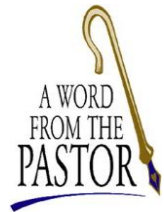

Freedom



As I write this, our country is still in the grip of protests and blockades led and organized by those opposed to vaccine mandates and other pandemic restrictions. And at the heart of the demands being expressed is a cry for freedom. It's a word that we're seeing and hearing a lot through the news stories and the media interviews with those involved.

That got me thinking about what freedom means to us as Christians. Of course, we shouldn't be surprised to find a number of points of view on this question. But fortunately for us as Lutherans we have a resource to help us think it through.

In 1520, Martin Luther wrote a treatise entitled "*The Freedom of a Christian*." It was an instant bestseller and generated 30 printings in the six years that followed. It begins with a quotation that became one of his most memorable, and at first blush seems to present two contradictory claims. He wrote, "The Christian is a completely free lord of all, subject to none. The Christian is a completely dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

I can hardly do justice to the profundity of Luther's thesis here. But suffice it to say that what Luther was pointing out is that, as scripture teaches, freedom is a double proposition. It is always both a freedom from something and a freedom for something. Think of the story of the Exodus. God frees the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt. But then, through a 40-year seminar in the wilderness, God teaches them what they have been freed for, succinctly summed up in the Ten Commandments.

In his treatise Luther was making the point that, Christians are free from their slavery to good works, even good works for the benefit of the neighbour as a condition of our salvation. In other words, no human authority (i.e. the Pope) could dictate the terms of anyone's salvation. We are justified by God's grace alone.

At the same time, that free gift of justification works on our hearts to change us. Indeed it compels us to see the good of our neighbour as exactly the way we want to use that freedom. Being free from external compulsion by God's free gift of grace, we don't simply live however we want. We joyfully see that freedom as something we choose to use for the purpose of serving our neighbour.

Or as Luther himself wrote in the treatise, "I will give myself as a kind of Christ to my neighbour, just as Christ offered himself to me. I will do nothing in this life except what I see will be necessary, advantageous, and salutary for my neighbour, because through faith I am overflowing with all good things in Christ."

How does this all help us think through our current controversy? I leave that to you to ponder and perhaps open up a conversation or two. At the very least, maybe it helps to shift the way we talk to each other as Christians about just such difficult and contentious issues like those we are facing..

Congregational News

We bid Adieu...

We say goodbye and thank you to our Student Pastor Elina, who has now completed her internship shared between our church and Trinity Lutheran Church in Delta. Her last time with us is February 6th.

While Elina has her final oral examination for ordination to complete, she hopes to begin her own unique outreach ministry as she feels led by God in the near future.

We thank you for your thoughtful, creative work done here, Elina. You have been a blessing to our church and its ministries, as well as to many people within the congregation who have gotten to know you personally and who have been uniquely blessed by your caring heart and compassion for others. May our God continue to bless you as you continue to bless others on your journey ahead.

You will be missed.

He gives me new strength.

He guides me in the right paths for the honor of his name.

~ Psalm 23:3 NIRV

Annual Congregational Meeting Highlights from January 30, 2022

We bid adieu to our retiring council members - Bob Knudson, Pat Savage, Al Startin and Gail Tremain. Thank you very much for your past service on Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council, and to Gail who concurrently served as well on the Church Executive. Our church council has never worked so hard on our behalf, nor contemplated so many new and unusual situations as were necessitated as a result of the global pandemic.

We thank you Rick Enarson, Dennis Friesen, Peter Schuler, Linda Walters and Jane Whitter, who let their nominations stand and were elected by acclamation to serve the church as our new 2022 council members. May God bless your service efforts to the church.

Our new Executive is David Wills (President), Dennis Friesen (Vice-President) and Sue Power (Secretary).

We offer our thanks to Jerry Nieman for his presentation on the 2021 Financial Statements, which were accepted as presented. We thank him as well for his helpful 2022 Budget presentation. After some discussion a motion was carried to put a note on line 13 regarding using funds from CEBA loan, and amend the proposed 2022 insurance budget from \$7,500 to \$8,500, after which the 2022 budge was accepted as amended.

