

THE SYNOD IS US

Some of you may know that at the last convention of our BC Synod on October of last year I was elected chair of our BC Synod council. That's the body of 12 clergy and lay people from across our synod that govern the synod between conventions, just like a church council governs a congregation between annual meetings.

The synod is one of the three levels or “expressions” of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), the other two being the local congregation (of course) and the national church. Each expression deals with different aspects of our ministry as a church as they are positioned to do so.

That said, most lay members of our church may not be all that familiar with the work of our synod. Perhaps we only hear about it during the report of our treasurer at an AGM, like the one we just held. But the work of the synod has always been important to our life as a congregation whether we realize it or not. There are things that the synod **has always done**, such as supporting our seminary in Saskatoon and recruiting students for its programs (as well as turning out such wonderful interns as Elina Singh).

Then there's the work that the synod **has done from time to time**, such as facilitating the Missional Renewal Process and providing ongoing education and encouragement through learning days at synod conventions and initiatives like the upcoming “Discerning the Way Forward” initiative (stay tuned for details!).

But then there's the work that the synod **has done recently**. And by that I mean since the start of the pandemic. Almost immediately upon the announcement of restrictions our synod instituted a series of gatherings for clergy and lay people to share struggles, questions, and resources to help navigate those anxious times. Those gatherings still continue to this day and provide a wonderful network of support that never existed before. Not only that, but over the course of the pandemic the synod provided every congregation in the synod a gift of \$10,000 to help them through the restrictions...not only once, but twice!

And that really only scratches the surface of all the synod is doing for congregations. I will endeavour to keep you informed of its future activities. But because of the synod we have never been as connected a community of congregations as we are these days. More than ever we are aware that the synod is not some faceless entity that exists apart from the activity of the congregation. The synod is us...all of us at work for the Reign of God.

Congregational News

New 2023 Council Members

Even as we said in gratitude and sadness our 'thank you's and 'goodbye's to our retiring Council Members Marilyn James, Jerry Nieman and Sue Power, it is with gladness that we offer our congratulations, thank you and welcome to Marjun Blisken, Mogens Hansen, Rob Karhukangas and Pat Savage, our new 2023 Council members elected at our recent Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, January 29th. For a brief summary of what transpired, please see page 8 for summary details.

February Family Night

In partnership in Family Ministry with St. Laurence Anglican Church, we will be offering another intergenerational Family Night on **Saturday, February 11th** from 4:30 to 6 pm. Save the date and see page 4 for all the details of this event.

Harp Concert

GSLC will be offering a concert of harp music and narration, entitled ***The Night Circus*** on **Sunday, February 19th** at 7 pm, presenting Bess Lu as harpist and Rob Muir as narrator. Admission is by donation, with 100% of the proceeds going to 3030 Gordon/Tri-Cities Homelessness Shelter. Mark your calendars and help spread the word about this fundraising event. Hope to see you there. See poster on page 6 for all the details.

Susan Beaumont's "Discerning the Way Forward"

As we continue our journey of missional renewal, Pastor Eric is inviting all who are interested to join him to watch a video introducing an upcoming initiative from our Synod, to be led by Dr. Rev. Susan Beaumont entitled "Discerning the Way Forward". It aims to help congregations deepen their practice of "discernment", or listening to God's direction for their future. We are planning to meet on Wednesday evening over Zoom, February 15th at 7 pm, for about an hour and a half. See page 4 for further details.

Special Services: Ash Wednesday and Healing Service

We mark the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, **February 22nd** with a special service including the imposition of ashes at 7 pm. For the 5 Wednesday evenings following (**Wednesdays from March 1-29**), we gather for Soup N Sing beginning at 6 pm, with a dinner of soup and bread, followed by *Holden Evening Prayer* at 7 pm. A sign-up sheet is now available for those who wish to provide soup or bread. And on **March 19th** you have the opportunity to come forward for a prayer of healing during a Healing Service. See page 5 for further details.



Looking Ahead . . .

HOLY WEEK

Holy week begins with Passion / Palm Sunday on April 2nd. We have included service information on page 5.

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.

Carol Lentz who has found new accommodation and is in the process of moving to Maple Ridge, that she may settle into her new home well.

Tor Erickson as he continues to undergoes treatment for his cancer and has been experiencing better health as of late, that he will continue to experience healing and that the family will be held in God's loving care...

Leslie Taylor and her family who have experienced the loss of three elderly parents in the last few months, that they may be surrounded by comfort and given peace.

Ruta Kifle as she continues to wait the arrival of her nephew Tesfay as he continue to wait for resettling in Canada, and for Solomon who is settling in well to his life in Canada.

All who are struggling with mental health issues and concerns during these gloomy, late winter months.



Thanksgiving! Please join us as we thank God:

- ❖ the election of our new council members
- ❖ for the return of our choir and their contributions to our worship life



Milestone Celebration

We join in extending birthday wishes to
Bernie Pregler
who turns **85** in February.
Congratulations and Happy Birthday!



