



Agape

**JUNE
2023**

Rev. M. Zeuch

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

The Feast of Pentecost or Shavuot has many names in the Bible: The Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Harvest, and the Latter Firstfruits. Celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover, Shavuot is traditionally a joyous time of giving thanks and presenting offerings for the new grain of the summer wheat harvest in Israel.

The name "Feast of Weeks" was given because God commanded the Jews in Leviticus 23:15-16, to count seven full weeks (or 49 days) beginning on the second day of Passover, and then present offerings of new grain to the Lord as a lasting ordinance. The term *Pentecost* derives from the Greek word meaning "fifty."

Initially, Shavuot was a festival for expressing thankfulness to the Lord for the blessing of the harvest. And because it occurred at the conclusion of the Passover, it acquired the name "Latter Firstfruits." The celebration is also tied to the giving of the Ten Commandments and thus bears the name *Matin Torah* or "giving of the Law." Jews believe that it was precisely at this time that God gave the Torah to the people through Moses on Mount Sinai.



Pentecost is celebrated on the fiftieth day after Passover, or the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan, which corresponds with May or June.

The Feast of Pentecost originated in the Pentateuch as an offering of firstfruits, decreed for Israel on Mount Sinai. Throughout Jewish history, it has been customary to engage in an all-night study of the Torah on the first evening of Shavuot. Children were encouraged to memorize Scripture and rewarded with treats.

In Acts 1, just before the resurrected Jesus was taken up into heaven, he told the disciples about the Father's promised gift of the Holy Spirit, which would soon be given to them in the form of a powerful baptism. He told them to wait in Jerusalem

until they received the gift of the Holy Spirit, which would empower them to go out into the world and be his witnesses.

A few days later, on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples were all together when the sound of a mighty rushing wind came down from heaven, and tongues of fire rested on the believers. The Bible says, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." The believers communicated in languages they had never before spoken. They spoke with Jewish pilgrims of various languages from all across the Mediterranean world.

The crowds observed this event and heard them speaking in different languages. They were amazed and thought the disciples were drunk on wine. Then the apostle Peter got up and preached the Good News of the kingdom and 3000 people accepted the message of Christ. That same day they were baptized and added to the family of God.



The book of Acts continues to record the miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit that began on the Feast of Pentecost. This Old Testament feast revealed "a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ" (Colossians 2:17).

After Moses went up to Mount Sinai, the Word of God was given to the Israelites at Shavuot. When the Jews accepted the Torah, they became servants of God. Similarly, after Jesus went up to heaven, the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost. When the disciples received the gift, they became witnesses for Christ. Jews celebrate a joyous harvest on Shavuot, and the church celebrates a harvest of newborn souls on Pentecost.

Source: learnreligions.com



A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS



You are invited to attend our Heritage Status/Stained-glass window replacement information session **June 6th at 6 pm** in person at the church or on zoom. The discussion is extremely important with regard to the future status of our church and expert detailed information as to the state of our stained-glass windows. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

If you are reading this Agape on a digital device, you may click on the link below to login to our meeting:

Topic: Information session at Church

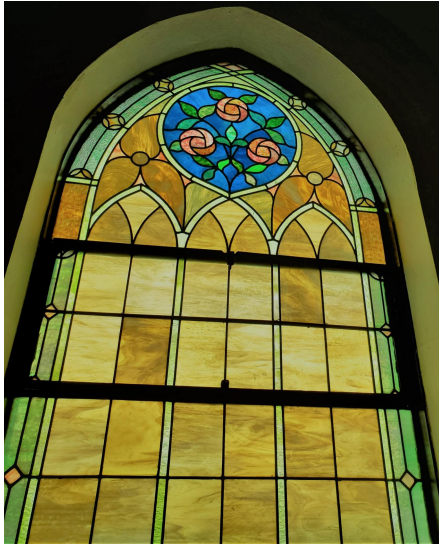
Time: Jun 6, 2023 06:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89945514729?pwd=Q0JZTnk4QTYrMTV6UmcxVzRjUmNSQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 4551 4729

Passcode: 968219



DON'T FORGET TO RSVP FOR THIS:



SUMMER PICNIC: Please come and join us in fellowship and fun for our 110th Anniversary church picnic on Saturday, June 10th, 2023. The picnic will be held at North Glenmore Park, the Snowy Owl Picnic site. The site is booked from 8:45 am to 2:45 pm. We will have the hotdogs and burgers going on the grill around noon. The site has a shelter, a main fire pit, several picnic tables and smaller fire boxes. The washrooms and playground are close by and there are lots of grassy areas to play some games. St. Matthew will provide hotdogs and burgers and buns with some condiments. We ask you to bring a salad or snack or fruit or dessert to share. There are several parking areas around the picnic sites, but lot L is closest. Please RSVP to the church office if you are coming by June 5th so we have enough food supplies. We truly hope to see you there!

THE CHURCH GROWS ON PENTECOST DAY!

We sure had a wonderful Pentecost celebration on May 28! On that joyous Sunday we baptized little Sara Lucini and welcomed her into God's family. Her parents, Filipe and Deise are members of our church. The baptism ceremony was held in both English and Portuguese, since some Godparents were from Brazil (and in Brazil, watching the service on zoom).



And as I already mentioned on my previous Agape, we also welcomed the Eritrean group of brothers and sisters into our membership. They sang two hymns in their native language, Tigrinya. We thank God for having you among us as part of this family! Yessus yefqreka eu ("Jesus loves you" in Tigrinya).



