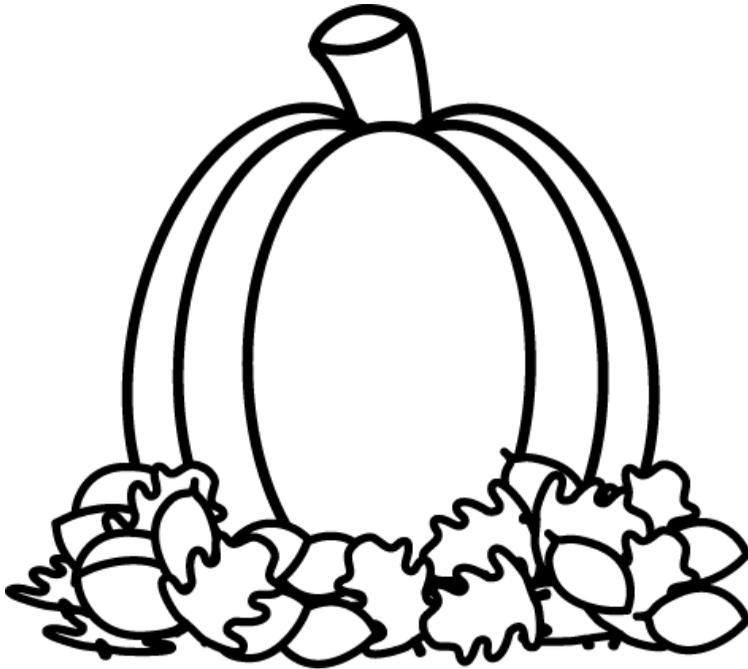


THE AGAPE NEWS!

St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calgary, AB

Since 1913 proclaiming the Good News of the love of God toward us through His Son Jesus Christ!

AUTUMN 2018 Newsletter



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I.N.I. stands for *In Nomine Jesu* (In the name of Jesus)! This is how Dr. Richard Warneck starts his book “Pastoral Ministry” that I keep on my desk at the office. This is how we want to begin our Fall 2018 edition of the newsletter – in Jesus’ name. Because all we do here at SMLC is or should be always in HIS name, for HIS glory, to HIS honour. I don’t get tired to say in my sermons that “it’s all about Christ”.



And the apostle Paul writes to the Colossians (chapter 3, verse 17) to “do all in the name of the Lord”. This is how I greet you today, dear reader. Yes, ALL our activities should lead us and point to HIM: our **worship**, our **teaching**, our **witnessing**, our **service** and our **getting together**. And...speaking of “name”, I do hope you have noticed the title of our newsletter, fall edition. It’s called “Agape News”! I had invited our board members to come up with an official NAME for our newsletters instead of just saying “fall newsletter, spring newsletter” etc. The suggestion came from my dear sister, Anneliese Dalmoro and I really enjoyed it – and just adopted it!

You may ask “what on earth is Agape”? well, there are at least three different names for “love” in the Greek language, the language God chose to give us the New Testament. While we have only one word in English, “agape” refers to the perfect love of God towards us – the kind of love we are invited to learn and imitate, practice, apply in our relationship with others. It’s the unconditional kind of love. The kind of perfect love that gives all the time and doesn’t expect anything in return. God showed this love by sending his only begotten son, Jesus Christ to save us from our enemies: the devil, the world and our sinful nature. This agape-love should always guide us and move us to action as Christ’s church! Remember, “we love because He first loved us”! 1 Jo 4.19.

Interesting things have taken place so far this year among us. Back in January we celebrated my 30th anniversary of my ordination. We welcomed the Ibrahim family from Sudan through a refugee sponsorship program run by our Calgary Circuit and the Canadian Lutheran World Relief. We welcomed the

Concordia Concert Choir from the Concordia University of Edmonton in April. We've had 3 new members coming in through Holy Baptism, 7 new members through profession of faith, 6 other members transferred to the triumphant church and are now part of the saints on the other side of the grave. We went to a Mission Fest at Foothills Lutheran, had a potluck with Global Faith Ministries, joint services, stampede breakfast...our youth group hosted a garage sale and they also went to Camrose, AB for a district gathering. We welcomed and blessed David Robak as the new treasurer and Walter Wagner as the head of properties. We also welcomed Dana Salter back on the board of elders.

We also thank God for a new outreach opportunity: The Lord has provided the opportunity to hold monthly German worship services at the Prince of Peace Manor. As of now, while I write these lines, we have five members who have moved to the manor. We had eight, but three of them were already called to glory this year. But the attendance to those German services is still increasing, praise be to God, because there are more German-speaking people who are coming, and they get the Gospel in their mother tongue.

So, what have we planned for the second half of 2018? Well, check it out yourself, keep reading and visit our event calendar. As I wrote in our previous newsletter, in October we will be celebrating 10 years since my installation here as your shepherd! If you want to know more about my journey in the office of the Holy Ministry, you may read it in our previous edition of the newsletter (Spring 2018). I truly feel thankful to God and loved, blessed and cared for by all of you!

God bless your reading!

Pastor Markus Zeuch September 2018, Anno Domini

FROM OUR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

THE BOARD OF ELDERS

The best description of what the Board of Elders responsibilities are is found in the Constitution of our church.

It states that the Board shall consist of at least (9) men including the Chair of the Board. The basic objective of this board is the spiritual welfare of the Pastor, the congregation, and also everything pertaining to congregational well being and worship. A copy of the Constitution can be found in the church office.

