

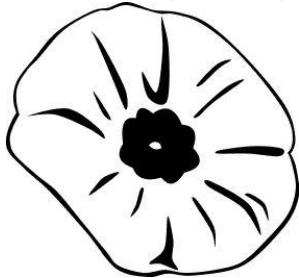
# NOVEMBER 2023

Rev. M. Zeuch  
ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
110 years proclaiming Christ in Bridgeland

## Agape

In Jesus, dear Saint Matthew family and friends!

I would like to share with you a message for children about Remembrance Day, taken (with permission) from Sermons4Kids. You may read it to your children or grandchildren. While the language is quite simple, being written for kids, it also reminds us, adults, about the meaning of this holiday. Here is the text:



Do you know what this flower is called? It is a poppy. The poppy serves as a reminder that this week we will celebrate a very important holiday. We will celebrate Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day is a day on which we honor the men and women who have served in the military and who have fought to defend our freedom. The poppy was chosen as a symbol for Remembrance Day because it reminds us of a place called Flanders Fields where many soldiers from the first World War are buried. The poppies grow wild there between all the crosses that mark their place.

We enjoy a lot of freedom. We are free to come to church and worship, we are free to choose what we want to be when we grow up, we are free to choose where we want to live, we are free to choose most of the things that affect our daily lives. This might come as a surprise to some of you -- but did you know that freedom isn't free? Someone had to pay the price for us to have the freedom that we enjoy. There are men and women all around us still today, who have helped to pay that price. Some have served in the military and many of them have fought in wars. There are probably some people at our church who had loved ones who gave their lives fighting for our freedom. These are the ones that we honor as we celebrate Remembrance Day.

We have a lot of freedom, but the greatest freedom that we have is the freedom that we have in Christ Jesus. The Bible teaches that the penalty for sin is death, but you and I have been set free from this penalty. We have been set free because Jesus paid the penalty. Jesus died to set us free from the penalty of sin. Instead of death, we have been given eternal life. This freedom wasn't free, Jesus paid the price.

This week as we celebrate Remembrance Day, let us remember to stop and thank God for those who have paid the price for our freedom. Let us also remember to thank God for Jesus, who has set us free from the penalty for sin, because he was willing to pay the price.

Dear Father, thank you for the freedom that we enjoy. We are thankful for those who paid the price for that freedom, but even more important, we thank you for the freedom we have because Jesus was willing to pay the penalty for our sin. Amen.

Copyright © 2001 - 2023. Sermon4Kids. All Rights Reserved.

---

## LET'S TALK ABOUT VOLUNTEERING IN THE CHURCH

We had a beautiful celebration of our anniversary, and God was certainly present, honoured. We want to acknowledge the hard work a few of you have put into our celebration last October 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much! You are truly a blessing. But you are just a small team! **And we noticed you are getting tired.** It seems to be a general issue in most Lutheran churches: it is always the same group of people who do everything, who gets their hands dirty, who puts on the apron, are there for whatever the congregation needs, who serve.

And this fact leads me to include this note in this Agape. If you are a member, part of the Saint Matthew family, we would strongly suggest that you consider offering a helping hand next time we have any activity that involves hard work preparing and executing them. The (very) small group of volunteers that did all the job felt they could have used much more help. As the saying goes: "many hands make light work".

St. Paul says: Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23). As God's children, we are all servants, each one of us. We are called to serve, not to be spectators. Thank you for offering your help, there's lots to do!



## A FEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BIBLE STUDY:** Bible study is a vital part for every church of Christ. It represents one of the main pillars of the church, namely: Christian education. Statistics show that biblical illiteracy is growing, despite the easy access we have to information through the internet. At St. Matthew, we meet online on Tuesday evenings, to study the readings of every upcoming Sunday. This is an opportunity to study God's Word, grow in our faith and in fellowship with one another. Please consider in your heart to commit to these one-hour meetings. You will be blessed!

