

The “AGAPE” #42

(The time after PENTECOST)

A “BLOG-LIKE” NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB

June 30, 2022



I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It has been a while since I wrote the last edition of the “Agape”. I hope you are doing fine. We are now slowing down for the summertime, when most of us need some time to rest, to unwind or drive around and contemplate God’s creation. I have the blessing to have my son Filipe and his girlfriend Tamires visiting us from Brazil. But before some of us take off, I wanted to share with you some news from our synodical convention. St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calgary was represented by your pastor (myself) and our youth leader, Elizabeth Schieman, our lay delegate from June 10 to 13th in Edmonton. It was a very busy but blessed weekend. Here are some highlights from that special assembly.

NEWS FROM THE CONVENTION



LCC declares fellowship with the Lutheran Church in Norway and Iceland

EDMONTON – On June 12, 2022, the synodical convention

of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) declared fellowship with the Lutheran Church in Norway and Iceland (LCNI) in a unanimous vote. Rev. Joel Kuhl, chairman of LCC’s Commission on Theology and Church Relations, noted how refreshing it was to engage in dialogue and discover



that our churches have the same confession of faith.

Bishop Torkild Masvie of the LCNI was delayed in arriving and so addressed the convention the next morning. He thanked LCC for declaring fellowship, and expressed a desire to cooperate on seminary education. The LCNI requires its pastoral candidates to complete an additional year of training at a confessional Lutheran seminary in North America, currently limited to the seminaries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). But as the church's number of pastoral candidates expands, it is hoping to partner with LCC for that fifth year of education.

Bishop Masvie previously attended LCC's convention in 2017.

The LCNI is a young church body, having emerged in 2006, and has congregations and mission plants which serve Norwegian and Sámi speakers throughout Norway. The church also serves a mission site in Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland.

Like LCC, the Lutheran Church in Norway and Iceland is a member church of the International Lutheran Council. It previously entered into fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 2015.

If you would like to watch this moment and the bishop's speech, please click [here](https://www.canadianlutheran.ca/lcc-declares-fellowship-with-the-lutheran-church-in-norway-and-iceland/) and watch it on the LCC's website:

<https://www.canadianlutheran.ca/lcc-declares-fellowship-with-the-lutheran-church-in-norway-and-iceland/>

Elections for LCC's board of directors, commissions

During Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC)'s convention in June 2022, the church elected new officers for its Board of Directors and various commissions.

Elected to the Board of Directors are:

Lay: Kirsten Guggenmos (Central), Arnold Drung (East), Lois Griffin (East), Grace Henderson (West), and Doug Petersen (West)

Clergy: Rev. Ted Giese (Central), Rev. Mark Hennig (West), and Rev. Tom Kruesel (West)
 Diaconate: Dcn. Amanda Hastings

Elected to serve on the Commission on Constitution Matters and Structure are:

Rostered Workers: Rev. Alex Klages (Central), Rev. Paul Schallhorn (East), and Rev. Jef Dul (West)

Lay: Curtis Schafer (East), Delton Zehr (East), and Ronald Faulkner (West)

Elected to serve on the Commission on Theology and Church Relations are:

Rostered Workers: Rev. Michael Keith (West) and Rev. Joel Kuhl (East)

Lay: Mathew Block (Central) and Archie Richardson (West)

Elected to serve on the Commission on Nominations and Elections are:

Rostered Workers: Rev. Kurt Lantz (East), Rev. Philip Washeim (West), Rev. Keith Hoveland (West), and Dcn. Kathy Cornish (West)

Lay members: Rod Johnson (Central), Rhonda Kelman (West), Alison (Liz) Schieman (West)

Elected to serve on the Commission on Adjudication are:

Rostered Workers: Rev. Paul Roggow (West) and Rev. John Rapp (East)

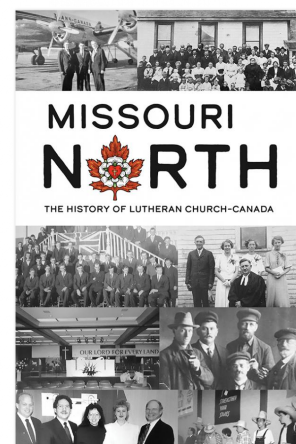
Due to time constraints, the convention did not have time to conduct elections for Regional Mission and Ministry Councils (RMMCs) or appointments to the Boards of Regents of LCC's two seminaries. These will be finalized by different means at a later time.