Birthday Greetings

Birthday greetings are extended to the following members celebrating birthdays in either February or March:

Hootan Alaei	Darya Saed
Tracey Armbruster	Nalini Samuel
Les Darts	Heike Shadek
James Durand	Greg Seidel
Rick Enarson	David Stroud
Dennis Friesen	Elaine Sturhahn
Carmelita Gamboa	Claire Thompson
Mogens Hansen	Konstantin Tkachuk
Brian Hunt	Dale Wald
Joy Kirkwood	Jan Wald
Leah Le Roux	Jessie Werner
Austin McLellan	Leanne Wohlford
Melanie Myers	Chantelle Yen



*With Blessings to all from
your Good Shepherd Family*

Belated Wedding Announcement

Our belated wedding congratulations are extended to Elizabeth Knudson and Fraser Nixon who were married at a simple ceremony on September 9th, 2021.

*May God bless you both
in your new life together!*

Directory Update

Directory Proof Pages are now out on the table. Please review your family's information for accuracy, and note any necessary changes beside your name. These pages will only be out for a few weeks, as a new directory is slated to be created shortly after our new 2023 Council Members have been commissioned, expected to be sometime in February.



Alternately, you can phone any required updates into the office. Thank you for your timely consideration to this request.

February Family Night

In partnership in Family Ministry with St. Laurence Anglican Church, we will be offering another intergenerational Family Night on **Saturday, February 11th** from 4:30 to 6 pm.

We will gather at St. Laurence Anglican Church (825 St. Laurence Street, Coquitlam) 4:30 pm.

We will once again enjoy some ice-breaker games, some singing, crafting and prayer stations and we will celebrate eucharist and enjoy dinner together.

We are also looking for contributions of old magazines for one of the prayer stations. If you have magazines ready to be recycled, we would appreciate you dropping them off at the church.

Please help spread the word.

*...beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion
kindness, humility, meekness and patience.*

~ Colossians 3:12

Next Steps in our Missional Journey

As part of our synod's commitment to help congregations continue the journey of missional renewal, they are offering a new initiative entitled "Discerning the Way Forward". It will consist of a series of eight 90-minute seminars led by Dr. Rev. Susan Beaumont, that will focus on deepening the practice of discernment as a way of listening to God's direction for the future. An orientation to this initiative was held on January 19th. We have a recording of the session (which is about an hour long). Pastor Eric would like to invite anyone who is interested in viewing it to join him on February 15th over Zoom at 7 pm. We'll view the video and have some brief discussion about it afterwards. .

"Most congregations rely on rational decision making to guide their leadership choices. Liminal seasons invite us to shift out of rational decision-making mode and into a more discerning mindset. Discernment is an attentiveness to God that, over time, develops into a shared sense of God's intention for us and our community now."

~ Rev. Susan Beaumont



Worship Opportunities for the Season of Lent & Holy Week



While we realize this newsletter is for February and March, at the risk of being repetitive, because Holy Week starts so early in April this year, we decided to include those events in this calendar as well.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22

We mark the beginning Lent with a unique liturgical service at 7 pm. Using the symbol of ashes and more extensive confession of sins, we will be invited to meditate on our need for God's grace and the spiritual disciplines of our lives.

SOUP N SING / HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

5 Wednesdays from March 1 to March 29

All are welcome to gather together for a simple meal of soup, bread and drink every Wednesday from March 1st to March 29th at 6 pm, followed by *Holden Evening Prayer* service at 7 pm. You are invited to attend one or both opportunities as you see fit. A sign-up sheet for providing soup or bread/buns is now available.

HEALING SERVICE

MARCH 19

This service will include the opportunity to come forward for a general prayer for healing, or to stay after the service for a specific healing prayer opportunity in the fireside room, one-on-one with Pastor Eric.

PASSION / PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2

We begin Holy Week with the procession with palms and a dramatic presentation of the Passion story at 10:30 am.

HOLY MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

APRIL 3, 4, 5

To mark these days of Holy Week, we will gather each day at noon for a brief time of worship and meditation.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 6

We mark this day with a special dinner of soup and bread at 6 pm, followed by worship at 7 pm.

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 7

Tennebrae Service in which the service centres around the gradual extinguishing of candles with dramatic reading of the Passion at 10 am.

EASTER DAY SERVICES

APRIL 9

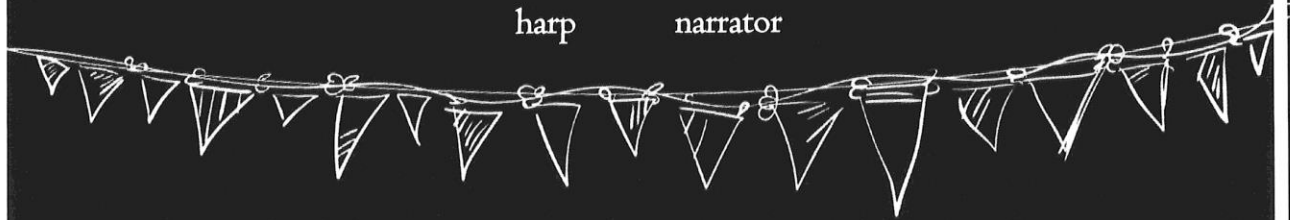
We will gather for our Easter Celebration service at 10 30 am. Plans are still being discussed about an Easter Breakfast and other details to help us feast, praise and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Stay tuned as details develop.

