



The “AGAPE” #20

THE HOLY WEEK

A BI-WEEKLY “BLOG-LIKE” NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH



ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB – March 22, 2021

Proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ in Bridgeland since 1913

Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!

Lenten greetings to all of you! I do hope you are doing well, with God’s Grace!

Yes, it is still Lent. However, we are standing right in front of the portals of the first century Jerusalem as we contemplate the Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday (March 28) and ending with the glorious Sunday of the resurrection of our Lord (April 4). The next edition of our Agape will be after Easter! So...a blessed Easter!

You may see the whole (and “holy”) week depicted in this picture right above my message. So many crucial (literally speaking) things happened in just one week in history! The most important events in history and in our lives happened over two thousand years ago in JUST ONE WEEK. The most important week ever!

Dinah Washington, in her 1959 album, recorded a song called “what a difference a day makes”. We could apply this to this holy week: “What a difference a week makes”. It made a huge difference for your eternity, your salvation! Check out the events that unfolded chronologically in the life of our Lord on that special week:

	EVENTS
PALM SUNDAY (MARCH 28) WORSHIP AT REGULAR TIMES	Triumphal Entry (<u>Mt 21:1-11</u> , <u>Mk 11:1-11</u> , <u>Lk 19:29-44</u> , <u>Jn 12:12-19</u>)
MONDAY	Cursing of the Fig Tree (<u>Mt 21:18-19</u> , <u>Mk 11:12-14</u>) Cleansing of the Temple (<u>Mt 21:12-17</u> , <u>Mk 11:15-19</u> , <u>Lk 19:45-48</u>)
BUSY TUESDAY	Lesson of the Withered Fig Tree (<u>Mt 21:18-22</u> , <u>Mk 11:20-25</u>) Challenge of Jesus' Authority (<u>Mt 21:23-27</u> , <u>Mk 11:27-33</u> , <u>Lk 20:1-8</u>) Parables of Warning (<u>Mt 21:28-22:14</u> , <u>Mk 12:1-12</u> , <u>Lk 20:9-19</u>) Debate with Jewish Leaders (<u>Mt 22:15-46</u> , <u>Mk 12:13-37</u> , <u>Lk 20:20-44</u>) Denunciation of the Scribes and Pharisees (<u>Mt 23:1-39</u> , <u>Mk 12:38-44</u> , <u>Lk 20:45-21:4</u>) Discourse on the Last Things (<u>Mt 24:25</u> , <u>Mk 13</u> , <u>Lk 21:5-36</u>)
SILENT WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK LENTEN DEVOTION (RECORDED)	Conspiracy of the Chief Priests (<u>Mt 26:1-5</u> , <u>Mk 14:1-2</u> , <u>Lk 22:1-2</u>) Two Flashbacks: Anointing of Jesus and Plot of Judas (<u>Mt 26:6-16</u> , <u>Mk 14:3-11</u> , <u>Lk 22:3-6</u> , <u>Jn 11:45-12:8</u>)
MAUNDY THURSDAY (APRIL 1) (WORSHIP SERVICE 7 PM)	The Last Supper (<u>Mt 26:17-35</u> , <u>Mk 14:12-31</u> , <u>Lk 22:7-38</u> , <u>Jn 13-17</u>) Gethsemane (<u>Mt 26:36-46</u> , <u>Mk 14:32-42</u> , <u>Lk 22:39-46</u>) Betrayal and Arrest (<u>Mt 26:47-56</u> , <u>Mk 14:43-52</u> , <u>Lk 22:47-53</u> , <u>Jn 18:1-14</u>) Trial before the Jewish Authorities (<u>Mt 26:57-75</u> , <u>Mk 14:53-72</u> , <u>Lk 22:54-71</u> , <u>Jn 18:15-27</u>)
GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2 GERMAN SERVICE 9:30 AM ENGLISH SERVICE 11 AM.	Trial before Pilate (<u>Mt 27:1-31</u> , <u>Mk 15:1-20</u> , <u>Lk 23:1-25</u> , <u>Jn 18:28-19:16</u>) Crucifixion (<u>Mt 27:32-56</u> , <u>Mk 15:22-41</u> , <u>Lk 23:26-49</u> , <u>Jn 19:16-37</u>) Burial (<u>Mt 27:57-61</u> , <u>Mk 15:42-47</u> , <u>Lk 23:50-56</u> , <u>Jn 19:38-42</u>)

	EVENTS
SATURDAY	Watch at the Tomb (<u>Mt 27:62-66</u>)
EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 4 WORSHIP AT REGULAR TIMES WITH HOLY COMMUNION	The Resurrection (<u>Mt 28:1-10, Mk 16:1-8, Lk 24:1-12, Jn 20:1-18</u>) The Report of the Watch (<u>Mt 28:11-15</u>) Emmaus Disciples (<u>Lk 24:13-35</u>) Appearance to the Ten in the Upper Room (<u>Lk 24:36-49, Jn 20:19-23</u>)

A suggestion would be to use these scripture passages each day of the holy week as devotional reading, either alone or with your dear ones.

