



The “AGAPE” #27

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB

July 20, 2021

Proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ in Bridgeland since 1913

THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

A “BLOG-LIKE” NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

Hello dear SMLC Family and friends!

Welcome to my abbreviated mid-summer edition of “Agape”!

I hope you are keeping well and healthy in these smoky days!

My family and I are doing well, thank God. Today, as I write these lines on July 20th, we remember the prophet Elijah! And we also remember the 52 years of the Apolo 11 mission, when the first humans landed on the moon. I remember that day so clearly. My sister Anneliese was baptized on that same Sunday by our father! What a special day! A new life began for her and a new era started for humanity.



I will repeat my introductory words from previous Agape in case you missed it: *“Isn’t it a blessing that we can come together at church for worship, that restrictions are being lifted and the we can still live-stream our services every Sunday on zoom? I know that more and more members will be coming back from a one-and-a-half year of pandemic isolation. But I also know that there are those who cannot make it to church...those who chose not yet to come...those who are in homes, maybe out of town etc. Our live-streaming appears to have come to stay. This way we can reach more people with our proclamation of God’s comforting Word.”*

Our live streaming on Zoom is still slow, with a very low attendance. But we will insist in keeping this habit every Sunday and, hopefully, see the attendance increasing too. You could invite relatives in distant places to worship with us. We

just purchased a new laptop for this job, as well as a better Wi-Fi connection and a better microphone. This way we can count on a higher quality. We invest in technology so the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ may reach many more hearts!

Now, have you watched the news lately? We live in this *vallis lacrimarum* (vale of tears, in Latin) and this is not new to us. It isn't enough that our planet has faced a one-and-a-half year-long pandemic (and it's not over yet), there is so much more going on as I write these lines. We just cannot overlook those things. They affect us. Our world is suffering in different ways. Suffering (*Pathos*, in Greek) has triggered the creation of entire religions, like Buddhism, whose main goal is to get rid of suffering by following a set of spiritual rules. Victims of catastrophes are all around us: we could start with our own planet itself. As a living organism, IT is agonizing from human behaviour...the environment, God's creation is being destroyed. Human action comes with a price tag: climate change (extreme heat waves, pollution, poisoning of the water supplies, extinction of animals, etc.

Then there's unrest among humans: violence, riots and looting in South Africa, reaction to the latest findings about the residential schools here in Canada resulting in looting and setting churches on fire...then there are the natural catastrophes: the unprecedented floods and landslides in Western Europe (Germany, Belgium and Netherlands), the hundreds of wildfires in our country and the U.S., bringing in a toxic smoke blanket over our heads. And the list could go on and on. One of our pastors at Lutheran Church Canada (Rev. Lee Loveridge) has written this:

"I know many are worried about the weather here and in many other places... Let us pray. Lord our God, look down upon our dry lands and parched earth, and come quickly to save us. Send your clouds of water to rain down upon us as your righteousness and love rain down upon our hearts. Fill us with faith and trust in you that we may give you glory now and in your heavenly presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen"

I invite you to read this with a prayerful heart. We pray for those who suffer in one or another way around us. God has not forgotten about His children. But Jesus said: "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." John 6:33

We are not only called to pray, but to be a helping hand to those around us who need us. Reach out to your neighbour, to anyone who needs some help. If we are

called “Christ’s ambassadors” then we need to nourish COMPASSION in our hearts and put it to good use in SERVING others.

May God continue to instill faith, hope and compassion in your heart, as we face challenging days. We know that all these things will pass away, but to those who trust in the Lord, God has promised to give them life in abundance! (John 10.10)

God bless you!

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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 – SUNDAY IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES: As most restrictions have been lifted by now, this is how we celebrate worship services now: there is no more limit to attendance. No need to call the office to register for services anymore. We are using the full version of the Liturgy for each service and not the abbreviated form. Congregational singing is allowed and encouraged. Communion practices still remain the same as we have followed during the pandemic: you bring your cup and plate to church. You remain seated in your place. Pastor and assistant will come to you in the pews to serve you with bread and wine. You hold on to these until pastor returns to the altar and then invites all to take the sacrament together, as a family. Face masks and social distancing are still recommended (not mandatory). There is still no offering plate passing around: you are invited to bring your offering and place it in the back of the church as you walk out. We will continue to sanitize the high touched surfaces between the services. Hymnals are not being used yet. That’s it. I will love to see you at church!

2 – WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT DAYS?

July 25 (Sun): German worship service @ 9:30 a.m./ English service @ 11 a.m.

Aug 1 (Sun): German worship service @ 9:30 a.m./ English service @ 11 a.m.

Aug 8 (Sun): German worship service @ 9:30 a.m./ English service @ 11 a.m.

3 - NAMES OF UPCOMING SUNDAYS, CELEBRATIONS, FEASTS & FESTIVALS

July 20 – Elijah

July 21 - Ezekiel

July 22 – St. Mary Magdalene

July 25 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 25 – St. James the Elder, Apostle

July 28 – Johan Sebastian Back, Kantor
 July 29 – Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany
 July 30 – Robert Barnes, Confessor and Martyr
 July 30 – Thomas Zeuch, my grandchild is turning two in Brazil!
 July 31 – Joseph of Arimathea
 August 1 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
 August 3 – Joanna, Mary, and Salome, Myrrhbearers
 August 7 – I will be thanking God for my life He has given me 58 years ago!
 August 8 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
 August 10 – Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

4 – MEMORY BIBLE VERSE: Matt. 6:33–34

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

Auf Deutsch:

„Trachtet am ersten nach dem Reich Gottes und nach seiner Gerechtigkeit, so wird euch solches alles zufallen. Darum sorgt nicht für den andern Morgen; denn der morgende Tag wird für das Seine sorgen. Es ist genug, daß ein jeglicher Tag seine eigene Plage habe.“

GEISTLICHE LIEDER AUF DEUTSCH

„Allein Gott in der Hoeh sei Ehr“. Dies singen wir jeden Sonntag im Gottesdienst.

Wenn Sie diesen Newsletter am Computer lesen, können Sie hier unten klicken. Genießen Sie es!



Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvPat9XVmB8>

Und auch dieses Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=888MhQ0Pdok>



And now, our "clean joke":

When I worked for an organization which delivered meals to the elderly, I would take along my four-year-old daughter. She was always fascinated by the appliances of old age - canes, walkers, wheelchairs, etc. One day I saw her staring at a set of false teeth in a jar. She said to me, "The tooth fairy will never believe this."

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Thank you for taking your time to read my newsletter. If you don't wish to receive this "Agape" anymore, just let us know.

May God's peace fill your days ahead. Have a blissful, relaxing, peaceful and blessed SUMMER!

In His service,

Rev. Markus Zeuch

On July 20, 2021 Anno Domini

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: www.stmatthewlutheranalgary.com

THE STAFF OF ST. MATTHEW

Organist/Pianist: Johnson Philip

Cantor: Dana Salter

Youth Leader: Elizabeth Schieman

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

