



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

Celebrating

66
years

The Newsletter of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church - March 2023

My Lenten Thoughts

As Lent begins, I have thought of the sacrifices our Lord Jesus made for us. It's cruel to think about the way he was mistreated and beaten during Holy Week. Weren't some of these same individuals the ones that greeted him on Palm Sunday? As I continue to ponder the 40 days before Easter, how am I a reflection of Jesus?

We began the study of the Small Catechism of Martin Luther this past Tuesday using the first 5 commandments. I quickly thought as we looked at our handout, that surely, I keep these commandments every day. I was so mistaken after we discussed the commandments. The commandment that sticks out for me is "Honor thy Father and Mother". I know as a young girl I made my parents angry as well as many of my teachers. I have probably made some of you angry too. I am truly sorry because the wonderful gift we have in Jesus is forgiveness.

The other commandment that I struggle with is "You shall not murder". I am not confessing to a crime here! The description given on our handout states that we are to neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors. I realize neighbors aren't just the friends that live around me at my home. The people I see or meet every day that are friends or strangers are my neighbors. The neighbors I see or meet every day may not look or dress like me, but I'm to treat them as my neighbor. I'm a work in progress in treating everyone as my neighbor. One of the most satisfying ways to treat others I may never meet is through our Operation Christmas Child outreach.

As Lent progresses, I am not giving up something that detracts me from Jesus, but rather to be a better follower of him. One way I can be a better follower of Jesus is to attend and actively participate in Tuesday morning and evening Bible Study, listen to the sermons on Wednesday night Evening Prayers and Sundays, encourage others to attend these worship opportunities, and engage in meaningful relationships with each of you and my family. I realize this won't just be my Lenten journey, but my of being a follower of Jesus.

Rose Johnson
Church Council President



WE WELCOMED PASTOR TAYLOR BURTON EDWARDS ST. MATTHEW STYLE!!





Birthday Celebration will be on 3/5/2023 this month in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Please join us!

March Birthdays



- 8 Aidan Gardner
- 9 Eileen Barrs
- 9 Jon Hoag
- 14 Erin Thies
- 14 Lani Yearicks
- 15 Brandon Hoag
- 17 Callie Gardner
- 18 Debby Owen
- 24 Joseph Steinagel
- 26 Evelyn Seames

Lent Worship Schedule

LENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

MARCH 8, 15, 22, 29

APRIL 6

5:30 P.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 6

7:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 7

7:00 P.M.

Save the Date

- Memorial Garden Cleanup: March 4 (10AM - 1PM)
- Birthday/Welcome Celebration: March 5 (11:30 am)
- Mid-Week Wednesday Service: March 8, 15, 22, 29 (5:30 pm)
- Congregation Council Meeting: March 23 (4:00 pm)



EASTER LILIES

We will be decorating our Sanctuary with Easter lilies for the Easter service, Sunday, April 9th, 2023. You may purchase the lilies through the Altar Guild. Remembrances will be noted in our worship bulletin on Easter Sunday. If you wish to offer 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 2nd**, 2023.

DROP IN OFFERING PLATE OR RETURN TO OFFICE

Easter lilies are given to the glory of God by: **PRINT CLEARLY**

Name: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Amount enclosed: _____ (\$15.00 per plant)

You may pick up your lilies any time **after** the 10:30 am service April 9, 2023.

