



The “AGAPE” #34

CHRITSMAS EDITION

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB

December 17, 2021 Anno Domini

Proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ in Bridgeland for 108 years!

A “BLOG-LIKE” NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”. John 1:14

Have you ever thought about this? God planned the first Christmas right from the start, when he finished his work as the creator of the universe! Since Adam and Eve there were so many people God used in His plan that were part of the family line of Jesus. Some were more successful than others in trying to live God’s way. They wrestled with joy and pain, hatred and love just as we do. Each person forms a part of the story of God’s people.

Today we celebrate Christmas. We celebrate that God became a fellow traveler with us in a new way. Just as Mary placed the infant Jesus in a manger, God placed himself into our difficult, messy, and often tiring journey in this world. John says it this way: “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14).

At Christmas, the God of love gave his only Son (John 3:16) to redeem us and to be with us at all times and in all places. He wants to join us on our way, listen to our joys and sorrows, prevent us from walking in meaningless circles, and direct us to his home of peace and joy.

Dear brothers and sisters, this is the great mystery of Christmas: Almighty God became a helpless infant. Because of the Word—Jesus in the flesh—we are not alone on our journey. We can always trust that he is walking with us. No wonder we sing today, “Joy to the world! The Lord is come”!

Prayer

We glorify you, Father, for the gift of your one and only Son, Jesus. In love, you have come to walk with us through life and death to your house of peace and joy. Thank you, Lord! Amen.

AUF DEUTSCH:

„Und das Wort ward Fleisch und wohnte unter uns“. Johannes 1, 14

Haben Sie Mal schon daran gedacht? Gott hat das erste Weihnachten von Anfang an geplant, als er seine Arbeit als Schöpfer des Universums beendet hat! Seit Adam und Eva hat Gott so viele Menschen in seinem Plan verwendet, die Teil der Familienlinie Jesu waren. Einige waren

erfolgreicher als andere bei dem Versuch, nach Gottes Weg zu leben. Sie kämpften mit Freude und Schmerz, Hass und Liebe, genau wie wir. Jeder Mensch ist ein Teil der Geschichte von Gottes Volk.

Heute feiern wir Weihnachten. Wir feiern, dass Gott auf neue Weise ein Mitreisender mit uns geworden ist. So wie Maria das Jesuskind in eine Krippe legte, begab sich Gott in unsere schwierige, unordentliche und oft ermüdende Reise in dieser Welt. Johannes sagt es so: „Das Wort ist Fleisch geworden und hat unter uns gewohnt“ (Joh 1,14).

Zu Weihnachten gab der Gott der Liebe seinen einzigen Sohn (Johannes 3,16), um uns zu erlösen und immer und überall bei uns zu sein. Er möchte uns auf unserem Weg begleiten, auf unsere Freuden und Sorgen hören, uns daran hindern, in bedeutungslosen Kreisen zu gehen, und uns zu seinem Zuhause des Friedens und der Freude führen.

Liebe Brüder und Schwestern, das ist das große Geheimnis von Weihnachten: Der allmächtige Gott wurde ein hilfloses Kind. Wegen des Wortes – Jesus im Fleisch – sind wir auf unserer Reise nicht allein. Wir können immer darauf vertrauen, dass er mit uns geht. Kein Wunder, dass wir heute singen: „O du Froehliche, o du selige, gnadenbringende Weihnachtszeit“.

Wir beten:

Wir loben dich, lieber Vater in Himmel, für die Gabe deines einzigen Sohnes, Jesus. In Liebe bist du gekommen, um mit uns durch Leben und Tod zu deinem Haus des Friedens und der Freude zu gehen. Danke Gott! Amen.

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OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN 2021

2021 DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Dec 23: German candlelight service starts at 4:45 p.m. with singing of German carols.

Dec 23: English candlelight service starts at 6:45 p.m. with singing of carols.

Dec 24 (Heiligabend): German candlelight service starts at 4:45 p.m. with singing of German carols. It's the same service as on the 23rd.

Dec 24 (Christmas Eve): English candlelight service starts at 6:45 p.m. with singing of carols. It's the same service as on the 23rd.

Dec 25 (Weihnachtstag): German Christmas service at 9:30 a.m.

Dec 25 (Christmas Day): English Christmas service at 11 a.m.

Important note: Due to Covid restrictions, you **must** sign up for the services on the 23rd, 24th and 25th. Please call the office ahead: (403) 266 1458 from Monday to Wednesday, 9 am to 3 pm. Also, all these services will be live streamed on zoom.

Lord's Supper: There is no communion on any of these services. Next time we offer the Lord's Supper will be January 2, the Lord willing!

Dec 26 (1st Sunday after Christmas): German worship service at 9:30 a.m.

Dec 26 (1st Sunday after Christmas): English worship service at 11 a.m.

Jan 2 (2nd Sunday after Christmas): German worship with communion at 9:30 a.m.

Jan 2 (2nd Sunday after Christmas): English worship with communion at 11 a.m.

Jan 6 (The Epiphany of our Lord): Online evening service at 7 p.m. (on Zoom)

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Youth group: Our youth group will have an online 10-minutes devotion as they celebrate the twelve days of Christmas, starting on the 25th. Special thanks to Elizabeth Schieman for the initiative.

New members: We have recently received the following six new members in our fellowship: Daryl Dick, Elaine Dick, Arthur Dick, Deise Gottschalk, Filipe Lucini, and Gisa Hammel. We thank God for you and welcome you in our family!

Epiphany Day: We will try out something new by celebrating the Epiphany of our Lord on Epiphany Day! The evening service on January 6 (Thursday) is at 7 p.m. It

will be online only (on Zoom). The invitation will be handed out in my next edition of Agape.

Thank you! To David Robak for his faithful service as he is now finishing his term as our treasurer and thank you Siegrid Robak for her faithful service as the PPC secretary, as she also finishes her term. You have been a blessing to our congregation! We pray that God will provide other members to serve in the many vacant positions we have right now!

Thank you! On behalf of my family and myself, I want to thank you for all the support, care, love and prayers you have given us this year. Also, for the many Christmas gifts and donations we have received. It will be impossible to thank all individually (especially the “secret Santa”). God has blessed me so much by being able to shepherd this congregation for now thirteen years! God bless you all.

WEIHNACHTSLIED AUF DEUTSCH

Ich hoffe Sie geniessen es!

Nun singet und seid froh

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



Thank you for taking your time to read my newsletter. May God’s peace fill your days ahead.

Have a blessed Christmas time and a peaceful and happy New Year!

In His service,

Rev. Markus Zeuch

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: www.stmatthewlutherancalgary.com

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube!

We offer pastoral care in English, German, Portuguese, and Spanish.

THE STAFF OF ST. MATTHEW

Organist/Pianist: Johnson Philip

Cantor: Dana Salter

Youth Leaders: Elizabeth Schieman & Emilie

Graumann

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