



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2025 TO JANUARY 2026 NEWS

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MINISTERS: YOU THE PEOPLE OF GOD

www.GSLCC.ca

INCLUSIVE ON PURPOSE



Intentional Inclusivity

We value people in all their uniqueness and diversity, as God does, and welcome friendship with everyone we encounter even when that challenges our comfort

In case you've lost the thread, I've been using these articles all year to reflect on our proposed Guiding Principles (which you can read on the next page). We will be discussing these revised principles at our next Missional Munch on Sunday, January 18. I hope you'll join us.

So far I've written about "Radical Lutheran Identity", "Discipling Worship", "Missional Stewardship", and "Joyful Fellowship". This time I'd like to touch on "Intentional Inclusivity".

There's maybe no cycle of seasons in the church year that emphasizes inclusivity more than the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle we are in right now. Isaiah gives us an Advent vision of a restored Jerusalem in which "all nations shall stream to it" (Isaiah 2:2). In Luke's Christmas gospel even marginalized shepherds are invited to the manger. And in Epiphany foreign adherents of another faith are gathered into the celebration. It's as if God is very intentionally saying absolutely everyone is welcome into the embrace of this good news.

It's in response to that witness that we are discerning God's call to be intentional about our inclusivity as a congregation too. We love to sing "All Are Welcome". But we can't do so honestly if we don't mean "**ALL** are welcome." That means firstly becoming aware of which people are missing from our congregational family. And secondly, it means not leaving welcoming up to chance, but purposefully extending friendship to everyone who steps through our door.

One example of intentional inclusivity is a process called "Reconciling in Christ" which a number of our sister congregations in BC synod have adopted. Basically, it educates congregations on what it means to be publicly welcoming of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Congregations are guided through the process of developing a welcome statement for their church that openly communicates its acceptance and welcome of LGBTQ2SIA+ persons.

Intentional inclusivity can be uncomfortable. It certainly was for certain characters in those scriptures I mentioned above. But when we are helped, in a compassionate and sensitive way, to stretch our understanding of inclusivity, we can experience the joy of being God's family on its deepest level. And also the greatest gift of Christmas: that in Jesus, "what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of **all** people." (John 1:3-4).



PROPOSED GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Listening to God and to each other, we commit to live out our life and ministry as Good Shepherd Lutheran Church guided by the following principles:



Radical Lutheran Identity

We trust that, as sinners, our only hope in life is in God who loves and forgives us unconditionally and who is always forming and reforming us by the Holy Spirit into a church unafraid to deny itself, take up its cross, follow Jesus, and embrace change.



Discipling Worship

We gather for worship that is rooted in scripture, speaks to our everyday lives, renews our relationship with God, and challenges us to live out our faith.



Fearless Caring

We love all people - those like us and unlike us - even when that is risky, inconvenient, uncomfortable, or makes us vulnerable.



Missional Stewardship

We trust that God's generosity is bottomless, and that God calls us to manage all we've been given in a way that doesn't just serve our advantage, but creatively seeks the welfare of our community, our world, and creation.



Intentional Inclusivity

We value people in all their uniqueness and diversity, as God does, and welcome friendship with everyone we encounter even when that challenges our comfort.



Joyful Fellowship

We celebrate friendships and relationships between and beyond us by gathering formally and informally for enjoyment and community.



Transformative Witness

We pay attention to the world around us and seek opportunities to bravely love our neighbours, care for creation, do justice, and live out the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ in the world.



Congregational News

Christmas Sing-Along & Dessert Evening

We will be hosting our neighbours and our congregation for an evening of Christmas Carol Singing, entertainment (including a special performance by Jason Wood featuring a few songs from his new album *Always Waiting*) and treats on Sunday, **December 7th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm**. Please consider contributing a finger-style dessert item for the dessert potluck. You can bring your contribution with you to the event or drop your contribution off at the church any time before Sunday. See the poster that follows for all the details.

Candy & Pie Fundraiser

Come and stock up on Claire & David's delicious Christmas Candy & Sammie's scrumptious Crispy Pies on **Sunday, December 7th** after the service, and help pay off our new flooring project at the same time. 100% of proceeds will go towards debt repayment.

Christmas Pageant Service at St. Laurence

We will gather again with our friends from St. Laurence Anglican Church on **Sunday, December 14th** at 10:30 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.** Please contact the office if you need a ride.

Special Music Sunday

We will mark the 4th Sunday in Advent, **December 21**, with our tradition of a Special Music Sunday. Come and enjoy a morning of special musical performances during the service by the gifted members of our congregation. If you have a musical gift to share, please contact Peter Schuler!

Christmas Tree Decorating

All are invited to gather on **Tuesday, December 16th at 10:00 am** to help decorate our Sanctuary Christmas Tree. Thanks again are given to Bob Knudson for picking out and delivering the tree, 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 16^h, so you can drop off items any time after under the tree yourself. As usual, there is a bin in the Narthex currently collecting items now, and we will continue until Epiphany, this year celebrated on January 4th, 2026.

Missional Munch

Our Church Council is inviting everyone to stay for a catered lunch after worship on **Sunday, January 18th**. After lunch we will take the opportunity to reflect further on our draft guiding principal which we hope to adopt at our upcoming AGM.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

We are planning to gather with other Christians in our neighbourhood for another ecumenical luncheon in celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It will take place on **Saturday, January 24th from 11:30 to 2 pm at St. Laurence Anglican Church (825 St. Laurence Street, Coquitlam)**. Please stay posted for further details as they arise closer to the event. Good Shepherd will be providing soup for the lunch, so keep your eyes open for a sign-up sheet in the new year.

