



 **DECEMBER** 2022

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Newsletter

What's New? Was gibt's Neues?



From the Vacancy Pastor

The apostle Paul writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near." Philippians 4:4



Dear St. Matthew's community,

As soon as November came around this year I noticed a drop in temperature. I knew fall had arrived in our Bay Area and the time had come again to turn on the heater to get the morning chill out. With the change of seasons the holidays are around the corner. Thanksgiving is one of my favorites. I love coming together with family and loved ones, enjoying friendly company over good food—green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, stuffing and turkey are a staple in my house. Together we give thanks for all the good things we have received from God's bounty. Even when illness, disappointments, loneliness, or worry keep us up at night, God is with us. God will see us through the hard times. Thanksgiving is an invitation to pause and to ponder how God's blessed us (including those blessings that come to us in disguise!).

One of those blessings is St. Matthew's. Here at church we come together for prayer and support, fellowship and community. What a wonderful gift is that? Here are people that are fun to be around, that will listen, and that will pray for us when we have a need. Paul invites the church of Phillipi to rejoice again and again over all the good things that God has done for them. When I eat my turkey and pie on Thanksgiving Day, I will say a prayer of gratitude for this community.

Following the Thanksgiving holiday, we enter the season of Advent. "The Lord is near," the apostle Paul writes. During Advent we are waiting with anticipation for Christ's coming into our world. To be honest, waiting is not my strong suit. I am glad that we are waiting together for the miracle without comparison: Immanuel, God-with-us, coming to us in Jesus of Nazareth, our brother, teacher, healer, and Savior. And when things are not going the way we want them to, God invites us to wait with the whole church for the divine miracle to be revealed. What are your hopes, dreams, and wishes for you, your loved ones and the world this winter season as we journey together towards Christmas?

Join St. Matthew's at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings as we journey together to the manger of Bethlehem. Special music, concerts, and familiar and beloved carols will accompany us this season. AM Advent bible study waits for all early risers at 9:30 a.m. There is much to be grateful for. Echoing Paul's words, "let your gentleness be known to everyone" I am looking forward to seeing you in church this Advent, Christmas, and in the New Year!

With gratitude for you,

Christian Jennert, Vacancy Minister



Dear Members and Friends of St. Matthew's,

Depending on how you receive this newsletter, whether by snail mail or via the internet, you are probably either anticipating or recovering from your Thanksgiving feast and celebration. We do hope you will have or have had a wonderful time marking this special, family/friends oriented and relatively non-commercial holiday before the rapidly approaching and more hectic Advent/Christmas season.

Since our last newsletter in September the church continues to do well and it is good to have the worst of the pandemic in the rearview mirror although there are some rumblings of a possible winter resurgence of illness due to the Covid, influenza and RSV viruses, so caution is still in order. Church related events over the past 2-1/2 months include: a fun gathering at the San Francisco Biergarten on Sept. 10; a mid-week series of Bible study on "The Books of Wisdom" led by Dorothy Praeger in Sept. and Oct.; a special 'Blessing of the Animals' celebrating St. Francis Day on Oct. 2; and a meeting on Oct. 8 at St. Andrew's in San Mateo of leaders of the San Francisco-Peninsula Conference with the new interim Bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod, Claire Burkat. Additionally two special after-service luncheons were held: on Oct. 16 celebrating our newest members and on Nov. 20 marking Thanksgiving, Erntedank and Ewigkeitsonntag.

Also, we are most grateful that Ed Tauscher with help from his son, Kenneth, are continuing their work on repairing water damage to the rear of the church around the altar window, small roof and rear stairwell.

The choral concert season at St. Matthew's has begun in earnest! On Nov. 5 **Tactus** gave a concert of renaissance music. On Dec. 3 at 7:00 PM the **GAPA** men's chorus (Gay Asian-Pacific Alliance) will give a holiday concert entitled "Peace on Earth". On Dec. 10 at 7:30 PM the **IOC** (International Orange Chorale) will give a concert entitled "Sleeping while Dreaming". On Dec. 15, 17, 18 and 20 the **GGMC** will hold their annual holiday concerts, this year entitled "Voices Singing, Let's Be Jolly!".

