

The AGAPE NEWS (2)

A WEEKLY "BLOG-LIKE" NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH - CALGARY AB – Sept 21, 2020

Hello dear SMLC Family and friends! Today we commemorate St. Matthew, the apostle after whom we are named.

How have you been?

I am really hoping that you are coping well with these challenging times.

Welcome, new members on this list of 91 email addresses right now! The group is strong and growing!

Last Sunday's services went really well again. We had an attendance of 24 in the German service and 46 in the English service, total of 70 attending! The recordings should be in our website later on today.

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

(From this coming Sunday's chosen psalter: psalm 25)

"All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies." Psalm 25:10

In German:

„Die Wege des HERRN sind eitel Güte und Wahrheit denen, die seinen Bund und seine Zeugnisse halten.“ Psalm 25, 10

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

1 - WE ARE OPEN FOR WORSHIP! We are "glad to be in the house of the Lord" again. If you plan to come for worship this Sunday and you haven't come since we re-opened our doors, please don't forget to sign up with Andrea. Remember to

call our office BEFORE it closes for the week by Thursday at 3 pm. If you are already coming regularly, you are automatically on the list and you don't need to call the office anymore. IF you are on the list and are NOT coming, we encourage you to call the office and let Andrea know.

We will continue to follow all health and safety protocols. See you hopefully on Sunday!

2 - RECORDINGS: Our Sunday services are now on our website AND on our YouTube channel, normally by Mondays. The address is www.stmatthewlutherancalgary.com

3 - FACE MASKS ARE MANDATORY! Please bring your own mask on Sunday services. We also remind everyone that the congregation is NOT supposed to sing along with the soloist(s) for the time being, unfortunately!

4 - YOUR OFFERINGS: As God's baptized children, we want to be good stewards of all the blessings that God gives us on a daily basis. Our thank offerings are part of our faith and reflect our gratitude to the Giver of Life (first article of the Apostle's Creed). They also help us to continue our M&M (Mission and Ministry) and Christ great commission of making disciples of all nations. You are encouraged to use the e-transfer system that is a very easy and safe way to send your offering through email. The church's email address is: smlccsecretary@shaw.ca. You may also deposit your envelope on a plate when you come to church, either as you walk in or exit the sanctuary. Thank you for serving the Lord's cause this way as well!

5 - BIG THANK YOU! I have started this new session because it is in my heart to thank those who use their talents, time and treasures to keep our congregation going. Today I thank **Walter Wagner**. Besides being an elder of this congregation, he is also the "property person", and does a lot around the church properties. Sometimes, those little things may go unnoticed. Walter also does a lot of singing with solos in the worship services both German and English. He also helps out with leading the reading services when I am away on vacations. Thank you, Walter, 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

6 - HOLY COMMUNION: After careful and prayerful consideration, we have now decided to start offering communion following some special health and safety protocols. Please read our new procedures for communion either in our website, in our last Agape News or in our next newsletter. Next communion service is **October 4.**

7 - PRIVATE COMMUNION: If you wish to have a private communion because you still don't feel safe coming to church on Sundays, please call our office and make an appointment with Andrea. You will meet me in the church sanctuary and we will follow all health and safety protocols. Please bring a plate and a cup of your own.

8 – OUR PIPE ORGAN: We are thankful to our God that we can hear the “joyful sound” of our organ again! Jason, the person in charge of restoring our precious centennial pipe organ is still working on some little things to make it work perfectly. It is taking him much more time and energy than he expected, but he is asking us all to be PATIENT with him as he tries to finish his work. We thank all members who generously donated to the organ fund so that we could revive this instrument again for the glory of God!

9 - NEWS FROM THE CALGARY CIRCUIT: Installation of the new pastor in Didsbury Rev. Timothy Graff will be installed October 4 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Didsbury. Unfortunately it is not possible to have a large attendance from the circuit due to COVID. We pray for God’s blessings for Redeemer and Pastor Graff as they begin their mutual service to the Lord and His church in the coming days.

10 – ZOOM MEETING:

ATTENTION, CONGREGATIONAL MEETING COMING UP! Due to the pandemic, we are avoiding any gatherings or physical meetings. For those who have access to the internet, we will have a virtual voters' meeting on **Sunday, September 27 on Zoom**. Put it in your calendar. We will send you a password soon, to log in. You will be invited to log in at **5 pm** on that day just for a "test" to say "hi" and then the meeting will be at **7 p.m.** It is important that you participate in both times on

that day, so we can carry out our congregation's business by doing the Lord's mission and ministry.

11 – SMLC FOOD CUPBOARD: Our food cupboard is well stocked and we would like to extend our help to any congregation member or someone they know that might be in need during these difficult times. Please contact Pastor Zeuch or Ingrid Feist-Anderson 403-801-5727, ihanderson@shaw.ca All requests will be kept confidential.

12 - ALTAR FLOWERS: If you wish to donate a set of flowers for the altar please contact the office, total cost is \$64.00 for a Sunday. Due to a reduction in attendance and offerings due to COVID only essential expenditures are being covered by church funds. Thank you

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK

This week we thank God for:

Sept 23 - Renate Schulz

NEW BIRTH (BAPTISM) ANNIVERSARIES:

Sept 24 – Ida Derheim

Sept 26 – Leonard Herchen

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:

Sept 21 – St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Sept 22 – Jonah

Name of the upcoming Sunday, Sept 27: The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

OUR CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Tomorrow, Sept 22 – Autumn Equinox, starting at 7:31 a.m. (MST). Happy Fall!

Congregational Meeting on Zoom – Sunday, 7 p.m.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Special requests:

Pray for our kids going back to school. Pray that all students and staff may keep safe from the Covid virus...Include your own intercessions...

Special thanksgiving:

...(Include your own reasons to thank God)

Lord' in your mercy, Hear our prayer!

Please send me your prayer request if you have one, be it a special petition or a reason to thank the Lord. So I can share it here and we may pray together.

DIE DEUTSCHE ECKE! Gottes Word aus „Die Losungen“ (losungen.de)

Montag, 21. September 2020:

Ich liege gefangen und kann nicht heraus, mein Auge vergeht vor Elend. HERR, ich rufe zu dir täglich. Psalm 88,9-10

Jesus betet: Ich bitte nicht, dass du sie aus der Welt nimmst, sondern dass du sie bewahrst vor dem Bösen. Johannes 17,15

Thank you for reading our newsletter. "See you" next week again, God willing.

God bless you all.

In His service,

Rev. Markus Zeuch, on Sept 21, 2020 Anno Domini