Being Lutheran Today (BLT): A Confirmation Refresher

Our Education Team is planning a new opportunity starting in January for a series of evenings in which you are invited to gather for dinner followed by a session on what it means to be Lutheran today. They will take place on Sunday evenings with dinner included, as well as child care. Stay tuned for more details.



Here's Something to



Congratulations and Blessings



We celebrated together with our newest members – Sammie Sun, and Ike and Eva Liu – on Sunday, November 30th, by baptism and affirmation of faith. Welcome to God's Family!

December & January Birthday Greetings

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

Milestone Celebration

We join in extending special birthday wishes to:

Mae Cabott turning 95 on Dec 3rd

Val Newton turning 70 on December 19

Mark Jiew turning 60 on January 5

Karen Neuls turning 65 on January 26

Congratulations to your all on your milestone birthdays and may God continue to keep you in his loving



*With Birthday Blessings to all from your
Good Shepherd Family!*

Bev Anweiler

Brenda Chenosky

David Erickson

Donna Goudal

Sarah Karhukangas

Elizabeth Knudson

Noelle Marquess

Kris Mathiasen

Barb Neuls

Ty Pickering

Jannea Pregler

Sherry Russell

Tamara Russell

Darya Saed

Darya Savage

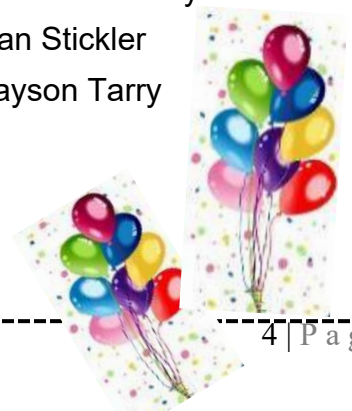
Irmhild Schadek

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

Pastor Kristen Steele, who is getting stronger as she puts her cancer journey behind her but still continue under doctor's care.

Renee Mauthe, Donna Harris's brother, who continues to undergo treatment for metastatic prostate cancer.

Barry Potter, as he continues to deal with complications from his diabetes related hospital visit this summer.

Merv Kirk, who has been in and out of hospital recently and is resting well at home now, as he continues his journey with cancer.

Betty Jones, who has been hospitalized for a suspected case of pneumonia

Larrisa Chenosky, who continues to deal with ongoing complications from a hip surgery.

Bob Berry, who continues to receive chemotherapy for his lymphoma.

Sarah Crowder, a friend of the congregation who is overseas, who has recently experienced a significant medical issue.

Marjun and Gene Blishen, as they mourn the loss of Marjun's lifelong friend – Gloria Hunter – who died suddenly just a couple of weeks ago.

For all those who worship with us on Sundays by livestream at home or at a distance.

For our ecumenical partnerships St. Laurence Anglican, Como Lake United, All Saints Roman Catholic and others.

THANK
YOU
GOD!

Thanksgiving!

Please join us as we thank God for:

- A lively and joyful Anniversary Service on October 19th, and a special visit from Bishop Kathy Martin of the BC Synod.
- The baptism of Sammie, Ike and Eva at a celebrative service on November 30.
- The quick healing of Val Newton's broken wrist that she suffered earlier this fall. The cast is off and she's beginning physio therapy on the road to regaining the full use of her wrist.
- Donna Harris' quick healing of her broken foot, even as she continues her walk (pun intended) towards a full and complete recovery.





SPECIAL SERVICES TO NOTE

JOINT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 14TH, 2025

We will gather at St. Laurence Anglican Church at 10:30 am for a joint worship service including a combined Sunday School Christmas Pageant. **There will be no service at Good Shepherd on this morning.**

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24TH, 2025

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.

TWELFTH DAY (AND EPIPHANY) CELEBRATION

JANUARY 4TH, 2026

We will celebrate the last day of Christmas and the feast of Epiphany on January 4th at our regular service at 10:30 am with a special coffee hour afterwards. Feel free to bring your leftover Christmas baking to share.

SPECIAL MUSIC SERVICE

DECEMBER 21ND, 2025

A service filled with performances from those gifted musicians in our congregation on the Fourth Sunday in Advent.

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25TH, 2025

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

A SERVICE OF FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

DECEMBER 28TH, 2025

As is our tradition, we will worship with a service of lessons and favorite Christmas carols by request, as we celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

JANUARY 11TH, 2025

We will celebrate this festival with an opportunity for us all 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

Christmas Candy & Pie Sale & Fundraiser: Come and stock up on sweet and savory stocking stuffers and treats on sale after the service on **Sunday, December 7th**. This is a fundraiser to pay down our new flooring debt. Much thanks to Claire & David and Sammie Sun for all their hard work to make this happen.

Advent-Christmas '25-26 Devotionals – 'Humble and Holy': Help yourself!

CLWR's Gifts from the Heart Catalogue: Available now on the Ushers Table or click [here](#) for online orders.

On Eagle's Wings Advent Devotional: Available on the Ushers Table on a first come/first serve basis.

Sumud: For Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has prepared a [series of Advent Resources](#) that connect us with our partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL).

St. Mark's Advent Calendar: St. Mark's Lutheran in Vancouver has created an Advent calendar. Each door of the calendar hides a song, a poem, or another surprise created by members and friends of the congregation. You can find it [here](#).

4th Annual Rainbow Chorus Sing Along: On **Saturday, December 13th at 1 pm** at Sanctuary on 6th (Queens Avenue & 6th Street, New Westminster). See the poster that follows for all the details.

Carols in the Garden: On **Saturday, December 20th, 4pm**, Dunbar Lutheran Church, (3491 West 31st Avenue, Vancouver) is hosting a time of singing Christmas carols in the church garden (or in the church sanctuary if the weather doesn't co-operate.) See the poster that follows.

