



WHY COMMUNION EVERY SUNDAY?



Recently, there have been a couple notes up on the Crazy Ideas board wondering about whether we need to be celebrating communion every Sunday. I'm happy that some folks have found a way to express a concern that may otherwise have gone unexpressed. Just remember that we also have a Mutual Ministry Team to receive questions and concerns exactly like that.

So why do we celebrate communion every Sunday? Of course, we didn't always. Although prior to pandemic it was a topic of conversation. The pandemic however gave us the opportunity to initiate the practice and we have just maintained it since returning to in-person.

There are at least four reasons I cherish this practice. For one, as Lutherans we believe that God's grace comes to us through means. The primary means of grace for us are God's word and the sacraments. We hear God's word every Sunday we gather. So why not make every other means for God's grace to flow available every Sunday too?

Second, we all know that words, as great a means as they are, have their limitations. Some Sundays the sermon is a dud. Or the hymns chosen make it hard for us to get much out of their lyrics. On those Sundays the bread and wine are tangible ways of connecting with God and God's promises. We want every service to give people some way of experiencing grace.

Third, communion is a wonderful way of helping to form faith in our children. While they may spend most of their time on Sunday in the nursery, when they come with their parents to the communion rail they are focused on a ritual act that can inculcate deep habits of faith. And that experience can also become a great opportunity for action-reflection learning afterwards.

But finally is a reason I've come to understand more recently. There are folks among us for whom English is not their first language and who struggle with all the talking in our service. For them, communion becomes a way of connecting more meaningfully to the experience of church. Receiving the bread and wine can be moments that communicate profound peace and acceptance in an alternative way. Communion every Sunday then becomes a very important act of hospitality and welcome. It becomes missional!

I understand that this practice is not a familiar one for all of us. Maybe there are adaptations we can make that can help us all appreciate it more. Let's talk! Or again, talk to Mutual Ministry.





Congregational News

Christmas Pageant Service at St. Laurence

We will gather again with our friends from St. Laurence Anglican Church on **Sunday, December 17th** at 10 am for a joint worship service, including a joint Sunday School Christmas Pageant. **Please note that there will be no worship service at Good Shepherd on this Sunday.** If you would like to attend but require a ride or wish to carpool, please contact the office. The Youth will be providing a breakfast prior to the service. So come and enjoy a day of fellowship, feasting and joyful worship.

Christmas Sing-Along

We will once again be inviting our neighbours to join us on **Sunday, December 10th from 6:30 to 8 pm** for a time of singing Christmas carols and enjoying fellowship with a potluck of Christmas treats. This event is in lieu of our traditional Advent Banquet, and we hope that many of you will provide the dessert potluck to share that evening (finger food only please). You can drop off your desserts early on December 3rd and 10th, or bring them with you when you come that evening. Invite your friends and family, and let us join together for a fun evening of singing and fellowship. See the poster on page 7 for all the details.

Christmas Tree Decorating

All are invited to gather on **Tuesday, December 5th at 10:30 am** to help decorate our Sanctuary Christmas Tree. This is a little earlier in the season than usual, but it will give us more time to enjoy this beautiful and meaningful decoration. Thanks to Bob Knudson for picking out and delivering the tree, and to David Stroud for setting it up in the Sanctuary, just in time for the rest of us to have the fun decorating it!

Gifts Under the Christmas Tree

In keeping up with our tradition, we are inviting you to bring non-perishable food items to collect under our Sanctuary Christmas Tree which we will donate to the food bank at the end of the Christmas Season. Our tree will be up by December 10th, and you can drop off items any time after that until Epiphany on January 6th.

Twelfth Night Celebration

On Friday, January 5 (the 12th day of Christmas), we will gather for an evening of Soup and Sing to celebrate the end of the Christmas Season, and the eve of the Day of Epiphany. A dinner of Soup and Buns will be served at 6 pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer. Contributions of your leftover Christmas Baking are welcome as well. A sign-up sheet for soup and buns will be put out soon.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Discussions are underway with Ecumenical Partners within our community for another celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which runs from January 18-January 25, 2024. Please stay posted for plans as they develop.

New Editor...New Look!

Thank you very much, Sammie Sun, for volunteering to use your talents and gifts to prepare our newsletters six times a year. Beginning with this edition, I'm sure you'll notice Sammie's creative efforts in wanting to bring you a first-class newsletter that is fun to read. Thank you, Sherry, who managed it temporarily upon Elaine's retirement a few years ago.



Here's Something
to

Celebrate!

