



ST. MATTHEW

# Messenger

*Celebrating*

69  
years

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

It's March, and we are in the thick of Lent, only Lent, all month long.

We can approach Lent with some dread, trying to remember what we said we'd quit doing, or trying to do more of what we told ourselves we'd take on. And if we get through it and, come Easter, have remained faithful in our resolutions, we might feel at once a bit proud of what we did and relieved we don't have to keep doing it. Something like, "Yay! That's over now!"

But there is a better way to approach Lent, and a more ancient way. It is to remember that the purpose of this season isn't to take on personal challenges of some kind, but rather to walk with those heading toward baptism, and, if we don't have any folks like that in our lives just now, to look at how our own lives can be better aligned with what Jesus described as the way of the kingdom of God.

While approaching Lent as a time for realignment may include some personal challenges we pose for ourselves, this year what we're doing on Sunday mornings is to re-explore the theological bedrock of our faith as found (mostly) in Paul's letter to the Christian community in Rome. We've already covered "Sin, Death, and Life" (February 22). This month during Lent proper, we will deal with "Grace, Faith, and Law," "Salvation from Wrath" (including examining what the wrath of God is), "Living in the Light," and "Flesh and Spirit."

Think of it as a series of diving expeditions to look at the foundations of the piers of a bridge. We want to understand what the piers are made of, what they mean, what they are designed to hold, and what our lives look like when the piers and the structure of the bridge are aligned, working in harmony.

To be sure, it is not always the case that getting our theology clearer helps us get our lives into better alignment with the way of the God's kingdom. We can learn to understand things better, but applying that understanding, as Jesus's first disciples and Jesus himself constantly discovered, can take more time. Still, bringing our theology to more conscious awareness during these weeks can help us see where some of our practice, in thought, word and deed, may need some redesign or course correction, what the redesign or corrected course looks like, and how to get from here to there.

So, grounded in the discipline of careful and prayerful reading of the scriptures, let's dive in during these weeks of Lent. And when we emerge from the water at Easter, may we be glad we've done this work and now can apply it better for the rest of our lives.

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Taylor

# SMALL GROUPS

## Chair Yoga

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

## CRAF-TEA

The Craf-Tea group will meet on the 4th Friday of the month. The meeting in March will be March 27, 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.**

# Time to worship

## LENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

04 MARCH	MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE 5:30 PM	2 APRIL	MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 7:00 PM
11 MARCH	MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE 5:30 PM	3 APRIL	GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7:00 PM
18 MARCH	MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE 5:30 PM	4 APRIL	HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE 10:00 AM
25 MARCH	MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE 5:30 PM		

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

# Time to think about sacrifice

## LENTEN CHALLENGE

**ONE ITEM PER DAY IN BAG OR BOX, AND BRING TO SIEG BLDG ON APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> 10-12**

Spring-time means it is time to de-clutter! As you are doing that this year, we challenge you to put one item that you no longer want each day of Lent into a bag or box from February 18<sup>th</sup> thru April 4<sup>th</sup>. Then, on April 11<sup>th</sup> from 10-12, you can drop off your items to the Sieg Building. Items will either be donated to local organizations or saved for our 2027 yard sale.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

St Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday,  
March 1

Immediately after the worship  
service and before the  
Birthday Celebration

### Topic of Discussion

Vote on renovating the  
two bathrooms located  
in the former narthex of  
the Fellowship Hall.

*Please plan to attend this meeting!*



Care bag  
packing at  
Wynnton  
Neighborhood  
Network on  
March 19th at

9:00 am.



## Spring GARDEN Clean Up

March 28th  
9:00 AM



ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## SPRING POTLUCK

MARCH 29, 2026  
FOLLOWING SERVICE  
LUTHER HALL

SEE SIGN UP SHEETS FOR FOOD

# PILLARS OF ST MATTHEW

Ernest and Marie Scruggs were the first members of our congregation. It was they who contacted the president of the Georgia-Alabama synod of the ULCA and asked his help in organizing a congregation in Columbus. Ernest was vice-chairman of the first congregation council; in succeeding years he was our long-time property chairman. He was a retired Army senior NCO. Marie was descended from the Salzburgers, who fled Austria because of religious persecution and came to Georgia in 1734. She was the quintessential gracious southern lady. In 1966, Marie was one of the first women elected to our congregation council. She and Ernest were deeply involved in the life of St. Matthew throughout their lives.