Finance Committee Report

	January 2023	Year to Date
Income	\$16,001	\$16,001
Expenses	\$ 7,865	\$ 7,865
Difference	\$8,136	\$8,136



Prayer Requests

The Armed Forces, their families, and victims of war	Jean Clemmons
Persecuted Christians	Xavier Danguilan
The ministries of St. Matthew	Becky Goldsmith
Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton	Estrella Gonzales
Bishop Kevin Strickland	Doris Grier
Southeastern Synod Staff	Beverly Huckaby
Seminarian, Brandon Konnow	Norma Kilby
Laura Alexander	Ken Korn
Zocia Barr family	Michelle Matthias
Keandra Bashful	Tim Moore
Carol Bingemann	Gary Nearhoof
Dave Bonaker	Kimberly O'Malley
Pat Bonaker	Michael Owen
Eva Brown	Angela Paul
Betty Davidson	Vincent Powlowski
Ken Hoag	Dwight Redmond
Bennie Jackson	Tiffany Richardson
Mairetha Jackson	Dayna Ryan
Marga Miller	Yuliia Savitska
Christine Minor	Shirley Scott
Traudel Mosely	Ricky Skinner
Debby Owen	Betty Townsend
Dorothy Redden	Charlie VanHousen
Connie Sieg	Dawn VanHousen
Joan Smith	Martha Zimmerman
Jim Sperry	
Carla Stickles	
Albert VanHousen II	
Margarete Walsh	
Gary Anderson	
Judy Bultman	
Kyle Carter	
Jim Chappel	

WOMEN OF THE ELCA SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD - CLUSTER 2

All women of cluster 2 are invited to attend the 2023 Spring Cluster Meeting to be hosted by Grace Lutheran Church in Carrollton. This event is on Saturday, March 18, 2023 from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The cost is \$20 per person including lunch from Chick-fil-A. The theme is: **Be Uplifted, It's Good for the Soul.** Please bring paper goods and soap for an ingathering to benefit Open Hands Ministry. Please contact Carla Stickles for move information and to make reservations at (706) 322-4181 or (706) 577-4439.



Your Opportunity to be hands of Jesus:

Starting March 5 thru April 30 we will be doing a book collection. Please bring paperbacks and hardback books. We are collecting for soldiers and small libraries in our community. Please the books in the basket in the Narthex!

Meditation and Memorial Garden: We will be working to cleanup the Meditation and Memorial Garden on March 4th and April 1st from 10AM - 1PM. Please come and help us spruce up the Garden for spring!


All Saints

Joyce Garver-Messenger
Anneliese Schwarting



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran

March 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 MID-WEEK SERVICE 5:30 PM	2 AA 8:00 PM - LH	3	4 Memorial Garden Cleanup & Organizing - 10AM - 1PM
5 2nd Sunday after Lent Worship 10:30 AM Communion Sunday Birthday Celebration 11:30 AM	6 AA 8:00 PM - LH	7 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH	8 MID-WEEK SERVICE 5:30 PM	9 GERMAN CLUB 5:00 PM LH AA 8:00 PM - LH	10	11
12 3rd Sunday after Lent Worship 10:30 AM Communion Sunday	13 AA 8:00 PM - LH	14 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH	15 MID-WEEK SERVICE 5:30 PM	16 AA 8:00 PM - LH	17 	18
19 4th Sunday after Lent Worship 10:30 AM Communion Sunday	20 AA 8:00 PM - LH	21 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH	22 MID-WEEK SERVICE 5:30 PM	23 CONGREGATION COUNCIL 4:00PM CH AA 8:00 PM - LH	24	25
26 5th Sunday after Lent Worship 10:30 AM Communion Sunday	27 AA 8:00 PM - LH	28 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH	29 MID-WEEK SERVICE 5:30 PM	30	31	

Contact Us . . .

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

4026 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31907

(706) 561-3406
office@stmatthewcolumbusga.org

Visit us on the web at
www.stmatthewcolumbusga.org

Inside in-person worship *with zoom* is at 10:30 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday/Thursday 2:30 PM - 5:30 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*

Staff . . .

**Pastor
Parish Administrator**

**Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards
Sonja Metcalf**
office@stmatthewcolumbusga.org

**Minister of Music
Nursery Attendant
Web Master**

**Sandra Nearhoof
Penny Davis
Laurence Mosely**
webmaster@stmatthewcolumbusga.org

**Website
Media Specialist**

www.stmatthewcolumbusga.org
Kelly Peterson

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED