



Easter- 2015

Die Gute Nachricht
Die Evangelisch-Lutherische St. Matthäusgemeinde

The Good News
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Dear Members and Friends,

“The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid; then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath day, they rested according to the commandment. But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.” Luke 23:55-24:3, NRSV.

I often wonder what Jesus' followers did during those roughly 40 hours between the death on the cross and the message of the resurrection. We know it was a time of transition – but for them, it seems to be the end. It seems the closest followers of Jesus, the remaining 11 disciples, have given up. Despite the fact that Jesus has announced to them several times that he has to suffer and die, and be resurrected on the third day, they can't believe these words, too good to be true. They don't seem to be waiting. They are resigned. This is it. The end.

Unlike the male followers of Jesus, the women we hear about in all the gospel accounts are waiting – albeit, not for Jesus to be resurrected, but to go back to the tomb and render a last service of love and respect to him: to embalm his body.

I can imagine them, itching to go back to the grave and to prepare Jesus' body with the spices and ointments that they have prepared. But it is Sabbath, and they obey the rules: no unnecessary work until the Sabbath is over. They have to be patient. I can

imagine how they sit together in a house, still not comprehending what has happened, crying, comforting each other, sleepless, trying to come to grips with Jesus' death, eagerly waiting for the dawn after the Sabbath.

As soon as they are allowed to, at the crack of dawn, they hurry to the tomb. And they are startled – they do not find what they expected. Instead of a dead body, they find an empty cave. Instead of an ending, they find a new beginning. Instead of doing a last service to Jesus, they are being called to start something new: to serve the risen Christ in the world. Where they expected death to have the last word, there is life.

Have you ever had the feeling that “this is the end”? You probably felt that way if or when you lost someone you loved. You might have had that feeling when some chapter in your book of life was closed. Though we have heard the good news about new life following death, and a new beginning following an ending, we sometimes are more like the disciples - men and women - on Good Friday: we can't believe it's just a transition. We think this is it. The end.

However, most of us also have experienced that there is a new chance, a new way, a new life; and sometimes, what God offers is new and improved. I just love the expression, ‘Where God slams a door in your face, look for the window God opens for you.’ God turns our experiences upside down: where we can only see death, there is new life in the waiting. We might grieve the death of a beloved person. We

might grieve the death of a relationship, the loss of a job, the loss of health. We might grieve the loss if something that has been an essential part of our lives for many years. But wherever there is an end, there is a new chance, and a new beginning.

We might only see a big rock that is blocking our way. But God will roll it away, thus leading us into life and freedom.



Pastor Kerstin's Vacation:

Pastor Kerstin will be traveling to Germany between April 14 and 28. During this period, Pr. Bea Chun (St. Francis) will be available for pastoral emergencies. Please contact the St. Matthew's or St. Francis' church offices in case of an emergency. St. Matthew's: 415-863-6371 (office hours Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) St. Francis: 415-621-2635.

May the Easter message about unexpected life carry us through all endings in your life and give us hope for the things to come.

Pastor Kerstin

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

It has not been long since my last report to you concerning the activities taking place at our church. The chief important business has been the ongoing negotiations with the KinderHaus preschool board in attempting to arrive at a mutually acceptable long-term lease prior to their beginning the planned remodeling of our social hall. This process, gratefully led by Juergen Fehr, is still ongoing and has not been an easy one.

Our new treasurer, Dorly Carnes, continues to become familiar with her new position and the transition is nearly complete. Our payroll and taxes will be done by an outside vendor and many of our routine bills will be paid by automatic deduction in an attempt to simplify this job.

In an attempt to reduce our mailing costs, you will find a postcard in this newsletter which you will need to fill out and return in order to continue receiving these newsletters by regular mail. Also, please supply us with your e-mail address as an easier and more cost-effective way to keep up with the events at the church via our newsletters.

Recent events at the church include a wonderful flute recital by Jenny Hunt, Gary's niece, on March 21 and the performance by the Lakeside Opera of excerpts from Bach's St. Matthew Passion under the direction of Dr. Dietrich Erbeling on March 22. Of note, on Friday, April 3 at 7:00 PM, there will be a classical guitar concert performed by Allan Sjolin and Martin Buono from the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, Denmark. Also, on March 28 beginning at 2:00 PM Freundschaft Liederkrantz will be celebrating their 90th anniversary with a concert and banquet at First Unitarian Church on Franklin St. in San Francisco. We congratulate them on 90 years of making music together.

As we are now about to enter Holy Week, I would like to encourage you to attend our Good Friday service at 11:00 AM and our bilingual single Easter service at 11:00 AM, which will be followed by a special Easter brunch.

Wishing you a blessed Easter season on behalf of the Church Council,

William H. Bremer, M.D., Council President

Room Wanted!

We will be welcoming Carola Scherf, a pastor from Lübeck, Germany, later this year, who would like to intern at St. Matthew's. As it looks now, she will be here from August 1 through August 26, 2015. Please let Pastor Kerstin know if you could provide a guest room for her, or if only for a part of this period. Thank you very much!

April

3 Margrit Buchmann
4 Marijane Jeannette
5 Brigitte Pfau
7 Werner Dehnbostel
8 Betty Kleinlein
24 Stefanie Pressler
27 Thea Scholz
Alois Scholz



May

3 Richard L. Scopel
8 Richard Rolfes
13 Guenther Stottmeister
16 Ulrike Hodges
18 Virginia Pressler
23 Ilona Frost
28 Marissa Barnes
Nicole Fahlman

We apologize to any members and friends whose birthdays have been omitted. Please contact the Office if you wish to have your birthday included in future bulletins and newsletters. Thank you

Singers wanted!

On Easter Sunday during the bilingual worship service at 11 a.m., an 'ad hoc' choir will perform a fairly easy and uplifting Easter piece. All who are interested in participating are invited to come to brief rehearsals on Sunday, 3/29 - directly after the German services - and on Easter Sunday, 4/5, at 10:20 a.m.



Easter Potluck Luncheon - Your Help Needed

Since we expect quite a few visitors on Easter Sunday, 4/5, we'd appreciate your contributions to our special Easter potluck.

Filled Easter Eggs Needed

On Easter Sunday, we will offer an Easter egg hunt for our youngest visitors. If you can, please provide a dozen (or more) plastic Easter eggs filled with candy or knickknacks. Please deliver your donations to the church office by Sunday, 3/29. Thank you!

Important Announcement

In order to update our newsletter mailing list, we are enclosing a postcard which we ask you to complete and return to the church office **IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING** a paper version of the newsletter. Emailed newsletters will continue to be sent unless you ask to have your name removed from the mailing list.

Mark your Calendars

March 29 – Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m. – English service with Holy Communion
11:00 a.m. – German service with Holy Communion



April 3 – Good Friday

11:00 a.m. – Bilingual Service
7:00 p.m. – Copenhagen Guitar Duo

April 5 – Easter Sunday

11:00 a.m. – Bilingual Service with Holy Communion
Brunch



April 12 – Second Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. – English service with Holy Communion
11:00 a.m. – German service with Holy Communion

April 19 – Third Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. – English service with Holy Communion
11:00 a.m. – German service with Holy Communion

Guest Pastor: Andreas Pielhoop

April 26 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m. – English service
11:00 a.m. – German service
Guest Pastor: Cary Bass

NOTE: This postcard was sent to individuals who receive the print copy of the newsletters.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

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