

Listening to the Voice of Creation

Does it seem like each new week these days is filled with the news of one climate disaster happening somewhere and the warning of another to come? As I write this, heartbreaking reports continue to pour out of Pakistan where historic monsoon flooding has inundated the country in catastrophic misery: nearly half a million homeless, fathers and mothers with nothing to feed their kids, epidemics of water-borne diseases looming. And all this in a country that contributes no more than 1% of global emissions. Talk about climate injustice.

And then came the warning. That Greenland's rapidly melting ice sheet will eventually raise global sea level by at least 10.5 inches - more than twice as much as previously forecast. And this regardless of what measures we take to address global warming.

So why mention this all in a church newsletter when it's around us so much in the news we hear everyday? Because as Christians we should be the ones speaking out the loudest in defense of our planet. We worship a God who created everything that exists and called it good. A God who gave us responsibility for its care. A God who so loves the whole world ("cosmos" in Greek) that he sent his son to save us that we might work to save it.

Enter the Season of Creation, the newest season of the church year which runs from Sept. 1 to October 2, incorporating the 5 Sunday in between. Sure we pray for creation every Sunday. But the Season of Creation calls on us, this year, to listen.

To listen to what our scriptures have to say about our relationship with creation and our call to care for it. To listen closely to the lyrics of the hymns we will sing in church through these weeks and the liturgical texts we've chosen and to let them unsettle us, inspire us, and make us think. To listen to the voices of those across the church challenging our discipleship as Christians through the pages of the Canada Lutheran or some of the links in the "Creation Care" section of our weekly bulletin or by joining a Laudato Si circle (see article on page 11)

Or finally, just listening to creation itself. And I don't just mean birds singing in the morning or waves lapping on a beach. Yes those are beautiful voices. But our planet is also raising its voice in anger, and pain, and protest at what we as a species have so selfishly been doing to the rest of our created siblings. Maybe once we hear those voices we will be ready to speak as we should and we must. If this world is to remain as good as God created it to be in the beginning.

Congregational News

Learning and Fellowship Opportunities

As we look ahead to our new program year, please take note of the following opportunities to gather for learning and fellowship.

ignYte Youth Group: ignYte is the joint youth ministry we share with St. Laurence Anglican Church led by Jason Wood and Rachel Genge. They have an exciting schedule of activities planned for the upcoming year. Consult our website for more details and feel free to be in touch with either of them for more information. See page 12 for their more immediate youth ministry plans.

Sunday School: We are planning to resume Sunday School in some form this coming fall. We are currently in discussion around what that will look like and we will announce our plans once they have been finalized.

Confirmation: We are also investigating the possibility of starting another 2-year confirmation program this fall. If you know of young people 12 years old or older (grade 7 and up) who may be interested please get in touch with Pastor Eric.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Starting Sunday September 18th we will resume our Sunday morning Bible Studies. For the time being it will be offered at 9am. We will begin meeting on Zoom with a plan very shortly to move to a hybrid format providing for in-person participation.

Happy Hour: Everyone is invited to gather on Zoom on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays of each month from 4 to 5 pm, for a time of social connection. We have no agenda other than to be together and enjoy each other's company and catch up on the news of our lives. The Zoom link can be found on our website gslcc.ca

Book Club: All book lovers are invited to join our Book club which meets monthly to read a wide variety of literature and engage in conversation. The September meeting will be held at the home of Mogens Hansen and Lily Yen at a date to be determined. See the article on page 7 for more details.

Prayer Group: All are invited to gather weekly for a time of prayer together which lasts between half an hour to an hour. No special expertise is required. See the article on page 7 for more details.

Good Shepherd Women: The Good Shepherd Women are hoping to resume some form of activity this fall. The plan is to hold an annual meeting on October 11th to decide on the road ahead. See the article on page 7 for further details.

What else? Keep your eyes open for other opportunities to gather mid-week for learning or fellowship which may be planned as the year goes on. If you have suggestions for such opportunities that we could offer, please free to be in touch with Pastor Eric.

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.

The family of Garry Sommerfeld who passed away on May 25th. A service was held on June 2nd. May God surround them with peace and comfort as they grieve.

