



The “AGAPE” #24

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB

May 26, 2021

Proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ in Bridgeland since 1913

THE HOLY SEASON OF PENTECOST AND THE HOLY TRINITY

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

Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!

I am glad to send you my greetings again. I hope you are doing fine and in good health. I also hope you had a restful long weekend.

This edition of the Agape is reaching you a bit later in the week on purpose. I was waiting for the new guidelines from the Alberta Government regarding worship and attendance. We finally have good news! You will find it in the news section below.

We are wrapping up the month of May, having passed the Pentecost Sunday and looking towards this coming Sunday of the Holy Trinity. Time really flies. No wonder the ancient mythological Greek god of time called Chronos is often depicted as an old man with wings.

Christian churches all over the world is full of symbolism. Most of them will be singing the *Sanctus*, “triple Holy” in their services. We have them engraved on the altar paraments: “Holy, Holy, Holy”, based on Isaiah 6:3. You will hear about this on Holy Trinity Sunday (May 30) in the first reading. Luther wrote a wonderful liturgical hymn about this powerful text. It’s # 960 in our English hymnal (LSB). If you are reading this on an electronic version (computer, tablet, smartphone etc.), I invite you to listen to this choir rendition of this hymn. Grab your hymnal, click on the link below and sing along, hymn # 960:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-pswaKCDW0>



As you can see the picture on top of the first page, you probably recognize it as one of our stained-glass windows of our sanctuary. The three roses up there represent God the father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The rose is considered the “most perfect flower”, representing pure love that is marked by its sweet fragrance. For this reason, it is one of the symbols of Christ. In the Old Testament book of Song of Salomon, we see this reference for Christ: *“I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.”* (Song of Solomon 2:1)

You may also remember the symbol of the Reformation, the Luther’s Seal, which is a rose with a cross in the middle of a heart inside of this flower.

The Holy Trinity is difficult to explain. St. Patrick tried to teach children the concept of the Trinity using a three leaved shamrock (or a clove) in Ireland. Others try to explain that God is like fire: it has light, heat, and energy, but one fire in essence. None of these examples expresses properly what the Holy Trinity really is. We should not try to over-explain it, because it is one of those mysteries of faith. We just believe it and take it to heart. Luther wrote: “Here reason, corrupted by original sin, must be taken captive in the obedience of faith, nay, must be extinguished together with its light and wisdom”. (W 39 II, 253).

As God’s children, we want to remember this: what really matters is to know that there is **only one God**, that He manifests Himself to us in three different ways. He created me (**God the Father**) and sustains me and give me everything I need to live (first article of the Apostles’ Creed). He has redeemed me (**God the Son**) by becoming one of us, died and rose again (Second article of the Creed) to give me eternal life. God sanctifies me, He gives me faith (**God the Holy Spirit**), he gathers and enlightens me since the day I became His child (by baptism), which I confess on the Third article of the Creed. This is the Triune God we worship, we praise and honour!

Keep your faith alive, dear brother, and dear sister! In these dark times of lockdown, of isolation, of bad news, you need spiritual nourishment. Join us in worship, even if in your home. You are part of the family. Don’t allow Satan to steal the seed of faith that the Holy Spirit has planted in you! We are one in Christ, and we pray that we shall see each other soon, when we can gather again without restrictions as a Christian fellowship of saints, share the sacrament together, hug each other. Until then, stay strong, stay connected. Instead of complaining about why nobody has called you yet, pick up the phone and call someone you know from our fellowship.

May God the Father, may God the Son, may God the Holy Spirit strengthen you in your faith and hope. A blessed time of Pentecost to you all.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 – BACK TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES! We praise the Lord that we are able to physically come together once more for worship in our sanctuary, as of **May 30**. The new restriction for places of worship is 15% of our fire code seating capacity again. This means that we can accommodate up to 55 people for each service, as we had before the lockdown. We will continue to follow all the required protocols for the safety of all (social distancing, sanitizing, face mask, special communion procedures, etc.). Please don't forget to call to sign up for the services. Our office hours are Mon-Thurs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

2 – 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 "worldviews" under the bigger umbrella theme of "who are we, Lutherans?" every second and fourth Wednesday. Call our office or me (pastor) if you need the login info.

