

# Agape

**JULY & AUGUST 2023**

Rev. M. Zeuch

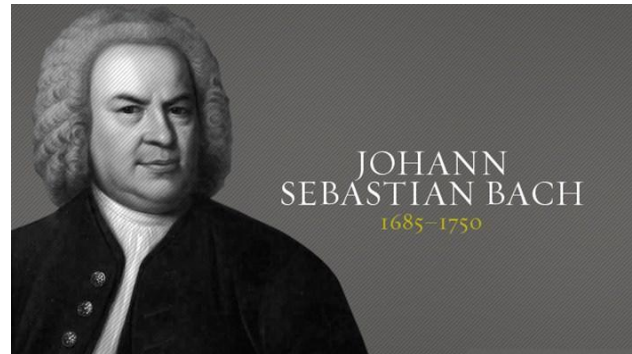


ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
110 years proclaiming Christ in Bridgeland!

## **"The Fifth Evangelist: The Legacy of Johann Sebastian Bach"**

July 28 marks the death of legendary composer Johann Sebastian Bach, back in 1750 AD.

Bach, born in 1685, 139 years after Luther's death, in the small German town of Eisenach (Luther's "favorite town"), is widely regarded as one of the greatest musical composers of all time. He was also a committed Christian who dedicated his work 'To the greater glory of God'.



While many of the Church's musicians have not been Christians, Bach was a devout believer, who was clear about how he saw his work.

He said: 'The purpose of music can be nothing but the glory of God and the restoration of the heart. Where this is not the case there is no real music but only a demonic noise.'

When he was 48, Johann Sebastian Bach acquired a copy of Luther's three-volume translation of the Bible. He pored over it as if it were a long-lost treasure. He underlined passages, corrected errors in the text and commentary, inserted missing words, and made notes in the margins. Near 1 Chronicles 25 (a listing of Davidic musicians) he wrote, "This chapter is the true foundation of all God-pleasing music." At 2 Chronicles 5:13 (which speaks of temple musicians praising God), he noted, "At a reverent performance of music, God is always at hand with his gracious presence."

As one scholar put it, Bach the musician was indeed "a Christian who lived with the Bible."

Bach composed much music for use in church. His famed religious works include *Mass in B Minor*, *Ave Maria*, *The Passion of St John*, *Ascension Cantata* and the *Christmas Oratorio*.

Bach was a prolific prodigy. He was surely being generous when he said: 'I worked hard. Anyone who works as hard as I did can achieve the same results.'

Nonetheless he wasn't known as the legend he is now when he died in 1750. Though he was appreciated by some, his genius only really entered the mainstream when German composer Felix Mendelssohn conducted a performance of Bach's *The Passion of St Matthew*, sparking a Bach renaissance.

Bach's mingling of musical excellence and Christian truth led to him being known as 'the fifth evangelist'. His work reminds one that 'Christian' music need not be lacking in elegance and craft, and can be a powerful witness that touches the lives of many.

Bach had profound talent and became a revered icon in the music world. His enduring legacy though, is that in his life and work – he gave the glory to God.

## SOLI DEO GLORIA

*Glory to God Alone*

Adapted from Christianity Today, March 21, 2017 (Joseph Hartropp)

**Pastor's note:** If you are reading this Agape in any electronic device, you may click on Bach's picture (first page) to listen to Bach's wonderful Ascension Oratorio BWV11. It is sung in German with English subtitles!

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## A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

**THROUGH BAPTISM:** As you must have read in our previous edition of the Agape, we welcomed Sara Lucini on May 28.

**THROUGH PROFESSION OF FAITH:** We welcomed the 28 new members from Eritrea on that same day (Pentecost Sunday)

**THROUGH TRANSFER:** On last June 18 we also welcomed Les and Deborah Thumlert into our fellowship. They were members of an LCMS Lutheran Church in Utah.



**Attention  
Please!**

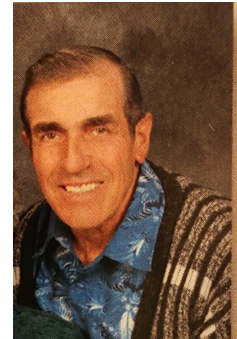
**FUNERALS**

**FLORENCE GODFREY (86)**– Memorial service took place on June 28 at our church. She was not a member of our church. She was my next-door neighbour and a faithful believer in Christ her Lord. She used to teach Sunday school in her home church for many years and knew the Lord. Florence had a request before she died of cancer: she asked me (pastor) to do her funeral service. A big thankyou to Lori Salter and Randy Haynes who helped out at this service.



