

# Agape



**MAY 2023**

## **EASTER & ASCENSION**

Rev. M. Zeuch

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

### **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

"And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father". (Nicene Creed)

Spring is in the air and summer is around the corner! This time of the year has a very special meaning to us, Canadians, who have to put up with long winters. The feeling of happiness and relieve is visible on each face. I see it on my teen kids faces and moods. Canada has a few statutory holidays in the civil calendar during spring: Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Victoria Day. In our church calendar, we observe a few other dates related to the life of our lord Jesus Christ. One of them is coming up on May 18<sup>th</sup>: The Ascension of our Lord. Even though the secular world out there has no clue about this day, there are some countries that still remember and observe it.

Ascension Day is a public holiday in Germany (it is called *Himmelfahrt*) to mark Jesus' ascension to heaven. It is the 40th day of Easter (or 39 days after Easter Sunday). It has changed a lot from the original celebrations. It is also known today as Father's Day (*Vatertag*) or "Men's Day" (*Männertag*) in some areas of Germany. It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed. People celebrate this day with parades, torches, food and...well "booze"! And people still say "happy Ascension Day ("frohen himmelfahrtstag") to each other! The Christian meaning of the holiday, though, is long forgotten outside of the church walls.

But not within our walls! May 18 is the Day of the Ascension of our Lord. Even when we don't have a special service on that day, we don't want to forget it: Jesus went back to the Father after all was completed, 43 days after his "*tetelestai*" ("it is finished" in Greek) from that cross. God's plan to save you was finished...mission accomplished. But, before he ascended into

heaven, he left a precious promise to his followers, among whom you and I are included. He said (these were the last words in the gospel of Matthew, please read it slowly): “...**And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**” Matth 28.20. Read it again, and let these words sink in for a while. This promise is real and it’s for you!

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## WHAT’S PLANNED FOR THE NEXT WEEKS?

2023						
MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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			

**May 9 (Tues):** Pastor hold worship service at Bethany Riverview

**May 10 (Wed):** Adult instruction 1 p.m. / Bible Study (online) 7 p.m.

**May 14 (Sun):** 6th Sunday of Easter. Mothers Day. Worship: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.

**Services in the church basement.**

**May 17 (Wed):** Adult instruction 1 p.m. / Bible Study (online) 7 p.m.

**May 18 (Thurs): The Ascension of Our Lord**

**May 21 (Sun):** Seventh Sunday of Easter. Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.

**May 22 (Mon):** Victoria Day. Church office is closed.

May 24 (Wed): Pastor attends the Calgary Circuit’s Winkel and leads Bible study

**May 24 (Wed):** Online Bible Study @ 7 p.m.

**May 25 (Thurs):** “Bücherklatsch” – German books fair @ Bowcroft School from 2:30 pm – 7 pm

**May 25 (Thurs):** PPC meeting @ 7 p.m.

**May 28 (Sun): The Day of Pentecost.** Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m. Reception of the Eritrean group into our membership. Baptism of Sara Lucini.

**May 31 (Wed):** Adult instruction 1 p.m. / Bible Study (online) 7 p.m.

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## A FEW NOTIFICATIONS



### NEW CARPETS AND WORSHIP SERVICE ON MAY 14

On May 14 (Mothers Day) we will have our worship services in the **CHURCH BASEMENT**, due to the work in progress with the carpet change in the sanctuary. Thank

you for your patience...our sanctuary will look fresh, bright and renewed once finished! We thank the board of properties for their hard work.

**CALGARY MARATHON:** restricted access to our church on **May 28!**

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We got this notification last week: "On Sunday May 28, the 59th Servus Calgary Marathon will be running through Bridgeland. Road closures begin at 6:45 am throughout the city and will remain in place until 1:30 pm. Please note that parking and access may be restricted. Restricted parking notifications will be in place no later than Saturday at 3:00 am for Sunday 3:00 am - 2:00 pm parking ban. Over 160 course marshals, 35 Flaggers

and 90 Calgary Police Officers will do their best to help traffic through or around the race route. Please:

- Consider leaving your car at home Sunday morning.
- Give yourself more time if you are driving.
- Be courteous to participants and volunteers.
- Note that Calgary Police will be managing intersections and letting drivers through when it is safe to do so.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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That word up there means "Welcome" in Tigrinya, the language spoken in Eritrea. I have included a map of that African country below, so

you can see where it is located. We are thankful to God for our new brothers and sisters from Eritrea that will join our congregation as new members on **May 28**, Pentecost Day. They are confessional Lutherans who agree with our Theology and practice; therefore, they are ready to be part of St. Matthew. They started to use the basement for Bible study in their mother language. May God bless them as they become part of our



church family. By the way, we are a multicultural congregation, in transition from being a bilingual church to a multilingual church! God's Word is spoken in 5 languages now at St. Matthew!

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**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, ST. MATTHEW!**  
OUR 110th ANNIVERSARY



St. Matthew Lutheran Church is celebrating its 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year 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!

Since 2013 we have hosted different cultural events in our sanctuary, also cultural events, a way to connect with the local community. Here is the list of all the choirs we have hosted since the year of our centennial celebrations – how many have you attended?

