



## St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

*Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.*

*He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.*

*ELW 240, stanza 1*

### From the Vacancy Minister

Dear St. Matthew's community,

There is little distance between hope and desperation, yet the space between them makes all the difference in the world. Entering the Advent season—still full of the memories and left-overs from our Thanksgiving celebrations—in one mode or the other means the difference between awaiting the Messiah with patience and faith, or awaiting the Messiah with anxiety and uncertainty. So it is quite likely, in the buzz that is the holiday season, that each of us brings a substantial mix of both. One thing is certain: waiting we must. And for many of us, waiting we don't relish. Perhaps that's why Advent is one of the most counter-cultural seasons and, frankly, my favorite season of the church year.

While the world succumbs to the "busy-ness bug," pushing many to the brink by December's end, we are called to prepare for the birth of Emmanuel—God-with-us. Feeling exhausted and operating on autopilot—hoping for a moment of respite after shopping, traveling, decorating, dining, and unwrapping presents— isn't the essence of Advent. I prefer entering Advent with an expectant, waiting heart, very much like

Mary. It's a time to "slow down, open your eyes, and hearts" for the Messiah's arrival. Let go of everything hindering your enjoyment of the beautiful pre-Christmas season. When you come to church, the liturgy, prayers, chants, and music aim to ease desperation and elevate hope.

I'm eager for the candles, the wreath, the gingerbread, and the familiar carols. Opening the front portion of our hymnal to sing those beautiful Advent hymns is something I am looking forward to. I won't let desperation take over amidst the "exile" of our consumer culture. Instead, I'll wait with Mary and rejoice in the arrival of the Savior. Make time, and prepare the way for Christ, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Advent Blessings full of  
hope and peace,

*Amster +*



## Around St. Matthew's



**October Feast at Suppenkuche  
October 26, 2023**



**10-8-23 Ingeborg Stottmeister at the  
UGAS Banquet at the Basque Center**



**Anita Bairogh reads the lesson on  
Reformation Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**

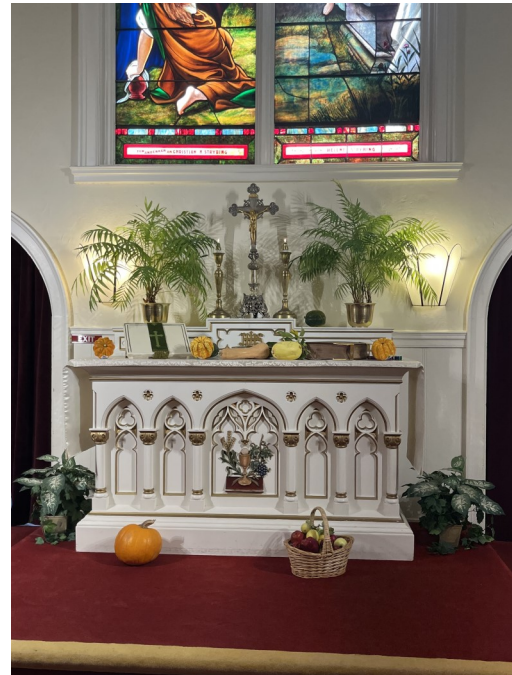
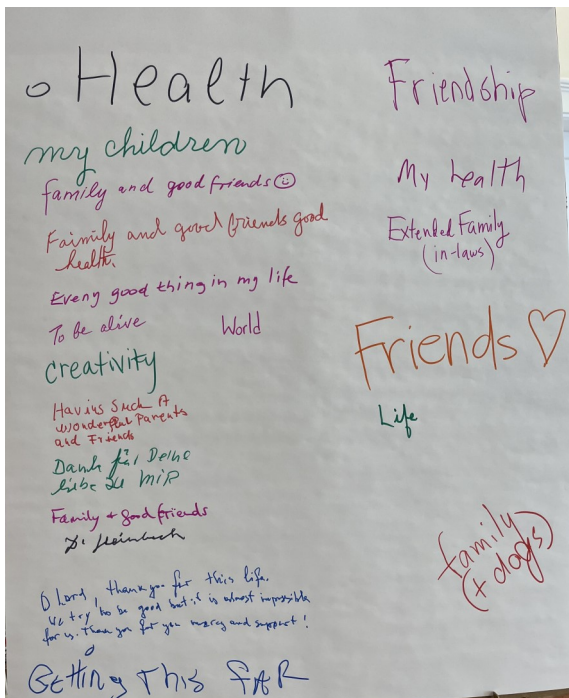


## Fun Coffee Hour on October 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Season of Gratitude 2023

On four Sundays St. Matthew's observed a "Season of Gratitude" this fall. On Thanksgiving Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, we came together to celebrate God's abundant blessings in our lives. During worship parishioners of all ages came forward to write down what they are grateful for in their lives. **Thanks be to God!**



Al & Thea Scholz celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary, 60 years, on Thanksgiving. They were surrounded by their daughters Barbara and Birte and their families and friends. Our prayers of joy and thanksgiving as well as God's richest blessings are with the couple!





