



# JANUARY 2025

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

*112 years proclaiming Christ in  
Bridgeland!*

By Rev. Markus Zeuch



Dear readers!

Happy New Year! We are now officially in the time of **Epiphany** that follows right after the so-called "Christmastide". I hope you had a meaningful Christmas, whether surrounded by family or just by yourself. For those who felt lonely, lonesome, forgotten, discouraged or in any financial, physical or mental struggle, I want to remind you that God has brought you to this day as you read my few lines. He has been with you all the way through the passing of another year in the Gregorian (civic) calendar. He's indeed our Emanuel. And, speaking of calendar, did you notice up there below the name of our church? There's a difference between the last edition (December) of the Agape and this one. You got it right – we are now celebrating 112 years of existence in Bridgeland! How many people have come and gone since Jehovah Lutheran Church was founded in 1913. How many people used to **belong** to our fellowship.

It is good to belong. If you are reading this, this means you have connections to our congregation. You BELONG to our faith fellowship, our church family, whether you are a member or not. We embrace you as our brother or sister in Christ! Many churches out there use the motto "belong, believe, become". We belong to the Lord because He has given us saving faith through our baptism in Christ, so we believe. And then we become God's beloved children!

Our congregation does not exist by itself. What I am about to share with you may not be new to you, but I think especially of our new members, so they understand the structure of this family called church.

We belong to a group of other sister congregations called "the Calgary Circuit". Do you know who they are? These Lutheran congregations are: **St. Matthew** Luth. Church, **Foothills** Luth. Church, **Prince of Peace** Luth. Church, **Grace** Luth. Church, The Luth. Church of the **Good Shepherd**. These are all in Calgary. Then we have **Grace** Luth. Church in Drumheller, **Trinity** Luth. Church in Torrington and our circuit goes as far as **Trinity** Luth. Church in Golden, BC. There are also smaller groups of Lutherans that receive pastoral care by our pastors: our brothers and sister in Airdrie


 LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA  
 ÉGLISE LUTHÉRIENNE du CANADA

(Shepherd of the Hills) joined Prince of Peace. There is also a small group of Lutherans in Vulcan AB and in Invermere, BC that were “adopted” by our circuit.

The Calgary Circuit, together with other circuits, belongs to the West Region of the Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC). Pastor Rob Mohns is our Regional Pastor. LCC, our nation-wide **synod**, founded in 1988, which is divided into three regions: West, Central and East, replacing the former “districts”. The Lutheran Church-Canada had 276 congregations and 233 pastors serving and 59 deacons as of 2022. Total of baptized members was 47,607. There’s a good chance you are included in these statistics!

LCC supports everything we do as a confessional Lutheran congregation. Their board of directors frequently prays for us in their meetings at the main office in Winnipeg. Isn’t that a good feeling to know that we belong to a larger family and that they pray for us?

I want to share with you what the mission, vision and values of the LCC are:

Our Mission

***Our mission is to serve, strengthen, and equip congregations for bold, faithful, Christ-centred witness.***

Our Vision

***Our vision is to be a unified, confessional body of believers fulfilling the Great Commission.***

Our Values

**Truth.** We value Scripture as the inerrant, written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and practice.

**Grace.** We value Grace as the free and undeserved gift of God through Christ Jesus which empowers believers to show forgiveness and mercy to others.

**Unity.** We value unity in doctrine, proclamation, and practice, as expressed in Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

**Vocation.** We value each person’s unique God-given gifts, talents, and abilities, enabling them to witness Christ’s redeeming love in all aspects and stations of life.

**Sanctity of Life.** We value life as a gift of God to be cherished, nurtured, and protected from conception to natural death.

**Trust.** We value telling one another the truth in love, doing what we say we will do, and stewarding all ministry resources to the glory of God.

**Relationships.** We value and respect one another as children of God, demonstrating love in all things because He first loved us.

Belonging to our congregation means ultimately, to agree with all the above. I hope this serves as a good reflection as we start another year together.

Wishing you a blessed and joyful journey with Christ this year!

In His service,

**Rev. Markus Zeuch**





**BIBLE STUDY:** We continue our online Bible studies on Tuesdays, at 7 pm. Come join us!

**OUR NEW BOARD:**

Check out who serves in different capacities in our congregation. It is always a teamwork and we thank God for each one of you. The following members have accepted to serve for a two-year term: Heather Graham-Navis as chair, Thomas Weitz as treasurer and Ingrid Anderson as secretary. The new officers will be installed on January 19:

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calgary - PARISH PLANNING COUNCIL 2025**

POSITION	NAME
<b>Pastor</b> (ex officio)	Rev. Markus Zeuch
<b>Head Elder</b>	Peter Graumann
<b>Chair</b>	Heather Graham-Navis
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Vacant
<b>Secretary</b>	Ingrid Anderson
<b>Envelope Secretary</b>	Debora Klaus
<b>Treasurer</b>	Thomas Weitz
<b>Evangelism</b>	Lorraine Duncan
<b>Christian Education</b>	Koreen Graumann Helping: Heather Graham-Navis
<b>Youth Ministry</b>	Emilie Graumann, Koreen Graumann, Lori Salter
<b>Fellowship &amp; PR</b>	Lori Salter
<b>Church Properties</b>	Randy Haynes Koreen Graumann Ingrid Anderson
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Lorraine Duncan - head Helping: Judy Rublesky, Renate Schulz, Anneliese Dalmoro, Lori Salter
<b>Stewardship</b>	Vacant

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** Thursdays 7pm – 7:45 pm (online)

Teacher: Pastor Z.