Celebration of New Members

WELCOME



It is with joy that we welcomed two new families into membership on November 5th. The Eloranta family (from L to middle: Chris, Gwyneth, Katie and Natalie) and Kris Mathiesen and Anita McDonnell.

We are overjoyed to have these new Saints as part of our community here at Good Shepherd. Please introduce yourself when you have the chance.

December & January Birthday Greetings

We extend birthday greetings to members who are celebrating birthdays in December & January:

Milestone Celebration

We join in extending birthday
wishes to

Mae Cabott

who turns 93 on December 3rd!

Congratulations and



With Birthday Blessings to all

from your Good Shepherd Family!

Bev Anweiler

Brenda Chenosky

David Erickson

Donna Goudal

Mark Jiew

Sarah Karhukangas

Elizabeth Knudson

Noelle Marquess

Kris Mathiasen

Barb Neuls

Karen Neuls

Val Newton

Jannea Pregler

Sherry Russell

Tamara Russell

Solomon Samuel

Darya Savage

Irmhild Schadek

Abbey Seidel

Christine Stanley

Sean Stickler

Grayson Tarry



For Our Prayers

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

For the family and friends of Linda Walters, who passed into the arms of her Lord on Dec. 5 that they may find peace and comfort as they grieve her untimely death.

Liam Derkson, that he may heal up fully after his recent appendix surgery.

Terry Shular, that she may continue to recover and get back to her former state of good health.

Elmer Krushel, Pastor Eric's father, that his transition into assisted living in December may go well, and that he finds comfort and friendships in his new home.

Agnes Mattson, that the doctors may receive wisdom to determine the cause of her recent falls, and that Agnes is supported with love as she awaits a determination of next steps.

Debbie Chisholm, Rachel Genge's mother who is undergoing cancer treatment.

Karl and Lynn Fawthorpe, brother-in-law and sister to Les Wills, as they have been contending with major health issues over the last few months, that they may receive encouragement and patience, and their doctors receive wisdom to navigate successful treatments.

Elsie Johnson, as she continues to mourn the sudden and unexpected loss of her niece Alice.

For the family of Evy Birkland, as they grieve the loss of Evy, and give thanks for her life.

Thanksgiving! Please join us as we thank God for:

- ❖ all our volunteers who dedicate time and effort to keep our building safe and operational, those who keep our services filled with music and running smoothly, and our council members.



Rest in Peace, dear Sister

Linda Walters

We are deeply grieved at the passing of Linda Walters who died on Dec. 5 after a difficult period of hospitalization following a fall.

Linda was a life-long Lutheran who came to Good Shepherd several years ago when looking for a church. Immediately she became a constant and beloved member of our congregation and found a deep joy and renewed life in our church family. She was involved in many of our ministries where she was always a quiet but encouraging presence

She will be deeply missed until we meet again in Gods paradise. Details of a service will be announced in due course.



It is with sadness that we announce that

Evy Birkeland

passed away on October 22nd, and a memorial service was held for her at the church on Friday, November 17th, 2023.

We join Evy's children - Karen and Eric - and their families, as they continue to grieve the loss of their mother, grandma, a special friend to many ~ and our sister in Christ.





SPECIAL SERVICES TO NOTE

JOINT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 17TH

We will gather at St. Laurence Anglican Church at 10 am for a joint worship service including a combined Sunday School Christmas Pageant. The youth will be serving breakfast before. **There will be no service at Good Shepherd on this morning.**

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 24TH

We will gather on this morning of Christmas Eve day at 10:30 am with a service celebrating the 4th Sunday in Advent.

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24TH, 2023

We are offering 2 services on Christmas Eve:

- ❖ Family Candlelight Service at 4 pm
- ❖ Candlelight Service with Holy Communion at 10 pm

Both services will include the singing of Christmas carols, the reading of the Christmas gospel and candlelight.

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25TH, 2023

We will worship the birth of our Lord with Holy Communion at 11 am.

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

We worship at our usual time of 10:30 am and enjoy our traditional service of favorite Christmas Carols by request.

TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION

JANUARY 5TH, 2024

We will gather together at 6 pm for a dinner of soup and bread, and leftover Christmas baking, followed by Holden Evening Prayer service. You are welcome to contribute baking and a sign-up sheet for soup and bread will be placed out soon.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 7TH, 2024

We will celebrate this festival with a baptismal remembrance ritual, and an opportunity to affirm our baptisms. Individuals and families may wish to invite baptismal sponsors (God-Parents) to join them on this day.

Advent and Christmas Events and Resources

DECEMBER 3RD, 2023 – 2 PM
MAPLE RIDGE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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.