Christmas Crafts in Support of Palestine: Kat Harris, a member of Living Faith Lutheran in Sechelt is selling Palestinian crafts at a series of upcoming craft fairs. All proceeds go directly to artists in the occupied West Bank. You can find Kat at the following Craft Fairs:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 2-5:30 PM at *St. Andrews United* in North Vancouver

BC Synod Advent Resources: The BC Synod Website now includes a page of Advent Resources which is updated weekly. You can check it out [here](#).

Lutherans Connect: Vigil in Hope: [Lutheran Connect](#) invites participants to join its annual Celtic Advent devotional series, running from November 15 to December 24. To sign up please visit the devotional site [here](#) or email lutheransconnect@gmail.com.

Preparing for Christmas with Prayer: Pr. Bruce Ehlert (ELCIC, Saskatchewan Synod) prepares daily prayers during Advent. [You can subscribe to his prayer emails here.](#)

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG COMMUNITY EVENT

Sunday, December 7- 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Good Shepherd Women will once again be sponsoring a night of entertainment and singing our favourite Christmas Carols. All are invited - bring your friends and family! We've also invited the churches that worship in our church building and the women of Talitha Koum to join in on the fun. Jason Wood has agreed to sing a few songs off of his newly-released album *Always Waiting*. We will once again be offering a Dessert Potluck and you are invited to contribute your favourite finger-food Christmas treats for everyone to share, as you are able. Bring it with you to the event, or drop it off when you come to the 10:30 morning service - whichever is easiest for you. Hope to see you there!



You are invited to join in a

Christmas Sing Along

of carols and seasonal favorites while enjoying some festive treats. You will also enjoy some music from our Special Guest, **Jason Wood**, who will be performing a few songs from his new album "*Always Waiting*".

Bring your singing voices, and your sweet tooth to:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

(1504 Spruce Avenue, Coquitlam) on

Sunday, December 7th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm



RAINBOW CHORUS HOLIDAY SING-ALONG

Saturday, December 13th at 1 pm

Anita McDonnell & Kris Mathiasen are members of the Rainbow Chorus. They are holding their **4th annual Holiday Sing-Along** on December 13th at 1 pm at the Sanctuary on 6th (Queens Avenue & 6th Street, New Westminster). The event includes a silent auction and treats for sale. You are also invited to bring a pair of new socks for the Purpose Society's Sock drive. See the poster that follows for all the details.





MOUNT OLIVE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Craft Fair & Bake Sale

SATURDAY
DEC 6th
10:00A TO 1:00P

2350 148th Street, Surrey, BC
(604) 536-8527

COMMUNITY
event

Christmas Around the World



Featuring the all-voice
Barbershop Chorus
PACIFIC SPIRIT VOICES
with special guests "Fluterrific"
and sing-along carols

December 5, 2025 at 7 pm
Grace Lutheran Church
7283 Nelson Ave. Burnaby BC

Suggested \$20 donation - proceeds go to The Canadian Lutheran World
Relief Fund to assist in restoring ecosystems in Lake Chad and Cameroon



Edette Gagné, Chorus Director



Coming in the New Year...



Being Lutheran Today (BLT): An Adult Confirmation Refresher



Start the new year grounded, growing, and connected! We're excited to offer a special multi-week learning opportunity designed for adults who want to revisit the foundations of faith, ask new questions, and explore what it means to be Lutheran today.



When: Sunday evenings

Jan. 18, Jan. 25, Feb. 15, Mar. 1, Mar. 15, and Mar. 29



Time: 5:00–7:00 pm

- Dinner from **5:00–5:30 pm**

- Program from **5:30–7:00 pm**



Dinner & Fellowship

Enjoy a relaxed family-style meal together! Pizza will be provided each week, and you're invited to bring potluck sides to share.



Child-Minding Available

Childcare will be offered in the Fireside Room, so parents can fully participate.



Location: At the church, with family-style seating for a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

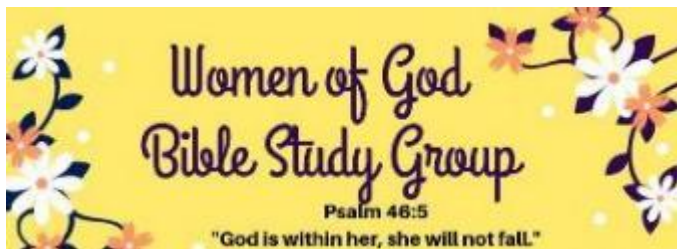


Sign-Up Begins January 4!

Keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet and claim your spot.

Come grow in faith and refresh your understanding of Lutheran teaching—all in great company.

We hope you'll join us!



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 MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY Tuesday, December 9 at 12 noon

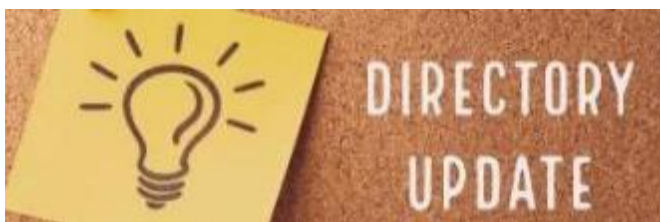
Our December meeting will be a Tea Party Potluck - bring whatever you want - main dish, salad and/or dessert. To add to the festivities, bring your own teacup (bone china or whatever you prefer).

Woman to be studied - Lydia (page 217)
Study leader - Sherry

JANUARY MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY Tuesday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m.

After completing over 8 years of studying "Women of the Bible" we will begin a new series of Bible studies taken from the Canadian Lutheran magazine. Copies of our January study will be available in your mailbox or at the December meeting.

