

First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE LIVE AND WORSHIP ON THE UNCEDED TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE KWIKWETLEM FIRST NATION, WHICH LIES WITHIN THE SHARED TERRITORIES OF THE TSLEIL-WAUTUTH, KATZIE, MUSQUEAM, SQUAMISH AND STÓ:LŌ NATIONS. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE CARED FOR THIS LAND SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL AS WE SEEK TO JOURNEY TOWARDS A MEANINGFUL RECONCILIATION.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Kyrie ELW # 155 Kyrie

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

C: **Blessed be God's name forever.**
Amen.

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

C: God of new beginnings,
we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths.
We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire
and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,
and welcome your coming among us.
Amen.

P: People of God,
a new thing is growing in our midst,
a tender branch,
a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.
You have put on ✠ Christ,
and your sins have been washed away.
Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

C: **Amen.**

ACS # 998 – In Silence We Wait

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

the love of God,
and the renewing presence of the Holy Spirit
be with you all

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Gathering Hymn # 435 - Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Welcome & Announcements

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Children's Time and Lighting of the Advent Wreath ACS # 905 We wait for Jesus (adapted)

All sing the first verse only while the Candle is being lit.

First Sunday in Advent

We are wait-ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings hope. We are wait-ing for
6 Je - sus; Je - sus brings hope. Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are
11 trust-ing in your promise. We are wait-ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings hope.

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
 and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
 We all fade like a leaf,
 and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
 There is no one who calls on your name,
 or attempts to take hold of you;
 for you have hidden your face from us,
 and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
 we are the clay, and you are our potter;
 we are all the work of your hand.
 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
 and do not remember iniquity forever.
 Now consider, we are all your people.

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Refrain: 

Your love, O LORD, for - ev - er will I sing.

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
 you who lead Joseph like a flock!
 You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
 Stir up your might,
 and come to save us!
 Restore us, O God;
 let your face shine, that we may be saved.

C: **Refrain**

L: O Lord GOD of hosts,
 how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
 You have fed them with the bread of tears,
 and given them tears to drink in full measure.
 You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
 our enemies laugh among themselves.
 Restore us, O God of hosts;
 let your face shine, that we may be saved.

C: **Refrain**

L: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
 the one whom you made strong for yourself.
 Then we will never turn back from you;
 give us life, and we will call on your name.
 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
 let your face shine, that we may be saved.

C: **Refrain**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (Taizé) ELW # 175

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

L: The holy Gospel according to Mark, the 13th chapter.

C: **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] “In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very

gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day When Nations Turn Toward Trouble (Tune: #326 - Bless Now, O God, the Journey)

When nations turn toward trouble and hope seems all but gone,
When threats and conflicts double, what can we count upon?
When truth becomes distorted and love is pushed aside
When hatred is supported, God, open heaven wide!

Tear open wide your heavens; bring down your mighty throne!
Shake up the highest mountains and make your presence known —
Till justice flows like water, till rulers humbly pray,
Till all know you're the potter, till all know we are clay.

Christ, may we learn the lesson that you are coming here,
For just as fig trees blossom we know that summer's near.
Like guards remaining watchful all night, until the dawn,
May we who love the gospel find strength to carry on.

May Christians march for justice, may peace prayers fill the streets,
May churches put in practice the Christ-like ways we teach,
May we oppose what's hateful and stand for what is true —
And so may we be watchful as we wait here for you.

Tune: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh Tune, 19th
Century. Public Domain
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Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of Heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,**

the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition, the pastor will say "God of hope" and the congregation will respond "hear our prayer."

Sharing of the Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

All are invited to share a sign of peace with those around them, as we recognize the image of Christ in each other.

Special Music – Choir – Ososo: Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

