



The AGAPE NEWS (#17)

THE SEASON OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

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



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB – February 9, 2021

Proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ in Bridgeland since 1913

Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!

How are you holding up there?

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! I would even say: why not MEMORIZE it for your life? It's not that difficult, plus, it's an excellent mental exercise.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Heb 13:8

Our world has always been in constant change. However, since March of 2020, our world has definitely changed in a sudden way that we cannot even fathom the extent of this change. It's beyond our expectations of a year ago, when we had no clue what was coming towards us! None of us, living humans have ever experienced something similar to this. Empty airports, empty streets and marketplaces, people with their face covered all over the world, avoiding any contact with others and getting used to isolation. The world looks just like a science fiction movie. Everything has changed. But not so our God. We can be

comforted by the knowledge that our Heavenly Father is the Rock that cannot be shaken. His Word promised: “I am the Lord, I do not change” (Malachi 3:6).

Every day that we live, we mortals encounter a multitude of changes – some good, some not so good, some downright disheartening. Everyday we are faced with different challenges. There are days when we think our problems are much bigger than God in heaven. On those occasions when we must endure life-changing personal losses that leave us breathless, there is a place we can turn for comfort and assurance – we can turn to God. He invites us to come to him. He says: “Come to me...all you, who are literally “sick and tired” and I will help you out of your ugly situation. And when we do, when you remember to come to him in prayer, not just as the last resource there is left for us, but trusting that He will hear us, our loving Heavenly Father stands ready to protect us, to comfort us, to guide us, and, in time, to heal us.

Everything changes, and, sometimes we must change too. Change our negative thoughts into trust in God. In a world kept chaotic by change, you will eventually discover that this is one of the most precious qualities of the God we are looking for: He never changes.

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NOTE ABOUT THE PANDEMIC: (From the last editions of the Agape News)

We at SMLC continue to be cautious and try to follow the protocols to protect each other. 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. By the way, 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 the bad times we are living these days, 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!

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

(From the epistle reading for the Transfiguration of our Lord) **2 CORINTHIANS 4:6**

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

IN GERMAN:

Denn Gott, der dem Licht gebot, aus der Finsternis hervorzuleuchten, er hat es auch in unseren Herzen licht werden lassen, damit wir erleuchtet werden mit der Erkenntnis der Herrlichkeit Gottes im Angesicht Jesu Christi.

NEWS FROM SMLC.

1 – CALLED TO GLORY: Last February 2 we "lost a soldier in the ranks". Walter Horst Wagner was called home after he had a heart attack. I was able to see him on a video call and pray with him. He was at Peter Lougheed Hospital and was in good spirits. Walter was ready to be with his Lord, whom he served so faithfully all his life, singing His praises as the soloist. He was a respected elder at our church and also the head of properties. Walter would help wherever there was a need at our church. You may read his obituary here:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/calgary-ab/walter-wagner-10037993>

A private funeral service was held at our church on Feb. 6, and you may watch it at our website or on YouTube. Here is the YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yLxnF0SanA&feature=youtu.be>

We thank God for having given Walter eternal life. We are saddened for the loss of this brother, but we also know we shall see him again in heaven. Please keep the Wagner his family in your prayers.

2 – ASH WEDNESDAY: Since we are entering the Lenten season next week, we are holding the traditional Ash Wednesday evening service on February 17 at 7 p.m. Due to the pandemic, and to keep everybody safe, we are NOT practicing the imposition of ashes this year. There will be Holy Communion though. Please call our secretary to sign up for this evening service.

3 – ATTENTION BIBLE STUDIES AND LENTEN DEVOTIONS: As we enter the holy season of Lent, we will put our bible studies on hold for this period. Instead of having bible studies, we will have weekly Lenten evening devotions every Wednesday evening. Note: it is not live streaming, but it will be available on our website and YouTube channel, so you can take your time with your family (or by yourself) and watch it until the Holy Week. We will resume the bible studies after Easter.

4 – BIBLY STUDY FOR YOUTH: Elizabeth continues to offer 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

5 – ONLINE “CHURCH SCHOOL”: Mrs. Koreen is gathering our kids for a virtual Sunday School that has been renamed to “church school”, because it's actually during the week! 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.

6 - PRAYER REQUESTS: Send us your prayer requests. We have a “prayer chain” where a group of people (the “prayer warriors”) pray for your needs.

7 – NEW PARAMENTS: This Sunday Feb 14, we will bless the new paraments (Liturgical linen on the altar and on the pulpit) to be used for God's glory. The white paraments were donated by Walter Wagner, who is now with the Lord! The purple paraments were donated by Dana and Lori Salter. Thank you all for your generosity!

