

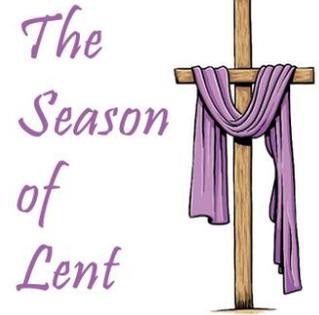
The “AGAPE” #38

A “BLOG-LIKE” NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB

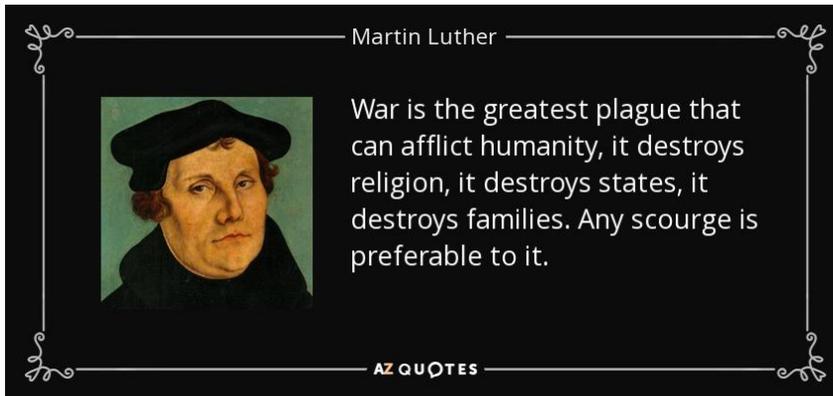
March 9, 2022 Anno Domini

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



Peace be with you, dear brothers and sisters.

Peace is what the world desperately need. We are in times of war, a deep global humanitarian crisis. Martin Luther said this about war:



Luther also said: “Nothing good ever comes of violence”. As I write this Agape, thousands of people are fleeing from Ukraine, hiding in bunkers and basements, leaving everything behind or

losing property and family. Families are having to separate; hundreds are being killed...sound familiar, right? You know the horrors of the present situation. I don’t need to repeat what we see in a daily basis in the news. But what the daily news don’t tell us is the situation of our brothers and sisters in the Lutheran church in Ukraine. They need our support and prayers. You may have seen the emergency appeal issued by the Lutheran World Relief. You may help through this organisation.

Here is a letter from an LCC pastor that served in Ukraine (from the LCC website).

UKRAINE – Rev. Roland Syens, Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) pastor emeritus and former LCC Missionary-at-Large to Ukraine, has written the following letter providing further updates concerning the people and pastors of the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ukraine (SELCU):

Today as I write it is Saturday, March 5, 2022. I have been able to talk with a number of our pastors in Ukraine and have been asked to share the updated information.

Pastor Oleg Schewtschenko is in Odessa and has just returned from driving refugees fleeing from Ukraine to the Romanian Border. He along with Bishop Alexander

Yurchenko and some of the other pastors continue to drive from Odessa to the Romanian or Polish border to take the women and children and elderly to safety. At the border they have contact with a Romanian Lutheran pastor whose son is at the border helping to process papers and get those coming to people who can help.

Pastor Oleksiy Navrotskyy is in the city of Nikolaev (Mykolaiv) he has sent his wife, Vika, and two sons to Romania where Vika, when she crossed into Romania was asked to help others with paper work. Now she and her sons are in Germany staying with members of the Lutheran Congregations who also have Russian/Ukrainian roots. Pastor Navrotskyy continues to provide shelter and help through the congregation he serves. At this time he has informed me that most of the women and children of his congregation have now left for Romania and then to Germany. He cares for his mother who did not want to leave as well as some of the elderly in the church keeping it open for those who need shelter. Very often he hears the sounds of war in the distance. Pray that the LORD give him wisdom for what next steps to take.

Pastor Sergei Bezv in Dnipro has sent his wife with two small children to Germany. The church in Dnipro has opened its doors to help others, many as they need a place as they pass through to get to other countries. The town of Zarya where he also serves has been preparing themselves to receive refugees and also to help the soldiers who pass through. Most of the villagers have prepared their root cellars with supplies so that when the fighting draws nearer they have a safe place to take shelter. They continue to share the love of God and the faith that comes in Jesus. Pastor Bezv has been using his vehicle to transport people to the train station in Dnipro to get on the special evacuation trains or to drive people to Odessa and connect with Pastor Schewtschenko and the others to take them to the border.

Pastor Valera Verba continues to help in Odessa as his town of Nova Kakhovka has been invaded by Russian forces and he is trying to find ways to help by getting food to his members. He also helps with the driving of refugees to the borders.

