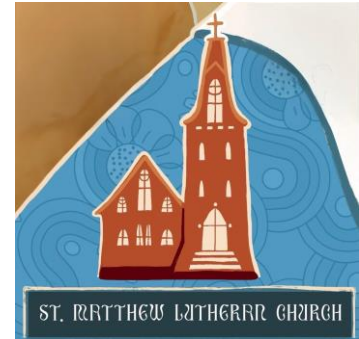


MAY 2025

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH – Calgary AB

*112 years proclaiming Christ in
Bridgeland!*

By Rev. Markus Zeuch



Easter is not merely a one-day celebration; it is a fifty-day season from the Day of the Resurrection of Our Lord to the Day of Pentecost. This extended season – one seventh of the year – is a victory celebration, a time for all Christians to proclaim boldly their faith in a risen and victorious Saviour.

The first celebration of Easter is the Easter Vigil, the evening of Holy Saturday. The Vigil includes a service of light, in which fire symbolizes Jesus as the light of the world. The service is designed to take the Christian from the solemnity of Good Friday to the predawn joy of Easter.

Easter is the richest and most lavishly celebrated festival of the Church Year. Congregations may hold a sunrise service, commemorating the surprise of the women visiting the empty tomb of Christ, as well as services that celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. While not as lavish, this joyous and celebratory tone echoes down through the Sundays of the Easter season.

Forty days after Easter, the church celebrates the Ascension of Our Lord, who ascended into heaven not only as God but also as man. The final Sunday of the Easter season, celebrated as Pentecost, was adopted by early Christians to commemorate the first great harvest of believers for Christ. Thus, Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church, as the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, and they gave their compelling witness about the resurrected Lord. The colour of the Day of Pentecost is red, representing fire and blood. Red recalls the tongues of fire received on the first Pentecost and the martyrs who shed their blood for the faith.

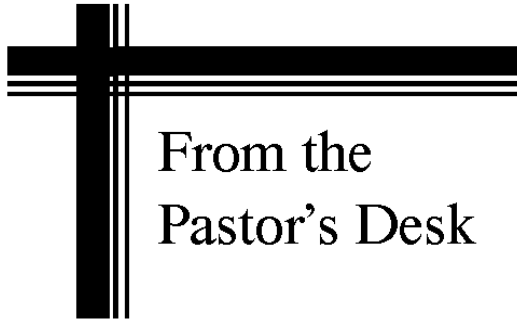
During Easter, we rejoice in our salvation.

Readings for the season: Matthew 28, Luke 24, John 12:24-25; 20:1-29; 21:1-14

EASTER PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS

- The colours of Easter are white and gold. White, the colour of our Lord's holiness, is everywhere on Easter, from the paraments and vestments to the traditional Easter lilies. Gold decorations remind us that our resurrection life in Christ is precious and eternal.
- After a long absence in Lent, Alleluia returns at Easter and is heard everywhere in the propers appointed for the weeks after Easter. Also, the joyous Hymn of Praise and the Gloria Patri return and are sung as part of the liturgy once again.
- During the Easter season, we greet one another with a special Easter greeting and response: "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

From the "pastoral Desk Diary 2025" (CPH)



From the Pastor's Desk

OUR **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** TAKES PLACE ON MAY 4TH. ALL COMMUNICANT AND VOTING MEMBERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING. BE IN THE LOOP OF WHAT WE'RE DOING AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE!

OPEN HOUSE: Our Board of Elders decided to open our church doors to our neighbours. Mark it on your calendar! We will have an Open House event on June 14th, from 12 to 3 pm. We need volunteers to help planning and just be there for our community, welcome them, and tell them what we are all about!

IN LOVING MEMORY

Two faithful members of our congregation have been called to glory recently:

- **Olga Fink** – A long-time member of our German congregation (funeral was on April 29)
- **Jeanne Mbeleg** – from Cameroon, Africa. She was an active member for a few years and went back to Cameroon in 2018. Many of us will remember her.

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!

