



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE TO AUGUST 2026 NEWS

1504 SPRICE AVENUE, COQUITLAM, BC
604-936-2939

PASTOR: ERIC KRUSHEL 604-936-1864

MINISTERS: YOU THE PEOPLE OF GOD
www.GSLCC.ca

25 REASONS TO BE THANKFUL



On August 12 I will celebrate the 25th anniversary of my installation here at Good Shepherd. It has been one of the happiest and most gratifying quarter centuries of my life. So to celebrate let me offer 25 reasons I am grateful for this wonderful call I've been serving in our awesome congregation (in no particular order).

- Patient people as I grew in my pastoral vocation
- The beauty of our location (especially the trees)
- People who care passionately for the trees
- Cake!
- Children, especially active and noisy ones!
- Opportunity to lead Bible study and people eager to learn
- A congregation tolerant of my rambunctious children as they grew up
- Members who are generous in material, emotional, and spiritual ways
- Potlucks!
- Our growing ethnic diversity
- Incredibly gifted musicians who make our services shimmer with joy
- A growing commitment to engaging in ministry with our neighbourhood
- A congregational culture of permission to try new things
- Consistently committed and engaged church council members
- A culture of faithful stewardship of finances
- A deep care for our building and it's grounds as a means of hospitality
- People who love to celebrate!
- A growing social conscience around justice issues, inclusion, and creation care
- Fun, respectful, curious, and engaged confirmation classes
- Members willing to engage in the work of the wider church
- A congregation open to my love for ecumenical outreach and partnership
- People who take baptism and the call of baptism seriously
- A deep well of mutual care and respect between the congregation and myself
- People who step up to serve and surprising ways
- Did I mention potlucks?!

And that's just off the top of my head. I'm sure there are many more reasons I'm missing. But let me just sign off with a big "Thank You" for all that you've meant to me in my time here at Good Shepherd (so far). It's a gift to be your pastor.



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 Events

Group Schedules over the Summer Months

Please take note that the following groups will either be altering their meeting schedules, or taking a break altogether over the summer months, resuming in the fall.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Our last study will be Sunday, June 28th

Book Club: Our last meeting will Thursday, June 25th

Sunday School: Currently on break until the fall (Date TBD)

Movie Night: Currently on break until the fall (Date TBD)

Women's Group: Currently on break until September 8th

Wednesday Prayer Group: Meeting twice a month over Zoom for prayer. See the Church Calendar for details.

Sip With the Spirit: Watch for details.

Happy Hour: Meets next on July 2nd, and then on August 27th. Mark your calendars!

Vacation Bible School - Mornings from August 24-28

Together with our friends from St. Laurence Anglican Church, we again will be holding Vacation Bible School. This year's program, is running from 9am to noon from **Monday, August 24th to the Friday, August 28th**. Kids aged 4 – 11 are invited to join together at Good Shepherd for a fun time of learning about God through engaging bible stories, interactive games, scrumptious snacks, dazzling science experiments, and fun crafts. You can register [here](#). See the poster that follows for more details, and feel free to invite any friends or family you know to join us for this awesomely fun time. Volunteers are still needed for various tasks, both prior to and during the week. Remember, many hand make light work, and many volunteers find this an energizing, enjoyable, and inspiring week. Sign up soon!

Church Picnic - Sunday, August 30th

To celebrate the end of VBS week, Fellowship and the Education Teams will host our annual Church Picnic on **Sunday, August 30th**. We will be joined by our friends from St. Laurence for a joint service at our regular time of 10:30 am and gather with them afterwards for our usual potluck picnic lunch. Please bring a sweet or savoury side dish to contribute. We will serve hotdogs as the main course. Mark your calendar & save the date! Hope to see you there! 😊

Labour Day Service - Sunday, September 6th

We will mark this Sunday, once again, with an interview with a mystery member around the relationship between their faith and their work. Many find this an inspiring way to get to know the fellow members who are interviewed on a deeper level. Save the date.

Music in the Park (ing Lot) - Saturday, September 12th

We are planning another big celebration in September to include our community. Congregants, neighbours, friends and family are all invited to join the fun. It will be a Community Music Festival featuring various artists, and it will include free hot dogs, ice cream and other goodies. Several local vendors will be selling their wares, and there will be a Kid's Area with some fun activities. Some quieter indoor activities are also being planned. See the poster that follows and watch for further details. Come, explore and nurture the gifts of our community.



Now Here's Something to



Milestone Celebrations

It is with joy that we extend congratulations and best wishes to the following friends who will be celebrating milestone birthdays over the summer months:

Lil Vigurs is turning 85 on June 30th

Kate Wright is turning 85 on July 3rd

Elinor Knudson is turning 80 on August 25th

Jack Sinton is turning 91 on August 7th

*Congratulations and
Happy Birthday to you all!*



Birthday Greetings

We extend birthday greetings to members who are celebrating birthdays in June July or August:



Dave Berry
Linda Berry
Marjun Blishen
Caitlin Catterall
Michelle Chan
Dean Cornelson
Alex Darts
Evan Darts
Doris Deiter
Nicole Denison
Mavis Elliott
Lois Forss

Amelia H.
Nikolaj Hansen
Karen Harris
Keith Harris
Margaret Hartley
Elsie Johnson
Betty Jones
Bonnie Karhukangas
Bob Knudson
Sara Knudson
Carole Lentz
Lauren Le Roux

Anita McDonnell
Brad Newton
Adriana Olsen
Beverly Poznachuk
Kurt Pregler
Ruth Roberts
Shayan Saed
Erick Schuler
Lily Seidel
Elaine Sinton
Dianna Sturhahn
Gail Tremain
Ryan Wald



With Birthday Blessings to all from your Good Shepherd Family!

