



The "AGAPE" #32

(pre-advent time)

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB
November 10, 2021 Anno Domini

Proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ in Bridgeland for 108 years!

A "BLOG-LIKE" NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

Hello dear SMLC Family!

I am hoping you are doing well with God's grace!

Last November 9th we commemorate the birth of Martin Chemnitz, pastor and confessor. Have you heard of him? He played an important role in the ongoing Reformation that had just started in Europe. He wrote the **Formula of Concord**, one of our confessional documents. Last month we talked about the Reformation and our focus was the Diet of Worms in 1521. Chemnitz was born a year after this imperial assembly. Luther was 38 back then.

Martin was a popular name in the Middle Ages, in honour of *Martin of Tours*, Bishop and confessor (born in modern-day Hungary in 316 AD). Luther was given the name *Martin* in honour of him when he was baptized, a day after his birth. Luther was born on November 10th (Happy 538th birthday, Martin!) and baptized on November 11, 1583. So, the "three Martins" were used by God to spread the truth of the Gospel of Christ in Europe in different times and circumstances. May we follow their example, their boldness, faith, and courage to stand up for our beliefs!

Spiritual one-liners: which ones do you agree with?

- * "Pray" is a four-letter word you can say anywhere - except in public schools.
- * Man's way leads to a hopeless end - God's way leads to an endless hope.
- * A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing. |
- * He who kneels before God



Martin Chemnitz
November 9

Time Period 1522 – 1586

Who was he?

A theologian and the principal author of the 1577 Formula of Concord.

Did you know?

- He was a theologian and churchman with an almost encyclopedic knowledge of Scripture and the church fathers.
- When doctrinal disagreements broke out after Luther's death, he gave himself fully to the restoration of unity in the Lutheran Church.
- He also authored the four-volume Examination of the Council of Trent, in which he rigorously subjected the teachings of this Roman Catholic Council to the judgment of Scripture and the ancient church fathers.

can stand before anyone.

- * To be almost saved is to be totally lost.
- * In the sentence of life, the devil may be a comma - but never let him be the period.
- * Don't put a question mark where God puts a period.
- * Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a facelift.
- * When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty.
- * Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.
- * We don't change God's message - His message changes us.
- * The church is prayer-conditioned.
- * When God ordains, He sustains.
- * WARNING: Exposure to the Son may prevent burning.
- * Plan ahead - It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
- * Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.
- * Exercise daily - walk with the Lord.
- * Coincidences happen when God chooses to remain anonymous.
- * Wisdom has two parts - 1) having a lot to say 2) not saying it.
- * Never give the devil a ride - he will always want to drive.
- * A clean conscience makes a soft pillow.
- * Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.
- * Compassion is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.
- * He who angers you controls you.
- * Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.
- * Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.
- * Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- * Be ye fishers of men - you catch them & He'll clean them.
- * Deciding not to choose Jesus is still making a choice.
- * God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.
- * Read the Bible - It will scare the hell out of you.
- * If God is your co-pilot - swap seats.

(From douglasjaboby.com)

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 - PRAYER REQUEST: Rev. Michael Keith is pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Stony Plain, AB. He holds a certificate in Grief and Death studies. He has written an article called "The journey through Grief" in the last edition of the Canadian Lutheran. If you are reading this newsletter on an electronic device, you may read his article by clicking [HERE](#).

After he wrote this article, a tragedy struck his family! Please pray for the Keith family. Here is a Facebook post by Pastor Mike:

"Dear friends, many of you will have already heard of the tragic death in our family. Our beloved daughter Naomi died Wednesday afternoon.



My daughter was a beautiful person. Yet, she had many struggles. While there is a temptation for us to want to cover over the reality of what has happened and avoid a certain “stigma,” we will not do so. We don’t feel that honours her and her struggle. We will not use euphemisms. Naomi struggled with mental health issues. On Wednesday she took her life.