We offer our thanks as well to Bob Knudson for his very informative overview presentation for possible future consideration for greening of the church. Are you curious about this initiative? Do you want to help out with future information gathering? If you'd like to become a team member on this initiative, contact the office.

If you would like to put your name forward to assist the council Teams when you have available time, please let the office know of your interest. We have Teams for Education, Fellowship, Outreach, Property, Stewardship and worship, which also includes our Worship Service Volunteers (Ushers, Readers, Communion Assistants).

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.

Donata, Leanne, Nadine and Kevin Startin and their families, as they mourn the passing of Al on Friday, February 11th. May they know the love and care of friends and church family and be filled with God's peace.

Dorothy Durand as she waits for a surgery date for her recently diagnosed cancer.

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

The family of Karissa, Dale Wald's niece as they mourn the passing of Karissa from leukaemia.

The family of Earl MacRae who passed away on February 5th at the blessed old age of 98.

The family of Ed Wallis, Sheri Wald's father who passed away at the beginning of February.

Vera Beech who continues to recover at Queens Park Hospital from her recent broken hip.

Denise Elliott, Dale Wald's sister who has been diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing further investigation in anticipation of treatment.

Theresa Gold, Elaine Sturhahn's daughter who is undergoing treatment for a recurrence of her cancer.

Christine Stanley who is recovering at home from her recent hip and leg injury and subsequent surgery.

All those who touched in some way by the Ukrainian / Russian crisis that continues to unfold. Lord, enlighten those leaders to seek diplomacy over war, and calm the fears and tensions of all that live in that region.

Thanksgiving! Please join us as we thank God for the ministry of Elina among us for the last 16 months, and for all the blessings she leaves us.



Milestone Birthday

Special birthday wishes are extended to **Elaine Sturhahn** who celebrates her **80th birthday** on **February 10th**.



Birthday Greetings

We extend our birthday greetings to the following members who will be celebrating birthdays in February and March:

Tracy Armbruster	Bernie Pregler
Les Darts	Darya Saed
Rick Enarson	Greg Seidel
Dennis Friesen	David Stroud
Mogens Hansen	Claire Thompson
Joy Kirkwood	Konstantin Tkachuk
Leah Le Roux	Dale Wald
Austin McLellan	Jan Wald
John Myers	Jessie Werner
Melanie Myers	



*With Blessings to all from
your Good Shepherd Family*

Welcome Steven

We join Darryl and Dawn Stickler in celebrating the birth of their third son

Steven Odin

on Monday, October 18, 2021. Weighing in at 7 lbs at birth, this is Steven at about 5 months old.

Introducing Steven Stickler



Welcome Noelle

We join Sarah Knudson and Leigh Marquess and in celebrating the birth of their second daughter

Noelle Lucia

on Monday, December 13, 2021. Weighing in at only 4 lb 9 oz, Noelle is tiny but healthy.

Introducing Miss Noelle Marquess



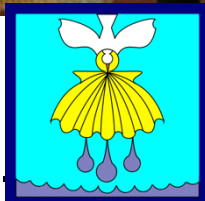
Thank you Lord, for these precious gifts of new life!

Welcome to the Family of God

We join parents Robin Stamm and Graham Tkachuk in welcoming their son

Konstantin Daniel Bear Tkachuk

into the family of God through baptism.



For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

~Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

Directory Update

Jane Whitter has a new telephone number:

604-375-5498



Please update your directory copy accordingly.

Farewell Dear Friend

We mourn the loss of our brother in Christ & friend

Earl MacRae

who passed away peacefully in his sleep on
February 5th, 2022 at the age of 98.

Earl was a charter member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and was a fixture at most events with Deloris at his side, and especially on our church clean up days in the spring and fall. Earl leaves behind his beloved wife Deloris and their children Brent and Janis and their families.

We join them in mourning Earl's passing, even as we keep them all in our prayers.



Jesus said to her, "I am the One Who raises the dead and gives them life. Anyone who puts his trust in Me will live again, even if he dies. Anyone who lives and has put his trust in Me will never die.

