

 APRIL 2022

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Newsletter

What's New? Was gibt's Neues?

God says, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" **Isaiah 43:19**

From the Vacancy Minister

Dear St. Matthew's community



There is something in the air. It's hard to put a finger on it.... But the other day, it occurred to

me: **it's SPRING!** The days are gradually getting longer again...the trees are getting their leaves back...and the flowers are starting to bud. Sure, I feel my allergies, but I can manage those. I feel elated by the arrival of a new season. Even though the seasonal changes are so subtle in California (compared to my native Germany), I can *feel* the arrival of something new. And maybe that's what it is, something new is about to begin...and I get excited by that thought!

As a church we journeyed for six long weeks through the Lenten season. As I am writing this, we just entered Holy Week and follow Jesus to the cross. It's a somber journey, to say the least. The images of war in the Ukraine still haunt me:

pictures of a bombed train station in Kramatorsk, mass graves outside Kyiv, and a destroyed art school in Mariupol to name a few just don't fit with my yearning for "something new". Where is spring when we are

surrounded by death and decay? Mid-20th century Lutheran theologian and journalist Jochen Klepper once wrote, "Faith sees things quite differently; in a world constantly threatened, God must build His reign among us from the burdens and rubble of our lives."

As Christians we trust that death shall never have the last word. Perhaps that's the most profound lesson for me to take away this Lent and Holy Week. In the midst of profound suffering the promise of the resurrection looms from the cross and new life faintly shines through. I hear the words from the prophet Isaiah, "I am about to do a new thing..." We don't know how long it will take God to do this new thing. But we know that we can cling to the promise. Are you ready for it?

Join St. Matthew's this Easter season to celebrate God's promise to make all things new—bring a neighbor, family member, or a friend and together let's marvel at a new season... "now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

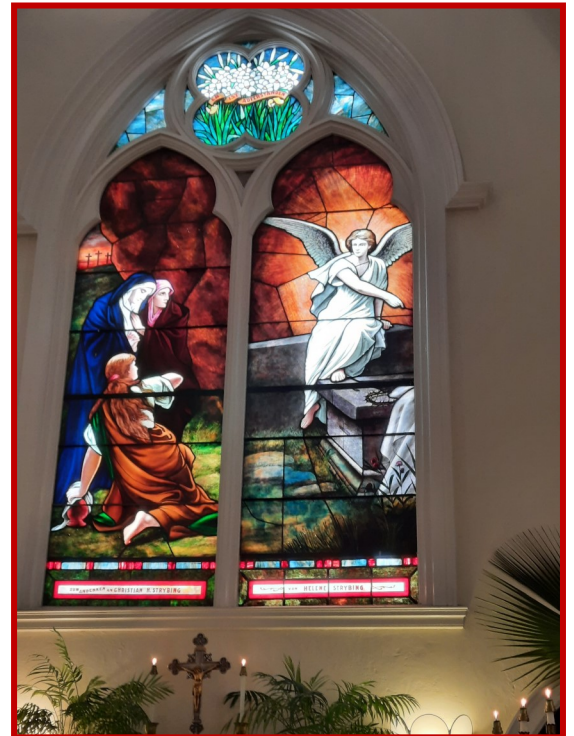
God's peace be with you this Easter and always,

Amelia +

Christian Jennert, Vacancy Minister



A long-standing weekly tradition at St. Matthew's --Council president Bill Bremer winding the clock in the fellowship hall on Sunday afternoons.



**Palm Sunday
Celebration
April 10, 2022**



Mark your Calendar

"Promises of New Life"

Saturday, May 14 Church Retreat in the Easter Season 10:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m. @ St. Matthew's

Sometimes it is good to "get away" from our daily routines and make time for a mid-morning retreat. This Easter season join Vacancy Minister Christian Jennert for a time of rest, renewal, sharing of stories and listening to God's presence in our (and the church's) lives.

Come as you are! *More information as we get closer to the date.*



Reception of New Members and Friends on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 24

Join us for worship on Sunday, April 24 as we welcome our newest members to St. Matthew's.

If you are interested in membership or more closely affiliating yourself with St. Matthew's, please contact Vacancy Minister Christian Jennert at jennert@stmatthews-sf.org or call the church office at 415. 863.6371.



Christian Jennert available for prayer, spiritual care and conversation

St. Matthew's Vacancy Minister Christian Jennert is available for prayer, spiritual care and conversation. The best way to contact him is via email at jennert@stmatthews-sf.org or by calling the church office at 415. 863.6371. In an urgent situation or emergency, please call his cell at 510.717.3221.

Mark your Calendar

April 15 – Good Friday

11:00 a.m. - Coffee Hour

12:00 Noon - Bilingual Liturgy of Good Friday



April 17 – Easter Sunday

11:00 a.m. - Festival Bilingual Service with the Distribution of Holy Communion

12:15 p.m. - Festive Coffee & Fellowship Hour

April 24 – Second Sunday of Easter

11:00 a.m. - Bilingual Service of the Word with the Reception of New Members



Continued Financial Support of St. Matthew's Ministries

We want to thank everyone who has supported St. Matthew's financially during the past months.

Please continue to send in your contributions!

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