

# Agape

## NOVEMBER 2024

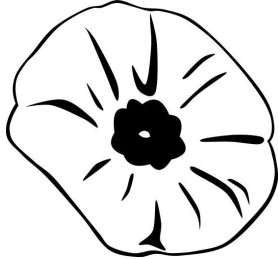
ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
111 years proclaiming Christ in Bridgeland!

By Rev. Markus Zeuch

Greetings SM family!

I would like to share an article about Remembrance Day that comes from a Christian organization in Ontario called *Impactus*. They are a non-profit organisation focused on Men's Ministry. The author is Phil Wagler and I'm using it with their permission.

### Remembrance Day: How We Can Find Lasting Peace



I have read tons and watched many movies about the Great (I mean that in the most horrible sense of the word) Wars of the 20th century. The First World War was even dubbed most hopefully, yet ultimately inaccurately, "The war to end war" by H.G. Wells in 1914 (that war to end war didn't end until 1918!).

I live in Canada, and when we pause on November 11 to remember the armistice of World War 1, we're acknowledging suffering, courage, destructive nationalism and sacrifice. But, we're not actually remembering the end of war. Armistice itself is not the end of war; it's only a halt to hostilities while everyone tries to negotiate a more persevering peace.

Essentially, Remembrance Day is a remembering of our human desire for cease-fire, but it is not the end of war. Humanity is still seeking the space to negotiate a lasting peace.

The Bible is the Great (I mean that in the most wonderful sense of the word) Story of the lasting peace between God and humanity. This lasting peace is meant to change everything – from friendships to marriages, work to play, how nations relate to one another, and how people steward creation.

Humanity lives at war with God. We resist his commands. We reject his wooing. We mock his ways. We want it our way. Yet, despite this great broken relationship, the good news of the gospel is that through Christ, God has reconciled us to himself. "All this is from God," writes the Apostle Paul, "who reconciled us to himself through Christ..." (2 Corinthians 5:18).

### We Can Find Peace

As Christians, we grow in understanding what it means to no longer be at war with God. We don't simply cease hostilities (like some do by ignoring the spiritual life

altogether). Instead, we know that "since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

In other words, in Jesus Christ – his life, teaching, miracles, death, resurrection and ascension – God has done all that was needed to not simply stop the shooting, but to fully make us his own family with all rights and privileges.

To use the national battles that still rage as a metaphor, it's as if the Iranians have adopted the Americans as full brothers and sisters. Or as if those on the political right have fully welcomed in those on the left as their very own. That seems impossible and almost absurd, doesn't it?

And yet, this is what is spiritually true for Christians: we who were enemies are brought near by the blood of Christ (Colossians 1:21; Ephesians 2:13). The war is over. Lasting peace has come. While we were still firing our weapons and sharpening our spears, God has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ. When Jesus went to the cross, the battle ended. Your war is over.

### Are You Still At War?

Slow down and consider where you are still at war with God. Are you trying to prove yourself? Are you determined to still do things your way? Are you doubting the truth of what he says about your sin, need for repentance, and new life? Are you arguing with him about what his Word says about who you are as a child of God? We don't always think about it this way, but when we strive against God, we're still acting like it's armistice and not the lasting peace that Jesus accomplished.

What changes in you – yes, deep down in you – when you truly consider that the lasting peace has come? When you realize you're fully reconciled – that indeed in Christ, the reconciling of all things is in God's mind – what might change and awaken in your spirit?

Phil Wagler is global director of the World Evangelical Alliances Peace and Reconciliation Network and Global Liaison for the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. He lives in Kelowna, BC and is the author of the recently released books, *Live Your Assignment: Being Christ's Ambassador in 7 Spheres of Life* and *Ambassadors of Reconciliation: 30 Daily Reading for Reconcilers in an Unreconciled World*.

Impactus.org





**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** for children ages 5 - 10 at 11am every Sunday. Bring your children. Come learn about the many bible stories of God's love!!

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** We have 5 kids in confirmation classes: Esay Mulugieta Tekle, Lelti

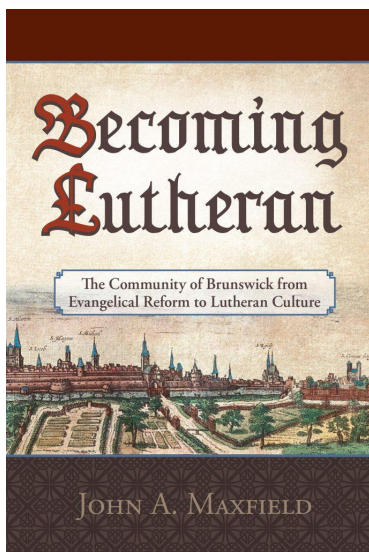
Yosief Kidane, Ogbarebi Sahle Ogbarebi, Bruke Sahle Ogbarebi. and Rai Amanuel Tekleab. They meet weekly on zoom. Please keep them in your prayers!