The family and friends of John Myer who passed away on July 8th. We pray for Elaine and her whole family that they will know God's comforting presence with them during these days

The family of Jean Lentz, who passed away on August 3rd. We pray especially for Carole, and for her peace and comfort as she **grieves the loss of her dear mother**.

The family of Leona Wurst who passed away on August 13th. We pray especially for **Betty Jones** her sister, as she mourns the loss of her dear sister.

Christine Stanley as she convalesces at Queens Park Care Centre, and is waiting for some plan for her future care.

Tor Erickson as he undergoes treatment for his thyroid cancer.

Tammy and Sean McDonald as they grieve the loss of their daughter Courtney. We pray for God's deep consolation and healing for their broken hearts over their tragic loss.

Lynn Fawthorpe, Les Wills sister, who continues to deal with health concerns that has left her with chronic pain and loss of feeling in her legs.



Thanksgiving! Please join us as we thank God for:



The wonderful days we spent at Vacation Bible School, and we pray for God's grace to grow in the lives of all who attended and participated.

We also give thanks for our tree wrapping party back in July, and an enjoyable Church Picnic Sunday which followed.



Milestones Dates to Celebrate

Our special wishes are extended to **Merv Kirk** who will be celebrating his **91st Birthday** on **September 29th**.

Birthday Greetings

We extend birthday greetings to the following members also celebrating birthdays in either September or October:

Thyin Billows	Eric Krushel
Lisa Gamboa	Olivia McLellan
Louis Giguere	Peter Schuler
Justine Hansen	Alicia Smillie
Rob Karhukangas	Joanna Whitter

*With Blessings to all from
your Good Shepherd Family*



Farewell dear brother

We mourn the loss of our brother in Christ & friend

Garry (Gerhard) Sommerfeld

whose funeral was held on June 2, 2022.

We join the family of Garry, including **Dave Sommerfeld**, Garry's brother, as they mourn the loss of their brother, husband, and father. God give them peace in the days ahead.



Farewell dear brother

We mourn the loss of our brother in Christ & friend

John Myers

who passed away **July 8th, 2022.**

We join **Elaine, Brendan, Melanie** and their extended family in mourning the loss of their husband, father and grandfather, even as we keep them all in our prayers. A service is being planned for sometime in the future.



Farewell dear sister

We join the family of Carole Lentz, as they mourn the passing of Carole's mother

Jean Lentz

who passed away **August 3rd, 2022.**

Jean was laid to rest on August 15th at a graveside service attended by family and friends. We join Carole as she mourns the loss of her mother, and we pray for Carole's comfort and peace.

Pray for all whose hearts are broken by these losses. May God console them in their grief, hold them in his unbreakable embrace of mercy, and reassure them with the hope of the promise of the resurrection to eternal life.

Pastor Eric

Please Take Note!

CHRISTINE STANLEY has recently been transferred from Eagle Ridge Hospital to Queens Park Care Centre. She's on the 3rd floor now, room 320, if you were thinking of popping in for a little visit.

(Thanks Brenda for letting the office know.)



SPECIAL SEPTEMBER SERVICES

As fall begins we say goodbye to our beloved *Summer Hymn Sing* that has preceded our services for the last few months. The September church calendar continues in Ordinary Time, and we begin our fall programming planning and the possibility of reintroducing more in-person events, such as Sunday morning Bible Studies. Take note of the article on our programming on page 2.

Our current covid protocols provide for voluntary mask-wearing and social distancing as each of you feel comfortable. We have resumed our after-service practice of fellowship over coffee and tea, and many are staying to enjoy that bit of unmasked, face to face catch up and fellowship time.

WELCOME BACK / RALLY DAY

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

On September 11th we will once again be celebrating Rally Sunday, when we kick off our fall programming year with a day of fun, fellowship and food! See the details about the day on the next page. We hope this is a day to welcome our community back together as we look ahead to a fall and winter of more “normal” activity. Of course we continue to follow the direction of our public health officers around the pandemic, but we hope this day becomes the opportunity for you to return to in-person attendance if you have not already done so. We would love to see you again, and worship and fellowship with you face-to-face, as you feel comfortable doing so.



