

A WORD FROM THE

# October / November 2020 News

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#### The Power of Partnerships

We're all familiar on some level with the major heroes of the Bible and their stories. Towering, solitary figures like Abraham and Paul whose life and work moved the story of God and God's people forward through the pages of scripture. But do we ever stop to reflect on how many of those heroes functioned in the context of partnerships? Partnerships formed with friends, assistants, and mentors?

Moses had Aaron as his helper, Elijah and Elisha were an inspiring duo, David and Jonathan famously exemplified the power of supportive friendship, and Paul refers often and openly to his reliance on various helpers like Timothy...just to name a couple of examples.

Internships are a kind of partnership. Mostly characterized as mentorship, often as assistance, hopefully always as friendship. Which is how I see Elina's role with us. And let's be clear. That's not just a partnership she and I share as supervisor and student. It's a partnership she has with all of you as the congregation.

I hope you see it that way. Which means I hope you keep your eyes open for opportunities to invite her into the work and ministry we all share together. She's already been invited onto the prayer chain and into the prayer group. And at least one member has offered to host her for a visit. Which is one way you can participate in this adventure...even if it happens over ZOOM. Can you think of others?

Let's make this partnership as enriching as we can for all of us. And let me now, like a good partner, offer her the rest of this space for her to share her own words of welcome with you.

Greetings! My name is Elina, and I'm excited to begin my internship here at Good Shepherd, as well as at Trinity Lutheran in Delta.

I am originally from Finland but have lived in Canada for almost 17 years. I live in East Vancouver with my husband Jason and our 9-year-old son Jacob. A senior cat named Santosh is also part of our household.

I've been deeply immersed in the world of academics for the past couple of years. When I'm not writing a paper or studying for the next course, you'll most likely find me outside. I'll be digging the garden, hiking the trails, or looking for treasures on the beach. If I'm indoors, I'm likely knitting or sewing something, or enjoying a cup of tea and a good book (academic or otherwise).

These are strange times to learn how to do ministry. While no one quite knows yet how this is going to work, I look forward to getting to know you all, hopefully soon. If you're watching the Sunday services, you'll first see me on the screen. Once I get settled, I'll likely also make some phone calls to get to talk to you. And hopefully we'll all be able to meet in the same building before my internship is over!

# **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

## **Congregational Zoom Meeting**

Church council would like to thank all who participated in the congregational conversation meeting held on September 30, and especially all team members who spent much time and energy preparing their discussion items to bring them forward for consideration and conversation. The meeting, moderated by Peter Schuler, was informative, respectful and well attended. Summary notes of the Q&A time will be available shortly. Please let the church office know by email if you would like to receive an electronic copy when it becomes available.

## September's Parking Lot Gathering Experiment

The Parking Lot Gathering held on September 13<sup>th</sup> was by all accounts a success. Twenty members gathered for a short time of socially-distanced fellowship, song, devotion and prayer. Given that our summer weather has largely passed, we will not likely be able to run this again this year. However, we have assembled a Reopening Team who has started meeting to talk through our practices and protocols for a possible return to services in some form in the near future. Thank you to David Wills, Mogens Hansen, Bill Zwicker, Val Newton and Ruth von Hertzberg for agreeing to serve the congregation in this manner.

## **Covid Protocols for our Building**

Another team has been hard at work to prepare a Covid Plan for our building, as required by Worksafe BC. It is currently awaiting Council's consideration and approval.

The Covid Plan will result in some changes to how we access our building in the future, and while these changes may feel a little awkward, they are nevertheless necessary to help us comply with Public Health recommendations and requirements. We will bring the most important of these changes to your attention shortly. We ask for your patience and understanding toward these modifications.

## **Phone on the Fritz!**

We are aware that some people who call the office (604-936-2939) from their land line will not be able to connect, as a message intercepts the processing advising that the number is unavailable. This problem is specific to calls made from a hard-wired land line, and these issues do not exists when calling from a cell phone.

Telus has been alerted to the problem and is trying diligently to rectify the issue as soon as possible. While this is frustrating to everyone, we ask for your patience. You are still able to reach us using a cell phone or by emailing us at goodshepherd@telus.net.

# 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.

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

Alicia Grayson (Dorothy Durand's niece) recovering from a leg injury from a traffic accident in December 2019 and seeking strength to continue with her physio treatments.

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

Carole Lentz, who's recovering from a leg injury suffered this summer, and her mother Jean, who continues to convalesce from her fall in the hopes of returning home.

