



**Good Shepherd**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

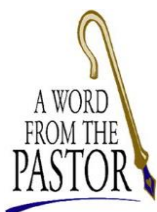
# DECEMBER 2021 JANUARY 2022 NEWS

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MINISTERS: YOU THE PEOPLE OF GOD

[www.GSLCC.ca](http://www.GSLCC.ca)



## The Journey In and the Journey Out

We've been discussing the Book of Revelation in our Sunday morning Bible Study lately. The perfect text for an Advent study!

Lutheran Bible Scholar Barbara Rossing describes reading Revelation as "a journey in and a journey out." As we follow the visionary journey of John of Patmos (the author) we are drawn up to heaven and into the very courts of God. We glimpse the glorious existence awaiting the faithful and behold God's suffering and sacrificial love that powers the whole universe.

But having been drawn in, we are then led back out. We learn that God doesn't wish to remain aloof from this creation. God makes God's home among mortals in that beautiful final picture of the new Jerusalem "coming down out of heaven." We too come back home to earth. But now with new eyes to see earthly realities from God's point of view. A point of view marked by hope, healing, and community.

As I think about it, the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany are also a kind of journey in and a journey out. Advent draws us in closer and closer to God's plan for salvation. Week by week the wreath fills with light. Finally the miracle is revealed. We see God in God's most intimate form, a naked infant in a manger.

But we aren't left there. We are led out of Christmas into the light of Epiphany. And there we begin to see the most ordinary things of this life as shining with the miraculous presence of God's grace and mercy. Where water can become wine, an ordinary fishing trip can produce an historic catch, and the poor, the hungry, and the grieving are called blessed.

In each of these seasons we receive a gift and a call. In Advent it's time to slow down and listen for the voice of God whispering the promise of hope into our lives. In Christmas it's the gift of Jesus and the call to rejoice. And in Epiphany it's the gift of new eyesight and the call to share the news of God's transforming love.

Maybe our visioning process is also a journey in and a journey out. A journey inward to reflect on who we have been and who God has created and gifted us to be. A journey to discover the gift of the new future God has in store for us. And a journey outward into the world to be the unique community we are.

That's a lot of journeying! Let us be on our way.



# CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

## In-Person Worship Evolving

As you are all aware, we currently gather every Sunday morning at 10:30 am for our weekly worship service with Holy Communion. If you wish to attend the service in-person, you are asked to pre-register by calling or emailing the church office the week prior. For the health of all we are respectfully requesting that attendees remain fully masked and that only fully vaccinated people attend these services at this time. These services also continue to be live-streamed over our YouTube Channel at 10:30 am, and a recording of each of our services is posted shortly after the service ends for viewing when convenient for you.

Good Shepherd's Reopening Team and council met a few weeks ago and discussed the next steps in our reopening process, and we have asked you all for your input as we plan further. If you missed this email notification, a brief summary is provided below. Please note that this meeting occurred prior to the awareness of omicron on the horizon. This variant may impact any reopening process that council may consider in the near future.

### RECAP OF EMAIL REQUESTING YOUR INPUT:

With our current system, worship attendance is limited to approximately 50 people with attendees getting an assigned seat. While this plan has been working until now, we're wondering about making adjustments.

One proposal is to follow the Public Health guidelines for other venues, which is to require a proof of vaccination in order to enter the building. This would allow us to lift the restrictions on the number of people in worship, and to end the pre-registration and seat assignments. Continuing to remain fully masked while indoors would continue for the safety of all.

So, we request your feedback on the following: **Would you feel comfortable showing proof of vaccination to come to worship if it meant not having to register for a seat and not limiting attendance? Does it make any difference to you? Do you have concerns about this change?**

Please let us know emailing or calling the office, Pastor Eric or Student Pastor Elina by December 10th so that the council can consider your input in their next meeting. Your voice matters. Thank you for your co-operation.



## Vision Process – Step 3

Our Vision Process continues on its path of discernment. As we rest in the understanding that the church currently exists in a liminal time (a time between what *the church* was and what *the church* will be) we continue to dwell and consider our core values and what is important to *the church* in this present moment. Our next opportunity to gathering will be on December 7<sup>th</sup>. See the article on page 9 for more details.

## For Our Prayer

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

**Dorothy Durand** who has moved from the Dufferin Care Centre to the Nicola Lodge Care Home. Pray that she may settle in well.

**Al and Donata Startin**, that Al may have good care and be able to stay home as long as possible, and that Donata's strength and health may hold up as she supports and cares for Al in his journey with terminal cancer.

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

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

**Karisa, Dale Wald's niece** in Edmonton who continues to battle leukaemia.

**Gail Tremain** as she continues to deal with back pain.

**Bev Poznachuk** as she recovers from her stay in hospital for abdominal pain.

**All those** who have been affected by the recent floods in our Province, that they may be comforted in their distress and their loss and find hope for the days ahead.



