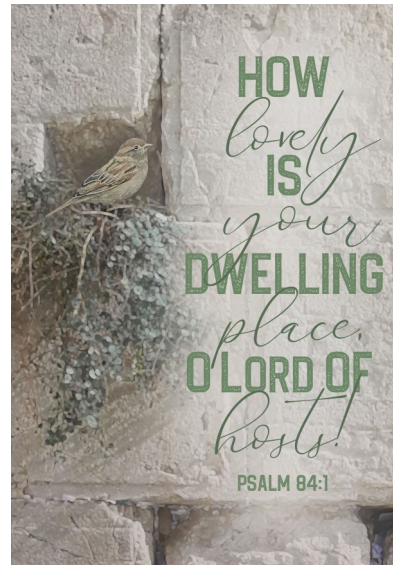


SEPTEMBER 2022



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Newsletter What's New? Was gibt's Neues?



From the Vacancy Minister



Dear St. Matthew's community,

I just returned from a long week in Germany. I visited Dresden in Saxony where I officiated at a family wedding and then spent some time with family and friends in the Hanover region where I was born and

raised. I enjoyed my travels. I had never been to Dresden before and was impressed with the *Altstadt* (old town). The city center was completely in ruins after WW II and had been slowly rebuilt. The famous *Frauenkirche* (Church of Our Lady) was completed in 2005 and is one of the few Lutheran baroque churches in Germany. I attended an Evening Prayer and enjoyed the company of tourists from all over the world. We spoke different languages and came from different Christian traditions, yet we found unity in the singing of hymns and reciting the Lord's Prayer. It was a

wonderful experience to hear the difference voices and accents...and for a moment, while we were gathered in the crypt praying and singing, I felt a deep connection with these fellow strangers.

The *Frauenkirche* was first built in the 11th century in a Romanesque style. The church was Catholic until the Reformation, when it became Lutheran. I stood in awe thinking of the many people who had gathered and worshiped in this place before me. I realize that no matter where we find ourselves in the world, we can find connection and community through the church. We just hosted a Tarik, a young high school graduate from Nierenhof, Germany (Westphalia) at St. Matthew's who was traveling the world before beginning his university studies. We didn't know each other before, but we stay connected through our faith in Christ. Perhaps this is one of the greatest gifts of the church faith: community. We don't always have to agree on every aspect of church doctrine or denominational policy, but through faith, we stay connected in Christ.

Especially when we face hardships or have to deal with a difficult situation, we can find support, care, and mutual encouragement from our siblings in faith. When was the last time you stepped foot in a church? What first strikes for you when you enter a sanctuary...the pews...the stained-glass windows...the smell...the altar...the cross...a piece of art...the organ...?

The Psalmists knew what they were talking about when they mentioned God's beautiful dwelling places (Ps. 84). I was reminded how beautiful St. Matthew's sanctuary is and how stellar our acoustics are when I recently attended the Golden Gate Men's Chorus' summer concert.

So much is happening this fall—come and see the beauty of our God's church and see the face of Christ in your fellow siblings.



God is present in every part of creation, but God can be especially found in the church...in the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the

Sacraments. At St. Matthew's we have recently received new members by baptism and by affirmation of baptism; we celebrate Holy Communion on every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month and every holiday; and fellowship activities and a fall bible study are beginning in September. The church is not a building but the living and loving community where all are welcome, and where God's grace and love are shared with all who seek it. Looking forward to seeing you in and around our St. Matthew's soon!

Amelia +



Andrea Mejri and P. Christian praying the Intercessions on Sunday, August 28th.



8-21-22 Visit with **Frieda and Philomena**

Dear Members and Friends of St. Matthew's,

As we have now left the unofficial end of summer, although it certainly hasn't felt that way over the past several days, our unique and special church continues on through its own seasons and in fact is doing remarkably well considering the significant problems we and indeed the world have endured and through which we have also thankfully persevered. COVID is retreating as a frightening emergency pandemic and is becoming an ongoing part of our future, similar to the seasonal flu and will likely need a yearly booster to protect us from the worst consequences of this often severe disease.

