

The AGAPE NEWS (1)

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH - CALGARY AB

Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!

How have you been?

After some technical difficulties (new issues), I have decided to transform my weekly emails into a weekly “newsletter” in a Microsoft Word format and we will call it again the “Agape News” as we did before covid-era. It looks quite simple and clean, eh?

The times are challenging and difficult. We are all trying our best to adapt to this “new normal”. Hang in there, with God's help we will survive this one...but please continue to keep your social distance and follow all health and safety protocols. I do respect what science tells us and I'm not of those skeptics, deniers or doubters of a real pestilence situation.

And remember, God doesn't keep any social distance from us...he is always close! “He is not far from each one of us”. Acts 17:27

Last Sunday's services went well, we had an attendance of 19 in the German service and 33 in the English service. The recordings should be in our website by the time you read this. Thank you, Warren, for posting them on our website every week and thank you Gabriel for editing them. We also want to thank Mrs. Elaine Dick, who played at both services (organ and piano) - outstanding job!

A SMALL DOSE OF GOD'S WORD FOR YOU TODAY:

(From this coming Sunday's chosen psalter: psalm 27)

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Psalm 27:14

In German:

"Vertraue auf den Herrn! Sei stark und mutig, vertraue auf den Herrn!" Ps 27,14

NEWS FROM SMLC:

1 - WE ARE OPEN FOR WORSHIP! We are "glad to be in the house of the Lord" again. If you plan to come for worship this Sunday and you haven't come since we re-opened our doors, please don't forget to sign up with Andrea. Remember to call our office BEFORE it closes for the week by Thursday at 3 pm. If you are already coming regularly, you are automatically on the list and you don't need to call the office anymore. IF you are on the list and are NOT coming, we encourage you to call the office and let Andrea know.

We will continue to follow all health and safety protocols. See you hopefully on Sunday!

2 - RECORDINGS: Our Sunday services are now on our website AND on our YouTube channel, normally by Mondays. The address is www.stmatthewlutherancalgary.com

3 - FACE MASKS ARE MANDATORY! Please bring your own mask on Sunday services. We also remind everyone that the congregation is NOT supposed to sing along with the soloist(s) for the time being, unfortunately!

4 - YOUR OFFERINGS: As God's baptized children, we want to be good stewards of all the blessings that God gives us on a daily basis. Our thank offerings are part of our faith and reflect our gratitude to the Giver of Life (first article of the Apostle's Creed). They also help us to continue our M&M (Mission and Ministry) and Christ great commission of making disciples of all nations. You are encouraged to use the e-transfer system that is a very easy and safe way to send your offering through email. The church's email address is: smlccsecretary@shaw.ca. You may also deposit your envelope on a plate when you come to church, either as you walk in or exit the sanctuary. Thank you for serving the Lord's cause this way as

well!

5 - BIG THANK YOU! I have started this new session because it is in my heart to thank those who use their talents, time and treasures to keep our congregation going. Today I thank the Dalmoro family (my sister Anneliese, John and Gabriel). Besides taking good care of our "parsonage" by being good renters, they have mowed the lawn several times this summer and kept the church grounds and garden as well. There are many other things around the church properties they do that sometimes go unnoticed. Thank you, John, Anneliese and Gabriel for your faithful service.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy". Philippians 1: 3 & 4

6 - IN MEMORIAM - CALLED TO GLORY:

Herta Klann passed away on August 7 at the age of 91. Herta's wishes were to donate her body to the University of Calgary for research like the better understanding of Crohn's Disease which was the reason for the complications that led to her death. She was an active member of our German congregation. The obituary says that the memorial service would take place at the funeral home, but the family has changed their mind since then. The service will be held this Saturday (Sept 19) at our church instead, at 1 p.m. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to me in this email. If you want to read about Herta, click on the obituary below:

<https://mhfh.com/tribute/details/31288/Herta-KLANN/obituary.html#tribute-start>

John Dalmoro (my brother-in-law) lost his mom Maria Dalmoro last week in Brazil, as I have shared with you in my last email. This is what John would like to share with you all:

"Maria Dalmoro was my dear mom who passed away peacefully on September 7th. Doctors discovered a tumor two days before she died, and she had a surgery to remove the tumor. Because of her age and condition, she did not resist the surgery. My mom was 88 years old and lived with one of my sisters in Southern Brazil. We are a big family of eight siblings and our mamma was always there for all of us, always caring and concerned if any child or grandchild needed anything.

Her mental health was perfect until the end, and she remembered every single birthday in the family. I had the blessing to go visit her every year from 2014 to 2019. I thank God for her and for the great memories of times spent together, and now my family and I are comforted by the assurance of meeting her again in heaven, as well as my father who passed in 1997. God bless you all!"



Please pray for the families as they mourn their loved ones. May God grant them the assurance of His promises of eternal life.

