



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH

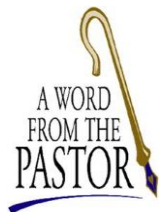
December 2020/January 2021 News

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Ministers: You the people of God

www.GSLCC.ca



Christmas Under Lockdown

As we're all probably (hopefully) coming to terms with by now, this Advent and Christmas season will be very different. It's hard to know at this point what the public health protocols will be come Christmas Day. But we're likely facing Christmas without the ability to gather as we usually do, as unthinkable as that may be.

Frankly, I dread that prospect as much as anyone. I mean what's Christmas without celebrations with family and friends? Or the hustle and bustle of preparations? Or Christmas Eve worship with all those carols and candles?

As I've been reflecting on that my mind has been drawn back to the words of Lutheran theologian, pastor, and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a letter he wrote to his parents from a Nazi prison cell in December of 1943. Facing a Christmas in literal lockdown he wrote:

"From the Christian point of view, there is no special problem about Christmas in a prison cell. For many people in this building it will probably be a more sincere and genuine occasion than in places where nothing but the name is kept. That misery, suffering, poverty, loneliness, helplessness, and guilt mean something quite different in the eyes of God from what they do to man, that God should come down to the very place which men usually abhor, that Christ was born in a stable because there was no room for him in the inn – these are things which a prisoner can understand better than anyone else. For him the Christmas story is glad tidings in a very real sense. And that faith gives him a part in the communion of saints, a fellowship transcending the bounds of time and space and reducing the months of confinement here to insignificance...No doubt it will be a very quiet Christmas everywhere, and the children will remember it for a long time to come. But it may perhaps bring home to some people for the first time what Christmas really is."

It might sound like a man trying to put a good face on a terrible situation. But to me his words are much deeper. They are the words of a man who has discovered the true treasure of the gospel. The good news of a God who isn't found only in our times of comfort and joy, but most clearly in those experiences we do everything to avoid. The good news of a God who still holds us when every other source of solace has abandoned us.

No doubt it will be a very different Christmas. And maybe we will all remember it for a long time to come. I trust we will all find some way to make the most of the season and experience some of the merriment we so look forward to this time of year. But perhaps without the usual trappings and busyness, we might see things differently. Maybe we too will discover a joy that we've missed all these years. Maybe we too will peer into that manger and into the face not just of a cute a cuddly infant, but a saviour whose love and grace no darkness can overcome.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

In-Person Worship

As you are all aware by now, our first attempt to experiment with an in-person worship service on November 29th was cancelled in order to be compliant with the new health order that came into effect. While some of us were really looking forward to trying this out on the first Sunday in Advent, we remain grateful to our Public Health Officials who hold everyone's health in the forefront of their decisions, and to our Video Choreographers, Zach and Peter, and of course Pastor Eric who work exceptionally hard to ensure we can still attend outstanding worship services virtually. But stay tuned. When the opportunity again presents itself, our Reopening Team (Val, Bill, Ruth, Mogens, and Pastor Eric) has done all the hard work already. Thanks for making this possible!

Online Communion

Are you aware that we are currently offering a brief on-line communion service? We don't have a regular schedule for these services at the moment, but you will be notified by email. This is a live service on Zoom at 10:30 am. This link is sent around in advance of each Sunday Service. At the end of the service is an opportunity to visit online with those who have gathered.

Pause on Bottle Drop Off

Due to current building entrance restrictions, we kindly request that you refrain from dropping off your bottles at the church for donation to the Youth Group for the time being. You may want to consider Blue Mountain Bottle Depot at the corner of Ridgeway and Blue Mountain due to its close proximity to return your bottles. You could then donate your bottle refund to the church as you would your offering, marked for the Youth Group. If you don't mind travelling a bit further, there is an account set up under "Good Shepherd Youth Group" at Biggar Bottle Depot (2577 Kingsway Ave, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 1T5 [Get Directions](#)), who will take your bottles and add them to a running tab, which is then provided to our youth group with full value on all bottles and cans, including all alcoholic beverage containers.