New Ordinary Time Banner

The new banner commissioned to match the other paraments for the *Season of Ordinary Time* has now arrived. The paraments were dedicated on June 19th to the memory of Pastor Ed and Ella Rode. May these beautiful furnishings help us all to remember, in thankfulness to God, those pivotal saints who proceed each of us, and who in any way led, inspired and encouraged us along our own faith journeys.

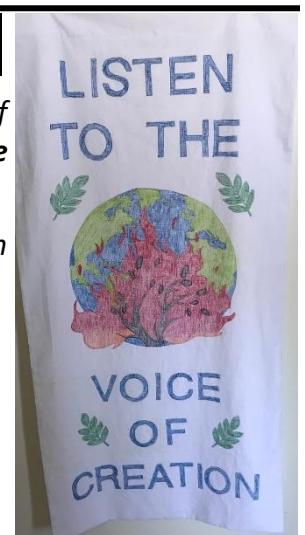
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also...run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...

~Hebrews 12:1-2a

New Season of Creation Banner

Thank you Claire Thompson, for again creating a banner for us as we celebrate the *Season of Creation* between September 1st and October 5th. This season we are celebrating the **Voice of Creation**.

Please see the article beginning on page 11 for more information on what this next *Season of Creation* is all about.



Rally Day Sunday

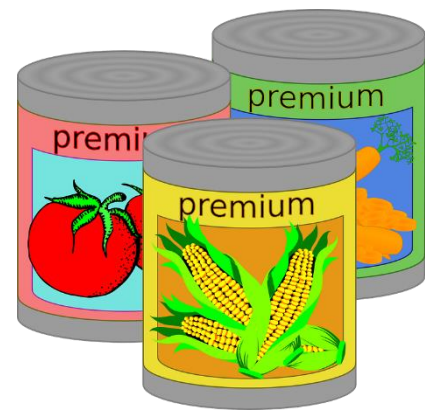
Rally Day Sunday is September 11th. Everyone is invited, after the morning service, to fellowship over lunch together outside on our parking lot (weather permitting). Sandwiches and salad will be provided, and we will also have an ice cream sundae bar available. We are also planning an “edible treats” give-away (think “cake walk” but without the walking). For the give-away we are asking for people to donate some edible treat, like a cake or a pie or produce from your garden or homemade preserves...it’s up to your imagination. Please sign up on the sheet provided on the usher’s table, or email the church to let us know you will be bringing something (we don’t need to know what it is). Let’s rally back to church!



Food for the Food Bank

During the weeks preceding Thanksgiving we traditionally collect food that will be donated to the local foodbank.

Given the increased need these days, we invite you to bring your food bank donations early, so they can be dropped off earlier and help those who need it most early too.



Property Matters

Throughout the summer months, the Property Team has been heavily involved with exterior property maintenance. The entire property (both our lawn and our trees) have needed regular heavy watering during these dry, heat-dome days. This has been done on a rotational basis, so once a week each section has received a good watering. Thank you Property Team for doing this work, as our trees do not look stressed, so they are thanking you too!

After our Tree Wrapping Party, the City of Coquitlam donated 4 Vine Maple Trees to us, which have all be transplanted to their final resting places on the west side of the parking lot outside the Fellowship Hall area.

The fridge and freezer in the church’s kitchen has begun to malfunction, and each time the Property Team has been able to resuscitate it back to life – but only temporarily. A repairman replaced the thermostat as the most probably way to extend its life. It seems to have worked, but only time will tell. A wasp nest was reported in one of the rental properties, and it has been dealt with before anyone – including the daycare children - have been stung.

A huge THANK YOU to our Property Team for managing all of these items on our behalf.

Good Shepherd Women

Good Shepherd Women are eagerly anticipating a return to meeting again after a long hiatus due to Covid. We are tentatively planning to have a General Meeting at the church in October, possibly October 11. However, the date and time are yet to be determined. Some of the topics to be discussed include:

- Electing president, secretary and treasurer for 2023
- Distribution of funds (we currently have \$618.00 available for distribution to our charities)
- Discussing the duties involved in the Praise Appeal Sunday Service
- Discussion re future organizations sponsored by the GSW
- Other topics you may wish to discuss

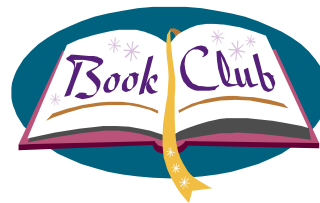
If you have any ideas or concerns regarding our forthcoming meeting, please contact either Flora Pregler (email flora@pregler.com or telephone 604-961-8735) or Elaine Sinton (email esinton@telus.net or telephone 604-941-8303)

We look forward to meeting together again as a group dedicated to our church and community.