**International Orange Chorale of San Francisco - Holiday with a Twist Concert on December 2, 2023. It was a big crowd of 200+ in attendance and 40 people in chorus.**



*The Golden Gate Men's Chorus presents its annual holiday concert, "Star of Wonder." Come experience a four decades-long tradition of one of San Francisco's finest male choral ensembles as we celebrate with shimmering winter anthems, joyful carols, and sentimental holiday classics.*

**Thursday  
December 14  
8:00 PM**

**Saturday  
December 16  
3:00 PM**



**Sunday  
December 17  
3:00 PM**

**Tuesday  
December 19  
8:00 PM**

**St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**  
3281 16th Street (at Dolores) ★ San Francisco

General Admission: \$30 VIP: \$50  
Tickets: [ggmc.org](http://ggmc.org) or at the door. Student discount at the door.

**A St. Matthew's Tradition returns:**

**Crab Feed Saturday**

**January 27, 2024 | 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.**



~Members and Friends of St Matthew's Lutheran~

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Matthew's Crab Feed**

**January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Saturday)**

Time: 4:00p.m.-7:30p.m.

Cost: \$60/person (all you can eat and drink!)

\$20 (for those 6-12 yrs)

Salad/Garlic Bread, Pasta

Crab (or chicken)

Dessert

Coffee/Tea/Beer/Wine

**Please RSVP by January 17, 2024**

Please include the bottom portion of this page with your check

Send reservations to:

St Matthew's Lutheran Church

3281-16<sup>th</sup> Street

SF, CA 94103

Attn: Crab Feed

\_\_\_ Yes I will attend. Crab dinners \_\_\_ Chicken dinners \_\_\_  
@\$60/person \_\_\_ @\$20/child \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ No I will not attend. Enclosed is my donation to  
St. Matthew's \$\_\_\_

## Mark your Calendar

### COMING EVENTS / KOMMENDE VERANSTALTUNGEN

#### December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. - Council Meeting

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

12:00 p.m. - Coffee Hour



#### December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

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

12:00 p.m. - Coffee Hour



#### December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

12:00 p.m. - Coffee Hour



#### December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. German Candlelight Service for children and adults

6:00 p.m. Bilingual Christmas Candlelight Service



#### December 25 - Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Bilingual Service with Holy Communion

Musical guest chorus: 'Freundschaft Liederkranz'



#### December 31 - New Year's Eve/First Sunday After Christmas

11:00 a.m. Bilingual Service with Holy Communion

#### January 14 - Cantor Arik Luck at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Join St. Matthew's on the Second Sunday after the Epiphany, January 14th. We are thrilled to welcome Cantor Arik Luck from Temple Emanuel of San Francisco to join us in worship. Cantor Luck will share a reflection and guide us in a Jewish chant. All are welcome to participate and contribute to the enriching connection between our Jewish and Christian traditions. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen our understanding and strengthen our community ties.



#### 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!



## ELCA Update: Crisis in the Holy Land

In response to the Hamas attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7 and Israel's declaration of war against Hamas, including the ongoing siege of Gaza, the ELCA offers the following statements from some of our Lutheran and global partners in the region. Included are ELCA resources for a deeper understanding of the context, the humanitarian crises of the current war, and the ELCA's work for a just peace in Palestine and Israel. More information and resources for the Crisis in the Holy Land can be found at <https://elca.org/crisis-holy-land>

## "Fat Thursday Dinner" at Leopold's Austrian Gasthaus in Russian Hill February 8, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

"Servers in dirndls serve authentic Austrian fare & European beer amid Alpine-lodge decor & an Oktoberfest feel."

Join friends from St. Matthew's for good food, libations and fellowship before we enter the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday, February 14!

Location: 2400 Polk St, San Francisco, CA

To reserve your seat email Christian Jennert at

[jennert@stmatthews-sf.org](mailto:jennert@stmatthews-sf.org)



## Lent for the Soul! A Bible Study in the Gospel of Mark The Sundays in Lent | 12:30 p.m.

The Gospel of Mark is the focus of this year's lectionary cycle. Make time in the Lenten season to study God's word and deepen our faith. All are welcome to attend the Lenten Bible Study on the Mark's passion narrative following worship:

**February 18:** Mark 14:1-25

**February 25:** Mark 14:26-50

**March 3:** Mark 14:51-72

**March 10:** Mark 15:1-21

**March 17:** Mark 15:22-47



## Fastenzeit für die Seele! Ein Bibelarbeit über das Markusevangelium

Sonntags in der Passionszeit | 12:30 Uhr

Das Markusevangelium steht im Mittelpunkt des diesjährigen Lektionars. Nehmen Sie sich Zeit, um in der Fastenzeit Gottes Wort zu lesen und unseren Glauben zu vertiefen. Alle sind herzlich eingeladen, im Anschluss an den Gottesdienst an der Bibelarbeit über die Passionsgeschichte Jesu im Markusevangelium teilzunehmen.

**18. Februar:** Markus 14,1-25

**25. Februar:** Markus 14,26-50

**3. März:** Markus 14,51-72

**10. März:** Markus 15,1-21

**17. März:** Markus 15,22-47

# 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.***

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