

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 16, 2026

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE LIVE AND WORSHIP ON THE UNCEDED TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE KWIKWETLEM FIRST NATION, WHICH LIES WITHIN THE SHARED TERRITORIES OF THE TSLEIL-WAUTUTH, KATZIE, MUSQUEAM, SQUAMISH AND STÓ:LŌ NATIONS. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE CARED FOR THIS LAND SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL AS WE SEEK TO JOURNEY TOWARDS A MEANINGFUL RECONCILIATION.

Liturgy: ELW Setting 10

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Welcome & Announcements & Land Acknowledgement

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: **we confess to you all our sins.**

We feel the burdens of life,

**and so turn to things for relief that leave us feeling ashamed
and even more burdened.**

We justify our failure to love our neighbours

by telling ourselves someone else will care.

We are full of good intentions around deepening our faith

**but always find other things to do
instead of giving you our time.**

**In all these ways and more we are trapped in sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

Please, in your mercy, call us back to you.

Give us a vision of what life can be

in loving relationship with you, each other, and all creation.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us by your Holy Spirit

**to walk in your ways
and find our peace in you.**

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

C: Amen.

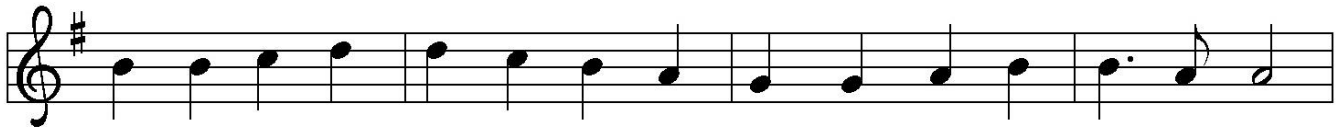
Gathering Song ELW # 641 – All Are Welcome

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Canticle of Praise – Glory to God in Heaven



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.

2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

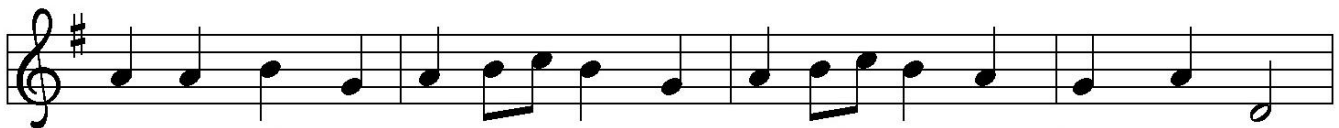
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:

Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;

Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Hear our prayer; re - store, for-give us; in your prom-ise firm we stand.

For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

Word

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

Children's Time

First Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

Moved to tears by Judah's plea on behalf of Benjamin, Joseph declares, "I am Joseph!" and asks, "Is my father still alive?" Despite the brothers' evil intent, God used Joseph to preserve many lives at a time of famine

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.' Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 133

Refrain:

You o - pen wide your hand and sat - is -

fy the de - sire of ev - 'ry liv - ing thing.

L: How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.

C: **Refrain**

L: It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.

C: Refrain

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

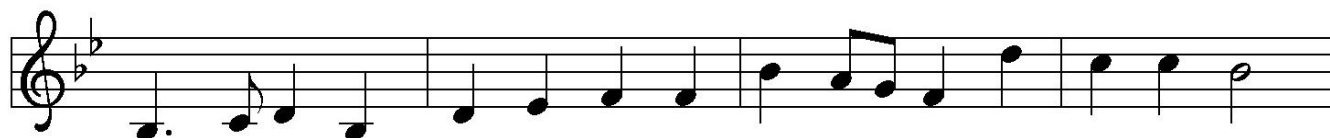
[Paul writes] I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 15^h chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Text: Matthew 15: 21-28

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day She Came To Jesus (Tune # 793 – Be Thou My Vision)

She came to Jesus from outside the fold —
Canaanite woman! Persistent and bold!
Looking to Jesus, she wanted to see
One who would help her and set her child free.

Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace,
She knew God's love was not bounded by place.
Jesus, you listened, debated — then healed —
For in her asking, her faith was revealed.