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.

DECEMBER 10TH, 2023 - 3 PM
MULTI-CHOIR MEMBER INVITATIONAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Langley Christmas Choir, hosted by Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, is performing their concert on December 10th at 3 pm at the church.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH, 2023 - 6:30 PM
CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG COMMUNITY EVENT

Good Shepherd is hosting another **Christmas Carol Sing Along Community Event** on December 10th at **6:30 pm**. We are hoping you can bring some finger-food desserts for our dessert potluck table, and we will also be serving refreshments. This event is in lieu of our former Advent Potluck dinner. This is being advertised in our community, so we are hoping you can all attend and help us be hospitable hosts for this intergeneration event. Come out for the fun – and bring your friends, too!



of carols and seasonal favorites
AND to enjoy some festive treats.

Bring your singing voices, and your sweet tooth to:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

(1504 Spruce Avenue, Coquitlam)

on **Sunday, December 10th**

from 6:30 to 8:00 pm



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2023 - 7 PM
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.



**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL
VIA FACEBOOK**

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.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL
FROM ON EAGLE'S WINGS**

"On Eagles Wings" is an organization that provides children's and family ministry to remote communities in Canada's North. We support them with our congregational benevolence and every year they provide us with devotions for the Advent season. You can pick up a copy on Sunday on the usher's table.

**2023 ADVENT CYCLE OF PRAYER:
For the Churches in The Holy Land and The Middle East
VIA FACEBOOK**

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](#).



**STUDY OPPORTUNITY AND GUIDE ON BONHOEFFER'S MEDITATIONS
Led by the Anglican Church
VIA ZOOM**

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 all the details please [click here](#).

Bring Smiles This Christmas with Gifts from the Heart

[Canadian Lutheran World Relief's](#) (CLWR) **Gifts from the Heart** catalogue is available now! Bring a smile to your loves one this Christmas season with a meaningful gift that shares hope with someone in need. New gifts in this year's catalogue include school meals in Nicaragua and clean water at women's centres. Watch your mailboxes and inboxes for your copy, or visit CLWR's website when you [click here!](#)



If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.
Romans 12:8





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.

December Christmas Luncheon Meeting Tuesday, December 12 – 12 noon

A potluck luncheon will be held followed by Bible Study where we will be discussing **Gomer**
Study Leader – Gail Tremain

January's Bible Study and meeting will be held on January 9th, 2024 at 1:00 pm where we will be discussing **Esther**

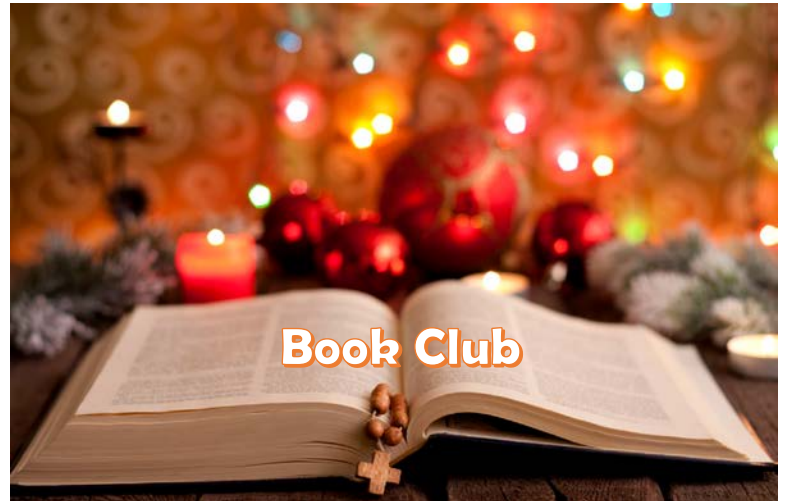
Study Leader – TBD

Refreshments – TBD

All are Welcome!

Calling all Ladies!

Once again, we are planning another ladies luncheon, for **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.



Book Club

During December the Book Club does something different. Instead of discussing a book we gather at the home of Peter Schuler to watch a movie.

This year all are invited to gather on Thursday, December 28 at 2 pm to watch two films:

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse
an animated short film based on the bestselling illustrated book and,
The Castle - an Australian comedy film

Looking forward to January, 2024 (date and time TBD) we will be reading and discussing:

Christian Nationalism

By Torba and Isker

A Biblical guide to Taking Dominion and Discipling Nations

All are Welcome!

Pray all the time. Ask God for anything in line with the Holy Spirit's wishes. Plead with him, reminding him of your needs, and keep praying earnestly for all Christians everywhere.

