

# MARCH 2023

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

*The angel said to the women,  
“Do not be afraid!” (Matthew 28:5a)*

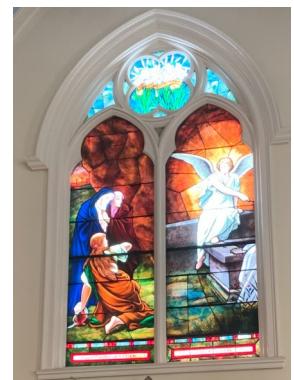
### From the Vacancy Minister

Dear St. Matthew's community,

We entered the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday. We heard the stark words from the first book of the bible, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” (Gen. 3:19) The Lenten season lasts 40 days—echoing the 40 days and nights that Jesus spent in the desert and the 40 years the Israelites wandered through the wilderness before entering the Promised Land. Lent invites us on a pilgrimage through a desert of our own. The season gives us space to get in touch with our pain, with our disappointments, with our grief, and the somber tone of Ash Wednesday resonates throughout these 40 days. In Lent we journey with Christ towards the cross. Just as Jesus experienced temptations in the desert and God-forsakeness on the cross, so do we face broken relationships, doubts, illness and disillusionments in our lives. The church dedicates an entire season in which we can acknowledge that not everything is always well with us...or with those around us. And God gives us permission to name what frightens us, what makes us sad, what concerns us. In a world where we constantly celebrate “progress”—from longer-lasting electric cars, to smart phones that operate at the speed of light, to innovative treatments for many diseases—it’s easy to lose oneself in this spiral of success...especially if our life does not reflect the breakthroughs of the world

around us. That’s why I like Lent. I am allowed to be myself...with my flaws and yearnings, my hopes and dreams...knowing that God knows what I am going through. When Jesus cried, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?...” We know that the story doesn’t end there.

When the women came to the garden to take care of Jesus' body, they found the tomb empty and an angel said to them, “Do not be afraid!” This scene is the focal point of St. Matthew's altar window. In our world where wars and natural catastrophes are raging, the women at the tomb and we can carry the angel's message out into our communities. We can share the “Do not be afraid!” as the hope of our faith, as a hope we can speak to others especially when things look bleak. The Easter hope of the empty tomb breaks right into our Lenten journeys. We know that God has not forsaken us and can share the angel's message with those who have lost hope. In this way, we, too, become angels to others...in our neighborhoods and to the world whenever we share the message of the empty tomb. Do not be afraid! A blessed Lent and a joyous Eastertide to you and yours!



*Christian Jennert, Vacancy Minister*

## **From the Council President**

Dear Members and Friends of St. Matthew's,

As Easter is rapidly approaching and the Lenten season is drawing to a close, let me give you a brief report as to the church's happenings since our last newsletter of November 2022. The good news is that our extended drought has essentially ended and the difficult last 3 years of Covid are now becoming a bad memory, although certain precautions should still be maintained. The church itself is doing well and has pretty much returned to pre-pandemic operations under the enthusiastic leadership of our vacancy minister, Christian Jennert, who has now been serving our congregation for over one year... time passes quickly!

The Advent season and Christmas activities kept the church quite busy with wonderful concerts given by the groups who rehearse and perform in our sanctuary, which was again beautifully decorated by the Golden Gate Men's Chorus. As usual the Christmas Eve services were well attended with many new faces while the Christmas Day service was enhanced by the traditional appearance of Freundschaft Liederkranz as a guest chorus.

The annual congregational business meeting was held on February 12th. The 2023 budget as prepared by the budget committee led by our dedicated and excellent treasurer, Juergen Fehr, and unanimously approved by the council, was passed by the congregational members present. A relatively new church member was nominated and added to the church council, David Schreiber, who will be an asset to the church's governing body. At the March council meeting, church council officers were selected as follows: William Bremer - President, Steven Crabiel - Assistant Treasurer, Juergen Fehr - Treasurer, Ulrike Hodges - Vice President, David Schreiber - Secretary. The remaining members are: Steven Dobel, Christian Jennert - ex-officio member, Philomena Joseph, and Dorothy Praeger.

On February 18th the German School of San Francisco resumed its annual Fasching Fest in our social hall and parking lot. On February 24th-26th

a new event was held in our building, an A Cappella workshop of Renaissance choral music organized by Sylvia Braselmann, reportedly a big success.

Ed Tauscher continues to do needed repairs to the church structure as his time and the weather permit and for which we are most grateful.

Weekly Lenten Bible study sessions are being held after the Sunday service and two baptisms and two confirmations will soon take place.

In closing, the Council wishes you all a blessed, safe and healthy Easter season.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of your Council,

William H. Bremer, M.D.  
Council President

## **International Orange Chorale Concert - Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**



## German-language Christmas Eve Family Service



Freundschaft Liederkranz singing at St. Matthew's Christmas Day Service.



