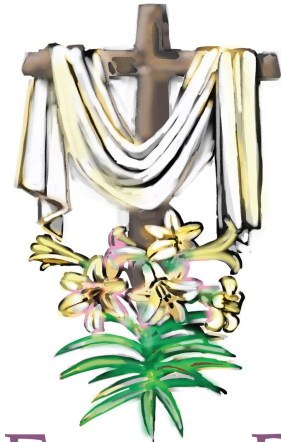


The “AGAPE” #40

A “BLOG-LIKE” NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

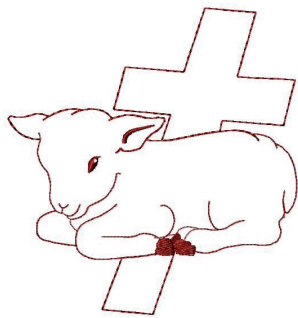
ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB
April 17, 2022 The Resurrection of Our Lord!



EASTER

He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!!

It can become increasingly hard for a Christian family to keep their children’s attention on Jesus, while celebrating certain holidays. Often times, we as Christians can become easily distracted by made-up characters and pagan traditions and lose focus of the true reasons for celebration.



Resurrection Sunday is another one of those holidays where many struggle to divert their children’s focus away from the Easter bunny, baskets filled with candy, and colorful eggs and make sure they understand the true meaning of what we are actually celebrating. As believers, we know Resurrection Sunday is a celebration about the best news anyone could ever hear! News that is better than any mythical bunny or pagan Easter tradition. News that our Lord and Savior not only died, but ROSE

from death TO LIFE for us!

The Creator of the universe offered up His only son, Jesus Christ to die a horrid death on a cross, for every one of us. Jesus became the sacrificial lamb, used to take away the sins each of us choose daily... so that one day we too can join our Father in Heaven. Once Jesus had taken His last breath, Joseph and Nicodemus went to Him. “Taking Jesus’ body the two then wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen.” John 29:40 They then placed Jesus in a tomb and a large stone was rolled against its entrance.

Everyone thought it was over... they thought their King was defeated. Little did they realize, the words Jesus was proclaiming before his death were about to come to fruition... Sunday was coming! Three days after Jesus’ burial, we experience a miracle.

EASTER

“It’s not about
a bunny
It’s all about
The Lamb!”

Exodus 12:1-14



Jesus is risen! DEATH HAS BEEN DEFEATED! We will gladly choose the Lamb over the bunny. God bless your Easter season!

NEWS FROM THE WORLD

Finnish Lutheran Bishop and Politician acquitted after Facing Trial for teaching the scriptural truth about human sexuality

We thank God for the deliverance of two Lutheran pastors who stood up for Biblical teaching on human sexuality. Their “hate speech” charges were dropped. You may read the article on Christianity Today by clicking below (if you are reading this electronically):

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2022/march/finland-hate-crime-lgbt-lutheran-pohjola-rasanen.html>

You may also read it (and watch it) on Fox News by clicking below:

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/case-dismissed-finnish-mp-bishop-in-free-speech-religious-liberty-trial>



PRAY FOR UKRAINE! HELP UKRAINIAN FAMILIES!

I am keeping the same part from our previous edition of Agape because I think it's important. We continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in the Ukraine while the war still sweeps over the country as I write these lines. Lord, have mercy.

There are many ways you can help families who are in need right now. There is the “Ukraine Emergency Appeal” through the Canadian Lutheran World Relief. If you are interested, click on the link below:

<https://www.clwr.org/product/E-104/ukraine-crisis>

As some have already received this in their emails, there is also the LCC Ukraine Aid Fund. This fund will provide specific support for the pastors and people of the congregations of the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Ukraine (SELCU). Here is

the link if you read this newsletter electronically: <https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10976>

And there is also opportunity to help through St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor Calgary: <https://stvlads.com/aid>

And, if you are reading this newsletter on your electronic device, you may click here to read an article written by pastor Roland Syens in the Canadian Lutheran:
[The most powerful weapon is not nuclear: Jesus and the war in Ukraine.](#)



MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!



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

APR 17 (Sun): Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of Our Lord: German worship service with Holy Communion @ 9:30 a.m. / English worship service with Holy Communion 11 a.m.

APR 18 (Mon): Easter Monday. Office is closed;

APR 19 (Tues): Youth online Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

APR 20 (Wed): Online confirmation class; Johannes Bugenhagen, Pastor

APR 21 (Thurs): Online PPC meeting @ 7 p.m. / Anselm of Canterbury, Theologian

APR 22 (Fri): Earth Day

APR 24 (Sun): Second Sunday of Easter. German worship service @ 9:30 a.m. / English worship service @ 11 a.m. / Johann Walter, Kantor

APR 25 (Mon): St. Mark, Evangelist

APR 26 (Tues): Youth Bible Study (online) @ 7:30 p.m

APR 27 (Wed): Online confirmation class;

APR 27 (Wed): Online Bible Study on zoom @ 7 p.m.

