

JUNE 2024

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
111 years proclaiming Christ in Bridgeland!



Agape

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calgary

By Rev. M. Zeuch

I hope all is well with you and your dear ones. It is a joy to say hi to you in this June edition of the Agape! June is when we pass through the summer solstice and enjoy all the things summer can offer to us. I'm looking forward to our annual picnic scheduled for June 15!

In the church calendar we are now in the season after Pentecost, the time after Easter. The Sundays after Pentecost make up the longest portion of the church year. This is "the time of the church", when we focus on growing together in the life of the Holy Trinity. For those who desire scripture readings for individual or family devotional time, here are a few suggestions: Acts 2:41-47; Ephesians 1: 15-23; Ephesians 3: 14-19 and Colossians 3: 12-17.

You must have noticed that our church is now decorated in green, the colour of growing plants. This marks the season of growth in living in our Baptism and receiving the Lord's Word and Sacraments. Our weekly online Bible studies are an excellent way to grow in our faith through a valuable time together in fellowship with others. And, of course, our Sunday worship time is the main activity we do as Christ's body. We have missed a few members/friends who haven't attended our services at church! We do care and pray for you!

And, speaking of growth and green, have you noticed how our lawn and flower beds are well taken care of? I want to thank the volunteers who come here regularly and care for the gardens and lawn. Your hard work is appreciated! Let us welcome the summer season and enjoy it as much as you can. But don't forget: as your flowers and vegetables grow in your garden, so God expects you to grow in His Word. Let us grow together and may God bless you in your growth in Him.

In His service,
Your pastor Zeuch (or Pastor Markus)

A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS



BIBLE STUDY: We continue to meet on zoom every Tuesday @ 7 pm. Our last Bible study before the summer break will be June 25th. If you haven't joined us yet, you may ask me (pastor) to send you the invitation to log in.

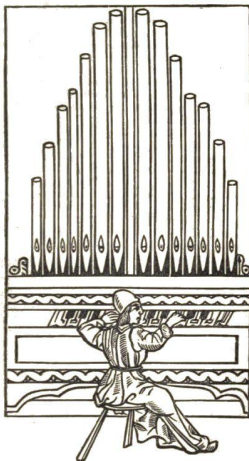
MEN'S BREAKFAST June 8 @ 9 AM: We are inviting all men of the congregation (18+) to join us at our men's breakfast! We will spend some good time together with fellowship, Christian discussion, and excellent food as always!

SUMMER PICNIC: Please come and join us in fellowship and fun for our annual church picnic on **Saturday, June 15th, 2024**. The picnic will be held at **North Glenmore Park**, the Snowy Owl Picnic site. We will start to set-up at 11 am. The site is booked until 2:45 pm. We will have the hotdogs and burgers going on the grill around noon. The site has a shelter, a main fire pit, several picnic tables and smaller fire boxes. The washrooms and playground are close by and there are lots of grassy areas to play some games. St. Matthew will provide hotdogs and burgers and buns with some condiments. We ask you to bring a salad or snack or fruit or dessert to share. There are several parking areas around the picnic sites, but lot L is closest. **Please RSVP to the church office if you are coming by June 10th** so we have enough food supplies. If You have a portable BBQ we could borrow, please contact Lori at 403-862-9690. WE truly hope to see you there!



BADLANDS PASSION PLAY: It's coming up on July 6th in Drumheller. We have a group who signed up to go and see "The Canadian Badlands Passion Play". If you've never been to that event, I totally recommend it! If you missed the deadline for the signup, I still recommend it for you to experience it.

ALCOHOL-FREE WINE: As per our last elders meeting, the board of elders has decided to start offering non-alcoholic wine (not grape juice) for communion. People may have different reasons for avoiding alcohol. If you have any personal reason to prefer the alcohol-free wine, please let the ushers know prior to taking the sacrament. This will be offered in both services every Sunday.



SACRED MUSIC: This is only for those who read this Agape on an electronic device (computer, smartphone, tablet etc). If you love sacred music, Christian music, Lutheran hymns and choirs, then you may enjoy this website called "Issues Etc". You may also listen to podcasts, Bible studies and interviews about important topics for our faith. Just click on the picture on the left and listen to beautiful inspiring music to help your personal growth in Christ.

WHAT'S PLANNED FOR THE MONTH?

- June 1 (Sat):** Hospital Lutheran Ministries Education luncheon 11:30 am
June 2 (Sun): Worship in German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.
June 4 (Tues): Pastor leads worship at Bethany Riverview
June 4 (Tues): Online Bible Study at 7 p.m.
June 8 (Sat): Men's breakfast @ 9 am
June 9 (Sun): Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.
June 11 (Tues): Online Bible Study at 7 p.m.
June 12 (Wed): Pastor leads worship at Bethany Calgary
June 13 (Thurs): Committee Meeting for the Tannenbaum Lighting Festival
June 15 (Sat): Summer picnic
June 16 (Sun – Fathers Day): Worship in German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.
June 18 (Tues): Online Bible Study at 7 p.m.
June 20 (Thurs): Summer Begins. **Elders Meeting** @ 7 p.m.
June 23 (Sun): Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.
June 24 (Mon): The nativity of St. John the Baptist
June 25 (Tues): Online Bible Study at 7 p.m.
June 26 (Wed): Pastor attends the Calgary Circuit winkel.
June 27 (Thurs): PPC online meeting @ 7 p.m.
June 30 (Sun): Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.
June 30 (Sun): Bible Study in Portuguese (online).