**Thanksgiving!** Please join us as we thank God for the continue faithful stewardship of our congregation as we head towards the end of another challenging year, and look forward to a new and more hopeful year ahead.

## Milestone Birthdays

Special birthday wishes are extended to the following members who are celebrating milestone birthdays very soon:

- ❖ **Mae Cabbott turns 91** on December 3rd
- ❖ **Al Startin turns 85** on December 14th
- ❖ **Christine Stanley turns 75** on December 27th
- ❖ **Hilda Zapf turns 96** on January 4th
- ❖ **Jean Lentz turns 95** on January 18th

## Birthday Greetings

We also extend our birthday greetings to the following members who will be celebrating birthdays in December and January:

Brenda Chenosky  
Mark Jiew  
Elizabeth Knudson  
Deloris MacRae  
Brendan Myers  
Barb Neuls  
Karen Neuls  
Val Newton  
Jannea Pregler  
Sherry Russell  
Tamara Russell  
Mara Ruth  
Abbey Seidel  
Sean Stickler  
Grayson Tarry



*With Blessings to all from  
your Good Shepherd Family*

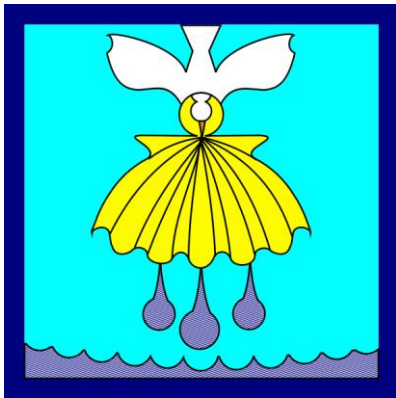
## Welcome!

We join Lauren and Christo Le Roux in their joy  
as they celebrated the baptism of their son

### Ethan Abraham

on Sunday, November 14, 2021.

*Welcome to the family of God, Ethan!*



## Welcome Melody

We join Omid and Malahat Nejati in celebrating  
the birth of their 2.7 k daughter

### Melody

born on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

Introducing Miss Melody Nejati



*Thank you Lord, for these precious gifts  
of new life!*



## Directory Changes / Updates

**Eric, Jill & Henry Schuler have a new address.**

#101 - 295 Schoolhouse  
Coquitlam BC  
V3K 6X5

**Lil Vigurs has a new phone number.**



Lil's new phone number in  
Mission, BC is:  
**604-287-0336**

**Michelle Chan's contact information**

Telephone: **604-603-9805**

E-Mail: **michellechan0725@gmail.com**

## Welcome Naomi

And we also join Liana Giguere and Chris Myers  
in celebrating the birth of their 8lb 1oz daughter

### Naomi Susan Giguere

Born on Friday, November 19, 2021.

Introducing Miss Naomi Myers





# Advent - Christmas Services

While the following services are subject to change, at the present time we anticipate offering the following special Advent and Christmas services in-person. As more information develops on the omicron variant, these services may switch to being live-streamed and recorded only.

## Sunday, December 19th

**Service of Special Music & Sunday School Presentation** at 10:30 am

## Tuesday, December 21

**Longest Night Service** at 7:30 pm

Sometimes this season of Advent and Christmas are not filled with joy. For some, they can be filled with grief, despondency and real suffering.

We will once again be offering a "Longest Night" service on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm. This service will be offered on Zoom and a link will be provided in due course. We are hoping this format will allow for wider participation and an opportunity to include those who don't like going out at night.

More details will follow.



## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

**Family Christmas Eve Service** at 4 pm

**Candlelight Service with Holy Communion** at 10 pm

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

**Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion** at 11 am

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

**Favourite Carols By Request Service** at 10:30 am

## ADVENT RESOURCES:

Advent began on November 28th. To enhance the meaning of this Season of Advent for you, we have the following opportunities available.

**Advent Reflections:** This year we again have a supply of **Advent Reflections** from *On Eagles Wings*. You can pick up a hard copy from the church, or you can contact the office and one can be mailed to you.

**Morning Prayers:** Pastor Bruce Ehlert is once again offering to email you a concise, meaningful prayer each morning during the Season of Advent, along with a picture to ponder, and a bit of scripture to meditate upon. Your email remains confidential, and it is a unique way to avail yourself to centuries-old prayers of monks, saints and theologians from ages past that still remain relevant today. Register by clicking [here](#) or contact Pastor Bruce directly by forwarding him your email details [here](#).