Recent Baptisms (#1)

On May 10 we welcomed **Sofia My Quynh Taagholt Hansen** into the family of God.



From L to R: Sponsors Alwin & Ana, Pastor Eric, Christina, Sofia, Kristian
Photo credit: Lily Yen (Proud Grandma of Sofia)



The whole clan came out to celebrate Sofia's baptism with Christina & Kristian!
Photo credit: Lily Yen (Proud Grandma of her 1st grandchild)

Recent Baptisms (#2)

And in addition, on May 24 we also welcomed **Heidi Sommerfeld** into the family of God through baptism.

Our warmest welcome to both Sofia and Heidi - our newest sisters in Christ!



Our Graduates!



We give our best wishes & hearty congratulations to **Jessie Fang** who completed a Master's degree in Computer Science at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Vancouver.

Jessie explains: *"Just a bit of context. It's a course-based program more focused on practical learning. I did receive an academic award for one semester, but for me, the biggest achievement is really just making it through the program. What makes me happiest is really the journey, not so much the grades. Coming from a completely different background, studying computer science felt almost impossible at the beginning, so I'm just very grateful that I was able to complete it."*

Going forward, Jessie plans to look for job opportunities, ideally in tech-related roles like technical support or tech sales. Before this, Jessie worked in client service and problem-solving, and now with the technical knowledge she's gained, she'd love to find a job that combines the two. She's also continuing to learn French and plans to continue her volunteer work in the community.

Jessie adds: *"I also want to say how grateful I am for the church. I've met so many kind people here, and every time I come, I feel a sense of peace and warmth. Thanks again for your support and encouragement!"*

We extend Jessie our best wishes on your search for a suitable position in the near future.



Elaine Sinton's granddaughter, **Elaina McKoen** graduated from Law School in June.. Elaine adds" Elaina used to attend VBS when she was young and then worked as a helper for a couple of years."

We extend Elaina our best wishes as she begins her career in the legal field.

Congratulations to you both on a milestone completed – and a job well done!



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

More Good News to Celebrate!

Sarah Knudson has been appointed Dean of St. Thomas More College (STMC), University of Saskatchewan. She begins a five-year term on July 1, with an Academic Mass and Installation on September 9. Her appointment comes after a national search and approval by the College's Board of Governors. Sarah began her career at STMC in 2012 as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2017. She was promoted to Full Professor earlier this year. Sarah is an accomplished teacher and scholar, with noted strengths in teaching, research and student supervision. She conducts research on families, gender, intimate relationships, and life transitions. Congratulations to Sarah.

Submitted by Bob Knudson (proud father of Sarah) 😊

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 has had her final surgery and is looking forward to a long-awaited return to her ministry.

The Schuler family: Rosemarie, Peter & Zoe and their family, and Eric & Jill and their family, as they grieve the loss of their beloved husband and father Karl, as they adjust to a new chapter of life.

Tammy & Shawn McDonald, as Tammy grieves the loss of her mother who passed away in Port Alberni recently. We pray for God's peace to surround and fill them as they deal with yet another loss in their family.

Kevin Mathiasen, nephew of Kris, and young husband and father, who was recently diagnosed with esophageal cancer. May God guide his treatments towards a full remission and hold the whole family in grace and mercy.

Larrissa Chenosky, as she deals with the loss of her employment relating to her long-term health issues..

For those living through the trauma and tragedy of war, conflict and displacement in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Sudan, and for those like Omid, Malahat and Melody, who remain concerned for friends and family back home - that they may remain safe amid the chaos.

For those traveling this summer – that their journeys be safe and their days be restful and rejuvenating.

For our newly baptized members – Sofia Hansen & Heidi Sommerfeld - that they be led and guided in the paths they should go that will bring their faith to fruition and serve them well.



Thanksgiving!

Please join us as we thank God for:

- Our two newly baptized members of the family of God - Sofia & Heidi
- For the ministry of Canadian Lutheran World Relief to refugees and other displaced persons.
- For the generosity of our congregation towards our recent **Day of Action** Toiletry Drive.
- For all who step up and serve in various roles and capacities for the benefit our congregation.

THANK
YOU
GOD!

Rest
in
Peace

We join the Schuler Family as they mourn the loss of their husband, father and grandfather

Karl Schuler

who passed away May 22, 2026. A Memorial Service will be held here on **Saturday, June 20th at 11 am**. Karl will be missed for his warm, gentle presence and the kindness he showed to many in his life.

Special Services To Note

Please take note of the following worship opportunities and special services that will be happening over the summer months.

Summer Hymn Sing



Beginning Sunday, **July 5th** and going until Labour Day Sunday, we will gather in the Sanctuary 10 minutes before our worship service starts and sing your choice of a couple of favourite hymns before the service begins. See you there promptly at 10:20 am!

Church Picnic Sunday - August 30th



Along with our friends from St. Laurence Anglican Church, we will hold our annual Church Picnic after a kid-focussed worship service outside (weather permitting) on **Sunday, August 30th**. We will begin at our regular time of 10:30 am. During our usual Coffee/Fellowship hour, we will gather for our potluck picnic lunch, where BBQ'ed hotdogs will be the main dish. Please bring a sweet or savoury side dish to share, and don't forget your lawn chairs either!

