



# The “AGAPE” #22

## THE EASTER SEASON

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

**ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB – April 27, 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!

I do hope you are doing fine, under these unique circumstances in the world.

Before we bid goodbye to April, I wanted to remind you some important things that took place in a certain April in the past. I will mention two anniversaries: 500 years and 108 years!

**Number one:** have you ever heard about a “diet of worms”? no, it’s not a special diet from the nutritionist to eat fried worms! It was an important imperial meeting that took place in the German town of Worms back in April of 521 AD. We are celebrating 500 years this year of this fact. What is it about?

The main events of the Diet of Worms relating to Luther took place from 16 to 18 April 1521.

On 16 April, Luther arrived in Worms. Luther was told to appear before the imperial meeting called “Diet” at 4 p.m. the following day.

On 17 April, Johann von Eck. Eck asked if a collection of books was Luther's and if he was ready to revoke their heresies. There were 25 of them, probably

including *The 95 Theses*. Luther requested more time for a proper answer, so he was given until the next day at 4 p.m.

On 18 April, Luther, saying that he had prayed for long hours and consulted with friends and mediators, presented himself before the Diet. When the counselor put the same questions to him, Luther first apologized that he lacked the etiquette of the court. Then he answered, "They are all mine, but as for the second question, they are not all of one sort." Luther went on to place the writings into three categories: (1) Works which were well received even by his enemies: those he would not reject. (2) Books which attacked the abuses, lies and desolation of the Christian world and the papacy: those, Luther believed, could not safely be rejected without encouraging abuses to continue. To retract them would be to open the door to further oppression. "If I now recant these, then, I would be doing nothing but strengthening tyranny". (3) Attacks on individuals: he apologized for the harsh tone of these writings but did not reject the substance of what he taught in them; if he could be shown by Scripture that his writings were in error, Luther continued, he would reject them. Luther concluded by saying:

Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May

God help me. Amen.



According to tradition, Luther is said to have declared "Here I stand, I can do no other," before concluding with "God help me. Amen."

Private conferences were held to determine Luther's fate, but he was not arrested at Worms. Through negotiations by his prince, Frederick III, Luther had been given a letter of safe conduct to and from the hearing. After his dismissal he departed for his home in Wittenberg. However, fearing for Luther's safety, Frederick III sent men to fake a highway attack and abduct Luther, hiding him away at Wartburg Castle. We thank God for using such a courageous man to defend the truth of the Gospel in those dangerous times.

**Number two:** The second anniversary belongs to our congregation! It was back in April, 1913 that Jehovah Lutheran Church was holding the first worship service in Calgary. We are celebrating 108 years of uninterrupted Mission and Ministry, proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ in both German and English languages.

Happy birthday, Saint Matthew Lutheran Church Calgary! Thanks be to God!

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 now...enjoy your reading!

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

**PSALM 150** (From the Psalm for the Fifth Sunday of Easter)

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

<sup>4</sup> Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

<sup>5</sup> Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

<sup>6</sup> Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

## **AUF DEUTSCH:**

Halleluja! Lobet den HERRN in seinem Heiligtum; lobet ihn in der Feste seiner Macht!

<sup>2</sup> Lobet ihn in seinen Taten; lobet ihn in seiner großen Herrlichkeit!

<sup>3</sup> Lobet ihn mit Posaunen; lobet ihn mit Psalter und Harfe!

<sup>4</sup> Lobet ihn mit Pauken und Reigen; lobet ihn mit Saiten und Pfeifen!

<sup>5</sup> Lobet ihn mit hellen Zimbeln; lobet ihn mit wohlklingenden Zimbeln!

<sup>6</sup> Alles, was Odem hat, lobe den HERRN! Halleluja!

## **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 held our first Mission & Ministry retreat on April 24. The attendance was 20 people, and I think we can do even better. Since we had such a good discussion of the topics, and more time was needed, we decided to interrupt that meeting and continue it on Sunday, **May 2 at 2p.m.** for the second part of it. If you missed the first part, you can still participate on that second edition of the retreat. A password and link will be sent out later this week to all members in our list, so you can join us. If you are reading this newsletter on paper, you can call our office and ask Andrea for the password – you can even participate on the phone in case you don't have access to the internet. We hope to see many of you there, on zoom!

**3 – ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES:** We continue to offer 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 – 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 **1 Corinthians 15:57 "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."**

**7 – BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES:**

We thank God and celebrate the new birth in Christ of the following members:

April 27 – Rebecca Dean

April 27 – Alisanne Keller

April 28 – Willy Erismann

May 3 – Erika Sommerville

May 4 – Jonah Graumann

May 5 – Doug Beamer

May 5 – Giselle Smallwood

May 6 – Bettie Altenhof

May 8 – Douglas Weitz

May 9 – Drinda Weitz

**8 – THANK YOU!** Today I want to recognize and thank **MARGRIT OWEN**. Margrit is a long-time member of our church. She is currently part of the staff of the Lutheran Hospital Ministry – Southern Alberta Services. She has served SMLC in various capacities in the past and to this day, fills in for Andrea at the office, when our secretary is away. Margrit is also a reader for the German services and is always ready to serve wherever she's needed. If you call our office outside of the office hours, it's Margrit's voice that you will hear on the recording, asking you to leave a message. Thank you, Margrit! "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

**9 – SAD NEWS:** The Lutheran Hospital Ministries – Southern Alberta Society (LHM-SAS) has sent a letter to all congregations about an unfortunate situation that took place recently. Due to a very sophisticated and malicious scam, their bank account has been hacked and they have lost all their money they had. We, at SMLC consider this a very important ministry, as they care for the Lutheran members in hospitals and care centres. We will support them as best as we can, but I want to leave my special appeal here: please consider prayerfully to help out by sending them a donation of any kind if you can. You may visit our website to read the letter that was sent by Rev. Mark Rekken, director of the LHM-SAS and to learn more details about this. May God bless your decision to help!