The members of Board of Elders are: Walter Wagner, Brent Warren, Vern Goss, Bernd Kubke, Randy Dean, Hilton Hack, Dana Salter and Ernie Schulz. Pastor Zeuch and the chairman Peter Graumann also attend the meetings. We meet on the first Thursday of each month.

We open the meeting with a hymn and a prayer, and then discuss items from the present agenda, related to our mission and ministry at our congregation. The meeting is closed with Luther's evening payer.

Respectfully submitted by Ernie Schulz, Head Elder

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth gatherings will be held twice a month on Fridays. Please check out our calendar in this newsletter. We will also be holding an Advent Carols and Lessons service, with supper beforehand on Wed. Dec. 19 @ 7 pm (supper @ 6 pm). We will be attending the Calgary Circuit Youth Retreat in November, and we will be doing more fundraising this year with the hopes of going to a national conference in the summer.

We have 2 options for Summer 2019: NYG Worthless 2019 in Langley, BC (<http://nyg19.ca/>), or Higher Things Concordia 2019 in the United States (<https://media.higherthings.org/conferences/concordia2019/>).

At present, we don't have Young Adults gatherings anymore, but we want to thank Naomi Robak for having served in this ministry before.

Submitted by Elizabeth Schieman (Liz)



FELLOWSHIP AND PR

Over the summer we have had coffee hours and our Stampede breakfast. Thanks to Leo and Bernie Hartfelder for providing the bacon, sausage and eggs and to all of the members that helped with set up and clean up.

The first part of our kitchen renovation is complete, and we are very happy with the results. Legacy Kitchens did a great job with assisting us with the design, choosing the cupboards/counter top and the installation. They were excellent to work with and we certainly recommend them! To complete the rest of the kitchen we are planning various fund raisers, Christmas sausage sale, spring book/bake sale, etc. We are grateful and blessed by the continued support of the Congregation

This year we had a group of volunteers, each taking a week during the month, do the lawn maintenance. A big thank you to the Robaks, Salters, Lufts, Dillenbergs, Andersons and Ohlhausers for their hard work. Sherry Luft also spent many hours planting the flower beds and we are very thankful to Mrs. Zippel and her daughter Irene for weeding the beds every week with beautiful results. Sherry also planted and took care of our garden which is producing great salad, spinach and other vegetables.

We are looking for volunteers to help with Oktoberfest, scheduled for October 27th. If you are available to help with this function please call Andrea at the office.

We remain In His Service,
Ingrid Feist-Anderson, Chair Fellowship and PR

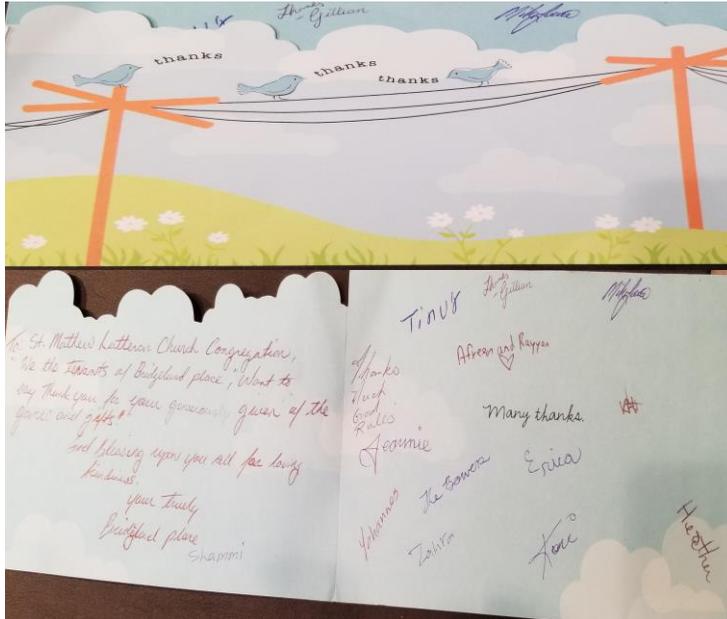
OUR BIBLE STUDIES

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDIES are usually held EVERY FOURTH WEDNESDAY of the month. We offer two different times on that day: at 1 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m. We often offer audio-visual studies with a great participation by the group. As God's child and a member of a Lutheran church, you are not just invited, but **strongly encouraged** to attend and grow in God's Word.

GERMAN BIBLE STUDY every first Wednesday of the month @ 1 p.m. followed by the delicious "Kaffee und Kuchen" mostly home-made by our German-speaking ladies.

OUTREACH TO OUR COMMUNITY

- The Community Kitchen started again on Monday with our first cook on September 24th. As part of our meal, the group pulled some of the garden to get vegetables for their cook on the 24th. Thank you to Sherry and Ingrid for planting the garden this year. We have 5 members in the group cooking. One of our founding members (new immigrant to Canada from Trinidad) is now working fulltime in nursing and no longer needs the services of the kitchen. She struggled last year getting her schooling up-graded and working part-time and getting settled and oriented to the city and trying to eat. This is a true blessing that we could help support her during that difficult year. Jessica will be looking to fill that spot.
- We have received a thank you card from the Bridgeland Manor for the games our congregation donated to their gaming room that they set up this summer. It will be wonderful for them in the winter time to socialize and play games.