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, ST. MATTHEW!



OUR 110th ANNIVERSARY

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is celebrating its 110th 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!

As we continue our timeline from previous Agape's, this will be the last one up to this upcoming October 2023:

- 2006 (Feb) Rev. Fred Stark, who served our church for 35 years, from 1955 to 1990 (when he retired) was called to be with the Lord.
- 2008 (March) Rev. Orlin Anderson serves as vacancy pastor until October, when he started to serve as pastor emeritus, helping out pastor Zeuch.
- 2008 (Oct.) Rev. Markus Zeuch was installed as the new pastor on October 5th.
- 2009 (July) SMLC was interviewed by City TV's Breakfast Television.
- 2012 (April) Funeral service for Mr. Robert Hooper, who has served SMLC for over 50 years as music director, choir director and organist.
- 2012 (Nov) SMLC started monthly Bible studies in Portuguese.
- 2013 (Oct) Celebration of the 100th anniversary with a festive worship service and a dinner. Guest speaker: Rev. Robert Bugbee, president of the Lutheran Church-Canada.
- 2019 Complete kitchen renovation
- 2020 (March) Pandemic caused the church to close its doors for in-person worship. We started to hold online and recorded services.
- 2021 (May) We went back to in-person worship at church!
- 2023 (May) New carpets for the sanctuary!
- 2023 (May) We welcomed a group of 28 new members from Eritrea on Pentecost Day!
- 2023 (Oct) Celebration of the 110th anniversary (planned for Oct 29)

Alles
LIEBE
ZUM
Vatertag



UNSERE DEUTSCHE ECKE

Vatertag in Kanada - 18. Juni

Gott zeigt sich als Vater (www.erf.de)

In dem Bild des Vaters wird Gottes Sicht für den Menschen noch deutlicher: Nach der Bibel möchte er uns wie ein Vater durch das ganze Leben hindurch begleiten. Der Mensch sehnt sich nach Zuwendung und Geborgenheit, was besonders im Kindesalter zu erkennen ist. Aber auch als Erwachsener ist diese Sehnsucht nicht verschwunden. Gott möchte diese Person sein und diese Sehnsucht stillen. Mit ihm ist der Mensch nie alleine, sondern darf Geborgenheit erfahren. So sagt Gott in der Bibel zu den Israeliten, denen er sich auf besondere Weise offenbart hatte: *„Hört mir zu, ihr Nachkommen Jakobs, alle, die ihr von Israel noch übrig seid! Von Anfang an habe ich euch getragen, seit eurer Geburt Sorge ich für euch. Ich bleibe derselbe; ich werde euch tragen bis ins hohe Alter, bis ihr grau werdet. Ich, der Herr, habe es bisher getan, und ich werde euch auch in Zukunft tragen und retten“* (Jesaja 46,3-4).

Gott möchte in einer sehr persönlichen Beziehung zu seinen Geschöpfen leben. Wie ein guter Vater für seine Kinder sorgt, ihnen Orientierung bietet und sie beschützt, wünscht sich Gott diese Beziehung auch mit dem Menschen. Gleichzeitig lässt Gott dem Menschen aber die Freiheit, in dieser Vater-Kind-Beziehung zu leben oder nicht. Er engt den Menschen in seiner Liebe nicht ein.

In dem bekannten Gleichnis vom verlorenen Sohn (Lukas 15) wird diese Haltung Gottes besonders gut verdeutlicht: Der Vater (Gott) besitzt alle Fülle, die er seinem Sohn (dem Menschen) freigiebig vollkommen schenkt. Der Sohn aber möchte mit ihm nichts mehr zu tun haben. Er möchte lieber entdecken, was die Welt außerhalb seiner Heimat und dem väterlichen Hof zu bieten hat. Der Vater lässt ihm diese Freiheit, nimmt seinen Sohn aber in großer Freude wieder auf, als dieser später zu ihm zurückkehrt, weil er merkt, dass es ihm in der Fremde schlechter geht als zuhause. Gottes Vaterliebe zeigt sich also auch darin, dass er barmherzig ist und Schuld gerne vergibt, wenn ein Mensch seine Schuld eingesteht und zu Gott umkehrt.



Thank you for your support. The Agape is now a monthly newsletter. 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 time of Pentecost!

In His service,
Rev. Markus Zeuch
Calgary, May 30, 2023 AD



June 2023 at SMLC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 pm Elders' Meeting via ZOOM	2	3 LHMSA education luncheon
4 <i>The Holy Trinity</i> 9:30 am German 11 am English	5	6 Heritage Status & Stained-glass window info 6 pm (In person & via zoom)	7	8	9	10 Anniversary Picnic @ North Glenmore Park!
11 <i>The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30 am German 11 am English	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 <i>The 3rd Sunday a. Pentecost</i> 9:30 am German 11 am English Coffee Hour <i>Fathers Day</i>	19	20	21 Summer begins! 	22 7 pm PPC Meeting via ZOOM	23	24 <i>The Nativity of St. John, the Baptist</i>
25 <i>The 4th Sunday a. Pentecost</i> 9:30 am German 11 am English Online Bible Study in Portuguese 6 pm	26	27	28 Pastor attends the Calgary Circuit Winkel @ Grace Lutheran	29 <i>St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles</i>	30	