## News from the OUTREACH TEAM

**Hope for Freedom Society (HFFS)** used to run the shelters hosted by the churches, however, due to financial constraints they have moved their focus to direct outreach in the TriCities. The ***Emergency Weather Response*** is run by **Phoenix Society** at the SureStay Hotel. Both **Hope for Freedom** and **Phoenix Society** are looking for donations listed below

- HFFS is looking for new or gently used sweatpants to distribute to their clients. M/L/XL. Financial donations can be made by texting 604.830.1528 to plan for delivery or pick-up.
- HFFS and Phoenix can always use the following:
  - Rain Gear
  - Waterproof shoes/boots
  - Gloves (as opposed to mittens)
  - Winter coats
  - Underwear – NOT WHITE – sizes M/L/XL
  - Hand warmer packets
  - \$5 McDonalds or 7/11 G/Cs
  - Transit Passes

**NOTE:** We will once again be gathering Christmas gifts for our Homeless Community Members –details TBD.

**Winter Shelter Update** – Although we do not have 100% confirmation of the Winter Shelter opening in our community, progress with BC Housing continues to be made, but the green light is still a ways off.

**FOOD BANK:** Please continue to donate items to the Food Bank, either by drop off at the church or by drop off directly at a Food Bank location near you (Port Moody, Coquitlam or Port Coquitlam). Note that baby food is always needed, and keep an eye out as cases of soups and beans etc often go on sale at this time.

**3030 GORDON:** 3030 Gordon is again suspending donations being dropped off.

*"The crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' He answered, 'Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same.' " Luke 3: 10-11*

## Other Giving Opportunities for your consideration

The Good Samaritan Society (GSS) and Good Samaritan Canada (GSC) are leading faith-based, not-for-profit, registered charities in Western Canada that provide quality accommodations, health, and community care services and programs. With over 72 years of experience providing specialized health and community care services in innovative and caring environments, our operational effectiveness and overarching culture of service and care make us the provider of choice for individuals and their families seeking a supportive place to call home.



Through their **Christmas Angels program**, they hope to ensure that all of the 3,000+ seniors and individuals within their care are recognized during the holiday season with a personalized gift, from personal care items, clothing, puzzles, books or a special treat. For a limited time, your **donation will be doubled (up to \$2,000)** thanks to a **matching gift** from Edmonton-based law firm, **Reynolds Mirth Richard & Farmer LLP**. During this season of giving, please consider supporting the Christmas Angels program and **be an angel to a senior in your community**. Click [here](#) to donate.



# Canadian Lutheran World Relief

**CLWR Emergency Appeal for BC:** The ELCIC, in partnership with CLWR, invites you to pray for the people of British Columbia and to consider making a gift to provide emergency support and hope for recovery. CLWR is accepting donations now on its [website](#). Donations can also be made by telephoning 1.800.661.2597 (Monday to Thursday, 9:00 – 16:00 CDT) or by cheque, payable to CLWR directly, 600-177 Lombard Ave, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5.

**CLWR Gifts from the Heart catalogues:** Hard copies of CLWR's Gift from the Heart catalogue (including the *Tiny Hearts Catalogue* for young givers) are expected to arrive at the church soon. An announcement will be made when they are available for pick-up. The online catalogues are available for viewing [here](#).

**CLWR Gift-Matching on Now!** The opportunity exists to multiply your gift-giving with five specific matched gifts from this year's CLWR's **Gifts from the Heart** online catalogue. View these matching gift-giving opportunities [here](#) that will directly impact the lives of those suffering from food insecurity and drought in other parts of the world.



## Learning Opportunities

### FROM THE ELCA...

The ELCA Wittenberg Center invites pilgrims to come and explore their faith, global Lutheran identity and God's mission of healing and reconciliation in the world. We are a publicly engaged church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. We do God's work in the world, the work of restoring and reconciling communities. We pursue justice and seek peace no matter how long the journey or wide the chasm. Because we are grounded in God's love and forgiveness, we are well equipped to live and serve here and now, in the world, with all its complexities, tensions and ambiguities.

There is no aspect of life in which God is not active, no place where God is not present. And this is exactly where we are called to participate in God's work, in the thick of life, embracing individuals, families and communities that are hungry for hope and healing, justice and peace, advocates and partners. Our faith and our call to boldly serve and love our neighbor take us into some interesting and challenging aspects of life: advocacy, corporate social responsibility, racial justice, science and ethics, peacemaking, justice for women, social issues, and community organizing. We are drawn into every corner of life, society and its institutions to bring the good news of Jesus Christ and to work for lasting, positive change that upholds human dignity.

The *ELCA Wittenberg Center* invites you to a three-part webinar series to mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's commentary on the Magnificat and the continued significance of Mary's voice. Each hour-long session will take place at 9 am. Free Registration to attend these webinars can be done [here](#).