BESS LU

harp

ROB MUIR

narrator



THE NIGHT CIRCUS



and other stories

an evening of enchanting music & readings

7:00pm Sunday, February 19th

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

1504 Spruce Avenue, Coquitlam

ADMISSION BY DONATION LIVE STREAM: gslcc.ca

PROCEEDS TO 3030 Gordon/Tri-Cities Homelessness Shelter

Good Shepherd Women's Group

All women are invited to join us for an afternoon of fellowship and Bible Study at our monthly meetings held at the church on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

February Meeting:

February 14 at 1:00 pm

Study: Rizpah

(Study Leader – Flora Pregler)

March Meeting:

March 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Study: The Queen of Sheba

(Study Leader – Elaine Sinton)

So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all.

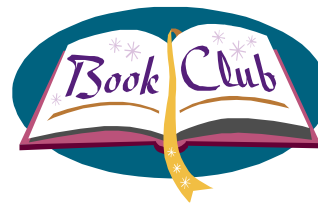
~ Galatians 6:10 (a)

Prayer Group

A small, but dedicated, number of GSL parishioners (the "Prayer Group") gather every Wednesday afternoon at 1 pm over Zoom, in which we alternate praying in the style of Lectio Divina (where biblical texts are studied and meditated upon, with communal prayer finishing out our time together) and Prayers of the People (where we gather simply to lift up the concerns and thanksgivings of our lives in prayer).

Access is easy through the GSLC website (<https://www.gslcc.ca>) by scrolling halfway down the screen to "Weekly Meetings", clicking on the Prayer Group button, and you'll find the imbedded Zoom link there.

Come check us out - All are welcome.



You are invited to join us at our next book club on March 2nd at 7:15 pm at the home of Mogens and Lily when we will be reading and discussing the book

Intimacies

written by Katie Katamura

A taut and electrifying story about a woman caught between many truths. An interpreter has come to The Hague to escape New York and work at the International Court looking for a place to finally call home. A woman of quiet passion, she confronts power, love, and violence, both in her personal intimacies and in her work at the Court.

Looking ahead - date and time to be announced - we will be reading and discussing

the Book of Revelation

(Source the Holy Bible)

After reading Reversed Thunder by Eugene Peterson in January, we gained further insight into this sometimes difficult to understand book in the Bible. As a result, we will be reading and discussing Revelation and hopefully come to a better understanding of John's words in this last book of Scripture.

All are Welcome!

Council Minutes Available

Church council would like you know that minutes of all their meetings are available for any member to read upon request. Just contact the office and Sherry will be happy to oblige.

Annual Congregational Meeting Summary Highlight Report

We said goodbye and thank you to retiring council member Marilyn James who served two consecutive terms on council, as well as Sue Power and Jerry Neiman whose council terms were completed.

The following people elected onto council: Marjun Blishen, Mogens Hansen, Rob Karhukangas and Pat Savage, and they will be installed together with the current council in the very near future. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve the church in this manner!

We had budgeted to finish out 2022 in the modest deficit position of **-\$1,434.00**, but thanks to everyone's generosity we actually finished our fiscal year end in the black, in a positive \$4,697.09 position. What an unexpected blessing!

Our Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan of \$40,000 has now been paid back in full. We are grateful that this financial consideration was available and provided to us in a time of need.

*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,
and will be repaid in full.*

~ Proverbs 19:17

From Our Treasurer



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

YTD Total Income	\$ 246,554.71
YTD Total Expenses	\$ 241,857.62
Surplus	\$ 4,697.09

Project Contingency Fund \$1,619.00

Thank you for your faithful generosity.

REFUGEE TEAM MEMBER

Our Refugee Team has now been assembled. Thank you Val Newton, Mo Patz and Sherry Russell for your interest in helping out in this area. The Team will soon be meeting with Senait from CLWR, who administers the Family-Link Sponsorship Agreements that we have entered into.

The Team asks that we continue to pray for Tesfay who remains in a Refugee Camp, and for his aunt Ruta who awaits his arrival and resettlement in Canada.

And please pray for our Team Members also, that they may be able to be the hands and heart of Christ to these resettled Refugees.

Tri-Cities Cold Weather MAT Program for the month of January 2023

St. Laurence Anglican Church extend their thanks to all who helped out in any way with the January Cold Weather MAT Program this past month at their church. Progressive Housing will be operating the shelter out of Trinity United Church in Port Coquitlam in February and at Coquitlam Alliance Church in March, if anyone is interested in continuing to support this program using their manpower, and help our neighbours in need in this way.