God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.
You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare.
In Christ, now risen, your mercy extends:
Those on the outside are welcomed as friends.

Tune: Traditional Irish melody ("Be Thou My Vision") Public Domain. Text: Copyright © 2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper Room Books, 2009)

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of Heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition, the pastor will say "God of grace" and the congregation will respond "hear our prayer."

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share a sign of peace with those around them, as we recognize the image of God in each other.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering and Offering Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

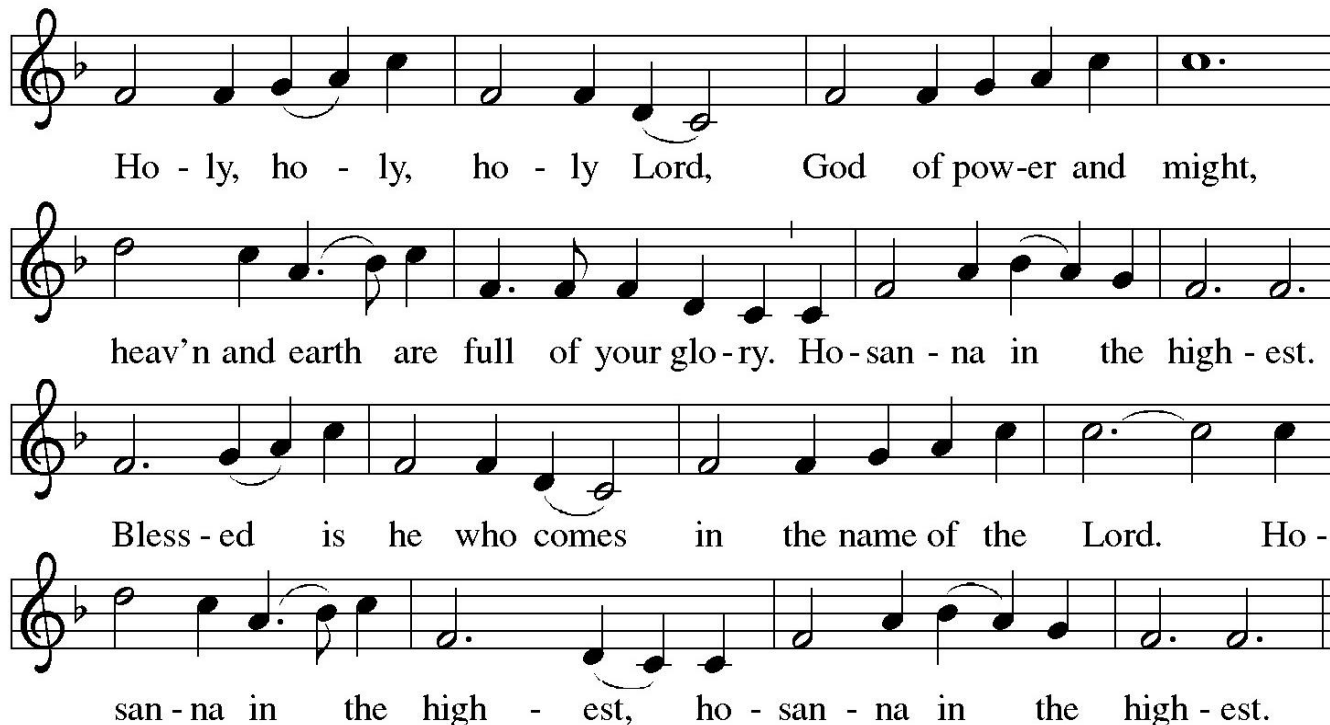
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

The pastor continues, concluding...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those

who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Communion Song – O Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion is distributed

Directions for Communion: All are invited to this meal of grace, including children. At the Usher's direction, you are invited to advance to the communion rail through the centre aisle, commune in groups, and exit back to your pews through the window aisles, depositing your used wine/juice vessel in the repository tray at the head of each window aisle. Wine is located in the two outer rings of the tray and the grape juice in the centre rings. We also have a gluten-free option for bread, and the common cup for wine. Please note your preference at the time of serving. If you would prefer to receive communion in your pew once all have come forward, please raise your hand and the servers will come to you.