So now as we enter into this blessed Advent season, we invite you to attend as many of the services and events as you are able... they will all be special. Our vacancy minister, Christian Jennert, has been doing a fantastic job leading and engaging the congregation; we are deeply appreciative for his guidance and inspiration.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of your church council,

William H. Bremer, M.D.
Council President

Summer and Fall Events

Fall Midweek Bible Study “The Books of Wisdom” led by Dorothy Praeger on Wednesdays mornings on September 21, September 28, October 5, and October 12 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.



Thanksgiving Luncheon on Nov. 20th



St. Matthew's Summer Outing at the German Biergarten in SF, Saturday, September 10th of fellowship and conversation over a good German beer or hefeweizen and delectable German treats.



Celebration Luncheon on Oct. 16, 2022

The luncheon is in celebration for St. Matthew's newest members and their families who have joined the congregation by baptism and by affirmation of baptism.



Vacancy Minister Christian Jennert visiting with Al & Thea Scholz in their home in San Mateo. Al & Thea are celebrating their 59th anniversary on November 23.



Poinsettias



For Christmas we would like to continue the tradition of decorating the church with poinsettias. If you would like to donate for this joyful season to honor and/or remember someone special, please complete this sheet and note the name(s) of that person. You may take the plant home after the Christmas Day Service. The suggested donation is \$15.00.

Name: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Please mail or leave this form on table by front entrance.

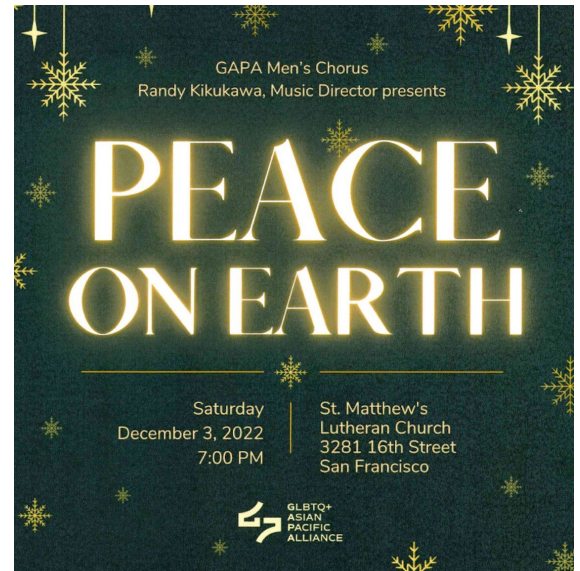
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
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Upcoming Events

For tickets, please visit: <https://www.gapa.org/mens-chorus>

December 3rd at 7:00 PM

GAPA Men's Chorus presents "Peace on Earth," a festive holiday concert featuring an eclectic and engaging mix of songs in English, Hawaiian, Latin, Tagalog, and more. Showcasing everything from classical pieces that highlight a harmonic blend of voices, to folk songs, show tunes, and a rich trove of holiday favorites, there is something for everyone to enjoy!