**December 15 - *My Soul Magnifies the Lord: The Gift of Mary's Voice***

**December 16 - *Brought Down the Mighty From Their Thrones: The Strength of Mary's Voice***

**December 17 - *From Generation to Generation: The Future of Mary's Voice***





*The John Albert Hall Lectures presents*  
***Resisting Structural Evil: Climate,  
Economy, and Hope***

featuring

**Cynthia Moe-Lobeda & David Seljak**

Thursday, December 2, 5:00 to 6:30pm Pacific Time, ECS 125  
or register to view online at [uvic.ca/csrs/events](http://uvic.ca/csrs/events)



Climate justice may be the foremost moral challenge of the 21st century. Race and class dimensions of the climate crisis are haunting. While caused primarily by high-consuming people, climate change is wreaking death and destruction foremost on impoverished people who also are disproportionately people of color. How are we to face this crisis with courage, wisdom, agency, and hope? What do spirituality and religion bring to this question? What is the role of economic life in building sustainable Earth-human relations? Join us for honest and hopeful inquiry into these burning questions.

**Cynthia Moe-Lobeda** is Professor of Theological and Social Ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and author of the award-winning *Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation*.

**David Seljak** is Professor of Religious Studies and chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Waterloo.

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## VISIONING PROCESS UPDATE

We have now spent several months hearing and gathering stories, reflecting on them, and listening to God and one another. We have recently begun to talk about our values - who we are as a congregation and what we value the most. Our next step is to narrow our community's values down to a list of three to five, our core values. Those will then guide our further conversation towards our guiding principles - statements on how we will act and make decisions.

For that purpose we are asking you to review the list below. Then, identify the three core values that you believe defines our congregation best and let us know by sending us an email or calling the church.

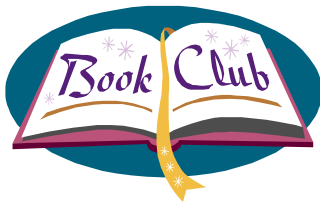
The next step will happen on Tuesday December 7 at 7 pm. We are going to get a little creative. We will continue our conversation around core values but we are inviting you to bring a picture, a photo, or some object that expresses the meaning of one or more of the values you have chosen. It can be a picture you have taken or just a general picture from wherever, or any kind of object. As long as it expresses something of the meaning of the value that's fine. Or if you are stumped and can't find a picture or an object please know that you are still invited. We will have conversation around what others have brought to show.

This may seem like a slow process - because it is. Instead of making quick decisions, we want to take the time to listen to God and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We trust that God has a purpose for Good Shepherd, a reason why we are here, in this neighbourhood, and we want to understand that purpose in order to make good, faithful decisions about our future mission and ministry.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in this conversation. May the Spirit of God guide us and show us the path.

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| · Outreach                                | · Youth                       |
| · Justice action (climate, social)        | · Love                        |
| · Being missional                         | · Being together              |
| · Helping others                          | · Fellowship                  |
| · Lutheran faith                          | · Listening                   |
| - Faith based                             | · Prayer                      |
| · Community / family                      | · Truth / honesty             |
| · Caring                                  | · Servanthood                 |
| - Within the congregation                 | · Building / property / trees |
| - Beyond the immediate community / family | · Stewardship of Trees        |
| · Hospitality                             | · Child-friendly              |
| · Welcoming                               | · Gratitude                   |
| · Respect                                 | - Good works                  |
| · Inclusion / inclusiveness               | · Finding common ground       |
| · Sharing (of gifts)                      | · Lack of confrontation       |
| · Worship                                 | · Congregation                |
| · Learning                                |                               |





You are invited to join us at our next book club on Wednesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at the home of Peter and Zoe Schuler (10671 158A Street Surrey) when we will be watching the movie

### **The Messiah Complex**

*When a fundamentalist preacher is elected as the 45th president of the United States, the country is torn apart by a new set of laws called the Family Values Acts of 2012. As the war between the Red and Blue states looms, this black comedy follows the lives of seven characters who are affected by the chaos of the new laws.*

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### **Looking ahead to 2022**

On January 19<sup>th</sup> 7:15 pm at the home of Mogens Hansen and Lily Yen, we will be reading and discussing:

### **Life Together**

**By Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

*In Life Together, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, renowned Christian minister, professor, and author of The Cost of Discipleship recounts his unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years in Germany. Giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups, Life Together is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship.*



**Kate Wright** has a small **OAK TREE Seedling** growing too close to her house that will need to be transplanted elsewhere next spring. If you have an interest in putting it in your garden landscape, please let her know.

## **PRAYER GROUP**

All are welcome to join us in our weekly prayer gatherings on Wednesday afternoons over Zoom, at 1 pm. To access the Zoom link, go to the main page of our website (gslcc.ca) and scroll halfway down to Weekly Meetings. Click on the Prayer Group button which will take you to another page that has the embedded link to join the prayer group via Zoom.

