



The AGAPE NEWS (#16)

THE SEASON OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

A BI-WEEKLY "BLOG-LIKE" NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH - CALGARY AB – January 25, 2021

Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!

How are things in your life?

Please take your time to read this devotion. We all could benefit with some private time with the Lord and meditating on His Word, especially in these times of trial and isolation. So, I invite you to turn off the TV, your radio, any unnecessary noise around you, and let God speak to you. Read the following passage very slowly, and read it twice at least!

“But Jesus immediately said to them: Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”
Matthew 14:27

A storm rose quickly on the Sea of Galilee, and the disciples were afraid. Although they had seen Jesus perform many miracles, the disciples feared for their lives, so they turned to their Saviour, and He calmed the waters and the wind.

Sometimes, we, like the disciples, feel threatened by the inevitable storms of life, just like these times we are living right now in the world. And when we are fearful, we, too, are invited to turn to Christ for courage and for comfort.

The next time you’re afraid, remember that the One who calmed the wind and the waves is also your personal Saviour. And remember that the ultimate

battle has already been won at Calvary, on that cross. We, as believers, can live courageously in the presence and the promise of the Lord...and we should.

To quote Billy Graham, “down through the centuries, in times of trouble and trial, God has brought courage to the hearts of those who love Him. The Bible is filled with assurances of God’s help and comfort in every kind of trouble.”

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PASTOR’S PERSONAL NOTE ABOUT THE PANDEMIC: (From the last Agape News)

In case you haven’t read this on our previous edition, here it goes again. Everybody has a strong opinion on everything these days. The world seems to be more and more divided, despite all efforts for globalization. Even among Christians, the debates are polarized. Pastors of our own synod are divided on the topic.

Let us consider an episode in the book of Genesis. In the flood, God told Noah to build the ark and take shelter and self-isolate because something big (a global disaster) was coming. People around him (the “flood-deniers”) were mocking and probably calling “crazy” old Noah’s warnings as “fake news”. Until sudden destruction and death came upon them.

We at SMLC continue to be cautious and try to follow the protocols to protect each other. As far as we know, we had **only one confirmed case** of an active member that tested positive recently. We have contacted this person whose identity we will preserve. This member self-isolated for three weeks and is now completely recovered. We thank God for the fact that we are still able to come to church for worship and some fellowship, even when all looks different. By promoting this as best as we can, we try to keep God’s three first Commandments. We have updated our information about our protocols on our website.

Please note:

1 - If you have any symptoms, if you feel unwell, please **get tested immediately** and **stay home**: refrain from coming for the worship services. You may watch us from home (our website or YouTube) until you recover fully.

2 - If you test positive for Covid-19, you MUST call us as soon as possible, especially if you have attended church. Your church needs to know, we're all liable and we need to be responsible. You may call either the office, or our chairman Peter Graumann or myself, your pastor. We will never disclose your name.

And remember: Despite of anything, we should always trust God's promises that HE IS WITH US in every situation and a stronghold in every trouble. And "trouble" in all around us! Please continue to pray for our church, our families and for the world.

And now...enjoy your reading!

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

(From the Psalm reading for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany) **PSALM 111:10**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; All those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

IN GERMAN:

Die Furcht des HERRN ist der Weisheit Anfang. Das ist eine feine Klugheit, wer darnach tut, des Lob bleibt ewiglich.

NEWS FROM SMLC.

1 – NEW MEMBERS: Last Sunday (Jan 24) we joyfully welcomed three new members into our fellowship! Gerald & Carol Sonnenberg (Profession of Faith) and Lawrence Blois (Restoration of membership). We praise God for these new members and wish them God's blessings as they become part of the family.

2 – BIBLE STUDIES: We continue to offer online bible study on Zoom every Wednesday (except when there's a fifth Wednesday), at 7 p.m. Elizabeth Schieman is leading the study on the gospels ("Life and Times of Jesus") every first and third Wednesday. I am leading the study "who are we, Lutherans?". Call our office or me (pastor) if you need the login info.

3 – BIBLY STUDY FOR YOUTH: Elizabeth is also offering online bible study for our youth, every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Note: There's **movie night every second Tuesday at 7 p.m.** All the other Tuesdays, the bible study starts at 7:30 p.m. Please call Elizabeth if you are interested in those. Cell: 1 (306) 715 1191

4 – ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL: Mrs. Koreen is gathering our kids for a virtual Sunday School, but it's actually during the week, not Sundays! If you wish your child or grandchild to participate in a fun and educational activity while in a Christian environment, please contact us to get the login info.

5 - BRIDGELAND WOMEN'S CENTRE: Local mission continues for 2021: Thank you everyone who donated during Christmas. We will continue to donate during the year. Here are some suggestions from them besides canned goods; body wash, diapers size 4-5-6, body lotion, toilet paper, Non refrigerated almond, coconut milk, ladies' personal hygiene products, make-up (new), facial crème. During the year there will be a donation box in the narthex. If you have questions talk to Lorraine. Thanks.

6 - SMLC FOOD CUPBOARD: We will again be collecting non-perishable items for our Food Cupboard, if you are able to donate please put items in the marked box located in the Parish Hall. We have had several requests for food hampers, over the past months, should you or someone you know be in need please contact Pastor Zeuch.

7 - GERMAN HYMNALS FOR DEDICATION: Hymnals are still available for dedication. We are happy to be offering the opportunity for members to have a personal hymnal dedication for a donation to help cover the costs of these beautiful books. A sticker with the donation information will be pasted into the inside cover of one of our hymnals. The dedication would be either "Given to St. Matthew Lutheran Church for the GLORY OF GOD or IN MEMORY OF (Name, family)". Your donation can be included in the weekly offering with the envelope marked GERMAN HYMNAL.

