



Dear St. Matthew's,

It is with a real sense of excitement and delight that I share the attached letter from our Music Director Search Committee. They have done a phenomenal job of conducting this search over the past few months, and I am deeply thankful for all of their efforts in undertaking this important endeavor on behalf of our congregation. The resounding impression I have from the Committee is that God has blessed their search, and clearly guided us to call Jacob Gruss to be our next Director of Music. From our interviews, Jacob impressed me immediately, and I am thrilled that he has accepted the position. He will certainly build upon our strong tradition of lifting our souls heavenward in worship. I look forward to this next musical chapter for St. Matthew's, and encourage you to welcome Jacob with open hearts, and by singing with gusto every Sunday this fall. "*Alleluia, sing to Jesus,*" John +

The Rev. John A. Zahl  
*Rector*

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Dear St. Matthew's Parishioners and Friends,

We are excited to inform you that St. Matthew's Church has called Jacob Gruss to be the next Director of Music.

Jacob is a recent graduate of The Juilliard School and will begin graduate musical studies at Yale University this fall. Most recently, he was an organ scholar at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and previously held other church positions in the New York area and his native Pittsburgh.

One of his references described Jacob as an outstanding church musician and a virtuoso organ soloist. He has worked with both professional and volunteer choristers, composed sacred music, and is especially devoted to the Anglican musical tradition. He has also won several prestigious awards in organ competitions.

Jacob will uphold the tradition of outstanding music that St Matthew's offers each week as an integral part of our worship services. He also brings new experience and energy as our parish seeks to grow its music program and build on Tony Newman's legacy.

More information about Jacob and some of his recordings can be found on his [website: www.jacobgruss.com](http://www.jacobgruss.com).

Jacob's first Sunday as Director of Music will be on September 7th. On that date, we will celebrate his new ministry at Coffee Hour after the 10 a.m. service. Please join us in welcoming Jacob to St. Matthew's.

*The Music Director Search Committee*