



BLESSINGS ABOUND!

I read something recently in a resource we use for planning worship. It said:

Autumn heralds cooler temperatures, fall sports, and the harvest in many North American landscapes...In the face of different autumn experiences and emotions one thing the church can do is offer blessings...There are so many ways we can bless our neighbours in worship and beyond the church doors. Can you point to the blessings already being enacted in your community? Can you encourage more?

There's something I like about the idea of blessing as a practice to welcome in a new church program year. It's a way of bringing before God those ordinary people and things we care about and asking God to use them to do extraordinary things. So we blessed Sunday school teachers, praying they will be instruments of faith formation in young lives. We bless our pets (virtually) praying they continue to live well and give us joy. We bless confirmands, praying they will be faithful followers of Jesus.

Yet as the quote above states blessing is not a practice that belongs within the walls of the church only. It is something we can, indeed something we are called to take out into the world. And there are indeed many ways we can bless our neighbours "out there".

So to answer the question, "Yes" I can point to blessings already being enacted in our community. We blessed our homeless neighbours earlier this summer by creating and distributing cooling kits. We are blessing the efforts of CLWR's Lake Chad restoration project by taking up the Friends of Creation fundraising challenge. We blessed over 30 kids this summer who gathered for VBS by helping them explore the nature of God. And on September 12 we will turn our church parking lot into another community space for God to bless our neighbourhood with music, food, fun, and other good things.

It's only when you stop and think about it that you realize how vital the practice of blessing is in and to our ministry.

So can we encourage more? Of course we can. It doesn't matter how old we are, how limited our ability is, or how sparse our pews. Blessing is a practice that doesn't depend on our capacity or ability. For its God who blesses us to be a blessing to each other and our neighbours in ways big and small.

So let's use this upcoming program year to dream of new ways of being a blessing to each other and to our world. To paraphrase the old camp song, "It only takes a spark to get a blessing flowing!"



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

MUSIC IN THE PARK(ING LOT)

We've organized another neighbourhood party event on **Saturday, September 12**. Bring a lawn chair and get comfortable from noon to 4 pm. Free music. Free food. Free refreshments. We have a wonderful line-up of musicians including **Yvon Malenfant and friends**, and the **Nikolaj Hansen Quartet, Ernie Cardinal** from the Coquitlam First Nation, **Barry Potter, Jason Wood** and a special guest appearance by **Gift Shop** – Western Canada's most celebrated Tragically Hip Tribute Band. Please help spread the word and invite your neighbours and friends. We are also looking for volunteers to help run the event, so please sign-up on the chart available on the ushers table and see the poster that follows for more details.

SEASON OF CREATION

All through the Sundays of September and into October, we will once again celebrate the *Season of Creation*, where we rejoice over God's gift of our world and reflect on God's call for us to be faithful stewards. We have a number of special activities planned during the season, so see the article that follows later in this newsletter and consider participating as you are able.

FRIENDS OF CREATION CHALLENGE

In conjunction with the Season of Creation, we have joined CLWR's Friends of Creation Challenge. We've taken on the commitment of raising \$5,000 for CLWR's Lake Chad project. See the details in the article later in this newsletter, and plan to participate and contribute as you are able.

LABOUR DAY SERVICE

On the Sunday of Labour Day weekend, **Sunday, September 6th**, we will once again be enjoying an interview with one of our members on their reflections on their faith and their vocational life. This year our guest will be Katie Eloranta.

RALLY SUNDAY

We will be celebrating Rally Sunday on **Sunday, September 13th**. If all goes well and weather permits, we are hoping to worship outdoors on that day as we head into the Season of Creation. A special fellowship time will follow and more details will be forthcoming soon.

Fall Programming

As we look ahead to our new 2026/27 program year, please take note of the following opportunities to gather for learning, fellowship and fun:

RALLY SUNDAY: Our 2026 *Rally Sunday* will be on **Sunday, September 13th**. See page 8 for further details.

IGNYTE YOUTH GROUP: ignYte is the joint youth ministry we share with St. Laurence Anglican Church. We are in the midst of hiring a new leader, so our start up plans for the fall are still in the works. Keep posted for future updates

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our 2026/27 *Sunday School* program year begins on **September 20th** meeting bi-weekly at 10:30 am during our regular worship service time until their Christmas break following the Christmas Pageant. See page 8 for more details.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES: We offer 2 bible studies during the program year that meet in the Fireside Room at the church:

- One is a weekly Sunday Morning Bible Study resuming on **Sunday, September 20th** at 9:15 am where you can attend either in-person or via Zoom.
- One is a bi-weekly mid-week study (in-person only) on **Wednesdays, beginning September 23rd** at 10:30 am.

HAPPY HOUR: On **Thursday, September 24th** our *Happy Hour over Zoom* returns to its regular gathering time of 4- 5 pm on the 4th Thursday of each month.

PRAYER GROUP: Our weekly *Prayer Gathering* resumes on **Wednesday, September 2nd** at 1:30 pm over Zoom. See page 27 for further details.

GOOD SHEPHERD WOMEN'S GROUP: Our monthly *GSW Bible Study Circle Meetings* resume on **Tuesday, September 8th** at 1 pm. See page 9 for all the details.

BOOK CLUB: Our monthly Book Club resumes in September. See page 9 for all the details.

SIP WITH THE SPIRIT: Our next *Sip with the Spirit* will be on **Wednesday, September 30th** at 7 pm. details.



Movie Nights

Several times a year, movie lovers gather together and watch a film specially curated by Peter Schuler at his home, and then discuss it over a potluck dinner. Please let Peter know if you have an interest in attending these special evenings, as he will keep you informed when these events are being organized. All are welcome!