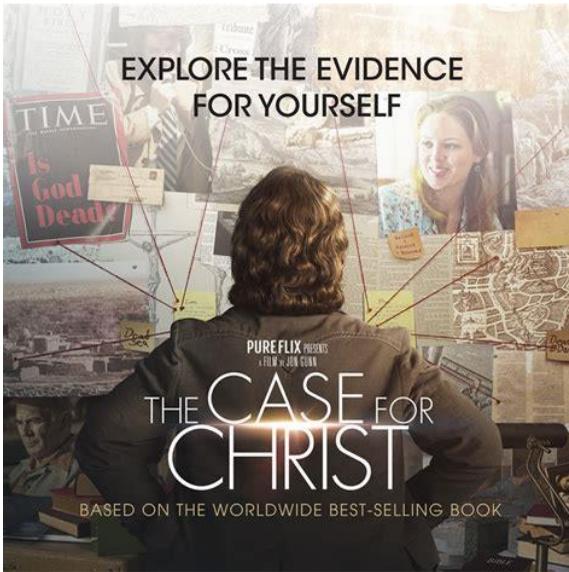
- Spinz-A-Round is starting again, and I will be going Thursday morning to replenish our food cupboard as we raided the cupboard for the community cook, our members in need, and the school kids.

Heather

CULTURAL EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS AND FELLOWSHIP

We would like to invite you some wonderful upcoming events:

1. MOVIE EVENING: On Sept. 29, 2018 @ 6:30 pm. in the church basement, we are showing a movie where a Harvard Law grad and legal court reporter sets out to prove there is no God, in "Case for Christ". Discussion to follow with popcorn at the event.



2. REFORMATION WALK: On Oct 13/18 from 9-noon (followed by lunch); we are hosting a "Reformation Walk" - a walking tour that shows how the world was changed (we are still impacted today) in the late 1400's. We do so with costume, food and crafts and turning our 105-year old church building into a "medieval" environment. It is an inter-generational (family event). This "Walk" shows what happened when one person simply posted "debate points" onto a church door starting the Protestant Reformation. Discover how smuggling, printing press and sales of papers influenced all of our lives in every way!



3 . CHOIR: Also, as you know, we have brought several choirs to perform at our church as an outreach event and a way to connect with the local community. Here our next event, a Christmas concert you can't miss:



CALGARY CHINESE ORATORIO SOCIETY – “KING OF KINGS” by John W. Petersen

A 20th Year Anniversary Thanksgiving Concert

Conductor: Simon Chu & Belinda Lam

Guest soloist: Elizabeth Schieman (our dear youth leader!)

When? Saturday Dec 8, @ 7 p.m.

At St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calgary

Free Will Offering

4 . OKTOBERFEST: We will combine the 10th anniversary of pastor Zeuch's ministry at St. Matthew with our annual Oktoberfest! Come celebrate with us in the best German style, the blessings God has given us! We will also have live accordion music. When? Oct 27, at 4 p.m. Bring your German costume!





A Brave Journey in Canada

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25: 35)

With hearts filled with gratitude and faith we note that our sponsored family Ibrahim is making good progress adjusting to their new home in Canada. Three months in Calgary has seen the family settle into a busy routine. Both parents, Rabie and Faiza, and the children, Esam and Awadia, attend ESL classes daily. Their English is improving gradually; practically, they have mastered the “double-double” at Tim Horton’s. They have conquered public transit and are able to complete grocery shopping, including an occasional mission to Costco. The father, Rabie, looks after all finances and banking; the family continues to be amazed at the expensive cost of living in general.

Circuit committee members have been focused on providing assistance navigating the bureaucracy of Service Canada. We have attended many medical and dental appointments for the family, while achieving a baseline of health issues through an Arabic speaking family doctor and dentist. The staff at the Centre for Newcomers have been extremely helpful in providing comprehensive support services. Esam and Awadia enjoy making use of the great facilities at the Village Square Leisure Centre. Indeed, the journey has been akin to “drinking from a fire hydrant” in terms of learning the range of Canadian norms and practices.

Moving forward, a reminder is offered for consideration. Winter is soon to come! Since our family relies on public transportation, we would like to fully outfit them with warm coats and boots, as well as mitts, scarves and hats. The father and son are a men’s large size, the daughter a large woman’s size and the mother, a 2 or 3 XL size. The Project Committee is appealing for donations of

these items, as well as gift cards for Walmart and Mark's. And, of course, if you'd like to make a monetary donation, please indicate Refugee Sponsorship on the envelope.

Our family is genuinely grateful for their chance at a new life! Unfortunately, this project has been swimming against a local surge of skepticism, even anger, toward refugees sponsored for resettlement in Canada. We need to embrace the teaching of Jesus in the scripture above. Moreover, the Old Testament is rife with examples of forced and voluntary resettlements. Recall that Mary and Joseph too were refugees as they fled the brutality of King Herod (Matthew 2: 13-14). And, Peter reminds us of a world full of refugees and exiles in need of help (1 Peter 2: 11). In His service, thank you for your generosity in helping to spread the love of God to our neighbours.

Submitted by Theo Dillenberg



LUTHERAN HOSPITAL MINISTRIES – SOUTHERN ALBERTA

“The Essentials of Visiting”

There are books and presentations on the “essentials” of just about everything under the sun.

How about the basic essentials of pastoral visitation? The tipoff is in the saying, “The Lord gave us two ears and one mouth.”