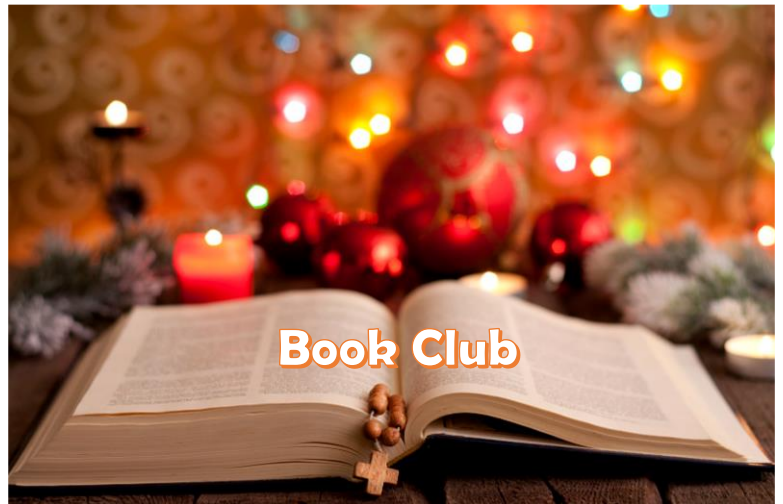
Study Leader - Gail Tremain
Refreshments - Pat and Linda



Please take note that Doris Deiter has a new email address:

deiterdoris@gmail.com

and update your directory accordingly!



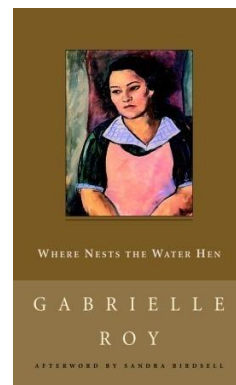
Book Club

The book club will be taking a break during the month of December and will not be meeting.

The book to be discussed in January (date TBD) is
"Where Nests the Water Hen"
by Gabrielle Roy.

Set in the remote wilderness of northern Manitoba, this sunny, tender idyll of daily frontier life captures, as few novels ever have, the spirit and the surroundings of the pioneers – not the adventurers and trailblazers who make the headlines, but rather the humble folk who follow after and remain, living out their lives in obscurity to keep the trails open.

The book club members wish you happy reading over the holidays - and a joyful and peaceful Christmas Season.





From Our Treasurer

The following is an update on our financial YTD Status
as of the end of October 31, 2025:

OCTOBER 31, 2025

YTD Total Income	\$ <u>204,615.77</u>
YTD Total Expenses	<u>215,818.75</u>
Net Deficit	\$ <u>(11,202.98)</u>



Property Fund Balance \$ (\$28,101.05)

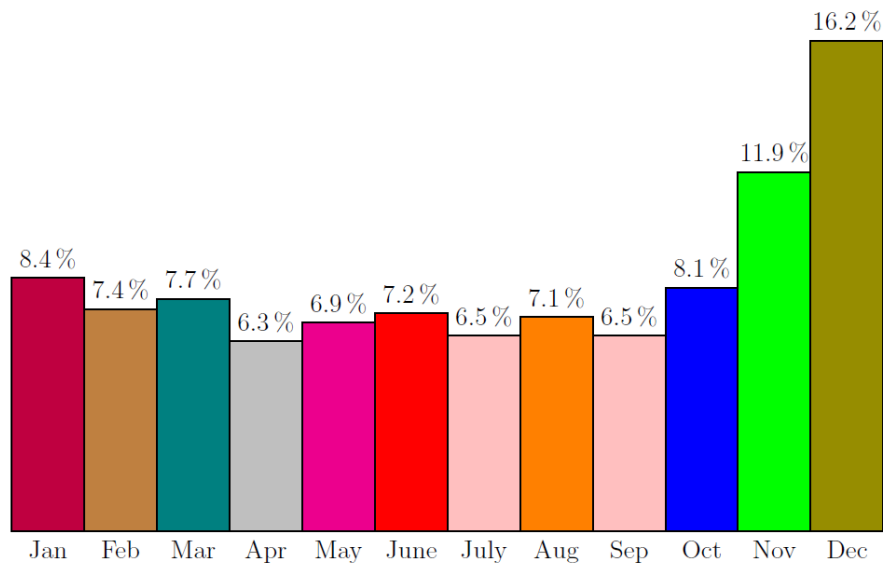
Special Initiative Fund Balance \$ \$ 9,457.09

Thank you for your faithful generosity.

A Message from Your Stewardship Team

We wish to thank you for your faithful giving throughout this past year. We would not have been able to afford all the faithful ministry we have accomplished without you. Your generosity is truly a blessing.

As you can see from the report above, we are facing a deficit of \$11,203 for this current year. For your information, the chart below depicts the pattern of our giving in 2024. You can see what percentage of our annual offering came in each month. For example, in January we received 8.4% of our total offerings.



We, on the Stewardship Team, would like to encourage a more even distribution of contributions throughout the year. So perhaps this is a challenge you can consider for the coming year. But more importantly, we need similar generosity to cover our \$11,203 deficit. Please help us end the year in the black and put ourselves in a good position to begin the new year.

Thank you,

Stewardship Team

Mogens Hansen & Dennis Friesen

News from Your Outreach Team

SHARE Joy This Christmas

We are collecting food items for the SHARE Food Bank. All donations help SHARE provide food choices for families, seniors and individuals in the Tri-Cities. There is a bin in the Narthex to drop off your food donations. The most needed items are:



- *Rice and pasta {900g or smaller}
- *Canned tomato {diced, chunky sauce or paste}
- *Instant oatmeal and cereal packs
- *Canned vegetables or fruit
- *Canned meat {tuna or ham}
- *Canned beans {chickpeas, black beans, kidney beans or lentils}
- *Good Start Baby Formula Stage 1
- *Baby Diapers {sizes Newborn 1, 2 or 3}
- *Cash Donations

(Please check your expiry dates before donating.)