Songs Sung During Communion:

ELW # 759 – My Faith Looks Up to Thee

ELW # 712 – Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service

ELW # 501 - Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus

TFF # 62 – Shine On Me – Refrain (Chant)



Shine on me, shine on me, let the light from the



light-house shine on me. Oh, shine on me, shine on



Communion Blessing and Prayer After Communion

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Sending Blessing

P: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C: Amen

Sending Hymn ELW # 715 – Christ, Be Our Light

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 16, 2026

Flowers are placed on the altar in gratefulness for the gifts of Jesus's sacrificial death and the redeeming power of His love and forgiveness freely given, so we may in turn freely give comfort, healing and justice to all whom we see in need.

Thank you: We extend our thanks to our special guest today to Darryl Loewen, new CLWR Executive Director, who is joining us today to speak about CLWR and how their new initiatives – including the Friends of Creation Lake Chad rehabilitation project that we are getting involved with, are positively impacting the world around us.

Friends of Creation – Lake Chad Fundraising Page: In advance of the *Season of Creation* that begins next month for 5 weeks, our church has initiated an online CLWR **Friends of Creation – Lake Chad** fundraising initiative. CLWR has kindly set up a specific on-line fundraising page for our church, which launches our goal to raise \$5,000 (100 acres at \$50 each) to help remediate the area that was formerly the Lake Chad lake basin, which has severely diminished in size due to global warming. Our GSLC online donation page is accessible by clicking [here](#), or via the QR code on the poster that follows. If your preference would be to donate cash or a cheque towards this initiative, we have special envelopes available for that purpose as well. Donations can be anonymous or else you can opt to show your name next to your donation amount – the choice is up to you! As the *Season of Creation* is almost here, we welcome your support through the launch our “CLWR - Friends of Creation” fundraising page. Donate once or donate as often as the Spirit moves you. See the bulletin board for more info.

Summer Foodbank Drive: Please don't forget Foodbank Donations over the summer. Food insecurity doesn't stop because of summer holidays. Please check out the items NEEDED, on the sign in the Narthex. (where the bin is) Donations will be delivered to the SHARE Food Bank periodically over the summer. Thankyou for your continued generosity.
~ *From Your Outreach Team*

Our Next Big Community Event!: Plans are taking shape for our next big fall community celebration. It will be a music festival on our parking lot featuring folk, jazz and rock music acts. There will be free food and ice cream, kids activities, contributions from the Kwikwetlem First Nation and some quieter indoor activities. We are looking for volunteers to help out with various tasks, and you can sign up on the sign-up sheet on the Ushers Table. As well, please see the poster that follows and plan to attend.

Favourite Hymn Sing: As is our usual practice over the summer months, we gather ten minutes before the service starts (at 10:20 am) to sing a couple of our favourite hymns before our regular service begins. The songs sung are selected by those attending, so come early and nominate your favourite hymn!

Vacation Bible School 2026: Plans are well underway for VBS Summer 2026. It will be held at our church **August 24-28, 9:00-12:00**, hosted by Saint Laurence and Good Shepherd Lutheran. VBS is for kids ages 4-11 and this year's program “Rainforest Falls – Exploring the Nature of God ” is filled with learning and fun through games, crafts, storytelling, science experiments and music. See the poster that follows for all the details and to register you can click [here](#). If you would like to help out in any way, please contact Amy MacLeod our VBS co-coordinator, or Pastor Eric.

🌟 🌟 **Jungle Stuffed Animals Needed for VBS!** 🌟 🌟

We are seeking stuffed animals to use as decorations for this year's Rainforest-themed VBS. If you are able, please help us populate our rainforest with jungle animals for VBS! They'll be on loan & will be returned to you.



Drop-off Date: Sunday, August 23rd



Thank you for helping us make this year's VBS an amazing adventure for the kids!

