

## APRIL 2025

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

*112 years proclaiming Christ in Bridgeland!*

By Rev. Markus Zeuch



The week before Easter is called Holy Week. Our Lenten preparation and repentance deepens as we focus on the events of Jesus' life from His entrance into Jerusalem until His death on the cross and burial in the garden tomb.

Palm Sunday, the first day of the Holy Week, commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21: 1-11). Because the complete account of the Lord's Passion from Matthew, Mark, or Luke is often read, this Sunday is also called the Sunday of the Passion.

On Holy (Maundy) Thursday, the church gives thanks to Jesus for the institution of His supper. This is a feast day, and the colour used to decorate the church is white. The Holy Thursday service closes with the stripping of the altar. This reminds us of how our Lord stripped to the waist to wash His disciples' feet – and how He was stripped and beaten before His crucifixion.

Good Friday is the most solemn of all days in the Christian Church; yet a note of joy remains, as the title of the day indicates. On Good Friday, as we remember that on account of our sin the Lord was crucified and died, we give joyful thanks to God that all sin and God's wrath over sin falls on Jesus and not on us, and that by His grace we receive the benefit of this most sacrificial act.

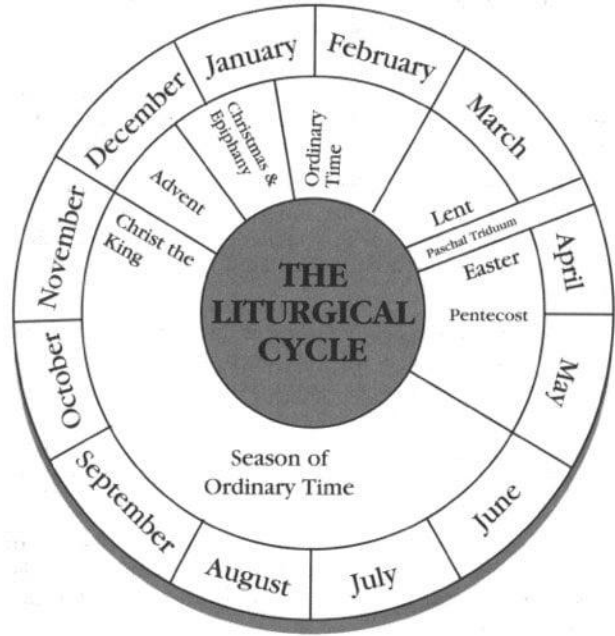
### **During Holy Week, we worship our Lord, who gave His life for us.**

Readings for the Holy Week: Matth 26-27 Mark 14-15 Luke 22-23 John 18-19

### **Holy Week practices and traditions:**

- In many churches, the colour for Holy Week continues to be violet. In others, the colour is scarlet, a deep blood red. Scarlet reminds us of Jesus' blood shed as He suffered and died for our sins.
- Many congregations read the Passion narrative during special midweek services of Lent. But on each day of Holy Week, the whole story of the events leading to Jesus' death and burial is read from a single Gospel.

- While in Lent, we forgo singing the joyous Alleluia response, and we do not sing the Gloria in Excelsis. In Holy Week, we go a step further as we give up singing the Gloria Patri – our joyous praise to the Trinity at the end of all the Psalms we use in worship. Omitting these joyous words makes our worship even more reserved and somber.
- Many churches observe Holy Week by gathering for special services throughout the week.



From the "pastoral Desk Diary 2025" (CPH)

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## HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



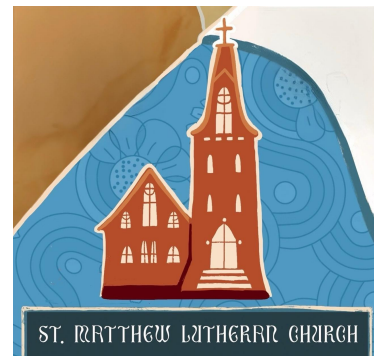
*First Council of Nicea by V.Surikov (1876)*

This year, we celebrate a milestone within Christian history: the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea (325 AD). If you like church history, I recommend the reading of this article about the First Council of Nicaea, written by Richard A. Beinert in the online version of The Canadian Lutheran. Just click on the picture (if you are reading the Agape on your electronic device, of course). Otherwise you can grab a hard copy of The Canada Lutheran January/February edition at the church and read the article on page 9.