We gather every second week to pray in the style of Lectio Divina, where biblical texts are studied and meditated upon, with communal prayer finishing out our time together. On alternating weeks we continue to gather simply to lift up the concerns and thanksgivings of our lives in prayer. Access to that prayer opportunity is the same as above.

For the months of December and January our prayer-worthy focus words are 'expectation' and 'leading', and you are invited to lift up these focus words within your own daily prayer practices, in whatever way each word expresses itself to you throughout the month.



### **Our Reconciliation Conversation Journey**



We are grateful for all of those who have been participating in our Reconciliation conversations over the last couple of months. We have had some emotional discussions around the various issues we are facing, watched a documentary, and welcomed Carolyn Klaassen to speak during a service. We plan to continue this journey and invite all to join us. Watch for details on our future gatherings.

All are welcome

## Property Matters

The drainage grates and sump pumps tanks have been cleaned in anticipation of the arrival of our rainy weather. Pine needles are swept away daily to keep them from being swept again into the drainage areas. This preventative work has proven to be effective in holding off area flooding. Please pray it will continue to be effective to move the water away from the church building in these instances of rain rivers.

In mid-October, when the cold weather arrived, we realized that there was no heat being directed to the daycare and out-of-school care lease areas operating in the church basement. Replacement parts for two of our three furnaces were ordered and installed, and all three of our energy-efficient furnaces are now operating at peak performance levels, thanks to Jim from Chimo Furnaces. Snow removal contracts have been finalized to keep the parking lot plowed and the sidewalks along Spruce Avenue cleared and salted, just in time for the approaching cold weather.

The Property Team discovered a long-standing leak in the men's washroom in the stairwell. The leak has been fixed, the wet concrete has been dried, and remediation is taking place.

The financial donation that was made to the church to upgrade the existing dishwasher has been returned. While it was initially thought this would be an easy swap upgrade, it now appears it will require a larger than anticipated renovation. While not insurmountable, this none-the-less complicates and slows down what was thought to be a relatively straight forward initiative. It will be added to the roster of future upgrades to be considered for the church, and handled accordingly.

Thank you to the Bob and Judy Derksen who generously donated a five dozen cedar boards to the church. This wood has come in very handy to do repairs on a fence and for a youth project

Thank you volunteers on the Property Team for doing all this work on our behalf.



### From Our Treasurer

The following is an update on our financial YTD Status as of October 31, 2021:

Total Income	\$191,437.26
Total Expenses	<u>\$183,026.90</u>
Surplus	<u>\$ 8,410.36</u>

Project Contingency Fund \$ 60,816.51

*Thank you for your continued generosity*



### Attention: "Under the Trees" Summer Service Attendees

**LOST AND FOUND:** A black nylon canvas metal framed chair was left in the parking lot partially enclosed in its carrying case after one of these summer services.

Please check your sheds or your storage closets, and if you are missing a black portable lawn chair it's probably yours.

Please call the office to arrange a time to pick it up.

Thank you 😊



# REFLECTIONS...from our Student Pastor

## Endings and Beginnings

This time of the year is a strange combination of endings and beginnings. One church year has just come to an end, Advent season is here, and the new year for the church. Soon we will once again celebrate the arrival of God in the human history, and a beginning of a new relationship between God and God's people. And soon after that it will be another end of the year, and another new year 2022...

Advent, in a way, is a time in-between, a liminal time (we've been using that word a lot lately). A new church year has begun, while the old calendar year is winding down towards the end. Our readings on Sundays talk about beginnings and endings as well – we hear warnings of the return of the Son of Man and predictions of the coming Messiah, and we join Mary's joy in her expectation.

Christmas season can sometimes be challenging, especially if there are things in our lives that have recently ended. A divorce, a death, or another loss can make the joy of the season heavy to bear. Grief and lament don't seem to fit the world full of Christmas carols and sparkling decorations. This year, with the ongoing pandemic, the recoveries of Indigenous children, as well as the devastating weather we've had since last summer, there needs to be room for grief. On Tuesday, December 21st, Winter Solstice, there will be an opportunity to gather for a time of silence and lament. Please stay tuned for details.

January will bring us a New Year, and the season of Epiphany – a journey into new things and new possibilities. Please continue to pray for our visioning process, that a new path would emerge during the coming year, and the community Good Shepherd would be able to hear the call of our Shepherd clearly.

And then, at the end of January 2022, my internship will come to an end. These next two months will be a time to get ready to end things, and to say goodbye. In spite of the challenges of COVID, I have come to know many of you. Leaving will be sad. But this was only temporary, liminal in a way, and new possibilities will emerge later.

And so life goes on, through rough endings and new beginnings, sometimes overlapping. Sometimes they bring joy and other times grief, sometimes emptiness and other times abundance. And through it all, God our Good Shepherd is leading and guiding us. And for that, thanks be to God.