Our vacancy minister, Christian Jennert, continues to ably and enthusiastically lead our congregation on its spiritual mission. The Synod's problems with the recent surrounding turmoil and uncertainties has now entered a period of reflection and discernment under our Interim Bishop, Claire Burkat, as the future is being contemplated and planned. On an encouraging note our weekly church attendance is slowly increasing as most of our pre-pandemic activities have returned to 'normal' although we continue to have just one bilingual service on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM.

Over the summer a new member, Alex Wittkowski, was officially welcomed to our congregation. Also, Elissa Rissmann, daughter of Bjorn Rissmann and Lesli Quiroz Lopez, was recently baptized. Dorothy Praeger will be leading a series of Bible studies beginning this month which hopefully many of you will be attending. In August we hosted a student from Germany who is traveling around the world; he is a remarkable young man. The Golden Gate Men's Chorus gave a wonderful concert on August 27th and 28th. A long-time friend of the church, Dr. Helmut Rolfes, passed away in July and will be remembered fondly. Mr. Ed Tauscher with some help from his son, Kenneth, continues the repair work of the damage from the water leak and termites to the short hall and stairwell behind the altar and to the outside area surrounding the stained-glass window above the altar.

One of our recent new members, Cole Hancock, has arranged a fun outing at the 'SF Biergarten' at 424 Octavia St., San Francisco on Saturday Sept. 10th. Please join us if you are able for some fellowship and conversation at 5p.m.

In closing, here's wishing you all a happy, safe and blessed fall and please continue to support the church in any way you are able.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of your church council,

William H. Bremer, M.D.
Council President



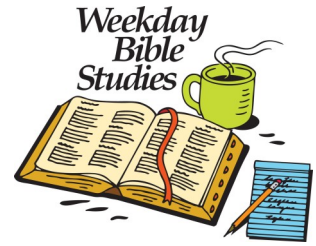
A recent high school graduate and world traveler from the Ruhr District, Germany, **Tarik Weber**, with **Bill Bremer** and **Tina Haner** at a Mission restaurant.



Elissa Rissmann baptism, Sept. 4th

Fall Midweek Bible Study "The Books of Wisdom"

Join us on Wednesday mornings this fall for a brown bag bible study on the Old Testament books of Wisdom. The study is guided by the work of Fr. Joseph Koterski, SJ, Professor of Old Testament at Fordham University. Make time for God's word this fall...bring a lunch and enjoy the fellowship as we dig deeper into the Holy Scriptures. **All are welcome!**



Wednesdays, September 21, September 28, October 5, and October 12 at 11:00 a.m. - St. Matthew's Lutheran Church SF. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information please contact Ms. Dorothy Praeger at dapraeger@gmail.com or contact the church office.

Bibelkurs im Herbst: „Die alttestamentlichen Bücher der Weisheit“ (auf Englisch)

Alle sind herzlich eingeladen am Mittwochmorgen zu einem Kurs über die Weisheitsbücher des Alten Testaments. Wir orientieren uns an der Arbeit von Pater Joseph Koterski, SJ, Professor für Altes Testament an der Fordham University. Nehmen Sie sich diesen Herbst Zeit für Gottes Wort... bringen Sie ein Brot mit und genießen Sie die Gemeinschaft, während wir tiefer in die Heilige Schrift eintauchen.

Mittwochs, 21. September, 28. September, 5. Oktober und 12. Oktober um 11:00 Uhr – Ev.-luth. Matthäuskirche in SF. Kaffee wird bereitgestellt. Alle sind willkommen!

Für weitere Informationen wenden Sie sich bitte an Frau Dorothy Praeger unter dapraeger@gmail.com oder kontaktieren Sie das Kirchenbüro.

Celebrate St. Francis Day with the Blessing of the Animals | Sunday, October 2nd - St. Matthew's Lutheran Church SF

As we celebrate the patron saint of our city, all pets (and their humans) are invited to join us for worship on **Sunday, October 2nd at 11 AM** for a **bilingual service** with a special blessing of the animals.

You may bring one well-behaved dog or cat to worship. Please make sure that the pet stays leashed or in a carrier. If you cannot bring your animal or your pet has passed, bring a picture of your animal friend to the service. We are looking forward to seeing you there!



