

# THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."*



## LENT AND EASTER CALENDAR

**Every Thursday in Lent | 12:00 PM | Now through March 26**

Bring your lunch and join us for thoughtful conversation and Scripture reflection during Lent. No preparation is needed. Coffee and tea will be ready. Come once or come every week — you are always welcome.

**Palm Sunday, March 29 | 11:00 AM**

Festival Worship Service in English and German

**Maundy Thursday, April 2 | 12:00 PM**

We gather for soup and simple fellowship, followed by an intimate and reflective Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion.

**Good Friday, April 3 | 12:00 PM**

A quiet midday gathering. We share soup and enter into a brief, contemplative Good Friday liturgy together.

**Easter Sunday, April 5 | 11:00 AM**

Festival Worship Service in English and German



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### **Lent, Easter & Beyond...**

Dear Beloved Community,

Lent lasts 40 days. Easter lasts 50. The church, in its quiet wisdom, gives more time to resurrection than to repentance.

Even in the middle of Lent, on Laetare Sunday (March 15 this year), the tone softens. The word *Laetare* means “Rejoice.” Historically, the strictness of Lent was eased that day — rose-colored vestments replaced purple, and the congregation was given a glimpse of joy to come. A breath of Easter in the wilderness.

The resurrection of Christ is not only a promise for the end of our lives. It is the beginning of new life now. We trust that in the world to come, God will raise us fully into glory — but the power of that future has already entered the present. Resurrection does not wait until hearts stop beating and lungs stop breathing. It meets us while we are still living, still struggling, still hoping.

To live in Easter is to practice new life daily:

- to forgive where resentment once ruled
- to trust where despair felt certain
- to begin again where something seemed finished

The risen Christ still bears the wounds — but the wounds no longer define the future. Already, resurrection is available to us. And in the fullness of time, what has begun quietly will be made complete. We are Easter people. And the life of the world to come has already begun.

With hope in the Risen One,

*Pastor Beate*



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Come and serve a meal at the Winter Shelter Meal**

**Thursday, March 12, 2026 | 4:00–8:00 PM**

Quaker Meeting House – 65 9th St, San Francisco, CA 94103

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church will provide dinner for 40 unhoused guests in the San Francisco Interfaith Council Winter Shelter Program — and we need volunteers to help prepare, cook, and serve the meal.

### **About the Winter Shelter**

The Winter Shelter is a citywide partnership of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, Episcopal Community Services, the San Francisco Interfaith Council, and more than 40 congregations.

From November through March, five rotating host sites offer overnight shelter, warm meals, and breakfast to 40–100 guests each night. The city provides cots, security, and logistics; congregations offer hospitality and meals.

This season's host sites are Canon Kip Senior Center, Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, First Unitarian Universalist Society, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, and the Quaker Meeting House.

In January, a small St. Matthew's team observed the shelter in action — and now we look forward to serving on March 12. Providing a warm meal and welcome is a simple, powerful way to live our faith.

To volunteer or ask questions, please contact the church office at 415-863-6371 or [office@stmatthews-sf.org](mailto:office@stmatthews-sf.org)



## DAY TRIPS – SPRING 2026

We are excited to begin planning several day trips together in the coming months. These outings are a wonderful opportunity for fresh air, beautiful surroundings, and fellowship.

### **USS Potomac - Wednesday, April 8 | 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

We will take the San Francisco Bay Ferry to Jack London Square in Oakland and then tour the USS *Potomac* — Franklin D. Roosevelt’s presidential yacht, now a fully operating museum and National Historic Landmark (about a one-hour tour).

**Cost:** \$35

**Includes:** USS *Potomac* entry fee and a sandwich lunch

**Transportation:** Not included

For details and to register, contact the church office at **415-863-6371** or [office@stmatthews-sf.org](mailto:office@stmatthews-sf.org)

Additional day trips to various destinations will be offered in May and June. Please let the office know if you would like to stay informed.



## CONCERTS AT ST. MATTHEW'S

### **Sunday, March 8, 2026 – 4:00 PM | Tactus SF Presents: Anniversary Concert Celebration**

Tactus SF, a Renaissance choir that rehearses and performs at St. Matthew's, will present a concert celebrating its 10th anniversary. The program features favorite works of a cappella Renaissance music, including a six-part setting in German of Martin Luther's translation of the Song of Songs. A reception will follow in the Social Hall. For tickets visit [www.tactus-sf.org](http://www.tactus-sf.org).

### **Wednesday, March 25, 2026 – 6:00 PM | Concert: Cal Poly PolyPhonics**

We are delighted to welcome the Cal Poly PolyPhonics for an evening concert at St. Matthew's. Enjoy vibrant choral music and support these talented young singers. More details to come — mark your calendar.

### **Saturday, April 25, 2026 – 2:00 PM | Deutscher Musikverein: Festive Spring Concert**

This lively community band, made up of volunteer musicians from around the region, will perform traditional German marches and polkas along with light concert band favorites. Admission is free. Guests are invited to stay afterward for a reception with German treats. Invite friends and neighbors to join this joyful celebration of music and community.

### **Sunday, May 10, 2026 – 3:00 PM | Golden Gate Men's Chorus: Eastern Wind and Western Skies**

An inspiring afternoon of choral music with the Golden Gate Men's Chorus. Bring friends and experience a powerful performance in our beautiful sanctuary. More details to come.



## SPRING BRUNCH GATHERINGS

This spring, we're hosting two special brunch series — one centered in German-language conversation and immigration solidarity, and one celebrating queer community and literature. Join us around the table!

**German Brunch & Immigration Solidarity Saturday, March 21 & Saturday, May 16, 2026 | 11:30 AM** (*Conducted in German*)

All Germans, German speakers, and German learners are warmly invited. Over a delicious brunch, we will share immigration stories — our own and those of friends and family — and reflect on how we can stand in solidarity with immigrants and migrants today. Together we'll explore questions of belonging, identity, and faith, and encourage one another toward courageous, compassionate action. Come for meaningful conversation, connection across generations, and a spirit of hope.

**Faith in the Public Square: Preparing for Lutheran Lobby Day Saturday, May 9, 2026 – 11:30 AM**

A conversation and learning session for anyone who would like to explore these questions together. This will be a relaxed time of teaching, storytelling, questions, and discussion — whether or not you plan to travel to Sacramento for the Lutheran Lobby Day (see below May 20th). A light brunch will be provided.

 **Queer Brunch & Book Exchange Saturday, April 18 & Saturday, June 20, 2026 | 11:30 AM**

A joyful and affirming gathering for queer and trans people and allies. Share brunch, swap a favorite book or poem (or simply bring a recommendation), and connect in a space where you are fully welcome and celebrated.

We'll reflect on stories that have shaped us, voices that inspire resilience, and the power of literature to nurture imagination and joy. Come build friendships, discover new reads, and celebrate community together.



## DEEPENING OUR GERMAN CONNECTIONS

This spring, we are taking meaningful steps to strengthen and expand our German-language ministry and community life at St. Matthew's.

### **Saturday, March 21, 2026 – 2:00 PM | German Events Planning Team Meeting**

At our 2025 German Christmas Service, participants completed a questionnaire about future activities, and the response was enthusiastic. Many expressed interest in family worship services (3–4 per year), children's singing and creative activities, community gatherings such as picnics and outings, and a family weekend (camping trip or retreat).

Now we're ready to turn these ideas into reality. Anyone interested in helping shape and plan these events is warmly invited to join the German Events Planning Team. Please contact Pastor Beate for more information.

### **Sunday, May 3, 2026 – 12:30 PM | English–German Potluck Lunch**

This lunch bridges the English Service at 11:00 AM and the German Family Service at 2:00 PM. All are warmly welcome.

### **Sunday, May 3, 2026 – 2:00 PM | German Family Service – “Geh aus, mein Herz, und suche Freud”**

Join us for a lively, interactive worship service in German for all ages. Inspired by the beloved hymn, the service will include music, movement, and joyful participation. Young children are especially welcome as we celebrate faith, springtime, and community together.

# NEWS & UPDATES

## FROM AROUND THE SYNOD

### **May 20, 2026, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM | Lutheran Lobby Day in Sacramento**

Organized by the Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California (LOPP-CA), this event offers an opportunity to meet state legislators and advocate for justice, community care, and environmental stewardship. Pastor Beate Chun will be attending, and carpooling is available. Please let Pastor Beate know if you plan to attend.

To prepare, Pastor Beate will host “**Faith in the Public Square**” on **Saturday, May 9, 2026 – 11:30 AM**. This conversation and learning session will include teaching, storytelling, questions, and discussion about faith and public life. All are welcome, whether or not you travel to Sacramento. A light lunch will be provided.

### **May 30, 2026 & June 13, 2026 | Synod Assembly**

The Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly brings congregations together to worship, learn, build relationships, and conduct church business, including reports, resolutions, and electing leaders. This year’s Assembly is in two parts:

- ◆ **Regional On-Site Gathering | Sat, May 30, 2026 – 9:00 AM–3:00 PM**

The Bay Area Gathering is at Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1550 Meridian Ave, San Jose. Join others for in-person worship, conversation, and fellowship. Anyone may attend — voting membership is not required. Let Pastor Beate know if you plan to attend.

- ◆ **Online Business Gathering | June 13, 9:00 AM – Noon**

This virtual session is for voting members only and covers key synod business, including budget and leadership decisions.

**Registration opens March 16.** Sign up and join this meaningful time of shared ministry. More details coming soon!

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