In hope and expectation,

Student Pastor Elina



## Our OUTREACH Outreach



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**Contributed by Gail Tremain ~ As a member of the Good Shepherd Outreach Team ~ as food for thought.**

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### Invisible

In an ideal world we would like to see a future where people in our community have access to safe, secure and appropriate housing. We see real people on the street, who for whatever reason are homeless. But do we really “see” them? This problem is increasing, so we tend to think of it as part of our landscape. (perhaps even unsolvable) The homeless become almost invisible. No one sets out to become homeless. We know that we need to, and should care for the poorest and most vulnerable. We want to help, but perhaps don’t know what to do, where to look, and perhaps we don’t know what is going on in the TriCities regarding services.

Did you know that there is a group called the **TriCities Homelessness and Housing Task Group**? It represents Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody. Members are non-profit and government agencies, businesses, community groups and citizens. They identify, advocate and coordinate actions necessary to address homelessness in the TriCities. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is one of the many members, and our own Val Newton from GSLC is our representative. She attends these meetings and reports back to the Pastor and to the Outreach Team so that we might discern how we as a congregation might be able to help. Take a few minutes and scroll through the TriCities Homelessness and Housing Task Group website ([click here](#)) and you will see their goals, accomplishments and some useful links.

Some examples are: a ) Hope for Freedom have Outreach workers who seek out homeless/those at risk to establish rapport and to connect them to resources/services. b) Shelter- 3030 Gordon in Coquitlam has 30 emergency shelter beds and 30 transitional, self-contained housing units to prepare individuals for independent living. 3030 is usually always at capacity and the Task Group continues to explore every option for extreme weather response/emergency shelter. c) Food and Meals- There is SHARE Family and Community Services which provides food hampers for families living in the TriCities. SHARE also provides other services such as counseling. There are the Food Banks. (in Port Moody on Clarke St., in Port Coquitlam at Trinity United Church and in Coquitlam at Hillside Community Church on Austin Ave.) Hamper distributions are on Wednesdays and people should register. d) Phoenix Society which is a non-profit drug and alcohol recovery and education organization. Homelessness is inextricably tied into addiction and mental illness. Phoenix tries to develop partnerships and tries to offer meaningful, sustainable solutions. An Emergency Response Shelter was opened- a Coquitlam hotel was refurbished to support the homeless, and recently established was the Phoenix Flame Food Truck serving the TriCities. It is free to registered users of the Food Bank run by SHARE.

As a congregation, GSLC continues to generously “step up” with clothing, food and monetary donations. Many people are ‘hands on’ volunteers (although due to Covid many agencies have temporarily suspended volunteering and donations). GSLC, with your help, supports the above-mentioned SHARE, Food Bank, 3030 Gordon and the Phoenix Society, along with several other agencies. As individuals, you can write letters or speak to elected officials, councillors, your MLA and Federal MP’s regarding the need for more affordable housing for low-income households and individuals. Continue to make connections in the community. Everyone has a story, so if you see someone experiencing homelessness or loneliness, say hello, smile, have a little chat, listen, or offer to buy a coffee or a sandwich. Really **see** them. Start a dialogue with friends or family regarding the issue of homelessness and what you have learned. If you know of someone who needs help, call 3030 Gordon Shelter at 604.474.0435. Read the *Street Survival Guide* which is on the TriCities website. There is a copy on the church bulletin board and one in the office. If you want more information, there are films to watch. Navigate the website. They are listed on the website under ‘I Want to Learn More About Homelessness’.

No one is meant to go through life alone. What is most important is where God comes in, always by your side. Then comes YOU. Life has given us blessings, and bringing God’s love into the community is a powerful act. This is being Church. *“This is my commandment: love each other just as I have loved you.”*

With thanks for your continued generosity, and may God’s Peace be with you.

## December January Youth Update

In November we were blessed to have Laura (and crew) from Youth Unlimited come out to Good Shepherd and lead us in a homelessness workshop. We gathered, ate some pizza, talked, and participated in a thoughtful and engaging exercise about homelessness.

A week later the youth decorated some beautiful Christmas bags. These bags will be filled with food and other items and delivered (through St. Stephen's Wednesday Lunch Club) to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we did not be spend an evening sleeping outside, but we want to say a big thank you to evening who supported the event and Youth Unlimited.

We wrapped up the month with a movie night and are looking forward to Advent.

December's calendar has us participating in a DYM event on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at Saint Cuthbert in Delta. Sadly, the Seymour trip, originally scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled. We apologize to everyone who was looking forward to the weekend getaway. We are planning a Christmas party and sleepover night for later in December and hope to send out details shortly. We will then take a two week break during the school break.

We pray everyone has a blessed and merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!