**Thank
You!**

Service Opportunities



We are looking to add to our weekly roster of volunteers that provide worship service assistance. None of the duties required are onerous, all are easily learned, and we do provide training for each of these volunteer tasks. Please prayerfully consider how you can help out in the following areas:

- ❖ Ushers
- ❖ Readers
- ❖ Communion Assistants
- ❖ Communion Clean up
- ❖ Fellowship Coffee Hosts
- ❖ Fellowship Coffee Clean-up
- ❖ Inside Plant Waterer

...and then sign up on the Volunteer Sign-Up sheet on the table on Sunday morning. Please feel free to call the office or talk to any of the current volunteers that you see who are presently involved with any of these tasks, if you have any questions.

Any time you can help out is greatly appreciated. Thank you!



*Like good stewards of the manifold
grace of God, serve one another...*

~ 1 Peter 4:10

Attention Embroiderers!

Our Baptismal Ministry is looking for someone who enjoys embroidering, to help maintain a supply of embroidered baptismal napkins which we give away at every baptism along with our baptismal faith chests. We still have a small supply of them on hand, but if you have been gifted in the art of embroidery and have a little spare time, perhaps this is something you'd like to volunteer for. The napkins are of a simple design, so each should not take a great deal of your time to complete. Please speak to Pastor Eric if you would like to help out.



ALTAR GUILD COORDINATOR

We are looking for someone to serve as an Altar Guild Coordinator. This is the person who organizes and monitors the roster of volunteers who set up for communion and clean-up after communion. The Co-Ordinator does not do the work but organizes those who do. This person will be supported by the Worship Team and Pastor Eric so much help and advice is available. Please see Pastor Eric or any member of our Worship Team (Peter Schuler or Linda Walters) if you are interested.

Property Matters

The colder weather has meant the Property Team has mainly been busy with outside maintenance. Specifically, their focus has been with keeping the drains clear to avoid flooding issues, the fallen branches raked and transported to the green waste recycling centre in a timely manner, and ensuring the safety of the sidewalks and new parking lot surface by keeping them shoveled, plowed and salted as needed. Warm spring weather will be required before parking stall lines can be painted on the new parking surface.

Door repairs to an exterior basement door, together with resetting of hinges was completed, and repair work was also completed on the daycare fence which had been damaged by a large fallen branch.

Finally, the Property Team oversaw the work of *Raybern Erectors* in its installation of a partial chain link fence around the small house at the end of January. Stay tuned for news of an opportunity to participate in a Spring Clean-up sometime in the near future.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Sanctuary Course



How can a church become a sanctuary—a place where individuals living with mental health challenges feel safe, supported, and a sense of belonging? *The Sanctuary Course* was created to inspire and equip communities of faith that are asking this important question. Developed in consultation with mental health professionals, theologians, and people with lived experience, this eight-session study

guide explores key mental health topics and examines meaningful ways to offer companionship, support recovery, and promote wellbeing.

Who is it for? *The Sanctuary Course* is a study guide for small groups, designed to raise awareness and start conversations in local churches regarding mental health. Your group might include:

- People with questions about mental health
- Mental health professionals with a wealth of knowledge to share
- Leaders who want to engage their community in mental health conversations
- People supporting loved ones with mental health problems
- People living with mental health problems

The Sanctuary Course is for anyone who wants to learn about faith and mental health. It requires no previous training or expertise—just a willingness to engage in dialogue with other believers. This course and films address difficult and sensitive topics, and may not be appropriate for a young audience. It is not recommended for people ages 17 and younger.

Interested? There will be a sign-up sheet on the main hall table in February for anyone who is interested in attending this 8 week course. We will be offering this sometime in the late spring/early summer – Date TBD. Sign up or call the office noting your interest, and you will be provided further details as they become available.

February-March Youth Update

2023 is officially underway and we are really looking forward to the next few months. We plan to play games, sing songs, head to Central City Fun Park, participate in a Sunday service, share meals, deepen friendships, prepare for CLAY, and a host a fundraising event or two.



Friday evenings will typically be when we gather, but we will vary it up here and there with the odd Saturday or Sunday event.

Here is our calendar for February and March:

- **Saturday, Feb. 4:** Roller Skating, bowling, mini-golf + More @ Central City Fun Park, Surrey 6:30-9pm
- **Friday, Feb. 10:** 7-9pm @ St. Laurence
- **Friday to Monday, Feb. 17-20:** Winter Retreat @ Sorrento
- **Tuesday, Feb. 21:** Possible Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner fundraiser for CLAY at Good Shepherd
- **Friday, Feb. 24:** 7-9pm @ Good Shepherd
- **Sunday, Mar. 5:** Youth-led service + lunch @ Saint Laurence
- **Mar. 31- April 1:** Make Way DYM sleepover @ Christ Church Cathedral

Please note we will not be meeting over Spring Break. I will be away on holidays with my family, and Jason will be finishing his schooling.

Please feel free to reach out to Jason or myself if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

With peace, blessings and huge thanks to Abbey, Sam, and all those other benefactors who support youth ministry,

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. 😊

Young Adults Invited to Learn and Advocate

[Canadian Foodgrains Bank](#) (CFGB) is inviting young adults (ages 18-30) who care about ending global hunger to apply for the upcoming event - the *Young Voices* edition of *Hunger on the Hill*. Each year, CFGB takes a group of passionate folks to Ottawa with us to learn how to advocate for an end to global hunger and meet with MPs face-to-face, to communicate about the importance of this mission. This spring, our *Hunger on the Hill* event will take place **from March 4 to 8**. If any youth are interested, please apply when you [click here](#). Applications close **on February 8**.