Once our Christmas Tree has been put up in our Sanctuary, you can drop off your donations directly under the tree. For this Christmas Food Drive we will be collecting non-perishable food items from NOW until Epiphany – celebrated next year on January 11th. Thank you, as always, for your generous support of our local Foodbank.

Tri-Cities Winter Coat Drive - November 18 to December 16

Many people in the Tri-Cities are facing the cold weather without proper outer wear. YOU can help. Donations of gently used or new winter coats are being accepted. {for men and women} There is a bin in the Narthex, with a poster, for you to drop off your donation. We {GSLC} will deliver the coats to a drop off location, or you may do that yourself. {See the poster.} Thank you for helping.

If You Haven't Noticed... Take a look at the SHARE Information Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall. You will see that SHARE Society offers MANY services that you may have not known about.



TRI-CITIES **Winter Coat Drive 2025**

Winter is coming, and many in Port Moody, Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam are facing the cold without proper gear.

You can help.

Donate your gently used or new winter coats and give someone the warmth they need this season.

November 18 - December 16

Drop Off Locations:

477 Lakeview Street, Coquitlam
2986 Forestridge Place Coquitlam

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.

Thursday, August 14

Read Isaiah 5:1-7

God's love for the Holy Land

...he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry! (verse 7)

I am fascinated by stories about WWII written from all sides—losers, victors or the neutrals. But mostly about the Holocaust. Survival stories of the Jews resonate with me, a Taiwanese living the first 14 years of her life under the oppression of the Nationalist Party (Kuomintang).

During my Budapest Math Semester, I stayed with Jewish families and heard their survival stories. Then I went to graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania where many Jewish professors would not teach on Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, but would on Good Friday. Surely, I was the foremost Taiwanese-Canadian Jewish sympathizer!

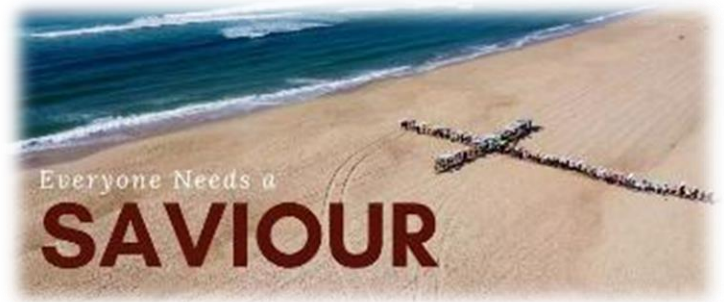
Then, a few years ago, our church book club read *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity*. To learn about the enduring conflict, during the more recent war on Gaza, I finished *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine*.

Now I am just sad for everyone in God's beloved vineyard. Without the devastation of wars, it can be a land flowing with milk and honey. But now so many endure so much unthinkable suffering.

How can we help turn God's vineyard into the cherished garden again?

God of love songs, sing us into becoming lovers of peace and justice. Amen.

—Dr. Lily Yen



Our Saviour

The world turning white
In a blanket of snow
Showed three sets of footprints
In a street lamps glow.

I thought of three wisemen
Who followed a star.
In a great leap of faith
They had travelled so far.

I thought of a stable
On a long ago morn
And my heart filled with hope.
Our Saviour was born.

Pam H. Murray
(Troupe de Poetry Member)
© 2025

Why I Come to Our Church

Far away from the western life
I was born in a small town in East Asia
grow up in a traditional family
worked in a modern noisy city

When I moved to Canada
I seldom go to church except 2 times Xmas fun events
But for now
I stay and connect closely with our church

It's a kind of routine for my families
I heard my voice in the singing
Reflect my beliefs and values in sermon
Integrate my culture with local one

My son told me he felt good to share after children
time
My daughter hums God's songs while she plays
My mum reliefs from our long distance moving

Memo of Good Shepherds' 65 years anniversary
Sammie Sun



When I Could Feel God

Words flow through my mind,
and I record them—
a poem, a story,
the tune of God.
Leaves wave and touch my skin;
they shine and brighten my eyes.
Colors change, then fade,
falling softly to nourish the earth.
All of them—
let me feel God.

Sammie Sun



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

As we move into 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



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.

December-January Youth Update

The last few weeks of 2025 are quickly approaching, but we have lots of fun things in the calendar for ignYte!



Fast off the heels of a new ignYte activity, epic blanket fort building, we will kick off December with a traditional ignYte advent activity. Join us **December 3rd** at Good Shepherd to decorate paper bags for the Wednesday lunch club. It will be our fifth year of doing this small act to show

folks in our community that they are beloved.

Keeping with ignYte traditions we will have a Christmas party, and sleepover, at Saint Laurence, **Saturday, December 13 to Sunday, December 14th!** We will have dinner together, play games, and hopefully get some sleep.

On **January 4th**, Epiphany, we will take in the lights and walk around Lafarge Lake.

And on **January 14th** we will have a goodbye party for Jason. Jason has given his heart to ignYte these past years and it is only fitting that we celebrate him and his new adventure.

While ignYte won't be the same without Jason, it will continue to strive to be place where “youth can bring their full selves, create lasting friendships, kindle a joyful faith, and be energized to spread Christ’s love in every part of their lives” (from the ignYte mission statement).

ignYte is a joint ministry of St. Laurence Anglican and Good Shepherd Lutheran, open to youth grades 7-12 from across the Tri-Cities and North Burnaby region

With thanks and love,
Rachel Genge and Jason Wood



Save the Date! Justice Camp at Loon Lake!

BC Synod is hosting a youth camp in 2026, “Growing in Faith, Friendship and Justice”. The camp will be August 10-14 at Loon Lake in Maple Ridge. It is open to all youth aged 11 to 18.