With peace and joy,

*Rachel Genge*



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2005  
AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT  
UP IN A STABLE HOME

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Christopher Huffman 12-24-1998  
HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU  
EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT  
FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU  
NEED?



## Celebrating our Recent Confirmands

As you likely all aware, Olivia McGreevy, Kiyan Saed and Dane Svingen-Jones were confirmed on October 31<sup>st</sup>. They did such a super job on their art projects, that we wanted to share them with all of you again. Only those who attended that service actually got to see these projects. So here's a summary of what our confirmands created.

### Confirmation Poem

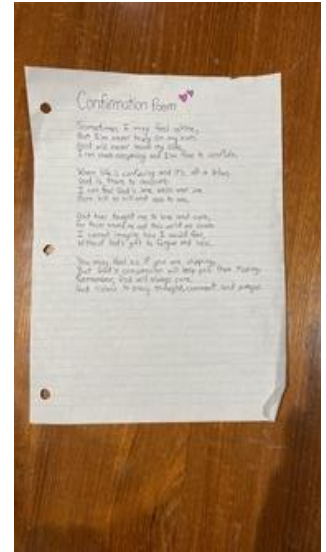
#### Olivia McGreevy – Wrote a Poem

Sometimes I may feel alone,  
But I'm never truly on my own.  
God will never leave my side  
I can share everything and I'm free to confide.

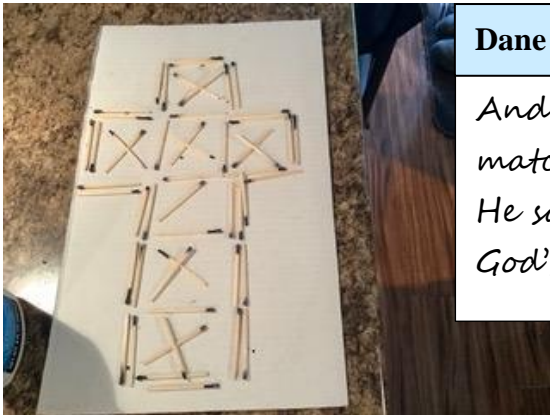
When life is confusing and it's all a blur,  
God is there to reassure.  
I can feel God's love wash over me.  
From hill to hill and sea to sea.

God has taught me to love and care,  
For those around me and this world we share.  
I cannot imagine how I would feel,  
Without God's gift to forgive and heal.

You may feel as if you are slipping,  
But God's compassion will keep you from tipping.  
Remember, God will always care.  
God listens to every thought, comment and prayer.



*What an awesome poem!  
It's a Sermon-in-a-Poem!*



#### Dane Svingen-Jones – Match Stick Art

And Dane did an awesome project. He made it out of matchsticks. It's kind of x's in the shape of a cross. He says that the x's are my mistakes and the cross is God's forgiveness.

*What a great representation!*

#### Kiyan Saed – Compass Drawing

We have a budding artist in our midst! It's a compass of course, and Kiyan writes: God is our compass pointing us in the direction of our purpose; but we follow and work out the details.

*He got that right!*



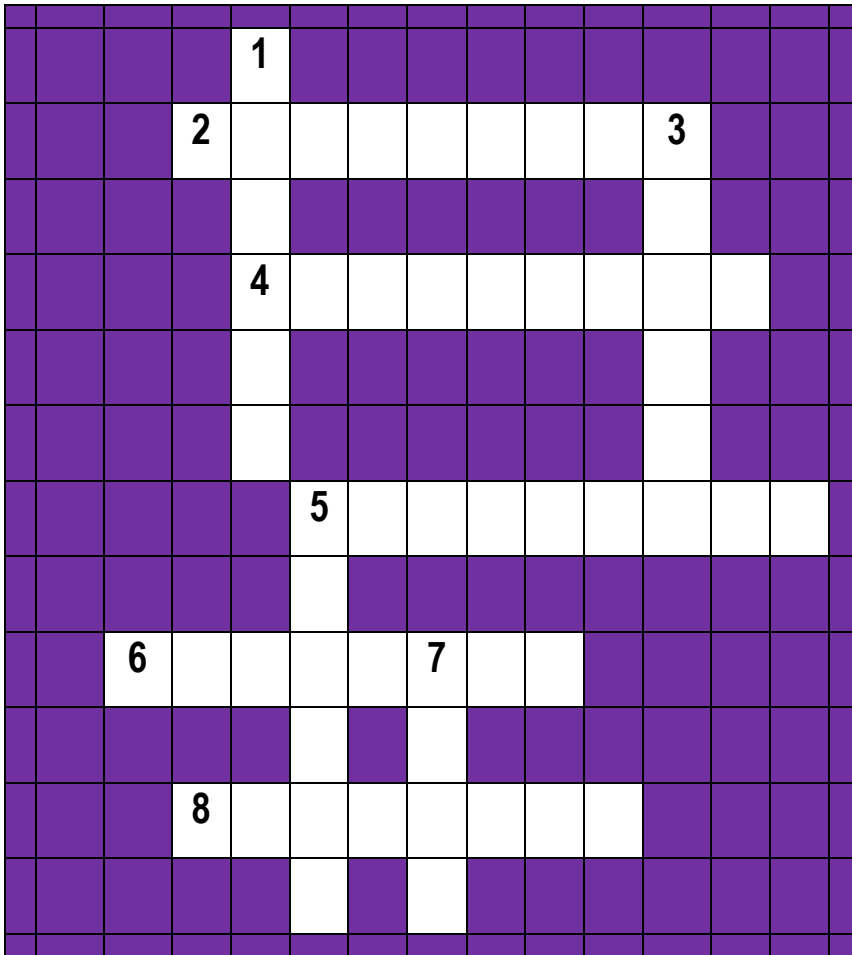
*I'm so proud of our confirmands. They were to express something they learned in their confirmation year in an art project, and I think they did an awesome job!*