~ Ephesians 6:18



Crazy Ideas Board

Our *Crazy Ideas* board is on-going. We invite everyone to add your thoughts and ideas as they occur to you over the weeks and months ahead. Maybe your idea is something you wondered about for awhile. Maybe it's something you've seen another church do. Maybe it's something you've read about in the newspaper or magazine, or online. Maybe it's something that occurred to you while in conversation with a friend or a stranger. However, the inspiration hits you, everyone's ideas are welcome. And you never know how an idea might get put to use in the future.

So keep those ideas coming... keep them spontaneous and crazy... and keep your eyes open for future missional projects that just may have been inspired from your spark of an idea.



Katie, Gwyn, and Natalie Eloranta
Home: 604-484-7946
Katie cell: 604-365-8503
Katie email: ktchristensen@gmail.com

Kris Mathiasen
Kris' cell: 604-897-9765
Kris email: bracanusak@aim.com

Anita McDonnell
Anita's cell: 604-561-2815
Anita's email: anita.mcdonnell6@gmail.com

Please update your church directory accordingly!

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

John 8:12

Pictorial Directory Updates

Thank you to everyone who scheduled a Photo Session for our new pictorial directory. It will be published soon and available in the new year. If you missed the opportunity to have your photo taken, there may still be opportunity for you to submit a photo of your own. Please contact the office as soon as possible to discuss.



From Our Treasurer

The following is an update on our financial
YTD Status as of October 31, 2023:

YTD Total Income	\$ 190,206.24
YTD Total Expenses	<u>\$ 201,276.17</u>
Deficit	<u>\$ (11,069.93)</u>

Project Contingency Fund \$ 7,205.82

Thank you for your continued faithful generosity.

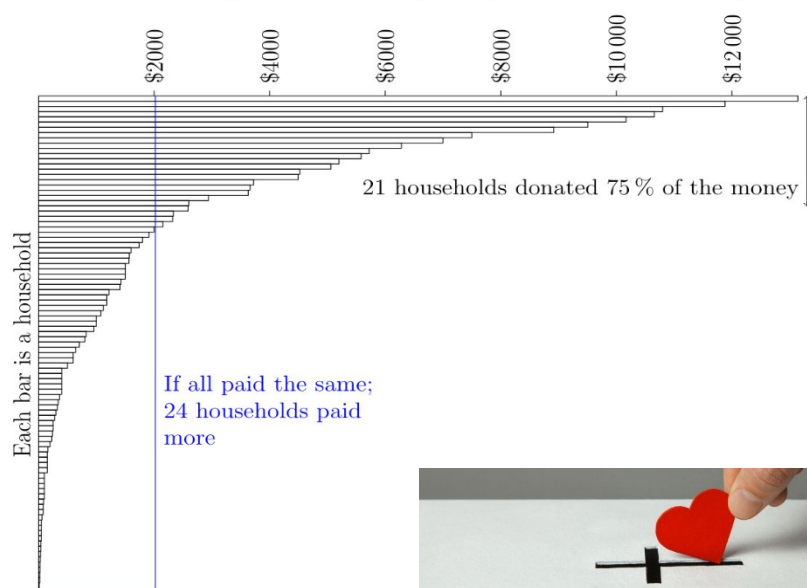
A Message for Our Stewardship Team

As we near the end of the year the Stewardship Team wished to update the congregation on our financial picture. At our last AGM we approved a deficit budget for the current year of \$15,000. Often in the past our givings have made up much of the deficits we have budgeted. However, this year it looks like our deficit will end up being close to the \$15,000 we approved.

No doubt the higher costs of running the church due to inflation is a factor. But it appears that our giving has not been keeping up with increased expenses. Furthermore, as we look ahead to next year's budget we are projecting a deficit in the range of \$23,000. That means in order to balance our budget for next year we need to increase our general offerings by 15%.

Its also become clear that our offerings are not equally distributed across our congregation. As the graph on this page shows, about 25% of our families are giving about 75% of our offerings. Each bar on the graph represents a giving family.

Your donations, December 1st, 2022, to November 30th, 2023



There are a couple ways of thinking about this situation. A simple way would be to challenge all of us to increase our giving to the general budget by 15%. Another way is to say that if everyone gave 3% of their taxable income we would meet our budget goals. Or it may be as simple as taking note of where we fall, approximately, on the graph and challenging ourselves to grow a step or two.

However, we look at it, it is our hope that we will all take some time to reflect on our stewardship commitment and discern how we might be able to increase our giving to help us meet our budget goals.



