



APRIL 2026

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH – Calgary AB

113 years proclaiming Christ in Bridgeland!

By Rev. Markus Zeuch

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

APRIL has always been a month of new beginnings. Long before the Gregorian calendar reshaped the year, many cultures marked April as the true start of the year—a time when the earth softened, the light lengthened, and life stirred again. It seems fitting, then, that our own congregation's story begins in this month of renewal.



In April 1913, a small but faithful Lutheran community in Calgary gathered to form what would become our congregation – the Jehova Lutheran Church. They could not have imagined the world we live in today, nor the many ways God would sustain this church through more than a century of change. Yet here we stand—113 years later—still proclaiming Christ, still serving our neighbours, still held by the same grace that carried those first members.

Even before our official founding, God was already preparing the soil. In the spring of 1901, the Rev. E. Treu arrived as the first resident Lutheran pastor in Calgary. His ministry laid the groundwork for what would blossom twelve years later. We give thanks for his courage, his faith, and his willingness to plant seeds whose harvest he could not yet see.

And now, as we step into April once more, we enter not only a historical anniversary but the radiant season of Eastertide. The alleluias return to our lips. The white and gold of resurrection joy fill our sanctuary. Each Sunday becomes a little Easter, echoing the victory of the living Christ who shattered the power of death and opened for us the way of life.

Eastertide reminds us that the Church—our church—is always a resurrection people. We are shaped not by nostalgia but by hope; not by fear but by promise; not by endings but by the God who makes all things new. The same Lord who walked out of the tomb walks with us into the future he is preparing.

So this April, we celebrate two beginnings at once:

- The resurrection of our Lord, which renews the whole creation.
- The founding of our congregation, which continues to bear witness to that resurrection in Calgary and beyond.

May our alleluias be strong, our gratitude deep, and our hearts open to the new life God is still unfolding among us.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia. In the joy of the Risen One,

Pastor Zeuch

DER APRIL ist seit jeher ein Monat der Neuanfänge.

Lange bevor der gregorianische Kalender das Jahr neu ordnete, markierten viele Kulturen den April als den eigentlichen Beginn des Jahres – eine Zeit, in der die Erde weicher wurde, das Licht länger wurde und das Leben wieder erwachte. Es scheint daher nur passend, dass auch die Geschichte unserer eigenen Gemeinde in diesem Monat der Erneuerung beginnt.



Im April 1913 versammelte sich eine kleine, aber treue lutherische Gemeinschaft in Calgary, um das zu gründen, was später unsere Gemeinde werden sollte – die Jehova Lutheran Church. Sie konnten sich die Welt, in der wir heute leben, nicht vorstellen, ebenso wenig die vielen Wege, auf denen Gott diese Kirche durch mehr als ein Jahrhundert des Wandels hindurch tragen würde. Und doch stehen wir hier – 113 Jahre später – verkündigen immer noch Christus, dienen immer noch unseren Nächsten und werden immer noch von derselben Gnade gehalten, die jene ersten Mitglieder getragen hat.

Schon vor unserer offiziellen Gründung bereitete Gott den Boden. Im Frühjahr 1901 kam Pfarrer E. Treu als erster ansässiger lutherischer Pastor nach Calgary. Sein Dienst legte das Fundament für das, was zwölf Jahre später aufblühen sollte. Wir danken für seinen Mut, seinen Glauben und seine Bereitschaft, Samen zu pflanzen, deren Ernte er selbst noch nicht sehen konnte.

Und nun, da wir erneut in den April eintreten, begehen wir nicht nur ein historisches Jubiläum, sondern auch die leuchtende Zeit der Osterfreude. Die Hallelujas kehren auf unsere Lippen zurück. Weiß und Gold der Auferstehungsfreude erfüllen unseren Kirchenraum. Jeder Sonntag wird zu einem kleinen Ostern, das den Sieg des lebendigen Christus widerspiegelt – des Christus, der die Macht des Todes zerbrach und uns den Weg zum Leben öffnete.

Die Osterzeit erinnert uns daran, dass die Kirche – unsere Kirche – immer ein Volk der Auferstehung ist. Wir werden nicht von Nostalgie geprägt, sondern von Hoffnung; nicht von Furcht, sondern von Verheißung; nicht von Enden, sondern von dem Gott, der alles neu macht. Derselbe Herr, der aus dem Grab trat, geht mit uns in die Zukunft, die er bereitet.

So feiern wir in diesem April zwei Anfänge zugleich:

- Die Auferstehung unseres Herrn, die die ganze Schöpfung erneuert.
- Die Gründung unserer Gemeinde, die weiterhin Zeugnis von dieser Auferstehung in Calgary und darüber hinaus gibt.

Mögen unsere Hallelujas kräftig sein, unsere Dankbarkeit tief und unsere Herzen offen für das neue Leben, das Gott weiterhin unter uns entfaltet.