### **SPEAKING OF HISTORY, HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

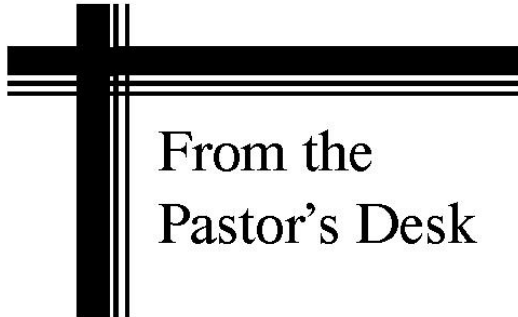
April is actually considered the month of our anniversary! St. Matthew is celebrating 112 years of blessings! These are the highlights of **our history for April:**

1913 (April) Jehovah Lutheran Church begins.



1945 (April) The present church & parsonage property are acquired from the Moravian Church.

1999 (April) Renovations started in the spring of 1998 are completed.



**NEW MEMBERS:** The most common day for Lutheran congregations to hold their confirmations is Palm Sunday (April 13). This month we have a special blessing among us: receiving new members through Profession of Faith and through Holy Baptism. Praise be to God!

**Profession of Faith:**

Carson Read  
Wikie Maree (Vicky)  
Daniel Glysinskie

**Infant Baptism**

Evelynn Griffiths (non-member)

**Adult Baptism:**

Nichole Hill (Niki)



**Three of our members have been called to glory in March:**

- Martha Osterling (funeral was on March 27)
- Renate Schulz (funeral was on March 31)
- Rudy Sieb (Private funeral, just for the close family)

**We pray that our good Lord may give comfort and peace to the bereaved families in the hope of resurrection and a joyful reunion in heaven!**



**PASTOR'S HEALTH** – You probably noticed that your pastor has a persistent chronic coughing problem. Speaking is my working tool as a minister. While I struggle with doctor appointments to find out what's going on, I am having to ask for helpers during services, cancel Bible studies, refrain from doing hospital visits etc. It's embarrassing to go to senior homes as well. I thank all of you who try to help me by giving me recipes to get better. While this cough (loss of voice

and fever sometimes) persists, please be patient. It is very upsetting to me to go through this, but I know God is with me. Please keep this pastor in your prayers for healing. Thank you, dear SM family!



## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

### ENVELOPE SECRETARY POSITION BECOMING VACANT MAY 31<sup>st</sup> 2025.

The PPC is looking to fill the envelope secretary position. Please see the description for the by-laws below. The time commitment is about 1 hour a week in the church office doing data entry from the weekly offering summary prepared by the counters. Monthly PPC meetings the last Thursday of the month via Zoom and quarterly congregational meetings. Printing and preparation of the year-end tax receipts is about a half day as well as preparation of the yearly envelopes in the early December. Anyone interested in volunteering for this vital position or if you have any questions, please speak with one of the current PPC members.

- a. Shall order offering envelopes each year by June for the following year. These are to be distributed to the Congregation starting the first of December and as required.
- b. Record all Congregational monies received through offering envelopes and prepare individual statements for all contributions received during each calendar year.
- c. Notify the Board of Stewardship and the Pastor concerning contributions by non- members.

We wish to thank Debora Klaus for her many years of service in this position.



**GIFTING AND RECEIPTS:** If you write a cheque to St. Matthew Lutheran Church but then identify a person or family to be the recipient of the cheque on the Memo line or in some other fashion, St. Matthew can not issue a tax donation receipt for this value. The reason is that this person or family is not a charity. You can write cheques or donate to St. Matthew Lutheran "the church" or to a specific project that St. Matthew Lutheran Church is doing like the stairs or stained-glass windows or a mission and get a tax receipt. This information is directly from the CRA.



## A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON OUR OFFERINGS: A MATTER OF FAITH



Giving is not just about generosity; it is an act of worship and trust in God's provision.

Giving our offerings to the church is an opportunity to sow seeds of faith and watch them bear fruit in the community.