From our BC Synod...

February is Black History Month

For Black History Month the BC Synod will be sharing an article each week in February lifting up a Black leader in British Columbia. Links will be included weekly in the church bulletin announcements section, or look for these [here](#) each of the four weeks in February. Each article includes links for further learning.

Sharing and engaging with these stories about local Black leaders is one small part we can play in increasing visibility and listening to Black voices in our midst. Stories compiled by Rev. Aneeta Saroop, Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, Vancouver, and Rev. Lyndon Sayers, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria.

WEEK 1: Nora Hendrix

Born on November 19, 1883 Zenora (Nora) Moore Hendrix's life shaped the culture of Vancouver's historical Black community, Hogan's Alley. Hendrix co-founded *The Fountain Chapel, African Methodist Episcopal church* in Vancouver which was purchased from a Scandinavian and German Lutheran Congregation in 1918. She was also grandmother to famous music artist Jimmy Hendrix. [READ MORE](#)



Truth & Reconciliation Conversation on Zoom



Interested in joining a conversation with other Lutherans about Truth & Reconciliation but don't know where to start? The Truth & Reconciliation Committee at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria, is inviting others to join their upcoming meeting via Zoom:

When: Wednesday, February 15, 10:00 AM PST

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85486445277>

Meeting ID: 854 8644 5277

What to expect?

Some meetings feature a guest speaker to further learning and opportunities for action. At this meeting we will be in conversation with Neil Vallance, adjunct law professor at UVic and author, who will be sharing information on BC Treaties particularly as they relate to Indigenous people on Vancouver Island. Check out the book which Neil Vallance co-edited: ["To Share, Not Surrender: Indigenous and Settler Visions of Treaty-Making in the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia."](#) (University of Chicago Press 2021)

If you can't make this conversation, you are welcome to join future meetings as well using the recurring Zoom link above. For more information contact Craig Knight, TRC chair, at craigrknight@gmail.com

March 27 @ 7 pm “Water and Plastics”

Save the Date! All are invited to join the BC Synod’s Climate Justice Action Group on a Zoom presentation with guest presenters, on *Water and Plastics*. If you want to find out more about what you and the church can do to reduce the impact of plastics on the environment then this is the perfect presentation for you. The Zoom link will be made available closer to the date, so mark the date, and keep your eyes open for further details as they develop and then join them if you are able.

*Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit,
sympathy, love for one another, a tender
heart and a humble mind.*

~ 1 Peter 3:8

Canadian
Interfaith
CONVERSATION

advocating for religion
in a pluralistic society and
in Canadian public life

Saturday, February 4, 2023

5th Annual Interfaith Dinner
5:30 pm Pacific Time, In-person event
Baitur Rahman Mosque,
9570 River Road, Delta BC, V4G 1B5

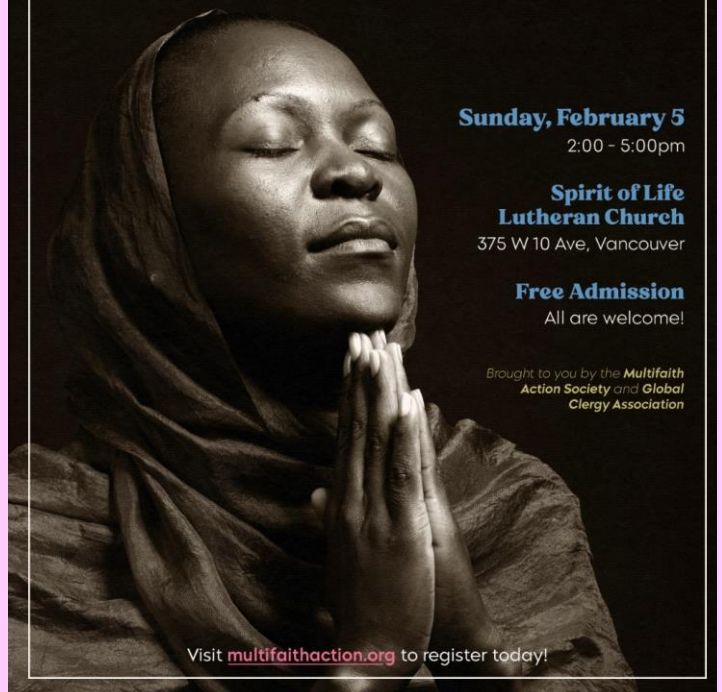
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama’at BC cordially invites all
friends from all faith communities.

To register or find out more please email:
Ahmadiyya.bc.outreach@gmail.com

The Multifaith Action Society Presents:
Women in Spiritual & Religious Life
Sunday, February 5th, from 2 to 5 pm

Women in Spiritual & Religious Life

In Recognition of Interfaith Harmony Week 2023



Sunday, February 5
2:00 - 5:00pm

**Spirit of Life
Lutheran Church**
375 W 10 Ave, Vancouver

Free Admission
All are welcome!