I hope to see many of you at church for the special services we will hold on that week.

And, again, don't forget: you are under God's wings of "agape" (God's undeserved and unconditional love towards you). I guess I can shout it out here, thinking of the upcoming April 4 celebration: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

A very blessed Easter!

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NOTE ABOUT THE PANDEMIC: (From the last editions of the Agape News)

We at SMLC continue to be cautious and try to follow the protocols to protect each other. We thank God for the fact that we are still able to come to church for worship and some fellowship, even when all looks different. By promoting this as best as we can, we try to keep God's three first Commandments.

Please note:

1 - If you have any symptoms, if you feel unwell, please **get tested immediately** and **stay home**: refrain from coming for the worship services. You may watch us from home (our website or YouTube) until you recover fully.

2 - **If you test positive for Covid-19, you MUST call us as soon as possible, especially if you have attended church.** Your church needs to know, we're all

liable and we need to be responsible. You may call either the office, or our chairman Peter Graumann or myself, your pastor. We will never disclose your name. You may find the contact numbers at the end of this newsletter.

And remember: Despite of the bad times we are living these days, we should always trust God's promises that HE IS WITH US in every situation and a stronghold in every trouble. And "trouble" in all around us! However, our God is stronger than any trouble we may experience! Please continue to pray for our church, our families and for the world. And now...enjoy your reading!

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

PSALM 16:8 (From the Psalm for Easter Sunday)

"I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken."

AUF DEUTSCH:



"Ich habe den HERRN allezeit vor Augen; denn er ist mir zur Rechten, so werde ich fest bleiben."

NEWS FROM SMLC.

1 – QUESTIONNAIRE: We are planning to hold an "online retreat" on Mission and Ministry in our church on April 24 (Saturday). In order to discuss and evaluate our priorities, goals and plans for the future of St. Matthew, we want to hear your opinion on some important aspects of our Mission and Ministry. Our board of elders and the PPC have prepared a questionnaire to be answered by EACH MEMBER of our congregation. Some have already picked it up at our church or you may be receiving it by mail soon. We ask you to, prayerfully consider the questions, write down your answers and return it to us **by April 11**. You don't have to sign your name, it may be anonymous. Please do your part by completing and submitting it in this time frame. We thank you for being part of this planning for the future of our church!

2 – ONLINE MISSION & MINISTRY RETREAT: As you have read in the previous announcement, we are inviting every member to participate in our first Mission & Ministry retreat that we will offer on zoom on April 24 @ 10 a.m. It is planned for our members only, this time. Your participation as a member of SMLC is extremely important and we hope to get a good attendance on that Saturday. Please mark this on your calendar.

3 – ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES: We are resuming our online bible study on Zoom every Wednesday (except when there's a fifth Wednesday), at 7 p.m. Elizabeth Schieman is leading the study on the gospels ("Life and Times of Jesus") every first and third Wednesday. I am leading the study "who are we, Lutherans?" every second and fourth Wednesday. Call our office or me (pastor) if you need the login info.

4 - PRAYER REQUESTS: Send us your prayer requests. We have a "prayer chain" where a group of people (the "prayer warriors") pray for your needs.

5 – ISOLATION: LONGLINESS & DEPRESSION: During this pandemic, social isolation can give way to feelings of loneliness, depression, and hopelessness. However, you are not alone – here are some resources put together by the Lutheran Laymen's League Canada that can help. If you have access to the internet, you may click here: <https://www.lll.ca/social-isolation>

6 – ONLINE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Since we had our online Congregational meeting on March 21, we will not have our virtual coffee hour this month.

7 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: We held our online triannual congregational meeting on March 21 with 24 participants. We had a presentation from the Historic Society with City of Calgary Representative: Asia Walker, from Heritage Calgary. She outlined procedures and requirements on how to apply for and receive formal recognition as a municipal historical site. Character defining elements, such as organ, pews, windows, and brick work, would be part of a bylaw which cannot be changed and which would obligate us to repair and restore elements to historic qualifications. Funds typically must be used to restore bylaw items. Congregation must raise 50% of the project costs.

We also spoke about how badly we need more members to be involved. We ask you to, prayerfully consider participating more in the work of the church. There are open positions and need for more volunteers (“servers”): IT committee, vice-chairman, stewardship board, Lutheran Hour ambassador, counters, ushers, properties, etc.

Many other important matters were discussed and approved. If you are interested in reading the minutes from that meeting, please call our office and ask Andrea for a copy that is available to all members.