Through giving, we participate in the work of God's kingdom, sharing in His mission to bless others.

**"For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 2 Corinthians 9:7**



**LUTHERAN HOSPITAL MINISTRIES' ANNUAL WALK, RUN OR ROLL FOR LOVE:** Thank you to all walkers and donors for your unflinching generosity towards Lutheran Hospital Ministries – Southern Alberta Society in the past walks. Our annual fundraiser, a Walk, Run or Roll for Love, will take place on **Saturday, April 26, 2025**. Registration is at Faith Lutheran Church, 1903 – 19 Ave NW, at 8:30 am. The walk, a 5 km course through Confederation Park, begins at 9:30 am. If you love to walk or run, come and join us. This once-a-year fundraiser supports the Ministry in our training program for volunteer visitors, who visit patients in hospitals and care facilities. If you cannot walk or run, consider being a "virtual walker" by collecting pledges. For more information about the Walk please contact us at (403) 264-4045 or [lhmsac@gmail.com](mailto:lhmsac@gmail.com). Thank you for your faithful support.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** The board of Elder's is hosting a Men's Breakfast on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month, with the next one being held on **April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. A complimentary breakfast is served at 9 am followed by a 1-hour bible study starting at 10 am. We have just started an interesting study on the Psalter and will be continuing that study for the next several months. Hope to see you all there for a morning of food, fun and fellowship. All are welcome!



## Easter: It's Not About the Bunny...It's About the Lamb.



By [Kaitlyn Willing](#) (from [auburn.momcollective.com](http://auburn.momcollective.com))

As a family centered around The Lord, it can become increasingly hard to keep our 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 I struggle to divert my 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. Jesus is risen!

DEATH HAS BEEN DEFEATED!

Now THAT is what I want my children to reflect on and celebrate when they think of Easter. This is why my husband and I find it crucial to integrate christian books and activities into celebrating each holiday. Not only are they fun for our children, but they also help to explain the importance and true meaning of holidays (like Easter) in a memorable way.



## WHAT'S PLANNED FOR APRIL?

**April 1 (Tues):** Online Bible Study @ 7 pm

**April 2 (Wed):** Pastor holds service at Bethany Riverview at 10:30 a.m.

**April 2 (Wed):** Lenten Evening Service @ 7 p.m.

**April 3 (Thurs):** There's no confirmation class

**April 3 (Thurs):** Board of Elders' online meeting 7 p.m.

**April 6 (Sun):** Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.

**April 7 (Mon):** Adult catechesis

**April 8 (Tues):** Bible Study (online) @ 7 p.m.

**April 9 (Wed):** Pastor hold service at Bethany Calgary at 10:30 a.m.

**April 9 (Wed):** Lenten Evening Service @ 7 p.m.

**April 10 (Thurs):** Staff luncheon

**April 10 (Thurs):** Confirmation class (online) 7 p.m.

- April 12 (Sat):** Men's Breakfast @ 9 a.m. followed by Bible study
- April 13 (Sun):** Palm Sunday services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.
- April 14 (Mon):** Adult catechesis
- April 15 (Tues):** Bible Study (online) @ 7 p.m.
- April 17 (Thurs):** Holy Thursday communion service @ 7 p.m.
- April 18 (Fri): Good Friday services. German at 9:30 a.m. and English at 11 a.m.**
- April 20 (Sun): Easter services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.**
- April 21-25:** Pastor is away
- April 24 (Thurs):** PPC meeting @ 7 pm
- April 26 (Sat):** LHMSA Walk of Love 8:30 a.m.
- April 27 (Sun):** Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.
- April 27 (Sun):** Bible Study in Portuguese (online) @ 5 p.m.
- April 29 (Tues):** Bible Study (online) @ 7 p.m.

## TO OUR GERMAN-SPEAKING CONGREGATION:

Die Geschichte des Lammes

Bibelstellen: 1. Mose 22,7.8; 2. Mose 12,5; Jesaja 53,7; Johannes 1,36; 1. Petrus 1,19; Apostelgeschichte 8,32.35; Offenbarung 5,6; 19,7; 21,9.23,



Die Geschichte des Lammes Gottes durchzieht die Bibel wie ein roter Faden. Schon mit den Rücken von Fell bei Adam und Eva zeigt Gott, dass ein stellvertretendes Opfer sterben muss, um die Sünde zu bedecken. Abel schloss daraus im Glauben, dass man Gott nur auf der Grundlage eines blutigen Opfers nahen kann.