Our Father in Heaven
Haarsh Dumort

Thank You

To the
Good Shepherd congregation,

Thank you for making this church a safe and welcoming area. -Amy

Thank you for giving
ignite a home in your
church building. We're so
thankful for your support and
welcome as we grow in community
and faith. -Dawn

Thank you for helping us
create a space for worship
space for
-Dawn

Thank you
for the amazing
youth space,
we love it!
-Kathleen

Thank you so much
-Kaylee

Thank you so
much for
providing us
with this
space!
-Abbey

Thank You!

Enough cannot be said about the dedication of the **Property Team** to the well-being of our church properties. Following a huge windstorm overnight November 10/11, a week-long clean-up of fallen branches and debris yielded 800+ kg hauled to the dump. Tammy and Shawn M and David W were a great help to Jane W, David S and Jerry (who were both under the weather), albeit while maintaining a safe distance. In addition, a hole in the roof was repaired, where it had been punctured by a branch falling during the windstorm.



Jerry Neiman repairing the metal roof after a branch penetrated it in a windstorm, David's off-screen but definitely underfoot!



Thank you everyone for donating to the World Toilet Day Toiletry drive. Your contribution help provided 500+ pieces of toiletries to homeless people in Burnaby and New Westminster. The End Homelessness Burnaby Society and Holy Trinity Cathedral Breakfast Outreach Program thanks you for your support. World Toilet Day was

established by the United Nations in 2013 to address the global sanitation crisis and promote access to clean and safe toilets. It serves as a reminder of the fundamental human right to sanitation and safe drinking water for all. Let's continue to seek sanitation for all, as a basic human right! **Thank you to Michelle Chan for organizing this event, and for delivering the products to the charities we supported.**

The Tri-Cities Winter Shelter



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.

We are also collecting warm winter clothing, toiletries, and food that will go into the bagged lunches.

Attached is a list of items needed, and no amount that you have is too small. Collection bins are in the front entrance of the church and you are invited to drop off their donations of food, clothing & toiletries there.

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 Margarine

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,

*For all/anything you can
do to help out with this
worthwhile ministry!*





How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well. **Psalm 139:14**

God gave each of us gifts and abilities. When we use them, they give us joy and life. He wired each of us uniquely, providing each of us with individual skills & abilities. This is a forum in which we can showcase your God-given creative gifts. And not to critique them- but simply to recognize in others their God-given gifts, and then thank God for the gifts he has given to them! All are welcome to submit pictures of their uniquely created endeavours. Please include with it the inspiration that sparked your creativity - if you were even aware of it!

Morning Coffee

I drink my morning cup of coffee and set
one next to me for Christ
my guest.
Outside the birds unsilenced make their
morning commentary
loud, repetitive but sweet.
The passing cars hum on
swish to their daily task
uncaring.
He comes and sits so quietly
I almost miss His smile.
So deep with me grows
a silence
swallowing
my needless worries.
As I drink
The coffee shared becomes the wine
that joins us all in Him
Our coffee partner and our guide.

Kate Wright



Inspiration: I mentioned to Pastor Eric one time that I drink a lot of coffee, and he suggested that I set out a second cup for Jesus, so I'm not drinking my coffee alone.



Manger Talk

Deep in the stable the cow munched on
And tasted the hay so fresh and strong
But what was this? A babe lay there
In swaddling cloths so bright and fair.
The brown-eyed cow licked His face
A tender kiss of welcome to this place
The baby, already alert, then laughed
But could not raise His arms aloft
Protected, but prevented too, by
Swaddling. These arms would rise high.
Too soon He would cite paradoxes
Feeling the need to be cleverer than foxes.
So in a manger He began His journey
That showed to all His grace and mercy.

Kate Wright

Inspiration: I was thinking about Jesus in a stone manger – I think it would have been – and the cow looking on with their soft eyes, and how the cow likely would have licked the baby.

REFUGEE UPDATE

We are so happy to be asked to share an update with you!

The GSLC Refugee Team intends to meet with Rozina and her husband Johannes, and their friend Ruta early in December to complete a form required by Immigration Canada that simply outlines support responsibilities for the first year of Tumi's arrival. This is a necessary, but preliminary, form that precedes the signing of the actual application for Tuemzgi. We have learned that when it comes to married families, Immigration Canada has recently changed their policies and will bring the entire family over to Canada within a year of Tuemzgi's arrival. Tuemzgi has a wife and two children.

We have received an inquiry to assist with bringing two young women over to Canada, but this inquiry seems not to fall under the Family-Link program. This inquiry is on hold for the moment as further information is gathered.

