



# The “AGAPE” #21

## THE EASTER SEASON

A BI-WEEKLY “BLOG-LIKE” NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

**ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB – April 13, 2021**

Proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ in Bridgeland since 1913

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**Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!**

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Der Herr ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden. Halleluja!

How are you today? I have missed so many of you who decided not to come to church on Sundays! I do hope you are able to watch us on YouTube or on our website.

My family and I are doing well, after a few days off in the “post Holy Week time”, thank God!

The 40-day journey has ended. Christ’s humiliation, suffering and death has turned into His exaltation, His victory over death and Satan. You have been given a new beginning with the risen Lord. **Eastertide** or **Paschaltide** is the period of 50 days, spanning from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. It is celebrated as a joyful feast. Each Sunday of the season is treated as a Sunday of Easter. Eastertide is a festal season in the liturgical year of Christianity that focuses on celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As the season of spring brings us a total renewal of life with nature “waking up” from a long winter with new colours, the trees starting to bud and bloom, the flowers...well, not quite yet, at least here in Alberta! But still, spring has sprung and so also our new life in Christ has seen a renewal with His resurrection. We just celebrated this fact on Easter Sunday, which, we could say, is the most joyous Sunday of the year. We had to endure a long journey of 40 days to hold on to our shouts of “alleluias”. Even in our Lutheran liturgy, we have temporarily suspended

the use of this precious expression of worship and saved it for THE Sunday of Christ’s victory.

Yes, renewal, new life, plants and flowers blooming, trees budding, spring cleaning, new beginnings, the sun shining after the storm, the dawn breaking after a long and dark night, Jesus conquering death, it all reminds me a bunch of scripture readings. The apostle Paul says it this way: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”. 2 Cor 5:17

My task as your pastor, is to bring you always God’s comfort and His Word, and so I pray that the Easter message may fill your hearts with renewed joy, no matter what circumstances. This message of life and hope in the midst of a global crisis is much needed. It has been proclaimed in our church since 1913! April is the month of **our church’s 108<sup>th</sup> anniversary** and we thank God that He has blessed us so far. God is still the same and His message of Life and hope has never changed nor will it ever!

God’s peace (“shalom”) and love (“agape”) be with you!  
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!  
A very blessed (and joyful) Eastertide!

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**NOTE ABOUT THE PANDEMIC:**

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.

**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 for privacy's sake. You may find the contact numbers at the end of this newsletter.

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" is all around us! However, our God is stronger than any trouble we may experience! Please continue to pray for our church, our families and for the world. By now, several members of our church, including myself have received the first dose of the Covid vaccine, for which I am thankful. I hope your turn will come soon. And now...enjoy your reading!

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

**PSALM 4:3** (From the Psalm for the Third Sunday of Easter)

"But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;  
the LORD hears when I call to him."



### **AUF DEUTSCH:**

„Erkennt doch, daß der HERR seine Heiligen wunderbar führt; der HERR hört, wenn ich ihn anrufe.“

## **NEWS FROM SMLC.**

**1 – QUESTIONNAIRE:** We want to thank all of you who have expressed your opinions on our questionnaire and returned it by the established deadline. Your thoughts on our Mission & Ministry are very important for us to plan ahead for the future of this congregation. The results will be shared on our retreat. Please read next announcement below.

**2 – ONLINE MISSION & MINISTRY RETREAT:** As you already know, we are inviting every member to participate in our first Mission & Ministry retreat that we will offer on zoom on April 24 @ 10 a.m. It is planned for our members only, this time. Your participation as a member of SMLC is extremely important and we hope to get a good attendance on that Saturday. Please mark this on your calendar.

**3 – ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES:** We are resuming our online bible study on Zoom every Wednesday (except when there's a fifth Wednesday), at 7 p.m.

Elizabeth Schieman is leading the study on the gospels ("Life and Times of Jesus") every first and third Wednesday. I am leading the study "who are we, Lutherans?" every second and fourth Wednesday. Call our office or me (pastor) if you need the login info. I plan to send the login info every Wednesday through our email list. I found out it's way better to send it on the day of the Bible study than some days in advance. It's very easy to forget! 😊

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

**5 – ISOLATION: LONGLINESS & DEPRESSION:** During this pandemic, social isolation can give way to feelings of loneliness, depression, and hopelessness. However, you are not alone – here are some resources put together by the Lutheran Laymen's League Canada that can help. If you have access to the internet, you may click here: <https://www.lll.ca/social-isolation>

**6 – ONLINE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** Since we will meet for our online retreat on the 24th, we will not have our virtual coffee hour in April.

**7 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** We held our online triannual congregational meeting on March 21 with 24 participants. We had a presentation from the Historic Society with City of Calgary Representative: Asia Walker, from Heritage Calgary. She outlined procedures and requirements on how to apply for and receive formal recognition as a municipal historical site. Character defining elements, such as organ, pews, windows, and brick work, would be part of a bylaw which cannot be changed and which would obligate us to repair and restore elements to historic qualifications. Funds typically must be used to restore bylaw items. Congregation must raise 50% of the project costs.

We also spoke about how badly we need more members to be involved. We ask you to, prayerfully consider participating more in the work of the church. There are open positions and need for more volunteers ("servers"): IT committee, vice-chairman, stewardship board, Lutheran Hour ambassador, counters, ushers, properties, etc.

Many other important matters were discussed and approved. If you are interested in reading the minutes from that meeting, please call our office and ask Andrea for a copy that is available to all members.