Substitute teachers: Koreen Graumann and Heather Graham-Navis

Confirmands:

- Esay Mulugieta Tekle – Grade 9
- Ellta Mulugieta Tekle – Grade 6
- Ogbarebi Sahle Ogbarebi – Grade 9
- Bruke Sahle Ogbarebi – Grade 6
- Lelti Yosief Kidane – Grade 9
- Rai Amanuel Tekleab – Grade 10



## WHAT'S PLANNED FOR JANUARY?

**Jan 1 – 3:** Office is closed

**Jan 5 (Sun):** Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.

**Jan 6 (Mon):** The Epiphany of our Lord (Office reopens)

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

**Jan 9 (Thurs):** Confirmation class on zoom @ 7pm

**Jan 11 (Sat):** Men's Breakfast @ 9 a.m.

**Jan 12 (Sun):** Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.

**Jan 14 (Tues):** Bible Study (online) @ 7 p.m.

**Jan 16 (Thurs):** Confirmation class on zoom @ 7pm

**Jan 19 (Sun):** Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.

**Jan 21 (Tues):** Bible Study (online) @ 7 p.m.

**Jan 22 (Wed):** Pastor attends the Calgary Circuit Winkel

**Jan 23 (Thurs):** PPC meeting @ 7 pm

**Jan 26 (Sun):** Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.

**Jan 26 (Sun):** Online Bible Study in Portuguese

**Jan 28 (Tues):** Bible Study (online) @ 7 p.m.

**Jan 30 (Thurs):** Confirmation class on zoom @ 7pm

January 2025						
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	29	30	31	



### QUIPS & QUOTES:

**"Feed your faith – starve your doubts".**

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



## Was feiern Christen an Epiphania oder am Dreikönigstag?



Christen feiern am Epiphaniafest am 6. Januar die Erscheinung Gottes in der Welt. Die Heiligen Drei Könige, die Jesus als neugeborenem König in der Krippe Geschenke bringen, kennen die meisten Menschen aus dem Weihnachtsevangelium des Matthäus. Mit ihnen hat ein Feiertag zu tun, den wir Christinnen und Christen noch heute feiern: das Epiphaniafest am 6. Januar, im Rheinland besser bekannt als der Dreikönigstag.

Doch was genau ist die Bedeutung von Epiphania und warum feiern evangelische Christen diesen Tag?

Epiphania, auch bekannt als Dreikönigstag, ist ein christliches Fest, das am 6. Januar gefeiert wird. Wir feiern, dass Gott

in Jesus von Nazareth Mensch geworden ist. Aber was heißt Epiphania auf Deutsch?

Der Begriff Epiphania ist abgeleitet vom griechischen Wort „epiphaneia“, das „Erscheinung“ oder „Offenbarung“ bedeutet. Dieses Wort bringt die zentrale Bedeutung des Festes zum Ausdruck: Mit der Menschwerdung Gottes in Jesus Christus strahlt er als Licht in der Welt auf. Am Epiphaniafest feiern wir demnach die Erscheinung Gottes in der Welt als Mensch Jesus Christus.

Das Epiphania entstand im 4. Jahrhundert in der orthodoxen Kirche. In katholisch geprägten Gegenden wird das Epiphaniafest oft als Dreikönigstag oder Dreikönigsfest bezeichnet. Diesen Namen verdankt der Tag indirekt der Bibel, obwohl in der Bibel selbst weder von „drei“, von „heiligen“ oder von „Königen“ gesprochen wird. Im Matthäusevangelium wird von weisen Männern aus dem Morgenland erzählt, die von einem Stern zu Jesus Christus geführt wurden. Da sie dem Jesuskind wertvolle Geschenke gemacht haben, werden sie als sehr wohlhabend betrachtet und im Volksmund häufig als Könige bezeichnet.

Die Epiphaniafest unterstreicht die Botschaft, dass Jesus Christus nicht nur für das jüdische Volk, sondern für alle Menschen auf der Welt gekommen ist. Dies wird durch die Geschichte der Weisen bzw. der Heiligen Drei Könige deutlich, die als Vertreter der nicht-jüdischen Völker gelten. Ihre Anbetung des Kindes Jesus steht für die Anerkennung Jesu als Retter aller Menschen. Die Weisen bringen kostbare Geschenke – **Gold, Weihrauch und Myrrhe** –, womit sie ihn als König verehren. Mit Myrrhe wurden auch Leichname gesalbt, daher wird diese Gabe als Hinweis auf das spätere Leiden und den Tod von Jesus gedeutet. Die lange Reise der Weisen zeigt, dass die Botschaft des Evangeliums alle Grenzen und Kulturen überschreitet.

*„Es werden kommen von Osten und von Westen, von Norden und von Süden, die zu Tisch sitzen werden im Reich Gottes.“ (Lukas 13,29)*

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

In His service,

**Rev. Markus Zeuch**

Calgary, January 6 (The Epiphany of Our Lord), 2025