MAY 1 (Sun): Third Sunday of Easter: German worship service with Holy Communion @ 9:30 a.m. / English worship service with Holy Communion 11 a.m. / St. Philip and St. James, Apostles

MAY 2 (Mon): Athanasius of Alexandria, Pastor and Confessor;

MAY 3 (Tues): Youth Bible Study (online) @ 7:30 p.m

MAY 4 (Wed): Online confirmation class;

MAY 4 (Wed): Online Bible Study on zoom @ 7 p.m. / Friedrich Wyneken, Pastor and Missionary

MAY 5 (Thurs): Board of Elders meeting @ 7 p.m. / Frederick the Wise, Christian Ruler

May 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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				

MAY 7 (Sat): C. F. W. Walther, Theologian

MAY 8 (Sun): Fourth Sunday of Easter, Mothers' Day. German worship service @ 9:30 a.m. / English worship service @ 11 a.m. / Coffee Hour in the basement.

MAY 9 (Mon): Job

MAY 10 (Tues): Pastor leads worship service at Bethany Riverside Senior Home

MAY 10 (Tues): Youth Bible Study (online) @ 7:30 p.m

MAY 11 (Wed): Pastor leads worship service at Rocky Ridge Retirement Home

MAY 11 (Wed): Online confirmation class;

MAY 11 (Wed): Online Bible Study on zoom @ 7 p.m.

MAY 11 (Wed): Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs;

MAY 15 (Sun): Fifth Sunday of Easter: German worship service with Holy Communion @ 9:30 a.m. / English worship service with Holy Communion 11 a.m.

READING: CHURCH TERMINOLOGY- What does it mean?

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

Communion Ware Special vessels or "dishes" are used to serve Holy Communion. There is usually a dish (paten) upon which the wafers are carried and a large cup (chalice) in which the wine is poured. There may also be a large pitcher (flagon) which holds a larger amount of wine and another container (ciborium) which holds a larger amount of wafers.



The Communion Rail A “fence” separating the nave (the pew area) from the area of the altar (chancel/sanctuary). The communion rail often functions as a support for those kneeling to receive Holy Communion.

The Pulpit (from Latin *pulpitum* “scaffold”, “platform”, “stage”). This is the place from which a pastor preaches the sermon. The sermon is a message based upon the Word of God in the Bible. Through the preached Word, people hear about the Good News of the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life.

The Lectern The lectern is the reading stand from which the Word of God is read. In some churches it is highly ornamented, though usually less so than the pulpit. The Word of God is read to the congregation and through it God strengthens and creates faith in those who hear it.

The Paraments This is the general term for the liturgical cloths placed on the altar, pulpit, and lectern. The paraments are usually in various colours for use during specific seasons and days of the church year. They are often adorned with artwork illustrating a biblical theme.

There’s more to come in our next Agape!

DIE DEUTSCHE ECKE

Genießen Sie jetzt wieder das Grosse Hallelujah Choral von J. F. Haendel. Man kann es nie genug hoeren!

Wenn Sie dies auf Ihrem Computer lesen, können Sie hier klicken, um es anzuhören:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUZEtVbJT5c>

Ein gesegnetes Osternfest. Der Herr ist auferstanden. Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden! Hallelujah!

Der HERR ist auferstanden, er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden! (Lukas 23,34)

Ostern ist endlich da, das größte Fest der Christenheit. Aber ist das größte Fest nicht Weihnachten? Naja, bei dem Trubel, den wir um Weihnachten veranstalten, könnte man das denken.

Da wird fleißig gebacken, geschmückt, Geschenke eingepackt ... Der Gottesdienstbesuch darf natürlich auch nicht fuer viele fehlen. Da sind die Kirchen rammelvoll, oft müssen zwei oder mehr Gottesdienste durchgeführt werden.

Und zu Ostern? Vielleicht gibt es da ja gerade noch halbvolle Kirchen, da lockt das herrliche Frühlingswetter und das lange Wochenende uns doch eher in die Natur hinaus.

Aber was wäre eigentlich Weihnachten ohne Ostern? Na klar musste Jesus erstmal geborgen werden. Aber weniger der Anfang, sondern doch eher die Vollendung seines Werkes hier auf Erden ist doch für uns von entscheidender Bedeutung. Am Kreuz von Golgatha hat Jesus Christus mit seinem Blut alle Menschen, die an ihn von ganzem Herzen glauben, reingewaschen von ihren Sünden, unsere Verfehlungen mit in den Tod genommen. Aber Jesus ist nicht im Tod geblieben!

Der Engel sagte:
Jesus
*ist nicht hier,
 denn er ist
 auferstanden
 wie er gesagt hat.*
 MATTHÄUS 28,5+6

Er ist auferstanden und die beste Nachricht zu Ostern ist: Wenn Jesus das Zentrum unseres Herzens ist, dürfen wir gewiss sein, dass der Tod auch über uns keine Macht mehr hat, sondern dass wir ewiges Leben haben werden, gemeinsam mit Jesus Christus im himmlischen Paradies. Und dort gibt es keinen Tod mehr, keine Schmerzen,

keine Trauer, keinen Neid, keine Krankheiten ... Alles Schlechte auf dieser Welt ist dann weg! Ist das nicht eine phantastische Botschaft?

Wissen auch Sie, wo Sie sein werden nach Ihrem Tode? Haben auch Sie schon diese Heilsgewissheit? Sollten Sie unschlüssig werden bei dieser Frage, dann nehmen Sie Ostern zum Anlass, das Johannes-Evangelium im Neuen Testament der Bibel zu lesen und beten Sie zu Jesus Christus, dass er der Retter und Herr auch Ihres Lebens wird!

Jesus spricht: „**Ich bin der Weg, die Wahrheit und das Leben, niemand kommt zum Vater denn durch mich.**“ (Johannes 14,6)

In diesem Sinne wünsche ich Ihnen ein gesegnetes Osterfest.