Labour Day Sunday - September 6th



On the Sunday of Labour Day weekend, September 6th, we will enjoy another opportunity to hear from a member of our congregation about the intersection of their faith and their vocation.

Please come and support and enjoy a mystery guest as they share their reflections and encourage us to reflect on our own vocational journeys.

Pastor Eric's Summer Holiday Sundays



Pastor Eric will be away from **July 14 to August 3**. Pastor Marlys Moen will be leading the service on July 19, and the following two Sundays will be lay-led with a video sermon. Please stay posted for more details.

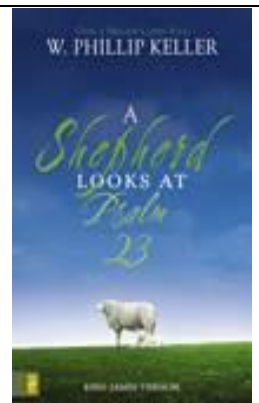


We will be on break over July and August, reconvening again sometime in September. But our last meeting before our break will be on **Thursday, June 25th at 7:15 pm** at the home of Lily and Mogens. The book to be discussed is:

A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23 by W. Phillip Keller

'As a shepherd, Phillip Keller shares his insights into the life and character of sheep—and of the Good Shepherd who loves and cares for them. This beloved classic will give new meaning to the ageless Shepherd Psalm, enriching your trust in and love for the Lord who watches closely over you.'

Happy Reading to you all over the summer months!





MUSIC IN THE PARK (ING LOT)

September 12, noon - 4 pm

Fall event for our whole neighbourhood

A music festival in the parking lot of **Good Shepherd Church**

We have some wonderful entertainment lined up including:

Yvon Malenfant and his band & Nikolaj Hansen and musical friends
and guest starring "Gift Shop" - a well-known and highly acclaimed
Tragically Hip tribute band

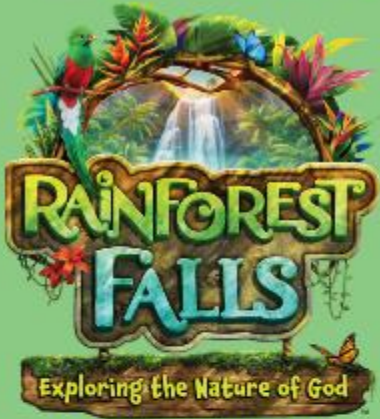
In addition there will be other attractions including:

A hot dog BBQ
Ice Cream give-away
Vendors row featuring local artisans selling their wares
Kid's activities
Various contributions from the Kwikwitlem First Nation
Indoor activities (including a jigsaw puzzle station)

Help spread the word and plan to attend
to enjoy a wonderful end of summer party
and meet some of our neighbours

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

THIS SUMMER!



Good Shepherd Lutheran and St. Laurence Anglican churches invite you to join us for a fun week of Bible stories, crafts, science experiments, and games! Registration is now open, just scan the QR code!

When: August 24-28, 9am-12pm

Where: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (corner of Schoolhouse St. and Spruce Ave.)

Who: Kids aged 4 to 11



*Come for some
faith-building fun
with friends old
and new!*



Attention Volunteers!

We're looking for **Volunteers to help out with our VBS program!** If you are interested in volunteering anytime during the week of August 24-28 week, our sign-up sheet is out now. We're looking for leaders and helpers at most stations: Crafts, Science, Story Telling, Games, Snacks, Runners & Floaters. The week before the VBS starts, we'll also need help with decorating & preparing the church. Speak to Amy or Pastor Eric if a task piques your interest.

Church Yard and Garage Sale

We once again had a successful garage sale and hot dog give away on May 23rd, and we give thanks to everyone who helped out by donating items, and helping out throughout the week preceding to price and sort those donations. It would not have been possible without your help and we are VERY GRATEFUL!

The Grand Total of all sales totalled \$1,056.75. And while this total is much smaller than other years because of fewer people visiting, it is still something to celebrate. Our charities will certainly be happy with the gifting they get! This amount may be a bit higher as we attempt to sell one more of our larger items on online platforms, with sale proceeds - should we get them - being added to this garage sale total.

This year, many of our left-over treasures were passed on to other not-for-profit charities including Eagle Ridge, Cross Roads Hospice, Low Entropy Society, The Salvation Army, Restore, and the Red Cross. Other items donated to Value Village that weren't appropriate for the other charities.



Thanks you again for helping us make this event a fun, fundraising success for three worthy charities.

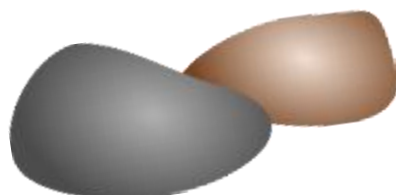


Faith Souvenirs: "Where have you experienced God's grace in your summer?"

All are invited to keep the above question on your mind during your comings and your goings during the summer. Perhaps you will collect something along the way speaks to your experience of God's grace. That might be a bulletin from a service in another church they visited, or a poem they've written, or a picture of a place they visited, or other things. You are invited to leave them on the table set up in the Narthex for us all to enjoy.

You don't have to go to anywhere wild and exciting. Even a walk along the seawall, or along the river may help you see God's grace given to you. Let's think about it and keep our eyes & ears open to the possibilities.

We think it'll be kind of interesting to see what gets collected.



From the church office

Regarding the 2026 Telephone Directory

There have been a few technical glitches with getting the directory out in a timely manner. But take heart! We expect it will be in your mail slots before the end of June.