**NEW BOOKS!** The board of elders is planning to upgrade and revitalize our library. We are ordering four new books from Concordia Publishing House for our library. You may enjoy reading them; Check out our library but please don't forget to return them! The titles are:

**Attention  
Please!**





- 1 – Faith that Shines in the Culture
- 2 – Martin Luther on Mental Health
- 3 – (Dis)ordered: Lies about Human Nature and the Truth that Sets us Free
- 4 – The Spirituality of the Cross

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO ORDER A BOOK, A BIBLE OR A HYMNAL?**

We will be ordering books including study bibles and hymnals before Christmas. An excellent idea for a Christmas gift! The deadline to order your books is **November 19**. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Here are the choices (in US dollars):

- 1 – The Lutheran Study Bible hardback – U\$ 60.00
- 2 - The Lutheran Study Bible – compact paperback – U\$ 40.00
- 3 – Lutheran Service Book – pew edition (hard cover Hymnal) U\$ 30.00
- 4 – Lutheran Service Book: Personal/Gift edition (soft cover Hymnal) U\$ 50.00
- 5 - Faith that Shines in the Culture U\$ 16.99
- 6 – Martin Luther on Mental Health U\$ 16.99
- 7 – (Dis)ordered: Lies about Human Nature and the Truth that Sets us Free U\$ 16.99
- 8 – The Spirituality of the Cross U\$ 16.99

---

**HOLY BAPTISM:** We thank God for the little ones brought to the baptismal font and for the new life in Christ they received in this Sacrament. We will baptize Liborius and Alexandra Gherken on November 19 in the German service and we will baptize Areli Dermas Kafelit on the same day in the English service. Blessings to them on their journey with Christ!

**TANNENBAUM LIGHTING FESTIVAL:** Help Needed! We are looking for help with ushering, set-up, clean-up, baking. If you are able to help, please contact Lori Salter @ 403-862-9690. The festival will take place on Saturday, December 2, 2023. Thank you.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST NOVEMBER 18, 2023 @ 9 AM:** We are inviting all men of the congregation (18+) to join us at our first men's breakfast! We will spend some good time together with fellowship, Christian discussion and good food!

### **YOUTH MINISTRY:**

Our youth activities are now up and running! Our youth leaders are planning the monthly get-togethers to strengthen Christian fellowship among the young (members or non-members). These in-person gatherings



include a devotional time, games, movies, snacks, going somewhere etc. We will have a sleepover at the church this Friday, November 10. Please invite friends for this fun and meaningful ministry.

### **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:**

Our Eritrean group has started Sunday school during worship service in the church basement. They do it in Tigrinya, their native language. We will also have a children's message during worship on the first Sunday of every month, with a brief pastor's message and some song singing. All children present will be invited to come forward for this little moment. And yes, this will be in English, of course.

**OFFERINGS:** Our tithing and offerings are a vital part of our Christian faith. We show our gratitude to the Lord by giving back part of what He has blessed us with. This is called a good "Christian stewardship". It helps support our mission & ministry, as well as to keep our properties in shape. Since Covid 19, we stopped "passing the offering plate" through the pews as we used to do before. You may leave your offering in the plate as you enter or you exit on Sundays. We also encourage you to consider sending e-transfers ([smlccsecretary@shaw.ca](mailto:smlccsecretary@shaw.ca)) to the congregation. Your generosity is appreciated!



### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, ST. MATTHEW!**

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 a wonderful celebration of our anniversary. The attendance in the worship service was 154 people with many visitors. Pastor Hetzel was the guest speaker and pastor Smallwood took part of the service as well. We had beautiful worship music as well, with the Master's Singers male chorus and the Eritrean group. Afterwards we had a delicious luncheon in the basement. We thank our small group of members who worked really hard to make this happen, giving much of their time and energy to the event.