Listening is the essential for visiting in the name of the Good Shepherd Jesus. Jesus was ready to hear the struggles and challenges of the people who crossed His path. His words are “Come unto my all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

Like our Lord we also listen for the relating of joys and thanksgivings, but most of all for the sharing of sorrows, hurts and fears. Visitors are attentive to individual pain, because telling one’s story to another person “brings healing,” the motto of Lutheran Hospital Ministries-Southern Alberta, **Bringing Healing.**”

If you would like to learn more about the “essentials of pastoral visiting” and be a part of our vital work, please contact me, or call our office at 4034-264-4045. Our next training session is September 15, 2018 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church.

Pastor Mark Lobitz
Director of Pastoral Care
Lutheran Hospital Ministries-Southern Alberta
403-637-2650
mclobitz@gmail.com



SYNODICAL NEWS FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA

From The Canadian Lutheran website

Regional Pastors to be Elected at Upcoming Conventions

SEPTEMBER 20, 2018



The Regional Pastor serves as the ecclesiastical supervisor of the pastors, deacons and congregations (“the Members”) who reside and serve in his Region. As of January 1, 2019, LCC will have three regions (the number and configuration of regions is subject to revision over time) consisting of:

- the West Region;
- the Central Region; and
- the East Region.

Responsibility

The Regional Pastor is the spiritual leader of the pastors, deacons and other professional church workers in his region. In his responsibility for Ecclesiastical Oversight, Building Community, and Care for Members, he will nurture brotherly support and dialogue to encourage unity of doctrine, practice, mission and ministry in his region.

The Regional Pastor will emphasize God’s greatest gifts to mankind (1) the saving work of His Son as expressed in the Gospel and (2) God’s constant provision. The Regional Pastor will, therefore, support congregations in

identifying and acting upon opportunities for outreach to advance the Gospel and bring lost souls to Christ. The Regional Pastor will also emphasize Christian stewardship of time, talent and treasures to encourage congregations to appreciate God's gifts and return to God a portion of His blessings. To do this, he will show dedication in visiting with Pastors and congregations in his region on a regular basis.

The Regional Pastor is responsible for coaching, mentoring, and advising Pastors within his region in their Divine Calls to serve, lead and guide their respective congregations and parishes. The Regional Pastor will establish relationships with Pastors in his Region with, and through, the network of Circuit Counsellors. The Regional Pastor will support the work of the circuit counsellors in the region and appoint a circuit counsellor in the event of a vacancy, in accordance with the Synodical Bylaws. The Regional Pastor will also perform such duties as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Synodical President.



Legal Weed: What does the Bible have to say about it?

SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

by Perry Hart



Oh Canada, you trendsetter among the western nations, blazing (pun intended) a trail towards the legalization of recreational marijuana!

On October 17, 2018, Canada will join the ranks of Uruguay, Spain and other countries which have federally legalized

recreational cannabis. (While some states in the U.S.A. have legalized cannabis, our neighbours to the south still have laws on the federal level against such recreational use.) The move will fulfill Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 2015 election promise of making cannabis legal for Canada in 2018.

Now that the legalization of marijuana seems inevitable, how should we as a church respond? What do we say to our friends, families, and co-workers as weed pops up around us? Is it wrong? Is it okay? Should we, as Christians, light up?

Before we get to answering those questions, first a confession. Nearly three decades ago—long before becoming a pastor—I was a fairly prolific marijuana user. I wasn't an "all-day" baked kind of guy, but instead the "once a day, every now and again" variety. It has been so long since I used it recreationally that a lot has changed, but I share this to admit to having personal experience with marijuana.

Arguments You May Have Heard

Some proponents of legalized cannabis suggest there are good reasons for Christians to support the use of recreational cannabis. An oft heard one is that marijuana is a natural product, and if it was put there by God, it has to be okay, right? The problem with this kind of thinking is that we simply do not know if marijuana existed from the beginning or entered the world after the fall of humanity into sin. God was clear about how the world, as Adam and Eve knew it, would change as a result of the fall—that the ground itself would be cursed and bring forth weeds of various kinds (Genesis 3:16-19).

Another argument some put forward is the idea that cannabis use is explicitly mentioned in the Bible. They point to Exodus 30:23, which records the recipe for holy anointing oil. One of the ingredients is pronounced "kaneh bosem" in the original Hebrew. And while it may sound a little like "cannabis," scholars prefer to translate it as "aromatic cane," "fragrant cane," or the like. Research supports the interpretation that this plant was of a "reed" variety—something which cannabis clearly is not. It was likely either "lemon grass" or "calamus." While the sound of the Hebrew word might raise eyebrows initially, it's not a convincing argument that cannabis is mentioned in the Bible.

A third argument we hear is that cannabis should be treated as alcohol is, and that where Scripture speaks of alcohol we should apply the same principals to

marijuana. However, to treat the two as the same without properly considering their different effects isn't helpful. While Scripture clearly permits the use of alcohol in a variety of cases, there is no such permission for marijuana.

Let's consider the comparison between alcohol and marijuana in detail. In the following, I reproduce some of the insights of Rev. Jeff Lacine (author of the article "Marijuana to the Glory of God") intermingled with my own thoughts. While drunkenness is clearly prohibited in the Bible (Ephesians 5:8; Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Peter 4:3), God also permits the use of alcohol when used appropriately. He has given "wine to gladden the heart of man" (Psalm 104:14-15). He blessed for use in times of celebration as well as for communion (John 2:1-11; Matthew 26:27-29). It can even be argued that He has given wine as a cure for an anxious stomach and gut ailments (1 Timothy 5:23). Scripture clearly permits the moderate use of alcohol, enjoyed in faith, even though it has some psychoactive effects.

