

The AGAPE NEWS (#10)

A WEEKLY "BLOG-LIKE" NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH - CALGARY AB – November 30, 2020

Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!

How are you holding up these days?

O Come, O Come Emmanuel! We are officially in the holy season of Advent since yesterday! Hence the purple for the title of our newsletter. Purple is the liturgical colour for this season, you will see it on the paraments in our sanctuary (including the purple candles on the Advent wreath). It reminds us of the colour of the sky when the dark night starts to give way to a new day. The colour of this transition time (the dawning of a new day) reminds us that Christ, the "light of the world", the "Sun of Righteousness" is coming nearer every day until it's here (Christmas)!

I really hope that, if you are NOT coming for in-person worship services these days, that you are able to watch us on our website or on YouTube.

Today is the [feast day](#) of [Andrew the Apostle](#). It is celebrated on 30 November. Saint Andrew's Day is [Scotland's](#) official [national day](#). It has been a national holiday in [Romania](#) since 2015. Saint Andrew is the disciple who introduced his brother, the [Apostle Peter](#), to [Jesus](#) as the [Messiah](#). He is the [patron saint](#) of [Cyprus](#), [Scotland](#), [Greece](#), [Romania](#), [Russia](#), [Ukraine](#), the [Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople](#), [San Andres Island \(Colombia\)](#), [Saint Andrew \(Barbados\)](#) and [Tenerife](#). In [Germany](#), the feast day is celebrated as *Andreasnacht* ("St. Andrew's Night").

As I mentioned before, we have been careful and following all health and safety protocols when physically gathered at church. I thank all volunteers and ushers for making sure that all is sanitized every Sunday, that members keep social distance etc.

Regarding Holy Communion, we will continue to offer the sacrament as we have done so far (for the time being), every first and third Sunday of the month. There will be no communion in our Christmas services.

As your pastor, I would ask you to PLEASE do not sit together at church with other members if you are not in a cohort situation. This applies even to family members from different households.

I ask you once more to trust God's promises that HE IS WITH US in every situation and a stronghold in every trouble. Please continue to pray for our church, our families and for the world.

And now...

Happy reading!

.....

A SMALL DOSE OF GOD'S WORD FOR YOU TODAY:

(From this upcoming Sunday's lectionary – the Second Sunday in Advent)

ISAIAH 40: 10, 11

Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might...He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom”

IN GERMAN:

Denn siehe, der HERR GOTT kommt gewaltig...Er wird seine Herde weiden wie ein Hirte; er wird die Lämmer in seine Arme sammeln und in seinem Busen tragen und die Schafmütter führen.

PREVIOUS BIBLE TRIVIA:

Last trivia question was: **The Sea of Galilee had another name. What was it?**
The answer is Lake Tiberias. Thank you to those who sent me the answer.

NEW BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTION:

What was the goddess in Ephesus called who was worshipped the most?
Send me your answer!

NEWS FROM SMLC.

We repeat some of them every week for those who haven't read it before.

1 – ONLINE BIBLE STUDY: We offer weekly bible studies over “zoom”, every Wednesday, at 7 p.m., except when there is a fifth Wednesday (that one will be free). Elizabeth Schieman is leading the study called “Life and Times of Jesus Christ” every first and third Wednesday. I am leading the study called: “Who are we, Lutherans”? every second and fourth Wednesday. The password to log in to zoom meeting for this coming Wednesday will not be posted here, because of safety reasons. If you are reading this newsletter out of the website and have NOT received the email, and wish to participate on the bible studies, please call the office to get the ID and password. The bible study is meant for all members, please feel free to join us!

2 – ONLINE YOUTH BIBLE STUDY: Is offered every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Please call Liz 1 (306) 715-1191 to ask for the password to log in. Please encourage your children/grandchildren to participate.

3 – ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our head of Christian Education, Koreen Graumann has started an online Sunday School over zoom once a week. The days may vary, but if you are interested and have children age 6 to 12 who could have some fun moments in a Christian environment with other kids in our church, please contact us to be included in Koreen's list. Thank you Koreen, for this wonderful initiative to keep our children connected with God's Word and Christian fellowship!