**Sandi Carter**, a friend of Laurie Sinclair, who is suffering with Central Nervous System Lymphoma.

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

**Vivian Kroeker**, as she transitions to her new living accommodations at Cartier House Care Home.

The family of **Donna Durand**, Roland's sister-in-law, who passed away suddenly. Pray for peace for the family and for compassionate friends to care for them in the days ahead.

**Bev Poznachuk**, was hospitalized with intestinal issues.

**All those suffering** with or affected by the Covid19 virus.



**Thanksgiving!** Please join us as we thank God for his kindness, mercy and grace shown to **Christine Stanley**, whose surgery was successful and received the good news that her kidney tumor was not cancerous.

# Milestone Birthdays

Celebrating Milestone Birthdays in November are:

**Vera Beech** who turns **93** on November 13<sup>th</sup>, and

**Terry Shular** who turns **85** on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.



# October, November Birthdays

We extend our birthday greetings as well to the following people whose birthdays will be celebrated in either October or November:

Bob Berry
Liana Berry
Gene Blishen
Lydia Inoue-Zwicker
Asta Marie Marquess
Zach Schuler
Doug Tremain
David Wills
Ruth Von Hertzberg

With Blessings to all from your Good Shepherd Family

#### Welcome to the World!

Ethan Abraham Le Roux, 8 pounds 9 ounces arrived on October 11<sup>th</sup>, son of Lauren & Christo (grandson of Val Newton). Mom & Ethan are home already which made for the best Thanksgiving ever! Big sister Leah (2 ½) is adjusting well and Gramma Val is overjoyed to welcome her 1st grandson.

#### Just Engaged!

Tamara Russell and Brian Tansley were engaged on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

## Change of Address

Please note the following changes in address in your Church Directories at home:

#### **Rick Enarson**

312 – 1021 Howay Street New Westminster BC V3M 1Z9

#### Vivian Kroeker

Cartier House Seniors Community 1419 Cartier Avenue Coquitlam BC V3K 2C6

# God's Blessings to you all!



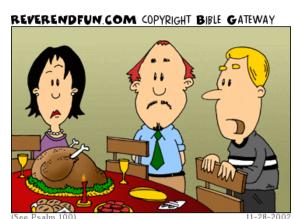
#### **PRAYER GROUP**

Commencing Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> we begin to meet bi-weekly at 1 pm over Zoom praying Lectio Divina style (where bible passages are read aloud 3 times followed with reflection, questions and discussion.) Each week we close our meeting with "Prayers of the People" – those prayers brought forward by the participants in the group as they feel so led. All are welcome.

On those alternate Wednesdays, all are invited to join on Zoom to simply pray what's on their minds and in their hearts - be it prayers for themselves or their loved ones, prayers for our church, its clergy and members, prayers for our community, country and our elected officials, prayers for other countries, the world, prayers for creation.

And monthly, on every second Wednesday, we invite you to join us in focused prayer in your own prayer practices on a specific theme every second Wednesday of every month. October's Prayer focus on October 14<sup>th</sup> will be **Trust**, and November 11<sup>th</sup>'s prayer focus will be **Remembrance**.

Please let the office know if you are curious or have an interest in checking this group out, and the appropriate Zoom link will be provided to you.



HAS IT ALREADY BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE WERE THANKFUL?

# 60th Anniversary Celebration

We hope by now that you've received your Save the Date Card in the mail, along with a letter letting you know all the plans we've made to mark this 60 year milestone. By way of background on the cards, Caroline Hunt made 100 of these handmade cards that were going to be put in your mail slots earlier in the year when our initial plans consisted of a spectacular high tea in the fellowship hall. Caroline also hand-made everyone something special in your box – but we hope you'll wait until the *big reveal* on the 25<sup>th</sup> to find out what it is!

#### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> between 2-4 pm**, we hope you will come and pick up your gift box at the church. It will be done "drive-through" style. Just pull in the parking lot and we will pass you our hygienically packaged gift boxes for you to open on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We have single boxes, couple boxes and children's boxes. We may just need a bit of help to determine what type of boxes you would like to pick up, and how many.

**Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**, we invite you to watch the 60<sup>th</sup> Celebration video that we've put together for you, and open your boxes with Mogens on-line. We hope you'll enjoy it.

When we once again return to gathering together as a worshipping body of Christ, we hope you will consider contributing to our Memory Album in whatever way feels comfortable for you. We think it will be fun knowing that 60 years from now someone will open the photo album and discover its contents gathered at the back, consisting of congregational thoughts of how they see God and the Holy Spirit working in this present-time during Covid, and our hopes and prayers for the future of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.



