

July 16, 2020

## What's New? Was gibt's Neues?

A Bi-Weekly Update about What's Going on at and around  
St. Matthew's during the Pandemic

**Dear Members and Friends of St. Matthew's,**

We have entered the 5<sup>th</sup> month (!) of 'sheltering-in-place' and of not being able to meet and worship in person. I understand that not all of you have access to our online worship services, during which I give an update of the current situation and make other announcements.

Going forward, St. Matthew's will publish a bi-weekly shortened newsletter with the latest on how the COVID-19 pandemic affects our operation as a church and what we will be offering during that time.

You can always call me with if you wish to talk to me; my cell phone number is 925-330-2289. Please leave a message if I don't pick up the phone and I will call you back. Or, you may send me an email to: ([pastorweidmann@stmatthews-sf.org](mailto:pastorweidmann@stmatthews-sf.org)).

Stay well! May God bless us all!

Pr. Kerstin Weidmann



*Our empty sanctuary anticipating your return, hopefully before too much longer.*

**Word of the Week** (as chosen by the Moravian Brethren – Herrnhuter Brüder):

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. *Ephesians 2:8, NRSV*

Aus Gnade seid ihr selig geworden durch Glauben und das nicht aus euch: Gottes Gabe ist es. *Epheser 2,8*

## **Update: In-Person Worship Services and Events at St. Matthew's**

The City and County of San Francisco currently doesn't allow any indoor meetings, and there is no projection when such meetings will be allowed once more. As you may have heard in the news, the Governor of California just ordered indoor worship comply with all City-County and State ordinances. We also are keeping the welfare of our church community and the community at large in mind.

Until further notice all indoor meetings and events at St. Matthew's continue to be suspended.

*All in-person worship services are suspended until AT LEAST the end of August.*

## **Sunday Online Worship Services**

Since the shelter-in-place order was instituted, St. Matthew's has offered recorded worship services which have been made available every Sunday by 10 a.m. on our website ([www.stmatthews-sf.org](http://www.stmatthews-sf.org)) and our Facebook page (Matthew Lutheran). We will continue to offer these worship service until further notice.

If you'd like to receive a direct link to these worship services in your email inbox every Sunday, please let us know by sending a request to [office@stmatthews-sf.org](mailto:office@stmatthews-sf.org).

## **Thank You to Michael Dickson and Sam Fehr**

We would like to thank our PLTS 'Ministry in Context Student' Michael Dickson for editing our online worship services from March through May. Since Michael is now on semester break, Sam Fehr has taken over this responsibility. Sam is pursuing a career in video editing. We thank him as well for offering his amazing gifts and passion as he is creating our worship videos.

## **Thank You to Andrew Birling**

Since the shelter-in-place order began, St. Matthew's organist and musician, Andrew Birling, has continued to provide the music for our Sunday services. He usually comes into the church building once a week to record organ pieces. He also has contributed his beautiful singing voice on occasion. Thanks for being so flexible, Andrew!

## **Irregular Office Hours**

We continue to offer irregular office hours. Our office administrator, Angie Holt, usually is in the office on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## **Pastor's Vacation 7/16-7/21**

Pr. Weidmann will be on a brief vacation from Thursday, 7/16 through Tuesday, 7/21. This doesn't affect the Sunday service on 7/19, since it is pre-recorded.

If you have a pastoral emergency during that period, please contact Pr. Monique Ortiz at St. Mary and Martha Lutheran Church: 415-647-2717 or [moniqueortiz777@sbcglobal.net](mailto:moniqueortiz777@sbcglobal.net)

## **Pastor's Time in Germany 8/7-8/28**

As you may have heard, Pr. Weidmann's mother has been dealing with cancer this spring and summer. Pr. Weidmann will visit Germany and spend time with her mother from 8/7 through 8/28. She will continue to fulfill her duties while in Germany. You will be able to contact her via email ([pastorweidmann@stmatthews-sf.org](mailto:pastorweidmann@stmatthews-sf.org)) or her cell phone (925-330-2289). Please take into consideration that she will be in a different time zone (9 hours AHEAD – e.g., 10 a.m. in San Francisco is 7 p.m. in Bremen, Germany). If any need for in-person pastoral care should arise, Pr. Weidmann will arrange for a colleague in the San Francisco Bay Area to be available.

## **Worship Services over the Phone on Thursdays at 10 a.m.**

Pr. Weidmann has started to offer 'Over-the-Phone' Worship Services on Thursdays at 10 a.m. This is roughly half an hour of prayer, discerning the 'Bible Verse of the Day' and Communion for those who desire to receive it in this manner. The next one will be offered on Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

If you are interested in participating, please let Pr. Weidmann know ([pastorweidmann@stmatthews-sf.org](mailto:pastorweidmann@stmatthews-sf.org) or 925-330-2289), and *she will call you* on Thursday at 10 a.m.

## **Continued Financial Support of St. Matthew's Ministries**

Even though we have not been able to gather in person, church operations haven't ceased. As our treasurer, Juergen Fehr, reported, our income has decreased roughly 16% since the shelter-in-place order started (compared to last year). Our expenses have been down roughly 10%.

*We want to thank everyone who has supported St. Matthew's financially during the past months. Please continue to send in your contributions!*

### **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**

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