Isaak stellt dann auf dem Weg nach Morija die entscheidende Frage: „Wo ist das Schaf (o. Lamm) zum Brandopfer?“, und Abraham gibt die weise Antwort: „Gott wird sich ersehen das Schaf (o. Lamm) zum Brandopfer“ (1. Mo 22,7.8). Doch blieb die

Frage Isaaks die ganze Zeit des Alten Testaments hindurch unbeantwortet. Was aber die Geschichte Isaaks bereits andeutet: Das Opfer wird nicht ein Tier sein, sondern ein Mensch.

Durch die Anweisungen zum Passah und die Prophezeiung Jesajas kamen noch weitere Kriterien hinzu, die das Opferlamm erfüllen musste: Es musste ein „Lamm ohne Fehl“ sein, und dieses Lamm musste „stumm sein vor seinen Scherern“ – ein stiller Dulder (2. Mo 12,5; Jes 53,7).

Johannes der Täufer schließlich gibt die wunderbare Antwort auf die Frage Isaaks: „Hinblickend auf *Jesus*, der da wandelte, spricht er: Siehe, das Lamm Gottes“ (Joh

1,36). Ein gewaltiger Moment: Das Lamm Gottes tritt auf der Erde in Erscheinung. Aber war es auch das Lamm ohne Fehl? Die Frage beantwortet Petrus: „ohne Fehl und ohne Flecken“ (1. Pet 1,19). Und wie sieht es damit aus, dass es ein stiller Dulder sein musste? Die Antwort gibt Philippus. Denn es war gerade die Stelle aus Jesaja 53, die der Kämmerer las, als Philippus hinzutrat: „Und anfangend von dieser Schrift verkündigte er ihm das Evangelium *von Jesus*“ (Apg 8,32.35).

Viele Lämmer waren im Alten Testament geschlachtet worden. Keins davon war das Lamm Gottes. Auf Golgatha kam dann der Moment, an dem Gott gleichsam mit seinem eigenen Lamm an den Altar trat. Es war sein Sohn, sein einziger, den Er lieb hatte, den Er dort für fremde Schuld opferte.

Wundert es uns, dass die nächste Szene, in der wir das Lamm wiederfinden, der Himmel ist? Dort steht das Lamm inmitten des Thrones Gottes auf dem höchsten Platz der Ehre. Es kommt und nimmt „das Buch“ aus der Rechten dessen, der auf dem Thron sitzt. Es ist niemand anderes als der Herr Jesus, der durch seinen Opfertod das Recht erworben hat, als Mensch die Zügel der Regierung dieser Welt aus der Hand Gottes zu empfangen, um die Welt (durch Gericht) wieder in Übereinstimmung mit Gott zu bringen und dann in Gerechtigkeit und Frieden zu regieren. Die einsichtigen Ältesten fallen nieder und beten an – überwältigt von dem Anblick dieses würdigen Ausführers der Ratschlüsse Gottes mit dieser Erde: das Lamm wie geschlachtet.

Es folgen noch zwei weitere bedeutende Szenen in Offenbarung 19 und 21, die von der Herrlichkeit des Herrn Jesus als Lamm Gottes zeugen: die Hochzeit des Lammes und die Beschreibung der Braut des Lammes in dem Bild der heiligen Stadt, die keine Sonne braucht, weil das Lamm Gottes diese Stadt erleuchtet durch die Ausstrahlung der Herrlichkeit Gottes.

Wunderbare Geschichte des Lammes Gottes.

Aus: [bibelstudium.de](http://bibelstudium.de)



## QUIPS & QUOTES:

**“Hardening of the heart ages people more quickly than hardening of the arteries”**

From “Quips & Quotes for Church Bulletins” by E.C. McKenzie (Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan), 1993

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Thank you for your support and prayers.

In His service, Pastor Zeuch

Serving St. Matthew Lutheran Church for 16 years, 5 months and 27 days!

Calgary, April 1, 2025