Thank you Volunteers

Thank you to all those who have devoted much time and effort into cleaning and maintaining our flowers, church building and our grounds, including shed repairs, gutter replacements, and tree limb pick up, sweeping, raking and green recycling drop off. Your efforts don't go unnoticed, and we are so grateful for all that you do so selflessly on behalf of us all.

Thank you Darts Family

Thank you to Les, Nadine, Alex and Evan who worked together to repair and improve our existing signage. Both signs were sanded down and revarnished, and thanks to the young ladies in the family our main sign also now shows our website address for all to see.

Fritzy Phoneline Fixed

Telus has finally fixed the issue with our office telephone line. Please feel free to call the office anytime.

For Our Prayer

For specific requests for prayer, please contact Kate Wright at kfwright@hotmail.com or Claire Thompson at 604-939-3086. Your prayer request will quickly be passed to our congregational prayer chain.

Al Startin as he continues his cancer treatments.

Elaine Sinton as she continues her cancer treatments.

Bob Berry as he waits for his radiation treatments to begin and looks ahead to further treatments for his cancer.

Susan Wills and her family, that Susan stays safe and that the family cope well during her time of isolation.

Alicia Grayson as she continues to recover from her leg injury.

Don Forss (Lois's brother) as he continues his cancer treatment.

Carole Lentz, who continues to recover from her leg injury suffered this summer, and her mother **Jean**, who continues to convalesce from her fall and recover from Covid.

Robert Trent, Alma Trent's son who is recovering from serious neck injuries due to a bike accident.

David Kirkwood, Joy Kirkwood Stepson, who is recovering in ICU in Richmond hospital from Covid.

Jan and Dale Wald and their family, as they mourn the recent passing of Jan's mother Joan.

All those suffering with or affected by the Covid19 virus. Also for our doctors, nurses and first responders and all those caring for those affected.



Thanksgiving! Please join us as we thank God for the good news received by **Agnes Mattson** that her MRI was clear and showed no concerns, for the good news that **Bev Poznachuk** has been released from the hospital with no further treatment necessary

Milestone Birthdays

Celebrating Milestone Birthdays in December are:

Mae Cabbott who turns **90** on December 3rd



December, January Birthdays

We extend our birthday greetings as well to the following people whose birthdays will be celebrated in either December 2020 or January 2021:

Jack Anweiler

Brenda Chenosky

Elizabeth Knudson

Deloris MacRae

Val Newton

Jannea Pregler

Sherry Russell

Tamara Russell

Al Startin

Sean Stickler

Grayson Tarry

*With Blessings to all from
your Good Shepherd Family*

A Note from our Student Pastor Elina...



Greetings! Happy New Year!

It's Advent, my favourite season in the church calendar. It's a time of expectation, waiting and hope. We don't just wait for Christmas, we wait for God's Kingdom to break through into our story.

This year, more than ever, we need hope. I invite you to join me in looking for signs of hope – signs of God's presence in our communities. Maybe we can discover some glimpses of the Kingdom of God.

What gives you joy? Is it the bright Christmas lights that light up so many houses? Is it the friendly greeting from a neighbour or an acquaintance, from a distance of course? Is it the birds chirping in the trees or the neighbourhood kids at the playground? God is present in all the things that give you joy.

Where do you see community? God is present wherever people help each other out, support each other and encourage each other. God is present wherever there is kindness, generosity and compassion.

Where do you feel at peace? Out in the nature, or in front of the fireplace? Talking to a neighbour or a stranger during a walk? A video call with family members? God is present whenever you feel at peace.

Wherever God is present, there is hope.

In hope,
Student pastor Elina



Christmas Services

As you can appreciate planning for our Christmas services has been a challenge this year. However, the following is the schedule we anticipate following at this time:

Sunday, December 20:

We will be offering our usual pre-recorded service video which will include our tradition of special music performances. We may even have some kind of feature from our Sunday School kids but that is still in development.

Christmas Eve, December 24:

We will be offering a pre-recorded Christmas Eve service video which will be made available by noon (at the latest) on this day. Further details will follow.