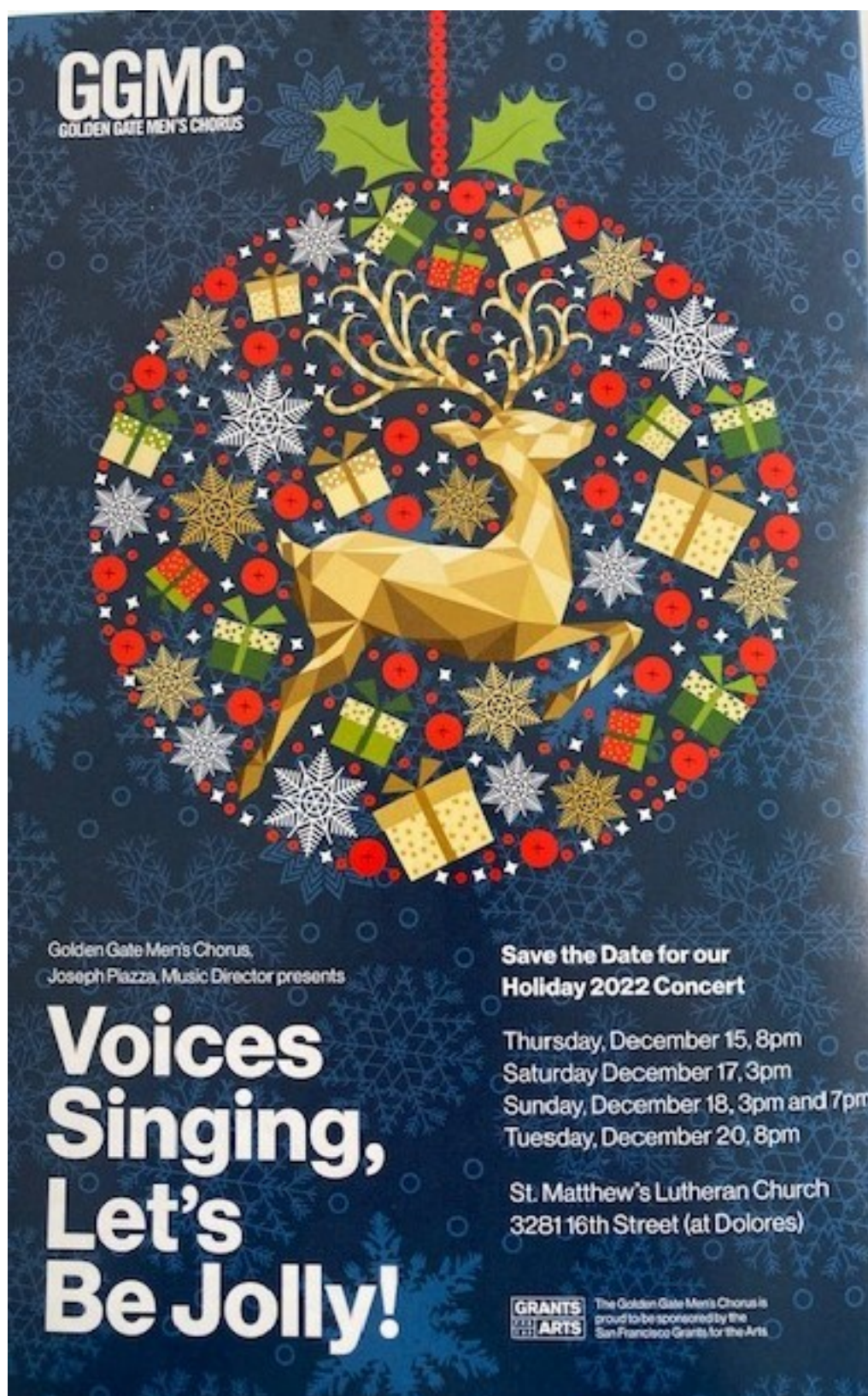


Please join **IOCSF** for our Fall 2022 concert program, *Sleeping while Dreaming*, at **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3281 16th St, San Francisco, at 7:30 PM on Saturday, December 10, 2022**. The program will feature music by contemporary composers on nocturnal themes, including pieces by Rich Campbell, Eriks Esenvalds, Susan LaBarr, Ily Matthew Maniano, Jaakko Mantyjärvi, Joseph Noyon, Alvin Trotman, and Eric Whitacre, and featuring the world premiere of "Variation on the Word Sleep" by IOCSF alumnus Sam Maurer.

Attendance is free, with donations gratefully accepted at the door. A limited number of VIP tickets may be purchased for \$40 each by following the ticket purchase link on this event page.

Audience members will be requested to wear masks during the concert. Performers will all be vaccinated and at a safe distance from the audience. For those unable to attend in person, a separate livestream/broadcast event will begin on December 22.