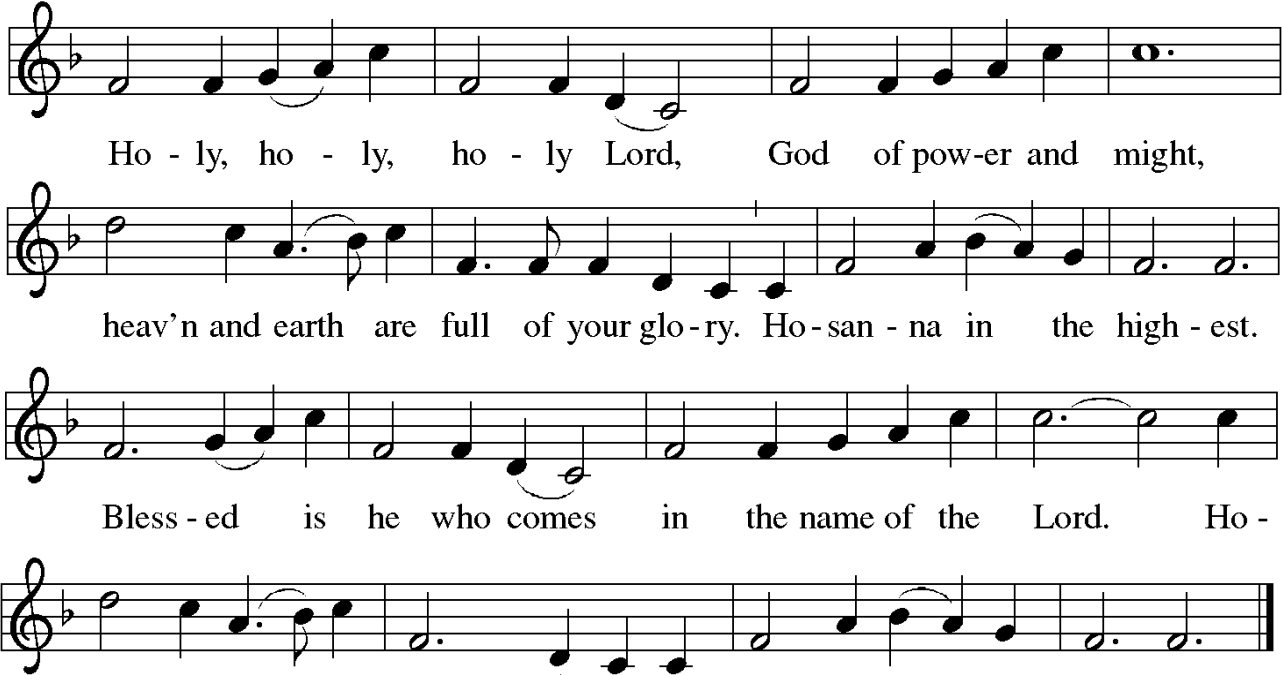
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion is distributed

Directions for Communion: Any adult or child who believes that Christ is present in this meal is welcome to participate. At the Pastor's direction, you are invited to advance to the communion rail through the centre aisle, commune in groups, and exit back to your pews through the window aisles, depositing your used wine/juice vessel in the silver bowl at the head of each window aisle. If you choose to remain in your pew to take communion once all group communing at the rail has ended, please raise your hand to make yourself known and the pastor will come around with bread, followed by the communion assistant with individual glasses of wine and grape juice. White grape juice is located in the centre ring of the tray.

Hymns Sung During Communion

ACS # 902 Come Now, O God
ELW # 260 The King Shall Come
ELW # 487 What Feast of Love
ELW # 292 Wait for the Lord (Chant)

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

L: The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you
now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Song # 248 People, Look East

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: **Thanks be to God**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 3, 2023

Flowers are placed on the altar in celebration of a new church year, and the hope of this new Advent Season.

Thank you: Thanks you Ruth von Hertzberg who hand-crafted the beautiful flower arrangement on the altar last week. It added to the awe and beauty of our *Christ the King* celebratory service last week.

Christmas Tree Decorating: This Tuesday morning at **10 am – December 5th** - all are invited to come out and help decorate the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary. Thank you Bob Knudson for purchasing the tree, and thank you David Stroud for setting it in its stand in advance of our tree decorating party!

Peanut Brittle Sale: We'll be holding a home-made Peanut Brittle sale after the service next **Sunday, Dec 10th**. All proceeds will be used to boost our contingency fund to help defer some necessary church ceiling repair. Thank you Claire and David for organizing this fundraising initiative.

Calling all Ladies of Good Shepherd-TOMORROW! Once again, we are planning another luncheon, for tomorrow, **Monday, December 4th** at 11:30 am. We are going to go back to try **Rickie's Restaurant**, at 100 Schoolhouse St. It used to be the ABC Restaurant. Please let Linda Berry know if you are able to come or if you need a ride. (604-937-7349) We always have a great time and it is a good chance to visit with each other. We hope you will join us!