We are heartbroken. As a pastor I am supposed to have words to say. I know many may expect it of me at this time. However, I must confess, as a father I struggle to find words at this time. Please forgive me. Do not misunderstand my lack of words for a lack of faith. Even through tears we tell each other in our home often: Naomi rests with Jesus. It’s a simple phrase that brings profound comfort. I baptized her 17 years ago. Jesus took her in His hand then. He will not let go. He did not let go. Naomi rests with Jesus.

Romans 8:38–39: “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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➤ **SCHOLARSHIP FUND AVAILABLE!**

Did you know that St. Matthew Lutheran Church has a scholarship fund set up for members of our congregation who wish to study at one of our seminaries to become a church worker (pastor, deacon or Director of Parish Services)?

Here is some information taken from the Concordia Seminary’s website:



How do I know Pastoral ministry is right for me?

The Holy Spirit can use an inner compulsion in your heart that God wants you to proclaim the Gospel and to shepherd a congregation of believers as the first step to lead you to be a pastor. Yet such inner compulsion may come from false motivations so it is hazardous to place great stock in such an “inner call.”

Since we believe that the Holy Spirit works through other people and other physical means, a better indicator that God wants you to “aspire” to be a pastor is the objective assessment by other believers that you have the gifts from God for this “noble task” (1 Tim. 3:1).

Affirmation by other believers should be supplemented by your own self-evaluation to recognize that you can serve the need of God’s people and the humility to realize that you need to be taught the skills to effectively carry out the tasks of the ministry.

Ultimately, you will want those entrusted with this task to affirm that you have the necessary skills and welcome a formal call from God through a particular congregation of believers to serve them with the Word and Sacrament as a servant of Christ.

Pastoral Studies

While Concordia's primary focus is to prepare men for the pastoral ministry of Lutheran Church-Canada and beyond, we do offer a number of other programs and sessional workshops aimed at equipping followers of Christ to be leaders in their church community.

Men who wish to become a Pastor in a Lutheran-Church Congregation need to complete our four-year Master of Divinity program and meet all the requirements of a Theological Diploma. These two programs are offered concurrently and are generally completed by candidates in a four-year program of studies.

Diaconal Studies

Concordia Lutheran Seminary has a program designed to prepare men and women to serve as deacons in congregations of Lutheran Church-Canada. Deacons are individuals who work alongside pastors and support them in the work of caring for God's people. While deacons do not preach or administer the sacraments, they serve in countless other ways, including teaching adults, children and youth, visitation, evangelism, and, where their talents allow, congregational music.

Those who wish to become deacons in a congregation of Lutheran Church-Canada must complete the two-year Graduate Diploma in Parish Services and meet all the requirements of a Vocational Certificate in Diaconal Ministry that certifies them for diaconal ministry in LCC.

Open Studies

Concordia also offers learning opportunities for students who do not wish to enter a degree program. "Open Studies" permits students to take credit courses that are not part of program leading to a degree or diploma.

If you choose to later enter a degree or diploma program, open studies taken at Concordia may be credited.

Upon completion of 24 credits in the Open Studies program students can qualify for a "Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies"

Seminars and Workshops

Concordia also offers seminars and workshops to professional ministry staff and interested congregation members in Christian churches in a variety of topics presented by permanent and sessional faculty.

Concordia Lutheran Seminary 7040 Ada Blvd, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4E3 (780) 474-1468

➤ **SUNDAY IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES:**

We continue to follow all health and safety protocols. Social distance and face masks are mandatory. If you choose not to come for in-person worship, you can still be with us online with our live streaming of services on Zoom. The third option is to watch the whole service later at our website. So, there are different ways to stay connected with us and in fellowship with the Lord. However, you cannot take communion online! We offer the Lord's Supper every first and third Sunday. I will love to see you at church!

➤ **BIBLE STUDY:** Online Bible studies take place **every Wednesday** on Zoom, except when there is a fifth Wednesday. We continue to study **the Augsburg Confession**. Please join us and be blessed!

