

# The AGAPE NEWS (3)

A WEEKLY "BLOG-LIKE" NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

**ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH - CALGARY AB – October 2, 2020**

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**Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!**

We are in October! Last Sunday's services we had an attendance of 22 in the German service and 29 in the English service, total of 51 attending. The recordings took a longer time to be on our website, but they are now there. We apologize for the delay!

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

(From this coming Sunday's chosen psalter: psalm 80)

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Psalms 80:19

In German:

HERR, Gott Zebaoth, tröste uns, laß dein Antlitz leuchten; so genesen wir. Psalm 80:19

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## **NEWS FROM SMLC.**

We repeat some of them every week for those who haven't read it before.

**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 - 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!

**3 - 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 **Lori Salter**. She has been a big support in the fellowship department of our church, always ready to help in preparing and serving meals for potlucks, winkels, bible studies and many other social gatherings. Lori is also very active with activities with our youth at church. Thank you, Lori, 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

**4 - 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 in our website. We highly recommend that families use a common plate or tray for the bread and even a common cup for the whole family. Next communion service is this coming Sunday, **October 4**.

**5 - 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.

**6 – OUR PIPE ORGAN:** We are thankful to our God that we can hear the “joyful sound” of our organ again! Jason Barnsley, 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 and energy 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!

**7 - NEWS FROM THE CALGARY CIRCUIT:** Rev. Timothy Graff will be installed as the new pastor for Redeemer Lutheran Church, Didsbury on this coming Sunday, October 4. 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.

**8 – SMLC FOOD CUPBOARD:** Our food cupboard is well stocked and we would like to extend our help to any congregation member or someone they know that might be in need during these difficult times. Please contact Pastor Zeuch or Ingrid Feist-Anderson 403-801-5727, [ihanderson@shaw.ca](mailto:ihanderson@shaw.ca) All requests will be kept confidential.

**9 - ALTAR FLOWERS:** If you wish to donate a set of flowers for the altar please contact the office, total cost is \$64.00 for a Sunday. Due to a reduction in attendance and offerings due to COVID only essential expenditures are being covered by church funds. Thank you

**10 - RENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Presently, St. Matthew Lutheran Church rents the parsonage, the sanctuary and basement and parking lot spots. To review and implement current rental policies and oversee renters, we are seeking volunteers to join the committee. The service provided by the committee is vital to our congregation, since it directly supports our mission and ministry. If you are interested in using your knowledge and abilities, please contact Siegrid Robak at 403-503-9973.

**11 – BIBLE STUDY:** We are restarting our bible studies! As of October, we will be offering online bible study over zoom every Wednesday, at 7 p.m., except when there is a fifth Wednesday (that one will be free). Elizabeth Schieman will lead the study called "Life and Tomes of Jesus Christ" every first and third Wednesday. I will lead the study called: "Who are we, Lutherans"? every second and fourth Wednesday. We will send out the password to log in to zoom meeting on those days. The bible study is meant for all members, please join us!

**12 – BOARD OF EVANGELISM:** Lorraine Duncan has requested to return to the board after taking some “time off” and is now our representative of this important board. Lorraine will be installed (blessed) on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 11 on both services. Welcome to our PPC Lorraine!

**13 – SOLOISTS:** we know that we are NOT supposed to sing along in church, so we use soloists, members who volunteer to sing the hymns during service. If you think you may help us out by singing as well, let us know. We are searching for “hidden talents” out there!

**14 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** We had our first “online voters meeting” over “zoom” on Sept 27 with a fairly good attendance (28). Thank you for those who made the effort to log in or “phone in”. The minutes will be made available to members soon.

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#### **BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK**

This week we thank God for:

Sept 28 – Marian Williams

October 4 – Adele Kubke

October 4 - Eva Waiand

#### **NEW BIRTH (BAPTISM) ANNIVERSARIES:**

October 1 – Pat Milz

October 2 (it’s today!) – Isabela Yoshida

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 29 – St. Michael and All Angels

Sept 30 – Jerome, Translator of Holy Scripture

Name of the upcoming Sunday, Oct 4: The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

#### **OUR CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

Due to different circumstances, our “youth campfire with social distancing” scheduled for tonight has been cancelled. We will try this another day.

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**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**Special requests:**

Pray for the Wolff family. Al Wolff’s brother, Edwin, Edith, his wife and Julie, their daughter have all died in a tragic car accident on Sept 21. They were active members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and the private funeral service is today.

Here is the obituary in case you want to read it:

<https://calgaryherald.remembering.ca/obituary/ewald-edith-julie-wolff-1080321554>

Also, pray that God will bless our bible study time as we begin this month.

Include your own intercessions...

**Special thanksgiving:**

Thank God for ALL the blessings He has generously given to you and your family. Since it is the Thanksgiving month, focus your thoughts and prayers on things to thank the Lord for...count your blessings!

...(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.

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**DIE DEUTSCHE ECKE!** Gottes Word aus „Die Losungen“ (losungen.de)

Freitag, 2. Oktober 2020:

Ihre Wege habe ich gesehen, aber ich will sie heilen und sie leiten und ihnen wieder Trost geben.

Jesaja 57,18

*Jesus spricht:* Nicht die Starken bedürfen des Arztes, sondern die Kranken. Ich bin nicht gekommen, Gerechte zu rufen, sondern Sünder.

Markus 2,17

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Thank you for reading our newsletter. "Talk to you" next week again, God willing.

God bless you all.

In His service,

Rev. Markus Zeuch, on Oct 2, 2020 Anno Domini