~John 11:25-26a NLT

Farewell Dear Friend

We mourn the loss of our brother in Christ & friend

Al Startin

who went to be with God on the evening of Friday,
February 11th, 2022 at the age of 85.

Al was a beloved, ever-present, and deeply-committed member of our congregation. He joyfully gave his time in service to our church, helping in many areas, positions and capacities throughout the years, most notably as a vital part of the Property Committee.

Al leaves behind his beloved wife Donata, and their three children Leanne, Kevin, Nadine and their families.

We join them in mourning Al's passing, even as we keep them all in our prayers.



LENT & EASTER SERVICES

While the services listed below are subject to change, at the present time we anticipate offering the following special in-person services during the Season of Lent and Easter.

SERVICES DURING LENT

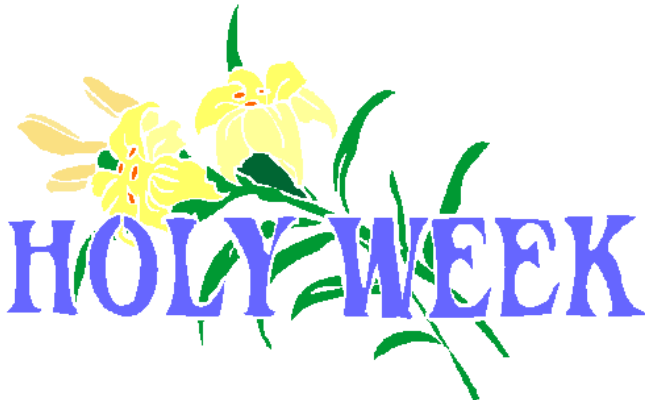


We will begin our journey through Lent towards Easter, beginning with an **ASH WEDNESDAY** evening service on **March 2nd at 7:00 pm**. While this service will be open to in-person attendance, our plan at present is to also distribute ashes for you to be able to participate in this service on-line from home.

For the following 5 Wednesdays (until April 6th), we will gather both in-person and online at 7 pm for our much loved Holden Evening Prayer.

Further instructions regarding in-person attendance for these services, including Ash Wednesday, will be forthcoming.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES



PALM SUNDAY – April 10th

MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 14th

GOOD FRIDAY – April 15th

EASTER SUNDAY – April 17th



Further details on our Holy Week services will follow in the next newsletter.

Baptismal Photo Challenge throughout Lent

We are once again inviting you to submit photos which we will include in our worship services throughout Lent. This time we are focusing on those promises we make when we affirm our baptism, that is...

*to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?*

You are invited to submit photos that speak to you of what it looks like to live out any of those promises. They could be your own photos or photos you find online. Or maybe they are your own artistic creation. All entries are welcome and can be emailed to the church.

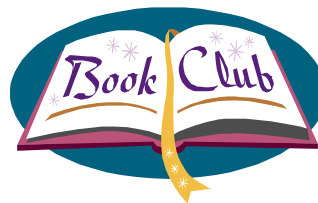
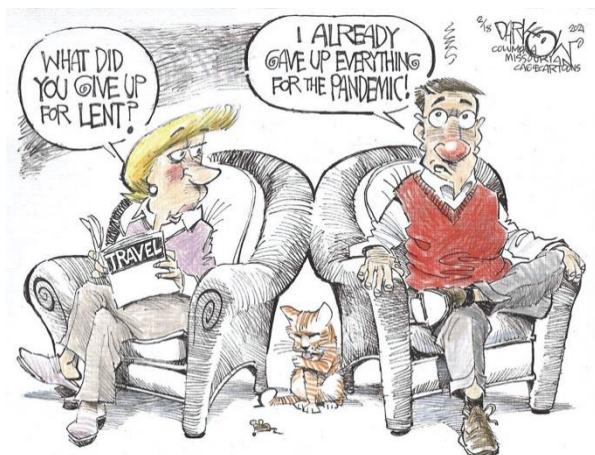


Good Shepherd Women

Good Shepherd Women are eagerly awaiting the time when we will once again be able to meet in person for fellowship and Bible Study. However, until that time the need for our assistance in various areas still exists. Despite no in-person meetings in 2021, thanks to the generous donations of our members, we were able to contribute \$1800 to organizations such as CLWR, Talitha Koum, Aunt Leah's place, Share and the Hamper Fund.