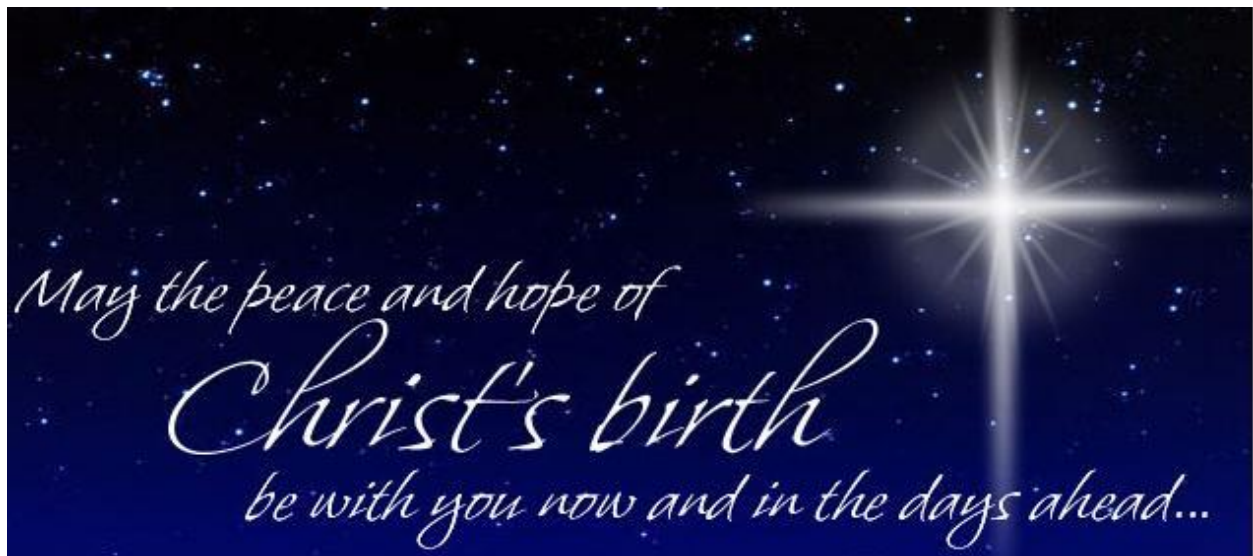
Christmas Day, December 25:

We will be offering a live Christmas Day meditation service by Zoom at 11 AM. Holy Communion will be offered. Connection details will be forthcoming.

Sunday, December 27:

We will offer our ever popular Favourite Carols by Request service in a format yet to be decided. Details to follow.

If you have any questions about these plans please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Eric or the church office.



Join us
online for ...

An Advent Taizé Service

Prayer, Songs and Contemplation

*Thursday,
December 3rd, 2020
7:00PM*

*Good Shepherd Lutheran
Church Coquitlam
YouTube Channel*

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrCiExDeATA3UiaW6ZgYB6w>

Hosted by ELCIC BC Synod and the RC Archdiocese of Vancouver

Our Lutheran-Roman Catholic planning group is hosting our third annual Advent Taizé service this year as a pre-recorded video service. It will be hosted on our Good Shepherd YouTube channel. These services have been well attended in previous years and have offered a quiet and contemplative way of entering into the Advent season with plenty of room for prayer, songs and contemplation.

It will go live at 7 pm on Thursday, December 3. You can join us at that time to enjoy it while sharing live comments in the comments section of the video. Or it will be available to watch anytime afterwards on our channel. You may even want to watch it a couple of times as you journey through the Advent season.



Journeying Through Advent

The Advent Reflections booklets from ON EAGLE'S WINGS is now available [online](#) or hard copies can be obtained from the office. Please let the office know if you would like to pick up a copy or have one mailed out to you.

Rev. Bruce Ehler, a Pastor from Alberta, has compiled a wonderful list of inspiring pictures and prayers for each day of Advent. If you'd like to subscribe please email him at pbprayer@telus.net

Longest Night / Blue Christmas

Some of you know that for several years we offered a Longest Night service in mid- experiencing grief or loss during the Christmas Season. It was very well received by those who found it helpful. Last year we cancelled our service and joined Redeemer Lutheran Church for their service.

This year we have become aware of two opportunities to access such a service on-line. One will be hosted by Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Langley on December 21st at 7 pm. The other will be hosted by Redeemer Lutheran Church in Vancouver on December 16th at 7 pm. Connection details will be forthcoming.