Christus ist auferstanden. Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden. Halleluja.

In der Freude des Auferstandenen,

Pastor Zeuch

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK


CONFIRMATION – We had the confirmation of six kids this last Palm Sunday, a joyful celebration as they received the Lord's Supper for the first time! On that Sunday they confirmed their faith they have received at their baptism in front of the congregation. May God bless the journey of Ellta, Esay, Bruke, Ogbarebi, Rai and Mefte. A big thank-you to the teachers Koreen, Heather and Judy.



BIBLE READING PLAN: We started a Chapter-a-Day reading plan on last November 30 with Matthew chapter 1. We are now reading Paul's letter to the Romans. There is still time to join us and catch up! Great blessings await as you read the Scriptures. Welcome to this journey in God's Word! Check out where we are – look at the back of the Sunday bulletins!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – An important voters meeting will take place next month, May 3rd. A joint Worship service will start at **9:30 a.m.** with lunch and meeting to follow. All voting members are encouraged to participate.

OPEN HOUSE: Last summer we had an **Open House** for the first time and it was a blessing – we received over 80 people into our church who learned about our history in Bridgeland and about what we do. Our members became tour guides, we had snacks, crafts for children and handed out some pamphlets. The board of elders is planning another Open House for this upcoming June 20th. Mark it on your calendar! We count on your enthusiasm in planning, participating, inviting people, and coming to the great event!




St. Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Founded in 1913

OPEN HOUSE
JUNE 20

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

TOUR OUR CHURCH AND LEARN
MORE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

*Bring your family and friends:
we will have crafts for kids,
snacks and coffee for all.*



66 7TH STREET NE

HOLY COMMUNION: On the Sunday before His death, Jesus is hailed as King and Lord; and palm branches carpet the path of His humble entrance into Jerusalem. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus still enters our lives with humble means; and He is still Lord and King. It is not too great a thing for Him to be present with His body and blood in and with the bread and wine for our forgiveness! We do practice closed communion, and guests who desire to commune are asked to speak with the pastor before the service.



A LITTLE CLEAN "CHURCH HUMOUR":

How do we know God likes coffee?
Because the Bible says, He brews.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL?

- April 2 (Thurs):** Holy Thursday evening service (with holy communion) 7 p.m.
- April 2 (Good Friday):** German service @ 9:30 a.m. English service @ 11 a.m.
- April 5 (Easter Sunday):** Worship – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.
- April 6 – 12:** Pastor is on vacations.
- April 11 (Sat):** Men's Breakfast @ 9 a.m.
- April 12 (Second Sunday of Easter):** Reading service – German 9:30, English 11 a.m.
- April 14 (Tuesday):** Board of Elders' online Meeting @ 7 p.m. **(No Bible study!)**
- April 15 (Wed):** Online confirmation class @ 3:45 p.m.
- April 16 (Thurs):** Tannenbaum Lighting Festival planning meeting 7 p.m.

April 19 (Third Sunday of Easter): Worship – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.

April 21 (Tues): Online Bible Study resumes @ 7 p.m.

April 22 (Wed): We host the circuit winkel at our church!

April 22 (Wed): Online confirmation class @ 3:45 p.m.

April 23 (Thurs): PPC meeting @ 7 p.m. (in person)

April 25 (Sat): Walk for Love for the Lutheran Hospital Ministries @ Faith Luth 8:30 am

April 26 (Fourth Sunday of Easter): Worship – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m.

April 26 (Sun): Online Bible study in Portuguese 5 p.m.

April 28 (Tues): Online Bible Study @ 7 p.m.



APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <small>Full moon</small>	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		

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FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA THE 13th SYNODICAL CONVENTION

Our appointed lay delegate for the upcoming convention is our treasurer, Thomas Weitz, who with pastor Zeuch will represent St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calgary in June.

DATES: The Thirteenth Regular Convention of Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) will meet from June 12-15, 2026.

LOCATION: The convention will be held at the Victoria Inn and Conference Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

THEME: The convention theme is “Together One: One Lord, One Faith, One Body,” based on Ephesians 4:4-6.

FORMAT: The convention will begin with an orientation session on Friday, June 12 at 4:00 p.m., with the Opening Divine Service that evening. It will conclude at noon on Monday, June 15. The 2026 Synod Convention will bring together representatives from every congregation or parish of Lutheran Church–Canada and will include:

- The encouragement and celebration of our shared confessional unity, grounded in our rich Lutheran heritage.
- The election of individuals to leadership roles, including positions on the Board of Directors and various commissions.
- The opportunity to come together for worship and nurture in God’s Word.
- Breakout sessions on a variety of topics, many shaped by feedback from LCC’s church workers and lay leaders.



Thank you for your support and prayers.

In HIS service,
Pastor Zeuch

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Calgary, April 1, 2026 A.D.

You can read all the previous editions on our new website: <https://stmatthewlutherancalgary.com>