As it appears that there will be no meetings for at least the next few months, those who would like to contribute to enable us to carry on with our charitable work can still do so. Simply contribute through your envelope offering with the designation GSW or by cheque either mailed or left in Flora Pregler's mailbox at church.

Let all that you do be done in love. – 1 Corinthians 16:14



You are invited to join us at our next book club on Wednesday, February 23rd at 7:15 pm at the home of Mogens and Lily. Zoom will be available for those who do not wish to meet in person or if required by Covid restrictions.

We will be discussing the book:

A Man Called Ove **By Fredrik Backman**

Ove, an ill-tempered, isolated retiree who spends his days enforcing block association rules and visiting his wife's grave, has finally given up on life just as an unlikely friendship develops with his boisterous new neighbours..

Looking ahead to March **Date and time TBA**

We will be reading and discussing the book:

Mouth of the Donkey – **Reimagining Biblical animals** **By Laura Duhan-Kaplan**

The Hebrew bible is filled with animals. Snakes and ravens share meals with people; donkeys and sheep work alongside us; eagles and lions inspire us; locusts warn us. How should we read their stories? What can they teach us about ecology, spirituality, and ethics?





From Our Treasurer

The following is an update on our financial YTD Status as of January 31, 2022:

Total Income	\$ 20,161.02
Total Expenses	\$ 19,274.39
Surplus	\$ 886.63

Project Contingency Fund \$ 55,816.31

Thank you for your continued generosity

Charitable Tax Receipts

All 2021 Charitable Tax receipts have now been issued, delivered and/or mailed. Contact the office in the event a replacement receipt is required.

Prayer Group

Our weekly prayer gatherings on Wednesday afternoons at 1 pm are accessible by going to the main page of our website (gslcc.ca) and scrolling halfway down to Weekly Meetings. Click on the Prayer Group button which will provide you with the embedded link to join the prayer group via Zoom. All are welcome.

We gather to pray in the style of Lectio Divina, where biblical texts are studied and meditated upon, with communal prayer finishing out our time together, and on alternating weeks we gather simply to lift up the concerns and thanksgivings of our lives in prayer.

For February and March our prayer-worthy focus words are 'WISDOM' and 'STEWARDSHIP', 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 coming months.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to Bob Berry who faithfully makes weekly bank deposits and provides us with our tax receipts, to Jerry Neiman who faithfully keeps our accounting records in order, and to Gene Blishen who annually audits our financial statements and provides certified approval of same.

Our sincerest thank you is also extended to all our members and friends for your generosity given to Good Shepherd throughout this last year.

Because of your financial support we have:

- *fully funded our own ministry initiatives*
- *met 100% of our charitable commitments*
- *met the challenges posed by an aging building & infrastructure*
- *took up the challenge of upgrades to our audio and video equipment.*

Thank you & well done, good and faithful servants!



Property Matters

Remediation of the mould issue in the men's washroom in the stairwell is now complete. Thanks to Kevin Startin for his help in rebuilding the washroom walls (mudding, taping, drywall, paint) and replacing the leaky toilet.

Replacement of the electrical pole on the north side of the parking lot has now been completed. It took place on a Saturday morning, so the daycare operation was not impacted, and nor were any of our user groups who use the church on that day. Thank you to Jerry and David who oversaw this work.

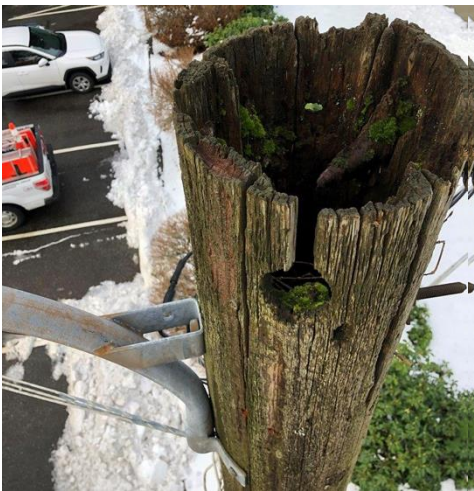
The Property Team continues to look for a suitable replacement dishwasher that is more compatible to being operated by our aging backs. It has been added to the roster of future upgrades to be considered for the church, and will be handled in due course.

