



EASTER SUNDAY



Rising to the Occasion at St. Matthew's



Easter Sunday at St. Matthew's is always filled with talent, symbolism and smiles. Above, after the service, the choir recesses. At left, it sings an anthem. At right is Evvny Andry Brady, one of two members baptized that day. More Easter Sunday photos, Page 4.



Photos by Steve Devol

FROM PASTOR SUE

Resurrection 'Glee' offers new direction

I am a fan of "Glee." Like most of you who watch, I like it for the upbeat popular music, the well-written comedy and inclusive cast.

Even more, it delivers what a sitcom is supposed to, taking on controversial issues and resolving them in only an hour! Though it barely resembles real life, it offers a "good" feeling you can count on.

There are two things that keep me coming back: First, there is the exuberant joy and powerful pain expressed by the students and teachers participating in the music. Secondly, it causes me to recall the good part of my own high school experience. While there is a lot of high school I am happy to forget, I do remember the experience of a small group (of girls who were too nerdy and too

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Annual Meeting

On June 5, the Annual Meeting will be held after worship. A light lunch will be served. Voting members are urged to attend.

Joining the Family for Easter



Photos by Steve Devol



Clockwise from upper left, Lori "Luke" Sultzer, and Evynn Andry Brady, are baptized into the St. Matthew's family, Ken Statchura welcomes visitors, and Dave Olsen samples his famed fruit salad on Easter.



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STAFF

Pastor: Rev. **Susan Wolfe Devol**
Music and Outreach Coordinator: **Kenneth Callaghan**
Organist: **Catherine Popovic**
Deaf Minister: **Don Rosenkjar**
Newsletter Editor: **Steve Devol**

2011-2011 CHURCH COUNCIL

President, **Morgan Rumpf**; Vice President, **Jeff Drushal**; Secretary, **Dave Allen**; Treasurer, **Brenda Bos**; Councilmembers **Ursula Black, John Cantu, Ryan Chaddick, David James, Amber Keating**



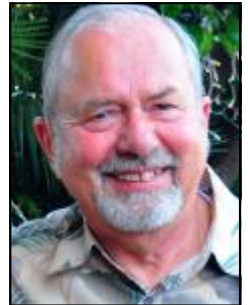
Susan Wolfe Devol,
Pastor



Morgan Rumpf,
Council President



Kenny Callaghan,
Music, Outreach



Don Rosenkjar, Deaf
Minister

St. Matthew's worships on Sunday mornings at 10:30. Worship services are provided in ASL for the deaf and hard-of-hearing. St. Matthew's is a member

of the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA and is a part of the Reconciling-in-Christ program of Lutherans Concerned/North America.

Our Volunteer of the Year: Scott Kensey

Remarks delivered by Jeff Drushal, vice president of the Church Council, on Palm Sunday:

Our Volunteer of the Year exemplifies the concept of humble stewardship. Scott Kensey has been a member of St. Matthew's for 18 years.

Scott serves as our head sacristan. A job with a million little details, most of which demand that he drive to the church two and three times a week to take care of them.

You will frequently find him here hanging banners, ironing linens,



Scott Kensey

draping crosses and reminding the office to order flowers for Easter and Christmas.

On many occasions Scott has driven to downtown Los Angeles to pick up needed worship supplies.

Together with Chuck Delamarie, he delivers our monthly offerings to Lutheran Social Services and frequently makes extra trips when additional donations arrive at the church.

Beyond these continuing tasks, Scott is often the first one here for any special occasion. Scott's attention to detail and his hard work are

ASK HILDY

Never Seen a White Elephant, Until Now

Dear Hildy:

New to the congregation, I was at the Palm Sunday brunch. Two questions, What's a white elephant, and if any money was made selling the white elephant, what will it be spent on?

A New Bidder

Dear New B:

I think I saw you at the brunch. Wasn't it wonderful? What really made my day was the fact that so many folks remembered to bring food for the Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry and the vigorous competition for the sublime and the ridiculous items in the sale.

Regarding the "white elephant" question, at the brunch my much older friend Botilda Elmersen was heard to opine that my donation of a buddy pass with me to the "Brown the Pounds" Tanning Salon in Tarzana would literally be a white elephant to bid on. Some real Christian charity you demonstrated there Botilda.

