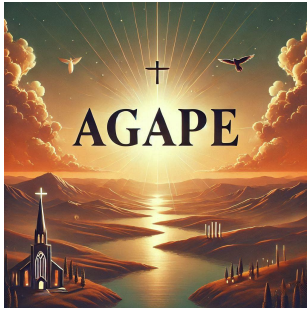




NOVEMBER 2025

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH – Calgary AB

112 years proclaiming Christ in Bridgeland!

By Rev. Markus Zeuch

Dear friends of St. Matthew

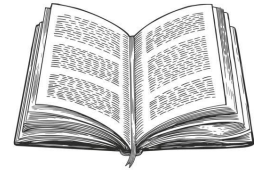
THE THREE-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN. ARE YOU ON BOARD?

Have you ever read through the Bible? Why should you? A life goal for every mature Christian should be to read the entire Holy Bible.

A few years ago, we went through a two-year reading plan. This time it will take us a little longer by reading one chapter a day (instead of three). Will you be on board for this project? Many blessings are waiting for you.

We are officially starting on the first Sunday in Advent, November 30. We will go to the foundations of our faith! It is a great way to grow in your faith and understanding of God's Word. And the amount of reading per day and per week is totally manageable.

The plan takes you through the Bible in three years and three months, a more manageable plan with less reading than the two-year plan. The 3-Year plan starts at Matthew and reads through to Revelation and then going back to Genesis all the way up to Malachi in the Old Testament – just one chapter a day. That represents about 5 minutes a day!



The Bible (Protestant canon) contains a total of 1,189 chapters — 929 in the Old Testament and 260 in the New Testament. So, if you read one chapter per day, it would take 1,189 days to complete. That's about 3 years and 3 months

There are some excellent apps if you want to read it from your smart phone. One of them is "Holy Bible" (You version). You may also set a reminder for every day... it's just another tool in your hectic day to set aside time for the Word to impact your life.

What we are doing is strongly encouraging everyone in our church to take the start of a fresh new church year as an opportunity to start regular readings of God's Word – a leap of faith! And, doing it with more people is even more encouraging. And we encourage you not to give up, even when you bump into difficult or even not quite exciting chapters. Challenge yourself to take about 5 minutes every day.

Unlike the previous plan, this reading plan does include Sundays. You can also use the Sundays to concentrate on what you hear in church that day; to do catch up, in case you missed a day etc.

May God bless your adventure through the Scriptures!

In His service, Pastor Z.



BLUE PARAMENTS?

On November 30th, First Sunday in Advent, we will start using a new colour in our church! We will have blue paraments. A parament is an ornamental liturgical hanging or ecclesiastical vestment, used especially in Christian churches to adorn the altar, pulpit, and lectern. We will bless these paraments before using them for worship as is the proper thing to do. In Lutheran churches, blue paraments are used during Advent to symbolize hope. This color connects to the season's theme of waiting for Jesus's birth and the anticipation of his second coming from the blue sky. While purple is also a traditional color for Advent, many Lutheran traditions, particularly those with Scandinavian or British roots, have adopted blue for its specific message of hope.



Symbolism and usage

- **Hope and anticipation:**

Blue is associated with hope and a new beginning, a key message of the Advent season as people prepare for Christmas and await the Lord's return.

- **Connection to the sky:**

The color of the sky can be seen as a reminder that Christ will return from the heavens as he ascended long ago.

- **Historical context:**

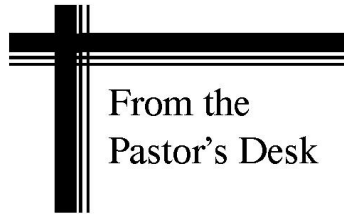
The tradition of using blue paraments in Lutheran churches was influenced by traditions in Sweden and the Anglican Church (Sarum rite). Some sources also note that historically, blue dye was cheaper and more readily available in northern climates.

Some Lutheran congregations continue to use purple during Advent, which traditionally represents both royalty and penitence. However, in modern practice, blue has become a widely accepted alternative, particularly in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The Lutheran Church—Canada (LCC) often uses purple as the primary color for Advent but allows blue as an alternate. We thank Lorraine (head of altar guild) for ordering it for our church.