➤ **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** If you are a confirmed and voting member, you are invited (should I say "summoned"?) to participate in our Fall Congregational Meeting on Nov 21,

at 2 p.m. from the comfort of your home. We will be using zoom. We do have very important items to discuss and to plan for the year ahead. Here is the login info:

Topic: Congregational Meeting

Time: Nov 21, 2021 02:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87276765262?pwd=R2tqOXd0MWdhRXFvTWkxbk9DUmlvQT09>

Meeting ID: 872 7676 5262

Passcode: 313592

Or Dial 587 328 1099 Canada

➤ **WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT DAYS?**

- Nov 15 (Mon): Online confirmation class for kids
- Nov 16 (Tues): Pastor leads worship service @ Bethany Riverview
- Nov 17 (Wed): Online Bible Study (pastor) @ 7 p.m.
- Nov 18 (Thurs): Parish Planning Council online meeting @ 7 p.m.
- Nov 21 (Sun): German communion service @ 9:30 a.m.
- Nov 21 (Sun): English communion service @ 11 a.m.
- Nov 21 (Sun): Congregational Meeting on Zoom @ 2 p.m.
- Nov 22 (Mon): Online confirmation class for kids
- Nov 23 (Tues): Youth Bible Study (online)
- Nov 24 (Wed): Pastor attends the Calgary Circuit “winkel”.
- Nov 24 (Wed): Online Bible Study: The Augsburg Confession (Siegrid) @ 7 p.m.
- Nov 25 (Thurs): Online PPC & Elders meeting 7 p.m.
- Nov 28 (Sun): German worship service @ 9:30 a.m./ English worship @ 11 a.m.
- Nov 29 (Mon): Online confirmation class for kids
- Dec 1 (Wed): Online Bible Study (pastor) @ 7 p.m.
- Dec 2 (Thurs): Board of elders’ meeting on Zoom @ 7 p.m.
- Dec 5 (Sun): German communion service @ 9:30 a.m.
- Dec 5 (Sun): English communion service @ 11 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November 2021						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
Notes:						
<small>www.jan-dec-calendar.com</small>						

➤ **SPECIAL DAYS, CELEBRATIONS, FEASTS & FESTIVALS**

- Nov 10 – Martin Luther, Doctor and Confessor
- Nov 11 – Remembrance Day / Martin de Tours, Pastor
- Nov 14 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Third Sunday of End Time)
- Nov 14 – Emperor Justinian, Christian Ruler and Confessor of Christ
- Nov 19 – Elizabeth of Hungary
- Nov 21 – Last Sunday of the Church Year
- Nov 23 – Clement of Rome, Pastor
- Nov 28 – First Sunday in Advent (Hanukkah begins)
- Nov 29 – Noah
- Nov 30 – St. Andrew, Apostle
- Dec 4 – John of Damascus, Theologian and Hymnwriter

Dec 5 – Second Sunday in Advent
 Dec 6 – Nicholas of Myra, Pastor
 Dec 7 – Ambrose of Milan, Pastor and Hymnwriter

GEISTLICHE LIEDER AUF DEUTSCH

Ich hoffe Sie geniessen es!

Wenn der Heiland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44fOaEPRUwM>



And now, our giggle for the week: jokes and puns

The church was badly in need of a coat of paint. So the pastor decided he'd do the job himself. But all he had was one bucket of paint. So he got a bunch of buckets and some water, and he thinned the paint enough to cover the entire church. Then he spent all day painting. That night it rained—very hard—and washed all the paint off. The pastor was quite discouraged and asked God, 'Why...why God, did you let it rain and wash off all my hard work?'

To which God thundered his reply, 'Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!'



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Thank you for taking your time again to read my newsletter. If you wish to send me an email giving your feedback about this edition, I will be glad. Tell me what you like or dislike, so we can always improve the next "Agape's". May God's peace fill your days ahead. Have a blessed pre-Advent time!

In His service,

Rev. Markus Zeuch

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: www.stmatthewlutheranalgary.com

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube!

We offer pastoral care in English, German, Portuguese, and Spanish.

THE STAFF OF ST. MATTHEW

Organist/Pianist: Johnson Philip

Cantor: Dana Salter

Youth Leaders: Elizabeth Schieman & Emilie
 Graumann

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