Pastor Rudolph Kraus is serving a congregation in Yalta, Crimea. He is fine as he was already part of Russia when they annexed the Crimea on February 20, 2014. He continues to serve and is very concerned for his fellow pastors.

The other pastors are holding up with Jesus holding them up. It is a very difficult time as they never know when a bomb will hit their area. However, they continue to share Jesus and are so grateful for the faith that God has given to them. When times of fear grow and the stress gets very difficult, they tell me that they are comforted by the fact that

the LORD is their Shepherd and that they have salvation because of His sacrifice on the cross.

Our mission in Lviv – Dima is our contact person and his wife and two children are in Poland. He continues to be a resource person to help people at train stations who need to change trains, to give information on border lines and help out where he can. He has a great faith in God and a great love for Jesus.

Practical Needs

Practical needs – They need finances as they have been needing to drive many kilometers to transport people and gas tanks need to be filled. They need money for food as they care for others. They need finances to help others who have no finances to travel by trains or a few dollars when they cross over borders. They need money to help those they feed in the churches, that have become a lighthouse of hope, for those fleeing or who have already lost their homes to war. They need support as they minister to soldiers and feed them and share the message of God’s love for them in Jesus.

Pray, pray, pray

Ministry continues as they have the greatest message to share with people who are desperate for hope, help and eternal life. Thank you for your prayers. Pray for God’s wisdom to our pastors in Ukraine who need to make quick and life changing decisions.

Pray for border guards that God would give them compassion and wisdom as they process people through the borders. Pray for Russian soldiers who don’t know God’s love for them so that their eyes might be opened to see God’s heart. Pray for the leaders of all countries that God gives them wisdom to know how to fight this battle. Give wisdom to all those who are making decisions in this invasion to bring it to an end. Especially pray for orphans, physically challenged individuals whose mobility is limited and for all the children who don’t understand and need love, especially God’s love in Christ Jesus. Pray for churches as they open up their facilities and care for others so that they are given the supplies they need to care for others and the wisdom to help others in their time of crisis. Pray, pray, pray. for God’s help and His will to be done.

Support

*If you want to help financially and would like the funds to go to our churches in Ukraine and the ministry they are giving to others then please send your gifts to Lutheran Church–Canada’s **Ukraine Aid Fund**.*

In prayer... for Ukraine and Russia,

Rev. Roland Syens, pastor emeritus in Vancouver, B.C., is Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC)’s former Missionary-at-Large to Ukraine.

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I want to close this message with a verse of a hymn which is a prayer. Let us pray:

Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord.
Peace in our time, oh, send us!
For there is none on earth but You,
None other to defend us.
You only, Lord, can fight for us. Amen.



(From *Lutheran Worship* hymn 219.)

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MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Special dates, services, celebrations, activities, events...

MAR 14: (Mon): Memorial service for Ray Ross @ 1 p.m.

MAR 15 (Tues): Youth online Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

MAR 16 (Wed): Online confirmation class;

MAR 16 (Wed): Evening Lenten Service @ 7 p.m. (in-person);

MAR 17 (Tues): Online PPC meeting @ 7 p.m.

MAR 17 (Thurs): Patrick, Missionary to Ireland;

MAR 19 (Sat): St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

MAR 20 (sun): Third Sunday in Lent (Oculi): German worship service with Holy Communion @ 9:30 a.m. / English worship service with Holy Communion @ 11 a.m.

MAR 20 (Sun): Online Congregational meeting on zoom @ 2 p.m.

MAR 21 (Mon): Johann Sebastian Bach (birth), Kantor;

MAR 22 (Tues): Youth online Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

MAR 23 (Wed): Calgary Circuit Winkel – pastor leads Bible study @ Trinity, Torrington;

MAR 23 (Wed): Online confirmation class;

MAR 23 (Wed): Evening Lenten Service @ 7 p.m. (in-person);

MAR 25 (Fri): The Annunciation of Our Lord;

March 2022						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	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	31			

MAR 26 (Sat): Presentation on Ukraine @ 7 p.m. (online, on zoom);

MAR 27 (Sun): Fourth Sunday in Lent (*Laetare*). German worship service @ 9:30 a.m. / English worship service @ 11 a.m. Blessing of the new board members.