Looking for Affordable Housing: We have been put in touch with a Christian family (semi-retired mother & 2 working adult children- 1 in Burnaby and 1 in Abbotsford) who are looking for housing in the Coquitlam area which would be between to both work locations. They require at a minimum a 2 bedroom suite. They have no pets, don't smoke, are quiet and don't party. If you know of anyone who has affordable accommodation to rent, the office has their contact information.

Emergency Appeal for Gaza: The ELCIC and CLWR have joined together to respond to the ongoing crisis in Gaza. Read about their efforts, and how you can donate by clicking [here](#). **Donations will be matched until November 12th**. We invite you to continue to pray for all those suffering. See the poster on page 17.

Special Emergency Appeal for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL): The ELCIC invites all its members to support a special emergency appeal just launched for the needs of the ELCJHL. This church is our sister church in the Holy Land and are in significant need in this desperate time. Read more about the appeal and how you can donate [here](#) and see the poster on page 15.

Crisis in the Holy Land: The ELCIC has put together an ongoing list of updates, statements & resources regarding the current situation in the Holy Land, including information from our partners in the region. View it [here](#).

Vigil for Peace and Justice: During these days of war and conflict around our world, our synod is hosting a vigil for Peace and Justice every Thursday at 7 pm by Zoom. This is a short (15 minute) service where you are invited to bring a candle and join with other members of our synod in prayer for peace. Contact Pastor Eric directly at erickrushel@gmail.com to receive the link.

TONIGHT! WATER FROM A ROCK Worship Services- Worship for Young Adults & University Students: Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran and St. Andrew's Anglican are leading monthly worship services for young adults and university students tonight! The next one will take place today - **Sunday, December 3rd** - at 7pm at Shepherd of the Valley Church (20097 - 72 Ave, Langley). There's music, prayer, Scripture reflection, community, all wrapping up with a great meal (last time was pulled pork!). These monthly services are taking a hiatus over the Christmas season, and will return to a monthly schedule on February 4th 2024. See Poster on page 14

Winter Shelter Donations: We continue to collect items for the Tri-Cities Winter Shelter. Please see the list of items needed on page 13. Items can be deposited in the bins in the front entrance of the church.

Items in need of a new home: Please continue to check out the desk in the Fellowship Hall for miscellaneous items that are no longer being used at the church. You are welcome to take what you would like, free of charge. Other items may be added to the table in coming weeks.

Art Auction for LTS Grace Fund: LTS announces an Art Auction of paintings by John Dyck, a welcome gift from



alumnus Pastor Eric Dyck (LTS class of 1984). Pastor Eric is motivated to share this legacy of his father's paintings with the seminary, knowing the funds raised will aid future ministry. These works will be offered in the 'Affordable Art Auction' - an online art auction hosted by the Saskatchewan Network for Art Collecting (SKNAC) – with all opening bids under \$100. **The online bidding closes TODAY - on Sunday, December 3rd.** This is a wonderful opportunity to get a beautiful work of art and to support LTS, simultaneously!

[You can view the SKNAC dedicated auction site here.](#)

Monthly Gathering for Parents and Grandparents of Trans/Nonbinary Kids: This online group is offered by and hosted by the Synod of Alberta and the Territories and the Affirming Diversity Ministry Team. It is facilitated by Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein, a professor of Queer Theologies. This meeting takes place on the **4th Monday of every month** from 7-8 pm Mountain Time on Zoom (meeting ID: 374 313 0071) Please see the poster on the current events bulletin board.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND RESOURCES

- **Lutherans Connect Devotional:** Lutherans Connect is a project of the Centre for Spirituality and Media, at Martin Luther University in Waterloo, Ontario. They are offering an online Advent devotional that many have found enriching. Write to lutheransconnect@gmail.com to subscribe or find them on Facebook.
- **Carols and Choirs by Candlelight:** Grace Lutheran Church is hosting an evening of Christmas carols and fellowship with songs by the Pacific Spirit Voices Chorus on Friday, Dec. 15 at 7 pm. For more information see the poster on page 18.
- **Study Guide on Bonhoeffer's meditations:** A study guide on Bonhoeffer's Advent meditations "God is in the Manger" is available when you [click here](#) or can be mailed out to you for free. For details please [click here](#).
- **2023 Advent Cycle of Prayer: For the Churches in The Holy Land and The Middle East:** The bishops of the Lutheran and Anglican churches in Canada and the US have created a resource featuring prayers for each day in Advent for specific congregations, ministries and outreach initiatives of the Lutheran and Anglican Churches in the Holy Land. To access the full Cycle of Prayer, [click here](#).
- **Give Gifts from the Heart this Christmas:** Canadian Lutheran World Relief's new *Gifts from the Heart* catalogue **has arrived!** It's full of meaningful, tangible gifts that will touch your loved ones and share God's love with the world! Pick up a copy on the usher's table, or you can shop online at clwr.org/GFTH.