Prayer Group

Weekly Zoom prayer gatherings continue on Wednesday afternoons at 1 pm. Go to the main page of our website (gslcc.ca) and scroll halfway down to the cluster of Weekly Meetings. Click on the Prayer Group button which will provide you with an embedded link to join the prayer group via Zoom. 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 a simple *Prayer Gathering* (where we meet simply to pray, lifting up the concerns and thanksgivings on our hearts and mind in prayer). All are welcome.

September's prayer-worthy focus word is **Guiding**, and you are invited to lift up this focus word within your own daily prayer practices, in whatever way it expresses itself to you in the month ahead.



You are invited to join us at our next book club at the home of Mogens and Lily, date and time to be determined once September activities are underway. In September we will be discussing the book:

IDENTITY, BELONGING AND REDISCOVERING GOD NATIVE

By Kaitlin B. Curtice

Native is about identity, soul-searching and the never-ending journey of finding ourselves and finding God. As both a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and a Christian, Kaitlin Curtice shares what it means to experience her faith through the lens of her Indigenous heritage and encourages us to embrace our own origins.

Looking ahead to October, we will be discussing:

ALL OUR RELATIONS written by Tanya Talaga

This book explores the alarming rise of youth suicide in Indigenous communities in Canada and beyond. It is a powerful call for action, justice, and a better, more equitable world for all Indigenous Peoples.

All are welcome. If you are interested in joining our Book Club, please contact either Peter Schuler or Kate Wright.



From Our Treasurer

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

YTD Total Income	\$ 131,889.33
YTD Total Expenses	\$ 137,666.37
Deficit	\$ (5,777.04)

Project Contingency Fund \$ 87,176.31

Thank you for your continued generosity

General Informational Updates

Vacation Bible School

To Mars and Beyond, our 2022 themed Vacation Bible School was a lot of fun, and we consider it to have been a great success. We had an average of 20 kids per day for the 3 days that it ran, and the feedback given back to us by parents and grandparents was very positive. We thank God, our partnership with our brothers and sisters at St. Laurence Anglican Church, our many volunteers, and all of you who supported this program through your prayers! In alphabetical order, our heartfelt thanks goes to Linda Berry, Marcela Bolivar, Sam Cornelson, Grace Inoue, Marilyn James, Michelle Malenfant, Liana McGreevy, Olivia McGreevy, Jackson McGreevy, John McGreevy, Phoenix O'Reilly, Pat Savage, Belinda Saed, Kiyan Saed, Zach Schuler, Rorie Wohlford, Gerda Wolker – and of course Jason Wood and Pastor Eric - for all their preparations and interactions with the kids and who helped to spread the love and gospel of Christ through their time and their talents, making the whole VBS program possible. We could not have done this without you.



Commander Gleric and Glason Glood from the Planet Glearth

2022 Church Directories

Updated directories are now in your mail slots, and extra copies are in the office should you wish to have more than one. Please let the office know if any of your information needs any updating as soon as possible. The next directory will be prepared sometime after the election of our 2023 Church Council, to be determined at our next Annual General Meeting scheduled for early in the year 2023. Thank you.



Church Visioning

At our last visioning meeting we did some reflecting on the current context of our congregation and ministry, and then explored this further through our Tree Wrapping Party in July. Aside from enjoying a fun day, and beautifully adorning a few of our trees, we connected with some of our neighbours and listened for what we can learn about what God is up to in our neighbourhood. Now that we've had some time to think about it, we're hoping to gather again and reflect further on what we heard and learned. Stay tuned for more information as it develops.

Free Futon looking for a new home



The church has a FREE futon with extra storage underneath it available for the taking. It is clean, in good shape, and was a donated item to the garage sale in May, that was never sold. Unfortunately, the charitable organizations that we usually pass our unsold items to don't have a need for it. Help us spread the word so we can give this hardy and practical piece of furniture a good home.