- 1 - Puccini's Opera (CCOC) - Suor Angelica & Il Tabarro - Feb 22, 2013
- 2 - Concordia University of Edmonton - Spring concert - April 27, 2013
- 3 - German Ladies Choir - singing during services - June 2, 2013
- 4 - The Master's Singers - singing at the 100th anniversary - Oct 24, 2013
- 5 - LaVie ensemble - Christmas concert - Dec 13, 2014
- 6 - German Ladies Choir - singing during services - Dec 14, 2014
- 7 - Youth Choir of the high school of Obersberg, Germany - Sept 2, 2015
- 8 - Deutsche Singgemeinschaft - Nov 7, 2015
- 9 - Cantares Venezuelan Choir - Sept 10, 2016
- 10 - Suncor Energy Choir - Christmas concert - Nov 26, 2016
- 11 - German Ladies Choir - singing during services - Dec 4, 2016
- 12 - Blend Vocal Association – Spring concert on April 22, 2017
- 13 – Calgary Chinese Oratorio – Mendelssohn's Elijah. Sept 30, 2017
- 14 – Calgary Renaissance Singers and Players – Oct 28, 2017
- 15 - Master's Singers – during the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation - Oct 29, 2017
- 16 – German ladies choir / German pre-school kids choir / Singgemeinschaft – Nov 25, 2017
- 17 – Blend Vocal Association – Christmas concert – Dec 9, 2017
- 18 – Concordia Concert Choir – Generous Land - April 30, 2018
- 19 – South Sudanese Nuer Choir (Grace Luth.) – For the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of P. Zeuch at SMLC - Nov 4, 2018
- 20 - Calgary Chinese Oratorio Society – King of Kings'. Dec 8, 2018
- 21 – German Language Education Childran's Choir – Dec 9, 2018

- 22 - Die Singgemeinschaft, German Ladies Choir, German Canadian Mens Choir, German Language Children's Choir - Dec 7, 2019
- 23 - Die Singgemeinschaft, German Ladies Choir, German Canadian Mens Choir - Nov 26, 2022
- 24 - (Planned): The Master's Singers - Oct 29, 2023
- 25 - (Planned): Die Singgemeinschaft, German Ladies Choir, German Canadian Mens Choir - Dec 2nd, 2023

From one anniversary (100 years) to another (110 years), we've had ten years of choirs, only skipping 2020 & 2021 due to Covid. Keep posted for future presentations!



## My mother



My mother's name was Erica. A German descendant with a Polish last name, she was born in the most German city in Southern Brazil. She was a beautiful woman - her passion for art was evident wherever she went: Music (she would bring joy to many people with her skilled accordion playing), painting and drawing, drama, dancing. Her cooking and baking were amazing.

Of course, with a mix of German and Brazilian wonderful recipes, what else could you expect? Mami spoke Portuguese, Spanish and German and was always full of life, energy, and joy. She taught us, kids, the love of music, the love for nature as God's creation, the love for travelling and seeing new places, and to love God above all. And so much more! She made friends easily and was loved by all. She was loving and caring and had a great sense of humour. Mother of three, she was a wonderful mom. She was also my dad's companion in his pastoral ministry in many places: Venezuela, Guatemala, Germany and Brazil. After my dad died of cancer when he was 48, she lived 20 more years after his early passing. She also died of cancer at the age of 61 in 2001. As a faithful Christian, she knew exactly where she was going and that her Lord Jesus was preparing a place for her as He did with my dad.

In this edition of the Agape, I want to honour her and thank God for having had the privilege and blessing to be her son. Please take a moment to thank God this May 14 for your mom. Join us for worship on other Sundays as well!

And so, I come to the end of my little text. Thank you for everything, mami! I miss you, and I know we will see you again in God's holy presence!

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And here is a little poem for Mothers Day in German, for our German readers:

## **Mutterliebe**

Autorin: Gerlinde Popp

So lang ein Mutterherz noch schlägt,  
so lang wird es dich lieben,  
drum danke Gott für jeden Tag,  
der euch noch ist beschieden.

Die Mutter ist ´s, die Dir verzeiht,  
auch wenn du sie gekränkt,  
weil sie dich mag wie keiner sonst,  
und sie dir Mutterliebe schenkt.

Sie denkt zurück als du noch klein,  
sie dich im Arme trug,  
ein bißchen traurig ist sie dann,  
die Zeit verging im Flug.

Es wird die Zeit nie stille steh ´n,  
kein Mensch wird das wohl je versteh ´n.  
Alle Blumen auf dem Felde, in ihrer bunten Pracht,  
wollen Mütter heut ´ erfreuen, daß das Herze lacht.

Heute ist ein Ehrentag  
für Mütter ganz allein,  
so denk auch ich an vergang ´ne Zeit,  
auch ich - ich hatt ´ ein Mütterlein.

Gott segne alle Mütter heut,  
und schenk ´ ein langes Leben,  
halt fern die Sorgen und das Leid,  
auf allen ihren Wegen.

Festgestaltung.de





Is the "Agape" a newsletter or a personal blog, after all? Well, I guess it's both! My idea a few years ago was to create a space where this pastor could express some ideas, devotionals, and news from our congregation. So, it became more than just a blog: it turned out to be a means of communication for members and friends of St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calgary. Thank you for your support. I appreciate your feedback as well. If you have any article, you consider worth sharing with our church, I am open to include it as well. Just contact me.

If you want to read the previous Agapes, just go to our website and you will find all editions there. May God's amazing and unconditional love (Agape) reach you and your family this springtime!

In His service,  
Rev. Markus Zeuch

Calgary, May 10, 2023

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