We are looking for camp leaders (lay and rostered adults of all ages) to join our team. If you are interested, or know someone who might be a great camp leader, please get in touch with the synod office.

More details will follow early next year.

BC Synod Youth Camp
Aug. 10th-14th 2026
Loon Lake Lodge, Maple Ridge



GROWING

- ✝ in faith
- ♥ in friendship
- ★ in justice



News from the greater church body...

ELCIC News

Conversations Across the Church

You are invited to join National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer for an hour of devotion, reflection and conversation over Zoom. The first of these Conversation events was held on Sunday, November 30th from 3 to 4, and Bishop Larry hopes to convene these gatherings on a somewhat regular basis going forward. Note that pre-registration is required which also gives you an opportunity to ask questions or provide feedback, Bishop Larry has said he may even discuss one of the questions that YOU posed during the hour-long event. So, if you really want to keep connected to the life of the ELCIC & where their focus is, keep your eyes open for the next one of these scheduled Conversation events and plan on attending yourself!

Supporting our Partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

The ELCIC National Office and Eastern Synod continue to appeal for support of our global mission and companion synod partners — the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). Please help us reach our goal of \$50,000 to assist in supporting this vital work of the ELCJHL that embodies faith, resilience and hope in a just peace. You can help by donating [here](#).

In a recent October 10, 2025 statement from the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem, the leaders “rejoiced at the recent enactment of the ceasefire in Gaza, and the release of those held captive.”

At the same time, they also acknowledged their shared concern regarding, “increasing violence against local communities in the West Bank in connection with settlement expansions.” The leaders urged the international community as a whole, “to widen the scope of the current negotiations to include an end of the occupation of both the West Bank and Gaza, leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state living side-by-side in peace with the present State of Israel.”

The war between Israel and Hamas has greatly affected our partners in the ELCJHL. Most of them have relatives in Gaza. Restricted movement in the region has continued to impact people’s ability to work and move freely, resulting in huge financial implications for the church.

Our church's long-standing relationship with the ELCJHL is a vital expression of our shared faith and commitment to justice and peace. You are invited to: pray for peace, learn more about the work of the ELCJHL and give generously to the ELCJHL Appeal.

Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory Calculator

The ELCIC has developed a Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory Calculator for congregations to assist faith communities in monitoring GHG emissions. There is also a User Manual for the GHG Inventory Calculator. If you would like to learn more about the GHG Inventory Calculator, please contact Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop at pgehrs@elcic.ca.

ELCIC Volunteer Opportunities – Ecumenical Justice Committees

The ELCIC is seeking representatives for two ecumenical committees:

1. Project Ploughshares Management Board
2. The Commission on Justice and Peace of the Canadian Council of Churches

Both groups are affiliated with the Canadian Council of Churches. For more information, please contact Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop at pgehrs@elcic.ca.

ELCIC Task Forces on Inclusion, Racial Justice and Community Engagement

The ELCIC is seeking passionate, committed members from across Canada to join one of three task forces shaping our church's ongoing work in justice, inclusion, and faithful witness. These groups will help guide national initiatives, offer insight from diverse ministry contexts, and support the ELCIC's calling to be a welcoming, accessible, and compassionate church for all.

Task Forces:

- **Ability & Inclusion Task Force**
- **Task Force on Addressing Racism, White Supremacy and Racial Justice**
- **Amazing Grace Task Force: Diversity Equity and Inclusion for All Task Force**

Who should consider applying? ELCIC members—lay or rostered—who care deeply about justice, inclusion, accessibility, spiritual renewal, and the future of our shared ministries. Lived experience, ministry involvement, professional expertise, and passion for equity are all valuable gifts.

Deadline to apply? Applications are open **until January 15, 2026**.

If you feel called to contribute, learn more and sign up through the JotForm link [here](#).

Boston Laferté Honoured with Ecumenical Bursary Award



Boston Laferté, an ELCIC member and emerging ecumenical leader, has been honoured as the 2025 recipient of the Marjorie MacKinnon Bursary. The \$1,500 bursary is awarded annually by the honouree of the Marjorie MacKinnon Award - this year, Rev. Peter Noteboom, General Secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). Noteboom chose Laferté in recognition of his meaningful contributions as a youth governing board member of the CCC and his commitment to justice, dialogue, and Christian unity. Laferté, who is pursuing both law and divinity degrees while preparing for ordained ministry, expressed deep gratitude for the support.

Laferté's ongoing leadership within the ELCIC and CCC - from serving on the Court of Appeal to co-hosting the Let's Talk Faith & Justice podcast, reflects his dedication to strengthening ecumenical relationships. He credits Noteboom and the CCC for encouraging youth voices and shaping his approach to faith and justice work. Please click [here](#) to read the full story.

LWF - Canada: From Cameroon to Bishop of Saskatchewan Synod

Our own Saskatchewan Synod Bishop Ali Tote is featured in a recent Lutheran World Federation (LWF), *Voices from the Communion*, a series highlighting stories, perspectives and theological reflections from the LWF's global network of member churches and leaders. In this current feature, Bishop Ali shares insights from his journey to becoming the first Black bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. To read the full story, please [click here](#).



Seminary & Other Theological School News

New President of Luther College Installed, Dr. Tom Phenix



Dr. Tom Phenix was officially installed as the ninth President of [Luther College](#), Regina, during a worship service held on Sunday, November 2 at Christ Lutheran Church in Regina, SK. Watch the recorded service via Christ Lutheran Church Regina's [Facebook page](#).

(L to R) National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, Dr. Tom Phenix, and SASK Synod Bishop Ali Tote. Photo credits: Luther College

LTS Survey for Congregations

Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon is conducting a series of short surveys to assess the presence of lay leadership in ministries and congregations and to determine how we might support lay leaders. Please fill out this brief survey as we engage in this important and necessary work together. The link is accessible [here](#).