8 - THANK YOU: Today I want to thank **OUR READERS**. They are assistants in worship services, also called "lectors", who use the "lectern" (the wooden stand made just for public readings) every Sunday to share the Word of God with the congregation, reading the first and second lessons of the day. By the way, we are in need of **one more reader** for the German service. If you feel that you could serve the Lord this way, let me know. Our readers are: Frieda Meiritz, Bernd Halwas, Margrit Owen, Heather Graham-Navis, Koreen Graumann, Dana Salter and David Robak. Big thank you, dear readers!

"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

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

Feb 9 (Tues): Online Sunday School for kids @ 4:30 p.m.

Feb 9 (Tues): Online Youth Movie Night @ 7 p.m.

Feb 10 (Wed): Online Bible Study @ 7 p.m.

Feb 14 (Sun): Worship services (German at 9:30 a.m. / English at 11 a.m.)

Feb 15 (Mon): Family Day, church office is closed. Thank God for your family!

Feb 16 (Tues): Online Youth Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

Feb 17 (Wed): Ash Wednesday evening service with Holy Communion @ 7 p.m.

Feb 21 (Sun): Lenten services @ regular times with the holy communion

Names of the upcoming Sundays:

Feb 14: The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Feb 21: First Sunday in Lent

10 – TIME TO CELEBRATE: BIRTHDAYS (RECENT OR COMING UP)

Feb 11 – Margrit Owen

Feb 13 – Margaret Becker

Feb 14 – August Boehm

Feb 14 – Amber Fauth

Feb 14 – Lorna Koch

Feb 16 – Ingrid Anderson

Feb 16 – Hilton Hack

Feb 21 – Glendson Haight

NEW BIRTH (BAPTISM) ANNIVERSARIES:

Feb 9 – Sean Smallwood

Feb 11 – Karen Williams

Feb 14 – Roseanne Warren

Feb 17 – Adelia Altwasser

Feb 17 – Elfriede Foidl

Feb 19 – Frieda Meiritz

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

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

Feb 10 – Silas, Fellow worker of St. Peter and St. Paul

Feb 13 – Aquila, Priscilla, Apolos

Feb 14 – Valentine, Martyr

Feb 15 – Philemon and Onesimus

Feb 16 – Phillip Melanchthon (birth), Confessor

Feb 18 – Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor

CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S ADVICE (Submitted by Bettie Altenhof)

Charlie Chaplin lived 88 years. He left us 4 statements:

- (1) Nothing is forever in this world, not even our problems.
- (2) I love walking in the rain because no one can see my tears.
- (3) The most lost day in life is the day we don't laugh.
- (4) Six best doctors in the world...:
 1. The sun
 2. Rest
 3. Exercise
 4. Diet
 5. Self-respect
 6. Friends

Stick to them at all stages of your life and enjoy a healthy life...

If you see the moon, you will see the beauty of God...

If you see the sun, you will see the power of God...

If you see a mirror, you will see God's best creation. So, believe it.

We are all tourists, God is our travel agent who has already identified our routes, bookings and destinations... trust him and enjoy life.

Life is just a journey! Therefore, live today! Tomorrow may not be.

Stay Positive and Test Negative

UNSERE DEUTSCHE ECKE! GERMAN BEAUTIFUL HYMNS

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

Janz Team - Anbetung

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_lojwTXO1M&t=1573s



Oh, and now, the “clean joke”:

The Bible, Through the Eyes of a Child

Here's our version of the stories of the Bible if they were to be told by a child.

Creation

In the beginning, which was close to the start, there wasn't anything except God, darkness and some gas. The Bible says, "The Lord, thy God, is one," but I think He has to be much older than that.

Anyway, God made the world and then He said, "Give me some light," and somebody gave it to Him. He split an atom and made Eve. Adam and Eve didn't wear any clothes, but they weren't embarrassed because God hadn't invented mirrors, yet.

Adam and Eve sinned by eating one bad apple and they were driven out of the Garden of Eden. I'm not sure what God drove them in because He hadn't invented cars, either.

Adam and Eve's son, Cain, hated his brother as long as he was Abel. After a while, all of the first people died, except Methuselah, who lived to be, like, a million years old.



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

In His service,

Rev. M. Zeuch

On February 9, 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
You Tube



“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” Col 3:15

„Und der Friede Gottes regiere in euren Herzen; zu diesem seid ihr ja auch berufen in einem Leib; und seid dankbar!“ Kolosser 3, 15