8 – CASUAL ONLINE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: We had a delightful moment last Sunday (Jan 24), with our second "virtual coffee hour". The attendance was quite small, but we were able to check in on each other and visit some of us who are

not able to come to church right now. I want to encourage you to try to make it for the next time, if you missed this one. "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" Psalm 133:1

9 - THANK YOU: Today I want to thank **RENATE SCHULZ**. She has served on the altar guild for many years, but she also has taken care of our bulletin boards. She has also put up some beautiful posters with bible verses in our church building. And we thank her for all different things she has done for our congregation that, sometimes go unnoticed, as so many others among you have. Big thank you, Renate!

"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

10 – WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK?

- Jan 26 (Tues): Online Youth Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.
- Jan 27 (Wed): Calgary Circuit winkel – pastors get together on zoom.
- Jan 27 (Wed): Online Sunday School for kids @ 4:30 p.m.
- Jan 27 (Wed): Online Bible Study @ 7 p.m.
- Jan 31 (Sun): Worship services (German at 9:30 a.m. / English at 11 a.m.)
- Feb 2 (Tues): Online Youth Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.
- Feb 3 (Wed): Online Bible Study @ 7 p.m.
- Feb 4 (Thur): Board of Elders meeting @ 7 p.m.
- Feb 7 (Sun): Worship services @ regular times with the holy communion

Names of the upcoming Sundays:

- Jan 31: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
 - Feb 7: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
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BIRTHDAYS (RECENT OR COMING UP)

- Jan 26 – Heather Graham-Navis
- Jan 27 – Andrea Dean
- Jan 27 – Irma Koch
- Jan 27 – LeAnne Navis
- Jan 29 – Doris Hoehne
- Jan 31 – Thais Zeuch
- Feb 1 – Linda Blois

Feb 2 – Nikolai Heise

NEW BIRTH (BAPTISM) ANNIVERSARIES:

Jan 27 – Gabriel Thome

Feb 5 – Henry Fink

Feb 7 – Connie Walker

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

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CURRENT & UPCOMING FEASTS, FESTIVALS and COMMEMORATIONS IN THE CHURCH YEAR:

Jan 25 – The Conversion of St. Paul

Jan 26 – St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor

Jan 27 – John Chrysostom, Preacher

Feb 2 – The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord

Feb 5 – Jacob (Israel), Patriarch

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Send us your prayer requests. We 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. **Remember:** A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

UNSERE DEUTSCHE ECKE! GERMAN BEAUTIFUL HYMNS

Wenn Sie diesen Newsletter am Computer lesen, können Sie hier unten klicken.

Ehrfürchtige Lieder zur Ehre Gottes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tMIN0SeNiw&t=2565s>



Oh, and now, the “clean joke”:

Favorite Hymns of Different Professions

The Dentist's Hymn ... Crown Him With Many Crowns
 The Weatherman's Hymn ... There Shall Be Showers Of Blessing
 The Contractor's Hymn ... The Church's One Foundation
 The Tailor's Hymn ... Holy, Holy, Holy
 The Golfer's Hymn ... There Is A Green Hill Far Away
 The Politician's Hymn ... Standing On The Promises
 The Optometrist's Hymn ... Open My Eyes That I May See
 The CRA Agent's Hymn ... I Surrender All
 The Gossip's Hymn ... Pass It On
 The Electrician's Hymn ... Send The Light
 The Shopper's Hymn ... In The Sweet By and By
 The Realtor's Hymn ... I've Got A Mansion Just Over The Hilltop
 The Pilot's Hymn ... I'll Fly Away
 The Paramedic's Hymn ... Revive Us Again
 The Judge's Hymn ... Almost Persuaded
 The Psychiatrist's Hymn ... Just A Little Talk With Jesus
 The Architect's Hymn ... How Firm A Foundation
 The Credit Card Telemarketer's Hymn ... A Charge To Keep I Have
 The Zoo Keeper's Hymn ... All Creatures Of Our God And King
 The Postal Worker's Hymn ... So Send I You
 The Waiter's Hymn ... Fill My Cup, Lord
 The Gardener's Hymn ... Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming
 The Lifeguard's Hymn ... Rescue The Perishing
 The Criminal's Hymn ... Search Me, O God
 The Baker's Hymn ... When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder
 The Shoe Repairer's Hymn ... It Is Well With My Soul
 The Travel Agent's Hymn ... Anywhere With Jesus
 The Geologist's Hymn ... Rock Of Ages
 The Hematologist's Hymn ... Are You Washed In The Blood?
 The Men's Wear Clerk's Hymn ... Blest Be The Tie
 The Umpire's Hymn ... I Need No Other Argument
 The Librarian's Hymn ... Whispering Hope

Thank you for taking your time to read my newsletter. If you enjoy reading it, let me know!

In His service,

Rev. M. Zeuch

On January 25, 2021 Anno Domini

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: www.stmatthewlutherancalgary.com

THE STAFF OF ST. MATTHEW

Organist/Pianist: Johnson Philip

Cantor: Dana Salter

Youth Leader: Elizabeth Schieman (306) 715-1191

Secretary: Andrea Sovary (403) 266-1458

Chairman: Peter Graumann (403) 275-2166

Head Elder: Ernest Schulz (403) 239-3966

*Church Office hours are
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Monday-Thursday*

Watch us on

