

The AGAPE NEWS (#7)

A WEEKLY "BLOG-LIKE" NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH - CALGARY AB – October 26, 2020

Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!

How are you holding up these days? Autumn greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ...or should I say, "early winter greetings"? I would rather say: "Reformation greetings", that would be fitting. It's been 503 years since Luther nailed those 95 theses on the castle church door in Wittenberg, Germany – on October 31, 1517.

Luther's "solas" are still preached and taught in confessional Lutheran churches all over the world. Sola fide (by faith alone), sola gratia (by grace alone), sola scriptura (scripture only) and solus Christus (Christ alone). Not necessarily in this order. He would always point to the cross; His entire reformation project was about Christ.

We, at St. Matthew, follow Jesus Christ and thank God for Luther, one of His many instruments to defend the pure Gospel against opposing forces within and without the Christian Church.

Remember, "God is our Fortress, we should not fear".

Yesterday we had a good attendance at church: German 18 and English 46, total of 64. We also had a great time with our first "online coffee hour" with 15 participants! There was a desire to do this more often, so we will plan on that!

Happy reading and see you on this Reformation Sunday (communion service).



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

(From this upcoming Sunday's lectionary – Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday)

PSALM 46 (selection of verses 1-3; 10-11)

The Psalm that inspired Martin Luther to write the hymn *Our Mighty Fortress is Our God*".

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

“Be still, and know that I am God.
 I will be exalted among the nations,
 I will be exalted in the earth!”

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob is our fortress.

IN GERMAN:

Gott ist unsre Zuversicht und Stärke. Eine Hilfe in den großen Nöten, die uns getroffen haben.

²Darum fürchten wir uns nicht, wenngleich die Welt unterginge und die Berge mitten ins Meer sänken,

³wenngleich das Meer wütete und wallte und von seinem Ungestüm die Berge einfielen.

¹⁰Seid stille und erkennet, daß ich GOTT bin. Ich will Ehre einlegen unter den Heiden; ich will Ehre einlegen auf Erden.

¹¹Der HERR Zebaoth ist mit uns; der Gott Jakobs ist unser Schutz.

PREVIOUS BIBLE TRIVIA:

Last trivia question was: **What is the longest chapter in the bible and how many verses are there in this chapter?**

The right answer is Psalm 119 and it has 178 verses. Thanks for all the answers and congratulations to those who sent me the right answer!

NEW BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTION:

Can you mention one of the verses from Scripture that changed Luther's life?

Send me your answer!

NEWS FROM SMLC.

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

1 – THIS COMING SUNDAY, NOV 1: This coming Sunday will be very special. It is **Reformation Sunday and All Saints' Sunday** at the same time. We will remember the work God began in the Christian church through Martin Luther to restore the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We will also remember those dear ones ("saints" in God's eyes) among us who have been called to glory and now belong to the "triumphant church". There will be Holy Communion...please come prepared. We will also bless a new communion vessel that was donated by Judy Rublesky. Please read our new procedures for communion in our website or in previous newsletters. We highly recommend that families use a common plate or tray for the bread and even a common cup for the whole family. And remember to set your clock back one hour before going to bed on Saturday! (Daylight Saving Time ends)!

2 - 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.

3 – 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. All requests will be kept confidential. In an effort to manage our food cupboard we have sorted and put out items in the basement that expired in 2019, please feel free to help yourself.

4 - RENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE: Presently, St. Matthew Lutheran Church rents the parsonage, the sanctuary and basement and parking lot spots. To review and implement current rental policies and oversee renters, we are seeking volunteers

to join the committee. The service provided by the committee is vital to our congregation, since it directly supports our mission and ministry. If you are interested in using your knowledge and abilities, please contact Siegrid Robak at 403-503-9973.

5 – BIBLE STUDY: We offer bible study over “zoom” program, 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. **It is included in today’s email.** 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!

6 – ONLINE YOUTH BIBLE STUDY: Is offered every Tuesday at 7 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.