Father, I pray as we walk through trials we realize that the trials are not our final destination.

Excerpt from *Strength and Grace*, a devotional for caregivers; the Prayer for Strength, written by Edwina Perkins, offered to us by Jane Whitter

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:18

# PERSPECTIVES - By Jason Wood



A new school year has begun, and many of our youth are settling into new rhythms for school, from quarterly systems to class "cohorts" to a mix of online and in-person learning. At the same time, there's still a comfort in the familiarity of sports, drama and other extracurricular activities starting up again, and the chance to be with friends. Our youth ministry continues to evolve as we adapt to our changing circumstances, and this fall we're planning on a mix of weekly online gatherings

(Sundays @ 7) and monthly in-person events, including pumpkin carving, Christmas card making, and gingerbread house decorating!

We're particularly excited to be moving forward with a new name and mission statement. We are...ignYte! As the ignYte youth ministry, "we desire to create a bravely welcoming community where youth can bring their full selves, create lasting friendships, kindle a joyful faith, and be energized to spread Christ's love in every part of their lives." We're also excited to deepen our partnerships with other Lutheran and Anglican churches in the Tri-Cities & North Burnaby area as we welcome their youth and adult volunteers into our growing community. At the same time, there's sadness too, as COVID prevents us from going ahead with the annual winter retreat at Mt. Seymour. Together with the CLAY Gathering's move online next year, these are big disappointments and will make this year quite different from previous years.

#### **October Events**

October 4, 7pm: Sunday @ 7 on ZOOM
October 11: No event due to Thanksgiving
October 18, 7pm: Sunday @ 7 on ZOOM
\*October 24, 3-5pm: Pumpkin Carving

\*=In-Person Gathering

#### **November Events**

November 1: TBA

November 8, 7pm: Sunday @ 7 on ZOOM

November 15, 7pm: Sunday @ 7on ZOOM

\*November 21, 3-5pm: Christmas Card Making

November 29, 7pm: Sunday @ 7 on ZOOM

Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me. ~ Psalm 31:3

As we go into the fall, please pray with us:

- Give thanks for our stellar team of leaders, including myself, Rachel Genge, Sam Cornelson, Abbey Macey, and Betty Schellenberg
- Pray that our relationships with one another and with God will deepen despite all that keeps us apart
- Pray for creativity, courage, and new traditions to nourish us as we move forward
- Pray encouragement and renewed hope for youth discouraged by the ways COVID has cancelled and changed plans
- Pray that God protect our schools from outbreak, provide wise leadership from teachers and administrators, and peace and joy for anxious youth and their families



# From Our Treasurer

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

Total Income \$174,409.83
Total Expenses \$156,734.02
Surplus \$17,675.81

Project Contingency Fund \$ 48,269.45

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.



You are invited to join the book club at their next meeting on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm on the deck of the Hansen-Yen home (604) 320-0809 where they will be discussing:

Wrongs to Rights: How Churches Can Engage the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."

If the weather won't accommodate an outside meeting, we will try on Sunday, October 25th or possibly by Zoom on Wednesday evening (October 28th) People who do not want to meet in person should let Mogens Hansen know as he can set up your attendance over Zoom.

Looking ahead, November's reading selection is:

Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese



# From Our Librarian

This was in a Lutheran Prayerbook found in a drawer; may it inform and inspire your prayers.

From the Lutheran Prayerbook, copyright 2015-2016

## Ten Simple Rules: How to Pray

- I. Pray where you are; God is present everywhere and ready to listen.
- II. Pray, when possible, in a quiet place where you can be alone. It is well to fix your mind deliberately on God, away from confusing distractions.
- III. Pray to God simply and naturally—as to a friend. Tell Him what is on your mind. Get help from the prayers of others.
- IV. Pray, remembering the good things God has done for you. Reckon up your blessings from time to time, and give thanks for them.
- V. Pray for God's forgiveness for the unworthy things that you have done. He cherishes a humble and contrite heart.
- VI. Pray for the things you need, especially those that will make your life finer and more Christlike.
- VII. Pray for others, remembering the situations they confront and the help they need.
- VIII. Pray for the world in its need, asking God to bring better things and offering your help to all in need.
- IX. Pray above everything else that God's will may be done in you and in the world. His purposes are deeper and wiser than anything we can imagine.
- X. Pray, and then let God use you in answering your prayer.

#### **LOCAL CHURCH**



**Contributed by Gene Blishen** ~ to enhance our understanding of who we are as a church, and how we <u>are</u> directly impacting the world around us.