*~ Pastor Eric*

# THE BIRTH OF JESUS

## ACCORDING TO LUKE, CHAPTER 2

# KIDS CORNER



### ACROSS

2. Joseph also went up from Galilee, into Judea, to the city of David which is called \_\_\_\_\_ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife. (v.3)
4. After Jesus was born, Mary wrapped him in \_\_\_\_\_ clothes.
5. Now outside of the city, there were \_\_\_\_\_ living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. (v. 8)
6. And suddenly, there was with the angel, a multitude of the \_\_\_\_\_ host praising God... (v. 10)
8. And the angels said "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, \_\_\_\_\_ toward men! (v. 14)

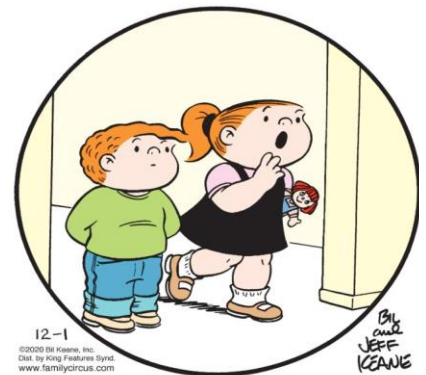


### DOWN

1. Ceasar Augustus decreed that a \_\_\_\_\_ should be taken and all should be registered, everyone to his own City. (v. 1-2)
3. A hay trough in a stable that Mary used as a bed for Jesus.
5. The angel said to the shepherds "For there is born to you this day in the City of David a \_\_\_\_\_, who is Christ the Lord. (v. 11)
7. When the shepherds were afraid, the angel said to them "Do not be afraid, for I bring you good \_\_\_\_\_ of great joy which will be to all people. (v. 10)



"Putting Baby Jesus in swaddling clothes was the first Christmas present wrapping."



"Is this the week we hafta start bein' good before Christmas or is it next week?"



## **Weekly Church Events**

We may not be meeting entirely in person for all our former events, but we are still offering a number of opportunities to gather for fellowship, worship and learning. You are invited to join in any one or all of these live-over-Zoom events. All are welcome!

### **Sunday mornings at 9 am –Bible Study over Zoom**

We are meeting Sunday morning at 9 am over Zoom for our weekly bible study. We hope to perhaps move to a hybrid format at some point, so keep your eyes and ears open.

If you have never attended this study please know that all are invited. It doesn't matter if you are a beginner with the bible or an experienced reader.

Everyone's voice is respected and our discussions are always lively. We usually focus our study on the gospel reading for that Sunday morning, but once a month we follow the ELCIC Bible Book Club selection. The next ELCIC Bible Book Club study is scheduled for **January 16<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 am, where we will be looking at the book of *Ephesians*.

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

We gather every Sunday morning at 10:30 for our weekly worship service. If you wish to attend in-person, we are asking you to register by calling or emailing the church office the week prior. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we are requesting that only fully vaccinated people attend at this time. This service will continue to be live streamed over our YouTube Channel, and a recording of the service posted shortly after the service ends.

### **Wednesday afternoons at 1 pm – Zoom Prayer Gathering**

Our prayer gatherings continue, alternating between praying Lectio Divina style & free-style 'Prayers of the People'. Praying aloud is not mandatory. All are welcome.

### **Thursday afternoons at 4 pm – Zoom Happy Hour**

All are welcome to join in for an hour of fellowship every week. It's always a fun time of social interaction and engaging in lively conversation about what's going on in our lives and in our world.





*May the joy of the Lord be  
present with you and your  
families during this Season  
of Advent and Christmas ...*

And may the hope that was present in the hearts of the Three Wise Men be with you also, to lead and guide you in the new year ahead.

Happy New Year!