**PROFESSION OF FAITH -** The following adults were received as new members at our church on October 20<sup>th</sup>:

Gustavo Behne Miro, from Brazil  
Dawson Tarnasky, from Calgary  
Selam Negga, from Eritrea, Africa  
Jimmy Tandawadon, from Nigeria

**BIBLE STUDY:** We continue our Bible studies on Tuesdays, at 7 pm via ZOOM. All are welcome!

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** Our Fall Congregational Meeting took place on last October 27. Among the different resolutions, we were blessed to receive new officers for our board. God has blessed us and heard our prayers! **Heather Graham-Navis** was voted as our new chair, **Ingrid Feist-Anderson** as our new secretary and **Thomas Weitz** as our new treasurer! Their public blessing and installation will take place soon at a worship service. Thanks be to God!



**NEW BOOK RECOMMENDATION: FROM AN LCC PROFESSOR**

**EDMONTON** – Rev. Dr. John Maxfield, professor of history and religious studies at Concordia University of Edmonton, is the author of a new book from Concordia Publishing House: *Becoming Lutheran: The Community of Brunswick from Evangelical Reform to Lutheran Culture*.

“This book is about how one particular community in north central Germany took up evangelical reform very early and during the course of two decades become a Lutheran community,” Dr. Maxfield writes in the introduction to the book. “The town of Brunswick... provides a fascinating lens through which we can observe how a particular community became Lutheran in its

beliefs, in its practices (especially its ways of worship and organizing church life), and in its mentality or broader worldview.”

“My focus is... on how the Reformation, in particular the Lutheran Reformation, stimulated a process of cultural change which shaped the Christian religion and European society in an era when Christianity as a faith was more intensely believed and more broadly practiced than it had been throughout the era of medieval Catholicism,” Dr. Maxfield continues. “I am even more hopeful that the armchair historian and casual reader will take up this book and read it as an analysis of how people living five hundred years ago first became captivated by Martin Luther’s ideas and vision for the reformation of Christianity and over time became Lutheran.”

In addition to serving as a professor at Concordia University of Edmonton, Dr. Maxfield is the editor of the 2017 book *Defending Luther’s Reformation* and the author of the 2008 book *Luther’s Lectures on Genesis and the Formation of Evangelical Identity*.

Dr. Maxfield’s new book was released by Concordia Publishing House in September 2024. You can order it, as well as Dr. Maxfield’s 2017 book, from CPH’s [website](#).



### **ATTENTION: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOV 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

Time for an extra hour of sleep!



### **WHAT’S PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER?**

**Nov 2 (Sat):** LHMSA volunteer appreciation luncheon

**Nov 3 (Sun):** All Saints Sunday. Communion service in German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m. Baptism of John Amanuel Tekleab

**Nov 5 (Tues):** Pastor leads worship at Bethany Riverview

**Nov 5 (Tues):** Bible Study (online) @ 7 p.m.

**Nov 6 (Wed):** Board of Elders meeting @ 7 p.m. (online)

**Nov 7 (Thurs):** Tannenbaum group meeting

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

**Nov 8 (Fri):** Pastor leaves for his vacation in Brazil

**Oct 10 (Sun):** Communion service in German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m. Pastor Smallwood is the guest preacher.

**Nov 11 (Mon):** Remembrance Day.

**Nov 12 (Tues):** Bible Study (online) @ 7 p.m.

**Nov 17 (Sun):** Reading service in German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11am. There’s no holy communion.

**Nov 19 (Tues):** Bible Study (online) @ 7 p.m.

**Nov 24 (Sun):** Reading service in German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11am. There's no holy communion.

**Nov 26 (Tues):** Bible Study (online) @ 7 p.m.

Note: I am away from Nov 8th to the 30th. Looking forward to spend some well overdue quality time with my children and grandchildren in Brazil! In case of an emergency, please call the church office: (403) 266-1458

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## UNSERE DEUTSCHE ECKE



Was ist Allerheiligen in der Lutherischen Kirche?

In vielen lutherischen Kirchen wird Allerheiligen am Sonntag nach der Reformation gefeiert, normalerweise am ersten Sonntag im November. Das Fest ist allgemein eine Gelegenheit, derer zu gedenken, die im

christlichen Glauben gestorben sind.

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**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 month.

In His service,

**Rev. Markus Zeuch**

Calgary, on Reformation Day - October 31, 2024

16 years and 26 days since installation!