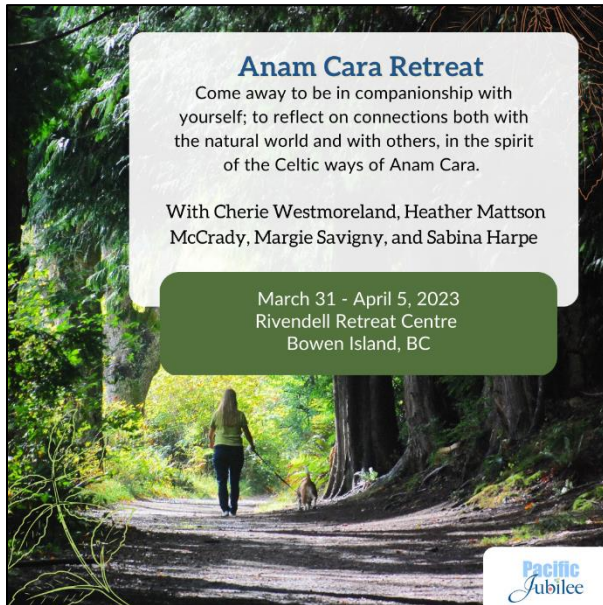
Brought to you by the Multifaith
Action Society and Global
Clergy Association

Visit multifaithaction.org to register today!

Visit multifaithaction.org to register today!

Retreat Opportunities from Pacific Jubilee...

Anam Cara Retreat from Pacific Jubilee



Fri. March 31 - Wed. April 5, 2023

with Cherie Westmoreland, Heather Mattson McCrady, Margie Savigny, and Sabina Harpe
Rivendell Retreat Centre,
Bowen Island, BC

*"May you recognise in your life the presence, power and light of your soul. May you realise that you are never alone."
— John O'Donohue*

[Learn more and register](#)

We begin March 31 at 4:00. We end on April 5 at noon.

Spring Silent Retreat

with Murray Groom and Nan Goodship

May 4 - 7, 2023

Bethlehem Centre, Nanaimo, BC

This short retreat (4 days/3 nights) is an opportunity for anyone with a long weekend to experience intentional Silence.

[Learn more and register](#)



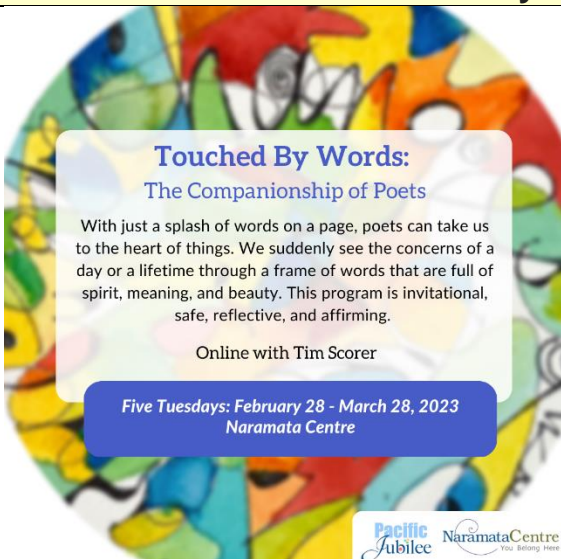
Touched By Words: The Companionship of Poets

Online with Tim Scorer

Five Tuesdays: February 28 - March 28, 2023

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm Pacific Time

[Learn more and register](#)



Charity CHECK IN



SHARE Food Bank

A Message from SHARE:

On behalf of our food-insecure neighbours in the Tri-Cities area, we want to thank you for your recent Christmas Food Drive that brought in 120 pounds of food staples for those in need. And your purchase of 2 Food Hamper Baskets at Christmas time benefitted two families with 5 or more members over the holiday season. Your generosity is appreciated by both the Food Bank and by those we serve.

Thank you for your prayers and food contributions to those in need.



**Canadian Lutheran
World Relief**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada
In Mission for Others



THE LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION



LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA
ÉGLISE LUTHÉRIENNE DU CANAD



Canadian
Foodgrains
Bank
A Christian Response
to Hunger

HUMANITARIAN
COALITION

actalliance

MCIC
Mennonite Council International Cooperation

in partnership with
AID AIDE | Canada

A Message from CLWR and their Partners:

Thank you for helping change lives in 2022! Your partnership with communities around the world last year through CLWR and its partners will grow into new gardens, clean water sources and hope in this new year and beyond. Thousands of real lives have been changed because of your partnership around the world.