And speaking of mail slots....just a friendly reminder that if anyone doesn't have a mail slot that would like one, please email the church office with your request.

Thank you!

Lost and Found

Gold and pinkish pearl stud: Found on Sunday, June 7 after cleaning up from our recent Church Potluck. No back stop was found with it. See Sherry if it is yours.

Glasses: These were found outside near the stump amongst the bracken during a recent yard clean-up event. See Sherry if these are yours.



A REMINDER FROM PASTOR ERIC

Spot the Scam, Skip the Spam

As a friendly reminder, I want to send along a note about scam emails. You may have received an email purporting to be from me and asking for a favour or personal information, or urgent financial help for myself or a parishioner. These are scams! As I've often said I will never make those kind of requests in an email – if ever.

We can all avoid being scammed by keeping in mind a couple of rules of thumb.

- 1) If an email seems weird, it probably is.
- 2) If the sender address is not my personal email address or the church's email address, it is not from me.
- 3) If you are in the least bit suspicious, please don't hesitate to call me or the church and inquire.

And please feel free to share this information and these tips with others. Together, we can keep ourselves, and particularly those among us most vulnerable, safe.

~ Pastor Eric

A Note From Our Librarian

After many years, an inventory list of material in the church library is just about finished. It's simple, just a catalog of category/author/title to help you find what you're looking for. Whether you pull things out to find something that catches your interest, or seek a specific title or subject, or just want some quiet time in the big round chair (who doesn't?), you're always welcome.

Donated material and an anonymous financial gift have helped fill our shelves, and we're so grateful! Among the new releases: recent book club reads, like John Greene's *The Anthropocene Reviewed* (worth checking out just to find out what the word "Anthropocene" means!); a trio of books by Robin Wall Kimmerer (*The Serviceberry* is highly recommended); a storybook, printed in Haida, English, and French, recounting a long-ago journey from Haida Gwaii to the Rocky Mountains; and a beautiful little book of drawings and text, *Grief Therapy*, that's gentle yet deeply impactful.

In this season where the sun rises early and sets late, come and find your next beach read, or a DVD course to challenge and broaden your horizons, or a book of devotions to keep handy on the bedside table. **Material can be checked out by anyone--free of charge, anytime.** When you're finished with something, return it to the library. Feel free to stick a note inside that tells us what you thought of what you checked out.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

We are always 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. Training will be provided as required.

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



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 use your gifts in service to others.

And for a short-term commitment, we're looking for help during our VBS program. If you have the time during the mornings of August 24-28, we'd love your presence (as you are able) as we run our outreach education program to the children inside & outside of our church, and help spread the good news of God's love for everyone!!



From Our Treasurer

The following is an update on our financial YTD Status as of the end of May 31, 2026:

	<u>May 31, 2026</u>	
YTD Total Income	\$ 129,981.81	
YTD Total Expenses	<u>116,595.06</u>	
Surplus	<u>\$ 13,386.75</u>	
Special Initiative Fund	\$ 22,923.13	
Property Fund	\$ 1,901.80	In the black! Yay 😊

Thank you all for your faithful generosity.

Church Council Corner

From your Fellowship Team

Potlucks and People: A Perfect Pairing

A very tasty thank you to everyone who came out on Sunday June 7th to partake in the 'Thank You for All You Do' Potluck Dinner, organized by the Good Shepherd Women's Group and the Fellowship Team.

Delicious dishes and yummy desserts were shared and enjoyed by everyone. Our Women's Group provided the cakes for dessert, and the give-away table plants. And a special thank you to Caroline Hunt for making the crocheted hearts that were given away as a 'Thank You for All You Do' gift of appreciation.

Thank you too, to Michelle Ryu on the piano and for her beautiful singing who entertained us that evening, who was accompanied by Yvon Malenfant on the guitar who also gifted us with a song.

To end the evening, Pastor Eric led us in a lovely Thanksgiving Litany.

Many hands made light work that evening, so heartfelt gratitude to all those who pitched in and helped set up, clean up, put away tables and to those who were in the kitchen helping with the dishes.

Breaking bread together is always nice, and we are grateful for the good food, the good mood, and the even greater company.

From your Outreach Team

A Note of Thanks

Your Outreach Team would like to thank anyone and everyone who donated food or funds to the SHARE Foodbank. Food insecurity is on the rise and your donations are gratefully accepted. Whether it be socks, clothing items, toiletries, cereal or soup...you always step up. Thank you. Thank you!

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." - Romans 12:13-

June-August Youth Update



Summer has arrived, and we're getting really close to the end of the school year. And with that, IgnYte will be wrapping up for this year, too. There will still be a few opportunities to meet up during the summer break which are noted below, but in the meantime, we wanted to take this opportunity to wish all youth and their families a relaxing, yet fun-filled summer. For those whose plans include travelling, may God keep you safe along your journeys. Have a great summer everyone, and we hope to see you again in the fall. God bless you all!

Your fearless Trio Team...

Rachel, Darya and Abbey

ignYte Youth Activities Coming Up...

Thursday June 4th: IgnYte @ Dada's Fashion Show
Saturday/ Sunday, June 5th-6th: One Body Synod event CLAY fundraiser
Saturday June 13th: Youth Wrap up
Week of August 10th: Youth Camp at Loon Lake (Don't forget to register!
See details below 😊)
Friday-Sunday, August 28-30: DYM Camp @ Camp Artaban



LOOKING AHEAD...Youth Camp at Loon Lake

The 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. The Registration form and the financial aid application form can be found [here](#).

