

The “AGAPE” #36

A “BLOG-LIKE” NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB

February 03, 2022 Anno Domini

Proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ in Bridgeland for 109 years!

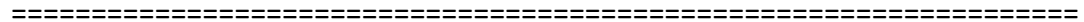
We made it to the end of January with God’s help and guidance! The year already started with its ups and downs. We start February asking ourselves: Is the pandemic really becoming an endemic? What will happen with the conflict between Russia and Ukraine? How will the volcanoes in the planet behave this year? What will February “throw at us”?

From the Latin word *februa*, (to cleanse), the Roman calendar month of Februarius was named for Februalia, a festival of purification and atonement that took place during this period. Probably that is the reason why the Christian church has placed “the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord” on February 2nd. We are still celebrating the Epiphany of our Lord (the season of lights) during the entire month, where we emphasize Jesus’ manifestation (from the Greek *epiphaneia*) as God and man. The earliest Christians called the Feast of the Epiphany the Theofany (“revelation of God”). When the Gentile Magi come to worship Jesus, they show that everyone now has access to God. Now all people, Jew and Gentile, can come to God’s temple to worship, because Jesus is the new temple: God in the flesh.

So, come join us in worship: let us worship Jesus, who manifested Himself to us and who wants to continue to show his mercy, love, and compassion to us. Come worship with us at church. But if you cannot, if you have your own reasons why not to come to church for worship, you can still be with us in worship by participating at home, over zoom. Just so you know, there is a concern out there in Christianity all over the planet that people may get used to how easy and convenient it is to just stay home and “watch” the services. Remember: we can’t take communion in an online service! Also, real fellowship is hard to exercise in an online format of worship. We need to be reminded that we were called for fellowship (“koinonia” in Greek), one of the pillars of the church. The live streaming of services is meant for mainly two reasons: so that, 1) members may worship during a pandemic and 2) to reach those who are unable to come for in-person services. There’s a very positive aspect of the live-streaming services,

though. We can invite our friends and relatives from all corners of the world to be with us on those services. I encourage you to invite them. The only factor that can be “tricky” are the time zone differences. Something you must make sure is doable. We now have a few German-speaking people watching our German services from Brazil on Sundays!

Be it either at church or on the screen, it will be a blessing to see you for worship next Sunday! And may God bless you and your loved ones!



UPCOMING DATES TO HIGHLIGHT: SUNDAYS, CELEBRATIONS, FEASTS & FESTIVALS

FEB 5 (Sat): Jacob (Israel), Patriarch

FEB 6 (Sun): The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. German worship service with Holy Communion @ 9:30 a.m. / English worship service with Holy Communion @ 11 a.m. We will also baptize little Everett Butterwick!

February 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		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					

FEB 8 (Tues): Pastor leads worship service at Bethany Riverview senior home.

FEB 9 (Wed): Pastor leads worship service at Rocky Ridge Retirement Home

FEB 9 (Wed): Online Confirmation Class @ 4:30 p.m. Online Bible Study @ 7 p.m.

FEB 10 (Thurs): Silas, Fellow Worker of St. Peter and St. Paul

FEB 13 (Sun): Sixth Sunday after Epiphany. German worship service @ 9:30 a.m. / English worship service @ 11 a.m.

FEB 13 (Sun): Aquila, Priscilla, Apollos

FEB 14 (Mon): Valentine, Martyr

FEB 15 (Tues): Philemon and Onesimus

FEB 16 (Wed): Online Confirmation Class @ 4:30 p.m. Online Bible Study @ 7 p.m.

Feb 16 (Wed): Philipp Melanchthon (birth), Confessor

FEB 17 (Thurs): Online PPC meeting @ 7 p.m.



YOUTH GROUP: Our youth group will continue to have online Bible studies and some social activities, depending on the Covid restrictions. The frequency of the meetings and dates will be sent out to the group. Also, some of our youths are considering attending the National Youth Gathering. Here is the information: **“The 2022 National Youth**

Gathering will be in Winnipeg from July 15-19, and registration is available now until April 15, 2022. The theme is “In Not Of,” based on Philippians 3:20. If you are a youth (between grades 7 to 12 in June 2022), please plan to join us! For more info, visit <https://lccnyg.ca/registration/>.

BIBLE STUDY: We have now finished the study on the Augsburg Confession. Our next topic will be: “Finding Christ in the Old Testament”. We are also asking for your suggestions for topics to study for the near future. And if anybody is willing to help out by leading Bible studies, don’t be shy...come talk to me (pastor). The sessions are on zoom every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. until further notice. Hope to see you there!