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,
kwikwə'lam First Nation,
and much more.

(please bring your lawn chair)

More Info:



Here's Something to Celebrate!

Birthday Greetings

We extend birthday greetings to our members who are celebrating birthdays in the month of September:



Thyin Billows
Lisa Gamboa
Rob Karhukangas
Eric Krushel
Olivia McLellan

Ruth Pickering
Peter Schuler
Alicia Smillie
Joanna Whitter



With Birthday Blessings to all

THANK YOU Pastor Eric, for 25 YEARS of Ministry & Service



When the Pastor's away the sheep will play

And that's just what we did! While Pastor Eric was on holidays, in honor and in celebration of Pastor Eric's 25 years of serving our congregation, we secretly raised money to purchase a surprise gift of plants, presented to him on Sunday, August 2nd. When he decides to retire, it is the intention that these planters will go with him...as a permanent reminder of our congregation and his time with us!

Each of these items was chosen with extreme care and symbolism.

- The planters themselves are big & small; a remembrance of the adults & children that make up this church. The planters also are like ribbons of people gathered together, and also resemble droplets of water, reminding us of the font that binds us together in God's family.
- The big planter contains a selection of prayer plants, and they will live and grow in the chancel next to the pulpit. (Hopefully they will get sufficient light and become a beautiful visual barrier to what lies behind them.)
- The little planter contains a selection of succulents— native to dry areas and stones (...think biblical stories of the desert and stones). It also contains a driftwood-like structure in the shape of a cross.
- Also, there are 3 different colored glass globes in the large planter representing the **Trinity** - God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - and **One God**, as the creator & sustainer exists in 3 persons; each of the Trinity is fully God. This **Trio of Love** is hidden within.

Thank you VBS Volunteers!

We are very grateful to all who gave of their time and talents to make VBS a success again this year. From decorating, to group guiding, station helping, registration and beyond, our volunteers really stepped up. A special accolade goes to Amy McLeod who served as our co-coordinator for the entire event. Thank you Amy for all you did to organize, plan, and lead. While VBS is a lot of work, it is thoroughly worthwhile. Please consider how you may be able to be involved next year.

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, as she returns to work after her lengthy period of medical leave and resumes normal life.

Kate Wright: who is still recovering from surgery on her foot and looking forward to returning home.

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

Larrissa Chenosky, as she continues to struggle with long-term health issues.

Sandra McKoen, Elaine Sinton's daughter, recovering and healing from a broken hip suffered this summer.

Lorraine Esser, a friend of Barry Potter, who is dealing with multiple health struggles and issues.

Doug Tremain, who was recently discharged after a lengthy hospital stay and is back home and receiving home care. Please also pray for Gail as she continues to be Doug's main care-giver.

All those who lost homes or livelihoods or were displaced due to wildfires this summer, that God may comfort them and guide their next steps and help them return to normality.

For all the activities and ministries we have planned here for the fall and the upcoming year.

For the people of Nepal, dealing with the catastrophic disaster that country has recently experienced.

For our planet and all it's inhabitants, that we as humans may learn to be better caretakers of our earthly home.

For all children returning to school and families resuming fall activities, that their transitions may be smooth and schedules manageable.

Thanksgiving!

Please join us as we thank God for:

THANK
YOU
GOD!

- Jack Sinton's and Keith Harris's care and recovery from health issues over the summer.
- For Pastor Kristen Steele's recovery and ability to return to work.
- For another year of Vacation Bible School and our wonderful collaboration with St. Laurence Anglican Church in this ministry.



Labour Day Service – Sunday, September 6th

We will mark this Sunday, once again, with an interview with a member around the relationship between their faith and their work. Many find this an inspiring way to get to know their fellow members who are interviewed on a deeper level. This year, our mystery guest is a Church Council member - Katie Eloranta.

Rally Sunday – September 13th

Join us on **September 13th** for our Rally Sunday Service. Weather permitting, we are planning an outdoor service under our canopy of trees, as we celebrate the return to our fall rhythm of programming and kick off the Season of Creation as well. As we did last year, we'll enjoy a pie social afterwards, and a few games too. Save the date and plan on staying! If you are able to bring a pie contribution, please sign up as you are able. Please bring a lawn chair for yourself and an extra to share, and don't forget to bring your appetite, too!

Sunday School is back!



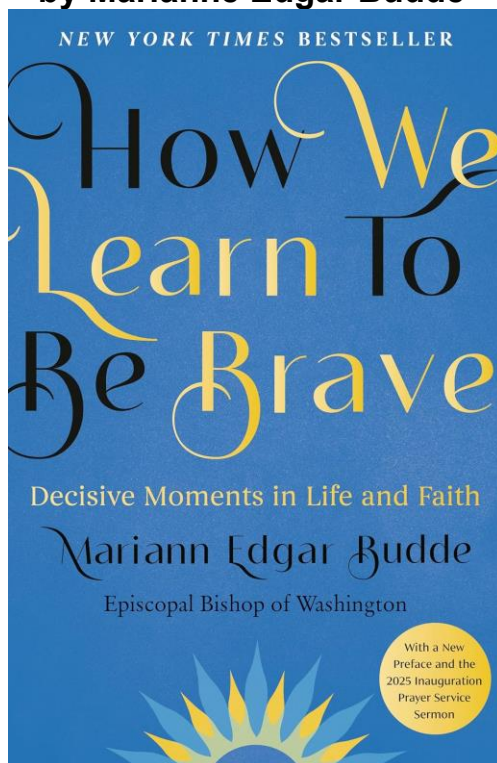
Our Sunday School Program begins again on **September 20th**. Our Sunday School meets bi-weekly, downstairs in the church during the Sunday morning service, and includes bible learning, crafts and activities. We are thankful for Dawn Nieman who continues as our Sunday School Coordinator, and also for our other dedicated helpers. If you have any questions about our program, please contact the office and you will be put in touch with Dawn. Join us in praying for another **fruitful year of learning and fun!**