Elizabeth (our former youth leader) was elected for the Commission on Nominations. She was also our lay delegate at this convention. She has now said her goodbyes to our congregation since she is pursuing new horizons in her life. We are thankful for her service in our congregation for

7 years in the youth ministry, as well as with our music team. We wish Elizabeth God's richest blessings for the new chapter in her life.

During convention on Sunday afternoon, Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) unveiled a new book telling the history of our church body: *Missouri North: The History of Lutheran Church–Canada*. Delegates were all given a free copy of the book to take home with them. Elizabeth donated her copy



to St. Matthew Lutheran Church. It will be available at our library if you are interested in reading it. Currently, LCC has 300 congregations from British Columbia to Nova Scotia and a membership of almost 60,000. Its head office is in Winnipeg and its current president is Rev. Timothy Teuscher, re-elected.



We were blessed to see all the presidents of LCC since its foundation in 1988.

Here is a photo of them. From left to right: Dr. Ralph Mayan, Rev. Timothy Teuscher (current president), Dr. Ed Lehman and Dr. Robert Bugbee

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It was also very special to meet with a few Brazilian pastors serving in our synod. Our sister Lutheran Church in Brazil has sent a few pastors to Canada. I was the third one to come, back in 2004. Below, some of us (the “Brazilian gang”) attending the conference. Pastor Saulo Bledoff was at the convention but is missing in this photo.



Here is a list of pastors (past and present) from Brazil serving (or who have served) in the Lutheran Church-Canada:

- Rev. Paulo Brum, pastor in Regina, SK (since 2019)
- Rev. Lucas Albrecht, pastor in Regina, SK (since 2016)
- Rev.. Marco Antonio Jacobson, pastor in Montreal, QC
- Rev. Saulo Bledoff, pastor in Snyder, ON since May 2022

Rev. Airton Glitz, pastor in Churchbridge, SK (will be installed on Aug 7, 2022)
 Rev. Edivar Govaski, served in Surrey BC. Currently candidate
 Rev. Markus Zeuch, served in Ottawa, currently pastor in Calgary, AB since 2008
 Dr. Manfred Zeuch, served as president of Concordia Seminary Edmonton from 2007 to 2011 when he resigned.
 Rev. Dr. Alex Vieira, Professor at Concordia Seminary, Edmonton AB (came in 2022)
 Rev. Gerson Flor, chaplain, Canadian Forces, currently stationed in Belgium
 Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel, served in Vancouver BC. Currently retired
 Rev. Gilvan de Azevedo, served in Windsor ON. Currently retired.

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I was also blessed to participate on the virtual choir that was shown at the worship service on Trinity Sunday. It was organized by pastor Paulo Brum (New Beginnings Luth. Church, Regina SK). We sang the hymn "My hope is built on nothing less" (LSB 575). If you read this on an electronic device, you can watch it by clicking here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGj5Kpbfm0s>



MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Special dates, services, celebrations, activities, events...

JULY 2 (Sat): Wedding of Patrick Zelinski & Desiree Sanguine

JULY 3 (Sun): Stampede Breakfast, from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m.

JULY 3 (Sun): 4th Sunday after Pentecost. Joint service with Holy Communion at 10 a.m.

Pastor on vacation: From July 4 to 24. Worship services during this time will be led by volunteers and guest speakers.

JULY 6 (Wed): Isaiah

JULY 10 (Sun): 5th Sunday after Pentecost. Reading services: German at 9:30 am / English at 11 am. There's no communion.

JULY 16 (Sat): Ruth

JULY 17 (Sun): 6th Sunday after Pentecost. German service with holy Communion @ 9:30 am. / English service with holy Communion @ 11 am. Guest preacher: Dr. Thompson (Concordia Seminary, Edmonton).

JULY 20 (Wed): Elijah / **JULY 21 (Thurs):** Ezekiel / **JULY 22 (Fri):** St. Mary Magdalene

JULY 24 (Sun): 7th Sunday after Pentecost. Reading services: German at 9:30 am / English at 11 am. There's no communion.