Also, feel free to contact Rachel at the synod office (bcsynod@elcic.ca) if you have any questions.

With great thanks and joy,

Rachel, Darya, and Abbey

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



GROWING

✝ in faith

♥ in friendship

★ in justice



Youth Camp Core Planning Team Members:
Pastor Courtenay Reedman Parker, Sarah Pawlos,
Pastor Eric Krushel, Rachel Genge, Pastor Erik Parker



*This is where
 we're having
 youth camp for
 BC synod youth?*



*Sure is!
 We're looking forward
 for youth to joins us to
 talk justice August 10-
 14 @ Loon Lake*

**REGISTER
 NOW**



REMINDER: ignYTE YOUTH BOTTLE ACCOUNT OPEN!



Helping support youth activities
is as simple as returning your
empty bottles with our ignYte
Return it Express Account.



How Express works:

1. Put your empty beverage containers into clear or transparent plastic bags that are up to 90 liters in capacity, no sorting needed!
2. Visit return-it.ca/locations to find an Express location near you.
3. At the Express location, use phone number **778-836-8762** to log into the ignYte account at the Express kiosk and print your bag labels. Remember to label each of your bags.
4. Scan your bag labels with a scan gun located below the drop-off window. The screen on the kiosk will confirm if you successfully scanned your bag label.
5. Drop your bags off at the designated Express drop off area.
6. Proceeds are e-transferred, designated directly to ignYte Youth.



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 creative gifts. And not to critique them- but simply to recognize in others their God-given gifts and then thank God for the gifts he has given to them! All are welcome to submit pictures of their uniquely created endeavours. Please include with it the inspiration that sparked your creativity - if you were even aware of it!

The Race

Running eagerly
the race
with other runners
faster, bolder, braver
cheered on by others
who have run the race.
Over green grass
over pebbles, stones,
dry dusty ground.
Run on, run on!
Someone waits
at the finish line
with open arms,
Smiling.

Kate Wright c. 2026

News from the Greater Church Body

ELCIC & National Office NEWS

National Bishop Calls for Prayer Following Detention of ELCJHL Youth

National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer [is inviting the church to join in prayer and advocacy following an urgent request from Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad](#) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL).

In a June 3 letter to the church, Bishop Kochendorfer shared Bishop Haddad's concerns regarding Natalie Abuddayeh, a youth member of the ELCJHL, who was detained alongside three other women from her student apartment in Birzeit. Abuddayeh is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Beit Jala, a graduate of Talitha Kumi Lutheran School and a media and journalism student at Birzeit University.

"Our prayers and actions for justice are always intertwined," Kochendorfer wrote. "We join in prayer for our siblings in Christ."

The ELCIC invites members to read Bishop Kochendorfer's full letter to the church, join in prayer for the ELCJHL and consider contacting their Member of Parliament and/or the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

[Read Bishop Kochendorfer's letter to the church](#)
[Read Bishop Kochendorfer's letter to Minister Anand](#)

Conversations Across the Church With Our Global Mission Partners



The recording of our third Conversations Across the Church event held on May 24 [is now available!](#)

We were joined by our Global Mission partners: Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), Pastor Mariela Pereyra, President of Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Unida (IELU), and Pastor Ofelia Davila, President of Iglesia Luterana del Peru (IL-P),

who reflected on the question: Where do you see life in your church?

Thank you to everyone who joined us! We are grateful for the time you've given to gather in worship and reflection with our wider church community. You can watch the video recording by [clicking here](#). Did you attend? [Please share your feedback with us here.](#)

The next Conversations Across the Church event will take place on Sunday, September 13, 2026. [Visit our website to register.](#) Further details on timing will be made available in the coming months.

March 31st Was ELCIC's Day of Action!

From neighbourhood clean-ups and community barbecues to fundraisers, food donations and acts of service, congregations across the ELCIC came together on May 31 for the first ever Day of Action. [Learn about two congregations](#) in particular that hosted a classic car parade and a sidewalk fiesta below! Read that story [here](#).

Editors Note:

Not to brag or anything, but in response to the ELCIC's invitation to Action, our church launched a Toiletry Drive during the month of May which gathered many much-needed items for our unhoused or precariously housed neighbours which will be distributed in June through various agencies; we raised money for 3 charities through our Garage Sale Proceeds; and a few members went and helped an elderly neighbour clean-up his yard and remove green waste to the recycling depot, when the company that he had hired to cut down a tree just left the green waste in his yard. Likely, there were even more acts done by silent disciples, too. And finally, of course, we marked the anniversary day itself on March 31st and celebrated with cake! 😊



Canada Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) names new CEO



We are excited to share that the CLWR Board of Directors has named Darryl Loewen as its new Chief Executive Officer. Darryl will begin the role on June 1st, succeeding Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse who served as interim CEO during the search process.

Darryl has served for nearly a decade as Executive Director of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Manitoba where he led a major organizational consolidation, represented the organization across a diverse constituency, guided MCC Manitoba through significant change and deepened the organization's fundraising capacity.

Read the full announcement [here](#)

"We all know how the world feels right now," added Loewen. "And Canada has to decide who we are as the world around us changes from what we knew. I believe it's time for people of faith to take the lead with our commitment to global solidarity, and show how deep our convictions are that no one should be abandoned in the face of wars, disasters and a changing climate. I'm honoured to be part of a movement that was born of that conviction, and has been living it out for 80 years."