The **Golden Gate Men's Chorus** presents its annual holiday concert, "Voices Singing, Let's Be Jolly!" Come experience a four decades-long tradition of one of San Francisco's finest male choral ensembles as they celebrate with shimmering winter anthems, joyful carols, and sentimental holiday classics. For tickets, please visit : <https://www.ggmc.org>



Mark your Calendar

November 27 – First Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. - "While We Wait" Advent Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. - Bilingual Service with the Lighting of the Advent Wreath



December 4 – Second Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 a.m. - "While We Wait" Advent Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. - Bilingual Service with the Distribution of Holy Communion

December 11 – Third Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 a.m. - "While We Wait" Advent Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. - Bilingual Service of the Word

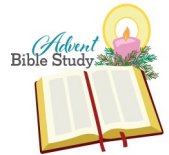
December 18 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 a.m. - "While We Wait" Advent Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. - English Service with Holy Communion
Special Music by Tactus

"While we wait" - Advent Bible Study

Sundays November 27, December 4 and 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Advent is about preparing ourselves to give attention to God's great gift, Jesus Christ. Join us on three Sunday mornings to find ways of connecting the story of Christ's coming into our world with your own questions of faith. We will encounter biblical figures like Tamar, Mary, and Elizabeth whose questions resonate with our own. We will explore Advent as a journey in which God seeks us. No experience necessary—we are looking forward to seeing you there!



„Während wir warten“ – Bibelstunde im Advent Sonntag,

27. November, 4. und 11. Dezember um 9:30 Uhr

Im Advent geht es darum, sich auf Gottes großes Geschenk, Jesus Christus, vorzubereiten. Kommen Sie an drei Vormittagen im Advent, um die Geschichte von Christi Kommen in unsere Welt mit Ihren eigenen Glaubensfragen zu verbinden. Wir werden biblischen Gestalten wie Tamar, Maria und Elisabeth begegnen, deren Fragen unsere eigenen widerspiegeln. Wir den Advent als einen Weg erkunden, auf dem Gott uns sucht. Welche Fragen über Gott bringen Sie mit? Keine Vorkenntnisse erforderlich – wir freuen uns auf Sie!

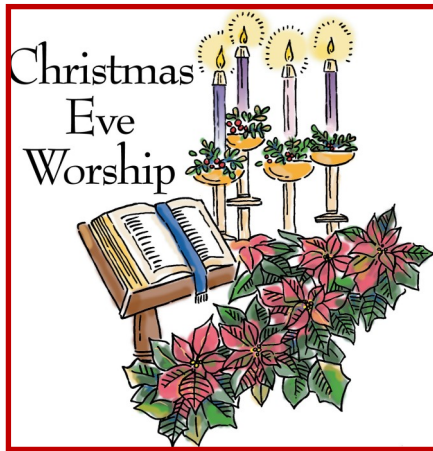
Mark your calendar: **New Year's Dinner at Willkommen Restaurant – Wednesday, January 11- 6:30 p.m.**

Let us welcome the new year with friendly folks from St. Matthew's at *Willkommen* –a new German-fusion restaurant on Market Street. Seating for the event will be limited. For more information or to RSVP, please email jennert@stmatthews-sf.org

*Merken Sie sich in Ihrem Kalender vor: **Neujahrsdinner im "Willkommen"–Mittwoch, 11. Januar–18:30 Uhr** Lassen Sie uns das neue Jahr mit netten Menschen von St. Matthäus im Willkommen begrüßen. "Willkommen" ist ein neues deutsch-inspiriertes Restaurant auf der Market Street. Die Sitzplätze für die Veranstaltung sind begrenzt. Für weitere Informationen oder Interesse senden Sie bitte eine E-Mail an jennert@stmatthews-sf.org*

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2022

Come and celebrate the season with a traditional German Christmas Service. Sing the beloved carols, hear the familiar Christmas story, enjoy a special Children's time, and be inspired by the lighting of candles. We are looking forward to seeing you in Church!



Christmas Eve | December 24

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

6:00 p.m. Bilingual Christmas Candlelight Service (English/German)



Christmas Day | December 25

11:00 a.m. Bilingual Service (English/German) with Holy Communion

Musical guest chorus: '**Freundschaft Liederkranz**'



New Years Day/First Sunday After Christmas

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

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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