A former member who was there sent us a thank-you card with the following words:

*" Dear Pastor Zeuch, I just want to thank you and your congregation for the most blessed day – the church's 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary! I so much enjoyed being in your midst to celebrate this special occasion with beautiful hymns in both,*

*German and English, the special music by the Master's Singers and the Eritrean group and the inspiring message from Pastor Hetzel. And then the delicious luncheon! Wow! Seeing so many old friends again was also wonderful. I felt so at home! Praise God for all of these blessings. This indeed was "the day the Lord has made"!*

*Thank you to you and everyone who worked so hard to make this such a special day. The Lord truly was there in our midst."*

---

## WHAT'S PLANNED FOR THE MONTH?

**Nov 2 (Thurs):** Board of Elders meeting (online).

**Nov 4 (Sat):** Lutheran Hospital Ministries Volunteer appreciation luncheon @ 11 a.m.

**Nov 5 (Sun):** Joint worship service @ 10 a.m. following the fall congregational meeting in the church basement (hybrid meeting).

**Nov 7 (Tues):** Online Bible Study at 7 p.m.

**Nov 9 (Thurs):** Meeting of the Tannenbaum event committee @ 7 p.m.

**Nov 10 (Fri):** Youth gathering and sleepover at church. 7 p.m.

**Nov 11 (Sat):** Remembrance Day

**Nov 12 (Sun):** Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m. Presentation of the Lutheran Mission Society by Joyce Lobitz after each service.

**Nov 13 (Mon):** Office closed in honour of Remembrance Day.

**Nov 14 (Tues):** Online Bible Study at 7 p.m.

**Nov 18 (Sat):** Men's breakfast @ 9 a.m.

**Nov 19 (Sun):** Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.

Baptism of Alexandra Gherken & Liborius Gherken (German service) and Areli Dermas Kafelit (English service). Deadline to place your book order.

**Nov 21 (Tues):** Online Bible Study at 7 p.m.

**Nov 22 (Wed):** Pastor attends Calgary circuit's winkel in Canmore AB

**Oct 23 (Thurs):** PPC meeting (online) at 7 p.m

**Nov 26 (Sun):** Worship services: In German @ 9:30 a.m. In English @ 11 a.m.

**Nov 26 (Sun):** Bible Study in Portuguese (online) @ 5 p.m.

**Nov 28 (Tues):** Online Bible Study at 7 p.m.

## UNSERE DEUTSCHE ECKE

Alles hat seine bestimmte Stunde,  
und jedes Vorhaben unter dem Himmel hat seine Zeit:

<sup>2</sup> Geborenwerden hat seine Zeit,  
und Sterben hat seine Zeit;



Pflanzen hat seine Zeit,  
und das Gepflanzte ausreißen hat seine Zeit;

<sup>3</sup>Töten hat seine Zeit,  
und Heilen hat seine Zeit;  
Zerstören hat seine Zeit,  
und Bauen hat seine Zeit;

<sup>4</sup>Weinen hat seine Zeit,  
und Lachen hat seine Zeit;  
Klagen hat seine Zeit,  
und Tanzen hat seine Zeit;

<sup>5</sup>Steineschleudern hat seine Zeit,  
und Steinesammeln hat seine Zeit;  
Umarmen hat seine Zeit,  
und sich der Umarmung enthalten hat auch seine Zeit;

<sup>6</sup>Suchen hat seine Zeit,  
und Verlieren hat seine Zeit;  
Aufbewahren hat seine Zeit,  
und Wegwerfen hat seine Zeit;

<sup>7</sup>Zerreißen hat seine Zeit,  
und Flicken hat seine Zeit;  
Schweigen hat seine Zeit,  
und Reden hat seine Zeit;

<sup>8</sup>Lieben hat seine Zeit,  
und Hassen hat seine Zeit;  
Krieg hat seine Zeit,  
und Frieden hat seine Zeit.

Prediger 3: 1-8



### **MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD: A TIME FOR EVERYTHING**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

<sup>2</sup>a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

<sup>3</sup> a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
<sup>4</sup> a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
<sup>5</sup> a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
<sup>6</sup> a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
<sup>7</sup> a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
<sup>8</sup> a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8



Thank you for reading this November edition of Agape.

May God's amazing and unconditional love (*agape*) reach you and your family during this autumn season!

SOLI DEO GLORIA

In His service,  
Rev. Markus Zeuch  
Calgary, on Nov 9, 2023