Lutheran World Federation News:

Strengthening Lay Leaders in the Global Communion

More than 20 lay leaders from across the global communion of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) gathered this May for the ninth International lay Leaders Seminar, held in Wittenberg and Geneva from May 7-15, 2026. After beginning their time at the LWF Center in Wittenberg, Germany, participants continued in and around Geneva - another historic city of the Reformation for a period of reflection, learning, and leadership formation. Together, they explored practices of faithful leadership, deepened self-awareness, and reflected on how the church, including lay leaders, is called to share hope and speak out for justice and peace in today's world. Among them was Nahema-Bea Tchokonte Deudjeu, a lay leader from the ELCIC, who reflected on the richness of learning in a global community.

"There are different backgrounds that shape us. We have different contexts. We have different age. So that brings an entirety of different perspectives, and being able to learn from each other and grow from that is a gift that's truly wonderful," reflected Nahema-Bea Tchokonté Deudjeu.

Read the full LWF story here: <https://lutheranworld.org/news/strengthening-lay-leadership-global-communion>

LWF Call to Strengthen Protection for Vulnerable People on the Move

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) joined ecumenical, interfaith and other civil society partners at the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) to reaffirm the human rights of migrants and to demand strengthened protection for the most vulnerable people on the move. Read more about this work when you [click here](#).

Together We Pray: Women's Prayer Book

A new prayer resource from The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is sharing the voices, experiences and theological reflections of women from across the global Lutheran communion – with significant contributions from members of the ELCIC. *Together We Pray* brings together prayers written by lay and ordained women, theologians, leaders, students and activists from LWF member churches around the world.

The project also carries a special connection to the ELCIC through the legacy of the former Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW) organization. Following the dissolution of ELW, remaining funds were used to establish the ELCIC Women of Faith Fund, which provided annual grants supporting leadership, learning and the participation of women in the life of the church. As the Women of Faith Fund reached its final year, remaining funds were gifted to the LWF and allocated toward Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment initiatives – including nearly \$16,000 to support the creation of *Together We Pray*.

ELCIC contributors to the women's prayer book resource include Deacon Gretchen Peterson, Deacon Dr. Faith Nostbakken, Rev. Aneeta Devi Saroop, Rev. Katherine Gohm, Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein, Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund and former ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson.

Available to download [here](#) in English, Spanish, German & French, *Together We Pray* invites Lutherans around the world to experience the diversity of the communion through shared prayer. Learn more [here](#)!

World Council of Churches News:

WCC Virtual Youth Gathering Draws Prayers and Solidarity



Photo: World Council of Churches (WCC)

The [World Council of Churches](#) (WCC)'s Young People in the Ecumenical Movement (YPEM) held its second online Connection Gathering on June 10 which drew over 60 young people from around the world in prayer, solidarity, and friendship.

To read the full article, please [click here](#).

WCC Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has issued an invitation to churches and disciples to join the Ecumenical [Decade of Climate Justice Action](#) (2025-2034): *Moving Together in Ecological Metanoia for Transformation*. This movement supports people in answering the prophetic call to care for our common home and stand in solidarity with those who suffer most from climate injustice.

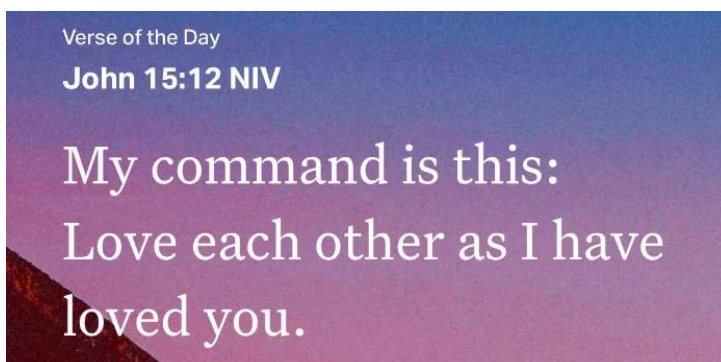
Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS)

Lutheran Theological Seminary Announces New Shared Ministry

The Boards of St. Andrew's College (SAC) and Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) have affirmed their intentions to move forward together into a new model of theological education and shared ministry.

This decision reflects years of collaboration, conversation, and discernment between the two institutions. As each school continues to be deeply rooted in their own denominational tradition, both share a longstanding commitment to theological education, leadership formation, academic excellence, and service to church and wider society.

To read the full news release, please [click here](#).



Citizens For Public Justice

Building the Canadian Welcome for Refugees and Migrants



Dozens of [Citizens for Public Justice](#) (CPJ) supporters gathered in person and online for the Ottawa stop of the Renewed Canadian Welcome Book Tour - an initiative inviting reflection on Canada's response to refugee and migrants. The event featured Dr. Patti Tamara Lenard, who observed that while many people remain committed to supporting refugees, the current political climate has made the work more challenging.

Through its 2026 campaign, *Building the Canadian Welcome*, the organization is encouraging renewed public engagement and support for policies that uphold a spirit of welcome and respect for international human rights. More information including how to support this work is available when you click [here](#).

Justice Updates



June Marks National Indigenous History Month in Canada

June is National Indigenous History Month - a time to honour the histories, cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada. **June 21** is National Indigenous Peoples Day and 2026 will mark the 30th anniversary of the celebration.

