



*The
Season
of
Lent*

AGAPE # 3 of 2023

February 21, 2023

A "BLOG-LIKE" NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

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



*Ash
Wednesday*

The holy season of Lent is here and the Epiphany season comes to an end as of tomorrow (Ash Wednesday). Lent is a journey that leads to Easter. This whole period we meditate on the story of Jesus' sacrificial death and His glorious resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus gives proof that our salvation has been completed and that our hope for eternal life with God is secure.

The Early Church set aside a period of preparation to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord. Lent was a period of preparation first prescribed for baptismal candidates. During this period, the candidates were examined in preparation for baptism at the Easter (or Paschal) Vigil. Later, these forty days were associated with Jesus' forty days in the desert prior to His temptation (Matthew 4: 1-11) and with the forty years the children of Israel spent in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34), becoming a period of preparation for every Christian.

The Sundays during this season are not "of Lent" but "in Lent". Thus, the Sundays retain an Easter tone and may be less solemn than the midweek services that congregations typically offer, as we plan to do as well. The observances of Lent are concrete reminders of the greater solemnity of this season, yet Lutherans emphasize the Gospel of Christ as central even to this penitential season.

We are in a special time of meditation, introspection, and repentance as we look at the ultimate sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Christ our Lord for each one of us. In Lent, we prepare our hearts to receive our crucified and risen Lord.

Suggestion for reading Scripture with your family or by yourself during Lent:

Psalm 51 Isaiah 58: 6-12 Joel 2: 12-13 Matthew 4: 1-11
(that's the Gospel reading for Feb 26) Matthew 6: 1-18
Romans 6: 1-4

LENT PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS:

† The church is decorated in violet or purple, the colour of royalty and repentance. This period of repentance is marked by a purposeful turning away from our sin and turning toward Christ for His mercy and forgiveness.

† Ash Wednesday begins the observance of Lent. Ashes on the forehead is a sign of penitence and a reminder that we, too, shall die and therefore need forgiveness from Jesus. Black may be used to decorate the church on Ash Wednesday.

† *Alleluia* is the Hebrew word for "Praise the Lord". It is a joyous expression of faith in God. During Lent, we forego using this joyous response in order to focus on our need for repentance and faith.

† As in Advent, so in Lent, we do not sing the Gloria in Excelsis in the Divine Service. We do this to focus our worship on repentance.

† Fasting is giving up eating at a particular meal or time in order to devote that time to prayer and meditation on the Word of God.

† Many churches observe Lent by gathering for midweek services. These additional times of worship and gathering around God's Word help us prepare to observe Holy Week and celebrate Easter.

OUR EVENING SERVICES THIS YEAR:

We are offering midweek evening services every Wednesday, starting with Ash Wednesday, Feb 22. For six weeks now, we will gather on these Wednesdays for a fellowship soup supper in the church basement (6 p.m.) and a service in the sanctuary (7 p.m.). Please note that we will not have a soup supper on Ash Wednesday. However, we will offer a much better supper on that evening: The Lord's Supper! There is no holy communion in the other evenings.

We will also welcome other pastors to our church who will lead these services, while I, your pastor, will visit other sister congregations. I want to encourage you to come together as a family, to meet these pastors and to worship the Lord in this Lenten journey, giving him thanks for laying down His life so that we could have new life in Him. The sermon series that the pastors will be using is called "Chronicles of the King". Here is the schedule for those special services, as well as which pastor will be holding the service:

Feb 22, @ 7 p.m.: your Pastor Zeuch (Ash Wednesday, no "soup supper", just the Lord's Supper).

March 1: Rev. Rekken (From Prince of Peace).

March 8: Rev. Dressler (Good Shepherd)

March 15: Rev. Bode (Foothills)

March 22: Pastor Zeuch
March 29: Rev. Moffett (Foothills)

NOTE FOR SHROVE TUESDAY (Today): Since some of you will get this Agape via email today, Shrove Tuesday, I also invite you to come to our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at 6 p.m. tonight as has been advertised, despite the bad road conditions due to snow (as I write this).

May God bless your Lenten season so that you may come closer to Christ this year!

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MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!