Job Opportunity – Youth Minister: ignyte, the joint youth ministry of Good Shepherd and St. Laurence Anglican, is looking to hire a new leader. This is a role for someone who loves working with young people, thrives on genuine relationships, and is ready to build something meaningful in partnership with a community poised for growth. To see more details, click on the ignYte page on our website [here](#).

Prayers for Colombia: On Monday, August 10, Colombia was impacted severely by a 7.4 magnitude earthquake. Iglesia Evangelica Luterana de Colombia (IELCO) serves as a companion synod of the ELCIC's Synod of Alberta and the Territories. Bishop Trish Schmermund asks you to consider offering prayer and support: "As we pray for all places of turmoil and disaster throughout the world, I ask for your prayers for our friends in Colombia, our Companion Synod, as they begin to understand the extent of damage and lives lost."

Next Conversation Across the Church: All are invited to join Bishop Larry and members of the ELCIC for the third Conversation Across the Church on **Sunday, September 13th at 3 pm PST**. The focus will be on the Season of Creation and why this is a priority for our church. Register [here](#) to register for the Zoom link to participate.

Advocacy for Natalie Abudayyeh and the ELCJHL: See the letter that follows from Bishop Larry Kochendorfer.

Liberating Lutherans: Theology & Organizing for the Church Today: *Spirit of Life* and *Church of the Cross* (2 churches in our Synod) are collaborating on an on-line education offering consisting of 1 hour classes on **Thursdays**, from September 17 to November 5. This is brief survey of Liberation Theology and its application to ministry today in our context. This is not an academic course, but a reading group open to anyone who wants to join. For more information, contact either of the church offices who will forward your email on.

spiritoflifelutheranoffice@gmail.com

lutheranchurchofthecross@shaw.ca

Campfire in the City: You are invited to come and join us at Dunbar Lutheran's garden (3491 West 31st Ave) for evenings of family-friendly campfire fun – songs, stories, and s'mores. Stop by for the evening, or just for a while. Bring a lawn chair if you have one – if not, we'll find a seat for you. Light drizzle won't stop us, but in case of heavy rain, the event will be cancelled. We gather in the summer months with the final one next month on **Friday evening, September 11th, 7:30 pm – 9 pm**. See the poster that follows for all the details.

Seeking Accommodation: Yvon Malenfant and Michelle Ryu are seeking temporary housing. If you have any, or know of any, please let them know. Yvon writes:

We are looking for temporary housing for the interim. 1 bedroom with a bathroom would be great! Something not too expensive. Let us know if you have anything. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Yvon & Michelle: 778-862-5240 Y / 778-863-5240 M

'Every Square Foot Counts' – Educational Opportunities for Congregations:

- This month's blog post is "**What the Quiet Season Is Asking of Us**" which invites congregations to reflect on how their buildings and land they sit on are seen and understood by their neighbourhoods. Read the full blog [here](#).

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



GREATER CHURCH NEWS

- **WCC Wants to Hear From You!**: WCC invites all members of the church to complete a short survey that will

help the WCC team shape their news, stories, resources and more. The survey can be found [here](#).

- **Thursdays in Black ambassadors reviewed framework for global activities**: Read more [here](#).
- **Monthly Reflections on Climate Justice**: The Task Force on Carbon Neutrality provides monthly reflections on climate justice to encourage engagement, share resources and call for prayer, reflection and learning. *Biblical Passages Related to Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality* and *Community Focused Environmental Stewardship* are monthly reflections that you can read today by [clicking here](#).
- **Ministry with the Sick and Dying in the Context of MAID**: You may be interested in the ELCIC's 2019 *Call to Faithfully Journey with the Dying* and/or the Anglican Church of Canada's [liturgical prayer resource](#) in the context of Medically Assisted Dying.
- **Messages and Statements from the National Bishop**: Stay informed and connection when you click [here](#).