*You are cordially invited to
attend the Installation*

of

Rev. Derek Solberg

*Saturday, December 6, 2025
11:00 am*

*Hope Lutheran Church
2174 Departure Bay Road
Nanaimo, BC V9S 3V6*

Luncheon celebration to follow

Rostered Ministers are invited to vest.
The liturgical color is blue.

Other Items of Interest

CLWR's 2025 Gifts from the Heart Christmas Catalogue Now Available!

Hard copies are now available at the church, or click [here](https://clwr.org/GFTH) to view the online version available at clwr.org/GFTH.

*** NEW THIS YEAR!***

We have been so encouraged by how many people have taking part in the Friends of Creation challenge – (raising funds to help farmers around Lake Chad in the fight against climate change) – that we now have a special edition of Gifts from the Heart that includes ways you can help restore land and livelihoods at Lake Chad, while also honouring your loved ones with our Christmas gifts! And the best part is, that donations to these items connected to Friends of Creation **will be matched**! Check out just a few of these special edition gifts below that are available NOW!



[Pair of Goats](#)



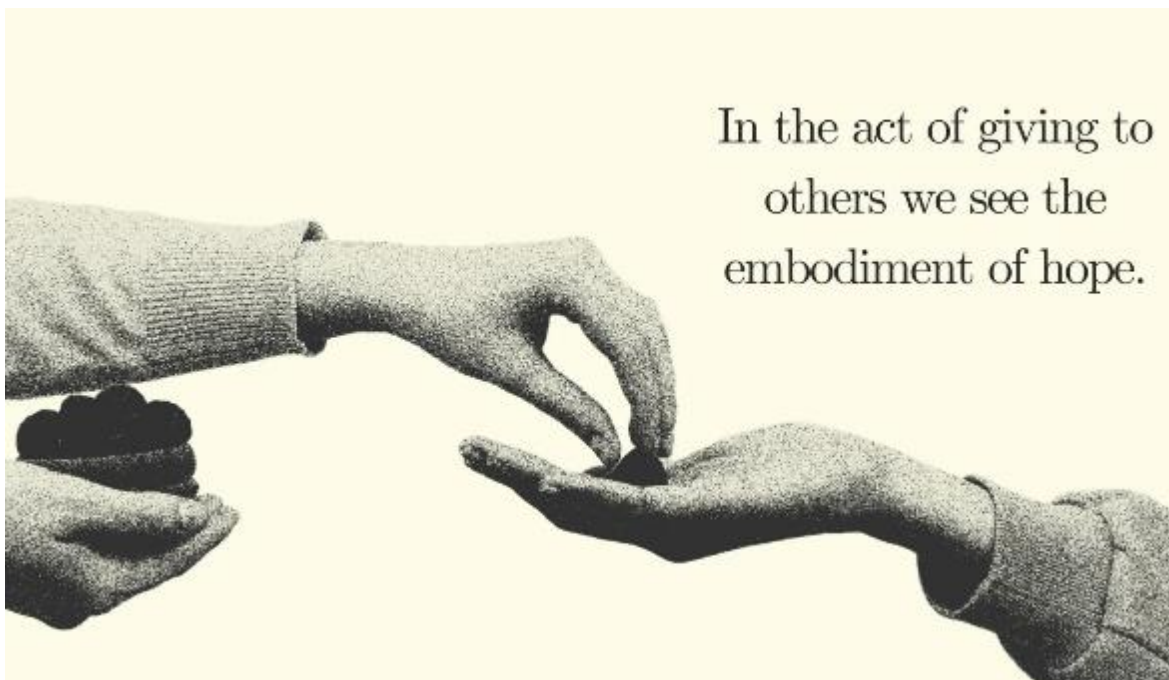
[Plant 10 Trees](#)



[Family Fishing Kits](#)



[Help Fight Drought](#)





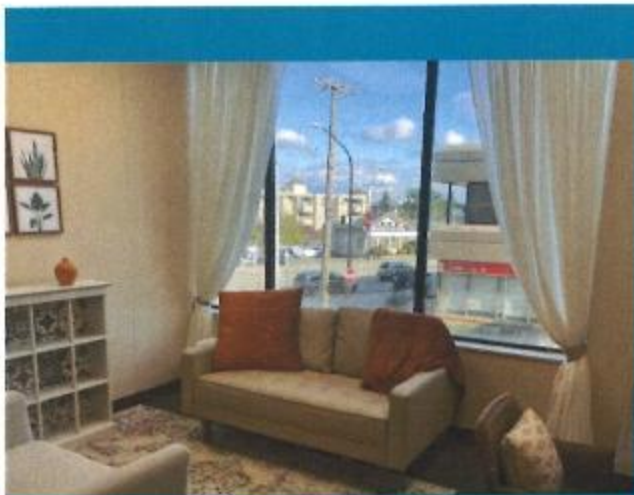
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**PSSSST ... Our own Anita McDonnell and Kris Mathiasen are in the Chorus...
Come for the fun and bring a pair of new socks to support the sock drive too!**



**FREE
ADMISSION!**

4TH ANNUAL

HOLIDAY *sing-along*



December 13
1:00pm

ACTIVITIES:

- Silent Auction!
- Treats for sale!
- Bring a pair of new socks for the Purpose Society sock drive!



SANCTUARY ON 6TH
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www.rainbowchorusnewwestminster.com

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.

Gifting

Sometimes it's an unusual gift that brings the most pleasure.

Two years ago David's daughter Brigitte moved from her tiny apartment with a small balcony down a floor into the same sized apartment with a large patio that included some built in planters and space for both patio furniture and more potted plants. Knowing how small her inside space is, we asked about a house warming gift. Two weeks later we arrived with the requested gifts. A large pail of our compost (including worms), two bags of mushroom manure, a small composter, and a gift card for flower bulbs.