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The board of Elder's is hosting a Men's Breakfast on the morning of the 2nd Saturday of every month, with the next one being held on **May 10th, 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!

LIBRARY: The PPC has decided to reorganize our parish library in preparation for adding new books. If you would like to assist in this project, please speak to Thomas Weitz.



A BIG THANK YOU to those who came out for the yard cleaning this last April 26. Also thank you to Elfriede and Irene Zippel for taking care of our flower beds. Everything looks great, good job!





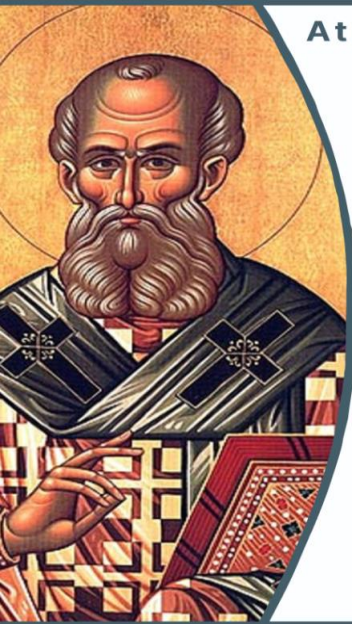
FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

ENVELOPE SECRETARY POSITION BECOMING VACANT MAY 31st

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.



Athanasius of Alexandria

May 2

Time Period 3rd–4th century AD

Who was he?
The bishop of Alexandria and a champion of Christian orthodoxy.

Did you know?

- He served as a church leader in a time of great controversy and ecclesiastical disagreements.
- At the Council of Nicaea in 325, he defended Christian orthodoxy against those who denied the full divinity of Jesus Christ.
- His enemies had him exiled five times and on two occasions he was almost murdered; yet he remained steadfast and ended his days restored fully to his church responsibilities.

HERE'S A DAILY PRAYER YOU CAN USE!

LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM ON

DAILY PRAYER

1 SIGN OF THE HOLY CROSS

“In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

2 LORD'S PRAYER & APOSTLES' CREED

Kneeling or standing, say the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed.

3 MORNING PRAYER OR EVENING PRAYER

“I thank you, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.”

4 GO FORTH JOYFULLY AS YOU SERVE IN YOUR VOCATION



“I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.”

GO TO SLEEP IN GOOD CHEER

QUIPS & QUOTES:

“Charity sees the need, not the cause”

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

SUGGESTED STEPS IN READING GOD'S WORD

Here are a few helpful steps you may wish to follow as you dig deeper into God's Word.

1. Read the Bible text chosen for the day.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your meditation: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).
3. Read an introduction to the book of the Bible you will be reading. The introductions in the Concordia Self-Study Bible and the Lutheran Study Bible are good resources in this regard.
4. Consider the various contexts surrounding the text or book being read. Ask: what can the geographical, historical, social political, textual, and grammatical contexts tell you about the text?
5. Consider the genre of the text: Is it a story, comparison, allegory, parable, prayer, poem, sermon, or vision? Who is the writer? Who is speaking in the text? Examine sentences, paragraphs, period, word meaning, and so forth.
6. Remember the analogy of Scripture (the idea that "Scripture interprets Scripture.") Examine parallel passages and cross-referenced texts in the Old and New Testaments, which speak on the same or related topics, to help shed light on the current text. As time allows, the diligent student wants to dig deeper and deeper into the whole counsel of God revealed in His Word.
7. Summarize the central doctrine of this text, and any false beliefs condemned.
8. Ask: What are some Law and Gospel themes in this text that can be applied to my life? What doctrines is the Holy Spirit teaching me here?
 - a. **Law (Malady):** In what way does the Holy Spirit warn me of my weaknesses and challenges here? What pitfalls is He warning me to avoid? How does the Holy Spirit call me to make a u-turn and repent?
 - b. **Gospel (Remedy):** In what ways in this text does the Holy Spirit point me to God's grace, revealed through Jesus' life, suffering death, and resurrection? How does it point me to Christ and to His comfort for me?
9. Application: What are some encouraging teachings I can take from this text today? How shall I respond to God's Word for me today?
10. Closing prayer.