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

4 – MEMORY BIBLE VERSE: This week's memory verse is from the Psalm of the Holy Trinity Sunday (May 30): Psalm 29:11: *"May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!"*

Auf Deutsch: *"Der HERR wird seinem Volk Kraft geben; der HERR wird sein Volk segnen mit Frieden."*

5 – OFFERINGS VIA E-TRANSFERS: If you are so inclined to send your offering via e-transfer please use: smlccsecretary@shaw.ca to send your donation. 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 – BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES:

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

May 25 – Artur Avilkin

May 27 – Timothy Becker
 May 28 – Sarah Winstanley
 May 30 – Benjamin Robak
 May 30 – Russell Salter
 May 31 – Daniel Luft
 June 1 – Rudy Sieb
 June 3 – Theo Dillenberg
 June 4 – Halle Butterwick
 June 6 – Edith Dreifke

7 – MEMBER CALLED TO GLORY: It saddens me to announce that our dear brother in Christ, **FRED BUTLER** (92) has died on May 17th. Fred was a long-time member of our church and he was known by many of our members. He served as chairman and elder of our congregation for many years and he did a lot for our church properties, always taking care of whatever was needed. St. Matthew was his home right next to his home (literally). He was a faithful servant of



Christ. Fred was one of the first persons I met when I took the call to serve as pastor in Calgary. I can say that I lost a good friend! And I also say that we shall see him again! Arrangements are being done by the family for a private funeral. “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.” Psalm 116:15.

8 – SPRING CLEANING: A big Thank-you to all the faithful volunteers who helped out with our outdoors spring cleaning.

9 – WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK? (the Lord willing)

May 27 (Thurs): Online PPC meeting @ 7 p.m.
 May 30 (Sun): German worship service @ 9:30 a.m./ English service @ 11 a.m.
 June 1 (Tues): Online “church school” for kids @ 4:30 p.m.
 June 1 (Tues): Online Youth Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.
 June 2 (Wed): Online Bible Study led by Elizabeth @ 7 p.m.
 June 3 (Thurs): Online Board of Elders meeting @ 7 p.m.

June 6 (Sun): German communion service @ 9:30 a.m./ English communion service @ 11 a.m.

NAMES OF UPCOMING SUNDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS:

May 30 – The Holy Trinity

June 6: Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

May 31 – The Visitation

June 1 – Justin, Martyr

June 5 – Boniface of Mainz, Missionary to the Germans

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

SYNOD & REGION NEWS



† LCC PREPARES FOR THE 2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION.

As Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) begins preparations for 2022’s National Convention in Edmonton, A.B., the church is calling on its members to prayerfully consider nominations for synod’s boards and offices. In April, LCC sent a letter to all congregations inviting them to recommend candidates.

Any LCC member may recommend one or more persons for nominations to the following offices; they do not require a congregational vote. Descriptions of the offices and the responsibilities and qualifications for nominees are available in the letter. If you have access to the internet, you may click on the link below to read the letter.

<https://www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2021/04/CNE-Letter-2022.pdf>

† WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR SEMINARIES?

To prepare men to serve Lutheran Church–Canada as pastors, provide specialized education for deacons, and deliver continuing education for all, LCC established two seminaries: Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, ON (1976) and Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, AB (1984). The seminaries offer Master of Divinity (MDiv) programs leading to ordination, Master of Theological Studies (MTS) degrees, and additional courses onsite and online for pastors and laity.

GEISTLICHE LIEDER AUF DEUTSCH



Es ist Frühling! Bitte zeigen Sie dieses Video Ihrem deutschsprachigen Familienmitglied. Dieses Lied wird etwas Freude in ihre Herzen bringen!

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

GEH AUS MEIN HERZ UND SUCHE FREUD – (Paul Gerhardt)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-VLAKMxUw>

Genießen Sie es!

BIBLE LITERACY FOR CHILDREN:

A SUMMARY OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

(in a very simple language)

Joshua

Joshua led God's people after Moses died. Joshua brought the people into the land that God had promised to them. And he commanded their army in many battles against evil nations. God helped Joshua to win these battles. Joshua's first battle was the battle of Jericho (Joshua 6).

Joshua also directed the people to obey God's law (Joshua 5, Joshua 7 and Joshua 24). The Book of Joshua also contains records about the division of land (Joshua chapters 13-21).

The Book of Joshua is a history book from the Bible's Old Testament.

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



And now, our “clean joke”:

A new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his

repeated knocks at the door.

Therefore, he took out a business card and wrote 'Revelation 3:20' on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, 'Genesis 3:10.'

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3:20 begins 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock.' Genesis 3:10 reads, 'I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked.'

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Thank 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 this Pentecost season!

In His service,

Rev. Markus Zeuch

On May 26, 2021 Anno Domini

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: 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

