

# AGAPE # 2 of 2023

## Epiphany – January 18, 2023

A "BLOG-LIKE" NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH



**ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH – 110 years proclaiming Christ in Bridgeland!**

Epiphany greetings!

I kept that picture of the wise men from last agape because we are in the season of epiphany – the manifestation of Jesus as the Christ Saviour.

I'm so glad and thankful that this newsletter is reaching so many people, not only members of our church, but friends of St. Matthew. Occasionally, I hear from some of you saying "thank you" for the Agape, so that gives me the motivation to continue to write my newsletters. You're welcome! It is my joy doing it, since it was my idea a few years ago.

I also noticed that I have a few names on my (hidden) email list that belong to people I haven't seen at church for a while (or even for a long time). I honestly want to tell you something: we've missed you! I wonder if you read the Agape, if you wish to continue on my list or even better: if you consider coming back to church for fellowship, worship and spiritual growth again. That would be wonderful! If you are one of them, consider in your heart to come back, to be part of the family.

It is a proven fact that the recent global pandemic has driven many Christians away from the churches all over the world. Many churchgoers have "fallen through the cracks", as we say. Each person may have a different reason for leaving this fellowship. As Lutherans, we use to say that we have three enemies that fight against our faith in Christ and will do everything to take us apart from a close fellowship with God and with the faith community. They are: 1) the devil, 2) the world, with its distractions and attractions, and 3) our own flesh (our sinful condition). We call them "the unholy trinity". So, my question is: if you used to come for worship with us and stopped coming, what has kept you from having fellowship with us? Which ones were the roadblocks to your faith or church attendance? Which factor has hindered you from having a close relationship with God? A closer walk with Jesus?

As humanity just celebrated the start of a new year in the civic calendar, many people come up with dozens of "new year resolutions", especially in early January. Why not include your

spiritual life in these resolutions? The fitness places and gyms all over the world are overflowing with people on every new year, people who have decided to lose the extra pounds, get fitter, strengthen their muscles and get active - all very important and healthy decisions! But what about the spiritual part of your life? Your spiritual health? Your nourishment in your growth in faith? We don't see people rushing to the churches as we see them doing at the gym!

Keep your faith fit! Keep a healthy faith. Being part of a Christian church is necessary for our spiritual nourishment. We get all the necessary nutrients from God's holy Word and by participating in the sacrament of the altar - that one can't be done "online"! We do offer the possibility to participate on zoom every Sunday, especially for homebound members, and I wish we had a greater attendance there! Our shut-ins should take advantage of this. Maybe yourself could help your grandma or grandpa or relative to set up the zoom service on Sundays. And others, of course, got used to watching worship services from home. I know that, staying home in our PJ's and watching the service on zoom is a temptation - not having to get dressed, drive to church, socialize (some people are not crazy about it). But we cannot have fellowship and take communion this way. We were meant to be (physically) together, sharing and caring for each other! Remember "the three "B's": Become, believe and belong. We BECOME God's children through our baptism, we receive the gift of faith and BELIEVE and then we become part of a family called church - we BELONG!

Our congregation celebrates its 110 years of existence, and this is due to the fact that its members did everything they could to stick together and keep going, moving forward with its mission and ministry, even in times of war! Had they not persisted, we wouldn't be here celebrating this anniversary!

So, consider getting more active in your church, you may be a blessing for someone else and you will be greatly blessed. This is God's promise. See you at church (or on zoom).

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## MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

**Jan 19 (Thurs):** Confirmation class (online) at 4:30 p.m.

**Jan 22 (Sun):** Third Sunday after the Epiphany. Worship services: In German at 9:30 a.m. In English at 11 a.m.

**Jan 24 (Tues):** Online Youth Bible Study @ 7 p.m.



**Jan 25 (Wed):** Pastor leads Bible study for pastors at the Calgary Circuit Winkel

**Jan 25 (Wed):** Bible study on zoom, at 7 p.m.

**Jan 26 (Thurs):** Confirmation class (online) at 4:30 p.m.

**Jan 29 (Sun):** Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany. Worship services: In German at 9:30 a.m. In English at 11 a.m.

**Jan 29 (Sun):** Online Bible Study in Portuguese

**Feb 1 (Wed):** Bible study on zoom, at 7 p.m.

**Feb 2 (Thurs):** Confirmation class (online) at 4:30 p.m.

**Feb 5 (Sun):** Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany. Worship services: In German at 9:30 a.m. In English at 11 a.m.

**Feb 8 (Tues):** Bible Study on zoom @ 7 p.m.

**Feb 9 (Thurs):** Confirmation class (online) at 4:30 p.m.

**Feb 12 (Sun):** Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany. Worship services: In German at 9:30 a.m. In English at 11 a.m.

**Feb 14 (Tues):** Pastor leads worship service @ Bethany Riverview

**Feb 14 (Tues):** Online Youth Bible Study @ 7 p.m.

**Feb 15 (Wed):** Bible study on zoom, at 7 p.m.

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### WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY (Online)

I am repeating what I wrote on our previous edition. We are studying the Gospel of Matthew this year and the readings for each upcoming Sunday from the lectionary used in worship. Our Bible studies are a good opportunity to ask questions, study and learn about God's word and increase fellowship with our SM family. If you haven't been to our studies and you want to give it a try, let us know. We will be glad to send you the invitation to the zoom meeting. We meet every Wednesday on zoom, from 7 to 8 p.m.