- **TODAY - Concert – The Joy of Christmas**: The Meadow Ridge Singers Community Choir perform a Christmas concert on Sunday, **December 3rd at 2 pm** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 12145 Laity Street, Maple Ridge. See the poster on the bulletin board and on page 16 for all the details.
- **NEXT SUNDAY - Christmas Sing Along!**: 'Tis the Season! You and your friends are invited to join in a Christmas Sing Along of carols and seasonal favorites here on **Sunday, December 10th** from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. The congregation is invited to bring a festive treat (finger food only i.e. no forks) to share. All are welcome, so bring your family and friends.
- **NEXT SUNDAY - Langley Christmas Choir**: The Langley Christmas Choir, hosted by Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, is performing on December 10th at 3 pm at the church.

CREATION CARE:

- **COP28 - Unite. Act. Deliver.**: From November 30th to December 12th, 2023, the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 28) will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. *FOR THE LOVE OF CREATION* invites faith communities to pray, learn and act for climate justice during COP 28. Various online events are planned for November 14th to December 12th including webinars on various topics To participate or get involved in any of these webinar events, please click [here](#) for more details.
- **Laudato Si Circle**: The *Laudato Si Circle* hosted by St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Parish (140 Port Moody Street) will meet again on **Thursday, December 5** from 7:30 - 9:00 pm in the church portable on their property.

SOCIAL JUSTICE:

- **16 Days of Action Campaign to end Gender Violence**: This campaign runs from November 25th to December 10th and aims to raise awareness about gender based violence, as well as strengthening local response work. You can access resources from the LWF [here](#), and from the World council of Churches [here](#).

A gentle reminder that in consideration of those who have severe sensitivities and allergies, the church has been designated as a fragrance-free zone. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

This Week At Church (Note 1)

- This Sunday Bible Study at 9:30 am (in-person and online)
1st Sunday in Advent – Worship Service with communion
live-streamed at 10:30 am (View live-stream [here](#))
Sunday School Pageant Practice at St. Laurence at noon
- Tuesday Christmas Tree decorating at 10 am
- Wednesday Mid-week Bible Study at 10:30 followed by lunch together
Prayer Gathering at 1:30 pm over Zoom
- Next Sunday Bible Study at 9:30 am (in-person and online)
2nd Sunday in Advent – Worship Service with communion and Sunday School
live-streamed at 10:30 am (View live-stream [here](#))
Christmas Sing-Along at 6:30 pm

Note: Most events are in-person events except those noted “on Zoom” or “Online”. The links to these online events are accessible through our website. Our Sunday morning worship service is offered in-person, live-streamed and via on-line recording posted to our website shortly after the service is over.

Recent Weeks at Church

<u>Financial information from:</u>	<u>November 26th</u>
Total Offerings	\$ 7,700.00
- General Offering	\$ 6,800.00
- Directed Gifts	\$ 350.00
- Project Contingency	\$ 550.00

November Tri-Cities Winter Shelter
At Eagle Ridge Bible Fellowship, 1160 Lansdown Drive, Coquitlam
604-464-2416
Food & Miscellaneous Requirement

The Tri-Cities' Winter Shelter provides a hot meal for dinner, a warm, safe place to sleep, breakfast and a bagged lunch-to-go for those experiencing homelessness that are brought to our door. Eagle Ridge Bible Fellowship church will be hosting the month of November. We are starting to set up for volunteers to bake for daily desserts, and cookies/ squares for the bagged lunches, and volunteers to help people in the morning and do cleaning after they have left. We are also collecting warm winter clothing, toiletries, and food that will go into the bagged lunches. I have attached list of items needed and no amount that you have is too small. We have placed collection boxes in the foyer of the church and people can drop off their donations for clothing, toiletries or food for the bagged lunches there. Just call the church before coming down, to ensure someone is at the church.

