



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

### From the Vacancy Minister

Dear St. Matthew's community,



Summer is upon us. The days have grown longer, and I cherish the extra daylight in the mornings and evenings. The birds singing near the bay and the blooming flowers bring joy to my heart! In the church, we have entered the long green season, the "Sundays in Ordinary Time." Of course,

nothing is ordinary with God. "Ordinary" in this context means we are counting the Sundays after Pentecost (or the Sundays after the Trinity in the German counting).

I love summer. I love the slower pace and the break from the festivals and routines of the year. I will be taking a few Sundays away, traveling to Germany this summer. I will be driving along the beautiful Rhine River and visiting towns like Wiesbaden, Bingen, Aachen, and Cologne. Touring the famous "Kölner Dom" has been on my bucket list for a long time. I will also visit with my family to belatedly celebrate my parents' 60th wedding anniversary, which was in May. I look forward to reconnecting with my parents, siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, and great-nieces.



I realize how much I am looking forward to dis-connecting from my routines, discovering new places, recharging my soul, and re-connecting with loved ones I haven't seen in some time. Summer beckons for this, and I pray for nice weather! How are you spending the summer months? How are you dis-connecting from your daily tasks and discovering something new? No need to spend a lot of money or travel far. There is plenty to explore right here in our backyard, from the coastal redwoods to the rolling hills of wine-bearing valleys, zoos and parklands, art exhibits, concerts, and musical performances. Simply reading a new book or visiting with an old friend over coffee can be rejuvenating.



It reminds me of the Psalmist's words: "O Lord, how manifold are your works!" God has made countless beautiful things for us to enjoy. We need time to rest and replenish. Where is God calling you this summer? Besides experiencing God's work in the beauty of creation, we also experience the Holy One in Word and Sacrament. Stop by on Sunday mornings at 11 o'clock and experience God's love and care right here in the heart of the Mission. Bring a neighbor or a friend. Come and be rejuvenated in spirit and fellowship with others. May this summer be a time of spiritual renewal and joyous connections for us all!

Blessings,

*Amelia +*



**St. Matthew's Chancel on Palm Sunday 2024**

**St. Matthew's Chancel on Good Friday 2024**



The Deutscher Musikverein 86th Anniversary Concert  
April 6, 2024



Eastertide Lunch at Stein's in SF  
4/21/24





**Baptism blessing of Ulrike and Robert Hodges granddaughter Lea Victoria with parents Anna and Nick.**



**Niels Nielsen and Pr. Christian visit the Military Cemetery in Benicia where eight German POWs were buried.**



**A Memorial of California's first Protestant Church in Benicia.**

Visit with Frieda Schoenach in Lafayette with Philomena Joseph, Lore Sternberg and Pastor Jennert.



Wedding at St. Matthew's 62 years ago



Gerhardt & Astrid Holder celebrated their 62<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 6/9/24.

# CLAIMING OUR HOPE

SIERRA PACIFIC SYNOD  
JUNE 7-9, 2024

*"Rejoice in hope; be patient in suffering; persevere in prayer." Romans 12:12*

The Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met in Fresno from June 7-9 under the motto "Claiming Our Hope." Our own Dorothy Praeger attended as St. Matthew's voting member. Here is a short recap and some pictures to capture what happened at this year's assembly.



Bishop Jeff stated that "Synod" is a plural word that describes collaboration, existing when we find ways to act together. When Jeff hears the word "church," he doesn't think of a building or a denomination, but rather people – created by God, empowered by the Spirit.

The Bishop held staff interviews at the "podcast table" in the center of the room. Bishop Jeff then asked Rev. Dr. Charlane Lines, Rev. Brandon Peck, and Rev. Amy Kienzle why they wanted to serve the Synod. Aside from being a practical decision that lined up time-wise, Charlane knows the Synod is in a challenging time and would like to be part of the healing process. Brandon holds mission and vision at the forefront and enjoys working collaboratively with an excited staff. Amy likes living in the space at the edge of the

church with new and emerging ministries, and working with all three expressions of the church: congregational, synodical, and churchwide.



Sometimes, hope develops gradually, and as it does, moments of delight are waiting to be discovered. As Synod VP Simon Wong said, "We are stronger and more resilient when we reach out to each other and stand with our neighbors in Christ. We are delighted to have served with outgoing staff, council, and representatives, and we feel hope when we imagine the ways our Synod will grow in the hands of those who are new... and those we have yet to meet! Here's to a year of hope, resilience, and unity. Until next year!"





*Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.*

Scheduled for **Sept. 8**, “**God’s work. Our hands.**” is the annual day of service and an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor.

“God’s work. Our hands.” is a way for us to be church together. On this day we bear witness to the love and concern God’s people have for one another. Our congregations do this work every day — loving their neighbors and improving their communities.

One of the greatest examples of how our congregations share love with their neighbors is through their feeding ministries. This year marks the **50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger**, and we’re excited to celebrate the impact that thousands of people from our church have made on communities around the world.

#### “GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”: SHARING GOD’S GRACE AND LOVE

As Lutherans, we know the difference that God’s grace and love in Christ have made in our daily lives. Because of this, we work together to help others experience that same love and acceptance.

We live out this vision through worship and service in our congregations and communities, through our individual vocations and through our collective work as church together. “**God’s work. Our hands.**” offers a special opportunity to be church together and to share Jesus’ love by inviting others to join in a day of service.

For more information on GWOH Sunday and St. Matthew’s participation, please speak to Steven Crabiel or Pr. Christian.

**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](mailto:jennert@stmatthews-sf.org), or by calling the church office at 415. 863.6371.



**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!

**June 30 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

12:00 p.m. - Coffee Hour

**July 7 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

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

12:00 p.m. - Coffee Hour

**July 14 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

12:00 p.m. - Coffee Hour

**St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**

3281 - 16th Street,

San Francisco, CA 94103-3323

Tel.: 415 863 6371

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

[www.stmatthews-sf.org](http://www.stmatthews-sf.org)

