th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30 AM Communion	3 <i>Muscogee County Back to School</i> <i>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	4 <i>Bible Study 10:15AM CH</i>	5	6 <i>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	7	8
9- 11th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30 AM Communion	10 <i>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	11 <i>Bible Study 10:15AM CH</i>	12	13 <i>German Klub 5:30 LH</i> <i>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	14	15
16- 12th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30 AM Communion	17 <i>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	18 <i>Bible Study 10:15AM CH</i>	19	20 <i>Council Meeting 5:00 PM-FH</i> <i>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	21 <i>Craf-Tea 10-12 - LH</i>	22 <i>Revival Day at the Lutheran Church of Reformation in Marietta, GA</i>
23 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30 AM Communion	24 <i>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	25 <i>Bible Study 10:15AM CH</i>	26	27 <i>Men's Group 5:30 at Deorio's</i> <i>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>	28	29
30-14th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30 AM Communion <i>Bishop Strickland God's Work Our Hands/Birthday Celebration</i>	31 <i>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</i>					

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

Sandra Nearhoof

Nursery Attendant

Penny Davis

St. Matthew Evangelical
Lutheran Church
4026 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31907

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED