



Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas 2019

Die Gute Nachricht

Die Evangelisch-Lutherische
St. Matthäusgemeinde

The Good News



Dear Members and Friends,

Thanksgiving: Gather with the ones you love, eat, drink, and be merry. It's as easy as can be.

If you google "Thanksgiving 2019", plenty of advice pops up. Because Thanksgiving is about family, meaning it can be complicated. There are so many questions to answer: Who should be invited? How do you cook a meal that fits everyone's diet? And who will sacrifice and sit next to that one "complicated" guest?



According to the World Wide Web and all its experts, there are more no-goes for Thanksgiving than shoes in my closet. I came across a cheat sheet that shortlists 15 things (the number of my pairs of shoes) you should never do on a Thanksgiving Day: Rule no. 4: Don't ever "overcook the turkey." (Got it.) Rule no. 6: Don't ever "wear sweatpants." (But wouldn't these prevent people from having to loosen up their trouser belts?) Rule no. 7: Don't ever "complain about the food. This is the rudest thing you can do." (Been there. Done that.) Rule no. 11: Don't ever "talk about religion or politics. Doing this can ruin the entire day." *Instead, they recommend: "Stick with neutral topics for one day at least to keep everyone happy."*

I know what I am talking about. As a progressive Christian, I have long avoided bringing up religion while being hosted. I didn't want to get into arguments with my conservative Christian friends on abortion and same-sex marriage and endanger our friendship. I did not want to defend myself for being a Christian with

my progressive non-religious friends. That usually ends in them telling me what horrible things have been committed in the name of God and Christianity in particular. As if I didn't know. As if that has anything to do with my forgiving, most loving God.

Thanksgiving: It's all about love and gratitude. And most importantly, it's about family. Because these are the people we love most. Or at least the people we are supposed to love the most. These are the people to whom we owe gratitude as children and as Christians. They brought us up. There is even a commandment about honoring your parents. Parents love to cite it when things aren't going well with their offspring. We honor the people we believe we owe, and the people we think "owe us" because they are our parents or kids. We value the ones whose apparent duty it is to love us.

Thanksgiving often is presented as the symbol of owed love and gratitude, of duty and honor. At least, if we play by the rules of keeping it friendly and quiet. Just for that one day — and Christmas. While we talk behind each other's backs during the other 363 days of the year. Avoiding open conversations about these topics we know we disagree on: politics and religion. The topics we are passionate about because they are existentially important. But we choose not to upset each other and passively watch how this country becomes more and more divided.

Well, Jesus doesn't play into any cheesy family-harmony kitsch. He left his folks to preach to the world. When Jesus came back to his village, people yelled at him and refused to listen. Luke 14:26 tops it all off when he states: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters — yes, even their own life — such a person cannot be my disciple." Quote that at the Thanksgiving table if you want to ruin the day.

So, do you hate your family enough? Well, maybe you do and decide not to spend Thanksgiving with them. And instead celebrate Friendsgiving. The only difference is there most likely won't be different opinions on topics you are passionate about at the table. Meaning we can talk about everything we want, but won't get a new perspective on things. And we won't help this country talk across the gap. So, do you hate your family (and friends) enough? Jesus doesn't say: Hate your neighbor. He says: Hate the people who believe they own you. Hate the people who think that disagreeing equals disinheriting or unfriending (whether just on Facebook or in real life). Don't hate the person but their role. Family or friendship is no bond in itself. Blood does not build a relationship. Love does, as do honest, open conversations.

"And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple," Jesus keeps on teaching in Luke 14:27. Let's carry the cross and talk across the table, across political and religious ditches. Let's wear sweatpants and talk politics and religion at Thanksgiving, especially if you spend the holidays with your family. Hate the roles and expectations of fake consent and superficial talks that don't hurt anybody.

Thanksgiving: It's all about love. Let's be the best disciples of Jesus we can be: honest and caring, open to discussions and frank about our beliefs. Let's change the world by actually talking about what is important to us instead of avoiding anything that could call for disagreement. Jesus didn't teach to please people and to reassure them. He made people whole by calling out fake harmony. Let's carry the cross and talk.

Vicar in: Dr. Tia Pelz



It's hard to believe that my time among you all is coming to a close! It's been a full two semesters, and I'm so grateful for this time to get my feet wet in the work of ministry. Highlights for me include joint Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services with our friends from St. Mary and St. Martha's, joining the ZDF film crew for the TV service this fall, and singing "Hallelujah" in many languages on Easter Sunday. The Easter children's sermon was a new challenge for me. I'd never put together a children's sermon before, and I was surprised by how challenging it was to think of an engaging and creative way to talk about the resurrection with our kids. But most of all, it's been a pleasure to get to know all of you and to gather with you each week for worship. Thank you for welcoming me into your community and for supporting me as I continue to learn and grow as a leader in God's church. After I finish my coursework in Berkeley this spring, I'll spend a year as a full-time intern in a parish. My time among you has helped me to feel more confident going into this next part of my training, and I am grateful for all the prayers and support you have offered me this year. Blessings to each of you as a new church begins!

Monica Butler

(Seminarian, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA)

Looking for wealth, security, freedom and future – Germans in San Francisco

Who are the people of St. Matthew's? In 2020 St. Matthew's will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. 125 years of people sharing lives with God and each other. 125 years of immigration and settlement and building homes and a future.

In preparation for 2020 we will continue to tell the story of Germans in San Francisco and St. Matthew's in our newsletter. Follow us on an adventurous trip through over 125 years of German-American dreams and realities.

Part III: What does it mean to be German?

The death of Rev. Gehrcke in March of 1936 marked a turning point for St. Matthew's. By 1936 most members of the congregation were bilingual while the younger, second generation preferred to speak English. German heritage was still important but not necessarily tied to the language. Services were held alternating between German and English.



At Hermann Gehrcke's funeral service his successor, Hermann Lucas, delivered the German address. Pastor Lucas was born in Stuttgart, Germany and had studied theology in the very north of his home-country at the Lutheran Seminary at Kropp in Schleswig-Holstein. Born in 1895, he had difficulties finding a congregation to serve in the aftermath of World War I. In 1922, the 27-year-old Lucas immigrated to the U.S. After having served a congregation in Oregon, he received a call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fresno, where he stayed for twelve years. Rev. Lucas was called to serve St. Matthew's from July 1st, 1936 until his retirement in 1961. He came to San Francisco together with his wife, Gertrude, and their son Walter.

Lucas' first 10 years at St. Matthew's fell into the most difficult time for Germans living in the U.S. With the beginning of World War II anti-German feelings arose and more and more Germans stopped openly speaking German. Things got worse after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 when the U.S. actively started to fight Germany and its allies. Consequently, all the former German churches in San Francisco ceased holding services in German except for St. Matthew's and its Pastor Lucas. It was back then, that our today's Sunday service schedule was introduced with 2 services: one in English, one in German.



To the city of San Francisco and its inhabitants this might have looked like a concession. But reading through the annual meeting's minutes reveals that the "language-issue" was already being discussed in 1937 (and probably even earlier), brought up by Gehrcke's son Albrecht. At the 1937 annual meeting he emphasized "the importance of the English language for the future of the congregation". In 1939 the annual report was published in English for the first time: "A motion was made and seconded that the annual meetings be hereafter conducted in the English language as many of our members cannot speak German."

During World War II German prisoners of war (POWs) were held on Angel Island, Treasure Island and at the Presidio in San Francisco. On Angel Island most of the prisoners were German soldiers from the Afrika Korps and Italian soldiers. Many of the German soldiers were employed in the island's hospital as aides and technicians. "Wherever they went on the island, the Germans marched in perfect cadence," at least that's what guides on Angel Island told visitors. Most of these soldiers were of the Lutheran faith and in great need of a pastor.

Since St. Matthew's was the last German-speaking church in town, the Lutheran Relief Service asked Rev. Lucas to help out. He was only able to do so because his own congregation supported this important ministry and gave its pastor all the time he needed. After 1941 Lucas regularly held Sunday services for this group of up to 5,000 Lutheran soldiers.

After World War II German POWs were still held for a while on Angel and Treasure Islands. As the post-war situation stabilized, civilian pastors and priests were appointed and paid for by the Navy to serve the 1,300 Germans. Half of those were Protestants and Rev. Lucas ministered to them between July 1945 and Easter 1946. "He reported that he had received some 2,000 letters from these men after they had been returned to Germany." He held services each Sunday at 2 p.m. in an "always-filled" chapel and conducted an evening meeting for the men on Thursdays.

After the war people in Europe were in great need of most all everyday essentials. Germany had to deal with the devastation it had caused worldwide as well as to its own people. German refugees arrived back in Germany from the East and were not welcomed with open arms. The winter of 1945/46 was harsh and many people were freezing and starving. That's when the people of St. Matthew's again decided to help. The church became the center of the German Relief Society for 18 months, gathering 220,000 pounds of clothing and collecting \$100,000. The money was sent to the Lutheran Relief Society (Lutherisches Hilfswerk) in Germany to help refugees. "The church hall was filled with bales and bales of care packages for Germany", Dorothy Praeger recalls. Members of St. Matthew's collected, packed, and sent care-packages over to Europe. Soon, the congregation was well known throughout San Francisco for its great social work and sturdy, practical faith.

Following the war and the humanitarian crisis in Europe, President Truman issued the Displaced Persons Act in 1948 which allowed up to 200,000 immigrants to enter the U.S. within 2 years. 1,000 of them passed through the San Francisco Welfare Center and were placed in Northern California. Many came from Eastern



European countries that had been invaded by Germans. Rev. Lucas and Hilda Gehrcke took some older kids from the Vacation Bible School in 1950 to visit the center. In the article about this event in "The Golden State Lutheran", these children and youths are presented as "St. Matthew's leaders". Why? Because the youth is always the future leader? Because they took on reconciliation work in visiting victims of the country of their ancestors? Because they cared for people who would never become members of their church but needed help?

From a language point of view, St. Matthew's would have probably become an English-speaking congregation sooner or later after 1945 had not there been the next large German immigration wave to the U.S. During the 1950s and 1960s anti-German sentiment in the U.S. had subsided. At the same time many young Germans who were children during the war felt stifled in a shrunken, narrow-minded Germany where people were busy building up a future and forgetting the past. During the 1950s, 580,000 Germans immigrated to the U.S. followed by another 210,000 during the 1960s.

Letter from Febr 24th, 1993 from the Angel Island Association to St. Matthew's.

The History of the Chaplain Corps, United States Navy. Volume 2. 1939-1949.
By United States. Bureau of Naval Personnel, page 274 from an interview with Lucas in Dec 1948.



Back then most Germans spoke very little English when they moved to the U.S. They naturally organized themselves into German speaking churches, clubs and choirs. Many of these still existed from the “old” days in California and were joined by the new Germans. For all of these German societies this meant 3 things. First, membership grew. Second, German as a language wasn’t just a heritage anymore but “home and mother-tongue” to people who tried to navigate in the new world. Third, first- and third-generation immigrants had to find ways to get along, to share the space and to value each other’s experiences. Both Pastors Gehrcke and Lucas were immigrants. Yet, the Germany Lucas had left in 1922 was

by far not the Germany the new arriving young Germans had experienced. What connected all the members was the memory of Germany as a country they or their ancestors loved but left for good. For good reasons. And yet missed. “I found friendship and community,” remembers one woman who arrived in San Francisco as an 8-year-old in 1961 from New York, but of German heritage. Living in poverty during the first years, her family received food donations from St. Matthew’s for Christmas and Thanksgiving, “which I will always remember.”

Desired as craftsmen, these young Germans often found work easily to build their future in the U.S. German women mostly worked as nurses, nannies and housekeepers, just like thousands of immigrants today.

Apart from immigration and language, some other things just never seem to change. In 1937 and 1938, 50-60 children attended Sunday school and were taught by 8 teachers; a youth group was founded in 1937. Pastor Lucas in 1939 stated: “While the work showed progress a larger attendance at the services was still to be desired.” The Sunday school superintendent, Hilda Gehrcke, “made an urgent appeal to all the parents to cooperate in our efforts to give the children a Christian education.”



Pastor Lucas retired in 1961 after 25 years at St. Matthew’s.

He was succeeded by **Pastor Dr. Hans-Ludwig Wagner**, a native of Hamburg, Germany. Wagner had left Germany before the outbreak of the Second World War and had already served congregations in Canada and the U.S. He took the chance on a fresh start and the congregation experienced growth in numbers due to the arrival of new young immigrants who raised their children within the church. Together with other Lutheran churches city-wide, confirmation classes and adult Bible studies were organized. One summer St. Matthew’s also reached out to kids in the neighborhood by sponsoring the “Explorers Club”. Wagner also very much cared for ecumenical work and attracted great church leaders to St. Matthew’s pulpit including the Hanoverian Bishop Hanns Lilje. After 7 thriving years Wagner accepted a call from St. John’s Lutheran Church in El Cajon, California and Pastor Lucas returned in 1968 to serve as an interim pastor.

Council President's Message

November 12, 2019

Dear Members and Friends of St. Matthew's,

The easy-going, fun-filled and lazy days of the summer season have ended and the pleasant fall season is nearing its end and we now are rapidly approaching the hectic holiday season encompassing Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas Eve and Day along with New Year's Eve and Day... all of this in the time span of only 35 days. I'm sure this is a busy and possibly stressful time for each of you personally as well as for the church. If you should find yourself feeling overwhelmed with the stress of this busy time, attending a church service on Sunday morning will likely bring a restorative calm and help you focus on the true meaning and significance of this very special season.

Before I relate church happenings since our last newsletter near the end of August, there are several important items of which you need to be aware and mark your calendars. 1) Of note, thankfully Mission Dolores will NOT be using the parking lot for Christmas tree sales this year. 2) Our only major yearly fund raising event, the annual Crab Feed (our 10th one!), will be held on Saturday, January 25th at 4:30 PM. Tickets this year will be \$55 and \$15 for children age 12 and under and free for those under age 2. Most area crab feeds are now in the \$75 range, so ours is a bargain. Please make your reservations with payment as soon as possible as seating is limited to no more than 75 persons. 3) The annual congregational meeting will take place on February 9th; please try to attend this important meeting. 4) Next year, 2020, marks the 125th anniversary of our church's founding and a special service followed by a reception will be held on March 22; further details will be announced soon. Some thought we not not make it this long, but we are still here and going strong with plans for our continued future with our own wonderful and dedicated Pr. Kerstin leading the way!

As for recent church-related events, by far the major and one was the recording on September 22nd of a special service regarding artificial intelligence and its subsequent broadcast throughout Germany the following Sunday by the national public German television station, ZDF, under the sponsorship of the EKD. This was a lot of work for those involved, but it was a great success and well worth the effort. Nine containers of equipment from Germany were received on Sept. 18th, the technical crew arrived on the 19th along with an outdoor electrical generator and locally obtained extensive lighting. This equipment was then set up on the 20th and all was fine-tuned on the 21st with a dress rehearsal that evening. The service in a nearly filled sanctuary went off without a hitch. Special guests included Bishop Mark Holmerud and Generalkonsul Hans-Ulrich Suedbeck with our own Robert Hodges and Christopher Ksoll also participating along with Pr. Tia Pelz and of course, Pr. Kerstin, who spent many hours planning and coordinating this event. Special music was provided by our very capable organist, Andrew Birling and the vocal music group, Loosely Renaissance. A 'viewing party' of this service was held on October 13. A big thank you is due to those who helped to make this special and unique event possible!

Other happenings were the Erntedank service on October 6 followed by a book reading by Walter Stuber and friends. On October 27 the Damenchor performed in the German service. From October 15-17 Pastors Kerstin and Tia attended a Professional Leaders Conference in Monterey, CA and on November 10 they, along with Monica Butler and I, attended our local Sierra Pacific Conference meeting at Unity Lutheran Church in So. San Francisco. Upcoming events at the church will be the annual Damenchor Christmas concert on Dec. 8th and the series of excellent holiday concerts by the Golden Gate Men's Chorus on Dec. 12, 14, 15, and 17;

these are free if you tell the ticket desk that you are with St. Matthew's. Our long term rental groups (Freundschaft Liederkranz, the GGMC, two Al-Anon groups, Tactus and the IOC) continue to meet and/or rehearse at the church.

December 8th will mark the completion of the allotted time our parish teaching student, Monica Butler, will be able to spend with us as she continues her studies at PLTS. We thank her for her contribution to our services and wish her Godspeed and all the best in her future. Likewise, Pastor Tia will most likely be leaving us at year's end as her support from the EKD expires. She has been a wonderful addition as Vicar in and we will most definitely miss her warm and caring presence. I have no doubt she will be a successful and much loved pastor in whatever capacity she chooses to pursue. Thank you Tia and Monica; you will both be missed.

Of some concern has been the slow decline in church attendance, especially in the German service over the summer months. This has consequently negatively affected church income resulting in an increase in withdrawal from our investment portfolio, which luckily has been partially mitigated by a robust stock market this year. Please give as generously as you are able. Our expenses continue to slowly increase. In these difficult and challenging times for religious bodies, the future of our church is not guaranteed and will only be sustained with your support.

Lastly, the Council wishes you all a happy Thanksgiving, a joyous and blessed Christmas season and a healthy and fulfilling New Year.

*Respectfully submitted,
William H. Bremer, M.D., Council President*



Past Events

‘Back to School’ Family Service on September 1st

On Sunday, September 1st, St. Matthew’s offered its third family service this year. The theme was ‘Back to School’. Children crafted ‘Schultüten’ (decorated cones filled with treats which are typically presented to 1st graders) and were blessed as they entered the new school year. Adults reflected on their school days – and how we never stop learning more about God’s amazing creation.

The next family service will be held Sunday, December 1st at 11 a.m. (for more, see announcement section).



October 6th:

‘Mutmacher’ (‘Encouragers’) – Where ethics and innovation merge into a sustainable economic concept

Walter Stuber, a Christian entrepreneur from Saxony, Germany, visited St. Matthew’s in the fall of 2017. He since has co-written two books on business practices informed by Christian values. He and his business partner, Dirk Eckhardt, have held lectures all over Germany.

Walter Stuber and Dirk Eckart own a scaffolding company specializing in large projects (bridges, churches, large buildings). They run their business by trying out unusual things, like providing a shuttle for the transportation of apprentices (among many other things). They try to encourage the people who work for them – and don’t only talk the talk but walk the walks as well. They take good care of their employees and provide many perks. On October 6th, a moderated discussion of their book ‘Mutmacher - Encouragers’ took place at St. Matthew’s.

Stuber and Eckart also visited Silicon Valley companies to learn about new ways of improving their leadership. It was a joy to welcome them and hear them talk about their experiences.

ZDF Fernsehgottesdienst ‘Du erforscht mich und kennst mich’ – ‘You have known me and searched me’

On Sunday, September 22nd, a worship service was recorded by German broadcast station ZDF. The theme was ‘You have known me and searched me’. How does artificial intelligence know us? And how is that different from how we know each other – and how God knows us?

The service was broadcast in Germany a week later, on September 29th. More than 800,000 households tuned in and worshiped with us. The worship service was well received in Germany (and beyond) – we got responses from the North Sea Shores to Switzerland.

Pr. Kerstin Weidmann and Pr. Dr. Tia Pelz were leading the service. Special music was provided by our organist, Andrew Birling, clarinetist Kathy Emery, and the vocal group Loosely Renaissance under the direction of Asher Davis and Sylvia Braselmann. The choir of the ‘Oakland Turnverein’ under the direction of Dr. Dietrich Erbeling provided post service music and performed pieces from Schubert’s ‘German Mass’. German Consul General Hans-Ulrich Südbeck, Bishop Mark Holmerud, Dr. Christopher Ksoll and Robert Hodges shared their thoughts and reflections on Artificial Intelligence.

It was quite an experience! A couple of days before the filming of the service, tons (literally!) of material and equipment were delivered to the church, from cameras and sound systems to spotlights and miles of cables. A 12 person technical crew from Germany worked hard and efficiently to make the recording happen. Marc and Sam Fehr as well as Monica Butler worked as technical assistants during the days leading up to the filming and on the day of worship itself. Dr. Bill Bremer helped out wherever he could – and even chauffeured a camera crew around San Francisco, so that they could take shots of some of the iconic landmarks. Countless hours of work went into the production. Thanks to all who helped and participated – and thanks to all who worshiped at St. Matthew’s that day!

If you would like to see the service, you can do so using the following internet link:

<https://www.zdf.de/gesellschaft/gottesdienste/evangelischer-gottesdienst-356.html>



More Pictures of ZDF Fernsehgottesdienst Service



Past Events

Reformation Sunday, October 27th.



Upcoming Events

Family Service Sunday, December 1st, 11 a.m

'Advent, Advent, ein Lichtlein brennt'

We celebrate the beginning of Advent with a joyful bilingual service at 11 a.m. for all ages! Our most wonderful 'pastor-in-training' Monica Butler will be preaching. Kids will craft an Advent wreath. Afterwards we will chat over some coffee and finger food.



Farewell for 'Ministry in Context' Student Monica Butler

December 1st (after the 11 a.m. service)

Monica Butler, a student of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley and 'pastor-in-training', has been with us since February. December 8th will be her last day with us as a 'ministry in context' student. We will bless her and bid her farewell during and after the 11 a.m. worship service on December 1st.



Advent Bible Study

Join us for this year's Advent text study, **'Once again my heart rejoices'**.

We will meet on **Tuesdays**, December 3rd, 10th and 17th from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Bring some cookies or finger foods, if you like!

Sunday, December 22nd: ONE bilingual Worship Service at 11 a.m. AND Advent Party

On Sunday, December 22nd, we will offer ONE bilingual worship service at 11 a.m.

Afterwards we will gather for an Advent Party to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols, enjoy cookies and Stollen, drink punch and celebrate Jesus, the baby to be born soon.



Upcoming Events

December 24 (Tuesday) – Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. - German Candlelight Service for the Whole Family

6:00 p.m. - Bilingual Contemplative Candlelight Service



December 25 (Wednesday) – Christmas Day / Weihnachtstag

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

Musical guests: 'Freundschaft Liederkranz'



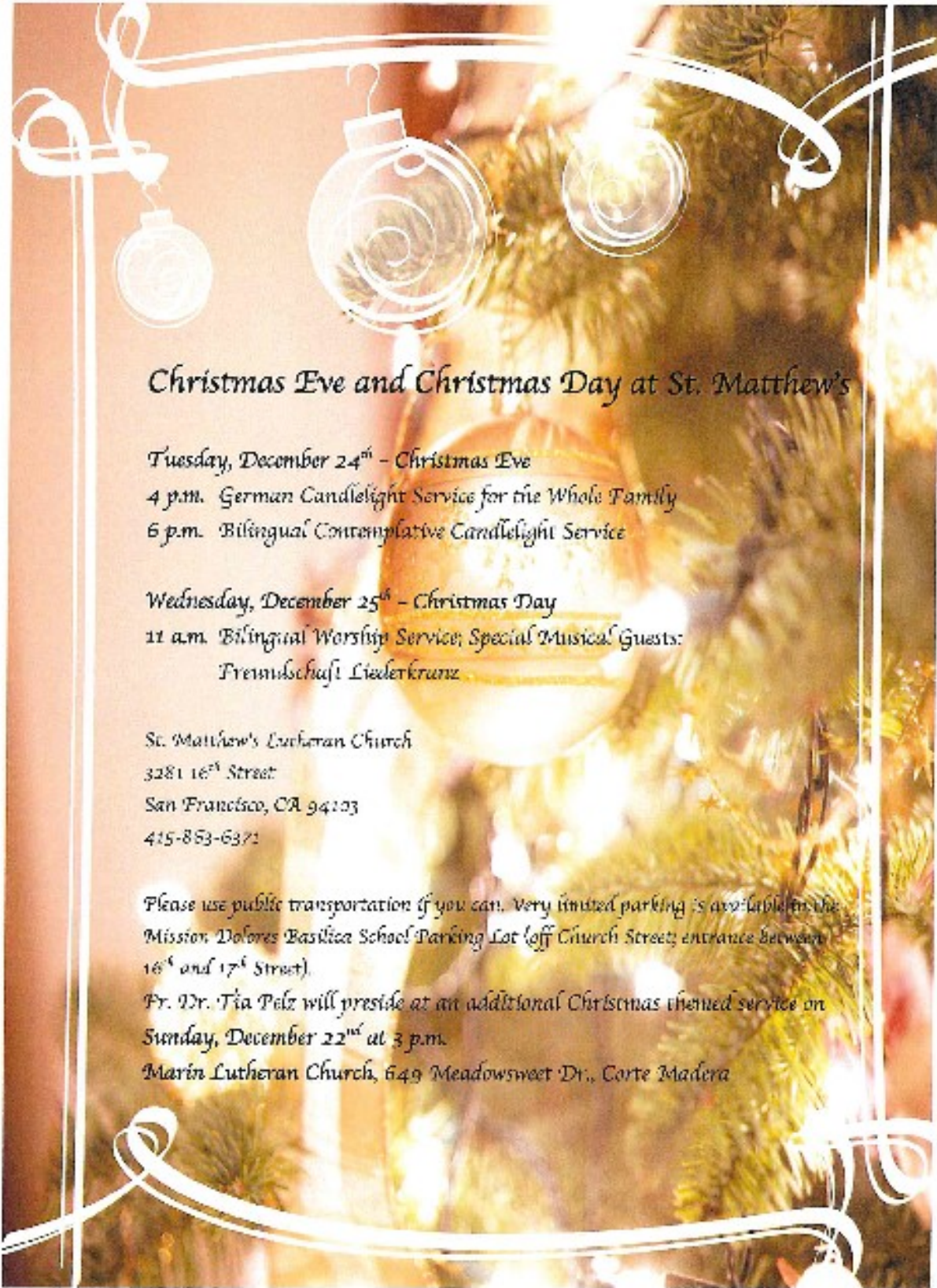
Sunday, December 29th: ONE bilingual Worship Service at 11 a.m.: 'Joy to the World'

The first Sunday of the Christmas season, we will gather for a special 'Lessons and Carols' worship service. We will celebrate the 300th birthday of the hymn 'Joy to the World' – and sing more carols that talk about how 'heaven and nature sing' as Jesus, the Savior, is born.

Sunday, February 9th

Annual Congregational Meeting (approx. 12:15 p.m.)

All Members are invited and encouraged to participate.



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at St. Matthew's

Tuesday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

4 p.m. German Candlelight Service for the Whole Family

6 p.m. Bilingual Contemplative Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25th - Christmas Day

11 a.m. Bilingual Worship Service; Special Musical Guests:

Fremdschaft Liederkreis

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

3281 16th Street

San Francisco, CA 94123

415-853-6371

Please use public transportation if you can. Very limited parking is available in the Mission Dolores Basilica School Parking Lot (off Church Street; entrance between 16th and 17th Street).

Fr. Dr. Tina Pelz will preside at an additional Christmas themed service on Sunday, December 22nd at 3 p.m.

Marin Lutheran Church, 649 Meadowsweet Dr., Corte Madera



~Members and Friends of St Matthew's Lutheran~

10th Annual St. Matthew's Crab Feed

January 25th, 2020 (Saturday)

Time: 4:30p.m.-7:30p.m.

Cost: \$55/person (all you can eat and drink!)

\$15 (for those 6-12 yrs)

Salad/Garlic Bread, Pasta

Crab (or chicken)

Dessert

Coffee/Tea/Beer/Wine

Please RSVP by January 15th, 2020

Please include the bottom portion of this page with your check

Send reservations to:

St Matthew's Lutheran Church

3281-16th Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

Attn: Crab Feed

___ Yes I will attend. Crab dinners ___ Chicken dinners ___
@ \$55/person ___ @ \$15/child ___

Name _____

___ No I will not attend. Enclosed is my donation to
St. Matthew's \$ _____

Phone: 415-863-6371

office@stmatthews-sf.org

Mark your Calendars

December 1– Bilingual Family and First Sunday in Advent Service

11:00 a.m. – Bilingual service

December 8 - Second Sunday in Advent Service

9:30 a.m. - English Service with Holy Communion

11:00 a.m. – German Service with Holy Communion

2:00 p.m. – Damenchor Liederkrantz Concert

December 15 - Third Sunday in Advent

9:30 a.m. - English Service

11:00 a.m. - German Service

GGMC Concerts: 3pm and 7pm

December 22 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

11:00 a.m. – Bilingual service

December 24 (Tuesday) – Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. - German Candlelight Service for the Whole Family

6:00 p.m. - Bilingual Contemplative Candlelight Service

December 25 (Wednesday) – Christmas Day / Weihnachtstag

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

Musical guests: 'Freundschaft Liederkrantz'

December 29 – First Sunday after Christmas

11 a.m. Bilingual Worship Service

Christmas Carols and Their Stories

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

3281 - 16th Street,

San Francisco, CA 94103-3323

Tel.: 415 863 6371

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www.stmatthews-sf.org