Every Sunday we recite the Apostle's Creed that includes the phrase 'I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,...". What does it then mean when we think about our Lutheran identity in the context of a catholic (universal) church? In 1947 to coordinate the activities of the many differing Lutheran churches, the Lutheran World Federation was founded. It is a global communion of national and regional Lutheran denominations headquartered in the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. The ELCIC is a member of this federation.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has 148 member church bodies in 89 countries representing over 77 million Lutherans. It acts on our behalf in areas of common interest such as ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communication and the various aspects of mission and development work. The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus remains the largest LWF member church with over 10.4 million members. This is an increase of more than 18 percent over 2017. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania is the second largest church with 7.9 million members. The country with the single largest number of Lutherans is Germany with 11 LWF members totalling 10.8 million members.

This last month Rev Dr. Martin Junge the General Secretary gave his resignation and will be stepping down next autumn. There is now a call to all members inviting them to identify candidates to lead the global communion for the post of the ninth General Secretary. The Council has appointed a seven-member search committee, reflecting the key principles of regional and gender balance, as well as youth participation. The committee is chaired by Bishop Susan Johnson, head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Recently the LWF put out a call for the LWF COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund. ELCIC donated \$100,000 to this fund on behalf of Canadian Lutherans. This fund will equip various churches to stand with their people, offering them a tangible expression of God's enduring love even in times of hardship and suffering. This is our church as an active participant with those in need.

There is a vast amount of information on the LWF website (<a href="www.lutheranworld.org">www.lutheranworld.org</a>). Subscribe to their mailing list to keep you informed of the various activities, resources and news of Lutherans around the world.

As you journey in finding your Lutheran identity in Good Shepherd, which moves from our congregation and ecumenical community to the BC Synod, to the national church (ELCIC), and to the international federation (LWF), you will find these groups give us a greater understanding of what it means to be part of our holy catholic church. I invite you to participate in this understanding and community as an expression of God's grace and Christ's message in our constant redemptive life.

"May God continue to inspire your church, and our churches together, to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, to serve our neighbours with compassion, and to publicly stand for justice and dignity for all."

— LWF President Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa



Dear friends,

This weekend, the **Canadian Lutheran World Relief** (CLWR) Board of Directors, leadership team and denominational leaders gathered for our annual September meeting. As we came together — completely online for the first time in our history — we were all forced to confront the fact that we are working in a new reality, one that is marked by change and new circumstances.

Everyone at CLWR is committed to meeting the challenges of this moment with humility and courage. We are steadfast in our responsibility to ensure CLWR can respond with integrity, efficiency and kindness in a time of soaring global need, and to make sure Lutherans in Canada can continue a tradition of working toward justice and peace for all people.

Based on those commitments, this weekend we made the decision to begin transitioning We Care, CLWR's long-standing and beloved commodity shipment program, with the intent that the shipping component of the program will be fully closed by the end of 2021. While many of us feel a deep, personal connection to this aspect of We Care, the decision was made with the unanimous support of everyone involved.

Despite some sadness in making this change, we are united in confidence that **this decision affirms CLWR's most deeply-held values, including responsible stewardship, shared learning and honouring the voices of those we are called to serve.** We are encouraged and optimistic at the commitment everyone at CLWR has shown to being the most responsible, effective organization we can be on behalf of Lutherans in Canada.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need experienced by our global partners has never been greater, and they are urgently calling on Lutherans in Canada to respond as generously as possible. The decision to revise the We Care program comes both in response to those calls, and as part of our deeply-held commitment to honour the kindness of our church communities, making sure to do as much good as possible.

We are proud of CLWR's long history of growth and adaptation as an organization. Since as early as the 1950s, the organization has continually adapted its efforts in response to shifting contexts, and especially to the voices of our partners. CLWR has always tried to exemplify the spirit of "semper reformanda" — always reforming — that has guided our faith tradition as Lutherans. Today, facing the prospect of a post-COVID world, we are united in our belief that we must not cease learning, growing and reforming.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new complications to We Care and has amplified existing challenges to a point where continuing the program in its current form would not be a responsible course. Shipping and travel restrictions have left our warehouse nearly dormant for months, despite significant donor dollars continuing to pay for the warehouse space. At the same time, the supplies provided by our current We Care program are neither a rapid nor a cost-efficient way for CLWR to respond to the immediate, critical needs faced by so many around the world.

While earlier in the program's history, We Care filled a vital gap of needed items, in the world we now face, many of you have expressed growing concern about the climate impacts of shipping supplies

from Canada, especially when they are available for purchase much closer to the regions where we work.