PPC SECRETARY: The PPC is looking for a secretary. The position is approximately 3-6 hours per month. Previous experience not necessary, but the ability to take notes and type is an asset. Meetings are done via Zoom and are held 9 months/year. If you want to become involved and share your talents, this is a minimal time commitment position that has huge support from the PPC team. Please contact Peter Graumann for more information.

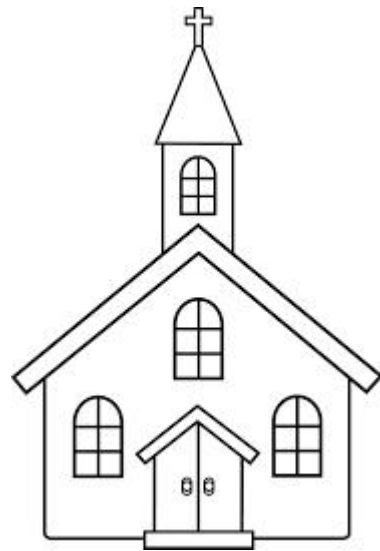
ST. MATTHEW LOCAL MISSIONS: During 2022 please continue to support our following local missions: St. Matthew Food Cupboard, Bridgeland Women’s Centre and Calgary Kerby Centre for Seniors. Boxes for donations will be in the narthex! Thank You!

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FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA - website: lutheranchurchcanada.ca

CHURCH TERMINOLOGY: What does it mean?

Are you new to Lutheranism? Or maybe you’re looking to brush up on your church terminology? This page will walk you through some of the “Lutheran Buzzwords” you may encounter from your first steps through the door and into a typical Divine Service at your local Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) congregation. If you are coming from a different denominational background, or even if you have never stepped foot in a church before, you may find that you are already familiar with many of these terms. It is helpful to keep in mind that this glossary of church terminology approaches these words from a confessional Lutheran context.



As you enter the church. . .

The Narthex

Greek for “enclosure.” The narthex is an entryway or gathering room leading into a church. This area is sometimes also referred to as a “vestibule” or “foyer.” In the narthex people often gather before and after Divine Service to greet each other. It is an area bridging the “sacred” and the “secular”. In our church we don’t have a large narthex but we do have a “parish hall”.

Please be seated . . .

There’s more to come in our next Agape!

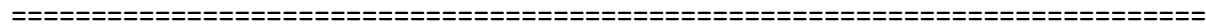
THOUGHT ON THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (from Lutherans for Life)

Jesus radiates the glory of God among human beings humbled by sinful brokenness. This glory resides not in a certain age or a particular appearance or a specific ability but in God’s love for us creatures as His children. Let us behold this glory embodied in the least of these and remind neighbors of their eternal worth. *Holy Son of God, lead us to listen and mimic You in respecting, protecting, advocating, and assisting. Amen.*



BAPTISM: We plan to bring to God’s family little Everett Butterwick on Feb 6! We also baptized his sister Halle back in 2017. The family is moving to Florida, but they wanted their son to be baptized here in our midst. May God bless the family in the new chapter of life!

OUR WEBSITE: We have had some additions to our website. It’s always a work in progress. If you click on SMLC STAFF you will find my biography (click on “meet our pastor”), as well as Johnson, our organist’s biography. You may check it out by visiting our website. <http://stmatthewlutheranalgary.com/>
Big thank you to Warren, who always takes care of the page and the uploading of weekly bulletins and services!



LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA’S SYNODICAL CONVENTION 2022

If you are reading this newsletter electronically, you may have access to the entire first pre-convention bulletin dating from Sept 2021 by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.lutheranchurchcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2021/10/2022-Pre-Convention-Bulletin-1.pdf>

The Twelfth Regular Convention of Lutheran Church–Canada will meet from June 10-13, 2022. It will be held at the Delta Hotels Edmonton South Conference Centre in Edmonton, Alberta.

Some important dates for congregations:

February 10, 2022 Deadline for congregations to return to the Synod office the Nomination Forms for President, Vice-President, and Regional Pastor

March 10, 2022 Deadline for congregations to return to the Synod office the Nomination Form for Circuit Counsellor

March 12, 2022 Deadline for congregations to return to the Synod office the Appointment Form for Pastor and Lay Delegates from the congregation.