If this is so, might God be equally okay with recreational use of cannabis? Well... it is not so cut and dry an argument. To be sure, cannabis and alcohol have some surface similarities. They are both organic substances. Both hold the ability to intoxicate and distort reality. Tolerances in the individual may determine how cannabis and alcohol affects a person, and both can be habit forming.

But they also have their differences. On the one hand, an alcohol overdose can lead to a blackout or even death, while cannabis overuse doesn't hold such outcomes. On the other hand, alcohol is more commonly accepted culturally and socially as fitting for use in celebrations and sacred ceremony, while cannabis holds no such eminence.

What is more, you generally know what you're getting when it comes to alcohol. The percentage of alcohol content in a beverage can help one to know what they can expect to feel, yet the same cannot be said for cannabis. There are so many different strains and potencies with cannabis that the user may feel nothing from ingesting one variety, whereas the ingestion of another variety can bring on deep psychoactive reactions, cause paranoia and in some cases, hallucinations.

For these reasons, it is unhelpful to pretend that alcohol and cannabis are basically the same and therefore should be treated as such. Not only are their chemical makeups different, but the effects of their use are as well.

Looking for answers

Even though marijuana is not mentioned in the Bible, we can still look to it for clarity in how we as Christians are called to live. In Scripture we find that the ultimate goal for humanity is to know and experience God in His glory when we are resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:12–49; Philippians 3:20–21; 1 Corinthians 13:12). Let’s call this the ‘end goal’.

The problem for us in the present is that we all have entered the world spiritually dead and unable to discern the glory of God. Sin has distorted our vision and left the world broken (Ephesians 2:1–5; Colossians 2:13; 2 Corinthians 4:4). Through Christ and His work, however, we are awakened to the realities that are God’s beauty and love for us His children. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we may know Him (2 Corinthians 4:6), yet may only see His glory as though looking through a glass dimly (1 Corinthians 13:12). As His redeemed children, we are now to journey in knowing Him without obstacles, to know Him as He reveals Himself in our lives by His Word to us.

To this end, then, we should limit our use of psychoactive substances to those which align with this goal of seeing things clearly. Take coffee for instance, another organic substance with psychoactive properties. Ingesting caffeine serves to awaken the senses, to remove the cobwebs, and to help the user awaken to that which lies before them.

Could the same be said for alcohol? At times, moderate use can be in keeping with the realities of God’s promises, helping to unfold them for us. During our own weddings, for example, where we rejoice with wine, we also celebrate the parable of the great Bridegroom who is coming for His bride, the church (Revelation 19:7). Further, we know that wine has its own God-given role at the final consummating celebration (Mark 14:23-25).

If alcohol can be used in such a way, might there likewise be a moderate and proper use of cannabis that could clarify and make clearer deeper realities? I answer from both research and experience: rather than making things clearer, marijuana tends to distort and dull the senses. Instead of allowing one to

experience true realities more clearly, realities are altered. Attention to things can be stunted, making it harder to focus.

Ask almost anyone who has used marijuana regularly, and they will speak of the disconnect they experience from the realities of life, as well as the numbness that comes also. The fact that our culture associates marijuana use with a couch, snacks, and television is no mere coincidence. Nor is smoking cannabis and “engaged parenting” often (if ever) used in the same sentence.

While the Bible does not forbid the use of every substance that affects the mind, recreational use of marijuana does appear then to violate the Christian value of sobriety in many cases (1 Thessalonians 5:6-8; Titus 2:2, 6: 1 Peter 4:7).

Our response as Christians

As Canadian society embraces cannabis and removes the moral fence that has prevented many from trying or using it, we will need to watch that our brothers and sisters don’t end up in a cloud of smoke with vision blurred and numb to the realities our Lord wants for them to experience.

At the same time, we must be careful not to judge too quickly and pull knee-jerk reactions to cannabis use as we are made aware of it. A number of people report positive relief from various ailments when it is used medicinally. At the same time, we must also mention the downside to health that is present in its use for others as well.

Our goal in encouraging one another should be that of, seeking to see God as clearly as we possibly can as His return draws closer (Hebrews 10:25), and to build each other up as the body of Christ. Thus, in making our church members aware that cannabis use is problematic, we should be slow with church discipline, seeking first to understand and encourage, while all the time making clear that its use could have consequences.

Let’s be quick to engage with members if they are using, to ask questions and gain insight, but also to be ready to exhort and rebuke them if it becomes apparent that they are violating the biblical standards of sobriety and integrity. The complexities and nuances of these encounters will undoubtedly be complex, but Christ’s Church—holding fast to His Word and led by a team of wise pastors and educated laity—will be up for the challenge.

And wherever possible, may God give us opportunities to show the forgiveness of Christ and the blessings and peace offered in Him—something which no amount of alcohol, cannabis or anything can replicate.

Rev. Perry Hart is pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church in Kitchener, Ontario.

ALBERTA-BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT CONVENTION

Theme: "Called to Proclaim His Righteousness...To a People Not Yet Born"
Psalm 22:31

Date: October 19 - 21, 2018

Location: Bethel Lutheran Church, Sherwood Park, AB

Bible Study Leader: President Timothy Teuscher

The ABC District Convention will start at 4:00 pm on Friday and
conclude by 3:00 pm Sunday

Visit the ABC District website for all Convention updates and news.

Pastor Zeuch and Heather Graham-Navis (our lay delegate) will be attending the convention.