Given the heaviness of this past year, this may be a very helpful service for many of us, whether or not we have lost a loved one. All are welcome to join either or both of these opportunities. Feel free to share this information with those you think would benefit from these services.

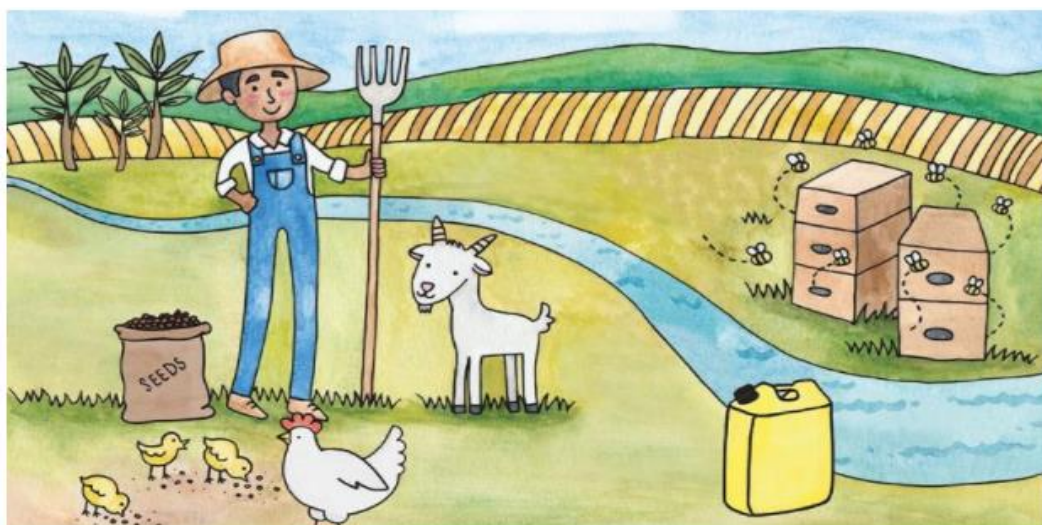


Canadian Lutheran World Relief

The church has received a number of *Canadian Lutheran World Relief's Gifts from the Heart* catalogues, which is also available to view online by clicking [here](#). This year's catalogue, like always, is full of meaningful, tangible gifts that share God's love with the world. Since gatherings are restricted in most places, and since so many are missing loved ones and looking for ways to show love and spread hope, why not consider giving a meaningful gift to a loved one from this catalogue? Your gift to a loved one will provide meaningful, tangible items for people around the world facing hunger, poverty and the threat of COVID-19. No matter which gift you choose, the gifts you give will change lives and touch your loved ones!

Tiny Hearts

For the second year again there is a special children's section to help teach children the joy of giving to others in need, entitled *Tiny Hearts*. Choose gifts from this page for the Tiny Hearts in your life, from as low as \$5, and you'll help give a family everything they need to grow their own food. There are some great gift ideas to bring your little one joy and let them be part of changing lives around the world. See the poster on the following page for more details.

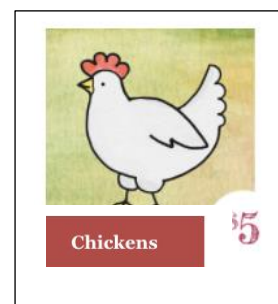
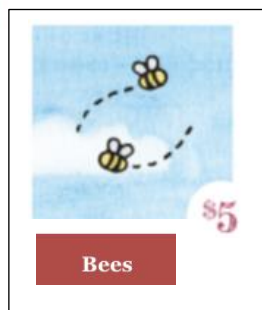


Calling all grandparents! (and aunties & uncles too!)

Help your grandkids experience the joy of sharing hope with ***Tiny Hearts*** — our special children's section of ***Gifts from the Heart***.

To make gift-giving easy and fun, we've created a **free *Tiny Hearts Poster & Sticker set***. Use the stickers to fill up the Tiny Hearts garden with chickens, goats, trees, seeds and more as they are donated! Or, use it as a fun learning tool to share why sometimes even small items can make a big difference.