The "white elephant" refers to any item that you have acquired that may not be exactly to your taste, referring to anything that would be a challenge for many of us to fit into our flawless decors. Thank goodness, one Lutheran's trash is another's treasure.

As you saw, it was open season on white elephants at the brunch. Among the herd sold were a Jesus Answers--Magic

Eight Ball (only at St. Matt's), a [Last Supper light spectacular won by Dr. Erwin](#) that I hope will figure prominently at his ordination and Barbies, Barbies, Barbies! Not every item was elephantine; in fact there were some wonderful services offered, among them a massage, electrical work, voice lessons (I know we were all painfully disappointed when Botilda didn't win *those!*) and a privately prepared brunch. We raised over \$500! Pat yourselves on your backs, my dears, good work! We also gave our Volunteer of the Year award to Scott Kensey, who does so much as head sacristan and acts as the eyes, ears, hands and feet of the congregation, taking care of so many things around here, so well.

That money has and will fund the beautiful new planter and sign in front of the church that was masterfully constructed by Pastor Glenn Andersen and Ed Hogan. The planter even has plumbing! They are beautiful, and Hildy hears that Church Prez Morgan Rumpf is having the sign professionally designed with a removable banner so it can be dressed up differently, just like Barbie! Thanks to Glenn and Ed and all who contributed to the sale either as a new bidder or as in my case, as an old bidee.

Easter Joy!

Hildegard VonGelischen Kirche

truly gifts to the congregation. Frequently Scott is the first to notice building repairs that may need attention.

His vigilance in this regard has saved this congregation significant money over the years. But Scott goes even further, he seeks out ways to enhance worship and

the appearance of the building by coming up with ideas and designs, discussing them with others, and then having items made at his own expense.

The purple banners which hung in the altar area during Lent and the Luther Rose he made for Reformation are

two examples.

In addition to all this behind-the-scenes work, Scott has served on the Church Council and continues to serve as a worship assistant, acolyte and sacristan.

Thank you, our St Matthew's Volunteer of the Year, Scott Kensey.

ST MATTHEW'S CONNECTS

Invite Your Peeps This Easter Season

By Kenny Callaghan

Music and Outreach Coordinator

During the Easter season, we proclaim "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" remembering God's power to transform life and bring hope. Six years ago on Maundy Thursday, I walked into the sanctuary of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. For weeks, Pastor Sue had been inviting and encouraging me to attend worship. Sitting in one of the back pews listening to the congregation sing, the Gospel preached and receiving Holy Communion, I heard God's voice welcoming me home. God continues to use the people of St. Matthew's to bring hope and transformation to my life. I am grateful for these healing gifts.

Whenever we welcome someone to our church or into our lives, we share the message of God's love that has changed lives for centuries, a message so simple, yet at times so hard to believe. We have the honor of sharing how God has changed our lives. Ministry happens when we reach out to someone, telling our personal story of God's transforming love. Share God's love by inviting someone to attend worship with you. Welcome a visitor to our weekly coffee hour or bring a friend to one of our church events. All are welcome!!

May Food collection for Lutheran Social Services is

canned fruits and vegetables, preferably flip-top lids. Donations may be placed on the table in the front of the church.

Koinonia Prison Ministry needs postage stamps. Donations may be placed on the table in the narthex. See Kenny if you'd like to be a pen pal.

Adult Forum meets every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Join us for Women's Spirituality: the Goddess Remembered Includes coffee and discussion.

St. Matthew's Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the church.

Tai Chi with Feminine Sacred Circle is Sunday, May 8 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Church Library. Join us as Nancy Beecroft teaches the basic Tai Chi poses and explains the benefits of them. All are welcome!

Meditation Group meets Monday, May 9, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Led by Amber Keating, this group will focus on breath-work and meditation to calm the body and mind, as well as reconnect with God. We will practice together and encourage one another in bringing meditative practices in our lives.