Here is the contact information:

Lutheran Hospital Ministries - Southern Alberta Society

66 - 7 Street NE Calgary, AB T2E 4B7 (403) 264-4045 [lhmsac@gmail.com](mailto:lhmsac@gmail.com)

[www.lhmsa.ca](http://www.lhmsa.ca)

**10 - WALK FOR LOVE:** And one way to help out is participating on this “walk for love”. Here is a message they have sent out. “Thank you to all walkers and donors for your unfailing generosity towards Lutheran Hospital Ministries – Southern Alberta in the past walks. We are again asking for your support. Our annual fundraiser, a Walk/Run for Love, will take place on **May 1, 2021**. It has been approved by Alberta Health Services and we will follow the protocols.

We will meet at Faith Lutheran Church, 1903 – 19 Ave NW, at 8:30 am. The walk, a 5 km course through Confederation Park, begins at 9:30 am. If you love to walk or run, come and join us. This once-a-year fundraiser supports the Ministry in our training program for volunteer visitors, who visit patients in hospitals and care facilities. If you cannot walk or run, consider being a “virtual walker” by collecting pledges. Posters and pledge forms are available on our website [www.lhmsa.ca](http://www.lhmsa.ca). Our goal this year is to raise \$20,000. For more information about the Walk please contact us at (403) 264-4045 or [lhmsac@gmail.com](mailto:lhmsac@gmail.com). Thank you for your faithful support.

**11 – BIG SPRING CLEANING:** Do you like to see our church spotless and shiny? We are inviting volunteers to come help out cleaning our beautiful church building on Sat. May 15 @ 10 a.m. We will follow all protocols and practice social distancing. Our church is in need of a good extra cleaning. We try to do this once a year. Thank you for considering to be part of this team!

### **12 – WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK?**

April 27 (Tues): Online “church school” for kids @ 4:30 p.m.

April 27 (Tues): Online Youth Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

April 28 (Wed): Online Bible Study led by P. Zeuch @ 7 p.m.

May 2 (Sun): Worship services at regular times with the Holy Communion

May 2 (Sun): Online Mission & Ministry Retreat @ 2 p.m.

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

May 4 (Tues): Online Youth Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

May 5 (Wed): Online Bible Study led by Elizabeth @ 7 p.m.

May 6 (Thurs): Board of Elders online meeting

May 9 (Sun): Worship services at regular times (Mothers’ Day)

**Names of the upcoming Sundays:**

May 2: Fifth Sunday of Easter (Cantate)

May 9: Sixth Sunday of Easter (Rogate) – Mother’s Day in the secular calendar.

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

May 1 – St. Philip & St. James, Apostles

May 2 – Athanasius of Alexandrisa, Pastor and Confessor

May 4 – Friedrich Wyneken, Pastor and Missionary

May 5 – Frederick the Wise, Christian Ruler

May 7 – C. F. W. Walther, Theologian

May 9 - Job

You may check out those men and women and be inspired by their example!

## **GEISTLICHE LIEDER AUF DEUTSCH**

Wenn Sie diesen Newsletter am Computer lesen, können Sie hier unten klicken.

Am 2. Mai feiern wir den Sonntag der „Cantate“ genant wird: „Singet“ (dem Herrn). Hören Sie sich dieses wundervolle Lied an. Johann .S. Bach: Motet BWV 225 'Singet dem Herrn' - Vocalconsort Berlin. Genießen Sie es!

### **SINGET DEM HERRN EIN NEUES LIED**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lc14Jv1eTUE>



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

(in a very simple language)

# **Numbers**

The Book of Numbers is a law book in the Old Testament section of the Bible. But the Book of Numbers is also a history book. It is the story of the people whom Moses led through the desert. Moses counted the people in Numbers 1 and Numbers 26.

The people did not always obey God. They complained about the food in the desert (Numbers 11 and Numbers 21). They refused to enter the land that God had

promised to them (Numbers 13). They even wanted to return to Egypt (Numbers 14). This is why they were in the desert for 40 years.

The Book of Numbers also tells the story of Balaam. Balaam was a foreign prophet (holy man). Balaam intended to announce an evil fate for the people. But instead, Balaam saw that God was with them.

Balaam spoke only the words that God wanted him to say. So, Balaam blessed the people (Numbers chapters 22-24).

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



## And now, our “clean joke”:

THE BIBLE THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD – FINAL PART:

### Jonah and Other Prophets

After Solomon came a whole lot of major league profits. Jonah was one of them. He was swallowed by a whale, then barfed up on the beach.

There were some other minor league profits, but they weren't too important.

### The New Testament

When the Old Testament was done, they started the brand New Testament. Jesus was the Star. He was born in a barn in the town of Bethlehem. I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because then, when my mother says to me, "Close the door. Were you born in a barn?" I could say, "As a matter of fact, I was."

Jesus argued a lot with the Chef Priests, Republicans and Democrats. He had twelve opossums. Most of them were good, but Judas Asparagus was not. He was so bad, they named a really yucky vegetable after him.

Jesus healed some people and leopards. Then He preached to the Germans on the Mount. But the Chef Priests and politicians were mad at him and put Him on trial. Pilot was too chicken to stick up for Him, so he just washed his hands.

Jesus died for our sins and came back to life again. He went to heaven, but will come back at the end of the aluminum. We can read about this in the Book of the Revolution.

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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 27, 2021 Anno Domini

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: [www.stmatthewlutheranalgary.com](http://www.stmatthewlutheranalgary.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***

Watch us on

