Fourth Sunday in the Season of Creation

September 28, 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 # 739 Touch the Earth Lightly

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 6:1a, 4-7

The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria, Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

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

Psalm 146



L: Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

C: Refrain

L: Do not put your trust in princes,

in mortals, in whom there is no help.

When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

C: Refrain

L: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God,

who made heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith for ever;

who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry!

C: Refrain

L: The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

C: Refrain

Second Reading 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation ELW # 171 - Hallelujah





- P: The holy Gospel according to Luke the 16th chapter.
- C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading Luke 16:19-31

Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is "lifted up" and the rich one is "sent away empty." Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.

'There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house— for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.""

- P: The gospel of the Lord.
- C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Outside My Gate, Outside My Door (Tune 644 – Although I Speak With Angel's Tongue)

Outside my gate, outside my door, is someone there who's lost or poor? Is someone there I do not see — that I walk by — who has a need?

Is there a child who longs for care? An older friend who needs a prayer? Someone who seeks a helping hand? A refugee new to this land?

Outside our church, is someone near who cries in pain, who lives in fear? Is someone close who has no way to buy the food she needs this day?

Some gates are made of wood or stone, And some are made of sin alone. Some doors are made of greed and pride; they also keep the poor outside.

As we look out, Christ, may we see our common, shared humanity.

May we kneel down and serve you more outside our gate, outside our door.

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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."

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.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering Prayer

Lament

P: The sin of racism hurts communities of colour, fractures human relationships, and denies God's good creation. Lament is a way for us to recognize the harm caused by racism.

As members of one body in Christ we are called to act with equity, fairness, and justice. But within the whole human family, Indigenous people have experienced both interpersonal aggression

and structural oppression instead of abundant life.

We recognize and lament the harm racism has caused to the First Nations people of Canada.

We cry out to you,

C: hear our lament, O God.

P: We have assigned the notion of race to human beings created in God's own divine image. We have judged the ways of Indigenous people by our flawed and artificial standards.

We cry out to you,

C: hear our lament, O God.

P: We have accepted practices in our churches and in our society that privilege whiteness over diversity and equity. We have been complicit in how racism continues to exclude and harm First Nations people.

We cry out to you,

C: hear our lament, O God.

P: As we bring to mind people who were harmed by residential schools,

(pause for reflection)

we call to you,

C: open our hearts, O God.

P: As we reflect on our daily interactions with First Nations people and communities,

(pause for reflection)

we call to you,

C: open our hearts, O God.

P: As we reconsider what we have been taught about Indigenous people and culture,

(pause for reflection)

we call to you,

C: open our hearts, O God.

P: As we contemplate what we have done and what we have left undone,

(pause for reflection)

we call to you,

C: open our hearts, O God.

P: As we think about what it means to create a loving and safe community for all who call this land home,

(pause for reflection)

we call to you,

C: open our hearts, O God.

P: God's saving love calls and leads us toward rooting out the racism that continues to infect the body. God's grace in Christ frees us for the difficult work of acknowledging truth and embracing reconciliation.

Let us pray,

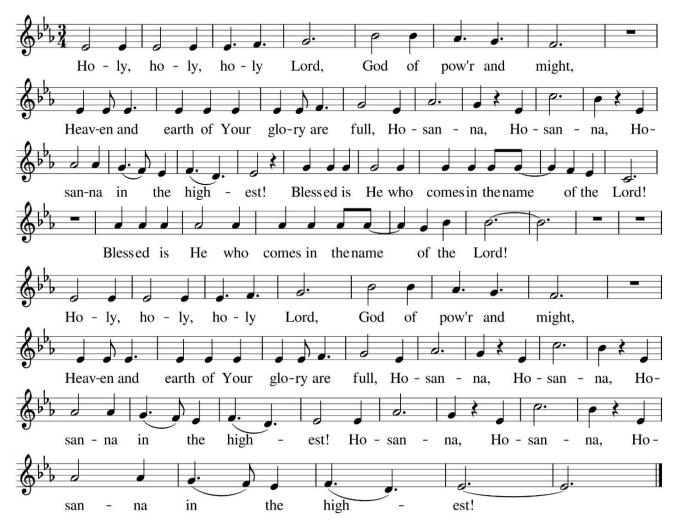
Gracious God, keep us working and praying for the day when your justice will roll down like waters, and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Replenish

our strength and bolster our resolve to seek a new relationship with all First Nations people. And come to us now in this holy sacrament. Feed us that we might walk in ways of justice and righteousness.