This coming month, we take time to reflect on reconciliation and commit to truth, justice, and healing. We are invited to learn from Indigenous voices - through books, films, conversations, and events. Attend a National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration on or around Sunday, June 21, visit a local friendship centre, or explore whose land you live on and the treaties that shape it. This month, let us listen, learn, and walk together in respect and relationship. For your interest, you can find additional resources here:

[The Anglican Church of Canada](#)

[The Presbyterian Church in Canada](#)

[The United Church of Canada](#)

June is Pride Month



June is the month we usually join with the LGBTQ2S+ community in celebrating the theme of Pride and God's gift of diversity and inclusive love. We encourage you to check out various opportunities around the Lower Mainland available to participate in this celebration. Here in Coquitlam, a Pride Event is planned down at Evergreen Cultural Center on **July 4 from 12 noon to 5 pm**. Check out more details at Tricitiespride.ca. We will celebrate a Pride themed service on July 5.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35 (NRSVUE)

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia, & Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)

Did you know that on May 17, the world marked International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia, and Transphobia - (IDAHOBIT) - a global moment to stand in solidarity with 2SLGBTQI communities and spotlight in the urgent need to confront hate and discrimination. You can find more information on this from a Lutheran lens at **Reconciling Works** when you [click here](#) and view Canadian advocacy resources at **Egale Canada** when you [click here](#).

Women Peacebuilders: A Call to Act Together



Photo credits: KAIROS Canada website

On March 11, [KAIROS Canada](#) convened partners, allies and community members for the online launch of Women [Peacebuilders at the Nexus of Climate, Conflict and Gender](#), a project that supports local partners working at the intersection of climate change, conflict and gender inequality with a focus on strengthening women's leadership, resilience and advocacy in complex and fragile regions.

Other Items of Interest

Lutheran Manor Society of Vancouver BC Notice of AGM and Call for Nominations

The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Manor Society of Vancouver BC has **rescheduled the Annual General Meeting for Thursday, June 23, 2026, at 7:00 PM**. The mode of meeting will be hybrid: both in-person at 375 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver, and by Zoom.

Per the Society's Bylaws, all members of ELCIC-BC Synod congregations and all members of parishes of the Anglican Church of Canada in British Columbia are eligible to become members of the Society by registering for and attending the AGM.

The Board welcomes you to nominate people for election to the Board. **Three positions are open to the broader constituency**, as specified by the Society's Bylaws. The Board currently comprises the following:

a. Members of **Spirit of Life Lutheran Church**:

- By virtue of office:
Pastor Aneeta Saroop, Chairperson
Jared Braund, and
Treasurer Mark Johnson.
- By election from Spirit of Life's membership roster:
Sarah Johnson (eligible and nominated for re-election),
Rev. Clifford Reinhardt (not eligible for re-election).

b. Members from the **broader constituency**:

- Stephanie Oldford – Mount Olive, Surrey (eligible and nominated for re-election).

For more information and to submit nominations, please contact Rev. Clifford Reinhardt by email, reinhardtcf@gmail.com . The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, April 21st. The list of nominees will be published by April 28th. In the coming weeks please watch for more details about the Lutheran Manor AGM.

On behalf of the Board,
Rev. Clifford Reinhardt, Chair

In Need of a Counselor?

LOW FEE COUNSELLING SERVICES STARTING AT \$15



- Counselling for individuals, couples, and families
- Online and in-person appointments available in multiple locations across the Lower Mainland
- Sliding fee scale from \$15-\$65 CAD per session
- Services offered from a Family Systems perspective for a wide range of family and relationships problems

We also have Registered Clinical Counsellors and Canadian Certified Counsellors available and they are experienced Bowen family systems therapists. They also charge on a sliding scale starting at \$15 (can vary depending on the specific counsellor). For details, please inquire at <https://livingsystems.ca/about/contact/>

Space may be limited but we endeavour to keep our waitlist to a minimum.



Contact info@livingsystems.ca

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.

Insect Loss in Canada

In a study published in 2025, scientists have noted a huge decline in overall insect biodiversity and biomass. Reasons for declines include:

- Habitat Degradation; Ecosystems such as wetlands, forests, and grasslands.
- Climate change; Shifting temperatures and weather patterns.
- Pollution; Including light pollution.

And Pesticides

Indiscriminate use of neonicotinoids and fipronil are especially damaging. Used routinely, they sterilize the soil causing soil disruption because:

- They have long term persistence in the soil.
- They impact soil microbes.
- They contaminate groundwater and waterways due to runoff.
- Because they are usually sprayed onto fields, the spray can drift beyond the fields.

We know that our pollinators are under threat, but we also have other insect populations that are very important for the health of our planet.



1. The decrease of flies, mosquitoes, midges and moths is affecting aerial insectivores like swallows, flycatchers, nightjars, and bats whose populations in some areas have declined up to 43%.
2. Insects that are decomposers, breaking down dead plant material and animal remains and then recycling the nutrients back into the soil. These include beetles and ants.

3. Insects that help with crowd control such as wasps and dragonflies who help prevent



populations of caterpillars, spiders, and crickets from reaching large pest



levels and ladybugs with their voracious appetite for aphids.

4. Aquatic insects, which are often the larvae or nymphs of flying insects like dragonflies, help recycle nutrients form the pond bottom back into the food web. They also eat



algae and waste that settles to the bottom of the pond.

And although earth worms are not insects, their main job is to aerate the soil and their casings provide a natural fertilizer.

Healthy ecosystems should have lots of different insect species, each with their own part in the cycle of nature.

I will end with two quotes from David Suzuki:

“When the bottom of the food chain is endangered, so too is everything up the chain – including people.”