Service Opportunities

As we move into the fall and a new year of programs and activities, we are looking to expand our roster of helpers and assistants. If you can help with any of the following, please sign up on the volunteer sign up sheet. Even if you have no experience, training for all positions will be provided.

- ❖ Ushers
- ❖ Readers
- ❖ Communion Set up
- ❖ Communion Assistants
- ❖ Communion Clean up
- ❖ Fellowship Coffee Set-Up


*Thank You
Volunteers*

As well, if you are someone who likes to care for our indoor plants, we're looking for someone to drop by the church once a week to keep our plants watered and healthy.

Finally, if you have time on your hands and gifts, skills, experience, or talents to share in any way, please see Pastor Eric. We'd love to help you find a way to help you make use of what you have to offer, in service to others.

Attention All Kitchen Cleaners!

The dishwasher has now been retrofitted to automatically dispense soap with each cycle, so adding soap is no longer required. Please help spread the word, and that is why there is no longer dishwashing soap in the kitchen. Thank you, Property Team, for bringing this automatic soap dispensing option for our use.

Picture: Greg S & David S getting the dishwasher in tip top shape. Thanks guys!



December-January Youth Update

October was a full month, as we worshipped with other youth around the Tri-Cities, visited the pumpkin patch, and shared about our experiences with CLAY at the joint Reformation Sunday service. Since then, we've been continuing to decorate our new Good Shepherd youth room, joined in a Diocesan Youth Movement event called "Light the Night", preparing for Advent... and we had an incredible night at our progressive dinner in early November. 12 of us, youth and leaders, experienced generous hospitality from three different households, each quite unique. It felt like a great community-building event, and I want to give huge thanks to Abbey Macey, the Karhukangas', and the Friesen's for opening their homes to us and helping it happen. We were really blessed by you!

Looking forward, we have a couple more Wednesday nights planned before Christmas break. On Dec. 6 we'll help decorate bags for the Wednesday Lunch Club, a ministry providing supportive community and a tasty meal to people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. And on Dec. 16, we'll throw our year-end Christmas party and sleepover, then host breakfast and join in for our joint-church Christmas Pageant the next morning! We're hoping to plan a social event during Christmas break too, so stay tuned...



Coming Up...

Nov. 24 604 Tri-Cities Youth Worship Night

Nov. 29 ignYte @ St. Laurence

Dec. 6 ignYte @ GSL

Dec. 16-17 ignYte Christmas Party + Sleepover @ St Laurence



News from the greater church body...

ELCIC News

Redevelopment Partnership Brings About New Opportunities Within Eastern Synod

The [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's](#) (ELCIC) [Eastern Synod](#) is embarking on a new journey of redevelopment through various agencies throughout the province of Ontario. This past week the Eastern Synod, signed its official memorandum of agreement with the United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC) which will allow the possibility of moving towards the redevelopment of church properties into new, affordable housing. To read the full news article, please [click here](#).



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Editor, Canada Lutheran Magazine

[Canada Lutheran](#) magazine, the award-winning national publication of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada](#) is seeking an energetic and creative communications professional with a commitment to excellence for the position of **Editor**. Further information about this position is [available here](#).

Accountant, ELCIC National Office

The ELCIC is seeking for an accountant to join the National Office team in a part-time capacity. This is an excellent opportunity for a self-motivated and proactive individual. [View the job description here](#). To apply, please email panthony-idoko@elcic.ca with your resume. Applications will be accepted **until November 30, 2023**.

Statement on the War in the Holy Land

"Our hearts grieve at the resurgence of violence that bereaves both Palestinian and Israeli families," said ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson and Anglican Church of Canada Archbishop Linda Nicholls in a [joint statement issued on October 8](#).

"We stand with Archbishop Hosam Naoum (Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem) and Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land) and their people, praying for safety for all who are caught in the middle of this conflict—including visitors and pilgrims. We pray for the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza and the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem seeking to provide medical care to any and all in need amidst the chaos," continued the leaders who called on Prime Minister Trudeau and all international leaders to offer whatever they can toward a cessation of hostilities and a lasting, just peace for Israel and Palestine.

Bishop Dr. Sani-Ibrahim Azar from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) shared the following [Statement on the Escalating Situation in the Holy Land](#) on October 7. "The [ELCJHL] is shocked and distressed by the escalating violence in the Gaza Strip and its surrounding areas; we are particularly concerned by the potential for today's events to trigger even greater violence throughout all of Palestine and Israel," he said. "We lift in prayer the families of innocent civilians whose lives were lost today... We also pray for healing for all the injured and traumatized."