Thank you to the members of the Property Team who continue to monitor and clean out debris in the eaves, and green waste (fallen limbs) from the grounds.

Thank you Property Team members and other volunteers for doing this maintenance work on our behalf, that keeps our yard and buildings from going into disrepair.

If you would like to add your name to a roster of possible 'volunteers' that could help out from time to time with this maintenance work when it is conducive to your schedule, please contact David or the office.

Birds-eye view of top of rotted pole



Old pole just coming out of the ground



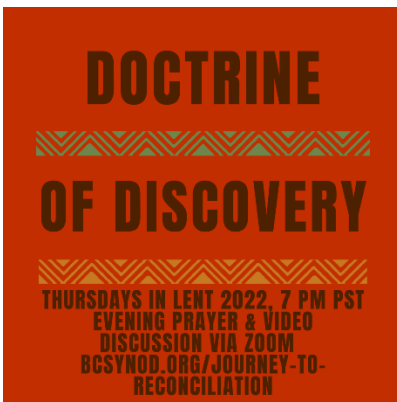
Educational / Study Opportunities

United Nations COP 2022 Debrief on Climate Justice: Saturday, February 19 @ 9:30 am

The ELCIC and the BC Synod invite everyone to take part in a debrief over Zoom of three ELCIC young adults who attended the recent COP convention on our climate emergency. National Bishop Susan Johnson will open the event on **Saturday, February 19th from 9:30 to 11 am**. Due to safety concerns, this free event will be held online via Zoom. Those interested in attending are asked to [register here](#). Joining details will be provided following registration.

See page 11 for more details about this informative event.

Doctrine of Discovery Lenten Series: Thursdays in Lent (March 3, to April 7th) @ 7 PM



As part of your Lenten Spiritual Practice, all are invited to join others within our BC Synod on Zoom for 6 weeks starting **March 3rd**, as we take an in depth look at the *Doctrine of Discovery*, a document that has shaped western attitudes towards indigenous people for the past five centuries.

Organized by the BC Synod's Journey Towards Reconciliation Group, each evening discussion will start with a 20-minute Lenten Vespers (Evening Worship) led by different congregations in the BC Synod. Then we take a short break before we dive into a one-hour discussion with video on the Doctrine of Discovery.

To register please click [here](#). This will take you to the Eventbrite Links to each date in the series of events. All are welcome to attend one or all of these free discovery opportunities. This is a great chance to start or continue your journey of reconciliation with your indigenous siblings both as individuals, and as a congregation.

World Council of Churches – 11th Assembly Bible Study for Lent

Click [here](#) to access the Bible Study written for Lent by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata, who is the general secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, in preparation for the World Council of Churches (WCC) 11th Assembly.

World Council of Churches – *Out of the Shadows* Bible Study Series

The World Council of Churches provides several resources to support **#Thursdays in Black**: a global movement for a world without rape and violence. This includes a series of Bible studies for individual and congregational reflection. For more information and to download this free series of Bible studies, please click [here](#) and scroll down to access the *TiB Bible Study Series*.



Three young adults of the ELCIC have attended recent COP (Conference of the Parties, United Nations) conventions regarding our climate emergency.

They have agreed to speak about some of their experiences at those COP events in a Zoom meeting.

They will share their thoughts on how faith organizations can address the climate crisis.

We hope you will attend.

An invitation from the
**Evangelical Lutheran Church
in Canada and the BC Synod**

Lutheran Young Adults for Climate Justice

Saturday, February 19
12:30 pm EST to 2:00 pm EST

Our National Bishop Susan Johnson will open
the occasion and our three panelists will be:

There will be no charge.