ABOUT THE SUPPORT FOR THE FLOODS IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL

Thank

 you!

The flood waters in South Brazil are finally slowly receding. Thanks be to God. Now the "gaucho population" needs to return to their homes to see what's left - if anything - and start life from scratch. Our congregation has sent a generous donation of \$4,000 to the Brazilian Lutheran Church to be used to help families who have lost everything. The Brazilian community in Calgary has put together a big garage sale for that cause and all proceeds (around \$4,000 as well) will go towards families in need. A big thank you to our Saint Matthew family, for using the mission budget to bring relieve to so many people!

ARE YOU INTO MOVIES?

What kind of „values“ or worldviews are present in a certain movie? What is the Christian/Lutheran point of view about the things we watch in movies or TV shows? What is related to our faith and what speaks against our belief? How is the



Bible related, present or quoted in some movies? Where do we see „hidden images“, figures or metaphors of Christ? How can you talk about a certain movie with your family and have a healthy discussion? Rev. Ted Giese from Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Regina, SK is the „movie expert“ in our Lutheran Church-Canada. Some of his reviews are award-winning. He writes reviews for movies and TV shows in a Lutheran perspective. You may visit the following website

<https://lutheran-church-regina.com/pages/movie-review-index>

If you read this on any electronic device, you may just click directly on the link or on the picture above.

VON GOTTES ARMEN GETRAGEN

(bibelstudium.de)

2017. Eine große Wasserflut überrollt eine Ortschaft in Indien. Ein Mann trägt seinen Hausrat aus dem Haus, um alles vor der Zerstörung zu retten. Unter anderem seinen „Gott“, ein hinduistisches Gottesbild.



Ein Mann trägt seinen Gott – was für ein Gegensatz zu Christen: Gott trägt uns! Diese wunderbar tröstliche Wahrheit zeigt uns die Bibel an vielen Stellen:

- 2. Mo 19,4: „Ihr habt gesehen, was ich an den Ägyptern getan habe, wie ich euch auf Adlers Flügeln getragen und euch zu mir gebracht habe.“

In schwierigen Zeiten der Not, wenn der Feind tobt und scheinbar kein Ausweg besteht, trägt unser Gott uns. Der Vergleich ist ein starker, mächtiger Adler, der seine kleinen Küken trägt.

- 5. Mo 1,31: „... in der Wüste, wo du gesehen hast, dass der HERR, dein Gott, dich getragen hat, wie ein Mann seinen Sohn trägt, auf dem ganzen Weg, den ihr gezogen seid, bis ihr an diesen Ort kamt.“

Es gibt wohl kein schöneres Bild als ein Vater, der seinen Sohn auf seinen Armen trägt. Ein Gefühl der Sicherheit, der Geborgenheit. Doch während Väter ihre Kinder nur zeitweise tragen und die Kleinen irgendwann groß werden und auf eigenen Beinen stehen, zeigt dieser Vers, dass der Herr uns „auf dem ganzen Weg“ trägt. Bis zum Ende. Dazu passt ein schöner Ausdruck aus 5. Mo 33,12, wo von jemandem gesagt wird, dass er zwischen Gottes Schultern wohnt.

- 5. Mo 33,27: „Unter dir sind ewige Arme.“

Die Arme, die uns tragen, sind ewig. Sie sind unerschütterlich, endlos stark, immer da gewesen und für immer da. Der Arm eines Vaters wird irgendwann schwach, so dass er den Sohn absetzen muss. Die Arme unseres Gottes sind ewig.

- Jes 46,4: „Und bis in euer Greisenalter bin *ich* derselbe, und bis zu eurem grauen Haar werde *ich* euch tragen; *ich* habe es getan, und *ich* werde heben, und *ich* werde tragen und erretten.“

Wieder diese stärkende Gewissheit, dass der Herr uns bis zum Ende tragen wird. Seine Treue und Zuverlässigkeit sind Eigenschaften, auf die wir uns stützen können. Dass Er uns niemals lassen wird, ist ein starkes Fundament, auf dem wir sicher stehen können.

- Ps 68,20: „Tag für Tag trägt er unsere Last.“

Doch unser Herr trägt nicht nur uns, sondern auch gleichzeitig unsere Last. Der Gedanke hier ist, dass die Last für uns leichter wird, weil jemand uns dabei hilft, sie zu tragen. Dabei denken wir an 1. Petrus 5,7, wo wir ermuntert werden, unsere Sorgen einfach auf Ihn zu werfen. Er trägt sie dann.

Die Wahrheit im Herzen

Dieses Getragen-Werden ist eine unerschütterliche, feste Wahrheit für uns Gläubige. Gerade dann, wenn wir davon nichts spüren, dürfen wir uns daran klammern. Es ist wichtig für uns, diese gut bekannte Tatsache nicht nur im Kopf zu haben, sondern fest im Herzen zu verwahren. Dann dürfen wir uns in schwierigen Zeiten fühlen wie ein kleiner Junge, der sicher in den starken Armen seines Vaters ruht.

Alexander Schneider



E-MAIL LIST: If you are not on our e-mail list yet, I recommend you to contact me (pastor) and give me your email address, so you can receive the Agape every month and other notifications or announcements that are important for members or friends of our congregation. You will also receive the invitation to participate on Sunday worship on zoom in case you are not able to make it to church, or forward it to someone you think would like to worship with us.

May God's amazing and unconditional love (*agape*) reach you and your family during this Pentecost season.

In His service,
Rev. Markus Zeuch
 Smlccpastor24@gmail.com
 Calgary, on June 6, 2024