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](#).

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](#). We invite you to continue to pray for all those suffering.

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](#).

BC Synod...

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

Podcast Episode with Bishop Susan Johnson

Bishop Susan Johnson was recently a guest on the “Let’s Talk Faith & Justice” podcast hosted by Multifaith UVic. She was speaking about her recent visit to Camp Morgan and the issue of searching the Brady Landfill for missing and murdered Indigenous women. You can listen to the podcast [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.

Other Items of Interest

Parents and Grandparents of Trans/Nonbinary Kids

find faith-based support in your journey
meet others like you
get resources

4th Monday of every month, 7-8pm Mountain Time

Zoom meeting ID: 374 313 0071

Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein

Sponsored by the Synod of Alberta and the Territories and the Affirming Diversity
Ministry Team

Sound of Dragon Society presents

Vancouver Erhu Quartet

溫哥華二胡四重奏 4pm Sunday Dec 10, 2023

The Annex (823 Seymour St. Vancouver)



Sound of
Dragon
新 吟 滄 海

Lan Tung 董籃 & Jun Rong 戎峻 - erhu 二胡,
Parmela Attariwala - viola, Sungyong Lim - cello



CITY OF
VANCOUVER

world premiere of new works by Moshe Denburg,
Elizabeth Knudson, Amir Eslami, Yawen Wang



The Canada Council
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soundofdragon.com

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An agency of the Province of British Columbia

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.

Not All That Glitters Is Gold

On October 17th, 2023, the EU passed a ban on loose plastic glitter. This ban is for glitter used for arts and crafts, Christmas decorations, party hats, cards and any other items from which glitter easily detaches. Although there is no ban on glitter in the UK at this time, six major greeting card companies have decided to eliminate glitter from their products.

Glitter is usually made from very thin sheets of aluminum which is then bonded with a very thin coating of polymer film plastic and then cut into very tiny pieces.

The problems with glitter are:

- After a single use, thousands of pieces of glitter may pass into soil and water and may accumulate in the environment.
- These tiny pieces easily pass through water filtration systems, ending up in oceans, lakes, and rivers. Fish that eat these tiny morsels are harmed by the chemicals that are released by the plastic. These chemicals disrupt hormones plus immunity and reproductive systems. Birds and larger animals, including humans, who eat these fish will also be ingesting these chemicals.
- Glitter can remain intact for centuries.

As we head into the Christmas season, please note that the following items cannot be recycled and must go into the garbage:

- Cards with glitter, foil, or anything else that is not paper.
- Gift bags and boxes with glitter or anything else.
- Foil wrapping paper.
- Ribbons and bows.

The best glitter is the sparkle in your eyes.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Claire Thompson





Jesus is the reason for the season!

At Christmastime we celebrate the birth of Jesus, and, we do that because He is our Saviour and our King! Even as a little baby, Jesus's mom knew he was a special baby because the angels told her so! When she heard of God's plan for her, she gave thanks to God, that he would bless her with such a special baby - for her, and for all people! We give gifts at Christmas, just as the Magi first did when they followed the star so they could worship the Messiah.

KIDS CORNER



Answer Key

angel • baby • Bethlehem •
child • donkey • God • Jesus •
king • manger • Mary •
Saviour • shining • stable •
straw • wisemen •
worshipped •