The communities and beneficiaries we work with around the world, in places like Ethiopia, Uganda and Jerusalem, have also continued to shape our understanding of their needs. Our work began evolving long ago in response to feedback from our partners, who have taught us to listen to those we serve, to help them build and rebuild livelihoods, and to work alongside them for justice. The transition of our We Care program continues this long and continual process of examining ourselves and our work.

The We Care program, in its decades of operation, has provided comfort and care to tens of thousands of people. To our incredible community of faithful, loyal volunteers and churches, we want to say that we are inspired by you. Your generosity has wrapped warm quilts around those who have lost their homes, put supplies in otherwise empty school classrooms, and has given young mothers the very first clothes their new babies will ever wear.

Your efforts have made such a difference. You have our deep thanks. And we also want to say you are needed now — as much as ever.

Our warehouse will remain open for some time to allow for a transition period, and we expect one final shipment to go out this fall, with supplies that are already in the warehouse. If your congregation is holding on to supplies, we encourage you to reach out to local organizations in your community and ask what their needs are. Many are in need of these items right now. We have identified a number of local organizations who are eager for We Care items to support their critical work. We are well aware of how hard our own country has been hit by this pandemic, with food bank visits rising, many people out of work, and a cold winter coming. Please continue quilting, continue gathering supplies, and contact us if you need help finding an organization in your area who can put these supplies to good use.

Thank you for being a partner of CLWR, and of those we serve. We understand the changes to We Care will be disappointing for some, but we have heard from so many of you who cherish CLWR because of our commitment to faithful stewardship and to being responsible with the calling we have been given.

The need experienced by our global partners has never been greater or more urgent, and the COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately affecting those who already face hunger and poverty, with millions more being pushed into extreme poverty. In this context, particularly with ongoing restrictions, it is clear to our Board, staff, and the leaders of our supporting churches, that shipping supplies from Canada is no longer an effective nor a responsible way for us to respond.

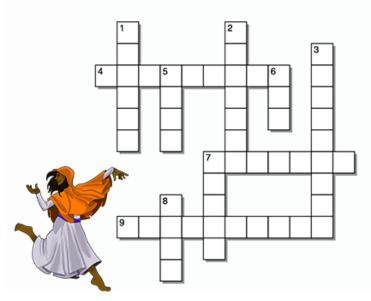
As this work evolves, we will count on your continued partnership, and we pledge to continue in our commitment to doing everything we can to be faithful and responsible partners in this ministry.

If you have any questions or comments about this decision, or about what do with existing items, our Community and Donor Relations Director, Carla Blakley, is eager to hear from you. You can reach her at **204-230-1323** or **carla@clwr.org**.

We invite you to join us in prayer today for the ongoing ministry of our organization, for those we serve, and in gratitude for the incredible legacy of kindness that has reached across the world for so many years through We Care.

Deepest blessings, [Signature blocks excluded. Contact the church for a copy of the entire letter]

# WEDDING FEAST AT CANA KIDS CORNER



# WORD SEARCH

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## Can you find these clues about Jesus?

Jesus	Messiah	King
Saviour	Healer	Forgiveness
Helper	Friend	Lord
Cross	Sins	Teacher
Resurrection	Light	Gate
Vine	First	Last
Way	Truth	Life
Love	Believe	Leader

Righteousness

Creator

#### Across

- 4) Jesus and his \_\_\_\_\_ were invited to the wedding. (John 2:1)
- 7) Jesus was invited to a \_\_\_\_\_ (John 2:9)
- 9) "The master of the feast called the \_\_\_\_\_ aside" (John 2:9)

#### Down

- 1) Each stone jar held twenty or \_\_\_\_\_ gallons. (John 2:6)
- 2) The city of Cana was located in this area. (John 2:1)
- 3) After the wedding, Jesus went to which village? (John 2:12)
- 5) On the third day there was a wedding at \_\_\_\_\_ in Galilee (John 2:1)
- 6) There were \_\_\_\_\_ stone water jars (John 2:6)
- 7) Jesus told the servants to fill six jars with this liquid (John 2:7)
- 8) The water turned into \_\_\_\_\_. (John 2:9)



#### **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 weekly events. All are welcome!

#### <u>Sunday mornings at 9 am – Zoom Bible Study</u>

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. A great way to increase your Bible literacy.

#### **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.

## Wednesday afternoons at 1 pm - Zoom Prayer Gathering

Alternating weeks between praying a group Lectio Divina practice & 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 world.

# **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 emotional and mental health - while they wait to come to Canada.

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

~2 Corinthians 9:8



and God Bless our Veterans on Remembrance Day