

The AGAPE NEWS (#8)

A WEEKLY "BLOG-LIKE" NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH - CALGARY AB – November 2, 2020

Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!

How are you holding up these days?

Yesterday was Reformation Sunday and All Saints Day. We had an attendance of 25 in the German service and 34 in the English service, total 59. You may watch the services on our website if you were not there. Unfortunately, we were not able to offer Holy Communion due to some circumstances.

I noticed that we are having less and less participation on our bible trivia questions and I wonder if I should continue to send them in the newsletters. Please let me know.

I hope you enjoyed my picture playing Luther on our last newsletter (Agape News 7)! That was taken 3 years ago, when we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

And now...

Happy reading!

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

(From this upcoming Sunday's lectionary – the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost)

PSALM 70: 4-5

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you!

May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!

You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

IN GERMAN:

Es sollen fröhlich sein und sich an dir freuen alle, die dich suchen;
und die dein Heil lieben, sollen allezeit sagen: Gott ist groß!

Ich aber bin elend und arm; o Gott, eile zu mir!
Meine Hilfe und mein Retter bist du; o HERR, säume nicht!

PREVIOUS BIBLE TRIVIA:

Last trivia question was: **Can you mention one of the verses from Scripture that changed Luther's life?**

I got no answer for this one. The answer may vary, but mostly Romans 1:17 is the most influential verse for Luther and he discovered that we are saved purely by God's Grace and not by our good works.

NEW BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTION:

What was the name of the blind beggar at the gate of Jericho?

Send me your answer!

NEWS FROM SMLC.

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

1 - HOLY COMMUNION: The Lord's Supper will be offered twice a month for the time being: the first Sunday and the third Sunday of the month. Please read about our protocols during the pandemic on our website.

2 – THE LUTHERAN HOUR: If you wish to listen to a good solid message on Sunday mornings, or you can't make it to church, tune in on the radio. **November 8:** "Tied into the Same Lifeline" – Daniel 5; Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Humble pie is on the menu at an ill-fated feast. Hear this inspirational message on **CHRB 1140 AM**, on Sunday mornings at 8:00 am. Available in

RealAudio at www.lll.ca/TLHstnlist.html. Streaming audio and podcasts at www.lutheranhour.ca

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 – RENTER MANAGEMENT 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 online bible study 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. **It is included in today’s email to you.** 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 – NO BIBLE STUDY ON NOVEMBER 11: Due to Remembrance Day, we are NOT having online bible study on November 11.

7 – 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.

8 - CHRISTMAS SAUSAGE FUNDRAISER: Thanks to Leo Hartfelder we will be able to have sausage for Christmas! Bratwurst and Garlic Sausage - \$9.00 per package, Ham - \$10.00 per package. Pepperoni (mild or hot) \$4,00 per package. Orders can be placed after service in the Parish Hall from November 8th to December 13th, sausage pickup December 20th in the basement. Covid protocol will have to be followed with mask and distancing during pick up. Proceeds will be going towards support of our food cupboard and Church maintenance projects.

9 - EXCITING EVANGELISM NEWS: 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. I have found out 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.

10 – 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: November 9 – 17 (except on Sunday Nov 15 when I will be holding services) and Dec 28 – 31. There will be no newsletter on those weeks.

11 – 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.

12 – MEMBER CALLED TO GLORY: Fritz Baumann, a long-time member at our German congregation was called home to be with His Saviour today. The funeral service will take place at the church this Friday, Nov. 6. If you plan to attend, please call our secretary Andrea (493-226-1458) before Thursday since there is limited space due to the Covid-19 protocols. We pray for the Baumann & Kubke families as they mourn their dear Fritz.

13 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Our Fall edition of our voter's meeting is scheduled to take place on Sunday, November 22. It will be an online meeting for all members of SMLC on *Zoom* at 2 p.m. You will receive the info to log in and phone in prior to that date. Your participation is very important!

14 - LCC ANNUAL MEETING: The Annual Meeting of the Members of LUTHERAN CHURCH–CANADA will be held as follows: DATE: Saturday, November 21, 2020
 TIME: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CST.

LOCATION: GO TO WEBINAR

The purpose of the meeting is to: 1. Receive the Audited Financial Statements for fiscal period ending January 31, 2020; 2. Appoint the Auditors for 2021 and authorize the Directors to determine the remuneration; 3. Receive Annual report from the Board of Directors .

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Grace Henderson, Secretary

15 - BIG THANK YOU! I want to thank those who use their talents, time and treasures to keep our congregation going. This week I thank **BERNIE KUBKE**. He has been a big support in the German "ushering department" for many years. Bernie is also an active elder at our congregation for many years. Bernie had been a big supporter of our now extinct German bible study group. Thank you, Bernie, 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

Nov 6 – Emma Zimmerman

NEW BIRTH (BAPTISM) ANNIVERSARIES:

Nov 5 – Martha Schock

Nov 8 – Joyce Fordham

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

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

Nov 8 – Johannes von Staupitz, Luther's Father Confessor

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 November 3 at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested, please call Elizabeth 1 (306) 715-1191 to get the password. Please log in by 7:15 p.m.
- b) Online Bible Study on Wednesday, Nov 4 at 7 pm over zoom, led by Elizabeth. 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.
- c) Online Meeting of the Board of Elders, Thursday November 5 at 7 p.m.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Please send me 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! Gottes Word aus „Die Losungen“ (losungen.de)

Dienstag, 3. November 2020:

Freuet euch mit Jerusalem und seid fröhlich über die Stadt, alle, die ihr sie lieb habt! Freuet euch mit ihr, alle, die ihr über sie traurig gewesen seid. Jesaja 66,10

Hanna pries Gott und redete von ihm zu allen, die auf die Erlösung Jerusalems warteten. Lukas 2,38

Christliche Lieder auf Deutsch

Enjoy this song on YouTube: Jesu geh voran

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7TBKpvqlq58>

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

At the Christmas Eve service at my church, the pastor, quizzing some children about the nativity, asked, "What gifts did the three wise men give the Christ child?" "Gold!" one child yelled: "Frankincense!" shouted another. After a pause, a third asked, "Gift cards?"

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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 Nov 2, 2020 Anno Domini