8 – HEAD ELDER’S RESIGNATION: Our head elder, **Ernie Schulz** has resigned as the head elder, due to his health condition. He continues to be an elder of SMLC. We thank him for serving in this capacity for all these years and wish him God’s continuous blessings and physical strength. Thank you, Ernie! The board of elders will prayerfully consider appointing a new head elder.

9 - THANK YOU: Today I want to thank **JOHNSON PHILIP**. He is not a member, but certainly a brother in Christ. Johnson has taken up the position of musician (organist and pianist) at St. Matthew Lutheran Church back in Jan. 2016. He has helped out in special services, evening services, choir practices. He also played in many funerals and weddings. Johnson has a God-given musical talent and we appreciate his faithful work for all these years. And since it is his birthday on March 28, we want to wish him happy birthday with many blessings!

"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

10 – WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AND NEXT (HOLY) WEEK?

March 23 (Tues): Online “church school” for kids @ 4:30 p.m.

March 23 (Tues): Online Youth Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

March 24 (Wed): Pastor attending the Calgary Circuit online “winkel”.

March 24 (Wed): Recorded Lenten Devotion on YouTube or our website (evening)

March 28 (Sun): Palm Sunday Worship services at regular times

HOLY WEEK – PASSION WEEK:

March 30 (Tue): Online “church school” for kids @ 4:30 p.m.

March 31 (Wed): Recorded Lenten Devotion on YouTube or our website (evening)

April 1 (Thurs): Holy Thursday service @ 7 p.m.

April 2 (Fri): German Good Friday service at 9:30 a.m.

April 2 (Fri): English Good Friday service at 11 a.m.

April 4 (Easter Sunday): Worship services at regular times

Names of the upcoming Sundays:

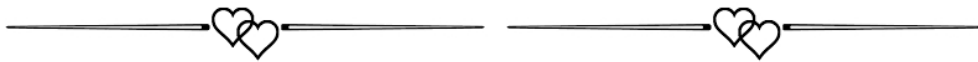
March 28: Palm Sunday or Sunday of the Passion (Palmarum)

April 4: The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter)

11 - CURRENT & UPCOMING FEASTS, FESTIVALS and COMMEMORATIONS IN THE CHURCH YEAR:

March 25 – The Annunciation of Our Lord

March 31 – Joseph, *Patriarch*



UNSERE DEUTSCHE ECKE!

Wenn Sie diesen Newsletter am Computer lesen, können Sie hier unten klicken. Hören Sie sich dieses wundervolle Osternlied an. Es heisst „Halleluja, Jesus lebt“. Genießen Sie es!

HALLELUJA, JESUS LEBT“

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzF584a8i5I>



FOR CHILDREN: A SUMMARY OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE (in a very simple language)

EXODUS

Exodus is a history book in the Bible's Old Testament. And Exodus is also a law book.

The people called Hebrews were slaves in Egypt. God sent Moses to free them (Exodus 3). The people in Egypt did not want to free these slaves. But God caused many terrible troubles in Egypt. He sent down the “ten plagues”. These troubles forced the people in Egypt to free their Hebrew slaves. So, the Hebrew people left Egypt. This was called “the exodus”. This event is called the “Passover” by the Jews.

God promised the land called Canaan (or “Israel”) to the Hebrew people. But the journey to Israel was through a desert. God did many wonderful things to help the people through the desert. God provided water (Exodus 17) and food (Exodus 16). They spent about 40 years in their journey through the desert.

Moses met God at a mountain called Sinai (Exodus 19). There, God gave the law to Moses (Exodus chapters 20-30). This is where we got the Ten Commandments from. Moses made a special tent called “the tabernacle” where the priests would serve God (Exodus chapters 35-40).

Adapted from <https://www.easyenglish.bible/>

And now, our “clean joke”:



It was **Palm Sunday** but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Annie stayed home from church with her mother. When the rest of the family returned home, they were carrying palm fronds. Annie asked them what they were for. “People held them over Jesus’ head as he rode by on a colt,” her father explained. “Well, isn’t that interesting”, Annie fussed, “the one Sunday I’m sick and Jesus shows up and offers pony rides!”

Thank you for taking your time to read my newsletter. See you (some of you) at church at the special services for Holy Week. And don't forget to watch our Lenten midweek devotions on our website. God's peace in the Risen Christ!

In His service, **Rev. M. Zeuch**

On March 22, 2021 Anno Domini

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: www.stmatthewlutherancalgary.com

THE STAFF OF ST. MATTHEW

Organist/Pianist: Johnson Philip

Cantor: Dana Salter

Youth Leader: Elizabeth Schieman (306) 715-1191

Secretary: Andrea Sovary (403) 266-1458

Chairman: Peter Graumann (403) 275-2166

Head Elder: vacant

Church Office hours are 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Monday-Thursday



"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Col 3:15

„Und der Friede Gottes regiere in euren Herzen; zu diesem seid ihr ja auch berufen in einem Leib; und seid dankbar!“ Kolosser 3, 15