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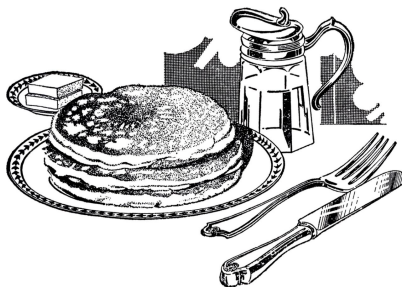
**AUGUST BOEHM (82)** – Was called to glory on June 26. A long-time member of our church, he was also called "Gus" by our members. August sang in the German choir for many years, he served as the president of the "Walther League" and he also was active in the German Bible study group. He knew his Lord Jesus and he knew that God had a special place for him in heaven. One of the last things August scribbled down on a piece of paper was this: *"The salvation of the soul is Christ. God made a room for us and for others. Pray together for spiritual vibrancy. To trust in that God – the love that He gave Jesus for us: The past, the present and the future"*.



A memorial service was held on June 30 at Bethany Riverview Care Centre.



**STAMPEDE BREAKFAST – YAHOO!**



Please join us for our delicious Stampede Breakfast on Sunday, July 9, 2023 @ 8:30 am, followed by a joint service at 10 am. We will have a contemporary service, there will be no communion. All are welcome, and please invite your friends and family!

A big thankyou to those who worked hard so that we could keep this long-time tradition at SMLC.



### **The flowers and the lawn**

By the way, have you noticed our flower beds lately? The beautiful flowers around the church, the well-kept lawn, everything is maintained with a lot of love by our members & volunteers. I would get in trouble if I start to name all those who have spent their time caring for our gardens (the fear for leaving someone out). So here goes our expression of gratitude to all of you!



## **DECISIONS MADE ON OUR SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING ON JUNE 25TH**

### **Congregational Meeting**



By a large majority, the voters decided not to pursue Heritage designation status. We will seek different funding streams for capital projects such as focusing estate funds, fundraising within the congregation for specific projects, as well as investigating other government grants that don't have long term restrictions or affects.

The capital projects for 2023 are carpet replacement and concrete stair replacement. Each year there will be focused capital projects decided by necessity and funding. The properties board will be getting a second opinion regarding the condition of the stained glass, as well as getting quotes for the windows in the worst condition. Information will be brought forward to the fall congregation meeting. If you would like to support current and upcoming projects, please direct your funds to the "Building Maintenance Fund".

Koreen Graumann, on behalf of the PPC.

Indeed, God has blessed us and will continue to do so, praise be to Him!

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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!

We had an anniversary picnic on June 10 at North Glenmore Park with a great attendance and good fellowship! Thank you to Heather, Henry and Lori for providing the food and flipping the burgers (Henry).

**DID YOU KNOW?** "Jehovah Lutheran Church" was our first name, before it was changed to St. Matthew Lutheran Church in 1960. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1945 "the little white church" on 6A Street N.E. and the parsonage on 6<sup>th</sup> Street N.E. were traded for the Moravian church (our current building) and manse. The old property was valued at \$8,000.00 versus a validation of \$20,000.00 for the new property. Hence, the old property and \$12,000.00 cash was traded for the larger place of worship and manse. April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1945 was an important day for the Jehovah Lutheran Congregation. The dedication of this church took place on that day. A total of **425** people attended the morning service, **560** the afternoon service, and **725** the evening service! Many other congregations dropped their services to be present at the dedication. I really don't know how they would fit all these people in there – a miracle! (pastor's comment).



## WHAT'S PLANNED FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS?



**July 1 (Sat):** Canada day – "God keep our land"!

**July 2 (Sun):** Fifth Sunday after Pentecost.

Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.

**July 9 (Sun):** Stampede breakfast @ 8:30 a.m. and joint service (contemporary service) @ 10 a.m. There's no communion.

**July 10 to 27:** Pastor's vacations.

**July 16 (Sun):** Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. Reading services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m. Pastor is away. There's no communion.

**July 23 (Sun):** Eighth Sunday after Pentecost. Reading services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m. Pastor is away. There's no communion.

**July 30 (Sun):** Ninth Sunday after Pentecost. Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m. There is communion – pastor is back.

**Aug 6 (Sun):** Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m. Pastor Mark Rekken (Prince of Peace Lutheran Church) is the guest speaker. There will be a presentation after each service on the Hospital Ministries by Rev. Rekken. Pastor Zeuch holds service at Prince of Peace.

**Aug 8 (Tues):** Pastor holds worship service at Bethany Riverview senior home.

**Aug 13 (Sun):** Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost. Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.

**Aug 20 (Sun):** Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost. Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.