MAR 29 (Tues): Youth online Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

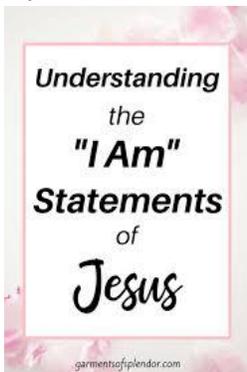
MAR 30 (Wed): Online confirmation class;

MAR 31 (Thurs): Joseph, Patriarch;

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MISSION & MINISTRY

MIDWEEK EVENING SERVICES DURING LENT: We have started the Lenten services with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. The in-person services start at 7 every Wednesday with the theme: *“The seven I AM statements of Christ in the Gospel of John”*. Mark it on your calendar:



- March 9: “Jesus, the Door of the Sheep” (Rekken)
- March 16- “Jesus, the Light of the World” (Zeuch)
- March 23- “Jesus, the Good Shepherd” (Rekken)
- March 30- “Jesus, The Way, the Truth and the Life” (Zeuch)
- April 6- “Jesus, the True Vine” (Rekken)
- April 14 (Maundy Thursday) - “Jesus, the Bread of Life” (Zeuch) – with Holy Communion

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CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Mark it on your calendar. If you are a communicant and voting member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church (SMLC), you are invited to be present at our spring session of the (online) Congregational Meeting. It will take place on **March 20 (Sunday) at 2 p.m.** over *Zoom* platform. Important decisions and communications happen on these meeting, you don’t want to miss out! If you don’t have access to the internet, you can still participate over the phone by dialing (587) 328 1099. The Meeting ID is 831 4517 3105 and the passcode is 176967

LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA’S SYNODICAL CONVENTION 2022

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:

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.

READING: CHURCH TERMINOLOGY- What does it mean?

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FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA'S WEBSITE: lutheranchurchcanada.ca

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...you see



The Chancel

The section of a church building beyond the nave where the altar and pulpit (and often the baptismal font) are located.



The Altar

Together with the font and pulpit, the altar is the chief focal point of the church building. Here as the pastor prepares the Sacrament of Holy Communion or the Eucharist, the elements of bread and wine are consecrated. We believe they become united with the true body

and blood of Jesus given for our forgiveness. Here also the prayers of God's people are offered on behalf of the church and the world.

There's more to come in our next Agape!

DIE DEUTSCHE ECKE: Ein Gebet für den Frieden in der Ukraine

Manchmal finden wir einfach keine Worte für die schrecklichen Dinge, die auf der Welt passieren. Der Krieg in der Ukraine macht uns fassungslos. Beten Sie mit:

Herr, du mein Gott,
du Gott des Friedens,
wir haben Krieg.
Es ist Krieg in der Ukraine,
Krieg auf der Welt.

Ich leide mit.
Ich weine mit den Menschen
im Kriegsgebiet.

Hilf Herr, du mein Gott,
ich bitte dich, hilf.
Hilf den Menschen in der Ukraine,
hilf denen, die flüchten müssen,
bleib bei denen, die verzweifelt
und in Angst zurückbleiben,
stärke die, die jetzt sinnlos
um ihr Leben kämpfen müssen
und sich fürchten vor dem Tod.

Tröste die Mütter,
tröste die Väter,
tröste die Kinder.
Wische ihre Tränen aus den Augen.
Tröste auch uns mit deiner Liebe.

Ich bin so hilflos.
Ich habe Angst, um die Menschen im Kriegsgebiet,



ich habe Angst, vor einem noch größeren Krieg,
ich habe Angst, um die, die ich liebe.

Herr, wie kann ich helfen?
Wie kann ich trösten?

Herr, ich bitte dich um Frieden,
ich bete für den Frieden in der Ukraine,
um Frieden in den Kriegsgebieten der Welt.

Lass mich nicht verzweifeln.
Lass mich an die Hoffnung glauben, dass alles gut wird.
Bleibe bei uns, bleibe bei mir, du mein Gott, des Friedens.

Von Madeleine Spendier (katholisch.de)

LIED: VERLEIH UNS FRIEDEN

Melodie: Frankfurt a.M. 1557, bei Cyriakus Spangenberg 1568, bei Sethus Calvisius 1597 (Quelle: ELKG2, Lied 699).

Wenn Sie Zugang zum Internet haben, können Sie hier klicken, um sich dieses Video anzuhören. Dieses Lied wurde von meinem brasilianischen Freund Rodney Krick aufgenommen, der in Deutschland lebt. Ich denke, es ist angemessen für den Moment in der Geschichte, in dem wir leben. Ich habe seine Erlaubnis, es hier zu zeigen.

Ich hoffe Sie genießen es!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mfkimJbff8>



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

In His service,

Rev. Markus Zeuch

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: www.stmatthewlutheranalgary.com

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube!

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil 4:7