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DIE DEUTSCHE ECKE: AUS UNSERE WEBSEITE

Was wir Evangelisch-Lutheraner lehren, glauben und bekennen

- Wir bekennen den Glauben der historischen christlichen Kirche, wie er in den drei Glaubensbekenntnissen (das Apostolische, das Nizänische und das Athanasische) immer gelehrt wurde, dass es nur einen wahren Gott gibt und doch in diesem einen Gott drei Personen sind: Gott der Vater, Gott der Sohn (Jesus Christus) und Gott der Heilige Geist.
- Wir bekennen, dass, seit Adam in Sünde gefallen ist, alle Menschen völlig sündig gezeugt und geboren werden, unter Gottes Zorn stehen und nicht in der Lage sind, sich selbst zu retten.
- Wir bekennen, dass Gott der Sohn von der Jungfrau Maria geboren wurde. Dieser Jesus Christus, der wahrer Gott und wahrer Mensch ist, ist am Kreuz gestorben und auferstanden, um die Welt vor Gottes Zorn zu retten. Wir warten auf seine Rückkehr am Jüngsten Tag, um die Welt zu richten und uns, seine Kinder, in den Himmel zu bringen.

- Wir bekennen, dass uns nicht aus eigener Kraft vor Gott vergeben werden kann, sondern dass wir die Vergebung der Sünden empfangen und bei Gott aus Gnade, um Christi willen, durch Glauben gerecht werden.
- Wir bekennen, dass Gott uns den Weg bereitet hat, diesen rettenden Glauben zu empfangen: Der Heilige Geist hat versprochen, Glauben zu schenken, wenn Pastoren das Evangelium predigen und die heiligen Sakramente verteilen.
- Wir bekennen, dass diejenigen, die an Jesus Christus glauben, ihren Glauben durch ihre Liebe und ihre guten Werke anderen zeigen.
- Wir bekennen, dass Gott uns in der Heiligen Taufe zu seinen Kindern macht, uns Glauben schenkt und unsere Sünden abwäscht. Die Taufe ist daher für alle Menschen notwendig: Säuglinge, Kinder und Erwachsene gleichermaßen.
- Wir bekennen, dass wir, wenn wir unsere Sünden wirklich bedauern und sie bekennen, von unserem Pastor Vergebung für diese Sünden erhalten, so als ob Christus die Worte selbst gesprochen hätte.
- Wir bekennen, dass im Abendmahl der wahre Leib und das wahre Blut Jesu Christi in Brot und Wein wirklich gegenwärtig sind und dass wir sie zur Vergebung der Sünden mit unserem Mund aufnehmen.

Die Grundlage aller lutherischen Lehren ist die Bibel. Martin Luther und die anderen Reformatoren schrieben eine Reihe von Dokumenten, die auf Anschuldigungen antworteten, dass ihre Lehre im Widerspruch zu den allgemein verbreiteten Überzeugungen und Praktiken der Kirche des 15. Jahrhunderts stand. Diese auf der Bibel basierenden Verteidigungen und Argumente wurden vor einer Reihe theologischer Versammlungen präsentiert. Schließlich wurden sie im Konkordienbuch zusammengestellt. Diese umfassen die Lehre und das Bekenntnis der lutherischen Kirche.

EIN BEKANNTES LIED IN EPIPHANIAS

Ich hoffe Sie genießen es!

Jesus, meine Zuversicht

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1I-WtCzibQg>





How to get into Heaven

A man dies and meets St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. Peter says to the man, "Here's how it works. You need to have one hundred points to get into heaven. You tell me about all the good things you've done. They are all worth a certain number of points. If your total is one hundred or more, you can come in."

"Well," says the man. "I was happily married to the same woman for 52 years. I never looked at another woman. I was attentive and loved her dearly."

"That's great," says St. Peter. "That'll be two points."

"Hmmm," says the man. "This is going to be harder than I thought. Well, I attended church regularly, volunteered my time and tithed faithfully."

"Wonderful," says St. Peter, "That's worth another point."

"One point!" says the man. "Okay, okay. I was involved with a prison ministry for twenty-five years. I went into the prison, at least monthly, and shared Jesus with them."

"Wow!" says St. Peter. "That's another two points!"

"Only two points!" says the man. "At this rate, it'll be only by the grace of God that I'll ever get into this place."

"Bingo!" says St. Peter. "That's one hundred points! Come on in."

Thank you for taking your time to read my newsletter. May God's peace fill your days ahead.

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