JULY 25 (Mon): St. James, the elder, apostle. Pastor Zeuch is back.

JULY 28 (Thurs): Johann Sebastian Bach, kantor

JULY 29 (Fri): Mary, Martha and Lazarus of Bethany

JULY 30 (Sat): Robert Barnes, confessor and martyr

JULY 31 (Sun): 8th Sunday after Pentecost. Communion services: German at 9:30 am / English at 11 am.

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Our guest speakers for the summer

This summer we will have two professors from Concordia Seminary in Edmonton coming to lead worship services (with holy communion). Dr. Sam Thompson (July 17) and Dr. Alex Vieira (Aug 21). I was glad to meet both at the convention. Dr. Thompson has sent us a short biography to introduce himself:

"I am Rev. Dr. Sam Thompson, professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton. I am married to Shana Sam, and we have a daughter Sasha Sam (16) and a son Shaan Sam (9). We moved to Canada last October 2021 and prior to coming here, I worked as professor for five years at a Lutheran Seminary in India. I also worked as a pastor for seven years in India. I love cross-cultural missions and especially reaching out non-Christians from Hinduism. As a family, we love to travel, go for walks, and spend time with family and friends. We look forward eagerly to be with you all on the 17th Sunday of July 2022.

Rev. Dr. Sam Thompson, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Theology

Dean of Student Life

Concordia Lutheran Seminary

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THANK YOU!

To those who worked hard for our Stampede Breakfast

To Peter, Dana, Bernd and the readers, for leading the services during pastor's holidays

To Dr. Sam Thompson, for leading the worship services on July 17

To the Dick family, for hosting Dr. Thompson and his family on July 16.



DIE DEUTSCHE ECKE

Da wir am 28. Juli an J. S. Bach denken, lade ich euch ein dieses Video anzuschauen.

Johann Sebastian Bach: Die Kurz-Biografie in 9 Minuten. Bitte hier klicken:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XD1qiVnY>

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GOD'S WORD FOR EVERY SITUATION

For the most part, life is beautiful, exciting, and enjoyable. However, at times, it can be stressful, discouraging, and worrisome. If we cling to the cross and the word of God there is nothing that cannot be overcome. Whether you are excited for a new opportunity or struggling with anxiety, here are a few verses to encourage you to keep the faith and to help you. Read the verse very slowly many times and pray that these words may be engraved in your heart. It's your Christian way to practice meditation.

When You Are Stressed: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

When You Are Happy: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

When You Are Sad: "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Ps 147:3

When You Are Anxious: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

When You Are Excited: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

When You Are Discouraged: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

When You Are Grieving: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4

When You Need Comfort: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33

When You Are Scared: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

When You Are Insecure: ““For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

When You Are Lonely: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

When You Are Angry: “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Proverbs 15:1

ST. MATTHEW’S HISTORY

Since we will be celebrating our 110th anniversary next year, I decided to bring to you some events that were the highlights of our history since the foundation of this congregation. Here are some highlights for **JULY**:

1929 (July) Rev. Clemens Thies becomes the church pastor.

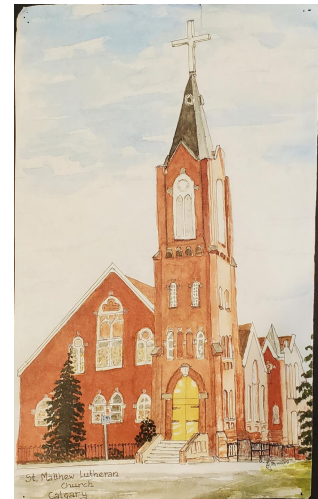
1936 (July) Rev. Phillip Unterschulz serves as pastor until 1955.

1962 (July) Pipe organ purchased.

1994 (July) Rev. Benno Dreger serves as pastor until 1998.

1998 (July) Renovations started on parking lot, basement extension, heating system and the Lift (elevator).

2009 (July) SMLC was interviewed to be broadcasted on City TV’s Breakfast Television.



Thank you for taking your time to read the Agape. Enjoy the beautiful weather and may God’s peace fill your summer days with His presence!

In His service,

Rev. Markus Zeuch

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Visit our website: www.stmatthewlutherancalgary.com

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"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil 4:7