



ST. MATTHEW

# Messenger

*Celebrating*

69  
years

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

## God's Amazing Grace

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! It is by His death and resurrection that God gave us His forgiveness, grace, and love. When you sing "Amazing Grace" have you ever considered the true meaning of God's all-encompassing grace? His amazing grace has come to us through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. His grace is bountiful and never-ending. His love and generosity to us is revealed through His grace, and we in turn should extend that grace to our fellow brothers and sisters.

John 3:16 tells us that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to atone for the sins of the world. God gave of Himself through His Son as God in flesh showing that His love is truly beyond understanding. His love is freely given to all people without measure. His love is gracious, merciful, and patient with an ungrateful, self-serving humanity.

Christ came to earth, taking on frail flesh, for one reason. That reason was to give His life as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world, all of us. He knowingly sacrificed Himself to grant us a second chance. He went to the cross where man's depravity met with God's unending grace. In the moment that Jesus gave up His life, God's precious gift of grace was delivered. God knew that without His Son's sacrifice and atoning blood His grace would be unattainable for us. How can we ask God for His precious grace if we are unwilling to extend grace to others? Christ has taken our sins upon His cross and atones for those sins with His precious blood. His sacrifice has enabled us to saturate ourselves in God's good grace. Christ points to the blood-streaked cross which takes away the sins of the world. He invites each of us to pick up the cross and join Him in His life, death, and resurrection. What a wondrous gift He has given us. With His death and resurrection, our souls are secure, our salvation guaranteed, and our names are written in the book of life.

Heavenly Father, we give You thanks that You love us so much that You gave Your only Son as a sacrifice for our sin. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Your dear son, Jesus Christ, You have absolved us of our iniquities through His atoning blood. Help us to accept Your offered salvation and enter a meaningful relationship with Thee that we may achieve victory over the power of sin and live the life triumphant with Thee. Lord, You have blessed us with the gifts of grace and mercy. You have absolved our debts and carried our burdens. We ask You to keep us on the narrow path of righteousness in this life. You provide us with answers and solutions to problems that plague our lives. You grant us strength and endurance in times of trial. You embrace our longing souls and promise eternal life with You. Lord keep us in Your loving arms. Amen

Are we willing to extend to others the love and grace that we ourselves have received from almighty God? We give grace because we have been given grace, in Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the richness of His grace. May His grace enfold throughout your lives.

Allena Sperry, Council President

# SMALL GROUPS

## Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga meets every Monday at 11:00 AM in the **Fellowship Hall**. **NOTE: Location change.**

## 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.**

## CRAF-TEA

The CraF-Tea group will meet on the 4th Friday of the month. The meeting in April will be April 24, 2026 at 10:00 am. Contact Linnea Grosse at (706) 392-8697 for more information.

## Men's Group

Our Men's Group will meet Thursday, April 23rd at 5:30 pm at Deorio's.

The CraF-Tea group, when they met in February, made some beautiful cork floral painted & beaded keychains which were given away at the March 1st birthday celebration.



## Lenten Challenge Drop-Off

Drop off all the items that you have been accumulating during our Lenten Challenge on Saturday, April 11th from 10:00-12:00 at the Sieg Building.

## Mission for April

In April, we will be collecting food and monetary donations for Wynnton Neighborhood Network.

# Worship Opportunities

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

2 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE  
APRIL 7:00 PM

3 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE  
APRIL 7:00 PM



4 HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE  
APRIL 10:00 AM

4 EASTER VIGIL  
APRIL 6:30 PM-ST THOMAS EPISCOPAL



ST MATTHEW EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

4026 MACON ROAD  
COLUMBUS, GA 31907

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION WITH US

# EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

*He is Risen*

ST MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
4026 MACON ROAD  
COLUMBUS, GA 31907

**APRIL 5, 2026**

<b>EASTER BREAKFAST</b> 9:15 AM	<b>EASTER EGG HUNT</b> 9:45 AM	<b>EASTER SERVICE</b> 10:30 AM
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**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

## Pillars of St. Matthew

Ralph and Alberta Loney were charter members of our congregation. Ralph was career Army, so a few years after our founding they were ordered elsewhere, first Germany, then back to the USA in Michigan. Ralph retired from active duty in 1966, and they chose Columbus as their retirement home. Both were veterans of WW II – Alberta joined the WAC and was a T-5 (corporal). Ralph served in North Africa and Europe as a sergeant and was awarded a battlefield commission for his valorous deeds.

Alberta served as our organist whenever we couldn't find a paid musician for the job. She always claimed to be the substitute organist, even when she was the only one. Ralph served on the congregation council many times, to include as president and as property chairman. He was tenor section leader in our choir. Ralph and Alberta were two of the most generous and caring people I've known, so giving of their time and mentorship. They were like parents to Pat and me, and some others at St. Matthew. Pat would say to Alberta, "How will I ever repay you?" She'd reply, "Pay it forward whenever you can."



LONEY, RALPH, ALBERTA

HAPPY  
APRIL  
BIRTHDAY

2 Joyce Moore

11 Jeff Gates

22 Cheryl Hagen

**AVAILABLE**

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?**

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

## Finance Committee Report

	February 2026	Year to Date
Income	\$11,687	\$24,880
Expenses	\$15,591	\$30,825
Difference	\$-3,904	\$-5,945
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  
 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  
 Dayna Ryan  
 Shirley Scott  
 Dou Shizhen  
 Ricky Skinner  
 Amanda Steinagel  
 Sara Steinagel Sturgis  
 Fred Turpin  
 Charlie VanHousen  
 Dawn VanHousen  
 Martha Zimmerman

People of Iran  
 Venezuela  
 Gaza  
 Palestinian People  
 Israel  
 People of Russian  
 People of Minneapolis  
 Eastern Congo  
 People of Nigeria

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 Family of  
 Rachel Savage  
 Alexis Messenger



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 7:00 pm	3 <i>Good Friday</i> 7:00 pm	4  Holy Saturday 10:00 AM  Easter Vigil St Thomas 6:30 pm
5 - <i>Easter Sunday</i>  9:15- <i>Easter Breakfast</i> 9:45- <i>Easter Egg Hunt</i> Worship 10:30 AM Communion	6  <i>Chair Yoga</i> 11:00-FH  <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	7  <i>Bible Study</i> 10:15AM CH  <i>Girl Scouts</i> 6:30	8	9  <i>German Klub</i> 5:30 LH  <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	10	11  <i>Lenten Challenge</i>  <i>Dropoff</i> 10-12:00  <i>Sieg Building</i>
12- <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>  <i>Children's SS-9:30</i> Worship 10:30 AM Communion	13  <i>Chair Yoga</i> 11:00-FH  <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	14  <i>Bible Study</i> 10:15AM CH	15	16  <i>Council Meeting</i> 5:00 PM-FH  <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	17	18
19- <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>  <i>Children's SS-9:30</i> Worship 10:30 AM Communion	20  <i>Chair Yoga</i> 11:00-FH  <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	21  <i>Bible Study</i> 10:15AM CH	22	23  <i>Men's Group</i> 5:30 at <i>Deorio's</i>  <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	24  <i>Craf-Tea</i> 10-12 - LH	25
26 - <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>  <i>Children's SS-9:30</i> Worship 10:30 AM Communion	27  <i>Chair Yoga</i> 11:00-FH  <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH	28  <i>Bible Study</i> 10:15AM CH	29	30  <i>Al-Anon/AA</i> 8:00 pm - LH		

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