Last August when David's daughter Barbara and her partner Mark moved from their townhouse complex in to a small house in Nanaimo, it was too late in the season to do much, so they decided to plant some pots on the porch with flower bulbs and deer resistant bulbs in the garden strip and then invest more time in the spring for other plants. For their house warming gift we bought a drip irrigation system and a gift card for bulbs.

These gifts required no wrapping nor were terribly costly, but they have given us so much pleasure this year. We've had a three way text stream, including pictures, from the first peek of the new growth of spring bulbs, then flowers, then edibles.

We've shared;

Triumphs – Brigitte's huge kale plant, our abundance of strawberries, Barbara's first tomato.

Wild life – A flicker in Brigitte's garden, the ground-bee colony in our backyard, and Barbara's deer nipping off the top of a green onion then spitting it out in disgust moving on to the next green onion – repeat, repeat, repeat...

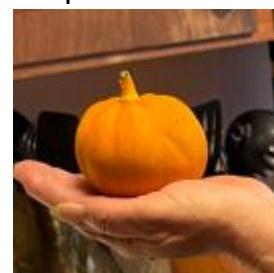
Disappointments – Brigitte's crop of blueberries – one, but it was very big and beautiful, our very, very huge squash – it fit in the palm of my hand, Barbara's lack of zucchini on her plant.

This year we all enjoyed a Father's Day brunch on Brigitte's patio surrounded by plants, flowers, and bees.

Our gardens have been keeping us in touch, providing delight, comic relief, and commiseration Truly a year round gift.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Thompson



The Christmas Story

Hey Kids! It's that time of year again when we celebrate Jesus's birthday on December 25th.

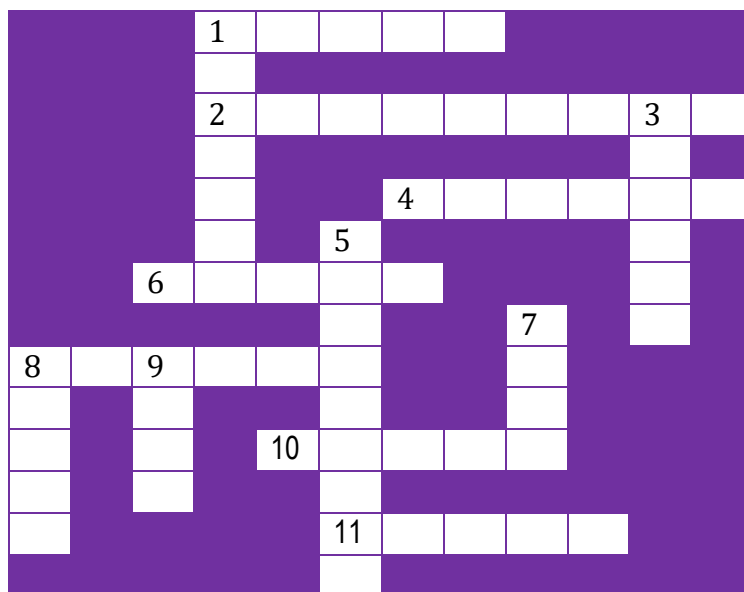
Let's see if you can complete this crossword puzzle that brings out some details that happened when Jesus was first born.

Hope you have fun!

ANSWER KEY

- ☺ angel ☺ Bethlehem ☺ dreams ☺
 ☺ Egypt ☺ gold ☺ Herod ☺
 ☺ Joseph ☺ Jesus ☺ manger ☺
 ☺ shepherds ☺ star ☺ watch ☺
 ☺ wise men ☺

Kids Corner



Across:

- They were keeping ____ over their flocks by night when the Angels shared the good news of great joy – that Jesus was born!
- Those who care for and tend sheep are called ____.
- Once Jesus was born, Mary laid him in a ____.
- An ____ appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him about Jesus.
- Mary's husband's name was ____.
- The King who became afraid and then angry when he heard from the magi about the prophecy of Jesus.
- To escape danger, Joseph fled and took Mary and Jesus to ____ where they lived as refugees and strangers in a foreign land until it was safe to return home.



Down:

- The ____ (2 words) came from the east to pay homage to Jesus.
- When King Herod died, Joseph had a ____ telling him it was safe to come home and return to Israel with Mary and Jesus.
- Jesus was born in this town.
- One of the gifts that the three wisemen gave to Mary and Joseph when paying homage to Jesus the king, in the stable!
- When Mary had her son, they named him ____.
- A ____ led both the 3 wisemen and the shepherds to the place where Jesus was born.





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 <https://www.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. This study is offered in a hybrid format and can be joined by Zoom with the link available on our website or attended in person.

Sunday Morning Worship Service

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. We also offer communion every Sunday, including online, except when Pastor Eric is away and another pastor is unavailable.

Midweek Bible Study

Our bi-weekly midweek bible study occurs 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 a continued time of fellowship and conversation as we eat lunch together.

Wednesday afternoon Prayer Gathering at 1:30 pm over Zoom

Our Prayer Group meets Weekly on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm over Zoom. **On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 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 have a special prayer gathering as led by of the leader somehow involving our other senses or other media.

Zoom Happy Hour

All are welcome to join in for an hour of fellowship on the **4th Thursdays of every month at 4 pm**. 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.

Being Lutheran Today (BLT): A Confirmation Refresher

Our Education Team is planning a new opportunity starting in January for a series of Evenings in which you are invited to gather for dinner followed by a session on what it means to be Lutheran today. They will take place on Sunday evenings with dinner included, as well as child care. Stay tuned for more details.



Have a very
MERRY
CHRISTMAS

and a happy
NEW YEAR