

The AGAPE NEWS (#9)

A WEEKLY "BLOG-LIKE" NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

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

Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!

How are you holding up these days?

Today is Thanksgiving Day in the U.S.A. We always have so many reasons to give thanks to the Lord every single day, even during an incredibly challenging year, that is slowly but surely coming to an end.

I do hope you have missed my newsletters lately. I was away for a few days but I'm back. So, unfortunately, we missed a few birthdays and baptism anniversaries. I hope you forgive your pastor for that!

I bet that many of you are concerned with the new AHS restrictions announced this week and how this will affect our worship services. At the moment, our boards are trying to discuss these things, but I can tell you in advance, there may be some changes coming up, especially regarding the "cap" imposed for attendance which the sister congregations in our circuit (and ourselves) are trying to interpret as best as they can. We have been careful and following all health and safety protocols when physically gathered at church. I thank all volunteers and ushers for making sure that all is sanitized every Sunday, that members keep social distance etc.

Regarding Holy Communion, we will continue to offer the sacrament as we have done so far (for the time being), every first and third Sunday of the month.

As your pastor, I would ask you to PLEASE do not sit together at church with other members if you are not in a cohort situation. This applies even to family members from different households.

As your pastor also, I would like to remind you that the Advent season is upon us (This coming Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent) and we eagerly await the

coming of the Lord, who is the Emanuel. I ask you to trust God's promises that HE IS WITH US in every situation and a stronghold in every trouble. Please continue to pray for our church, our families and for the world.

And now...

Happy reading!

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

(From this upcoming Sunday's lectionary – the First Sunday in Advent)

ISAIAH 64:8

But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

IN GERMAN:

Aber nun, HERR, du bist unser Vater; wir sind der Ton, du bist der Töpfer; und wir alle sind deiner Hände Werk. Jesaja 64.8

PREVIOUS BIBLE TRIVIA:

Last trivia question was: **What was the name of the blind beggar at the gate of Jericho?** The answer is Bartimaeus. Thank you to those who sent me the answer.

NEW BIBLE TRIVIA QUESTION:

The Sea of Galilee had another name. What was it?
Send me your answer!

NEWS FROM SMLC.

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

1 – ONLINE BIBLE STUDY: We offer weekly bible studies 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. You will receive it on Monday's email, Lord willing. 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!

2 – 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.

3 – ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our head of Christian Education, Koreen Graumann has started an online Sunday School over zoom once a week. The days may vary, but if you are interested and have children age 6 to 12 who could have some fun moments in a Christian environment with other kids in our church, please contact us to be included in Koreen's list. Thank you Koreen, for this wonderful initiative to keep our children connected with God's Word and Christian fellowship!

4 - 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 us 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.

5 – OFFERINGS VIA E-TRANSFERS: Our bank has finished their system upgrade and fixed all the bugs that caused all kinds of problems. After a test run, we are able to report that e-transfer, once again, is available. If you are so inclined to send your offering via e-transfer please use: smlccsecretary@shaw.ca to send your donation (same e-mail address as before). E-transfers are automatically deposited into the bank account, thus no need to send a password to the office. We appreciate your continuous support of our church. Thank you for your generosity,

6 – 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. (please sign up)

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

Dec 23 (Wed): German candlelight service @ 5 p.m. (please sign up)

Dec 23 (Wed): English candlelight service @ 7 p.m. (please sign up)

Dec 24 (Thurs): German candlelight service @ 5 p.m. (please sign up)

Dec 24 (Thurs): English candlelight service @ 7 p.m. (please sign up)

Dec 27 (Sun): First Sunday After Christmas, regular services.

7 - BIG THANK YOU! I want to thank those who use their talents, time and treasures to keep our congregation going. This week I thank **RANDY HAYNES**. Randy has been a blessing and big support for our congregation. Not only in the “ushering department”, but helping out where there is a need, working hard with the “property department”. Randy is also an active elder at our congregation for several years now. Thank you, Randy, 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 29 – Irene Pritchard

Nov 29 – Rudy Sieb

NEW BIRTH (BAPTISM) ANNIVERSARIES:

Nov 28 – Erwin Knoll

Nov 29 – Ingrid Baumann

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:

November 29 – Noah

November 30 – St. Andrew, Apostle

You may look them up on the internet to find out more about those faithful women and men!

OUR CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Since this newsletter is going out today, on a Thursday evening, we only have the worship services on Sunday for this week – we will bless the Advent wreath on both services.

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 Wort aus „Die Losungen“ (losungen.de)

Donnerstag, 26. November 2020:

Nun, unser Gott, wir danken dir und rühmen deinen herrlichen Namen.

1. Chronik 29,13

Sagt Dank Gott, dem Vater, allezeit für alles, im Namen unseres Herrn Jesus Christus. Epheser 5,20

Christliche Lieder auf Deutsch

Enjoy this song on YouTube: Wenn der Heiland
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44fOaEPRUwM>

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

Since today is Thanksgiving in the U.S., here goes a "chicken crossing the street" question:

Q: Why did the turkey cross the road?

A: It was the chicken's day off!

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, but MOST IMPORTANTLY: stay faithful to the Lord!

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