



The “AGAPE” #28

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB

August 10, 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 summer edition of “Agape”!

Today, as I write this letter is August 10, when Christians think of Lawrence, or St. Lawrence. Have you heard of him? He was quite the character!

He was born in 225 AD in Spain and was martyred on August 10, 258 AD in Rome. After the death of Pope Sixtus, the prefect of Rome demanded that Lawrence turn over the riches of the Church. St. Ambrose is the earliest source for the narrative that Lawrence asked for three days to gather the wealth. He worked swiftly to distribute as much Church property to the indigent as possible, so as to prevent its being seized by the prefect. On the third day, at the head of a small delegation, he presented himself to the prefect, and when ordered to deliver the treasures of the Church he presented the indigent, the crippled, the blind, and the suffering, and declared that these were the true treasures of the Church. One account records him declaring to the prefect, "The Church is truly rich, far richer than your emperor." This act of defiance led directly to his martyrdom.

The prefect was so angry that he had a great gridiron (a “grill”) prepared with hot coals beneath it, and had Lawrence placed on it, hence Lawrence's association with the gridiron. After the martyr had suffered pain for a long time, the legend concludes, he cheerfully declared: "I'm well done on this side. Turn me over!"

For this reason, St. Lawrence is known by Catholics as the patron saint of cooks, chefs, and comedians! Also, we know that name well when we study Canada's huge hydrographic system formed by the St. Lawrence River in the East, that connects the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean.

So, what can we learn from St. Lawrence, besides his amazing sense of humour? Again, every time we think about the martyrs from the past, we see how

men and women of faith would give their life for the sake of Christ, rather than deny their Lord. In Hebrews 13:7 we read: “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”

And we are also reminded of the words of Jesus himself, when he declared:

“So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 10:33

My final question: if you were to be persecuted for your faith in Christ, would you rather: a) confess and die for your faith and inherit eternal life? or b) deny your Saviour altogether and hide in the crowd of unbelievers for fear of losing your life? Think about it.

On another note, I will say it again: we are so thankful to God for being able to come together again for worship in the sanctuary. We were meant to stay together and enjoy fellowship (“koinonia”) with our faith family. And for those who aren’t able to come, we now offer the opportunity to participate with us live on zoom. Our live streaming appears to have come to stay. This way we can reach more people with our proclamation of God’s comforting Word. We still have a very low attendance. But we will insist on 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!



As we continue to follow close the news about the wildfires in BC and in other Canadian provinces, I invite you to pray for rain. 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”

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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 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 elements 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 encouraged (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 – PASTOR’S VACATIONS: I will be away from Aug 16 to 29. Should you require any pastoral care, please call our office during the week. Worship services on Aug 22 and 29 will be a reading service (joint services). **They start at 10 a.m.**

3 – WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT DAYS?

Aug 15 (Sun): German worship service @ 9:30 a.m./ English service @ 11 a.m.

Aug 22 (Sun): Joint reading service. (no communion) **@ 10 a.m.**

Aug 29 (Sun): Joint reading service. (no communion) **@ 10 a.m.**

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

Aug 15 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Aug 15 – St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Aug 16 – Isaac

Aug 17 – Johann Gerhard, Theologian
 Aug 19 – Bernard of Clairvaux, Hymnwriter and Theologian
 Aug 20 – Samuel
 Aug 22 – Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Aug 24 – St. Bartholomew, Apostle
 Aug 27 – Monica, Mother of Augustine
 Aug 28 – Augustine of Hippo, Pastor and Theologian
 Aug 29 – The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist
 Aug 29 – Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost
 Sept 1 – Joshua
 Sept 2 – Hannah
 Sept 3 – Gregory, the Great
 Sept 4 – Moses

5 – WE NEED YOUR INPUT: Since Covid-19 hit us, we have started to record our worship services every single Sunday. You may visit them all on our website or YouTube. They are all posted there, thanks to the help of Warren. Gabriel Dalmoro helped us also with some editing at the beginning. We would love to know how many of our members really watch the recorded services. If there aren't many, we will consider cancelling these recordings, since we are now streaming live on Zoom. Please call our office or speak to us about your interest in keeping recording the services. Thank you!

6 – FUNERAL: A former member of St. Matthew, Albert Flaig has been called to glory. Albert was married to Hilda Flaig (from our German congregation) before they divorced. Albert's funeral service will take place at Foster's Garden Chapel on Thursday, August 12 at 2 p.m. Please keep the family in your prayers.

7 – MEMORY BIBLE VERSE: Matt. 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Auf Deutsch:

"Darum, wer diese meine Rede hört und tut sie, den vergleiche ich einem klugen Mann, der sein Haus auf einen Felsen baute."

GEISTLICHE LIEDER AUF DEUTSCH

„Freiheit die ich meine“. Ein Deutsches Volkslied mit Christlichen Inhalt.

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

“Freiheit die ich Meine”



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



And now, our “clean joke”:

Someone at the bar wrote this note and passed it around:

“I have two tickets to the Superbowl, but I'm getting married that day so I can't go. If you're interested in going in my place, the wedding is at St. Peter's church and her name is Laura.”

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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 August 10, 2021 Anno Domini

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: www.stmatthewlutheranalgary.com

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube!

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