Ongoing Concern for Ukraine

In response to the crisis in Ukraine, our BC Synod and National Church continue to offer the following, reminding us that God remains with us even in these times of concern and worry.

Vigil for Peace - Prayers for Ukraine and the World



We are invited to join Bishop Kathy Martin as she continues to host a Prayer Vigil for Peace on an ongoing basis on every-other Friday evening at 7:00 pm (for approximately 15 minutes). The actual leadership of these Friday prayer sessions will be shared. Come as you are, bring a candle to light, and gather with people from BC and beyond. Details of vigils are forwarded by email.

"We know this is a time of anxiety and deep uncertainty. We invite you to pause and join us for a short a short vigil service, as we gather to light candles as a symbol of peace and pray for all those impacted by the invasion of Ukraine as well as all those suffering as a result of war and political oppression."

Join by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82643051883?pwd=MDk4ZEZjZzhBMnh0WnhGUxhJWDZtQT09>

Meeting ID: **826 4305 1883**

Passcode: **750008**

One tap mobile: +17789072071,,82643051883#,,,,*750008# Canada

Dial by your location: +1 778 907 2071 Canada

Statement from the ELCIC's National Church Council

The ELCIC's National Church Council met virtually from March 4-6, 2022. As part of their work, they issued the following statement calling for an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine and global solidarity with the people of Ukraine. To read the full statement please [click here](#).

WCC to Moscow: "raise up your voice so that the war can be stopped"

The [World Council of Churches](#) Acting General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca asked the patriarch of Moscow to mediate so that the war between Russia and Ukraine can be stopped. To read the full letter please [click here](#).

LWF Statement: Welcome All Affected by the War in Ukraine

[The Lutheran World Federation](#) calls on government officials, particularly in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, as well as the European Union and its member states to ensure the protection of all fleeing the war. LWF General Secretary Anne Burghardt wrote the [statement](#) on behalf of the global communion.

CLWR Ukraine Emergency Appeal

The [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) through its partnership with [Canadian Lutheran World Relief](#) (CLWR) calls on its members to respond through prayer and financial support to the urgent humanitarian needs in Ukraine. The ELCIC and CLWR join with their partners, and people around the world, in calling for an immediate end to violence. As fighting intensifies, millions are expected to be rapidly displaced creating a widespread humanitarian crisis. Partners in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries are closely monitoring the situation and preparing to respond with immediate humanitarian needs including food, shelter, emergency supplies and trauma support. Individuals and organizations wishing to support relief efforts can donate as follows:

- Make a designated offering donation for "Ukraine Appeal" through any ELCIC congregation.
- Call CLWR at 1-800-661-2597 to donate by credit card or online at <https://www.clwr.org/product/E-104/ukraine-crisis>.
- Send a cheque to CLWR: 600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R#B 0W5. marked "Ukraine Appeal."

Service Opportunities at GSLC

As we have settled into a return to in-person services, there are a few people who have been carrying the responsibility for various tasks required on Sunday morning. We are very grateful for their dedication, but also recognize that they can't continue to carry them by themselves. Accordingly, we would invite you to prayerfully consider what opportunities for service to our community you are able to help with. Specifically we are looking for people to help with the following tasks:

- Service Ushers
- Assistant Communion Servers
- Communion Clean-up helpers
- Fellowship Coffee hosts

There will be volunteer sign-up sheet available on Sunday morning for you to sign out on the table. Alternately, you can still call the office administrator, Sherry, and let her know how you are willing to serve.

In light of pandemic, there have been some changes to the way these tasks are carried out. However, you will be given full instructions and training on all tasks, and supported with any concerns or issues you may have.

If caring for plants is your thing, you could volunteer to water the indoor plants once a week, to tend to their needs.

And if being outdoors is your preference, and you'd like to help out with watering, raking, weeding etc, please let David Stroud or Jerry Nieman know of your interest. Thanks for your consideration!