Growth Group meets Thursday, May 12 and 26 from

7:30 to 9 p.m. at church. This small group will meet for fellowship, study, prayer and is geared to help strengthen your faith. For discussion: "The Way of Forgiveness" by Marjorie J. Thompson.

St. Matt's Alive! Will be Sunday, May 15. Join us in the Fireside room following worship for a light luncheon and fellowship .

Book Club meets Tuesday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Pastor Sue's home. For discussion: "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson.

Great Events Lunch Bunch will gather Wednesday, May 18, at 11 a.m. Meet at church to car-pool to the beautiful Descanso Gardens, specializing in botanic collections, historical significance and rare natural beauty. Explore the gardens on a covered, handicap-accessible "green" tram. Relax and enjoy the narration that emphasizes the history and plants that make up the beauty of Descanso. Admission: General \$8, Senior \$6, Tram \$4. We'll have lunch at the Descanso Café which provides sandwiches and luncheon specials with outdoor seating. More information and signups on the poster board in the narthex/lobby.

Movie Talk will meet Friday, May 27, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. This is a discussion group led by Jeff

Drushal. It's BYOB, with some light snacks offered.

Feed the Homeless takes place Saturday May 28, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Meet in the church kitchen to make sandwiches and lunches with non-perishable food items. This outreach ministry has been blessed with a grant from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Care Abounds in Communities program.

A Rummage Sale to Benefit the Deaf in Japan will be held Saturday, May 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. front of St. Matthew's. One person's junk may be your treasure! As the old adage goes, "the squeaky wheel gets the most grease." Historically, the silent deaf folks are those who least benefit from any assistance after any catastrophe. Please consider making donations of your "junk, someone else's treasure" or even financial support. If you have items to donate, please bring them to the Sharing Hands Office or contact Don Rosenkjar at donkhai-99@aol.com.

Find Your Strengths, Live Your Purpose: This small group will identify our strengths using the book "Living Your Strengths" by Winseman, et al., and the Strengths Finder inventory, and reflect on what this means about God's purpose for our lives. For more info, contact Elizabeth Loken at (661) 510-2426.



Photo by Steve Devol

Assisting Minister Erin Childs prepares for Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

Carrying Joy Outside the Small Group

(Continued from page 1)

smart to be popular), who trusted and stood up for one another. Given all the outside “judgment” rampant in the high school world, inside our group there was unselfconscious freedom. Even if we were nerds, we had each other.

Glee means exuberant joy. It is hard to imagine that the small group of Jesus’ disciples would ever find joy following his death. There was an earthquake (Matthew 28:2); the women went to the tomb and did not find Jesus there; the disciples fled and hid themselves away ashamed of deserting Jesus in

his time of need. Their movement, the one they had given three years of their lives to, was all but dead.

Until the Resurrection.

However it happened, and whatever it meant, we cannot easily explain away the impact of the Resurrection. He who once was dead, now lives. Unlike other messianic movements of the day, the Jesus movement simply didn’t die with the death of its leader. On the contrary, it flourished, even with judgment and persecution all around. With every reason in the world for the disciples to fail, and turn in on themselves, they didn’t. Instead they went outside their small

circle, bursting with joy and strengthening one another to speak a word of hope to the last, the least and the lost, wherever they encountered them, just as Jesus had taught.

There are many voices of judgment and skepticism in the world about churches. Many congregations, including our own, are struggling with a lack of resources, some are losing hope. We are fortunate at St. Matt’s NoHo that we are filled with joy at the opportunity to share our hope in the Resurrected Christ and to live out our joy (or glee) in the world. Struggles are a great opportunity to be honest and open, a great

time to set new priorities and head out in “new directions” (pardon the pun). Healthy congregations know struggle comes with serving God, but being small does not mean we are not about “mighty” work.

Jesus gives us the good news of freedom from sin and death; now we are free to forgive and live.

God’s promises are not freedom from struggle, but the promise that we are claimed, gathered and sent together to bring new hope.

Join us in ministry, as we assess how to best serve our neighbor and work for justice. We do this filled with glee, Alleluia, Christ is Risen.



St. Matthew's
LUTHERAN CHURCH
NORTH HOLLYWOOD

11031 Camarillo St.

North Hollywood, CA 91602