



The “AGAPE” #26

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB

June 28, 2021

Proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ in Bridgeland since 1913

THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST – THE NON-FESTIVE PERIOD OF THE CHURCH YEAR

A “BLOG-LIKE” NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!

Welcome to my abbreviated early summer edition of my newsletter!

I hope you are keeping cool in these record-beating temperatures!

Isn't it a blessing that we can come together at church for worship, that restrictions are being lifted and the we can still live-stream our services every Sunday on zoom? I know that more and more members will be coming back from a one-and-a-half year of pandemic isolation. But I also know that there are those who cannot make it to church...those who chose not yet to come...those who are in homes, maybe out of town etc. Our live-streaming appears to have come to stay. This way we can reach more people with our proclamation of God's comforting Word. Here are some tips for those who either participate live with us or watch is later after being recorded.

HOW TO ATTEND CHURCH ONLINE:

GET OUT OF BED AND GET DRESSED

It will put you in the right mindset for worship

GO THROUGH YOUR NORMAL SUNDAY ROUTINE

Minus the “hurry up – we're late” part

GATHER TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

No multitasking. Worship is a family activity

STREAM TO YOUR LARGEST SCREEN IF POSSIBLE

It will help you feel like you're really “there”



SPEAK AND SING AS IF YOU ARE IN CHURCH

You are before the same throne of God as those live-streaming from your church

God bless your worship, whether at church or at home.

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PASTOR’S TWO CENTS



Last week I was driving in the countryside as I went to preside over Fred’s committal at the family’s cabin. I realized that you can find many places across Canada where there are now hundreds of teddy bears, stuffed toys or children’s shoes on each fence post in support of the residential school victims and survivors. Some will think: “here goes the pastor with this topic again”. The reason I bring this up is because there where much more findings of unmarked indigenous cemeteries since my last “Agape”, totalling almost a thousand human lives, mostly children. And counting...

I hope you had a chance to read our last “Agape” when I addressed the issue of the residential schools. If not, I encourage you to go find it in our website and read it. In there, you may find the official letter that Rev. Teuscher, president to the Lutheran Church-Canada wrote.

I just want to say that there are some people who truly believe that “it was not all bad stuff” about those institutions. To my ears, this sounds indescribably unreal, unbelievably careless and just evil. Those “schools” are monuments of holocaust and genocide...of how monstrous our sinful nature can be and how much pain can “religion” inflict in the world when not connected to the Agape-kind of love: the love of God shown in Jesus Christ. May God change those hearts that think that there was some “good side” of this dark part of history. History never lies and it is irreversible. We just learn from it and educate the younger generations about what we can do better in our relationships with our indigenous brothers and sisters. And pray for healing and reconciliation. As someone said, “we cannot look away”.

There, those were my two cents.

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 – ANOTHER LONG-TIME MEMBER CALLED TO GLORY: Our dear brother in Christ, **Paul Rehmann** has left us this last Sunday, June 27. Paul was 94 and he is survived by his wife Ella and his two children, Rene and Harry. Paul used to be a very active member of our church, especially singing in the German choir. Please keep the Rehman family in your prayers.

You are invited to watch the funeral service live for our brother Paul on Zoom. It will take place on Saturday, July 3 at 1 p.m.

Here is the invitation:

Topic: Funeral Service for Paul Rehmann

Time: Jul 3, 2021 12:50 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83144451965?pwd=YzVrdVNyN0xvY2paV1pHeHlMZVdZZz09>

Meeting ID: 831 4445 1965 / Passcode: 622983

Or by phone: 587 328 1099

2 – SUMMER VACATIONS: If you are travelling somewhere this summer for a getaway, don't forget to watch our services online. Please be safe, stay cool and come back safely. Enjoy family, friends, God's creation, have fun. Don't forget that God promises to be with you wherever you are! May the Lord bless you in your adventures! I will be away from June 29 to July 8. If there's any emergency, please call our office or our chairman, Peter Graumann.



3 – JULY 4TH JOINT SERVICE: This coming Sunday we will have a reading service led by an elder and volunteers. Since your pastor is away, this will be a joint service. There will be some parts in German but mostly in English. Attention everyone: The joint service **starts at 10 a.m.** There is NO German service and there is NO communion. Thank you, Dana, Frieda, Johnson for leading the congregation in worship. The service will be recorded and live streamed on zoom. You will have the invitation in your email or you can call our office and ask Andrea for the login info.

4 – MEMORY BIBLE VERSE: Isaiah 41:10

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Auf Deutsch: “fürchte dich nicht, ich bin mit dir; weiche nicht, denn ich bin dein Gott; ich stärke dich, ich helfe dir auch, ich erhalte dich durch die rechte Hand meiner Gerechtigkeit.”

5 – BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES FOR JULY:

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

July 1 – Jim Duncan	July 17 – Koreen Graumann
July 2 – Helene Pilz	July 19 – Payton Becker
July 4 – Anita Mitzner	July 20 – Anneliese Dalmoro
July 7 – Tom Voortman	July 31 – Jason Forrester
July 9 – Jodie Cadman	July 31 – David Robak

6 – WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT DAYS?

July 3 (Saturday): Online Funeral service for Paul Rehmann – on Zoom @ 1 p.m.

July 4 (Sunday): Joint reading service, no communion. At 10 a.m.

July 11 (Sun): German worship service @ 9:30 a.m./ English service @ 11 a.m.

7 - NAMES OF UPCOMING SUNDAYS, CELEBRATIONS, FEASTS & FESTIVALS

June 28 – Irenaeus of Lyons, Pastor

June 29 – St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles

July 4 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 6 – Isaiah

July 11 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

GEISTLICHE LIEDER AUF DEUTSCH

„Geh unter der Gnade“. Ein Segen fuer den unterwegs des Lebens. Was fuer ein schoenes Lied! Bitte zeigen Sie dieses Video Ihrem deutschsprachigen Familienmitglied.



Ich hoffe dieses Lied wird etwas Freude in ihre Herzen bringen!
 Wenn Sie diesen Newsletter am Computer lesen, können Sie hier unten klicken.
 Genießen Sie es!

GEH UNTER DER GNADE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZjAgwn4j0s>



And now, our “clean joke”:

This pastor decided to skip church one Sunday morning and go play golf.

He told his assistant that he wasn't feeling well. He drove to a golf course in another city, so nobody would know him.

He teed off on the first hole. A huge gust of wind caught his ball, carried it an extra hundred yards and dropped it right in the hole, for a 450 yard hole in one.

An angel looked at God and said "What'd you do that for?" God smiled and said "Who's he going to tell?"

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Closing words

Thank you for taking your time to read my newsletter. I may sound like a broken record, but I will say it again: I have missed so many of you! We rejoice with the possibility to see all restrictions lifted, not only in Alberta, but in the world. We are planning to change our procedures very soon and go back to our old ways of celebrating worship services at church. We will keep you posted.

May God's peace fill your days ahead. And, before I forget, have a blissful, relaxing, peaceful and blessed SUMMER! If you don't wish to receive it anymore, just let us know.

In His service,

Rev. Markus Zeuch

On June 28, 2021 Anno Domini

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: 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

