

March, 2023

Dear Member of the Comunidad family:

In the best of times and in the worst of times, Comunidad endures! We know that we have continued these 34 years because of your prayers and support. Like The apostles we are a little flock. Like the apostles we want to be the bearer of Good News. Like the apostles we ask nothing for ourselves; we ask only enough to be faithful to our mission to reach out to the LGBTQ community, providing a safe home in the church and an outreach to those who are lost. Our ministry needs your help—both financially and personally. We ask that from you now.

How quickly times change. We thought progress was ours. We believed we now belonged to a world of understanding and acceptance. Then we again became vulnerable. Love changed to hate; ideas began to surface to suggest that our lives were unacceptable; and those ideas perpetuated themselves through social media.

To some, these are stab wounds that continue to afflict us. That is why Comunidad must continue its message: “God does not reject you! God made you whole and full of grace. Come join us in that journey of fullness.”

Anti-LGBTQ hate and violence is on the rise. Too much is perpetrated in Jesus’s name. We are falsely accused of all sorts of dehumanizing behavior. Ironically, like our straight brothers and sisters we simply want to lead a healthy, loving, giving life. Queer and trans people are beloved by God and we as Comunidad are a testament to that.

Each year we hold an annual Pride mass at St Matthew and the past year participation was amazing! We saw the largest attendance in our 34 year history! But there is still more to be done. Comunidad holds monthly meetings to welcome all; we cover a variety of subjects, hold social events, and or reach out to the poor. Our goal is to reach out to the community for spiritual enrichment, service and community.

Come join us in our ministry of Good News. Help us through your prayers, participation and financial support. We need your annual donation to help continue our outreach and service. We thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Mark Davis and Bea Conejos, Co-chairs

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Mail your contribution to Comunidad-St. Matthew Church, 672 Temple Ave, Long Beach 90814

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_