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### WORSHIP TERMINOLOGY: ABSOLUTION

Announcement of forgiveness spoken by the pastor, on behalf of God, following the confession of sins (LSB p. xxiv).

## HIGHLIGHTS & CHRISTIAN RITES -

Births, baptisms, confirmation, weddings & funerals



**BAPTISM:** We baptized little Ben Richards on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**FUNERALS:** We had to say goodbye to three of our members so far in January! 1) **Minna Leicht** on Jan 7th; 2) **Adele Kubke** on Jan 16th. 3) **Heinz Feist** on Jan 17th. These faithful members are now with God and we shall see them again in the resurrection!

## OUR 110th ANNIVERSARY

As I write this edition of the Agape, I am listening to the old record from our German choir. What a nice work they did back then! It was recorded in 1965 and we have it available at our library, in case you want to borrow it. You may remember a few names there and recognize some familiar faces on the cover! I apologize for the poor quality of the photos. Thank you, Heather Graham-Navis, for your help in editing the hard copy.

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# SINGET DEM HERRN.



**15 GEISTLICHE LIEDER**

**GESUNGEN VOM**

**DEUTSCHEN CHOR DER LUTHERISCHEN ST. MATTHAEUS KIRCHE  
IN CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA**



Here is the back cover (below):





St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
in Calgary, Alberta



Mrs. Elaine Braithwaite  
Director of Music

Die Gemeinde der lutherischen St. Matthaeus Kirche in Calgary kann heute — im Jahre 1965 — auf ein 52 — jahriges Bestehen zurueckblicken. Deutsche Siedler in dieser Gegend Albertas gruendeten zu jener Zeit eine lutherische Gemeinde die in den folgenden Jahrzehnten in der Mitgliederzahl bedeutend wuchs und sich zu einer zweisprachigen Gemeinde entwickelte. Gottesdienste werden sowohl in der englischen wie auch deutschen Sprache gehalten. Im Laufe ihres Bestehens wurde die Gemeinde von 5 Pastoren betreut. Zur Zeit ist Pastor Fred Stark der Seelsorger der Gemeinde. —

Nach dem zweiten Weltkrieg haben viele deutsche Menschen aus verschiedenen Laendern Europas hier in Canada wider eine neue Heimat gefunden. So hat auch die St. Matthaeus Gemeinde in Calgary, besonders in den fuenfziger Jahren, einen grossen Zuwachs erfahren und wurde in der Taetigkeit wieder neu belebt.

Am 15. Maerz 1953 wurde erstmals auch ein deutscher Chor ins Leben gerufen; derselbe hat in zahlreichen Gottesdiensten und vielen besonderen Veranstaltungen dem Herrn zur Ehre gesungen und gleichzeitig der Gemeinde gedient. Der Chor wurde seit dem Entstehen von 3 Dirigenten geleitet. Zur Zeit ist Frau Elaine Braithwaite die Chorleiterin und ebenfalls Organistin im deutschen Gottesdienst. Die Chorglieder haben oefters in diesen 12 Jahren gewechselt, doch die Zahl der aktiven Saenger konnte immer zwischen 20 - 30 gehalten werden. Heute am 15. Maerz 1965 sind die folgenden Personen auf unserem Titelbild Glieder des deutschen Chores der St. Matthaeus Gemeinde:

1. Reihe von links nach rechts:

ELVIRA	FRICK
ANN	RAUGUST
TRUDY	RIMSCHKE
HILDEGARD	HESSE
CAROL	HEATHER
AGATHIE	KOEPERNICK
ERIKA	BERNDT
INGRID	PAGENKOPF
LORA	RIETHMUELLER
ERNA	WELK
IRENE	SCHMIDT
INGRID	LUKAS
HILDA	FLAIG

2. Reihe von links nach rechts:

EDWIN	KUBKE
SIEGHARD	HESSE
HENRY	FRICK
AUGUST	BOEHM
BERTHOLD	RAUGUST
ERICH	BERNDT
WALLY	KLEIN
HANS	PAGENKOPF
WILHELM	SCHULTZ
BURKHARDT	ERDTMANN
HELMUT	BOEHM
HEINZ	SCHMIDT
EWALD	KUBKE

The congregation of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Calgary was organized by German settlers 52 years ago. Through the years it became a bilingual congregation and to this day all services are conducted in both German and English. Five pastors have served this congregation, the current one being Pastor F. Stark.

After World War II many German people from various parts of Europe immigrated to Canada. The congregation grew rapidly at this time, and this created greater interests and activities in the German congregation. One of these was the organization of a German choir.

On March 15, 1953 the German choir was formed. The choir has sung to the glory of God ever since in regular services, and at numerous other church functions. For the past three years this choir has sung everything a-cappella. The choir has had 3 directors the present one being Mrs. Elaine Braithwaite who is the daughter of a former pastor of the congregation. She is both choir-director and organist.

Choir members have changed many times during the 12 year history of the choir. However, the membership has remained fairly constant between 20 to 30. Today, March 15, 1965 the present choir of 26 choristers is shown on the front cover. Above is a list of members names, as they are shown in the picture from left to right. —

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Thank you for taking your time to read this second edition of the Agape in 2023. I do hope you enjoyed it. If you want to read the previous Agapes, just go to our website and you will find all editions there. May God bless you richly. My standing invitation to you: come join us for worship on Sundays and join us in the weekly Bible studies as well, if you have access to a computer.

In His service,

**Rev. Markus Zeuch**

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Visit our website: [www.stmatthewlutherancalgary.com](http://www.stmatthewlutherancalgary.com)

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