*As I learn your righteous regulations, I will thank you
by living as I should!*

Psalm 119:7 *NLT*

Service Opportunities with ELCIC's Ecumenical Justice

The [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) (ELCIC) reviews appointments after every convention. Individuals appointed are normally members of the ELCIC. Currently we are aware of several opportunities to serve with the following ecumenical partners engaged in work for compassionate justice:

[Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network \(CEARN\)](#)

[Commission on Justice and Peace](#)

[Addressing Human Trafficking in Canada](#)

[KAIROS Ecological Justice Circle](#)

[KAIROS Indigenous Rights Circle](#)

[KAIROS Partnership and Rights Circle](#)

[Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada](#)

[Project Ploughshares](#)

If you are interested in serving as our ELCIC representative with one or more of our partners, please [complete this form](#). For more information, please [send an email](#) to Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop for Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations.



This summer we received the following invitation from St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Parish in Port Moody.
"Laudato Si" is the name of Pope Francis's celebrated encyclical on care of creation. All are invited to participate in this opportunity as another way of marking and honouring the season of creation.

Laudato Si' Circle

St. Joseph's Parish of Port Moody

Building a network of Care for Our Common Home through...

👁️ Prayer

👁️ Actions on Sustainability

👁️ Study

👁️ Prophetic Advocacy



stjpm.com



"Social problems must be addressed by **community networks**. The work calls for a union of skills and a unity of achievement. The **ecological conversion** needed to bring about lasting change is also a **community conversion**." #219
Pope Francis, Laudato Si', 2015

When: **2nd Wednesday of each month**
7:30 - 9:00 pm

Where: St. Joseph's Parish portable
140 Moody Street, Port Moody

Public transit: Moody Centre Skytrain Station
Bus #160, #180
Followed by 5-10 minutes walk

Enquiry: 604 695 7421 or
leostmark@yahoo.co.uk

September Youth Update

IgnYte is back! We took a break in July but came back together in the middle of August for some exciting summer activities. We took a trip out to Pitt Meadows to see the new Minions movie, we had a fun filled day at Cultus Lake Waterslides, and Jason traveled with several youth to Camp Artaban!

Now, we are looking forward to a new school year and coming together on Friday nights to connect, laugh, pray, and worship.

We will kick start our Friday night get togethers with a games night at Good Shepherd on Friday, September 9th, followed by a potluck supper with family and friends on Friday, September 16th at Saint Laurence. On the 23rd we will be back at Good Shepherd to learn about the work of CLWR, with the hope of having a fundraiser event for the organization (possibly a car wash) on the 25th.

We hope everyone had a great summer and we pray that the return to school is a time of joy for students, teachers, and parents.

With hope and excitement,

Rachel Genge and Jason Wood

rachel.genge@outlook.com and stlyouthandfam@gmail.com



If you have any questions about ignYte (a joint ministry of Good Shepherd Lutheran & Saint Laurence Anglican, open to youth grades 7-12 from across the Tri-Cities and North Burnaby region) please do not hesitate to reach out. New faces are always welcome. 😊

Youth Car Wash?

The youth will be raising money for CLWR's Ukrainian Relief Fund, possibly on September 25th, immediately following the service at 10:30 by way of a car wash by donation here at the church. Stay tuned... Come to church – stay for the service, a time of fellowship over coffee, get a car wash – and help raise some money for a good cause!





SEASON OF CREATION

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to pray and protect our common home, the Oikos of God.

The Season “**Celebration**” begins 1 September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

2022 THEME

This year we will unite around the theme, “Listen to the Voice of Creation.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many have become familiar with the concept of being muted in conversations. Many voices are muted in public discourse around climate change and the ethics of Earth-keeping. These are voices of those who suffer the impacts of climate change. These are voices of people who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land. These are voices of a diminishing diversity of more-than-human species. It is the voice of the Earth. The 2022 Season of Creation theme raises awareness of our need to listen to the voice of creation.

The Psalmist declares, “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the Earth, and their words to the end of the world.” (19: 1-4) Creation never ceases to proclaim, but do we listen?

During the Season of Creation, our common prayer and action can help us listen for the voices of those who are silenced. In prayer we lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems who are lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change. In prayer we center the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

Listening to the voice of creation offers members of the Christian family a rich entry point for interfaith and interdisciplinary dialogue and practice. By listening to the voice of all creation, humans from all cultures and sectors of life can be joined in our vocation to care for our common home (oikos).