When Pat and I moved to Windsor Park, we became adjacent backyard neighbors to Ernest and Marie. We visited back and forth frequently. They enriched our lives immeasurably.

RIP, dearest friends,  
Dave Bonaker



Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Scruggs

HAPPY  
*March*  
BIRTHDAY

- 8 AIDAN GARDNER
- 15 BRANDON HOAG
- 15 ANDREA SNELLINGS
- 17 CALLIE GARDNER
- 18 DEBBY OWEN
- 22 ANDREA MARSHA
- 24 JOSEPH STEINAGEL
- 27 REV. GRACE BURTON EDWARDS

Pillars of the past

Leads to

Bright future

# Say Hello to our 2026 Council



Pictured left to right:

Katherine Kelly - Treasurer  
Allena Sperry - President  
Bill Wallace - Vice President & Property  
Terri Niederhammer - Fellowship & Hospitality  
Nancy Gates - Secretary  
Matt Pettit - Fellowship & Streaming  
Rose Johnson - Worship & Music  
Dave Bonaker - Worship & Music & Finance

Not pictured:

Jeff Gates - Property  
Lisa Pettit - Fellowship &  
Children's Ministry

**Ordinary Mystics**  
🌿 Tapping into Your Spiritual Roots 🌿  
**A Women's Retreat**

Hosted by All Welcome Lutheran Church  
📅 March 20-22  
📍 General Coffee State Park

Join us for a gentle, grounding weekend designed to help you reconnect with God, yourself, and the deeper spiritual roots that sustain everyday faith.



With Retreat Leader  
Patti Axel  
Pastor & Coach  
Southeastern Synod

For more info/registration, contact  
Vickie Horst at:  
horstvictoria@gmail.com



**SPRING FORWARD**  
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

Set Your  
**CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

**AVAILABLE**

**DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?**

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

## Finance Committee Report

	January 2026	Year to Date
Income	\$13,193	\$13,193
Expenses	\$14,471	\$14,471
Difference	\$-1,278	\$-1,278
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

Venezuela  
Gaza  
Palestinian People  
Israel  
Ukraine  
People of Russia  
Somali Refugees  
Jewish community in Australia  
People of Minneapolis  
Beth Israel  
Congregation in Jackson, MS  
Easter Congo  
People of Nigeria  
-----  
Renee Good Family  
Grigsby Family  
Jerry Johnson Family  
Alex Pretti Family  
Rachel Savage Family

# March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 - Second Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>Congregational Mtg Birthday Celebration</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Chair Yoga 11:00-FH</p> <p>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Bible Study 10:15AM CH</p> <p>Girl Scouts 6:30</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Midweek Lenten Service 5:30 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 - Third Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time begins</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Chair Yoga 11:00-FH</p> <p>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Bible Study 10:15AM CH</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Midweek Lenten Service 5:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>German Klub 5:30 LH</p> <p>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15- Fourth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Chair Yoga 11:00-FH</p> <p>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Bible Study 10:15AM CH</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Midweek Lenten Service 5:30 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Care Bag Packing 9:00 AM</p> <p>Council Meeting 5:00 PM-FH</p> <p>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22- Fifth Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Chair Yoga 11:00-FH</p> <p>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bible Study 10:15AM CH</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Special Olympics Mtg-3-4:30</p> <p>Midweek Lenten Service 5:30 pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Craf-Tea 10-12- LH</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Spring Garden Cleanup 9:00-11:00</p>
<p>29 - Palm Sunday</p> <p>Children's SS-9:30 Worship 10:30 AM Communion</p> <p>Spring Potluck</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Chair Yoga 11:00-FH</p> <p>Al-Anon/AA 8:00 pm - LH</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Bible Study 10:15AM CH</p>				

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