Fresh food that needs to be refrigerated:

Individually-wrapped cheese slices
 Cartons of Eggs (label if already hard boiled)
 Cherry Tomatoes
 Mandarin Oranges
 Mayonnaise
 Spreadable containers of Margerine

Clothing & Miscellaneous

(For both Men & Women)

socks & underwear/boxers (**New Only**)
 hats, toques, scarves, and gloves
 sleep pants, warm pj's
 warm winter coats
 rainwear, ponchos
 sweatshirts, T-shirts, long sleeved T's
 pants
 blankets
 footwear (preferably waterproof):
 shoes, boots, hiking boots
 day packs & back packs (new/gently used)

Donations Needed for Bagged Lunches:

Juice Boxes
 Granola Bars (soft ones only please)
 Pudding Cups
 Fruit cups
 Disposable Spoons (for fruit and pudding cups)
 Peanut Butter
 Jam
 Cans of Tuna or Salmon
 Chocolate Bars
 Pre-packaged, individually-wrapped cookies
 Bottled water

TOILETRIES DONATIONS:

small soaps, body wash, lotion
 shampoo, conditioner,
 toothbrushes (packaged), toothpaste, floss,
 ChapStick
 deodorant
 shaving supplies
 women's menstrual supplies
 small bottles of hand sanitizer
 small boxes of Band-Aids
 small first aid kits
 combs, nail clippers
 washcloths, towels
 Hand and Foot warmers,

We currently have a few spaces left on our sign-up sheets available for:

- lunch making at the church @ 10:00-11:00 a.m
- at-home baking: squares or cookies (for lunches) and/or daily desserts.

If you have a questions, want more information, or to sign up, please contact Debbie Fell, at debbiefell@shaw.ca, or give me a call at 604 942-5622. Thank you for any consideration you give to

Water from a Rock

A WORSHIP SERVICE FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

We will have so much delicious food!

Water from a Rock

a worship service
for young adults
& university students

first Sunday of the month, 7pm
Nov 5, Dec 3, Feb 4, Mar 3, Apr 7
at Shepherd of the Valley Church
20097 - 72nd Ave, Langley



Led by: Pastors Kristen Steele & Andrew Halladay

Music: Jason Wood & friends

Sponsored by: Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
& St Andrew's Anglican Church

ELCIC Emergency Appeal for our Partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)



"The ELCJHL are our siblings in Christ. We have been in a long and important partnership with them, and they need our support at this desperate time," says ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson, in an ELCIC Emergency Appeal dated November 3. "Jesus calls us to respond to those in need. This appeal is one way we can do that. I urge you to be generous." The ELCIC invites members to support

DONATE NOW!

the **ELCJHL Emergency Appeal** through prayers and financial support with a goal of covering one month of expenses for the ELCJHL, totaling \$263,000.

ELCJHL Bishop Dr. Sani-Ibrahim Azar recently shared an update with the ELCIC on the escalating violence in the West Bank and the impact of the war on the church. In his letter he noted: due to the increase in violence, schools have had to close; checkpoints between the West Bank and Jerusalem and between areas such as Ramallah and Bethlehem have been nearly completely closed off preventing many people in these communities from being able to travel to and from work; and there has been a devastating impact on families whose livelihoods are connected to the tourism and hospitality industry.

"The war between Israel and Hamas is greatly affecting our partners in the ELCJHL," Bishop Johnson adds. "Most of them have relatives in Gaza. As well, the West Bank has been shut down, which is affecting people's ability to work and move freely. This has huge financial implications for the church."

In his letter, Bishop Azar invited support from ELCJHL partners to help sustain the important ministries of the church during this difficult time. The ELCJHL estimates a budget of \$263,000 per month just for teachers' salaries and 50 percent of the pastors' salaries – these individuals are providing essential ministries throughout the region, serving the needs of parishioners and students.

The ELCIC invites members to support the ELCJHL Emergency Appeal through prayers and financial support. [Our goal is to help cover one month of expenses for the ELCJHL to a total of \\$263,000.](#) To assist in reaching this goal, the ELCIC's National Church Council has approved a one-time contribution to the appeal for \$100,000. **You are invited to help support our partners through a financial contribution to the ELCJHL appeal.** Financial donations may be given in two ways:

1. Through your local congregation by designating your offering to ELCJHL Appeal.
2. [Online through the ELCIC National Office at secure.elcic.ca.](https://secure.elcic.ca)

The full text of the ELCIC Emergency Appeal follows: <https://elcic.ca/2023/11/03/elcic-emergency-appeal-for-our-partners-in-the-evangelical-lutheran-church-in-jordan-and-the-holy-land/>. Please note this appeal is running concurrently with the [ELCIC/CLWR joint appeal](#) that is responding to the crisis in Gaza. The ELCIC invites members to pray for those suffering and to give generously in support of the needs of all those affected. Donations to the Gaza Appeal can be made here: clwr.org/gaza. Matching funds from the government are available for this appeal until November 12.

