## Third Sunday in the Season of Creation

September 21, 2025

Liturgy: Matins

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 STOL:LO 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

## Welcome, Announcements and Land Acknowledgement

## **Call to Worship**

- P: Praise the Lord!
  Praise the Lord from the heavens;
  praise him in the heights!
- C: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
- P: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
- C: Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!
- P: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.
- C: He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
- P: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
- C: fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!
- P: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
- C: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
- P: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
- C: Young men and women alike, old and young together!
- P: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
- C: his glory is above earth and heaven. Praise the Lord!

## Gathering Song ELW # 733 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

## Greeting

- P: God, maker of the day, be with us; God, raiser of Jesus, raise a new day among us. God, giver of the Spirit, light our lives!
- C: Amen

## **Rise Up and Sing**



Rise up good friends now is the hour Sunlight will shower hope for the day Rise from your sleep and keep your dreams with you Let the light kiss you soft' on your way.

Rise with the world curled up awaiting End to the hating, day full of grace Rise up in song, the long night is ending Now God is sending peace to this place.



- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.

## **Prayer of the Day**

## Word

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

## Children's Time

## First Reading Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, 'When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practise deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.' The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

- L: The word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 113



L: Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants of the LORD;

praise the name of the LORD.

## C: Refrain

L: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and for evermore. From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised. The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

## C: Refrain

L: Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?
He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.
He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.
Praise the LORD!

#### C: Refrain

## Second Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

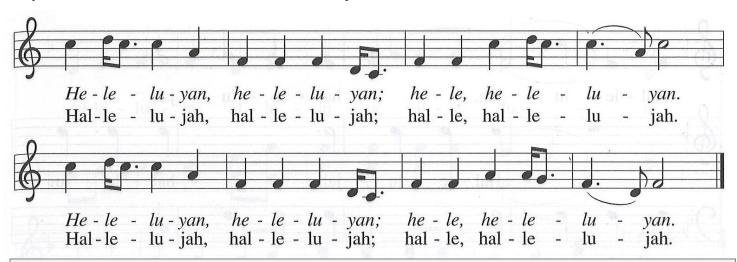
who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation ELW # 171 - Hallelujah



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P: The holy Gospel according to Luke the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

## Gospel Reading Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer." Then the manager said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty." Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty." And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

'Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.'

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### Sermon

## Hymn of the Day A Dishonest Steward (Tune #881 – Let All Things Now Living)

A dishonest steward found out he'd been fired; he thought, "I'm in trouble! Now what will I do? It's not very likely that I'll soon be hired, so I'll make a plan to get out of this stew." He called up the people who owed his boss money; he settled their debts at deep discount that day. Those debtors were thrilled that their day had turned sunny; now they were indebted to him, in a way.

His boss heard what happened but did not reverse it; His debtors were praising him; what could he do? That boss seemed the hero; he'd make matters worse if he tried to collect from those debtors anew. He praised the shrewd worker — but not for deception; he praised him for wisdom — for knowing the score. He praised him for knowing that people could help him; when money was gone, he'd have what mattered more.

O Lord, we remember the things that you taught us: Though he was dishonest, that worker was shrewd. He looked to the future and he was relentless. He saw the big picture; he knew what was true. For money won't matter; it never can save us. Relationships matter when push comes to shove. May we as a church face the changes around us —

Not trusting in money, but seeking to love.

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#### **Creation Care Creed**

We believe in a bold God, Creator of splendour, spinning stars into night skies, warming the planet with life-giving sunshine, filling the earth with all creatures great and small.

We believe in a big God, Creator of 150 billion galaxies, who is big enough to receive our praise and loving enough to answer our prayers.

We believe in the risen Christ,
who meets us in the brokenness of life,
accompanies us on all our wanderings
and forever seeks to welcome us home with open arms.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, guide and companion, who fills the church with windy hope and fiery compassion.