LCC NEWS

- **LCC 13th SYNODICAL CONVENTION:** Will take place on June 12 to 15, 2026 in Winnipeg, MB. Every single congregation of LCC should be present with a pastor and a lay delegate. At our next voters meeting, on November 9th we will appoint a lay delegate to represent our congregation at the convention. At our congregational meeting we will also vote for the different positions available in the synod. Here are a few important deadlines: **Feb 12, 2026:** Deadline for congregations to return to the synod office the nomination forms for President, Vice-President, Regional Pastor, and Circuit Counsellor. **March 14, 2026:** Deadline for congregations to return to the synod office the appointment form for Pastor and Lay Delegate from the congregation.



From the Pastor's Desk

ARTICLES FOR THE AGAPE: I want to encourage our members to participate on the Agape. If you have anything you would like to share with the congregation or an article that could be of interest of our members, please send it to me (pastor). Obviously, I will review and decide at my discretion and if there's room for it, if it can be published or not.

YOUNG ADULTS: Did you know we have a young adult group that meets once a month for fellowship and Bible Study? They meet monthly at homes. If you are interested on that, please contact Thomas Weitz about it. He's one of our ushers at church. Awe thank Thomas for starting with this initiative.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Our Fall Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 9th**. We will have a **joint service at 10 am**, followed by a soup and sandwich luncheon and our congregational meeting. We ask our attending members to please bring a plate of sandwiches or dessert to share with your fellow members. Soup will be provided. There are hand-out packets available at the back of the church (for members only) for the congregational meeting. Please pick one up at your convenience.

HOW CAN YOU SERVE? - If you have 10 minutes a month you can be a reader, 45 minutes a month you could be a counter. Do you like to talk to people? Consider serving as an usher. Have a passion for sharing the Word? Confirmation and Sunday school teachers are needed. The chairmen of the Properties Board and Christian Education are coming vacant in November, maybe that's where you're being called Interested in helping with rentals? Stewardship? Many hands make light work, and your hands are needed! Please prayerfully consider how you can serve The Lord and your church community. Reach out to the church office to get more information.

TANNENBAUM LIGHTING FESTIVAL: Mark it on your calendar! On November 29 (Sat) we will host the fifth edition of the festival. It starts at 5 pm. The German Connect group led by one of our members, Marianne Jost, has started with this idea in 2019. It has been a success! This year we have planned another wonderful evening. Bring your family and friends, even if you don't speak German



WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS: We are glad and thankful to receive Bill McLeish and Elaine Bend as new members at our joint service on November 9th. They are transferring from Foothills Lutheran Church and are happy to be in our fellowship. Welcome, Bill and Elaine!

REMEMBER: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS ON NOVEMBER 2ND



QUIPS & QUOTES:

People who don't believe in prayer will make an exception when tragedy strikes

From "Quips & Quotes for Church Bulletins" by E.C. McKenzie

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER?

Nov 1 (Sat): All Saints Day

Nov 2 (Sun): Daylight Saving Time ends. All Saints Sunday. Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m. Sunday school at 11 a.m. Confirmation class at 11 a.m.

Nov 4 (Tues): Online Bible Study @ 7 p.m.

Nov 8 (Sat): Men's Breakfast @ 9 a.m.

Nov 9 (Sun): Joint service at 10 a.m. followed by potluck and the congregational meeting.

Nov 10 (Mon): Birth of Dr. Martin Luther (1483 in Eisleben, Germany)

Nov 11 (Tues): Online Bible Study @ 7 p.m.

Nov 13 (Thurs): Board of Elders' online Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Nov 16 (Sun): Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m. Volunteer appreciation day!

Nov 18 (Tues): Online Bible Study @ 7 p.m.

Nov 23 (Sun): Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m. Sunday school at 11 a.m. Confirmation class at 11 a.m.

Nov 15 (Tues): Online Bible Study @ 7 p.m.

Nov 26 (Wed): Pastor leads worship at Bethany Riverview

Nov 27 (Thurs): Online PPC meeting 7 p.m.

Nov 29 (Sat): Tannenbaum Lighting Festival @ 5 p.m.

Nov 30 (Sun): First Sunday in Advent. Worship services – German @ 9:30 English @ 11 a.m. Sunday school at 11 a.m. Confirmation class at 11 a.m. We start the three-year Bible reading Plan with Matthew chap 1

Nov 30 (Sun): Online Bible study in Portuguese 5 p.m.