Below are some great gift ideas for the ***Tiny Hearts*** in your life, which start at just \$5. I hope these gifts will bring you and your grandchildren joy as you take part in changing the lives of people around the world — together!



Don't forget to order your **free *Tiny Hearts Poster & Sticker set*** to fill up the Tiny Hearts garden with bees, trees, chickens & more!

Good Tidings Classic!

A Good Noise Video Christmas Performance

Online Premiere: Saturday, December 12th | 8:00 pm

A fusion of live and virtual - filmed at historic Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver BC, and woven together with the Good Noise Virtual Choir.

Good Noise Vancouver Gospel Choir (our own Liana Giguere is a member) is creating an exclusive concert video that will bring the best of classic gospel Christmas songs to viewers not only in our home region of Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley, but this year, with an expanded reach via internet viewing. This one-of-a-kind video performance will bring together the Good Noise Gospel Band, guest artist Crystal Hicks and soloists Timothy Fuller and Syllona Kanu, filmed live at Vancouver's historic Christ Church Cathedral, combined with the latest choral experience – the virtual choir.

(Look for Liana Giguere in the faces below. Can you find her?)



Through brilliant and creative editing, the live filming and the virtual choir will be woven together into a stirring, joyous, and unique video concert experience. During this time when concert going is prohibited, you can still experience the beautiful music of the Christmas Season as if you were actually there. With your purchase of a video concert ticket, you can enjoy "Good Tidings Classic" throughout the Christmas season from the premiere (December 12th until January 1st. Purchase tickets [here](#) today as they are only available for purchase until virtual concert day, December 12th.



Good Shepherd Women's Group

While our group has been unable to meet regularly for most of the year, our members have still been generous in their contributions to our various projects. Our Treasurer (Flora) is currently working on the distribution of 2020 funds to organizations suggested by our members. Disbursement will be going to:

- \$125.00 to **CLWR** for **shipping costs** (Dogwood money)
- Purchased 10 blankets for **3030 Gordon** Shelter and Transitional Housing.
- **CLWR** Gifts from the Heart – **Emergency Food** – matched 4x (donation amount TBD)
- Disburse most of the rest of the funds between these three local charities
 - Talitha Koum
 - Food Bank
 - Aunt Leah's Place

Aunt Leah's Place (one of our more recent charities) Mission statement is: *"Aunt Leah's helps prevent children in foster care from becoming homeless and mothers in need from losing custody of their children. To support them on their journey to self-sufficiency, we provide supported housing, job training and coaching on essential life skills."*

Aunt Leah's is one of the most effective Canadian charities in the homeless youth sector. One of their fundraisers is the selling of Christmas trees. In Coquitlam, the tree lot is at Eagle Ridge United Church. The youth in care are the ones selling the trees. Another fund raiser is Aunt Leah's Thrift store at Main and Broadway in Vancouver. They sell "pre-loved" clothing and accessories, furniture, and household items. The youth help run this store.

We look forward to the time when we can meet again in person for Bible Study and fellowship.

From the Outreach Team

Did you know that there is a SHARE Food Bank operating in Coquitlam? It is at Hillside Community Church, 1393 Austin Ave. The food distribution is Wednesdays from 12:00-1:30 pm and the registration (numbers given out) is at 10:00 am. At the time of registration current ID and proof of address is needed. Apply in person. There is also SHARE Food Banks in Port Moody at 2615 Clarke St. Food (distribution is Wednesdays from 11:30 - 2:00 pm with numbers given out at 9 am) and in Port Coquitlam at Trinity United Church, 2211 Prairie Avenue which has no number system (distribution is Wednesdays from 12-2 pm).

Items are no longer being accepted at 3030 Gordon Shelter and Transitional due to restrictions around Covid. Please keep those who are vulnerable in your prayers.



PRAYER GROUP

Zoom prayer events continue every Wednesday at 1 pm. Contact the office to obtain the Zoom meeting details if you have an interest in attending. All are welcome.

As is our practice, on every second Wednesday of the month, we invite you to join us in focused prayer in your own prayer practices on a specific theme. December's Prayer focus on December 9th will be **Hope**, and January's Prayer focus on January 13th will be **Blessings**.