HAPPENING TODAY!

The Meadow Ridge Singers

present

The Joy of Christmas



Join us for an afternoon full of musical merriment
as the Meadow Ridge Singers community choir performs
their Christmas concert.

Sunday, December 3rd 2023 2:00PM
at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

12145 Laity Street, Maple Ridge

Contact meadowridgesingers@gmail.com to reserve your tickets.

Adults \$17 | Students \$5 | Children under 4 \$2

Tickets also available at the door.

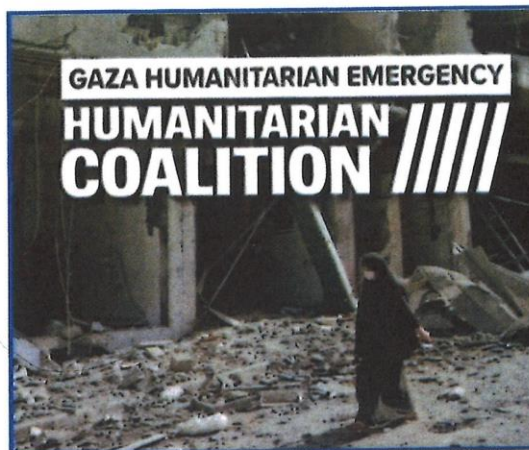




Canadian Lutheran
World Relief



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada
ELCIC *In Mission for Others*



The ELCIC joins with [Canadian Lutheran World Relief \(CLWR\)](#) in responding to the crisis in Gaza, where a massive humanitarian emergency is unfolding.

As a response to the ongoing crisis in Gaza the West Bank and Israel, CLWR is working together with other organizations in the region to provide critical, life-saving aid including emergency food, drinking water, shelter, medical care kits, hygiene kits and more to those in dire need.

Recent estimates indicate nearly 5,000 people have been killed and roughly 20,000 have suffered injuries. Over one million people have been forced to flee their homes in response to the violence. Most are without electricity and are facing shortages of water and food.

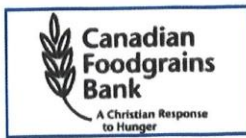
Together with the Humanitarian Coalition - an alliance of twelve leading Canadian aid agencies - CLWR is seeking to provide critical life-saving aid in Gaza where estimates indicate that more than one million people have been forced to leave their homes and over 4,300 killed. **Now through November 12, your gift will be matched by the Government of Canada.**

ELCIC invites members to pray for those suffering and to give generously in support of the needs of all those affected by this crisis. Please give today - clwr.org/gaza.

Individuals and congregations wishing to support relief efforts can donate as follows:

- Make a designated offering for "Gaza Relief" through any ELCIC congregation
- Call CLWR at 1-800-661-2597 (locally at 204-694-6502) to donate or go online to clwr.org/gaza
- Send a cheque made payable to CLWR and mailed to CLWR, 400-185 Carlton St, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J1. Please indicate that you wish to contribute to "Gaza Relief"

CLWR is a member of:





**Sing Your Heart Out! An evening of Songs and
Christmas Fellowship**

Carols & Choirs By Candlelight

Grace Lutheran Congregation – Christmas Carols
and Singalong Favourites

With songs by:

Pacific Spirit Voices Chorus
Autumn Song Quartet

Friday, Dec 15 at 7 pm

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – 7283 NELSON AVE, BURNABY

Admission \$10 at the door.

Proceeds to the
Greater Vancouver Food Bank

Refreshments to follow



Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

We welcome you to worship today. It is our prayer that you sense the joy that is present in Jesus Christ. God loves and values each of you without conditions attached. We bring our joys and needs before God, trusting in God's presence.

1504 Spruce Avenue, Coquitlam, BC, V3J 2P6

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Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube
@GSLCoquitlam

Pastor Eric Krushel

Cell: 604-220-5450

Office:

604-936-2939

General Office Hours				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00

We always recommend phoning before stopping by.



Good Shepherd
Website