Below is a summary of the 2022 impact CLWR with and through its partners were able to make, thanks to everyone's generous financial aid:

2022 EMERGENCY RESPONSES

UKRAINE CRISIS

- 676 tons of food & supplies
- \$9.8 million medical equipment
- 2 Refugee Support Points in Ukraine and Hungary
- 2 Child Friendly Spaces in Budapest
- Transitional shelters in Hungary and Ukraine

PAKISTAN FLOODS

- Emergency shelter
- Food and water
- Sanitation
- Health and social care

HUNGER CRISIS

- Emergency food
- Water
- Nutritional support
- Medical services

OTHER EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- **HAITI EARTHQUAKE**
 - Lifesaving relief & medical assistance
 - Immediate shelter
 - Unconditional cash grants
 - Rehabilitation of affected homes
- **INDIA COVID CRISIS**
 - Emergency medical support
 - Vaccine access
 - Support of public awareness campaigns



OTHERS WHO RECEIVED AID IN 2022

BURUNDI

Addressing immediate food shortages and hunger, and helping communities build longer-term food security.

- **KEY IMPACTS**
 - 40 farmer field schools offered across 15 villages
 - 2,790 people receiving emergency food support
 - 1,200 households receiving farm starter kits

EL SALVADOR

Helping protect small-scale farmers from climate risks by providing access to climate-indexed crop insurance.

- **KEY IMPACTS**
 - 600 families protected by climate insurance
 - 360 female-headed households supported

ETHIOPIA

Helping families displaced by conflict and climate change by providing access to shelter, water, sanitation facilities and income opportunities.

- **KEY IMPACTS**
 - 700 farm families supported
 - 300,000 seedlings distributed
 - 49,000 displaced people supported

MYANMAR

Providing basic urgent needs for displaced families, including access to clean water, hygiene supplies, and safety and security for women and girls.

- **KEY IMPACTS**
 - 2,926 families provided access to sanitation facilities
 - 18 women and girls' centres supported
 - 30 longhouses reconstructed and weather-proofed

NICARAGUA

Providing bursaries to keep children in school, additional tutoring and in-school meals to children facing hunger.

- **KEY IMPACTS**
 - 250 children provided educational support
 - 125 children provided in-school meals
 - 10 communities provided support for vulnerable students

UGANDA

Providing displaced families with safe water sources, hygiene facilities and supplies, income generation opportunities, and safer IDP camps.

- **KEY IMPACTS**
 - 10 community water points rehabilitated
 - 1,625 people trained and supported to start businesses
 - 150 latrines constructed or repaired

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Supporting women, especially women with disabilities, in accessing technical and vocational education.

- **KEY IMPACTS**
 - 1,143 women in technical or vocational programs
 - 912 permanent new spaces created for women
 - 112 women with disabilities provided accessible technical or vocational training

SOUTH SUDAN

Providing emergency support to families during a period of acute food shortage.

- **KEY IMPACTS**
 - 418 families received emergency food support
 - 313 female-headed households supported

VENEZUELA

Supporting a clinic serving a vulnerable community by increasing its capacity to meet more urgent needs.

- **KEY IMPACTS**
 - 1,700 children receiving pediatric care
 - 39 medical personnel provided equipment and protective materials
 - 6,021 women and girls provided medical care

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.

Single Use Plastic Ban

As of December 20, 2022, the manufacture and import for sale in Canada of six categories of single use plastics will be banned. These were specifically selected because they are commonly found in the environment, are harmful to wildlife and their habitats, are difficult to recycle with some containing problematic plastics, and have readily available alternatives.

Problematic plastics are those that contain expanded polystyrene foam, extruded polystyrene foam, polyvinyl chloride, carbon black or oxo-degradable plastic.

These bans take place in stages in order to provide businesses in Canada to transition, and to deplete their existing stock.

- Sales of check out bags, cutlery, food service ware, stir sticks and straws will be totally banned on December 20, 2023. (Some single use flexible straws are excluded under certain conditions.)
- Ring carriers and flexible straws packaged with beverage containers will be totally banned on June 20, 2024.
- Manufacture, import, and sale for export will be banned on December 20, 2025.

These regulations do not apply to plastic manufactured items that are waste or that are transiting through Canada.

Will this make much of a difference in Canada's plastic waste? Based on data from 2019, *Greenpeace Canada* estimates that these bans will result in 5% less consumer plastic waste, while the federal government's estimation is less optimistic, assessing that these bans will result in 3% less consumer plastic waste.

Although both of these estimations show a very small percentage benefit when considering the tons of plastic waste produced annually in Canada, it remains a very important first step, and we as consumers need to continue to keep pushing our governments and our Canadian businesses to stay the course and continue to find ways to reduce single use plastics along with better recycling options.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Thompson

"If you want to find out more about what you and the church can do to reduce the impact of plastics, the BC Synod Climate Justice Action Group Zoom workshop "Water and Plastics" is just for you!

Save the date: March 27, 7 PM."

Love with Kindness...

KIDS CORNER

How Do We Do that?

We learn at an early age that Jesus wants us to be kind and he gives us the Holy Spirit to help us do this. Did you know that one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is *Kindness*? So, with the Holy Spirit's help, we **can** do this!