“We fail to understand that nature, which includes us, is interdependent, that every disruption or disturbance we create will have far reaching consequences.”

Respectfully yours,

Claire Thompson



Hey there, kids...

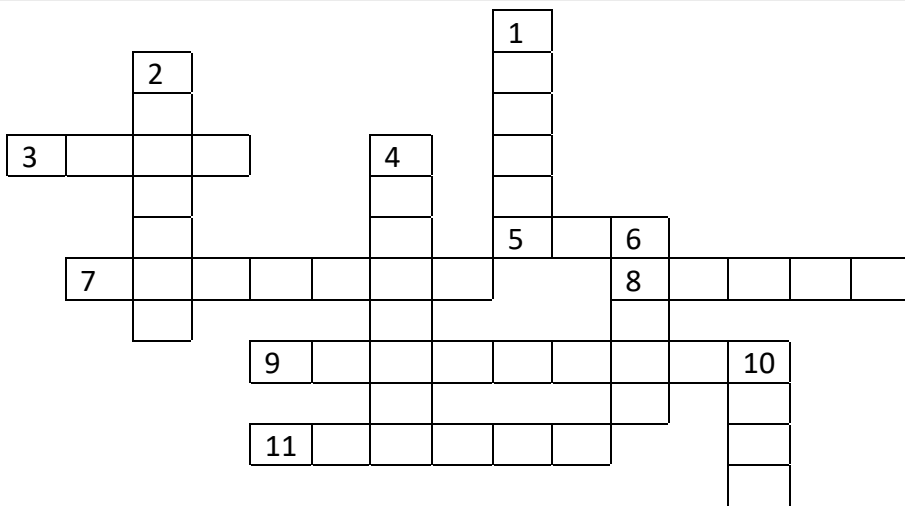


Summer is here - Yay! - and it's time to get outside and play in the great outdoors. And while you're enjoying your time outside, think about where all the beauty that you see around you comes from. Hmmm...

Well, God created it, and it's told in the book of Genesis in the Bible. God called everything that He created 'good' - and it is!

So, enjoy God's gift of creation this summer. And maybe think about how you can do your part and help to take care of that gift that God gave to all of us!

Kids Corner

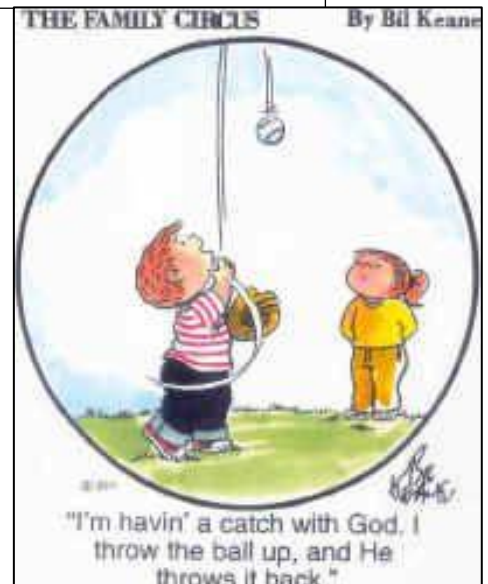


ACROSS

3. In the beginning the earth was a formless _____. (vs.1)
5. God created the dome over the earth and called it _____ (vs.8)
7. After God created every creature, God _____ them (vs.22)
8. God called the dry land _____ (vs.10)
9. God created all _____ that swim in the water and fly in the air. (vs.20)
11. On the Seventh Day God _____ from all His work. (Gen.2:2)

DOWN

1. God called the earth to bring forth vegetation: _____ of all kinds with seeds (vs.11)
2. God made the _____ that walked on the earth. (vs 25)
4. God said "Create humankind in *our* image, according to *our* _____." (v.26)
6. The rotating earth created signs for the seasons, days and _____. (vs.14)
10. God called the waters that he gathered together _____. (vs.10)



Weekly & Monthly Church Events

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

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Our last study will be Sunday, June 28th, resuming again in the fall.

Sunday Morning Worship

We gather **every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.** for our weekly worship service. **“Hymn Sing” begins July 5th** when we meet 10 minutes before the service starts to sing a couple of our favorite Hymns. This service continues to be live streamed over our YouTube Channel, and a recording of the service is posted shortly after the service ends.

Midweek Bible Study

This Bible study is on hiatus for the summer months and will reconvene in the fall.

Wednesday afternoon Prayer Gathering at 1:30 pm over Zoom

Our last *Lectio Divina* (where we delve into the word of God followed by communal prayer) before our summer break is June 24th, reconvening again on September 9th after our summer hiatus. During the summer months we will continue to gather twice a month only in the style of *‘Prayers of the People’* (praying for those concerns and thanksgivings that are on our hearts and in our minds on that day) on June 17, July 8 and 22, August 5 and 19, before recommencing such meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month beginning September 2. At any of our prayer gatherings, praying aloud is not mandatory nor required.

Good Shepherd Women

Currently on summer break, reconvening on Tuesday, September 8.

Book Club

After our June 25th meeting we will be on break until the fall.

Sip with the Spirit

We will continue to gather in a member’s home to enjoy an evening of spirit-led conversation on various topics, over a favorite beverage (alcoholic or non-alcoholic). Over the summer we plan on meeting twice. Stay tuned and listen for details as they become available.

Movie Night

Peter Schuler hosts this enjoyable event at his home. This gathering is currently on break until the fall.

Zoom Happy Hour

Happy Hour over Zoom will take place on July 2nd and August 27th