Our book clubs return from its summer hiatus with a meeting in the home of Lily and Mogens in September (date TBD) to discuss:

How We Learn to Be Brave by Marianne Edgar Budde



How We Learn to Be Brave is an inspirational guide to the key junctures in life that, if navigated with faith and discernment, pave the way for us to become our most courageous selves, by the bishop of the famed Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C.—now includes a new Preface and the 2025 Inauguration prayer service sermon.

All Are Welcome

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.

SEPTEMBER BIBLE STUDY AND MEETING

Tuesday, September 8 at 1:00 pm

when we will be discussing

**Loyal Companionship
Joanna's support of Jesus**

Study Leader - Sherry Russell
Refreshments –Elaine and Donata

Looking ahead to October, we will be having our Annual General Meeting when we will be making plans for 2027 as well as electing new executive members. We invite you to give consideration to accepting a nomination for one of the offices.

All women are invited to consider joining ELW – a group where we combine Bible Study, prayer and fellowship as well as serving our congregation and community as we can and are able.

FALL CLEAN UP

What better way to engage with and celebrate the *Season of Creation* than by helping to care for our property (and our church building too!) Our Fall Clean-up is planned for **Saturday, September 26th, from 9ish until noon**. There are many way you can help with this bi-annual effort:

- by helping to dust, sweep, polish, scrub or disinfect areas inside the church (rags, gloves and cleaning products will be supplied)
- by raking, blowing, snipping, digging or generally helping to tidy up the grounds (please bring your own gloves and garden tools)

Any and all help is needed, so come and go as you area able -- many hands make light work!

Finally, please note that if you want to help out but can't attend on the 26th, you can always choose to tackle a particular project on your own time (washing toys in the Fireside Room, pruning bushes, etc.). If that is the case, we only request that you make note of the task you want to do yourself on the Task List on the Ushers Table (or see David Stroud), so that your job will be waiting for you when you can commit to doing it, and it won't be done by mistake on the 25th! Thank you 😊

Attention Gardeners and Lovers of Creation!

If you love working with plants, we have a couple of opportunities to volunteer just for fun!

- If you have a green thumb with indoor plants, we could use someone to water & love our indoor plants once a week.
- If you like outdoor gardening, come and join our informal group of gardeners who meet regularly (when they are able) and tend the church gardens and grounds.

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 Service Volunteer sign up sheet on the Usher's Table. Training will be provided as required.



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

And 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.

News From Your Outreach Team

Charitus Impact Grant

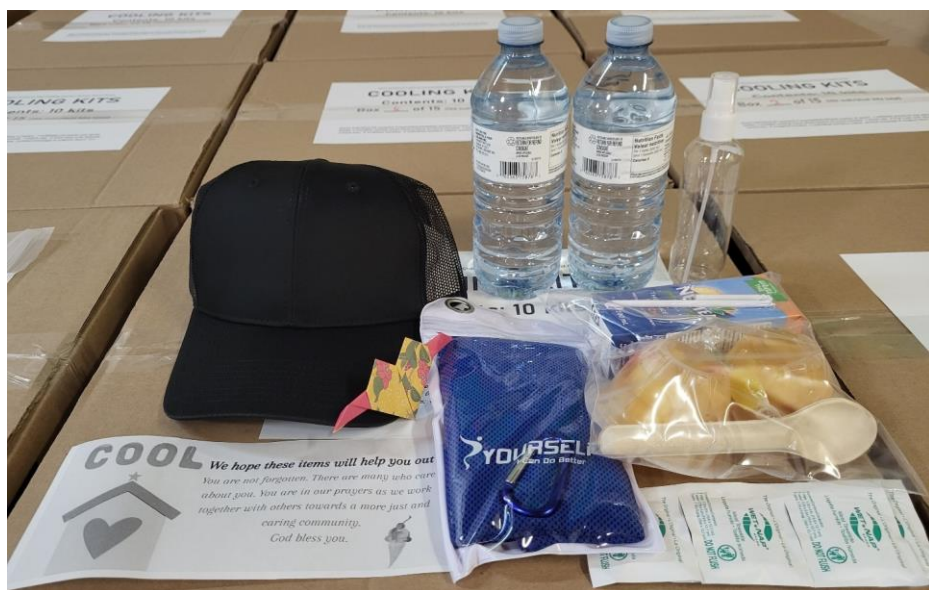
Charitus offers grants to ELCIC congregations and institutions to address social needs and/or environmental impact in their church community, as well as support for projects and new mission initiatives for the greater community.

Statistics show rising numbers of people who are unhoused and thus more likely to suffer in extreme weather conditions. In response, members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church applied for a *Charitus Partner Impact Grant* to support the creation of “**Cooling Kits**” containing sun protection, lightweight hydration, and personal cooling tools for precariously-housed or unhoused persons in the Tri-Cities area.

Our thinking was this: we can’t solve the larger problem of homelessness, but we can offer practical relief for a measure of comfort and dignity during dangerously-warm weather. In this small way, we nurture a culture of care, and come together in a shared vision of humanity.