- Feb 21 (Tues):** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at 6 p.m.
 - Feb 22 (Wed):** We are hosting the Calgary Circuit's pastors winkel.
 - Feb 22 (Wed):** Ash Wednesday evening service (with communion) @ 7 p.m.
 - Feb 23 (Thurs):** Online confirmation class
 - Feb 23 (Thurs):** Parish Planning Counsel meeting @ 7 p.m.
 - Feb 26 (Sun):** First Sunday in Lent. Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.
 - Feb 26 (Sun):** Bible Study in Portuguese (online)
 - Mar 1 (Wed):** Soup dinner @ 6 p.m. / Evening Lenten service @ 7 p.m. (P. Rekken)
 - Mar 2 (Thurs):** Online confirmation class
 - Mar 2 (Thurs):** Board of Elders meeting @ 7 p.m.
 - Mar 5 (Sun):** Second Sunday in Lent. Worship services: In German at 9:30 a.m. In English at 11 a.m.
 - Mar 8 (Wed):** Soup dinner @ 6 p.m. / Evening Lenten service @ 7 p.m. (P. Dressler)
 - Mar 9 (Thurs):** Online confirmation class
 - Mar 12 (Sun):** Third Sunday in Lent. Worship services: In German at 9:30 a.m. In English at 11 a.m.
- Bible Study:** Please note that, due to our evening services, we have stopped offering our weekly Bible studies for the season of Lent. We will resume after Easter again.

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WORSHIP TERMINOLOGY: THE INTROIT

We use it every Sunday! From the Latin for "enter." Psalm verses sung or spoken at the beginning of the Divine Service. It generally introduces us to the main theme of the Sunday.

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HIGHLIGHTS & CHRISTIAN RITES – Births, baptisms, confirmation, weddings & funerals

BAPTISMS: We baptized **Keren Medin** and **Elim Hibtes** on February 12th.

FUNERALS: We had to say goodbye to **Elli Zippel** on Feb 3rd. She is now with God and we shall see her again in the resurrection!



UNSERE DEUTSCHE ECKE!

Es ist wieder diese besondere Zeit, die Passionszeit, wenn wir an Jesu Tod und Auferstehung denken und was es eigentlich fuer uns bedeutet. Es ist auch die Zeit wenn wir Bach's wunderschoene Matthäus Passion hoeren! Wenn Sie dies auf einem Computer lesen, koennen Sie auf dem Link klicken und dann den Video anschauen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3k4Ph-H5Z04>

Und hier ist das Lied „Warst du da“, eine uebersetzung vom Englischen „were you there“, ein Passionslied, fuer deine Andachten in dieser Fastenzeit.

- 1) Warst du da, als sie kreuzigten den Herrn?
 Warst du da, als sie kreuzigten den Herrn?
 Oh, oftmals schon ließ es mich erbeben, erbeben, erbeben.
 Warst du da als sie kreuzigten den Herrn?
- 2) Warst du da, als sie legten ihn ins Grab?
 Warst du da, als sie legten ihn ins Grab?
 Oh, oftmals schon ließ es mich erbeben, erbeben, erbeben.
 Warst du da, als sie legten ihn ins Grab?
- 3) Warst du da, als hinweggerückt der Stein?
 Warst du da, als hinweggerückt der Stein?

Oh, oftmals schon ließ es mich erbeben, erbeben, erbeben.
Warst du da, als hinweggerückt der Stein?

4) Bist du da, wenn der Herr einst wiederkommt?
Bist du da, wenn der Herr einst wiederkommt?
Oh, oftmals schon ließ es mich erbeben, erbeben, erbeben.
Bist du da, wenn der Herr einst wiederkommt?



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OUR 110th ANNIVERSARY

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is getting prepared to celebrate its one hundred and tenth anniversary in 2023 with thanksgiving to our God. We are so thankful to our Lord for his presence, His providence and His blessings nourishing His people with Word and Sacraments all over those years! Get to know what happened and where did we come from. "Thus far has the Lord helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12). Here are some highlights of our rich history:



1899 (Sept.)	First Missouri Synod worship service in Calgary.
1901 (Fall)	Rev. E. Treu becomes first resident Lutheran pastor in Calgary.
1913 (April)	Jehovah Lutheran Church begins.
1913 (June)	Rev. John E. Herzer becomes first pastor of Jehovah Lutheran Church.
1919 (May)	The first constitution is adopted and signed.
1920 (Fall)	The congregation completes its own house of worship.
1929 (July)	Rev. Clemens Thies becomes the church pastor.
1931 (Oct.)	Rev. Victor L. Meyer becomes the church pastor.

1936 (July) Rev. Phillip Unterschulz serves as pastor until
1955.
1945 (April) The present church, parsonage and property are
acquired.

More to follow on our next edition of AGAPE!



Thank you, again, for taking your time to read this new edition of the Agape. I 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 evening Lenten services as well!

In His service,

Rev. Markus Zeuch

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: www.stmatthewlutheranalgary.com

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