We believe in the church, where we can taste some of the heavenly banquet and live as a renewed people for the world. Amen.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

After each petition the pastor will say "God of all goodness" and the congregation is invited to respond "hear our prayer."

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbours, and all creation.

Silence may be kept

P: Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth, we have forgotten who we are.

C: We have fooled ourselves into believing that we are separate from all other living things.

We have satisfied our hungers with consumption and exploited the gifts of the earth.

We have filled our days with busyness instead of attunement to the rhythms of creation.

- P: We have forgotten who we are.
- C: We have sought only our own security.

We have spurned the wisdom of Indigenous earth-keepers.

We have ignored the environmental damage

to communities across the world from our wasteful lifestyles.

- P: We have forgotten who we are.
- C: Now the air is filled with too much carbon.

And the waters are clogged with plastic.

#### And the soil is depleted from overuse.

- P: We have forgotten who we are.
- C: Now the forests are burning.

And the creatures are disappearing.

And humans are despairing.

Silence may be kept

- P: Holy God, Creator of heaven and earth,
- C: Have mercy on us.

Forgive us.

Put a new and right spirit within us.

Give us the strength to change.

Help us to remember that we are stewards, called to care for all you have made.

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit help you to live in peace with creation.

C: Amen

## **Sharing of the Peace**

- P: The peace of Christ that encompasses the whole creation 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 God in each other.

Special Music - Choir- Before the World Began by John L. Bell

#### 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 right in all times and in all places...we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honour song:





## Thanksgiving at the Table

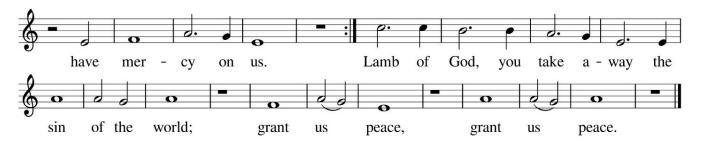
## **Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

## **Lamb of God**





#### Communion is distributed

<u>Directions for Communion</u>: All are invited to this meal of grace, including children. At the Usher's direction, you are invited up to the communion rail through the centre aisle, and to exit back to your pews through the window aisles, depositing your used cups in the tray at the head of each window aisle. Wine & grape juice is available in individual cups, with wine in the two outer rings of the tray and the grape juice in the centre. Note that wine is also available in a common chalice and a gluten-free option is available for bread. Please indicate your preference when being served. If you would prefer to receive communion in your pew once all have come forward, please raise your hand and the servers will come to you.

## **Hymns Sung during Communion**

#### ELW # 591 - That Priceless Grace

## The Earth is the Lord's (Tune #834 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise)

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

Creation reminds us, O God, of your love.

By grace we are learning, as year leads to year,

We're called to be stewards, your caretakers here.

Your rainforests nurture the world that we share.

Your wetlands give animals shelter and care.

Your coral reefs cradle the life of the sea.

You've shown us, in love, what your good world can be.

Too often, O God, we abuse your good earth.

We fail to remember its beauty and worth.

We take from creation much more than we need,

We threaten your world through indifference and greed.

May we be good stewards of all that you give,

Protecting creation wherever we live.

May we be a church that renews and restores

And lovingly cares for this earth that is yours.

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#### ELW #832 - My Lord of Light



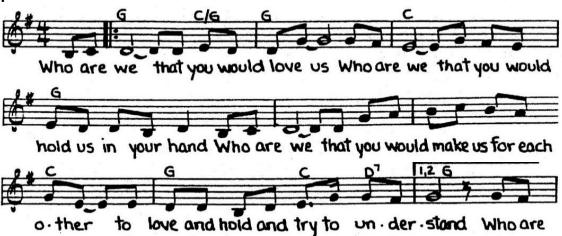
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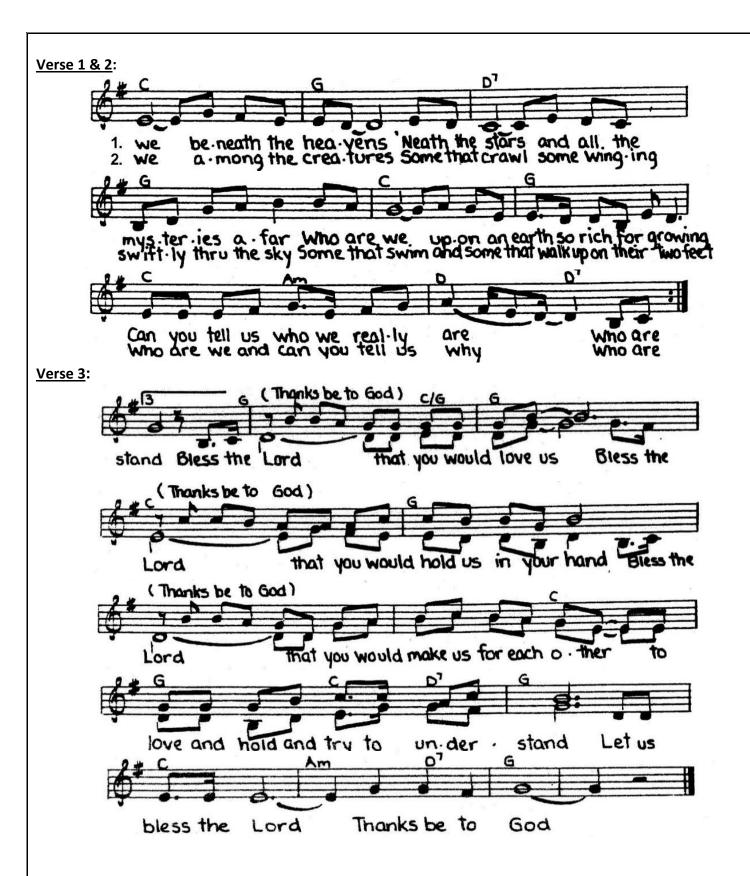
## **Communion Blessing**

## **Prayer after Communion**

## Who Are We

## Refrain:





## Sending

## God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

## **Words of Intention and Blessing**

P: We join with the earth and with each other,

C: to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters, to refresh the air.

P: We join with the earth and with each other,

C: to renew the forests, to care for the plants, to protect the creatures.

P: We join with the earth and with each other,

C: to celebrate the seas, to rejoice in the sunlight, to sing the song of the stars.

P: We join with the earth and with each other,

C: to recreate the human community, to promote justice and peace, to remember our children.

P: We join with the earth and with each other,

C: for the healing of the Earth, and the renewal of all life. Amen.

P: And as we do,
may God all mighty,
God most merciful
中 bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Sending Song ELW # 876 Let the Whole Creation Cry

## **Dismissal**

P: Go in the love of God to live in peace with creation.

C: Thanks be to God.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS September 21, 2025

## (To open hyperlinks, try right-clicking your mouse while on the link and select *Open Hyperlink or Control-Click*)

<u>Flowers</u> are placed on the altar in praise to Jesus, recognizing we were bought with a price ('Christ Jesus...gave himself a ransom for all.') and that we are not owners of all that have, rather, we are managers - as all is a gift of His love given for us, so we in turn might pour out our love upon all He loves in need – including creation.

<u>Welcome New Council Member</u>: It is with joy that we welcome Michelle Chan onto our 2025 Council. May God bless her with eyes to see, ears to hear, and a voice to use in service to our church – all to the glory of God. We appreciate your volunteer spirit, Michelle, and your willingness to help and serve our congregation in this way.

<u>Thank you!</u> Thank you to everyone who showed up yesterday to help us celebrate our **65**<sup>th</sup> **Anniversary Block Party**, and especially those who volunteered your time at a station or two, or who helped with the set-up and clean-up before and after the event. What a blessed day it was and *your* time and service helped make it so.

Memorial Service for Vivian Kroeker tomorrow at 1 pm.

## **Season of Creation Events and Activities**

September 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of the Season of Creation. This year's theme "Peace with Creation" calls us to protect and nurture Creation in peace, working in partnership with others and passing this responsibility on to future generations. We are once again celebrating the Season of Creation. Take note of the following activities and opportunities to be involved.



Garden of Peace

- We will mark the Sundays from September 7 to October 5 with a focus on the season's theme.
- > We are inviting you to submit photos of what "Peace with Creation" means to you. You can submit your photos in the largest file size possible to pastor Eric at erickrushel@gmail.com.
- > You are also invited to write your prayer for creation on paper doves, which will be used to create a Peace with Creation mobile.
- > We are challenging you to find a different way to travel to church on Sunday, that reduces your use of fossil fuels (e.g. public transit, walking, carpooling, etc.)
- > We will be showing the Movie "The Letter" on the evening of **September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** at the church. This movie documents Pope Francis's passion for creation care as expressed in his encyclical Laudato Si'. Discussion to follow. All are welcome.
- > We're encouraging you to sign a petition calling for a Global Plastics Treaty. See the article in the September newsletter and sign the petition here: <a href="https://action.earthday.org/global-plastics-treaty">https://action.earthday.org/global-plastics-treaty</a>
- > On **October 5**<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating with a virtual blessing of pets. Instructions on submitting pictures to follow.

In addition, note the following opportunities offered through the wider church:

- A video of the recent webinar, "Practicing Peace with Creation" which helped participants reflect on and explore practices that are sustaining and life-giving for the work and ministry of creation care is now available. Please click here.
- Lutherans Connect is currently offering a special ten-day daily devotional featuring Hildegard of Bingen. For more information, please click here.

<u>Sip with the Spirit</u>: Our next *Sip with the Spirit* is scheduled for this coming **Wednesday at 7 pm.** A location will be announced by email. All are welcome to bring a beverage of their choice (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) and join in on the spirit-led conversation that ensues.

<u>Installation Service for Bishop-Elect Larry Kochendorfer</u>: A service of installation for our new National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, will be held on **Saturday September 27**<sup>th</sup> at Faith Lutheran Church in Winnipeg at 4 pm. You can also view a livestream of the service <u>here</u>. If you wish to send greetings directly to Bishop-elect Larry you can do so at <u>lkochendorfer@elcic.ca</u>. See poster on page 18 for all the information.

<u>In Memoriam</u>: We received the news this week that Bishop Lee Luetkehoelter passed away on September 7, 2025. Some of us will remember Bishop Lee from various relationships. <u>Click here</u> for a letter from MNO Synod Bishop Jason Zinko sharing more about Bishop Lee's life and legacy.

**ELCJHL Appeal**: The ELCIC is launching an appeal to support the ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). Our goal is to raise \$50,000. To read a letter about the appeal from National Bishop Susan Johnson, National Bishop-elect Larry Kochendorfer and Eastern Synod Bishop Carla Blakley, please click <u>here</u>.

**ignYte Return it Express Account**: You're invited to support our ignYte Youth Ministry with your recyclables. See the instructions on the bulletin board.



## **ELCIC NEWS:**

- <u>Prayer Walk for Peace Today!</u>: September 21st is the International Day of Prayer for Peace, which people of faith around the world will be observing. In a world longing for healing, justice, and reconciliation, the Canadian Council of Churches invites you this day to "pray with your feet." For more info, please <u>click here.</u>
- <u>New Issue of Consensus:</u> The most recent issue of *Consensus: A Canadian Journal of Public Theology*, jointly produced by Martin Luther University College and Lutheran Theological Seminary, was published last week online: <a href="https://scholars.wlu.ca/consensus/">https://scholars.wlu.ca/consensus/</a>. The issue commemorates the 1700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and offers Lutheran reflections on the Nicene Creed.
- <u>Luther Lecture</u>: The annual Luther Lecture sponsored by Luther College, Regina will be on **September 29** at 7:30 pm SASK Time. Click <u>here</u> for more details.