We partnered with *Hope for Freedom Society*, a non-profit organization serving the Tri-Cities through homeless outreach and addiction recovery services. Drawing on their experience with the needs and population here, Hope for Freedom suggested items we might include in the kits and distributed them throughout our community.

Financially fueled by the *Charitus Partner Impact Grant* funding, allocations from Good Shepherd’s budgets for benevolence and 3030 Gordon, and some directed gifts, we were able to assemble 150 Cooling Kits.



Each big and sturdy, reusable and resealable plastic bag contained two recyclable/refillable bottles of water; a recyclable drinking box; two fruit cups with spoons; a hat; a multi-use cooling towel in a sealable plastic bag; a refillable personal spray bottle; antibacterial wipes; hard candies; and a message of support. As each individual kit was closed, a quiet prayer was offered for the well-being of the person who would receive it.

We extend a sincere **THANK YOU** to members of our church family who helped assemble kits; to *Hope for Freedom Society* for invaluable assistance in getting kits to our neighbours in need; to GSLC Benevolence funds; and to *Charitus*, whose 2026 Partner Impact Grant delivered the seed money that allowed us to kick-start this outreach endeavor. May each recipient of these Cooling Kits feel seen as someone worthy of comfort, and may God’s message of love for our neighbours inspire our every step.

Summer Food Drive and September's "CEREALOUSLY GIVING"



Food insecurity continues to be on the rise, and your continued support of the Food Bank – and helping to restock their shelves at any time during the year - is greatly appreciated. The **Summer Food Drive** has now come to an end. Thank you! 😊

As school restarts soon, and kids will be needing to go to school on a full stomach in order to learn their best – beginning in September we be collecting donations of breakfast items (....think cereal, oatmeal, granola bars etc.) The donation bins are now awaiting your donations in the Narthex.

Thank you for your continued generosity.
Your Outreach Team

Potãto ~ Potãto

AND **THANK YOU** to Tammy and Shawn for the big bag of potatoes... allowing anyone to 'Help Themselves'. You are encouraged to do just that!



And speaking of appreciating your generosity...



From Our Treasurer

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

	<u>JULY 31, 2026</u>
YTD Total Income	\$ 175,905.56
YTD Total Expenses	<u>166,057.99</u>
Net Deficit	<u>\$ 9,847.57</u>
Property Fund Balance	\$ 3,101.80
Special Initiative Fund Balance	\$ 23,013.13



Thank you for your faithful, ongoing generosity.

Faith Souvenirs

Over the summer we invited you to collect “Faith Souvenirs” of your summer adventures, prompted by the question “Where did you experience God’s Grace in your summer?” And you responded! If you haven’t had a chance to peruse the table in our front entrance we encourage you to do so. We’ll also hope to find an opportunity to highlight some of your contributions in the weeks ahead. We hope you found this an enjoyable and meaningful way of practicing your faith over these summer days.



When this picture was taken, on the Souvenir Table were bulletins collected from a Rainbow music concert. There was a photo taken from the Cross-Border Friendship Gathering, that brought together Lutherans from Washington and British Columbia in early June, who met at Campbell Valley Park near the Canada/US Border for fellowship and friendship. There were a couple of church bulletins:

one from Washington and one from Saskatoon— as well as a lovely picture of our own church! There was a beautiful shell, together with a picture and a poem (See Creative Corner on next page), and a picture of Canada Geese flying in formation. And the farthest away item came via pictures from Amsterdam, Netherlands. The photos were from an installation called the Zero Flags Project. An exhibit had been erected in preparation for Gay Pride Week that was starting on August 2nd in the Netherlands. Along a walkway flags had been erected **“carrying the flags of the 63 countries that criminalize same-sex relations or gender expression. In 12 of these countries the penalty for homosexuality is death.”** It went on to explain the exhibit as follows **“These flags are a ‘Monument of visibility’ against the prosecution of thousands who cannot be who they are and love who they want to love. The Zero Flags Project is a countdown to zero flags.”** And of course – there was Chocolate.

Thank you to all who participated. It was fun seeing how you observed God’s grace over these summer months.



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!



A BLANKET OF SAND
BEAETH MY FEET
WHERE OCEAN AND SAND
FOREVER MEET

A CARPET OF SEASHELLS
GIFTS FROM THE SEA
LONELY AND WAITING
FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME

THE SHELL I HOLD
PRESSED TO MY EAR
SINGS A SWEET SONG
OF TIMES NEAR AND DEAR

THE JOURNEY OF LIFE
REMINDS US TO TRUST
THAT ALL GODS CREATURES
ARE WORTHY OF US

BLESSINGS TO ALL,

RUTH ROBERTS



The Season of Creation is an annual global movement celebrated for 5 consecutive Sundays from September 1st (World Day of Prayer for Creation) to October 4th (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi). This year's Season of Creation theme is "Living Water". It explores Ezekiel 47:9 and 12 as a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. The symbol (shown to the right) depicts water flowing from the Temple of God – at first a tiny stream that grows deeper and deeper, and as it does so it brings life to dead areas and restores fertility to damaged or barren ecosystems. Through living water comes healing; but in order to receive new life, we too must step into the water and also become part of God's river of life, taking part in the healing of creation.

(EXCERPTED FROM *SEASON OF CREATION'S CELEBRATION GUIDE 2026 – PAGE 10*)



Our church's Crafting Group took artistic license by deciding to create something similar yet representative of our context. Our Triune God (depicted by the Gold, the Cross and the floating nature of its placement as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is found in our world (represented by the blue ring) and over our church - as God leads and guides us into a future for God's renewing purpose. Doves sit atop the living water tips that surround and flow from our church, representing the Holy Spirit's inspirational directing that flows through us, and spills out beyond our church walls. God's Living Water enlivens and inspires us to care for all of creation (as shown by the leaves and the fish). And you'll note that a rock sits under our church - upon which our church is built – as it supports and continues to give us strength. This art installation was deliberately placed upon a baptismal font, the waters from which we receive life.