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Rev 21.4

7 - HOLY COMMUNION: After careful and prayerful consideration, we have now decided to start offering communion following some special health and safety protocols. Please read our new procedures for communion below:

St. Matthew Communion Procedure during Covid Times

The Holy Communion is one of the two sacraments we have in the Lutheran Church. It is a sacred act instituted by Christ himself. He wants his church to celebrate this holy meal as often as we can. We take communion for our spiritual nourishment, the strengthening of our faith and forgiveness of sins. Every Christian should desire to participate on the Lord's Table as much as he/she can. We are thankful to God for being able to offer once again this wonderful sacrament, where we receive Christ himself, His body and blood in, with and under the visible elements: bread and wine for forgiveness, life and salvation. Here is how we will do it:

1. Those who wish to take communion, will receive it where they are sitting during service
2. Each family should bring their own Communion dishes with them to be used during the sacrament
 - a. One small plate per family to accept the bread - or a tray for the whole family.
 - b. One Cup per person or one cup per household to be shared by everyone in the household depending on preferences
 - c. Cups and Plates should be glassware that can be taken home after service to be washed.
3. Pastor and the assistant will move through the church to distribute the sacrament instead of having everyone come forward.
4. Pastor and assistant will be wearing masks and gloves and will not touch the elements at all.
 - a. The bread will be distributed with tongs
 - b. The wine will be poured from the flagon (jar) directly into the cups provided by each family.
5. Pastor and assistant must take their temperature before coming to church that day to make sure their temperatures are below 38C as mandated by Alberta Health.
6. We expect to offer communion on the first and third Sundays of each month while the pandemic remains with us. The next communion service will be this Sunday, **September 20**.
7. At each family group:
 - a. The bread will be distributed on to the plate, one wafer per communicant
 - b. After this the wine will be distributed to the provided cup(s)
 - c. Once both elements have been distributed then the Pastor and assistant will move away some distance and the family can consume the elements.
 - d. The dismissal (final blessing) for the family is then provided by the Pastor.

e. Pastor and assistant then move to the next family.

8 - PRIVATE COMMUNION: If you wish to have a private communion because you still don't feel safe coming to church on Sundays, please call our office and make an appointment with Andrea. You will meet me in the church sanctuary and we will follow all health and safety protocols. Please bring a plate and a cup of your own.

9 – OUR PIPE ORGAN: We are thankful to our God that we can hear the “joyful sound” of our organ again! Jason, the person in charge of restoring our precious centennial pipe organ is still working on some little things to make it work perfectly. It is taking him much more time than he expected, but he is asking us all to be PATIENT with him as he tries to finish his work. We thank all members who generously donated to the organ fund so that we could revive this instrument again for the glory of God!

10 - NEWS FROM THE CALGARY CIRCUIT: Installation of the new pastor in Didsbury

Rev. Timothy Graff will be installed October 4 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Didsbury. Unfortunately it is not possible to have a large attendance from the circuit due to COVID. We pray for God’s blessings for Redeemer and Pastor Graff as they begin their mutual service to the Lord and His church in the coming days.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK

This week we thank God for the following brothers and sisters for their lives:

Sept 14 (it's today!) - Artur Avilkin

Sept 15 - Ilse Labuhn

Sept 16 - Justin Brazil

Sept 19 - Macie Knoll

Sept 20 - Ingrid Baumann

Sept 20 - Gabriel Dalmoro

Sept 20 - Peter Graumann

NEW BIRTH (BAPTISM) ANNIVERSARIES:

Sept 14 (it's today!) - Rafael Thome

Sept 17 - Ethan Graumann

Sept 17 - Paul Luft

Sept 19 - Avery Knoll
Sept 20 - Gertrud Klaus

If any name is missing, please let me know. We pray for you! God bless you all!

FEASTS, FESTIVALS and COMMEMORATIONS IN THE CHURCH YEAR THIS WEEK:

Sept 14 - Holy Cross Day
Sept 16 - Cyprian of Carthage, Pastor and Martyr

OUR CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Our PPC (Parish Planning Council) will be meeting over zoom this Thursday Sept 17 at 7 pm.

Memorial service for Herta Klann, Saturday Sept 18 at 1 p.m. (please RSVP)

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Special requests: Pray for God to put an end to the wildfires in Western U.S and Canada so that there's no loss of lives and properties. Pray for Pamela ("Pam"), who is struggling with an aggressive cancer right now. The Lord knows which Pam I mean.

Pray for the families of Hildegard Glasel, Frieda Mayer, Herta Klann, Linda McGowan and Maria Dalmoro, whom the Lord has called to glory this month.

...Include your own intercessions...

Special thanksgiving: We praise God for being able to partake of the sacrament of the Altar once more, in the midst of this pandemic!

...(Include your own reasons to thank God)

Lord' in your mercy, Hear our prayer!

Please send me your prayer request if you have one, be it a special petition or a reason to thank the Lord. So I can share it here and we may pray together.

Devotional Resources for the Time of Pandemic

Here are very good resources for devotions, on the LCC's website. It is a special online edition of the Portals of Prayer called: "Where is God now?", 60 devotions for times of disaster.

Here is the PDF file. You may also print it at home.

https://communication.cph.org/hubfs/_pr/advocates/Where%20is%20God%20Now.pdf

THE GERMAN CORNER: DIE DEUTSCHE ECKE!

Die Losung heute

Montag, 14. September 2020:

Du wirst fröhlich sein über den HERRN und wirst dich rühmen des Heiligen Israels.

Jesaja 41,16

Wir rühmen uns auch Gottes durch unsern Herrn Jesus Christus, durch den wir jetzt die Versöhnung empfangen haben. Römer 5,11

Christliche Lieder auf Deutsch

Enjoy this song on a YouTube video. Click on this link below:

"Christi Blut und Gerechtigkeit"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ppgJr_Uy7w

And now to close, here comes a "clean joke":

Liquid, Fragile or Perishable?

When a woman decided to send the old family Bible to her brother in another state, the postal worker asked her if there was anything breakable in the package. "Only the Ten Commandments," she replied.

That's it for this week.

Feel free to send me your opinion about this newsletter and what could be changed or not. If you DON'T wish to keep receiving our emails, please let me know, so we can take out your name from the list.

Don't forget to sign up for Sunday worship if you never did before! Have a blessed week. Stay strong and healthy. God loves you: He is watching over you day by day!

In His service,

Rev. Markus Zeuch