

## Let's tell the story of St Matthäus! It's your story and we want to hear it!

What is this all about?

In 2020 St. Matthäus will celebrate its **125<sup>th</sup> anniversary!** That's when our congregation was founded 125 years ago in 1895. At that time there was no beautiful church yet. Just devoted Christians who wanted to share and celebrate their faith. So, right from the beginning it was all about the people of St. Matthäus.

Whether you have lived in the congregation for decades or whether you just joined recently, your story is one that makes our church be a living place, not just an old, pretty building.

For our anniversary, the church council decided to write a small history of our church. Apart from the historical "hard-facts" we would like to make this a book of memories.

This questionnaire is the beginning of the project. If you feel able to, it would be great, if you could share some of your most memorable stories that are linked to our church and congregation. They don't have to be long or complete. They can be funny or sad or thoughtful, whatever comes to your mind. Please feel free to share as many stories as you wish! You may answer in English or German.

Whether your name will appear in the book or just your story is up to you. Every story we can publish anonymously as well.

I, Pr. Tia, will collect the questionnaires until the end of May and I might follow up with some small personal interviews if necessary and if you agree to that.

1. What's your name? (In the book you can chose whether your stories shall be anonymously shared or in your name.)
2. When and where were you born?
3. When did you move to San Francisco and why?
4. How did you learn about St. Matthäus?

The following questions might require longer answers. We are happy if you choose any 2 or more questions to answer. We appreciate any word you share with us.

5. What was your first impression of the church and its congregation?
6. What did you find in St. Matthäus?
7. What groups or activities were you active in throughout the years?
8. What does it mean to you to be part of a German-English congregation? What does the German language mean to you?
9. What was (one of) the funniest moments you can think of at St. Matthew's?
10. What was (one of) the happiest moments you can think of at St. Matthew's?
11. What kind of a congregation do you picture when thinking about St. Matthew's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2045?

If you prefer to receive and fill out the questionnaire online, please email [tiapelz@yahoo.de](mailto:tiapelz@yahoo.de).

- I don't want to be contacted for further informational interviews.
- I am happy to give an interview. Please contact me through: