



Autumn 2016

## Die Gute Nachricht

Die Evangelisch-Lutherische St. Matthäusgemeinde

## The Good News

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Dear Members and Friends,

The year 2017 marks the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation in Germany, started by Martin Luther and his nailing of the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. It will be a year of commemorations and celebrations in Germany, and many visitors are expected to visit Luther sites like Wittenberg, Eisenach and the Wartburg and Luther's birth town of Eisleben this coming year.

Not only Protestant churches will commemorate the anniversary – even the German parliament voted to honor the Reformation's cultural and sociological contributions to society-at-large beyond confessional boundaries. Education, music, the fabric of the lives of families and communities, the understanding of individual freedom – all these aspects of societal life have been impacted by the Reformation. Did you know, for example, that Martin Luther advocated for the education of boys and girls of all social classes alike, so that every Christian might read and discover the word of God and learn to think and reason for themselves? Martin Luther has been called the father of the public school system, and for a good reason.

As a Lutheran church and heir of the Reformation, we will commemorate and celebrate the anniversary as well, even though we are half a world away from the heart of Germany where the Reformation had its beginnings. Yes, at St. Matthew's we will look to the past and examine historical aspects of the Reformation. But we will also wrestle with questions like: What it means to be a church of protest and a reformational church in the 21st century? What are the issues we need to tackle as faithful followers of

God and heirs of the Reformation today, embraced by the grace of God and free to serve?

And, yes, we will celebrate our heritage with music and festive worship services. Reformation Sunday on **October 30, 2016** will mark the official start of the Reformation anniversary – and St. Matthew's will offer festive worship services that day (Katherine Luther has confirmed her presence at these services – Martin Luther also may show up for the German service that day), and we are happy to welcome the 'Damenchor Liederkrans' during the German worship service.

But we will already start celebrating and commemorating the anniversary before that. On **Wednesday, September 7**, St. Matthew's will host two events with a very special guest, Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, the head of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD). At 4 p.m. there will be a 'Kaffeeklatsch' (traditional German afternoon meal with coffee and cakes). Bp. Bedford-Strohm will talk about the Reformation and the anniversary during this casual meet and greet. Come if you are able! Please call or email the office for reservations. At 6 p.m. St. Matthew's newly restored historic pipe organ will be rededicated during a festive organ concert with award winning organist Luke Mayernik; he will play pieces by one of the greatest composers of the Reformation tradition, J.S. Bach, and other composers who are heirs of the Reformation. A reception will follow after the concert. This event will be co-sponsored by the German Consulate General of San Francisco and St. Matthew's, and everyone is invited to come and celebrate.

On **Sunday, September 18**, starting at 11 a.m., St. Matthew's will hold its annual outdoor worship service and picnic at the Naturfreunde Oakland. This year's theme will be 'My Little Apple Tree' in honor of Luther's famous quote, 'Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree'. This will be an event involving all ages. I hope you can come!

On **Saturday, October 8th** from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., we will be 'Cooking in Katie's Kitchen' at St. Matthew's with local chef Lorraine Witte (and we will eat what we cook, too!). Katherine Luther will introduce typical foodstuffs from her 16th century kitchen (spoiler alert: the potato had not been introduced to Germany yet!), and Lorraine Witte will

teach us how to use these ingredients with a modern California twist. Suggested donation for this event is \$30 per person, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Let us know if you plan to attend!

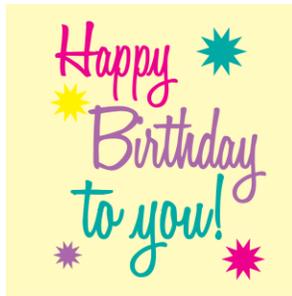
On **Sunday, October 16** at 2 p.m., renowned German organist Roland Voit will give a Reformation theme concert at St. Matthew's, 'With Luther through the church year'. Luther's lyrics have been set to music by composers through the centuries. Explore the richness of our musical tradition. Admission is free.