JEFF BUHSE is a member at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Winnipeg and had the privilege to represent the Lutheran World Federation at COP18 in Doha, COP20, in Lima, and finally COP21 in Paris to witness the signing of the Paris Accord. Jeff initially became involved with the Climate Justice movement as a youth delegate at the LWF General Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany, in 2010 and hasn't looked back. He has spent 2 full terms on the ELCIC National Church Council as the MNO Lay Representative, as well as many synodical and congregational committees and task forces over the years. Jeff currently works as the Chief Operations Officer for his wife's artisanal candle company and has a 13-year-old shih tzu named Pancakes.

ERIKA RODNING is from Edmonton, Alberta. She attended COP 25 in Madrid, Spain, as part of the Lutheran World Federation's youth delegation. She is a Clinical Dietitian, currently pursuing her Masters of Public Health in Health Policy and Management. She is interested in and has past involvement in the areas of preventative health, global health, food security, international development and sustainability.



KATARINA KUHNERT is an early career circumpolar climate scientist who represented the LWF at the 2021 COP26 in Glasgow Scotland and was previously a delegate at the 2015 pre-COP21 Future of Life in the Arctic events in Storforsen Sweden. She is a non-Indigenous Canadian living north of the Arctic Circle in Inuvik Northwest Territories on Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, and Northern Métis lands. She has worked to model sea level and ecosystems change, monitor permafrost environments, promote anti-colonial approaches to conservation, and support circumpolar youth in land-based learning.



A Climate Justice Action Group event sponsored by the BC Synod

PRE-REGISTER AT:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMudOugqTopG9aloEaoqS-6fdcko6XfMu-E>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email
containing information about joining the meeting.

February March Youth Update

Well, it's no secret: COVID is still with us. With more restrictions in place, the youth ministry has had to continue to adapt. After a fall of in-person events, we have moved again to a mix of online and outdoor in-person events.

This spring we are learning about creation care and climate change - so meeting outside makes a lot of sense! We've already had some great conversations, and we hope to take this time to learn more about God's good world and find practical ways to take action together. In the beginning of March and the season of Lent, we plan to lead another youth-led service, this time at St. Laurence.

Unfortunately, with COVID a continued factor, this year's CLAY has been postponed to 2023. While no doubt a wise decision, it's still a disappointing one, and we will be considering how to come up with other highlights to look forward to as we move into the late spring and summer. It's been a challenging time in so many ways, but in the midst of it all, we are grateful for the ways our community of youth continues to grow – in love, in trust, in joy, and welcome. Thanks be to God!

Jason Wood
(He/him/his)
Youth and Families Minister



FEBRUARY / MARCH YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sat, Feb. 5th @ 6:30pm** **Family Quiz Night on Zoom:** Join by yourself, with your family, or with a friend, for a night of exhilarating, challenging, head-scratching trivia!
- Fri, Feb. 11th @ 7pm** **Bible study and games on Zoom**
- Sat, Feb. 19th @ 9:30-1:30** **Youth for Climate Justice event** (hopefully in-person)
- Fri, Feb. 25th** **Youth-led service prep**
- Fri, Mar. 4th** **Youth-led service prep**
- Sun, Mar. 6th** **Youth-led service @ St. Laurence**



Visioning Process Update

The following in-depth process update was distributed to the congregation on January 28th, and is reprinted here for those who may have missed it.

SUMMARY OF GOOD SHEPHERD'S VISIONING PROCESS TO DATE

Close to a year ago we launched what we have been calling a "visioning process." This was initiated because, as with most congregations, we are facing some important decisions about the future direction of our life and ministry and we want to be able to make those decisions wisely. The best decisions will be based on a clear understanding of who we are (identity), what we care about (values) and how we are being called to live (principles). And so our visioning process was begun to help us seek out those understandings.

We organized a number of cottage meetings to reflect on these matters and conducted a number of one-on-one conversations as well. There was a very good participation in this first stage of the journey.

From there we held a Visioning Day in the fall which was led by Assistant Bishop (now Bishop) Rev. Kathy Martin. And that has been followed up by a series of gatherings at which we have continued to delve into the feedback we have been receiving. Some of us also participated in the Learning Day at the synod convention to explore the practice of congregational discernment.