Further down, these Living Waters are spilling over onto the parched land of the Lake Chad basin, bringing new life in the form of fish and green foliage. Throughout the Season of Creation and beyond, our church is raising money through **CLWR's Friends of Creation Lake Chad Challenge** to help rehabilitate the ecosystem in that area that has been severely damaged by climate change. To date, we have raised \$2,050 towards our goal of raising \$5,000. To visualize our fundraising efforts, trees will be hung on

our Lake Chad Bulletin Board. Each Tree represents 1 acre of land that we have been able to help rehabilitate through our fundraising efforts. We hope to see 100 trees soon.

Living water never stays still. It touches and flows into relationships, communities and creation. We are all invited to hear the call for creation justice, and help bring to life God's inspired efforts of restoration and renewal.

We are all God's Creation.



2026 Season of Creation - Special Events & Activities



The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion and commitment together. [To learn more about the Season of Creation's origins click [here](#).] During the Season of Creation we join other siblings in our ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church we will once again be celebrating the Season of Creation. Take note of the following activities and opportunities to be involved.

- We will mark the Sundays from **September 6 to October 4** with a focus on the season's theme.
- We are hoping to celebrate our Rally Day Service – outdoors among the beauty of our forest canopy (weather permitting) on **Sunday, September 13**. Bring a lawn chair with you that day, as you are able.
- We are challenging you to find a different way to travel to church on one (or all 5) Sunday(s) - one that reduces your use of fossil fuels if possible (e.g. public transit, walking, carpooling, biking, skateboarding or scooting 😊)
- We will be hosting a “**Creation Dinner & Discussion**” on **Wednesday, September 16**. We'll enjoy a three-course meal (salad, pizza & dessert) and view 3 short films with time for discussion during each course. A sign-up sheet will be put out closer to the date. All are welcome.
- Become a “Friend of Creation” and join us as we help raise money to offset the devastation of global warming occurring in the Lake Chad region of Africa. See the article that follows explaining this initiative.
- Join us for a “Prayer Walk” around Como Lake on **Sunday, October 4**, after the service. We will meet up in the Como Lake Parking Lot (carpooling will be provided), keeping God's beautiful creation in our mind and prayers as we trek around the lake together.
- We're encouraging you to sign a petition calling for a Global Plastics Treaty. You can sign the petition here: <https://action.earthday.org/global-plastics-treaty>



Canadian Lutheran World Relief



Friends of Creation

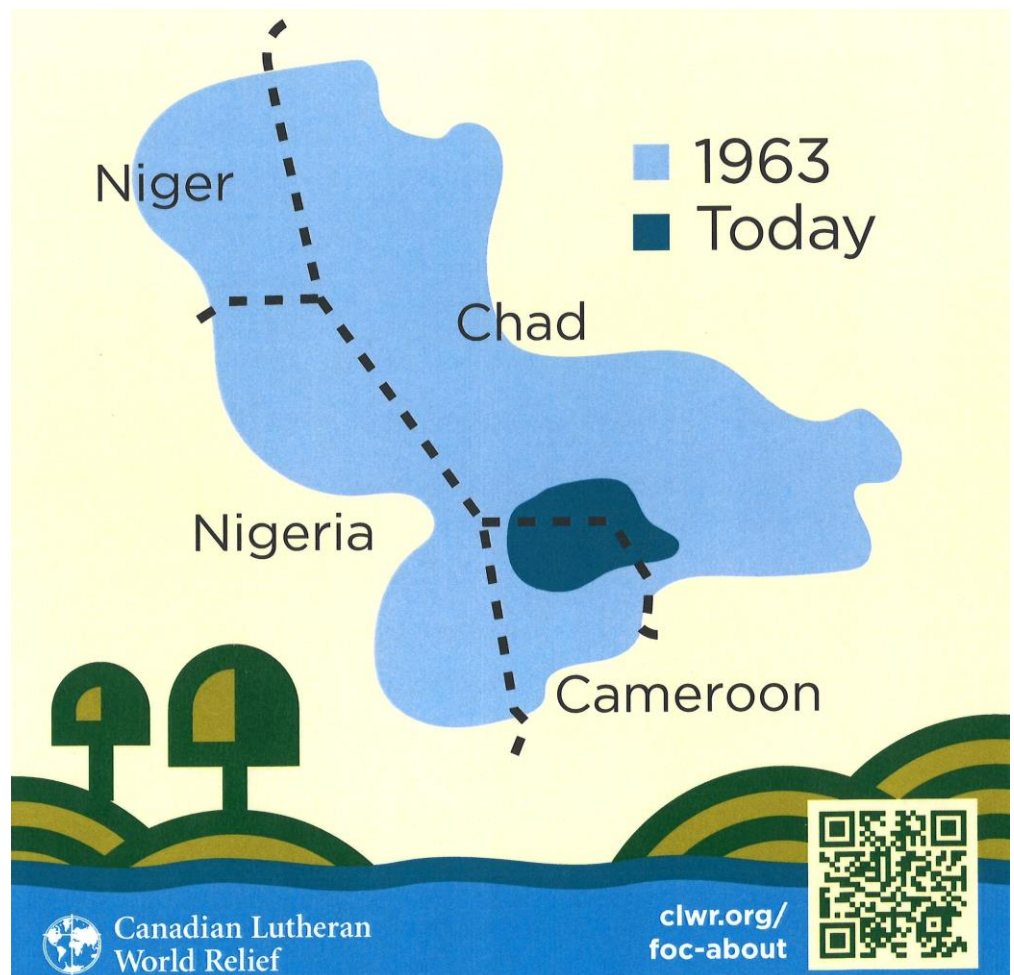
We know we have a responsibility to care for God's creation. But when we hear about the impacts of a warming world, it's hard to know how to really make a difference.