JUSTICE UPDATES

- **Next National Housing Strategy**: The **Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH)** recommends **Five Things Canada Can Do** in the next National Housing Strategy to Drive Large Scale Reductions in Homelessness. To read more about the recommendation and how you might help click [here](#). CAEH also invites you to email your MP to [call for a transformed Canada Housing Benefit](#).
- **New Resource on Responding to Christian Nationalism**: A new resource titled *Kingdom Over Nation* created by [Churches Together in England \(CTE\)](#), offers timely guidance for navigating conversations around Christian Nationalism. Rooted in ecumenical collaboration, *Kingdom Over Nation* invites Christians to consider what shapes their vision of the world and to place God's Kingdom above national identity. Get this resource when you [click here](#). To read more about the creation of this resource, check out the [interview](#) by the World Council of Churches. This resource is a thoughtfully developed collection of theological and pastoral materials designed to support reflection on faith, identity, and discipleship in today's cultural context.
- **Canada is Better and Stronger with Refugees and Migrants**: Ask your MP to join us and so many others in supporting and celebrating the ways in which welcoming refugees enriches our community. Please join our call to protect Canada's legacy as a welcoming country by [writing a letter to your MP](#) and sharing this call to action in your networks.

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

This Week At Church (Note 1)

This Sunday *Favourite Hymn Sing* at 10:20 am
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time worship service with Holy Communion with
 Darryl Lowen, CLWR Executive Director as guest speaker at 10:30 am.
 (view live-stream [here](#))

Wednesday Prayer Gathering at 1:30 pm over Zoom

Thursday VBS volunteers meeting at 7 pm

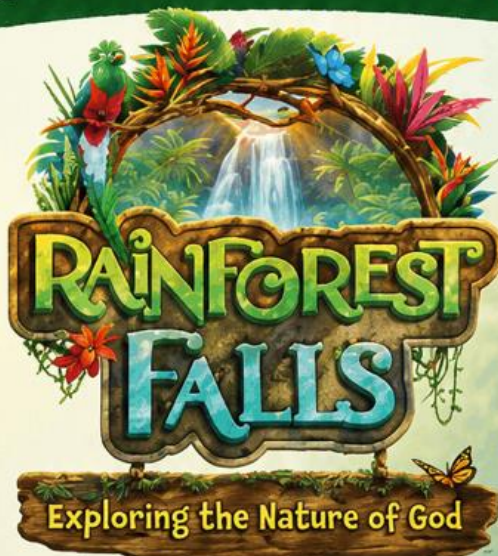
Next Sunday *Favourite Hymn Sing* at 10:20 am
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time worship service with Holy Communion
 at 10:30 am. (view live-stream [here](#))

Note: Most events are in-person events except those noted “on Zoom” or “Online”. The links to these online events are accessible through our website [here](#). Our Sunday morning worship service is offered in-person, live-streamed and via on-line recording posted to our website shortly after the service is over, unless otherwise noted.

Last Week at Church

Financial Information for:	July 26th	August 2nd	August 9th
Total Offerings:	\$ 2,773.00	\$ 2,430.00	\$ 3,938.91
General	\$ 2,573.00	\$ 2,330.00	\$ 2,898.00
<u>Designated Gifts:</u>			
- Youth Group	\$ 100.00		
- Child Ministry	\$ 100.00		
- Vacation Bible School		\$ 80.00	
- Special Initiatives Fund		\$ 20.00	
- Administration			\$ 450.00
- Property Fund			\$ 450.00
- HOMELESS Cooling Kits			\$ 90.41
- SHARE Food Bank			\$ 50.00

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THIS SUMMER!



AUGUST 24-28
9AM - 12PM



GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Corner of Schoolhouse St. & Sprice Ave.



KIDS AGES 4-11



**BIBLE STORIES, CRAFTS,
SCIENCE & GAMES!**

**SCAN TO
REGISTER!**



**FUN, FAITH &
FRIENDS!**



MUSIC IN THE

PARK(ING LOT)

FEATURING

ROCK - Gift Shop - The Ultimate Tribute to the Tragically Hip

FOLK - Yvon Malenfant & Friends

JAZZ - The Nikolaj Hansen Quartet

DETAILS



12:00 - 4:00 PM Sept 12



1504 Spruce Ave, Coquitlam

FREE Admission

Food, Kids activities,
kwikwəłəm First Nation,
and much more.