Taken from Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel's feature "A Lamp To My Feet: Reading the Word of God Daily" in The Canadian Lutheran November/December 2020 Issue.



A LITTLE HUMOUR:

A Hymn for Everyone

The Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns
 The Weatherman's Hymn..There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
 The Contractor's Hymn.....How Firm a Foundation
 The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy
 The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises
 The IRS Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All
 The Gossip's Hymn.....It Is No Secret
 The Electrician's Hymn.....Send The Light
 The Shopper's Hymn.....In the Sweet By and By
 The Realtor's Hymn.....I've Got a Mansion Just Over the Hilltop
 The Massage Therapist's Hymn.....He Touched Me
 The Pilot's Hymn.....I'll Fly Away
 The Paramedic's Hymn.....Revive Us Again
 The Judge's Hymn.....Almost Persuaded
 The Psychiatrist's Hymn.....Just A Little Talk With Jesus
 The Waiter's Hymn.....Fill My Cup, Lord
 The Baker's Hymn.....When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder
 The Shoe Repairer's Hymn.....It Is Well With My Soul
 The Geologist's Hymn.....Rock of Ages
 The Librarian's Hymn.....Whispering Hope
 The Mail Carrier's Hymn.....Deliverance Will Come
 The Nurse's Hymn.....Rescue the Perishing
 The Telephone Operator's Hymn.....Jesus on the Mainline
 The Fisherman's Hymn.....Shall We Gather at the River?



WHAT'S PLANTED – OOPS, I MEAN WHAT'S PLANNED FOR MAY?

- May 1 (Thurs):** Board of Elders' online meeting 7 p.m.
May 1 (Thurs): Confirmation class (online) 7 p.m.
May 4 (Sun): **Joint Worship service at 10 a.m.**
May 4 (Sun): **Potluck & Congregational Meeting @ 12 p.m.**
May 6 (Tues): Pastor attends a seminar about grief. No Bible Study.
May 7 (Wed): Pastor attends a seminar about grief. 9a.m. – 12 p.m.
May 8 (Thurs): Confirmation class (online) 7 p.m.



- May 10 (Sat):** Men's Breakfast @ 9 a.m. followed by Bible study
- May 11 (Sun):** Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.
- May 11 (Sun):** Mothers' Day
- May 13 (Tues):** Online Bible Study @ 7 pm
- May 15 (Thurs):** Confirmation class (online) 7 p.m.
- May 18 (Sun):** Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.
- May 19 (Mon):** Victoria Day – Office closed.
- May 20 (Tues):** Online Bible Study @ 7 pm
- May 22 (Thurs):** PPC meeting @ 7 pm
- May 25 (Sun):** Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.
- May 25 (Sun):** Bible Study in Portuguese (online) @ 5 p.m.
- May 27 (Tues):** Online Bible Study @ 7 pm
- May 28 (Wed):** SMLC hosts the Calgary circuit's winkel for church workers. 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- May 29 (Thurs):** The Ascension of our Lord
- May 29 (Thurs):** Confirmation class (online) 7 p.m.
- May 31 (Sat):** LHMSA educational Luncheon



DIE FREUDE AM HERRN

„Betrübt euch nicht, denn die Freude an dem HERRN ist eure Stärke“ (Nehemia 8,10).

Ermutigung in Zeiten des Niedergangs

Als Nehemia diese Worte an das Volk, das aus der Gefangenschaft zurückgekehrt war, auf dem großen Platz in Jerusalem richtete, war die Mauer gerade wieder aufgebaut worden. Nun hatte sich das Volk versammelt, um das Gesetz zu hören, das Esra und die Leviten ihnen erklärten. Als das Volk das Ausmaß des Niedergangs seines Zeugnisses erkannte, begann es zu trauern und zu weinen. Diese Demütigung war absolut angemessen vor Gott und erinnert uns an Esra und Daniel, die ebenso den traurigen Zustand des Volks bekannten. Doch Nehemia tröstet und ermutigt das Volk mit den Worten: „Betrübt euch nicht, denn die Freude an dem HERRN ist eure Stärke.“