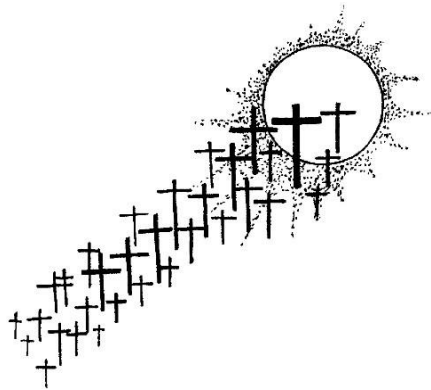


A LITTLE HUMOUR:

How do you know that atoms are Catholic? They have mass.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



November 2nd is All Saints Sunday this year. In the Lutheran churches, All Saints Sunday is a day to remember all the faithful who have died, including both biblical figures and personal friends and family members who have passed away in Christ. The celebration is grounded in the understanding that all baptized Christians are saints, and that it is God's grace, not their own works, that makes them holy. It is a communal remembrance that honors God's grace while also acknowledging individual loss and grief.

Key aspects of the Lutheran understanding of All Saints Sunday

- **Honoring all Christians:**

While originally a day for martyrs, Lutherans now view every baptized believer as a saint, emphasizing that "in Christ every saint is a sinner and every sinner a saint" (*simul justus et peccator*).

- **Remembering the departed:**

The day is a specific time to give thanks for those who have passed on, especially those who have died within the year, like members, friends, and relatives.

- **A celebration of grace:**

Lutheran theology emphasizes that sainthood is a gift from God, given through grace and faith in Jesus, and not earned through human actions or exemplary lives.

- **A communal experience:**

It is a day to gather and acknowledge that individual experiences of death and grief are part of a larger, communal "body of Christ".

- **Focus on the present and future:**

The day connects the living and the dead, fostering a sense of community with those who have gone before and with those who will follow.

UND JETZT AUF DEUTSCH:

Der 2. November dieses Jahr ist Allerheiligen-Sonntag.

In den lutherischen Kirchen ist der Allerheiligen-Sonntag ein Tag, an dem aller verstorbenen Gläubigen gedacht wird – sowohl biblischer Gestalten als auch persönlicher Freunde und Familienmitglieder, die in Christus entschlafen sind.

Die Feier gründet auf dem Verständnis, dass alle getauften Christen Heilige sind und dass es Gottes Gnade – nicht ihre eigenen Werke – ist, die sie heilig macht.

Es ist ein gemeinschaftliches Gedenken, das Gottes Gnade ehrt und zugleich individuellen Verlust und Trauer anerkennt.

Zentrale Aspekte des lutherischen Verständnisses vom Allerheiligen-Sonntag

- **Ehrung aller Christen:** Ursprünglich ein Tag für Märtyrer, sehen Lutheraner heute jeden getauften Gläubigen als Heiligen an. Dabei wird betont: „In Christus ist jeder Heilige ein Sünder und jeder Sünder ein Heiliger“ (simul justus et peccator).

- **Gedenken der Verstorbenen:** Der Tag bietet einen besonderen Anlass, um für jene zu danken, die verstorben sind – insbesondere für diejenigen, die im vergangenen Jahr gestorben sind, wie Gemeindeglieder, Freunde und Verwandte.

Feier der Gnade: Die lutherische Theologie betont, dass die Heiligkeit ein Geschenk Gottes ist, das durch Gnade und den Glauben an Jesus Christus gegeben wird – und nicht durch menschliches Handeln oder ein vorbildliches Leben verdient wird.

- **Gemeinschaftliches Erleben:** Es ist ein Tag des Zusammenkommens, an dem deutlich wird, dass individuelle Erfahrungen von Tod und Trauer Teil eines größeren, gemeinschaftlichen „Leibes Christi“ sind.

- **Blick auf Gegenwart und Zukunft:** Der Tag verbindet Lebende und Verstorbene und fördert ein Gefühl der Gemeinschaft mit denen, die vorangegangen sind, und mit denen, die noch folgen werden.



Thank you for your support and prayers.

In **His** service,

Pastor Markus Zeuch

Calgary, October 31, 2025 A.D. (on Reformation Day)