What is emerging is some very interesting reflection on our life together. As we reflected on our identity, or what kind of a congregation we have been and are now, what we've been hearing is that we are a warm and welcoming congregation. We care for each other in our congregation and have formed deep relationships with each other. We care about our community and neighbourhood. We are rooted solidly in a Lutheran identity. We are hospitable and put a high value on fellowship and gathering. We are a worshipping community rooted in a deep faith in God. And we are gifted in many ways.

At the same time, there are questions surfacing about how our identity is being challenged to shift and grow. There is a sense that we are treading water, afloat but not sure which direction to swim. And yet there is an energy and impulse to move. We do care about our neighbourhood and have traditionally expressed that care through inviting others in and reaching out in charitable efforts. And yet there is a growing sense that loving our neighbours means more than this. There is a sense that the context of our ministry (the neighbourhood and the world around us) has changed in significant ways but we don't quite know how to address those changes. And the issues of our society and world around us are becoming more of a concern to us, while we struggle to know how to respond.

As we reflected on our values, or what we care about, certain themes also began to emerge. We value our Lutheran faith and faith in general. We value caring, both within and outside our walls. We value our worship. Those three

(Lutheran faith, caring, and worship) have received the highest number of endorsements from those who have participated in the visioning meetings. But there are other values we hold. We also value inclusiveness. We value our building, our property, and our trees. We value fellowship and connecting with each other. We value celebration. And we value being welcoming.

These are only the values expressed by those who have participated in the visioning meetings. But knowing the congregation as I do I sense that there are other values that have not been articulated, such as financial stability, group consensus, and a traditional ministry model (i.e. sticking to the basics like worship, fellowship, pastoral care, education, etc.).

Again, there are some interesting insights around how our values are shifting. There is a growing awareness that caring for the neighbourhood around us means more than inviting others in and supporting charities. What might that look like? We are beginning to hear God calling us to pay attention to different concerns (such as creation care, First Nations reconciliation, etc.). There is an increasing care for justice issues.

Where we want to go next is to explore the context of our ministry more. The neighbourhood we are in is not the same neighbourhood we started in as a congregation 60 years ago. Society has changed around us. People's attitudes towards the church have changed. The church at large has changed. What does it mean for us to live out our identity and our values and to address the challenges to our identity and values in this place and time? How is God at work nudging us to live out our identity and values in different ways?

From there, the goal is to define a clearer statement of our identity and our values. And then to identify faithful, and even new ways of living and behaving as a congregation in the light of all we've been learning.

Ultimately, you could say this whole exercise is intended to help us be better disciples and continue to follow the call of our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully. As much as this process is hard work we feel it is worthwhile. We trust that God is at work helping us move forward and opening us to new possibilities in mission and ministry in our current context.

Pastor Eric Krushel
Student Pastor Elina Singh

Good Shepherd Visioning Process

Who We Are

- warm and welcoming; hospitable
- caring for each other; fellowship
- caring for our neighbourhood
- rooted in worship and Lutheran faith; sharing our gifts
- ...and also...
- challenged by what it means to love our neighbours
- challenged by a changing neighbourhood and world
- concerned about issues of our society

What We Value

- Lutheran identity and faith
- caring for others inside and outside the congregation
- worship; gathering and praying together
- inclusiveness; welcoming
- building, property, trees
- fellowship and celebration
- ...and also...
- financial stability
- group consensus
- traditional ministries (worship, pastoral care, education)

