



ST. MATTHEW

Messenger

Celebrating

67
years

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



“Let Freedom Ring”



We hear this quotation, “Let freedom ring!” very often in the month of July as we celebrate the birthday of the United States. What meaning does this quotation hold for us in 2023? How do we let freedom ring?

Many of our ancestors came to the United States looking for religious freedom, financial freedom or freedom to live the life they wanted. Martin Luther helped many denominations with religious freedom after he nailed the 95 Thesis to the church door. You might remember the Pilgrims came to America seeking an opportunity to worship differently than the English. In many parts of the world, this religious freedom is only a dream. You just need to listen to the nightly news to hear how Christians around the world are being persecuted for their freedom to worship as they please behind closed doors. When I awaken on Sunday morning, I do not fear that attending church will cause my death unlike those who live in other parts of the world. We are to speak the truth to others so that they may know Jesus and that he died to save us from sin.

How can YOU let religious freedom ring? Pray daily without ceasing for those who are being punished and/or killed for their faith. The ELCA also offers a variety of volunteer opportunities to help with medical healthcare, the fight against poverty, and helping men and women learn the good news so they can tell others. Even if you are unable to physically volunteer to go on a mission trip, you can give to ELCA Global Missions. A mission trip is not always international. It may also be in the United States, in our region, in our state, in our city, or even in our own neighborhood. It is when we help our neighbors after natural disasters, help refurbish a home of a church member or help clean up their yard. We will get the opportunity to help those in our community in September for “God’s Work, Our Hands”.

I have heard at various meetings at church, you may be the only face of Christ that some individuals will ever see. Be kind, helpful and keep ringing!

Rose Johnson
Council President
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church





St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Vacation Bible School



God loves us and God loves everyone. We will be studying God's commandments to love God and love your neighbor, as well as the Lord's Prayer.

Monday July 17, Tuesday July 18, and Wednesday, July 19

5:45 – 7:30 p.m.

(5:45 p.m. – fun and games, 6:00 p.m. – Program begins)

Fellowship Hall

Bible Lessons **Snacks** **Crafts** **Music**

Classes for children ages 4- 10. Parents are welcome to attend.

Memorial Garden Bricks

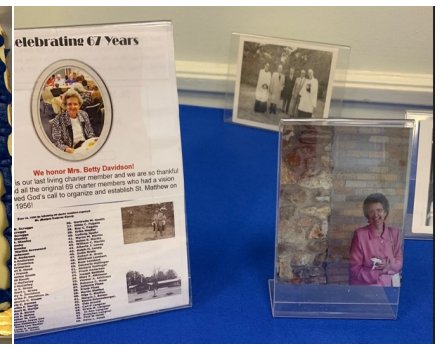
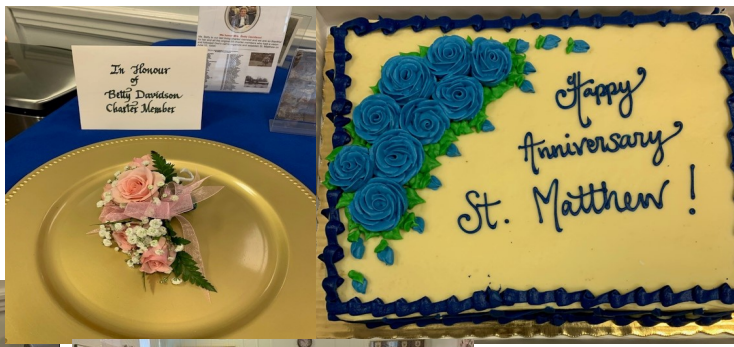
Purchase a commemorative brick to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or graduation. You can also purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one. Each brick purchased will become part the St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Memorial Garden.

See Allena Sperry for more details!

**DEADLINE TO ORDER IS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**



Anniversary Celebration



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Christian fellowship



All Saints

Joyce Garver-Messenger
 Anneliese Schwarting
 Hans Salheiser
 Bobby Wright
 Joe Stewart
 Christine Minor



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 Pawlowski
Ken Hoag	Dwight Redmond
Bennie Jackson	Tiffany Richardson
Mairetha Jackson	Dayna Ryan
Marga Miller	Yuliia Savitska
Traudel Mosely	Shirley Scott
Debby Owen	Ricky Skinner
Dorothy Redden	Betty Townsend
Connie Sieg	Charlie VanHousen
Joan Smith	Dawn VanHousen
Jim Sperry	Martha Zimmerman
Carla Stickles	
Albert VanHousen II	
Margarete Walsh	
Monika Wright	
Gary Anderson	
Judy Bultman	
Kyle Carter	
Jim Chappel	

Birthday Celebration will be on 7/2/2023 this month in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Please join us!

July Birthdays

3 Sandra Nearhoof	23 Patti Vinson
5 Isaiah Clevers	24 Thomas Chappel
9 Allena Sperry	25 Katherine Pettit
10 Joan Smith	27 Lane Brown
10 Jacob Matthew Vargas	29 Anthony Hicks
14 Patricia Bonaker	29 Patrick Chappel
16 Danny Alexander	31 Bradley Young
16 Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards	
19 Eva Brown	
19 Charlotte Moore	

*During a time like this
 we realize how much our friends and relatives
 really mean to us....*

*Your expression of sympathy
 will always be remembered*

*The family of Bobby Wright
 would like to thank the members
 of St. Matthew Church for the
 gifts, card and prayers in his
 loving memory.
 Peace be with you
 Mouiza Wright
 and family*

The Binding of Isaac: Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30, in Luther Hall for a unique and fun bible study! Rabbi Beth Schwartz and Pastor Taylor are leading a study on the story of the binding of Isaac (Genesis 22) and its aftermath. This is an interfaith and ecumenical experience, with folks from St. Matthew, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, New Hope Presbyterian Church and the Jewish congregations in Columbus especially invited.

Finance Committee Report

	April 2023	Year to Date
Income	\$15,395	\$54,604
Expenses	\$12,808	\$43,961
Difference	\$ 2,587	\$10,643



St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

July 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 5th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30 AM Communion Birthday Celebration	3 AA 8:00 PM - LH	4 	5 Bible Study 6:30 LH	6 AA 8:00 PM - LH	7	8
9 6th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30 AM Communion	10 AA 8:00 PM - LH	11 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH	12 Bible Study 6:30 LH	13 AA 8:00 PM - LH	14	15
16 7th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30 AM Communion	17 VBS 6:00-7:30 PM AA 8:00 PM - LH	18 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH VBS 6:00-7:30 PM	19 VBS 6:00-7:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 LH	20 GERMAN CLUB 5:00 PM LH AA 8:00 PM - LH	21	22
23 8th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30 AM Communion	24 AA 8:00 PM - LH	25 BIBLE STUDY 10:30AM CH	26 BIBLE STUDY 6:30 LH	27 COUNCIL MEETING 4:00	28	29
30 9th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 10:30 AM Communion	31 AA 8:00 PM - LH					

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

**Worship: Sundays at 10:30 am.
Zoom is also available**

OFFICE HOURS

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

Friday - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY, JULY 4TH
IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY**

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
Parish Administrator	Sonja Metcalf <i>office@stmatthewcolumbusga.org</i>
Minister of Music	Sandra Nearhoof
Nursery Attendant	Penny Davis
Sexton	Lisa Pettit
Web Master	Laurence Mosely <i>webmaster@stmatthewcolumbusga.org</i>
Website Media Specialist	<i>www.stmatthewcolumbusga.org</i> Kelly Peterson <i>office@stmatthewcolumbusga.org</i>

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