Auch wir leben in einer Zeit des Niedergangs. Vor mehr als zweihundert Jahren ist das Licht des Zeugnisses der Versammlung wiederhergestellt worden. Doch nun scheint es kurz davor zu sein, zu erlöschen. Wir sehen das Böse, wie es sich immer mehr ausbreitet, und haben dabei nur wenig Kraft. Wie kostbar sind da die Ermutigungen aus dem Wort Gottes! Das Wort Gottes kräftigt uns „mit aller Kraft nach der Macht seiner Herrlichkeit, zu allem Ausharren und aller Langmut *mit Freuden*“ (Kol 1,11).

Christus – die Quelle der Freude

Welch ein Glück, den zu kennen, in dem die Kraft liegt und dessen Liebe heute noch genauso groß ist wie damals, als Er sich am Kreuz für uns hingab, um uns zu erretten. Alle, die zu Ihm kommen und ihre Sünden bekennen, empfangen Vergebung und Befreiung.

Dann können sie in der Freude des Heils ausrufen: „Meine Wehklage hast du mir in einen Reigen verwandelt, mein Sacktuch hast du gelöst und mich mit Freude umgürtet“ (Ps 30,12).

Während unseres ganzen Lebenslaufs sind wir die Gegenstände der liebevollen Fürsorge des guten Hirten. Die Segnungen, mit denen Gott uns überschüttet hat, sind unzählbar! Indem wir Frieden mit Gott haben durch unseren Herrn Jesus Christus, haben wir auch Zugang im Glauben zu dieser Gnade, in der wir stehen, und rühmen uns der Hoffnung auf die Herrlichkeit Gottes (Röm 5,1–3). Und wenn wir Leid erleben, dann dürfen wir uns ebenso rühmen, wie es der Psalmist tat: „Du hast Freude in mein Herz gegeben, mehr als zur Zeit, als es viel Korn und Most gab“ (Ps 4,8).

Doch so groß all das auch ist, was Gott uns in seiner Liebe und Gnade geschenkt hat – was unsere Herzen mit Freude erfüllt, ist die Person des Gebers selbst. Allezeit dürfen und sollen wir uns in unserem Herrn freuen (Phil 4,4). Auch in Zeiten des Verfalls dürfen wir die „Vortrefflichkeit der Erkenntnis Christi Jesu“ suchen (Phil 3,8). Von unserem Herrn lesen wir: „Fülle von Freuden ist vor deinem Angesicht“ (Ps 16,11). Das galt für die Vergangenheit (s. Ps 21,7) und wird auch in der Zukunft so sein (s. Apg 2,28).

Als Kinder Gottes, die seine Natur besitzen und mit Christus vereint sind, „haben wir Gemeinschaft mit dem Vater und mit seinem Sohn Jesus Christus“ (1. Joh 1,3). Wir rühmen uns in Gott durch unseren Herrn Jesus Christus. In der Gemeinschaft mit Ihm wird unsere Freude vollkommen. Wir dürfen in die Gedanken Gottes eintreten und seine Ratschlüsse der Gnade für uns und für die Herrlichkeit Christi erkennen. Diese Gemeinschaft, diese Beschäftigung mit Christus und allem, was uns in Ihm geschenkt ist, muss unser Herz zur Anbetung bringen.

So ist die Freude am Herrn – diese tiefe Freude, die Gott selbst in unsere Herzen legt – die Quelle der Kraft, die wir für unser Zeugnis und unseren Dienst brauchen, den jeder von uns persönlich und wir alle gemeinsam zu erfüllen haben.

Original: *La joie de l'Éternel est votre force, ME 1973, S. 309–311, bibliquest.org*

Aus: bibelstudium.de



Thank you for your support and prayers.

In His service, Pastor Zeuch

Serving St. Matthew Lutheran Church for 16 years, 6 months and...a few days!

Calgary, May 1, 2025