## **COMPASSIONATE JUSTICE & CREATION CARE:**

- World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel: September 20-26 is observed by the World Council of Churches as the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. For resources click <a href="here">here</a>.
- Report on Climate-Induced Migration: Canada's Obligations & Opportunities: The Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) has released a new report that explores how climate-induced migration when people are forced to leave their homes due to extreme weather events or slow-onset environmental changes is already a pressing reality in Canada. In 2023 alone, 200,000 Canadians were displaced by unprecedented wildfires. To view the report, please click here.
- LWF Statement Calls for End to War in Ukraine: For the full statement, please click here.
- <u>LTS Course A Theology and Ethic of Healthcare</u>: LTS is offering a course on the theology and ethic of healthcare, exploring themes such as: o Spiritual care in modern healthcare
  - Aging, disability, and dignity
  - Theologies of suffering and hope
  - Ethical questions around end-of-life planning, including MAiD

The course starts **September 27**. More information can be found here.

## This Week At Church (Note 1)

This Sunday ....... Bible Study at 9:30 am (Zoom or in-person)

Third Sunday in Season of Creation worship service with Holy Communion

at 10:30 am (view it <u>here</u>)

ignYte BBQ & hang at St. Laurence at 5 pm

Monday ...... Memorial Service for Vivian Kroeker at 1 pm.

Tuesday ...... Woodworking & Crafters Group at 10 am

Wednesday ....... Lectio Divina Prayer Group at 1:30 pm

Sip with the Spirit at 7 pm. Location TBA.

ignYte at GSLC at 7 pm

Thursday ...... Happy Hour at 4 pm

Next Sunday ....... Bible Study at 9:30 am (Zoom or in-person)

Fourth Sunday in Season of Creation worship service with Holy Communion and Sunday School at 10:30 am (view it here).

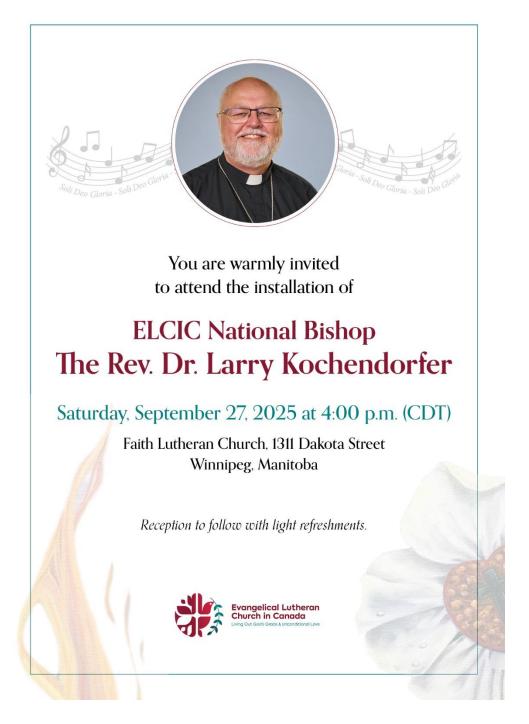
<u>Note</u>: Most events are in-person events except those noted "on Zoom" or "Online". The links to these online events are accessible through our website. Our Sunday morning worship service is offered in-person, live-streamed and via on-line recording posted to our website shortly after the service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

## Last Week at Church

September 14th		

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

## Installation Service for Bishop-Elect Larry Kochendorfer, September 27



You are invited to the **Service of Installation for Bishop-elect Larry Kochendorfer** on **Saturday, September 27** either in-person at Faith Lutheran Church in Winnipeg or via livestream at <u>elcic.ca</u> commencing at 2 pm.

Written greetings to our national bishop are welcome and may be sent directly to Bishop-elect Larry at lkochendorfer@elcic.ca.

We hope you will be able to join us - in person or online - for this important moment in the life of our church.

# 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.

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goodshepherd@telus.net www.gslcc.ca
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

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 as times subject to change.



Good Shepherd Website