7 – PASTOR’S DAYS OFF: Some members have asked me when my weekly day off is, since most of the pastors seem to take Mondays off. In “normal” times, my days off have always been **Fridays** and **Saturdays** (when there is nothing coming up at church). Regarding vacations, I take several different days randomly during the year, depending on my wife’s and my kids’ schedule. The next days I am away will be: Oct 29 (Thursday), November 9 – 17 (except on Sunday Nov 15 when I will be holding services) and Dec 28 – 31.

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

Nov 29 (Sun): First Sunday in Advent services

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.

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

Dec 23 (Wed): German candlelight service @ 5 p.m. (limited space, please sign in)

Dec 23 (Wed): English candlelight service @ 7 p.m. (limited space, please sign in)

Dec 24 (Thurs): German candlelight service @ 5 p.m. (limited space, pls sign in)

Dec 24 (Thurs): English candlelight service @ 7 p.m. (limited space, please sign in)
Dec 27 (Sun): First Sunday After Christmas, regular services.

9 - BIG THANK YOU! Since we are in the Thanksgiving month, I want to thank those who use their talents, time and treasures to keep our congregation going. This week I thank **ADOLF SCHOTT**. He has been a big support in the German "ushering department" for many years. There is hardly a Sunday morning where I don't see him early at church, preparing for the German service. Mr. Schott has rung the church bells for countless years every Sunday, at 9 a.m. Thank you, Mr. Schott, 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

Oct 29 – Gerda Erismann
 Oct 30 – Peter Schmidtke
 Oct 31 - Emilie Grant
 Nov 1 – Myrna Knoll

NEW BIRTH (BAPTISM) ANNIVERSARIES:

Oct 30 – Jonathan Brazil
 Oct 30 – Selma Brooks
 Oct 31 – Gerda Erismann
 Nov 1 – Hildegard Feist

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:

Oct 26 – Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann and Paul Gerhardt, Hymnwriters
 Oct 28 – St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles
 Oct 31 – Reformation Day
 Nov 1 – All Saints' Day
 You may look them up on the internet to find out more about those faithful women and men!

OUR CALENDAR THIS WEEK

- a) Youth online Bible Study on Zoom, tomorrow, Tuesday October 27 at 7 p.m.
If you are interested, please call Elizabeth 1 (306) 715-1191 to get the password. Please log in by 6:45 p.m.
- b) Online Bible Study on Wednesday, Oct 28 at 7 pm over zoom. Please log in by 6:45 pm to make sure all is working, so we can start at 7 pm sharp. The bible study should be about 45 minutes. Please use the link sent to you in the email to find the password and log in.

PRAYER REQUESTS:**Special requests:**

Pray that God will bless our budget planning for 2021 as we plan our Mission and Ministry for next year.

Include your own intercessions...

Special thanksgiving:

Thank God for ALL the blessings He has generously given to you and your family. Count your blessings!

...(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, 26. Oktober 2020:

Ich, ich bin euer Tröster! Wer bist du denn, dass du dich vor Menschen fürchtest, die doch sterben? Jesaja 51,12

Der in euch ist, ist größer als der, der in der Welt ist. 1. Johannes 4,4

Christliche Lieder auf Deutsch

Enjoy this song on YouTube: Ein Feste Burg ist Unser Gott
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6dPv7W80yk>

AND NOW...THE "CLEAN JOKE": :-D

A Christian guy named Bill saw an ad online for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out. The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. Just say 'Praise the Lord!' to make him go and 'Amen!' to make him stop." Bill got on the horse and said, "Praise the Lord!" Sure enough, the horse started to walk. "Praise the Lord!" he said again, and the horse began to trot. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop. Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn't notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over. Bill shouted "AMEN!" at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff. Relieved, Bill said, "Phew! Praise the Lord!"

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.

**In His service,
Rev. Markus Zeuch, on Oct 26, 2020 Anno Domini**