

# The AGAPE NEWS (4)

A WEEKLY "BLOG-LIKE" NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

**ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH - CALGARY AB – October 5, 2020**

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## **Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!**

We are in the "Thanksgiving month". And today, October 5, exactly 12 years ago, I was installed at St. Matthew Lutheran Church to be your pastor! I thank God for the privilege and blessing to still be in this ministry among you.

So much has happened since that Oct 5, 2008! So many members have left us to be with the Lord. New members have come along, many baptisms, a few confirmations (nothing compared to "pastor Stark's times"), weddings and, oh, so many funerals. If we compare the "now" with the "back then", we realize that twelve years ago, we were a large congregation. Now we are a much smaller church and we can call ourselves a "struggling" congregation, but still going, with God's help and blessings! Back then, lots of people helping out on boards and volunteering/serving. Now, just a few, and the group of faithful servants who helps to carry on our Mission & Ministry is getting smaller. We continue to ask the Lord to send more workers into the vineyard!

If you feel in your heart that you could help with your time and talents, don't hesitate to step forward! Being a church is a teamwork: it's the "communion of saints", Christ's body with multiple "members". The church is not a "corporation" but a living organism. Think about that.

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## **LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICES**

Yesterday we had an attendance of 17 in the German service and 30 in the English service, total of 47 attending. We offered the Holy Communion and we only recorded the English service for some "technical" problems, and it was not edited. We apologize for that. You may watch it on the website and YouTube channel.

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

(From this upcoming Thanksgiving Sunday's chosen psalter: psalm 67)

“Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!” Psalm 67:3

In German:

„Es danken dir, Gott, die Völker; es danken dir alle Völker“. Psalm 67, 3

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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!** 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 - 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 **October 18.**

**4 - 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.

**5 – 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.

**6 - 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.

**7 – 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 Tones 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 feel free to join us!

**8 – 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!

**9 – 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!

**10 - BIG THANK YOU!** Since we are in the Thanksgiving mood, I want to thank those who use their talents, time and treasures to keep our congregation going.

Today I thank **Heather Graham-Navis**. She has been a big support in the Christian Education in the recent past, organizing our VBS for years, teaching confirmation classes for many years and she is still involved with the community kitchen, the “spins around program”, the Bridgeland Interagency group. Heather also helped out with the caring of our vegetable garden, involving kids and youth with planting and harvesting, taking to the Mustard Seed. Thank you, Heather, 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

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### **BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK**

This week we thank God for:

- Oct 5 (It's today!) – Selma Brooks
- Oct 6 – Ed Kalisch
- Oct 7 – Elfriede Zippel
- Oct 8 – Our secretary Andrea Sovary
- Oct 8 – Elsbeth Erdmann
- Oct 8 – Joyce Fordham
- Oct 10 – Evan Winstanley
- Oct 11 – Lilly Krueger

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

- Oct 10 – Wolfgang Hoehne
- Oct 10 – Adele Kubke

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:**

- October 7 – Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Pastor
- October 9 – Abraham
- October 11 – Philip the Deacon

You may look them up on the internet to find out more about those faithful women and men!

Name of the upcoming Sunday, Oct 11: Thanksgiving Sunday

**OUR CALENDAR THIS WEEK**

Online Bible Study on Wednesday, Oct 7 at 7 pm over zoom. Please log in by 6:45 pm to make sure all is working, so we can start at 7 pm sharp. Elizabeth Schieman will be leading the study "Life and Times of Jesus". The bible study should be about 45 minutes. We will send out a link to log in. Please join us!

**PRAYER REQUESTS:****Special requests:**

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.

**DIE DEUTSCHE ECKE!** Gottes Word aus „Die Losungen“ ([losungen.de](http://losungen.de))

Montag, 5. Oktober 2020:

Du Menschenkind, alle meine Worte, die ich dir sage, die fasse mit dem Herzen und nimm sie zu Ohren!

Hesekiel 3,10

Wir sollen desto mehr achten auf das Wort, das wir hören, damit wir nicht am Ziel vorbeitreiben.

Hebräer 2,1

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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 5, 2020 Anno Domini