

# The “AGAPE” #44

(The time after PENTECOST)

A “BLOG-LIKE” NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB

October 13, 2022




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Hello dear SM family!

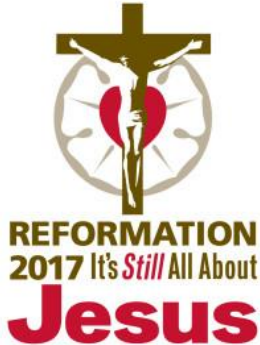
With God’s help we made it thus far: it is mid-October, the month that brings us Lutherans together to celebrate the Reformation movement that started back on October 31, 1517. The picture on the top right shows the letters VDMA – Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum (The Word of the Lord Endures Forever). It is the motto of the Lutheran Reformation, a confident expression of the enduring power and authority of God’s Word.

The motto is based on 1 Peter 1:24–25 “For all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but **the word of the Lord remains forever.**” And this word is the good news that was preached to you”.

In German: “Denn alles Fleisch ist wie Gras und alle Herrlichkeit der Menschen wie des Grases Blume. Das Gras ist verdorrt und die Blume abgefallen; aber **des HERRN Wort bleibt in Ewigkeit.** Das ist aber das Wort, welches unter euch verkündigt ist.

It first appeared in the court of Frederick the Wise in 1522. He had it sewn onto the right sleeve of the court’s official clothing, which was worn by prince and servant alike. It was used by Frederick’s successors, his brother John the Steadfast, and his nephew John Frederick the Magnanimous. It became the official motto of the Smalcaldic League and was used on flags, banners, swords, and uniforms as a symbol of the unity of the Lutheran laity who struggled to defend their beliefs, communities, families, and lives against those who were intent on destroying them. It was found inscribed inside churches, over doorways, on foundation stones, even on horse’s helmets! There is a doorway in Braunschweig, Germany where I lived as a child that shows this motto.

All around us will pass away, but God’s Word is eternal...it remains forever. And it will always point to Christ, the Lamb of God, the Word Himself. As we celebrate the



Reformation this year, let us be reminded that **“it’s still about Jesus”**, as the logo for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in the Lutheran Church Missouri stated back in 2017.

The VDMA logo and statement has appeared throughout Lutheran churches worldwide and remains an enduring motto of the Reformation to this day.

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## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

**BIBLE STUDY:** We are studying the book of Hosea right now. Our online meetings last one hour (from 7 to 8 p.m.) weekly and YOU are invited to participate! If it’s your first time, be welcome to our little group...if you have been in the past, welcome back! May God bless our time together.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** Our five confirmands are now in their second year. They will be participating more actively in a few Sundays at church as part of their assignment. They have classes online every week and are getting prepared for their confirmation day in April next year. We thank teachers Koreen and Heather for their faithful work.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** Emilie Graumann was now officially “installed” as our new youth leader. Lori Salter and Koreen Graumann will assist her in this important ministry. We hope to also reach young adults with our activities. There is a social gathering (a “fun activity”) every first and third Friday of the month. There is also **online Bible study** for them every second and fourth Tuesday of the month led by me, your pastor. We ask you to encourage your children / grandchildren to be part of this.

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## MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

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

**OCT 16 (Sun):** 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Communion worship services: In German at 9:30 a.m. In English at 11 a.m.

**OCT 17 (Mon):** Ignatius of Antioch, Pastor and Martyr

**OCT 18 (Tues):** St. Luke, Evangelist

**OCT 18-20:** Pastor attends the Alberta Church Workers Conference in Westeros, AB

**OCT 20 (Thurs):** Online confirmation class on zoom

**OCT 21 (Fri):** Youth fun activity – starts at 7 p.m.

**OCT 23 (Sun):** 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. German worship service @ 9:30 a.m. English worship service @ 11 a.m. No communion.

**OCT 23 (Sun):** St. James of Jerusalem, Brother of Jesus and Martyr

**OCT 25 (Tues):** Dorcas (Tabitha), Lydia and Phoebe, Faithful Women

**OCT 25 (Tues):** Youth Bible study (online) 7-8 p.m.

**OCT 26 (Wed):** Bible study for all (online) 7-8 p.m.

**OCT 27 (Thurs):** Online confirmation class. PPC meeting at 7 p.m.

**OCT 28 (Fri):** St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

**OCT 28 (Fri):** Youth joint activity at Foothills Lutheran Church

**OCT 29 (Sat):** Thanksgiving celebration – 5 p.m.

**OCT 30 (Sun):** Reformation Sunday. German worship service @ 9:30 a.m. English worship service @ 11 a.m. No communion.

**OCT 31 (Mon):** Reformation Day

**NOV 1 (Tues):** All Saints' Day

**NOV 2 (Wed):** Bible study for all (online) 7-8 p.m.

**NOV 3 (Thurs):** Online confirmation class. Elders' meeting at 7 p.m.

**NOV 4 (Fri):** Youth fun activity – starts at 7 p.m.

**NOV 6 (Sun):** Daylight Saving Time ends! All Saints' Sunday. Communion worship services: In German at 9:30 a.m. In English at 11 a.m.

**NOV 8 (Tues):** Pastor leads worship service at Bethany Riverview Home.

**NOV 8 (Tues):** Youth Bible study (online) 7-8 p.m.

**NOV 9 (Wed):** Bible study for all (online) 7-8 p.m.

**NOV 10 (Thurs):** Online confirmation class. Luther's birthday!

**NOV 11 (Fri):** Remembrance Day – wear a poppy!

**NOV 13 (Sun):** 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. German worship 9:30 am / English at 11 am. There's no communion.

**NOV 13 (Sun):** Congregational Meeting (online) 2 p.m.

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**WORSHIP TERMINOLOGY:** What does “worship” mean? Naturally we think of our praise and thanksgiving to God, through which we acknowledge Him as our majestic Creator and Redeemer. But before we can do this, God must come to us with His saving gifts. When Lutherans say “worship,” we include both activities. The term “divine service” gets across this twofold action in our Christian gatherings (“Gottesdienst” in German). “The idea is that God serves us with His gifts in Word and Sacrament, and we serve Him by responding in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving” (Lutheranism 101: Worship, p. 48). The old Greek word “liturgy” means much the same: “Properly speaking, it refers to the Divine Service in which God serves His people with the gifts of Word and Sacrament. ‘The Liturgy’ is also used to refer to the historic rite (order) of the Divine Service” (Lutheranism 101: Worship, p. 174).

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## DIE DEUTSCHE ECKE

**Müde bin ich, geh' zur Ruh** Autor: Luise Hensel

Müde bin ich, geh' zur Ruh',  
schließe beide Äuglein zu.  
Vater, laß die Augen dein  
über meinem Bette sein.

Hab ich Unrecht heut getan,  
sieh' es, lieber Gott, nicht an!  
Deine Gnad' und Jesu Blut  
machen allen Schaden gut.

Alle, die mir sind verwandt,  
Gott, laß ruhn in deiner Hand.  
Alle Menschen groß und klein,



sollen dir befohlen sein.

Kranken Herzen sende Ruh,  
 nasse Augen schlieÙe zu,  
 laÙ den Mond am Himmel steh'n  
 und die stille Welt beseh'n.



### REMEMBER ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6:



Thank you for taking your time to read the new edition of Agape. Enjoy the fall season – even if the “white stuff” comes our way one of these days! And may God’s peace fill your days with His presence!

In His service,

**Rev. Markus Zeuch**

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Visit our website: [www.stmatthewlutheranalgary.com](http://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