The graphic below shows the devastating effects of global warming around Lake Chad, in Africa. In 1963 the waters of Lake Chad spanned the borders of four countries. Today, Lake Chad's water can now only be found in two countries. Around the Lake Chad basin, thousands of local farmers are fighting back to stop an entire ecosystem from unraveling. And CLWR thinks they can win...with our help.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) has been closely involved in a project to help rehabilitate the Lake Chad basin, and has issued a *Friends of Creation* challenge, inviting congregations to raise funds to help support their efforts. Our congregation recently signed on to the challenge, and we are asking you to help us raise \$5,000 as our

goal. That will help cover the rehabilitation costs of 100 acres. You can make a donation online through a special page that has been set up for us on CLWR's website. You can access this page [here](#). You can give anonymously or show your name. Any donation will help. Alternatively, if you prefer to donate through cash or cheque you can use the special offering envelope available on the Ushers table each Sunday, and your donation will be manually updated onto the challenge page.

Together, let us join the other congregations of our ELCIC church in addressing this significant challenge and working for the good and betterment of those who call Lake Chad their home.



September Youth Update



As a shared ministry of St. Laurence Anglican and Good Shepherd Lutheran, ignYte welcomes youth gr. 7 to 12 and beyond from in and around the Tri-Cities area. Together we strive to create a bravely welcoming community 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. It's a compelling vision, and I've been blessed to see it unfold in remarkable ways over the last years, as God continues to change and grow our community of youth and the people who love them.

If this piques your interest, and you want to learn more or be involved more – we may have a Job Opportunity for you! ignyte 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, please click [here](#).

Until a new leader has been hired, Darya Saed and Rachel Genge will continue to lead the group. And they are pleased to report that the year will kickoff on Friday, September 18th, 6:30-9pm @ Good Shepherd. All are welcome to join for pizza, games and time to catch-up, especially youth from grade 7 and up who have never attended before! More events to come. Please RSVP by Thursday September 17th, and reach out to Rachel and Darya if you have any questions at ignyte.coquitlam@gmail.com.

**Clay is coming to Nanaimo in 2027!
AND YOU CAN HELP GET THEM THERE!!**



Helping to support our youth travelling to CLAY is now 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.





— FAITH • FRIENDS • BELONGING —



LIGHT IT UP AGAIN.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR. NEW SEASON.
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6:30 – 9 PM



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ignYte is a youth community of
St Laurence Anglican
+ Good Shepherd Lutheran



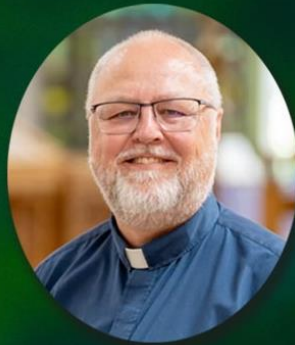
RSVP BY THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
ignyte.coquitlam@gmail.com

Save the Date for Our Next Conversations Across the Church

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



All are welcome to join our National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer on **Sunday, September 13th at 2 pm PST**, as he engages with guests for an hour of devotion, reflection and conversation.

The focus for this third event will be on Season of Creation — a time to come together in prayer and action. ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer will be joined by three speakers on why this is a priority for our church.

All are welcome, but pre-registration is required.

Scan the QR code to the left to register for the Zoom link, or else register by clicking [here](#).

You are able to access past “Conversations Across the Church” recordings anytime by clicking [here](#).

Advocacy for Natalie Abudayyeh

A Message to the ELCIC From ELCJHL Bishop-Elect Rev. Imad Haddad

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. Bishop Kochendorfer’s letter, an advocacy letter template and additional resources are available on the ELCIC Holy Land webpage.

In Memoriam



We give thanks for the life and ministry of **Rev. Jacob (Jack) Arthur Frederick**, who died on July 15, 2026 at the age of 94. Jack’s journey to ordained ministry followed careers in several fields before he discerned God’s call to serve as a pastor and missionary for more than 45 years. After serving congregations in Ontario, he answered a call to Global Mission in Cameroon and Guyana before continuing to serve as supply pastor in the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod well into his 90s. Please [click here](#) to read the full obituary

The ELCIC extends its condolences to the family and friends of **Thelma (Adelene) Sartison**, who died on July 22, 2026 at the age of 90. Raised on a farm near Armena, AB, she pursued studies at Camrose Lutheran College and the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute. Her care and compassion for others led her to a career in nursing, graduating from the Royal Alexandra Hospital School of Nursing in 1958. She worked as a nurse for most of her life in many capacities and locations. Music was central to Adelene’s life. She was a skilled pianist and organist who played for church services, choirs, and other groups. It was her piano playing that led her to the love of her life. Adelene and Telmor (Rev. Telmor Sartison, former National Bishop of the ELCIC) recently celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary on July 18, just four days before her passing. Please [click here](#) to read her full obituary.