CHRISTIAN RITES WE'VE HAD SO FAR

Since our last edition of the newsletter, we have had the following Christian rites taking place:

BAPTISMS

Noah Walkeden – September 2, 2018

FUNERALS

“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints”. Ps 116. 15

The following brothers and sisters in Christ have been called to glory:

Hilda Grey – March 2018
Anette Fiolka – June 2018
Ray Hessler – August 2018
Elfriede Kreis – August 2018
Adolf Woessner – September 2018
Eileen Hooper – September 2018



UNSERE DEUTSCHE SEITE

Neues Gesangbuch

Der Kostenvoranschlag für das neue Gesangbuch wurde genehmigt und wir hoffen, bald mit dem Prüfen zu beginnen. Die deutschen Mitglieder finden alle bekannten und beliebtesten Lieder des Wolga Gesangbuches mit den gleichen Nummern, inclusive einen Teil als Beilage mit der Liturgie und den deutschen Weihnachtsliedern in dem neuen Gesangbuch.

Eine große Menge Arbeit war bis zu diesem Punkt damit verbunden. Nach der Fertigstellung kann natürlich jeder, der das alte Gesangbuch bevorzugt, es auch noch benutzen. Die Wolga wird weiterhin vorhanden sein.

Nachdem die deutsche Gemeinde immer kleiner wird, brauchen wir Mittel und Wege, neue Mitglieder, die noch Deutsch sprechen, zu bekommen, hauptsächlich durch deutsche Immigranten. Das neue Gesangbuch mit lateinischer Schrift sollte dabei eine große Hilfe sein, da nicht jeder die gothische Schrift lesen kann.



Wir werden die Fortschritte weiterhin bekannt geben und hoffen auf baldige Fertigstellung des neuen Gesangbuches.

Eingereicht von Claudia Tiefisher

HERBST

Ein kühler Windhauch streicht durch die Bäume
und ringt mit der Wärme des Sonnenlichts,
er streift über Felder und Wiesensäume,
doch sag mir, Betrachter, begreifst du nichts?

Es fallen Kastanien und Bucheckern nieder,
auch Eicheln und Früchte verschiedenster Art,
sie sehen das Leben am Baume nie wieder,
doch sind sie nicht gleichzeitig bleibende Saat?

Sie fallen herab, um dir stumm zu bezeugen:
Auch dich bringt der Herbstwind des Lebens zu Fall,
auch du musst dich einst der Vergänglichkeit beugen,
doch stehst du auch auf zum Leben einmal!

Sag, ist es ein Leben in ewiger Freude,
bei Gott, der das Leben ist und unser Licht?
Sag, ist es ein Dasein in ewigen Leide,
in Gottferne, Qualen, sag, weißt du es nicht?

Gott gibt uns vom bleibenden Lebenssamen,
hinein in das Herz und dann mit ins Grab,
dass jeder der glaubet an Jesu Namen,
in diesem, das ewige Leben hab.

Drum siehst du im Herbst die Früchte fallen,
dann öffne dem Schöpfer dein Herze weit,
in Jesus vergibt er den Sündern allen,
drum schenkte er jedem die Lebenszeit!

(Herbstgedicht, Autor: Christian Peter, 2011)



FROM OUR ORGANISTS



Organ Update

Our beloved organ suffered due to our long and very cold winter. We can take some comfort knowing that ours was not the only pipe organ that suffered damages. The cost of the repairs has been estimated at approximately \$25,000. The congregation should be aware that the current problems with the organ have absolutely nothing to do with the work that was done about two years ago. The organ refurbishing that was completed in 2016 dealt with numerous outstanding issues that had never been addressed on our 100+ year old organ. The refurbishment was done in an excellent manner and the problems we are seeing today have zero to do with the quality of the work that was done then. Nor are the problems we are seeing today the *result* of the work done then, either, and none of the repair work required today qualifies as warranty work. A detailed and itemized quote for the repairs is being prepared. I also have in hand quotes for purchasing an electronic organ. The congregation will have to decide which option to go forward with and this will be put to a vote in due course. I am assured that major work on the organ should not be necessary once the current issue is fixed. The organ will be out of commission for at least six months once the repair work begins.

Submitted by Claudia Tiefisher

Well another new choir year is upon us. However, we have to acknowledge the wonderful work of the past year. The choir sang on numerous occasions. Under the leadership of Elizabeth Schieman melodiously rang out to the glory of God. We were also blessed with two young risings stars. Erich on the piano and Thomas on the clarinet. The future looks bright. Anita and Dana have also become staples in enhancing both services with their trumpets. We want to show our appreciation for the various ad hoc choral combos that have been part of our worship during the past year.

Although the organ is on "sabbatical", Claudia and Johnson have adjusted well to the piano. Hopefully the organ will soon regain its rightful place in our services.

We look forward to 2018/19 and all the great music.

Johnson Philip



HAVE A GIGGLE!