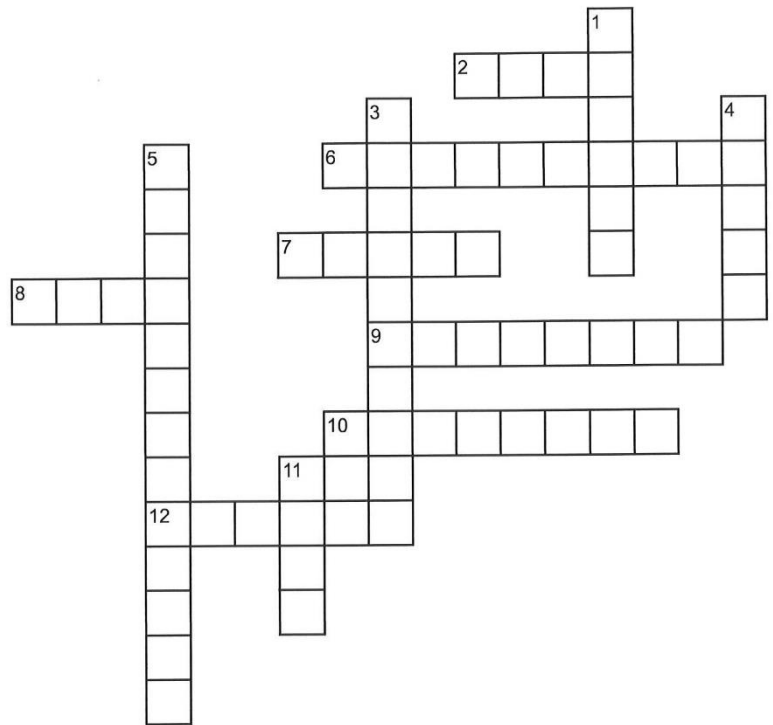
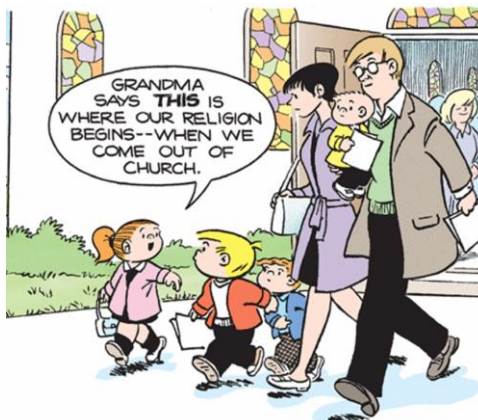
Even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in someone else's life. These crossword bible verses remind us about other ways to express kindness to others. These verses offers ways we can live out kindness. With kind words, tolerance and love, we can create a better world for all around us.

Did you also know that God also wants us to be kind to animals? Proverbs 12:10 states "A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal."

So both the Holy Spirit and the Bible help to remind us that kindness should come from within as a result of our relationships with God. So let's choose to love others well through our kindness today, and every day after that!!

Across

- 2 1 Peter 4:8 - And above all things have fervent ____ for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins.'
- 6 1 Peter 4:9 - Be ____ to one another without complaining.
- 7 1 Cor 13:7 - [love] bears all things, believes all things, ____ all things, endures all things.
- 8 Gal 6:10 (a) - So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the ____ of all
- 9 1 Peter 3:8 - Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, ____, love for one another, a tender heart and a humble mind.
- 10 Proverbs 31:26 - She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of ____ is on her tongue..
- 12 1 John 3:18 - ...let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and ____.



Down

- 1 Proverbs 11:17 - Those who are kind ____ themselves, but the cruel do themselves harm.
- 3 Col 3:12 - ...beloved, clothe yourselves with ____, kindness, humility, meekness and patience
- 4 1 Peter 4 10: Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, ____ one another...
- 5 Eph 4:32 - And be kind to one another, ____, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.
- 11 Proverbs 19:17 - Whoever is ____ to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full.

Answer Key:

ACTION COMPASSION GOOD HOPES
HOSPITABLE KIND KINDNESS LOVE REWARD
SERVE SYMPATHY TENDERHEARTED

Do unto others as you would have them do to you.

~ Luke 6: 31

Weekly Church Events

We are continuing to offer a number of opportunities to gather for fellowship, worship and learning. You are invited to join in any one or all of these events in-person or over Zoom. The links to join any of these meetings below can be found on our website gslcc.ca. All are welcome!

Sunday mornings Bible Study

We meet Sunday mornings for a brief bible study on one of the Readings, usually the Gospel. On February 5th we will continue to meet on Zoom at 9 am. On February 12th we will be experimenting with a hybrid format. You are invited to continue to join by Zoom, or meet in person at the church at **9:15 am. PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE TIME CHANGE.**

Sunday Morning Worship

We gather every Sunday morning at 10:30 for our weekly worship service. 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 Bible Study

We are planning to restart our seniors Bible Study following our former format of meeting every 2nd Wednesday at 10:30 am. A start date will be announced soon. Please stay tuned for further details.

Wednesday afternoon Prayer Gathering at 1 pm over Zoom

Our prayer gatherings continue, alternating between praying Lectio Divina style & free-style 'Prayers of the People'. Praying aloud is not mandatory. All are welcome. Zoom access to our Wednesday prayer gatherings 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 provides an embedded link to join the prayer group.

Second and Fourth Thursdays afternoons at 4 pm – Zoom Happy Hour

All are welcome to join in for an hour of fellowship on the 2nd and 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.