4 – BOARD OF EVANGELISM: Volunteers needed to help send out cards and make calls to our congregation. **Prayer Chain** – prayers for our members and their petitions. We have had a prayer chain box at the back of the sanctuary for years. Let's use it! Prayer warriors will gladly pray for you! There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for volunteers for card writing and the prayer chain or contact Lorraine Duncan. **Bridgeland Women's Centre Food Drive** – we will begin collecting non-perishable food NOW. They are not receiving food from the Calgary

food bank since COVID changes. Their pantry is empty. There will be boxes set out for the food. If anyone can help with the delivery during the week please let me know. Thank you. Lorraine Duncan, Board of Evangelism.

5 – OFFERINGS VIA E-TRANSFERS: Our bank has finished their system upgrade and fixed all the bugs that caused all kinds of problems. After a test run, we are able to report that e-transfer, once again, is available. If you are so inclined to send your offering via e-transfer please use: smlccsecretary@shaw.ca to send your donation (same e-mail address as before). E-transfers are automatically deposited into the bank account, thus no need to send a password to the office. We appreciate your continuous support of our church. Thank you for your generosity,

6 – ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2020 (the Sunday services are at the regular times):

Dec 6 (Sun): Second Sunday in Advent services (with communion)

Dec 13 (Sun): Third Sunday in Advent services

Dec 16 (Wed): Advent Midweek Service @ 7 p.m. (please sign up)

Dec 20 (Sun): Fourth Sunday in Advent services (with communion)

Dec 23 (Wed): German candlelight service @ 5 p.m. (please sign up)

Dec 23 (Wed): English candlelight service @ 7 p.m. (please sign up)

Dec 24 (Thurs): German candlelight service @ 5 p.m. (please sign up)

Dec 24 (Thurs): English candlelight service @ 7 p.m. (please sign up)

Dec 27 (Sun): First Sunday After Christmas, regular services.

7 - BIG THANK YOU! I want to thank those who use their talents, time and treasures to keep our congregation going. This week I thank **WARREN OHLHAUSER**. Warren used to sit on the board as our treasurer in the past. He has been a blessing and big support for our congregation. Warren created our website and keeps it alive to this day. He is now uploading, editing, and posting our Sunday worship services every week so that you may watch it from home. I have called Warren and Ernie Schultz our "AV (audio-visual) team" since both are a big help in the technical matters of our church. Thank you, Warren, for your faithful service. "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy". Philippians 1: 3 & 4

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK

Dec 2 – Chris Eue

NEW BIRTH (BAPTISM) ANNIVERSARIES:

Dec 4 – Lorraine Duncan

If any name is missing, please let me know. We pray for you! God bless you all!

.....
FEASTS, FESTIVALS and COMMEMORATIONS IN THE CHURCH YEAR THIS WEEK:

November 30 (Today) - St. Andrew, *Apostle*

December 4 – John of Damascus, *Theologian and Hymnwriter*

December 6 - Nicholas of Myra, *Pastor*

You may look them up on the internet to find out more about those faithful women and men!

OUR CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Tuesday, Dec 1 – Youth bible study (zoom) 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec 2 – Bible Study (zoom) 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec 3 – Elders meeting (zoom) 7 p.m.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Please send us your prayer requests. We now have a “prayer chain” where a group of people (the “prayer warriors”) pray for your needs. Your requests will be shared with Lorraine Duncan, from our board of evangelism, who will include them in the prayer chain.

.....

DIE DEUTSCHE ECKE!**Christliche Lieder auf Deutsch**

Enjoy this Advent song on YouTube: **TOCHTER ZION**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDal59RiGjI>

.....

AND NOW...THE “CLEAN JOKE”: :-D

The pastor asks his flock, "What would you like people to say when you're in your casket?" One congregant says, "I'd like them to say I was a fine family man." Another says, "I'd like them to say I helped people." The third responds, "I'd like them to say, 'Look! I think he's moving!' "

.....

Thank you for taking your time to read our newsletter. "Talk to you" next week again, God willing. Feel free to read my previous Agape News in our website. God bless you all. Stay safe everybody, but MOST IMPORTANTLY: stay faithful to the Lord!

**In His service,
Rev. M. Zeuch, on Nov 30, 2020 Anno Domini**