C: Amen.

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:



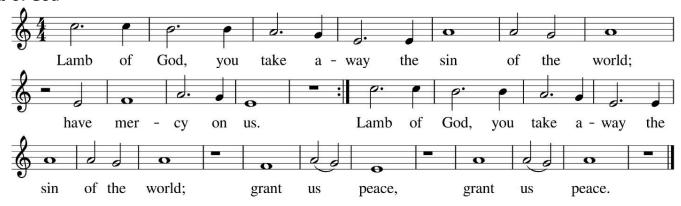
Thanksgiving at the Table

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

We Gather At Your Table, Lord (Tune # 565 – All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night)

We gather at your table, Lord: We humbly lift our hearts to you! Here all are welcomed, all restored, And all are given work to do.

We share this meal and we are fed.
Such basic gifts become your sign:
We see you broken in the bread;
We know your love in common wine.

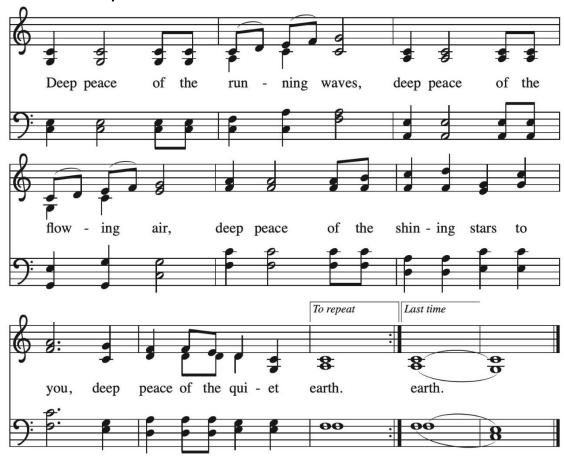
God, pour your Spirit on us all, And on these gifts that we receive; For in Christ's presence we recall His life and death, and so believe. From North and South, from West and East, Now reconciled, we gather near; We taste your Kingdom's banquet feast, So finding strength to serve you here.

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ELW # 468 - Around You, O Lord Jesus

ELW # 479 – We Come To The Hungry Feast

ACS # 1018 – Deep Peace



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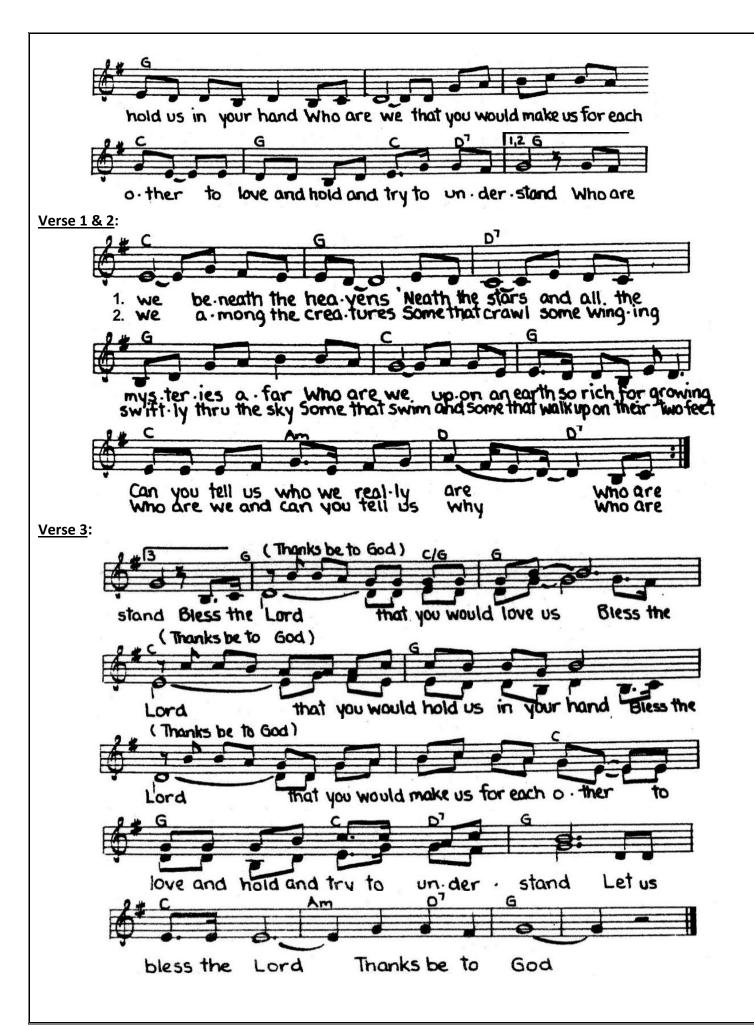
Communion Blessing