I hope these clean Christian jokes will get at least a little chuckle out of you. As the saying goes, "Laughter is the best medicine." Even Solomon said, "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones". Proverbs 17:22

Q. How do you make Holy Water?

A. Get regular water and boil the devil out of it.

Q. Who was the greatest female businessperson in the Bible?

A. Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet. (profit)

Q. When was meat first mentioned in the Bible?

A. When Noah took Ham into the ark.

Q. How long did Cain hate his brother?

A. As long as he was Abel.

Q. At what time of day was Adam created?

A. A little before Eve.

Q. Where is the first math homework problem mentioned in the Bible?

A. When God told Adam and Eve to go forth and multiply.

- Q. Why did Noah have to punish and discipline the chickens on the Ark?
A. Because they were using “fowl” language.
- Q: Where is medicine first mentioned in the Bible?
A: When God gave Moses two tablets.
- Q: What’s the best way to study the Bible?
A: You Luke into it.
- Q: How do we know that a lot of people in the Bible used fertilizer?
A: Because they always said, “Lettuce spray.” (Let us pray).
- Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?
A. Samson. He brought the house down.
- Q. Which servant of God was the biggest lawbreaker (sinner) in the Bible?
A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once. (throwing the stone tablets)
- Q. Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?
A. The area around Jordan the banks were always overflowing.
- Q. Which Bible character had no earthly parents besides Adam and Eve?
A. Joshua, son of Nun. (None)
- Q. Why didn’t they play cards on the Ark?
A. Because Noah was standing on the deck.

Submitted by Anneliese Dalmoro. Source : <http://www.revelation.co/>

A POEM FOR TODAY: “WRITINGS”

By G.G. De Bortoli (Jan 2018)

Writings on a page
Writings on the wall.
Writings in your heart.
We are His! It is true.
Christ died and rose again
For me and you!

He has set us apart
I love Him with my whole heart!
He’s printed on our heart
Christ knew me from the start.
Often times when I closed my eyes
I see the cross, it is bright.

You can see it all aglow.

The light, the light.

I'm letting my light shine.

It is true, He is real.

Christ is why I live and have my being!

The enemy is out to destroy

But Christ, He is our deliverer

He heals, He shields.

Victory, Victory, Victory!

In the streets, repeat:

Victory, Victory, Victory!

Our Hope, our Help is here.

Praise be to God! Praise be to God!

He is true – He loves me, HE LOVES YOU!



WHAT IS TRUTH? A Cafe Conundrum

Roland Weisbrot

It is slightly past noon. I sip my London Fog while I await the arrival of my Callebaut Chocolate Crepe at a trendy cafe in a rather affluent neighborhood. I look around, the cafe is filled with people whose wealth and social status are made evident by their clothing, posture, and general demeanor. I start to feel a bit self-conscious, after all, I am only wearing a simple t-shirt and a pair of gym shorts – I stick out like a sore thumb. My choice of clothing reflects a rather different social status, and my fellow patrons are quick to notice.

My crepe arrives, it is covered with rich dark chocolate, icing sugar, and real whipped creme that was made in-house, it is the very embodiment of indulgence. I consider the irony of my prayer of thanksgiving before I gorge myself with this excessively sweet \$15 delicacy. After finishing my poor excuse of a lunch, I can't help but wonder, did I need this? Did anyone need this?

Growing up as the only child in a rather well-to-do middle-class family, I have had more than my fair share of rich food as my family loved to frequent different restaurants, cafes, and delicatessens. However, consuming food, namely in the form of this crepe, was hardly the first situation in which I had considered this question. Rather, it was just another microcosm for bringing a larger thought to the forefront that has spent many moons at the back of my mind.

I remember very distinctly an event a few months ago where my family's dog had become violently ill and we had to take her to an emergency animal hospital. Several hours and a couple thousand dollars later, we emerged with a docile but otherwise healed dog. A few nights later I had a conversation with one of my good friends about the absurdity of something like a 24-hour animal hospital. I couldn't help but feel bothered by the fact that my dog was the benefactor of better health care and treatment than was available to many of my own species. I began to wonder, was it ethical for a person to spend so much on something that had little to no ultimate value? How could one justify such an expenditure on health services for the inferior but lovable canine species while fellow humans were without the care they needed? How much more infinite is the value of a human compared to that of a family pet?

Of course many would argue and tell me that value is something that is highly subjective, and that a person should feel no guilt at spending the resources they have accumulated to purchase or preserve something they value. Perhaps. But my conscience cannot accept such a thesis, and believe me, I have tried. I do not mean to come across as self-righteous, but I simply cannot accept that value is entirely subjective. Some things, such as human life, are inherently valuable in any and every circumstance. As a result, a hierarchy of values necessarily forms, and human life, its needs, and its preservation, finds itself on top.

Naturally, I realize that such an assertion, when stretched to its logical conclusion, is absurd. It is entirely unrealistic and utopian for me to act in such a manner that I never engage in an activity which betrays this hierarchy, let alone expect others to do likewise. Should I forsake all decadent crepes until every belly is full on earth? Should I watch my beloved family pet suffer and perhaps die because, comparatively, I find it morally abhorrent to give to an

animal what a fellow human may need instead? What then am I to do? I believe I must reframe the question and instead ask myself, what is it to live in an excessive manner, to live in opulence, to not properly steward my resources?

In order to answer these questions I must begin by defining what I mean by “excessive” or “opulent” living. To this end, I would define such living as the use of resources, financial or otherwise, to constantly furnish a person’s desires rather than their needs (eg. having a \$50 steak for supper every single night). However, I must also recognize that the definition of excess varies depending on socio-economic conditions. For example, what would be interpreted as excessive to a person who earns a dollar a day would not even be considered a minor expenditure by a person who earns \$500 a day.