(please bring your lawn chair)

More Info:



Come join us for

Campfire *in the City*

Summer Fridays 7:30 – 9 pm

June 12

August 14

July 10

September 11

Songs, stories, and s'mores

Bring a lawn chair if you have one

Dunbar Lutheran Church garden
3491 West 31st Avenue
dunbarlutheran.ca



Friends of Creation *Milestones*

Our Friends of Creation journey so far

- ☐ Climate + Water
- ☐ Climate + Food
- ☐ Climate + Economy
- ☐ Climate + Peace
- ☐ Put faith in action
- ☐ Reached goal
towards _____ acres!

\$ _____ !

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

clwr.org/
goodshepherd-coquitlam





**JOIN US ON THE PATIO FOR
FREE BBQ'D HOT DOGS, A
BAGS OF CHIPS AND A DRINK
(BEEF, VEGGIE, HALAL)**

HAPPY SUMMER HOLIDAYS

**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME!**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 16TH
AT 11:30AM**

**DOWN THE LANE ACROSS FROM
HOWAY SCHOOL**



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church
in Jordan and the Holy Land*



الكنيسة الإنجيلية اللوثرية
في الأردن والأراضي المقدسة

ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer is encouraging members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada to contact Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and their local Member of Parliament in support of Natalie Abudayyeh.

Abudayyeh is a 21-year-old university student and youth member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) who remains in Israeli detention. In a letter to the church, Bishop Kochendorfer shared an update received from ELCJHL Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad.

Natalie has now been held for nearly two months, with Israeli authorities denying requests for her release on bail and refusing to allow her family to visit or contact her. A military court has ordered that she remain in prison until her next court appearance on September 23.

"As your bishop, I continue to be deeply shocked and heartbroken by this news," writes Bishop Kochendorfer. "Each update weighs heavily on me. The thought that Natalie has now spent two months without being able to see or even speak with her family is profoundly distressing."

The bishop is inviting members across the ELCIC to join in advocating for Natalie's safe release by writing to Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Anita Anand, and to their local Member of Parliament. A letter template has been prepared to help members share their concerns and encourage the Government of Canada to continue its diplomatic engagement on Natalie's behalf.

"We cannot allow this situation to fade from our attention," Bishop Kochendorfer writes. "Our voices matter. When Members of Parliament and the Minister of Foreign Affairs hear from constituents across the country, it reinforces the urgency of Canada's diplomatic engagement and advocacy for Natalie and the others who remain detained."

Members are encouraged to join National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer in advocating for Natalie Abudayyeh's safe release by contacting Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and their local Member of Parliament. Bishop Kochendorfer's letter, an advocacy letter template and additional resources are available on the ELCIC Holy Land webpage.

[Find those resources here.](#)

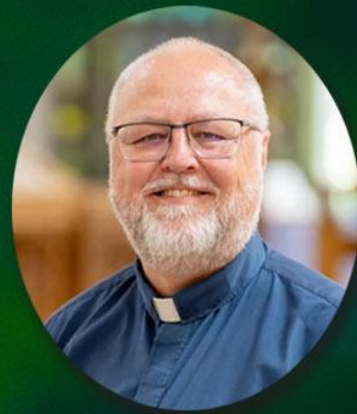
The ELCIC also continues to invite prayers for Natalie, her family, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and all those affected by the ongoing violence in the region



Conversations Across the Church

Sunday, September 13, 2026
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST

Please join **National Bishop
Larry Kochendorfer** and
guests for an hour of devotion,
reflection and conversation.



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER



Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

We welcome you to worship today. It is our prayer that you sense the joy that is present in Jesus Christ. God loves and values each of you without conditions attached. We bring our joys and needs before God, trusting in God's presence.

1504 Spruce Avenue, Coquitlam, BC, V3J 2P6

Phone: 604-936-2939

goodshepherd@telus.net www.gslcc.ca

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
@ GSLCoquitlam

Pastor Eric Krushel Cell: 604-220-5450

Office: 604-936-2939

General Office Hours				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00	10:00 – 2:00

We always recommend phoning before stopping by.



Good Shepherd
Website