News from the BC Synod

In Memoriam – Rev. Art McCaughan



We give thanks for Pastor Art who passed away August 19th, 2026 in the Abbotsford hospital, just a few weeks after his 86th birthday. Pastor Art’s faithful service has been a gift to many. Some of the congregations he served include Trinity, Delta; St. John’s, Barrhead; Messiah, Assiniboia. In his retirement, Pastor Art faithfully provided pastoral care and worship services for the people of Matsqui Lutheran Church, as well as providing pulpit supply throughout the Lower Mainland. He will be remembered for his wide smile, laughter and sense of joy. Thank you Lord, for the gift you gave us in Art McCaughan.

Luther Manor Society of Vancouver, BC – Notice of Special General Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Lutheran Manor Society of Vancouver BC calls a **Special General Meeting** for **Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 7:00 PM**. The mode of meeting will be hybrid: both in-person at 375 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver, and by Zoom. The purpose of the Special General Meeting is to approve the Society's Audited Financial Statements for the 2025 Fiscal Year and appoint the auditor for the 2026 Fiscal Year.

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 everyone to attend in person in the facilities located at 375 W. 10th Avenue, Vancouver, or by Zoom. To attend by Zoom and to obtain the link, please register by contacting Chair Stephanie Oldford, at stephanie.oldford@gmail.com no later than Noon on Monday, September 28, 2026.

News from the Global Ecumenical Community

World Council of Churches (WCC) News

WCC Annual Review 2025 Now Available

The World Council of churches (WCC) **Annual Review 2025** is now available in four languages: English, German, French, and Spanish. Entitled "Walking Toward Unity," the annual review records many of the WCC's activities undertaken in 2025 and continuing into 2026. "In 2025, under the aegis of the Pilgrimage of Justice, Reconciliation, and Unity, the council experienced a year steeped in history and tradition, as the WCC celebrated a host of anniversaries," writes WCC general secretary Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay in the foreword. Download the Annual Review 2025 when you [click here](#).

Untangling the Situation in Cuba and Venezuela Recording Now Available

The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs' (CCIA) Peace and Security Working Group of The World Council of Churches (WCC) recently hosted a webinar entitled ***Latin America: The relevance of international law in today's world: untangling the situation in Cuba and Venezuela***. Speakers from the webinar explored what international law requires of the global community, and how churches should respond. To read the news article on this webinar, please [click here](#). To start watching the webinar, please [click here](#).

WCC: Young People are Agents of Healing

On International Youth Day, August 13, [World Council of Churches](#) (WCC) general secretary Rev. Prof. Jerry Pillay encouraged young people to recognize their role as agents of healing. Reflecting on the theme, "*Creating Healing Spaces: R.E.S.T. - Restore, Empower, Strengthen, Thrive*," he acknowledged the many challenges young people face today including conflict, discrimination, economic hardship, mental health struggles, climate anxiety and uncertainty about the future. Yet amid these realities, young people continue to demonstrate courage, compassion, resilience and hope by working for peace, justice, creation and stronger communities. To read the full news, please [click here](#).

Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) News

Join the Faith and Life Sciences Essay Contest

The Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group (FLSRG) is an active group of life scientists, ethicists and Church leaders, working under the aegis of The Canadian Council of Churches, tasked to capture, evaluate and provide recommendations for faith-based perspectives in the rapidly-emerging area of the life sciences and related technologies. The FLSRG has created this essay contest to engage students in robust reflection on pressing issues that have bearing on the Canadian church today. Each year winning essays are eligible for cash awards. This essay contest is fully bilingual; submissions written in French or English are invited. For more information and to learn how to join, please click [here](#).

Join a Small Group Reading & Discussion Group focused on Pope Leo XIV's encyclical , *Magnifica Humanitas (Magnificent Humanity)*.

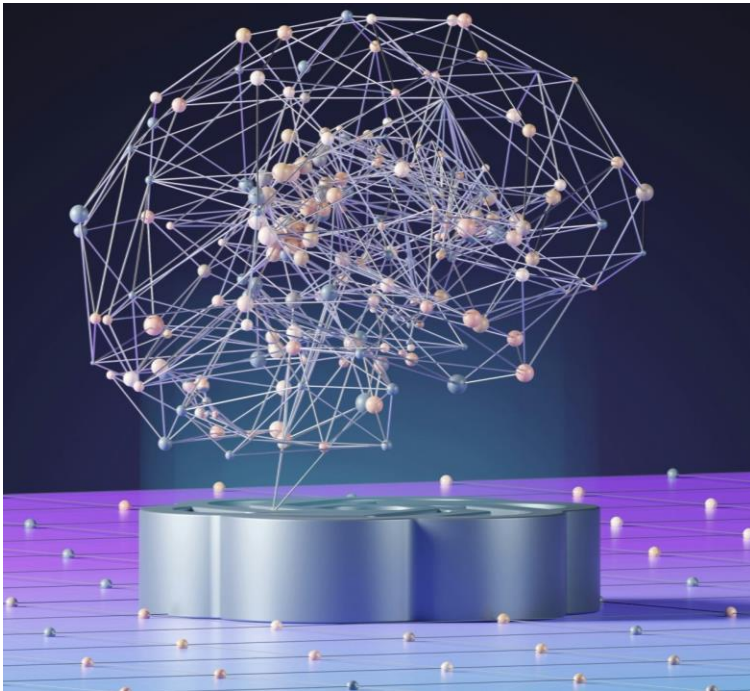


Photo credits: CCC website

What does it mean to safeguard the human person in the age of Artificial Intelligence?

This fall, the [Canadian Council of Churches](#) (CCC) invites you to explore that question through a small-group reading experience focused on **Pope Leo XIV's encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas (Magnificent Humanity)***.