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
 士 bless you, keep you,
 and give you peace.
- C: Amen.

Sending Song ELW # 824 This Is My Father's World

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 28, 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, whom death could not hold – who comes to us risen from the dead – who can free us from the death-grip of greed.

<u>September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</u>: The ELCIC invites you to observe **Tuesday**,



September 30 as a day to honour survivors, their families and the children who never returned home from Residential Schools. To learn more, you are invited to watch the movie <u>DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY</u> <u>Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts</u>. This coming Tuesday, you may wish to consider joining all those others by wearing an orange-coloured shirt to show your support.

Worship with Carolyn Klaassen:

Spirit of Life Lutheran Church (375 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver) will be having a **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Worship Service** at 10 am today, Sunday, September 28th. You may choose to watch the service on live-stream or to watch the recording afterwards on the Spirit of Life's YouTube Channel.



<u>Calling for Advocacy</u>: ELCIC National Bishop-elect Larry Kochendorfer has written to the church expressing deep concerns over the escalating military operations in Gaza and the immense suffering being faced by civilians in Palestine and Israel. He joins the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in calling for an urgent global action, and encourages members of the ELCIC to advocate for peace, an end to violence and protection for human life. Please read the full letter by clicking here.

<u>ELCJHL Appeal</u>: 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.



Season of Creation Events and Activities

September 1st 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 Isaiah 32:14-18

- 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'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: https://action.earthday.org/global-plastics-treaty
- > On **October 5**th 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.

ELCIC NEWS:

- <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: https://scholars.wlu.ca/consensus/. The issue commemorates the 1700th 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:

- <u>Calling for Advocacy in Gaza</u>: Read what you can do <u>here</u>.
- 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.
- <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
 - o Aging, disability, and dignity
 - Theologies of suffering and hope
 - o Ethical questions around end-of-life planning, including MAiD

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

A Message From Pastor Kristen Steele

I would like to say thank you to each of you who have included my family, my congregation and me in your prayers over the past 18 months since I went on medical leave. This week marks the one and a half year anniversary since the doctors found a large tumor in my sinus cavity which was found to be cancerous - thyroid cancer that metastasized to the sinus. I have had five surgeries (as well as one round of two different treatments) to both remove cancer and to address side effects from cancer treatment. I am currently recovering from the fifth surgery and waiting for more test results in the next couple of months. At this point the most recent surgery was successful and the surgeon was very happy with what they were able to accomplish. I have received excellent medical care from a large team of specialists and for that I am very grateful. I am also very grateful for family and friends who have walked with me through this challenging journey which I look forward to having behind me soon. Thank you again for your prayers, they have meant more to me than you know.

This Week At Church (Note 1)

This 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).

Confirmation 1 - 3 pm

Tuesday Woodworking & Crafters Group at 10 am

Wednesday Midweek Bible Study at 10:30 am in Fireside Room

Prayer Gathering at 1:30 pm over Zoom

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

Fifth Sunday in Season of Creation worship service with Holy Communion

at 10:30 am (view it here)

Church Council Retreat at Lily & Mogens from 1 pm to 4 pm

<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

Financial Information for:	Sep	tember 21 th
Total Offerings:	\$	5,060.00
General	\$	3,685.00
Designated Gifts:		
- Property Fund	\$	825.00
- Line of Credit	\$	500.00
- Canada Lutheran World Relie	f \$	25.00
- GS Women's Group	\$	25.00

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

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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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

