



# Ev. – Luth. St. Matthäus-Kirche

## St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

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Dear Members and Friends of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the **Fund for the Preservation of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**. As many of you know, my family has been actively involved in the St. Matthew's Lutheran Church community since my grandfather, **Pastor Gehrke**, founded the congregation in 1895. Since its dedication in 1908, the beautiful building has remained a focal point for the German-speaking and bilingual population of the greater Bay Area.

Made entirely of wood, St. Matthew's has become a regional landmark, known for both its excellent acoustics and wonderful glass windows. However, as any structure of such an age, the building requires increasing upkeep. While we are grateful for the continuing support from our members, as a small congregation, we cannot cover the rising maintenance costs on our own.

Whether you are a current or past member or simply someone who cares about preserving one of San Francisco's historical buildings, I am sure that you share in our heartfelt wish to maintain St. Matthew's for years to come. We established the **Fund for the Preservation of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church** with the goal to raise enough funds for critical building repairs, as well as long-term structural improvements.

We are asking you to pledge to the Fund today (your donations are fully tax-deductible: please make your check out to "St. Matthew's Lutheran Church" with the memo: "preservation of the building") whether you are living locally or are far away.

By the way, I would like to mention that the launching of the Fund coincides with renewed efforts at St. Matthew's to expand its musical offerings throughout 2009. We hope that you will be able to enjoy the building's



atmosphere, either during one of our services or during other events. Please visit our website ([www.stmatthews-sf.org](http://www.stmatthews-sf.org)) for more information on the building's history and schedule of events.

On behalf of the congregation of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, I would like to thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

*Dorothy Praeger*  
Dorothy Praeger

Chair, Fund for the Preservation of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