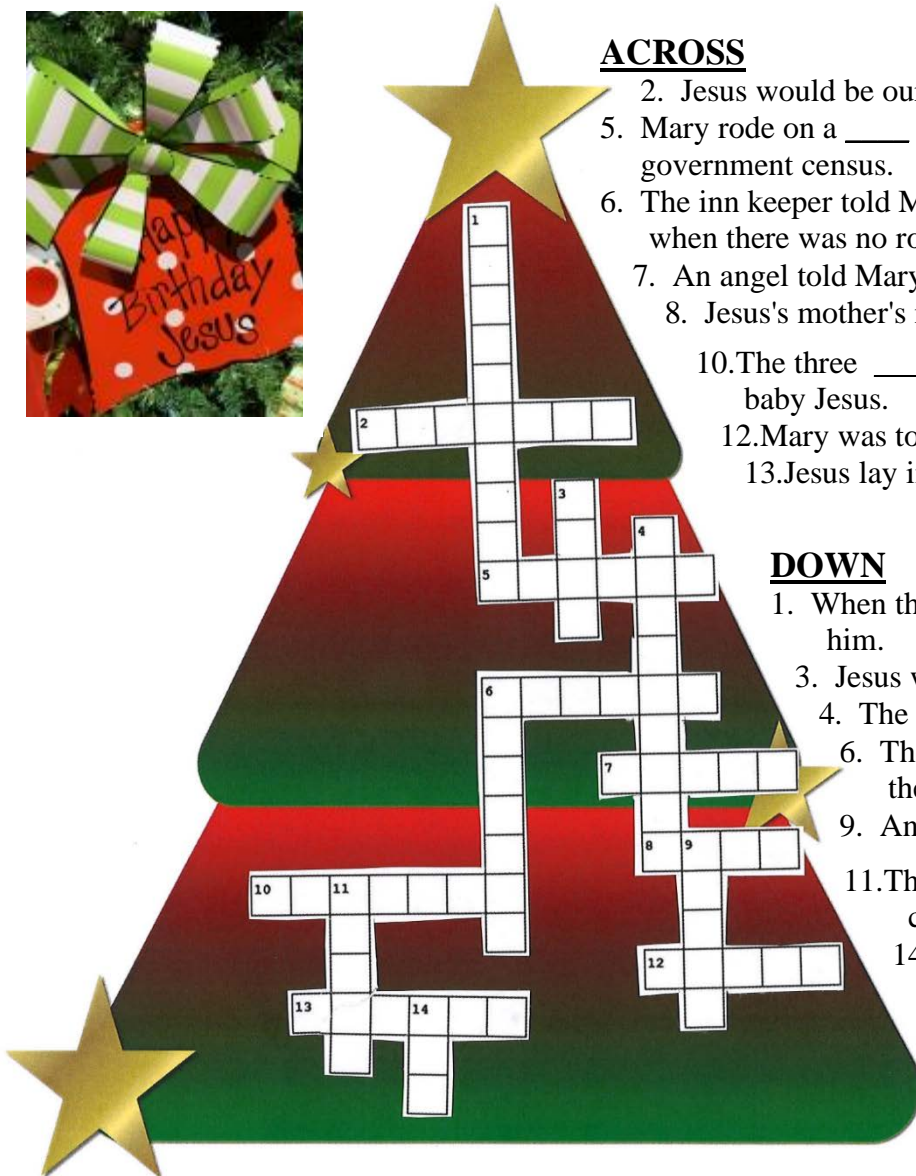


ACROSS

2. Jesus would be our ____.
5. Mary rode on a ____ as she came with Joseph to take part in the government census.
6. The inn keeper told Mary and Joseph that they could stay in the ____ when there was no room in the inn.
7. An angel told Mary that she would have a very special ____.
8. Jesus's mother's name.
10. The three ____ travelled from afar, and brought gifts to baby Jesus.
12. Mary was told by the angel to call her baby ____.
13. Jesus lay in a _____. (food trough for animals)

DOWN

1. When the magi saw Jesus, they knelt down and ____ him.
3. Jesus was also known as our newborn ____.
4. The town where Jesus was born.
6. There was a ____ star that led the three magi as they searched for the Messiah.
9. An ____ told the shepherds about Jesus's birth.
11. The manger was filled with _____ to make it comfortable for baby Jesus
14. Baby Jesus is the son of ____.





Weekly Church Events

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

Sunday morning Bible Study

We gather every Sunday morning at 9:30 am for a 45-minute Bible study and conversation on the gospel text for the day. For the time being we are offering this in a hybrid format, so you can join by Zoom with the link available on our website.

Sunday Morning Worship

We gather every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. 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.

Midweek Bible Study

Our bi-weekly midweek bible study continues on the 1st and the 3rd Wednesdays of every month in the Fireside Room at 10:30 am. All are welcome. Bring a bagged lunch, and join us after for conversation as we eat lunch together.

Wednesday afternoon Prayer Gathering at 1:30 pm over Zoom

Our prayer gatherings continue on Wednesday afternoons, beginning now at 1:30 pm. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of every month, we practice free-style 'Prayers of the People', where we offer up our thanks, praise and the concerns of our hearts with those present. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month we practice in the style of *Lectio Divina*, where we delve into the word of God, followed by communal prayer. In months where a 5th Wednesday occurs, we will have a special prayer gathering. It will be the choice of the leader, and will somehow involve our other senses or other media. For example, we may listen to music or delve only into their lyrics, or view art or poetry and their text inspirations, all to inspire a meaningful prayer response. With any prayer gathering, praying aloud is not mandatory nor required. All are welcome. Access is by Zoom, and the link is 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.

Zoom Happy Hour

All are welcome to join in for an hour of fellowship on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays 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.