May this 2022 Season of Creation renew our ecumenical unity! And may this season of prayer and action be a time to Listen to the Voice of Creation, so that our lives in words and deeds proclaim good news for all the Earth!

Prayer and Advocacy: Raise your voice for climate justice through prayer, or by participating or joining an ongoing campaign, such as the movement to divest from fossil fuels. Follow the issues and events leading up to COP27, to be held in Egypt, November 7-18 2022. Consider speaking with your government representatives or negotiators on issues that will protect creation.

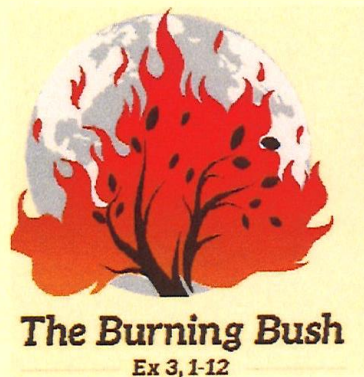
As an unstoppable wave, Christians from all over the world will witness to listen and respond together to the cry of creation. And as we care for our common home (oikos) each prayer or initiative raised will be like a drop of water towards a needed ocean of change.

We hope that this Season of Creation renews and unites us by the one Baptism and call to care for our common home.



The 2022 Symbol:

"I have heard their cry...I know their sufferings...Come, now! I will send you... I will be with you" (Ex. 3:1-12)



**Listen to the
Voice of creation
SEASON OF CREATION 2022**

The burning bush is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022.

We invite you to use the symbol of a burning bush during your events. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice that we have caused. On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This flame of the Spirit revealed God's presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed in faith to our deliverance from injustice. In this Season of Creation, this symbol of God's Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation, and faithfully respond through worship, repentance and action. As you celebrate this Season of Creation, light candles, light the Easter fire, adorn a bush in your place of worship or action. And may this symbol remind us to take off our sandals, contemplate our connection to holy ground, listen for the voice of creation, and be filled with hope to quench the fires of injustice with the light of God's healing love that sustains our common home.



Contributed by Claire Thompson & David Stroud ~ energizing the renewing Gospel for all creation around the world: in the healing hands of a church seeking social, economic & climate justice.

A Story of Vancouver

Where the city of Vancouver now sits was once forests of cedar and hemlock with berry bushes and ferns. There were also many creeks and streams filled with trout and salmon. Great swamps and wetlands were home to ducks, geese, frogs, and insects. Then the Europeans came. Over the years forests were cut down, streams and creeks were filled in, swamps were drained, and wetlands were turned into parks, golf courses, cemeteries, and schools. What was once 120 kilometers of fish bearing creeks and streams is now mostly covered by roads and buildings, although some fragments of wetlands and streams still exist.

One of these fragments is in Strathcona Park. The southern part of the park along what is now Malkin Avenue was originally a marshy tidal basin and mud flat at the upper end of False Creek. Badly polluted by the end of WWI this was filled in and served as a garbage dump for a number of years.

In 1985, local residents took action to transform the 3.34 acres of vacant land into the Strathcona Community Garden, which is still community run and now has a long-term lease with the Vancouver Parks Board. About one third has been dedicated as wildlife habitat including a large pond/wetland area. Over time, illegal dumping caused this wetland to lose its ability to hold water and it was unable to sustain its year-round population of frogs.

In 2016 a new vision of a year-round wetland and plant community was started. Strathcona Gardeners, along with the Environmental Youth Alliance, have removed invasive plant species, planted native species and now in 2022 are proceeding with long planned measures to restore the year-round pond. This project will involve a series of rain gardens and swales to connect to a retention pond and will greatly enhance this much valued inner-city green space.