**Volkstrauertag German Day of Remembrance with Consul General Oliver Schramm and members of the German Armed Forces at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>.**



**New Year's Dinner at *Willkommen* Restaurant in San Francisco - Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**



**Office Clean Up by  
members of the  
Council - Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**



**Annual Congregational Meeting - Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>**



**St. Matthew's Easter Outing at Schroeder's in SF | Thursday, April 20 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Join other members and friends of St. Matthew's at Schroeder's German restaurant in downtown San Francisco! Originally founded in 1893, Schroeder's longstanding history, friendly atmosphere and convenient location has made the Bavarian inspired beer hall a favorite of San Francisco residents for the past 120 years. The original structure was destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire before being reopened at its current location of 240 Front Street by Henry Schroeder, who was actively involved in downtown San Francisco's reconstruction. Schreoder's offers a wide selection of beers and a modern German menu. Bring a friend or neighbor—**all are welcome!**

For more information and/or to RSVP please email Dave Schreiber at [davids@truedave.com](mailto:davids@truedave.com)

**Looking forward to seeing you there!**

**St. Matthew's Osteressen bei Schroeder's in SF | Donnerstag, 20. April um 19:00 Uhr**

Kommen Sie mit anderen Mitgliedern und Freunden der Matthäuskirche zu Schroeders deutschem Restaurant in San Francisco! Schroeder's wurde Im Jahre 1893 gegründet und die 120-jährige Geschichte, die freundliche Atmosphäre und die gute Lage haben die von einer bayerischen Bierhalle inspirierte Gastwirtschaft zu einem von San Franciscos Lieblingsrestaurants gemacht. Das ursprüngliche Gebäude wurde durch das Erdbeben von 1906 zerstört, bevor es von Henry Schroeder, der aktiv am Wiederaufbau der Innenstadt von San Francisco beteiligt war, an seinem derzeitigen Standort wiedereröffnet wurde. Schroeders bietet eine große Auswahl an Bieren und ein modernes deutsches Menü. Bringen Sie Freunde, Bekannte und Familienmitglieder mit! Für weitere Informationen und/oder um einen Sitzplatz zu reservieren senden Sie bitte eine E-Mail an David Schreiber unter [davids@truedave.com](mailto:davids@truedave.com) **Wir freuen uns schon darauf, Sie dort zu sehen!**



## JOIN ST. MATTHEW'S FOR LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER

**Sunday, March 19** | *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

**11:00 a.m.** Bilingual Service with Holy Baptism

**Sunday, March 26** | *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

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



### HOLY WEEK

**Sunday, April 2** | *Palm/Passion Sunday*

**11:00 a.m.** Bilingual Service of the Word with the Procession of Palms

**Good Friday, April 7**

**11:00 a.m.** Coffee Hour Fellowship

**12 noon** Bilingual Liturgy of Good Friday

**Easter Sunday, April 9**

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

**12:15 a.m.** Festive Coffee Reception

## Passionszeit, Karwoche und Ostern an der Matthäuskirche

**Sonntag, 19. März** | *Vierter Sonntag in der Passionszeit*

**11:00 Uhr** Zweisprachiger Gottesdienst mit Taufe

**Sonntag, 26. März** | *Fünfter Sonntag in Passionszeit*

**11:00 Uhr** Zweisprachiger Gottesdienst mit Hl. Abendmahl

### KARWOCHE

**Sonntag, 2. April** | *Palmsonntag*

**11:00 Uhr** Zweisprachiger Gottesdienst mit Palmprozession

**Karfreitag, 7. April**

**11:00 Uhr** Kirchkaffee

**12 Uhr** Zweisprachiger Karfreitagsgottesdienst

**Ostersonntag, 9. April**

**11:00 Uhr** Zweisprachiger Festgottesdienst mit Hl. Abendmahl

**12:15 Uhr** Festliches Kirchkaffee

### **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 to contact him is via email at [jennert@stmatthews-sf.org](mailto: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.

### **Christian Jennert für Gebet, Seelsorge und Gespräche zur Verfügung**

Der Vakanzseelsorger der evangelischen Matthäusgemeinde, Christian Jennert, steht für Gebet, geistliche Begleitung und Gespräche zur Verfügung. Am besten erreichen Sie ihn per E-Mail unter jennert@stmatthews-sf.org oder telefonisch im Kirchenbüro unter 415.863.6371. In einer dringenden Situation oder einem Notfall können Sie ihn auf seinem Handy anrufen: 510.717.3221.

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### **Lenten Bible Study: *Isaiah: Visions of Promise / Sundays at 12:15 p.m.***

Make time this Lenten season to grow in faith and study God's word. All are welcome to attend the Lenten Bible Study on the prophet Isaiah following worship:

**March 5:** Isaiah—Messages of Hope

**March 12:** Isaiah—Portraits of Peace I

**March 19:** Isaiah—Portraits of Peace II

**March 26:** Isaiah—Bringing Good News

**April 2:** Isaiah—Voice of God's Justice

### **Bibelkurs in der Fastenzeit: *Jesaja: Visionen der Verheißung | Sonntags um 12:15 Uhr***

Alle sind herzlich eingeladen dieses Jahr in der Passionszeit, gemeinsam in der Heiligen Schrift zu lesen und in unserem Glaubensverständnis zu wachsen. Bleiben Sie nach dem Gottesdienst und lernen Sie den Propheten Jesaja besser kennen:

**5. März:** Jesaja – Botschaften der Hoffnung

**12. März:** Jesaja – Bilder des Friedens 1

**19. März:** Jesaja – Bilder des Friedens II

**26. März:** Jesaja – Überbringer der Guten Nachricht

**2. April:** Jesaja – Stimme der Gerechtigkeit Gottes



## **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!

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

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