**Aug 27 (Sun):** Reading services in German and English. Pastor is away. There is no communion.

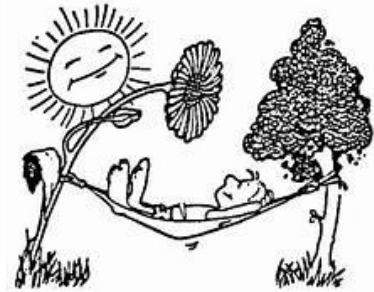




## UNSERE DEUTSCHE ECKE

### Du sollst Urlaub machen!

Das steht so fast wörtlich in der Bibel. Mit gutem Grund. Zur Arbeit muss man die Menschen nicht antreiben, zur sinnvollen Erholung schon. Auch sonst bietet die Bibel einige tiefe Einsichten über den Urlaub und seine Gestaltung.



"Du sollst den Feiertag heiligen", übersetzte Martin Luther das nach seiner Zählung dritte Gebot. Wörtlich steht dort: "Gedenke des Ruhetags, um ihn zu heiligen!" Ein seltsame Vorschrift, die Gott auf dem Sinai seinem Propheten Mose auf die Steintafel schrieb! Sie steht in einer Reihe mit den sofort einleuchtenden Geboten, nicht zu töten, zu stehlen, zu lügen, über die wir uns mit allen Religionen der Welt und wahrscheinlich auch mit allen nicht religiösen Menschen einigen könnten. Das Gebot, einen Ruhetag einzuhalten und zu heiligen, ist jedoch eine jüdisch-christliche Besonderheit.

Offenbar hat Gott gewusst, wie sehr den Menschen sein Tagwerk gefangen nehmen kann. So sehr, dass er über seine Geschäftigkeit alles andere vergisst und seine Arbeit zur Religion macht. Ein



gesondertes Arbeitsgebot war deshalb gar nicht nötig – wohl aber die Mahnung, regelmäßig eine Pause einzulegen. Gott selbst macht es uns vor. Nach sechs Tagen Schöpfungswerk gönnt sich Gott einen Urlaubstag. "Er ruhte und erquickte sich", heißt es in einer für die Bibel und erst recht für Gottes Tun ungewöhnlichen Wortwahl (Exodus 31,17).

Unseren Urlaubsanspruch müssen wir uns aber aus biblischer Sicht keineswegs verdienen. Der Mensch wurde am sechsten Tag erschaffen – und schon gleich sein erster voller Tag auf der Erde war ein Ruhetag. In diesem Bild lag für Dietrich Bonhoeffer eine tiefe Einsicht über unsere Rechtfertigung vor Gott: "Die Feiertagsruhe ist das sichtbare Zeichen dafür, dass der Mensch aus der Gnade Gottes und nicht aus seinen Werken lebt." Schon bevor wir unser Tagwerk aufnehmen, haben wir Anteil an Gottes Heiligkeit. Uns wird Sinn geschenkt, bevor wir unser Leben selbst in die Hand nehmen.

Das regelmäßige Pausieren von unserer Arbeit an Sonntagen und im Urlaub hilft uns zum einen, körperlich und geistig zu regenerieren. Zum anderen gibt es uns Raum, mit Abstand über unser Leben nachzudenken und es immer wieder neu aus höherer Perspektive zu bewerten. Gott betrachtet nach der Arbeit sein Werk und sagt "gut". Nehmen wir uns auch genügend Zeit zum Loben, zum Freuen, zum



Danken? Klagen kann man auch in der Hektik der Alltags, aber für ein so tiefes Gotteslob wie beispielsweise in Psalm 139 braucht man Muße: "Herr, ich danke dir, dass ich so wunderbar gemacht bin."

Urlaub unterbricht den Alltag. Unterbrechung ist die kürzeste Definition von Religion, hat Johann Baptist Metz einmal gesagt. Jedes Unterbrechen kann auch ein Aufbrechen sein. Plötzlich stellen sich existenzielle Fragen, die in der Mühle des Alltags kein Gehör finden. So widersetzt sich der Urlaub – wo auch immer wir ihn verbringen – der Logik des Funktionierens. Ein Urlaubstag ist weniger planbar als ein Arbeitstag. Er ist eine Insel im Strom der Vergänglichkeit.

Die Zeit steht dadurch nicht still. Aber wir gewinnen für einen Moment Abstand davon. Wir zählen unser Leben in Jahren und unseren Urlaub in Wochen oder Tagen. Aber was unser Leben erfüllt, ereignet sich im Hier und Jetzt – im "Kairos", wie die Griechen sagen. Das Wort begegnet uns im wichtigsten Satz des Markusevangeliums, der Zusammenfassung von Jesu Botschaft (Markus 1,15): "Der Kairos ist da und das Reich Gottes ist herbeigekommen."

*Aus: evangelisch.de- Dieser Text ist zuerst erschienen im Magazin "Andere Zeiten", Ausgabe 02/2014.*



I hope you enjoyed our summer edition of the Agape. Happy Canada Day!  
May God's amazing and unconditional love (*agape*) reach you and your family during this summer!  
Keep cool and safe!

In His service,  
Rev. Markus Zeuch  
Calgary, on Canada Day 2023