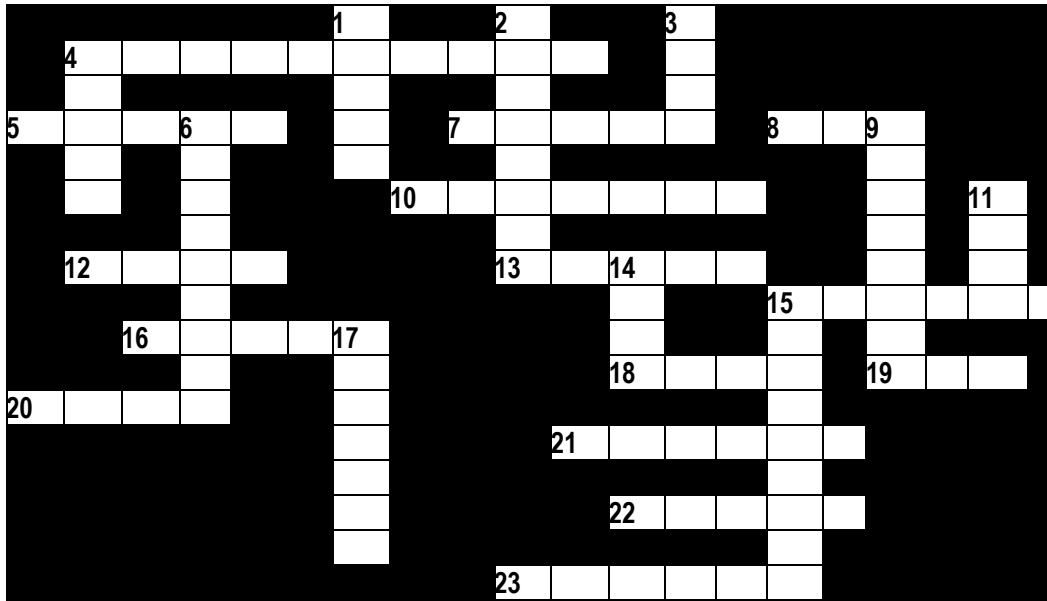
There has been much involvement with Vancouver Parks Board, SFU, BCIT for advice in restoration help as well as funding from Climate Change Canada, The city of Vancouver and many others. Go to strathconagardens.ca and look for wetlands on the home page for more information and a great video.

How do I know it's 120 kilometers of creeks and streams? Vancouver's Old Streams published in 1978, in the Journal of the Vancouver Aquarium Volume 3 No. 1.

Respectfully submitted by,

Claire Thompson

KIDS CORNER



The Creation Story as found in *Genesis 1:1 to 2:3 NRSV*



1:1-2: In the beginning...the (1d) was a (2d) (14d) and (9d) covered the face of the (11d), while a (12a) from (8a) swept over the (3d) of the waters.

1:3: Then God said “Let there be (5a)...”

1:5: And there was (10a) and there was morning, the first day.

1:6: And God said, “Let there be a (18a) in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters”.

1:8a: God called the dome (19a).

1:11: Then God said, “Let the earth put forth (4a): (21a) yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.”

1:16: God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the (22a).

1:20: And God said, “Let the (23a) bring forth swarms of living (15d), and let (16a) fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.”

1:25: God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that (15a).

1:27: So God created (6d) in his (7a), in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

1:31: God saw everything that he had made and indeed it was very (20a).

God created the “(17d) Day” on the final day of creation (Hint: God rested on that day, blessed it and hallowed it.)

In (13a) days, by the (4d) of God, all things were created.

Answer Key: birds, creatures, creep, deep, dome, earth, evening, face, good, God, humankind, image, light, plants, Sabbath, seven, sky, stars, vegetation, voice, void, wind





Weekly Church Events

As we move into the fall, take note of the following opportunities to gather for fellowship, worship and learning. The links to join any of these meetings online can be found on our website gslcc.ca. All are welcome!

Sunday mornings at 9 am –Bible Study

We meet every Sunday mornings at 9am starting September 18 for a brief bible study. We are hoping to move to a hybrid format soon. Details to follow. 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 occasionally we look at one of the other appointed texts.

Sunday Morning Worship

We gather every Sunday morning at 10:30 for our weekly worship service. Masks are no longer mandatory but they are encouraged, as well as social distancing. 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.

Second and Fourth and Fifth Thursday afternoons at 4 pm – Zoom Happy Hour

All are welcome to join in for an hour of fellowship on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursday of each month. 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.

Other Opportunities

Take note of the other opportunities described on page 2 of this newsletter and stay tuned for future plans as they take shape.