The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." ~John 4:25

Illuminations from ignYte (our newly chosen youth group name)



October and November saw lots of new and exciting adventures and endeavours for the youth of ignYte. In October we were blessed to be able to gather in person (with all of our COVID 19 protocols in place) and carve some pumpkins! There were so many creative carvings and it was just so wonderful to be in the same physical space. We also continued to meet online to play games, share stories, grow in faith and establish connections.

In November we created an ignYte Discord server as a place where youth can safely come together online to build community.

Also, in November, we were so fortunate to have Esther Hizsa join us on Zoom. She shared with us some stories connected to the Wednesday Lunch Club, a food ministry hosted by St. Stephen's Burnaby supporting people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Then, ignYte had an opportunity to bless some of the people connected to the Wednesday Lunch club by decorating bags that will be filled with foodstuffs and other winter supplies, distributed in the lead-up to Christmas. It's an opportunity to do a little thing with great love.

While our initial plan was to have this be an in-person event, we are finding ways to pivot and adjust while still building community and spreading God's love. Re-evaluating and adapting seem to be terms that we are all familiar with this year!

Looking ahead, we are excited about the events we have planned for December and early 2021. From decorating gingerbread houses to constructing Lego kits and crafting origami, we are excited to see where the spirit leads us.

We pray that all youth, and their friends and families, have a blessed Christmas season and find joy in the little things in life.

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

~ Ephesians 2:10

As we enter this season of waiting for the arrival of our Savior, please pray with us:

- ❖ That our youth continue to have God's eyes, to see new ways to engage and make connections despite not being able to gather in person.
- ❖ That all our youth reflect Christ's heart in all they do, and God's name be glorified through them.
- ❖ That our dynamic leaders (Jason, Rachel, Sam, Abbey and Betty) continue to be led to be Christ's hands for all that he loves, by which our youth can grow into being your light to this troubled world.





From Our Treasurer

The following is an update on our financial Status as of October 30, 2020:

Total Income	\$193,276.01
Total Expenses	<u>\$174,388.33</u>
Surplus	\$ 18,887.68

Project Contingency Fund \$ 48,789.45

Thank you for your continued generosity in these "unprecedented" times

Please note that the Library will remain CLOSED until further notice due to concerns over spreading the Corona 19 Virus.



The book club will not be meeting in December, but you are invited to join them in January over Zoom, when they will be discussing:

Small Lives

by Jeffrey McClain Jones

A story of three small lives needing hope in the midst of a global pandemic.

A timely read indeed! All are welcome.

Please let Kate Wright know if you have an interest in attending.



From Our Librarian

The librarian issues a challenge to each of you: **put yourself into Christmas.**

Read the Christmas story, and place yourself at the manger (it's a small gathering, more animals in attendance than people). In the stillness of that night--without the jingle of bells or the blare of canned carols, the scratch of silverware on plates or the slow rip of paper from packages--love came down. Hope came down. For us. When you have empty moments, picture yourself at the manger. Weave in your story. Wow...just--wow.

Revisit your favorite Christmas songs. All the verses: like a book, the first verse draws you in, but the message takes flight only when you read it to the end. How many carols actually require everyone to be in one place at one time in order for Christmas to successfully happen? Even a song like "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" doesn't tell us we all have to be shoulder to shoulder in Bethlehem--it simply tells us all to come and adore Him.

Christ the Savior is born. Lift that up, and allow yourself to find peace in where you are and what you do. There isn't one right way to celebrate Christmas, except, as the carol says, to adore Him.

(PS--if you don't get a good book for Christmas, why not write one? If you need inspiration, write about your experience at the manger...)