Franziskustag mit Segnung der Tiere

Sonntag, der 2. Oktober | Ev.-luth. Matthäuskirche San Francisco

Am Sonntag, d. **2. Oktober um 11 Uhr** feiern wir den Schutzpatron unserer Stadt San Francisco. Dabei sind alle Haustiere (und ihre Menschen) zu einem **zweisprachigen Gottesdienst** mit einer besonderen Segnung der Tiere eingeladen.

Ein gut erzogener Hund oder eine freundliche Katze pro Haushalt dürfen zum Gottesdienst mitgebracht werden. Bitte stellen Sie sicher, dass Ihr Hund oder Ihre Katze angeleint ist oder in einer Transportbox bleibt. Wenn Sie Ihr Tier nicht mitbringen können oder Ihr Haustier verstorben ist, bringen Sie ein Bild Ihres Haustieres zum Gottesdienst mit. Wir freuen uns darauf, Sie am 2.10. begrüßen zu dürfen!

San Francisco-Peninsula Fall Conference Gathering with Interim Bishop Claire Burkat

Saturday, October 8, 2022 | 11:30 AM - 3:30 PM

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church San Mateo

Lunch will be provided. More information to come!

Come and celebrate **Reformation Sunday** at St. Matthew's Bilingual Festival Service

October 30, 2022 | 11 AM

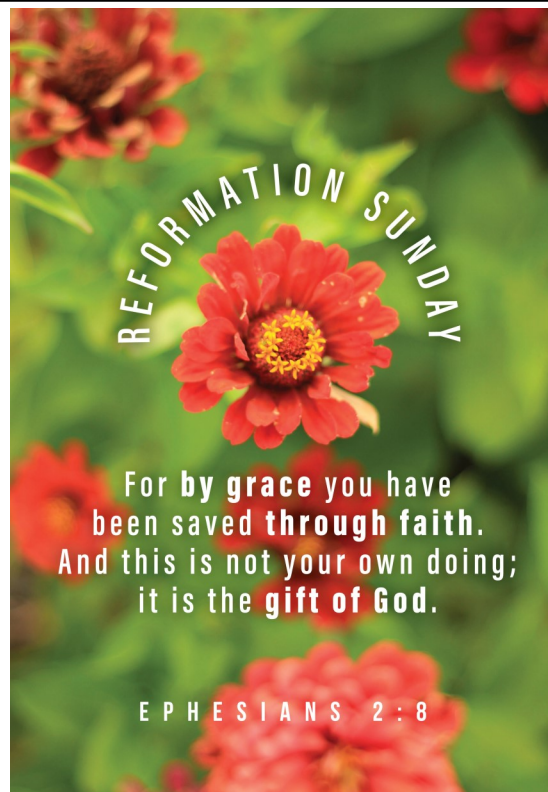
Please wear something red in celebration of Reformation Sunday!

Herzliche Einladung zum zweisprachigen Festgottesdienst
anlässlich des Reformationstages

Sonntag, 30. Oktober 2022 | 11 Uhr

Ev.-luth. St. Matthäuskirche SF

Bitte tragen Sie etwas Rotes zur Feier des Reformationstages



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!

Mark your Calendar

September 11 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 a.m. - Bilingual Service of the Word

12:30 p.m. - Church Council Meeting / Kirchenvorstandssitzung

September 18 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

September 21 – Wednesday, Bible Study

11:00 a.m. - **“The Books of Wisdom”**

September 25 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 a.m. - Bilingual Service of the Word

St. Matthew’s Summer Outing at the German Biergarten in SF, Saturday, September 10th @ 5:00 p.m.

Join other members and friends of St. Matthew’s at the German Biergarten in Hayes Valley!

Enjoy a time of fellowship and conversation over a good German beer or hefeweizen and delectable German treats. Non-alcoholic German beverages such as *Apfelschorle* or Elderflower soda are also available. Bring a friend—**all are welcome!**

For more information or to RSVP please email Cole at colehancock@comcast.net

Looking forward to seeing you there!

SF Biergarten

424 Octavia

biergartensf.com



SEPTEMBER 11

Remembrance

God Bless America



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