**8 – MEMORY VERSE:** For those who like the challenge of memorizing God’s Word, here is a new session for my newsletter. This week’s memory verse is **John 14:19** **“Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.”**

**9 - THANK YOU:** Today I want to recognize and thank **DAN SANFORD** and **AMY PERRIN**. Dan is our hired handyman and does a lot around our church. He’s always available to help out in any situation that may pop up in our church property. He has also done the whole kitchen renovation in our church basement some time ago – an excellent job! Amy Perrin, Dan’s wife is our very competent caretaker and always ready to help out where needed. You must have noticed how clean our church and office are every week, thanks to her dedicated work. Thank you, Amy and Dan! "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

### **10 – WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AND NEXT (HOLY) WEEK?**

April 13 (Tues): Online “church school” for kids @ 4:30 p.m.

April 13 (Tues): Online Youth Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

April 14 (Wed): Online Bible Study led by P. Zeuch @ 7 p.m.

April 15 (Thurs): Board of Elders online meeting

April 18 (Sun): Worship services at regular times with the Holy Communion

April 20 (Tues): Online “church school” for kids @ 4:30 p.m.

April 20 (Tues): Online Youth Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

April 21 (Wed): Online Bible Study led by Elizabeth @ 7 p.m.

April 22 (Thurs): Online PPC meeting @ 7 p.m.

April 24 (Sat): Online Mission & Ministry Retreat @ 10 a.m.

April 25 (Sun): Worship services at regular times

### **Names of the upcoming Sundays:**

April 18: Third Sunday of Easter (Misericordias Domini)

April 25: Fourth Sunday of Easter (Jubilate)

### **11 - FEASTS, FESTIVALS and COMMEMORATIONS IN THE CHURCH YEAR:**

April 20 — Johannes Bugenhagen, Pastor

April 21 — Anselm of Canterbury, Theologian

April 24 — Johann Walter, Kantor

April 25 — St. Mark, Evangelist

## **12 – FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

Isn't it strange how a 20-dollar bill seems like such a large amount when you donate it to church, but such a small amount when you go shopping?

Isn't it strange how one hour seem so long when you're at church, and how short they seem when you're watching a good movie or just being on your smart phone?

Isn't it strange that you can't find a word to say when you're praying but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend?

Isn't it strange how difficult and boring it is to read one chapter of the Bible, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a popular novel?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants front-row-tickets to concerts or games but they do whatever is possible to sit at the last row in Church?

Isn't it strange how we need to know about an event for Church 2-3 weeks before the day so we can include it in our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events in the last minute?

Isn't it strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God and share it with others; but how easy it is to learn, understand, extend and repeat gossip?

Isn't it strange how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say but we question the words in the Bible?

Isn't it strange how everyone wants a place in heaven but they don't want to believe and accept Christ's sacrifice in order to get there?

Isn't it strange how we send jokes in e-mails and they are forwarded right away but when we are going to send messages about God, we think about it twice before we share it with others?

IT'S STRANGE ISN'T IT? Now that you've read this message, will you share it to anybody that you consider a friend, family member or foe?

## GEISTLICHE LIEDER AUF DEUTSCH

Wenn Sie diesen Newsletter am Computer lesen, können Sie hier unten klicken.  
Hören Sie sich dieses wundervolle Osternlied an.  
Genießen Sie es!

CHRIST, DER HERR IST HEUT ERSTANDEN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93fiYpWL7mA>



## FOR CHILDREN: A SUMMARY OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

(in a very simple language)

## LEVITICUS

The Book of Leviticus is the third book of the Bible. It is in the Old Testament and it's about the law of God. The law teaches us that God is holy. The Book of Leviticus contains many rules for the Hebrew people. But we do not obey all the rules in Leviticus today, because we trust Jesus (see Galatians 3:23-25).

The Book of Leviticus also describes the duties of priests during the time of the Old Testament. And, in Leviticus 23, there is a list of special holidays, when the Hebrew people praised God together.

God also told the people that they must kill animals. And, they gave these animals to God. The people did this so that God would forgive their evil deeds (Leviticus chapters 1-7). This teaches us why Jesus had to die. Jesus died so that today, God forgives our evil deeds. Evil deeds are called "sins". We must confess our sins to God. And we must invite God into our lives.

Adapted from <https://www.easyenglish.bible/>



**And now, our "clean joke":**

THE BIBLE THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD PART 3:

**Joshua**

Moses' best helper was Joshua. He was the first person to use spies. He fought the battle of Geritol. That's when the fence fell down on the town.

**David**

David came after Joshua. They made him king after he killed a giant with a slingshot.

**Solomon**

One of David's sons was called Solomon. He had, like, 300 wives and 500 porcupines. They told us in Sunday School that he was a really wise man, but that doesn't sound too wise to me.

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**T**hank you for taking your time to read my newsletter. If you don't wish to receive it anymore, just let us know. See you (some of you) at church on Sundays. God's peace in the Risen Christ!

In His service, **Rev. M. Zeuch**

On April 13, 2021 Anno Domini

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: [www.stmatthewlutherancalgary.com](http://www.stmatthewlutherancalgary.com)

**THE STAFF OF ST. MATTHEW**

Organist/Pianist: Johnson Philip

Cantor: Dana Salter

Youth Leader: Elizabeth Schieman

Secretary: Andrea Sovary (403) 266-1458

Chairman: Peter Graumann (403) 275-2166

Head Elder: vacant

*Church Office hours are 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Monday-Thursday*