JOURNEY OF THE THREE WISE MEN A Christmas Story Matthew 2:1-12

KIDS CORNER

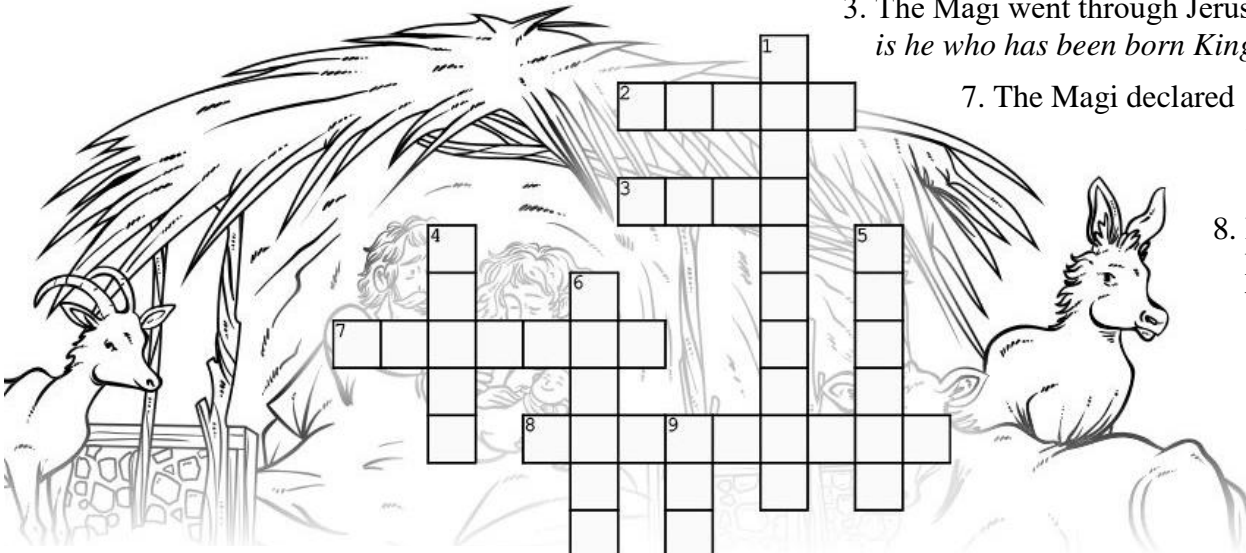
Across

2. King _____ was greatly disturbed by the Magi's news of a new King.

3. The Magi went through Jerusalem asking "Where is he who has been born King of the _____?"

7. The Magi declared "For we saw his star when it rose and have come to _____ him."

8. In what city did the Magi find the new-born King, Jesus?



Down

1. When the Magi at last found the young Messiah, they fell on their faces and _____ Him.

4. The Magi were convinced that the bright light in the sky was a sign of the Messiah's _____.

5. Secretly, the wicked King did not want to worship Jesus, he only wanted the wise men to discover where He was so he could have Jesus _____.

6. The Magi are also known as _____.

9. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your _____.

Wishing all our GSLC families



during this holy Christmas Season



Weekly Church Events

Is socially-distancing causing you to miss human engagement and face-to-face contact? Are you aware that most weeks the church offers the following online get-togethers over Zoom that offer just that? You are invited to join in any one (or all) of these live-over-Zoom events. All are welcome!

Sunday mornings at 9 am – Zoom Bible Study

We gather for conversation and reflection on one of the scripture texts that will be read in worship for that Sunday. Once a month, starting on November 15 we will be participating in the ELCIC's Bible Book Club program where we all read through one book of the Bible each month. It's a great way to increase your Bible literacy. The next one will be December 13th and we'll be discussing the book of Deuteronomy.

Every Sunday - Worship by Video

If you are not yet aware we post a worship service by video that is available every Sunday morning. The link is sent out by congregational email and can also be found on the "Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Coquitlam BC" YouTube channel can be found [here](#).

Wednesday afternoons at 1 pm – Zoom Prayer Gathering

Alternating weeks between praying Lectio Divina style & free-style 'Prayers of the People'.

Thursday afternoons at 4 pm – Zoom Happy Hour

Join in when we share anecdotes on the comings and goings of the week. It's always a fun time of social interaction and engaging in lively conversation about what's going on in our

Refugee Sponsorship

The lengthy resettlement process for Solomon [currently living in Sudan] and Tesfay [currently living in Ethiopia] continues as they wait to join their Aunt here in Coquitlam.

Please continue to keep these two young men in your prayers – for their continued safety and to guard their physical, emotional & mental health, while they wait to come to Canada.

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

~ Isaiah 9:6-7



**and Happy
New Year**