Our Context

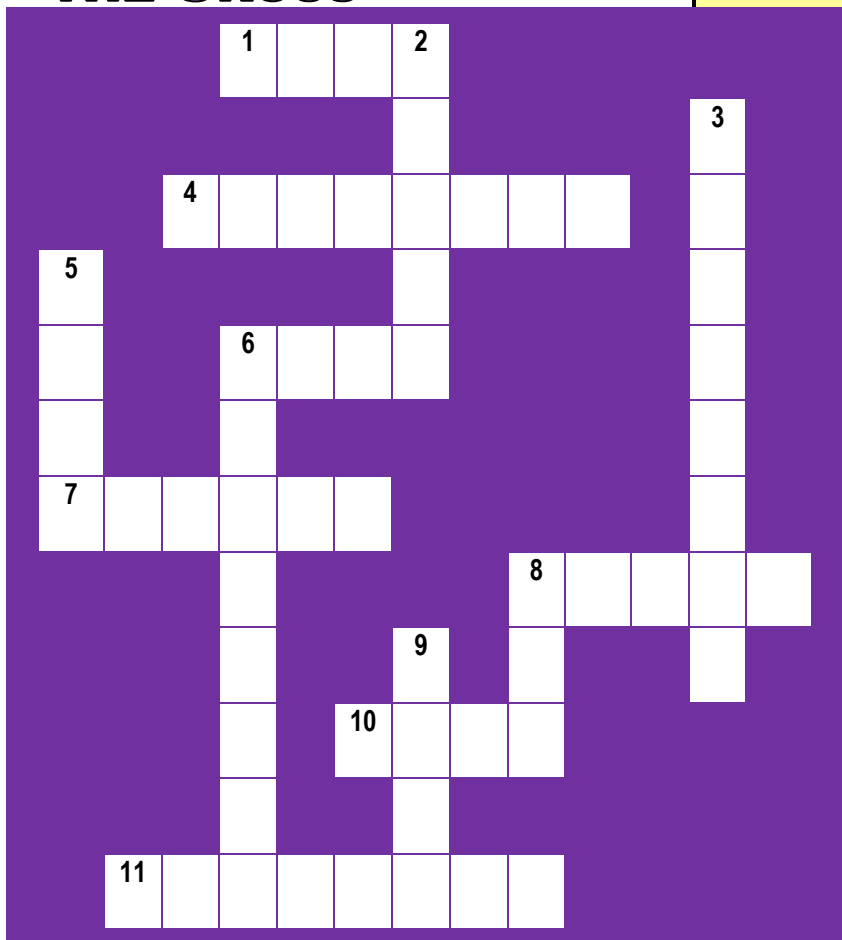
- neighbourhood is changing
- society is changing
- churches are changing
- attitudes towards church are changing
- social concerns are changing

Emerging Questions

- What is God calling us into?
- What does it mean to live out our identity and our values in our current context?
- What new ways of acting are we discovering?

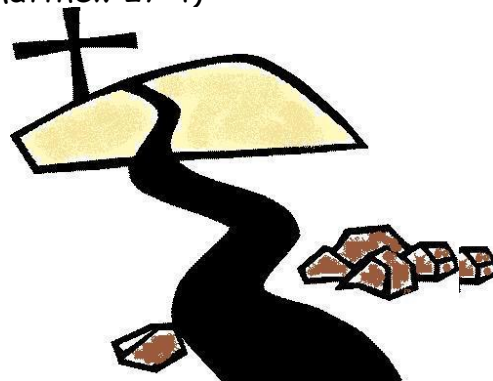
JESUS'S JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

KIDS CORNER



ACROSS

1. Where they laid Jesus after he died (Matthew 27:60)
4. The place where Jesus died (Matthew 27:33)
6. During Lent, as a self-sacrifice, many people often give up their favorite ____.
7. They made Jesus wear a crown of ____
8. The angel said "He is _____. He is not here" (Mark 16:6)
10. They laid the ____ of Jesus in a tomb. (Matthew 27:59)
11. Jesus was _____ of any crime (Matthew 27:4)



DOWN

2. Jesus shed his _____ for our sins.
3. Judas Iscariot _____ Jesus (Matthew 27:4)
5. The church season the precedes Holy Week and the celebration of Easter
6. Jesus said "My God, My God, why hast thou _____ me?" (Matthew 27:46)
7. Jesus was betrayed for _____ pieces of silver (Matthew 27:28)
8. They made Jesus wear a scarlet _____ (Matthew 27:28)



"My parents are giving up desserts for Lent. So I'm balancing the family diet by giving up vegetables."





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 does not 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 on the first Sunday of the month we follow the ELCIC Bible Book Club selection. The next ELCIC Bible Book Club study is scheduled for **March 6th** 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.