That being said, just because a person is fortunate or skilled enough to earn a higher percentile of resources, it doesn’t entitle them to a different set of needs or a more expensive way of fulfilling their needs. Just because a multi-millionaire can afford his or her desires and therefore indulge them, it does not make it right to do so. For instance, the need for transportation can be met by a Toyota Camry just as well as a Phantom Series Rolls-Royce, even though the multi-millionaire can afford both with ease. This is not to say people cannot have nice things, after all, a bit of indulgence here and there is extremely satisfying and rewarding.

So how then does a person navigate this dilemma? How can a person live their life in such a manner that they are not being excessive, no matter what socio-economic position they occupy? Through thoughtful, case by case discernment.

Before doing something, a person ought to consider the following:

- Do I need this?
- Can I afford this?
- Why do I want this?
- What will acquiring this give me?
- What am I giving up to acquire this?
- Is this a proper use of my resources?

- Can my resources be better spent elsewhere?

If a person earnestly guides themselves through these questions before every transaction, then they will be able to moderate themselves and not live an excessive life. Thus, to conclude this conundrum, I leave you with the wise words of Saint John Chrysostom: “For our money is the Lord’s, however we may have gathered it. If we provide for those in need, we shall obtain great plenty. This is why God has allowed you to have more: not for you to waste on prostitutes, drink, fancy food, expensive clothes, and all other kinds of indolence, but for you to distribute to those in need.”¹

1. *On Wealth and Poverty*, Second Sermon on Lazarus and the Rich Man



CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT MONTHS 2018 Anno Domini

Note: We may have changes in our calendar after posting this. Please check the website and our bulletin boards every month.

Activities Every Sunday (except special days and during the summer)

German worship service with Holy Communion @ 9:30 a.m.

Confirmation class @ 9:30 a.m.

English worship service with Holy Communion @ 11 a.m.

Sunday School @ 11:20 a.m.

OCTOBER:

Oct 3 (Wed): German Bible Study @ 1 p.m.

Oct 5 (Thu): Elders meeting @ 7 p.m.

Oct 6 (Sat): Funeral service for Eileen Hooper @ 1 p.m.

Oct 7 (Sun): Thanksgiving Sunday

Oct 8 (Mon): Thanksgiving (office closed)

Oct 12 (Fri): Youth gathering – 7 p.m.

Oct 13 (Sat): Reformation Walk – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Oct 14 (Sun): Guest speaker for both services: Rev. Roland Kubke

Oct 18 (Thu): Parish Planning Council meeting - 7 p.m.

Oct 19 - 21: Pastor attends the ABC District convention in Sherwood Park, AB
Oct 24 (Wed): Bible Study 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Oct 25 (Thu): German Worship Service at Prince of Peace Manor – 1:30 p.m.
Oct 26 (Fri): Youth gathering – 7 p.m.
Oct 27 (Sat): Oktoberfest & the 10th anniversary of pastor Zeuch – 4 p.m.
Oct 28 (Sun): Reformation Sunday. Calgary Circuit Reformation Service at Prince of Peace at 3 p.m.

NOVEMBER:

Nov 1 (Wed): All Saints Day. Elders meeting @ 7 p.m.
Nov 2 – 4: Calgary Circuit Youth Retreat @ Foothills Luth. Church
Nov 4 (Sun): All Saints Sunday; Joint Service at 10 a.m. Followed by Congregational meeting and luncheon
Nov 7 (Wed): German Bible Study @ 1 p.m.
Nov 9 (Fri): Youth gathering – 7 p.m.
Nov 11 (Sun): Remembrance Day
Nov 12 (Mon): Remembrance Day holiday
Nov 15 (Thu): Parish Planning Council meeting - 7 p.m.
Nov 21 (Wed): Pastor at Calgary circuit winkel
Nov 22 (Thu): German Worship Service @ Prince of Peace Manor – 1:30 pm
Nov 23 (Fri): Youth gathering – 7 p.m.
Nov 28 (Wed): Bible Study 1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER:

Dec 5 (Wed): “Adventsandacht” – German Advent devotion & coffee – 1 p.m.
Dec 6 (Thu): Elders meeting @ 7 p.m.
Dec 7 (Fri): Youth gathering @ 7 p.m.
Dec 8 (Sat): “King of Kings” Christmas Concert by CCOS – 7 p.m.
Dec 12 (Wed): Potluck & Advent devotion – 6 p.m.
Dec 19 (Wed): Soup Supper & “Lessons and Carols” service – 6 p.m.
Dec 20 (Thu): Parish Planning Council meeting - 7 p.m.
Dec 21 (Fri): Youth gathering – 7 p.m. (winter begins)
Dec 24 (Mon): German Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 4:45 p.m.
English Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 6:45 p.m.
Dec 25 (Tue): German Christmas Service – 9:30 a.m.
English Christmas Service – 11 a.m.



THE AGAPE NEWS is a periodic publication at St. Matthew Lutheran Church Calgary. It is usually printed and handed out twice a year. Articles are gathered from different contributors, members and non-members of our congregation. Selection, theological review and editing by Rev. Markus Zeuch. Many thanks to our secretary Andrea Sovary for all the hard work of printing, stapling and folding!

Please consider being a contributor for the next publications!

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Hours: Mon-Thus 9am-3pm



Sunday services:

German worship service with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.

English worship service with Holy Communion 11 a.m.

Sunday School 11:20 a.m.

BIBLE STUDIES:

German bible study	The 1 st Wednesday of the month	1:00 pm
English bible study	The 4 th Wednesday of the month	1:00 pm & 6:30 pm
Confirmation class	Every Sunday morning	9:30 a.m.



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