I hope to see you as we commemorate and celebrate our heritage. God bless you,

Pastor Kerstin Weidmann

September

- 4 Jonathan Barnes
- 10 Louise Tschudi
- 26 Corinna Witt
- 27 Jakob Berner



October

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Lian Siem        | 25 Ilse H. Silbermann |
| 6 Jana Thalheim    | 26 Bruce Leibrock     |
| 8 Michelle Berner  | 26 Eli Angelich       |
| 12 Walter Elliott  | 28 Robert Jesch       |
| 13 Dorothy Praeger |                       |
| 17 Elizabeth Karp  |                       |
| 22 Gerda Beisel    |                       |
| Barbara Fehr       |                       |

*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.*

**Council President's Message**

Dear Members and Friends of St. Matthew's,

Now that summer with its long and relatively quiet days is nearing its official conclusion (although it hasn't really begun yet here in the City) and most of our vacations and travels have been completed, it is time to anticipate the coming months with its many events having to do with the upcoming celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation begun by a then obscure monk in Germany in 1517. St. Matthew's will play a prominent part in this remembrance here in the Bay Area beginning with the visit to San Francisco of Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm with a 'Kaffeeklatsch' at the church on Wednesday, September 7 at 4:00 p.m. followed by the rededication of our historic pipe organ and donor recognition at 6:00 p.m. which will include an organ concert and reception co-hosted by the German Consulate. (See the Pastor's message for more details.) Parking will be difficult, so please carpool if you are able.

As for a report on the last two months of Council and church activities, there isn't a lot to relate. The Council did not meet in July as has been our custom. For Pastor Kerstin's continuing education, she again attended a weeklong

course in Southern California at CLU from July 18-25 and felt it was quite worthwhile. Unfortunately, on August 11 she also sustained a sprained ankle and was on crutches but is now thankfully recovering nicely. We also welcomed back our organist, David DeAngelis, who again spent six weeks at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY continuing his work toward his master's degree.

Church events included 'Der Deutsche Musikverein' playing selections from Schubert's German Mass in the service of August 7 which was very nice and well-received. Also, on August 13 a memorial service was held for our long-time and well-loved member, Guenter Stottmeister, who passed away on July 17. Two new groups have been added to our very busy church calendar: the Bay Area Gestalt Institute (BAGI) has three meetings per month on Monday early afternoons and another AI-Anon group will begin meeting on September 2 on Friday evenings. Every night of most weeks is now booked with a group meeting of some type. As per our church policy with the many groups we host, the church always reserves the right to schedule an event of its own on any day, although we attempt to minimize such occurrences.

Major upcoming events include: the annual church picnic at the Nature Friends clubhouse in Oakland on September 18; several concerts performed by groups we host; and our own celebratory organ concert with a Reformation theme by the renowned German organist, Roland Voit, to be held on Sunday, October 16 at 2:00 p.m.

The Council is revisiting another issue which has come up again... that of obtaining a wheelchair ramp from the parking lot to the side entrance and also the viability of installing a chairlift from the entry level foyer up to the sanctuary. Member input will be requested and appreciated.

In closing we hope that you will fully partake of the activities and programs provided by your church through the dedicated efforts of our Pastor, Council and members while spreading *The Good News* present at St. Matthew's. God's blessings to you all.

Respectfully submitted,  
William H. Bremer, M.D.



**Who? What? Where? When?**

## Mark Your Calendar

**Wednesday, September 7: 4:00 p.m.** - Kaffeeklatsch with **Heinrich Bedford-Strohm**, Bishop of the Evangelical Church in Bavaria and Secretary General of the EKD  
**6:00 p.m.** - A concert and reception co-hosted with the German Consulate of SF, celebrating the rededication of our organ with special guests:  
**Bishop Heinrich Bedford-Strohm**,  
**Luke Mayernik**, Organist,  
**Johannes Bloos**, German Consulate General,  
**Jack Bethards**, Schoenstein Organ Company.

**Sunday, September 11, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.** – Confirmation Class. Please contact Pr. Weidmann if you are interested in attending Confirmation classes.

**Sunday, September 18, 11:00 a.m.** - Annual open air worship service and picnic at the 'Naturfreunde Oakland'

**Saturday, October 8, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** - 'Cooking in Katie's Kitchen' - A cooking class honoring our foremother of the Reformation, Katherine Luther: What was her kitchen like? What ingredients did she have available? Instructor: Lorraine Witte; suggested donation: \$30 per person (includes lunch).

**Sunday, October 16, 2:00 p.m.** - Organ concert with renowned German organist **Roland Voit**.

**Sunday, October 30, 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** - Reformation Sunday with the 'Damenchor Liederkranz'

### St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

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