As AI becomes increasingly present in our daily lives, participants will have an opportunity to reflect together on its ethical implications and consider how our faith traditions call us to respond. No prior knowledge is required - just a willingness to reflect, learn and join the conversation.

[Learn more and sign up.](#)

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) News

LWF Scholarships Available

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) scholarships support theological and diakonia/development-oriented education that transforms individuals, the life of the churches and the world in which we live. Eligible programs include Diploma, Bachelor, Master, or PhD programs in theology or development-oriented study fields. The main criteria for a candidate's approval are that the proposed application responds to the strategic priorities and human capacity needs of the church in the area of theology and diakonia. Every application must be endorsed by the ELCIC. In this pre-screening phase, the ELCIC gathers the names of potential candidates and assists individuals in submitting an application. Interested individuals are invited to contact Deacon Gretchen Peterson [here](#) at gpeterson@elcic.ca.

Other Items of Interest

News from Vancouver School of Theology

New Course Offering: “Becoming an Intercultural Church – Encountering God Across Cultures”

Wednesdays October 14 , 2026 to November 25, 2026 (6pm-7:30pm ET)

[View the start times in each of Canada's Time Zones](#)

A six-week interactive online course entitled “Becoming an Intercultural Church” (starting October 16), offers a meaningful space for ministry personnel, lay leaders, and congregational teams to deepen their engagement with anti-racism, cultural diversity, and faithful intercultural ministry. Participants are invited to move beyond simple “inclusion” efforts and toward genuine transformation, as communities are continually reshaped -learning new ways of relating, leading, and being together across differences. The course will be facilitated by Rev. Dr. Hyuk Cho, Director of United Church Formation and Studies at the Vancouver School of Theology. To read his short bio and to find out more on this course and how individuals or teams can register, please [click here](#).

2026 Somerville Lecture with the Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend



VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
SOMERVILLE LECTURE

**LIVING IN A
SACRAMENTAL
SPIRITUALITY**

SEEKING SACRED RESONANCE
IN A BURNOUT SOCIETY



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
**THE RT. REV.
TODD TOWNSHEND**
Bishop of the Anglican
Diocese of Huron

PUBLIC LECTURE
OCTOBER 15, 7:00 PM (PST) | VST & ONLINE | VST.EDU/EVENTS | VST | VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

All are invited to attend VST's 2026 Somerville Lecture at Vancouver School of Theology's Epiphany Chapel or online on **Thursday, October 15 at 7 pm**, featuring The Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Huron who will be speaking on:

Living in a Sacramental Spirituality: Seeking Sacred Resonance in a Burnout Society

This lecture is Free and open to the public

In a time marked by stress, exhaustion, disconnection, and overwhelm, how might Christian spiritual practices offer a life-giving alternative?

Bishop Todd Townshend will explore how rediscovering sacramental and symbolic ways of seeing Christian faith can offer perspective, connection, energy, and joyful hope in the midst of a burnout society.

To learn more about this event and to register, please click [here](#).

News from LTS (Lutheran Theological Seminary)

LTS and St. Andrew's have shared an important update on their future together, including what lies ahead for Lutheran theological education and the upcoming search for a Transitional President.

Read the full update [here](#):

Justice Updates

NATI-RETI: “Where Now for Visible Justice?”

The North America-Turtle Island Regional Ecumenical Theological Institute (NATI-RETI) took place from August 3-16 under the theme: “Where Now for Visible Justice?” The institute began with a residential week in Detroit, followed by a second week at the University of Toronto, where emerging theologians and ecumenical leaders from Canada and the United States spent two weeks of intensive learning, prayer, encounter and community life. For more information on NATI-RETI and to read the full article, please [click here](#).

Eastern CPJ Ride for Refuge

The Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ) is holding a fundraising initiative called CPJ Ride for Refuge - where they're fundraising for refugee and migrant rights, and to keep the advocacy work going strong. On October 3rd, CPJ and their supporters are gathering in downtown Ottawa (and at satellite events across the country) for the CPJ Ride for Refuge. Teams of CPJ supporters are collecting pledges now. Those who will fundraise and we will celebrate their achievement at the CPJ Ride for Refuge event. For more details on this and to learn how to join, please [click here](#).

Outreach and Advocacy Conference - October 17

The [Anglican Diocese of Toronto](#) will host an online conference entitled The Church as a Catalyst for Liberation **on October 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (EST)**. Admission is free and all are welcome! For more information on this event including registration, please [click here](#).

Addressing Spiritual Violence Against Indigenous Peoples of Canada

The United Church of Canada has published a new resource on ***Addressing Spiritual Violence Against Indigenous Peoples of Canada - Ethical Guidelines and Calls to Healing***. This resource was created as an Ecumenical Collaborative Project and is available as a PDF downloadable file or softcover. For more information and to get your copy, please [click here](#).

Plan Ahead with Resources for Truth and Reconciliation Week 2026

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) shares that planning for **Truth and Reconciliation Week 2026** is well underway. The Truth and Reconciliation Week (TRW) website has officially launched, and the education portal for teachers is open -with new learning resources being added all summer long. The website also provides other valuable resources such as lunch & learn webinars and national events. To learn more and to access these resources, please [click here](#).

Five Things Canada Can Do in the 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. CAEH also invites you to email your MP to [call for a transformed Canada Housing Benefit](#).

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.

Conservation and Pipelines

In 2022, Canada joined 195 countries in committing to protect 30% of the world's land and water by 2030. As of early 2026, 14% of land and 15% of marine conservation have been achieved.

On March 31st, Prime Minister Carney launched "A FORCE OF NATURE": Canada's strategy to protect nature. With an investment of \$3.8 billion, Canada's government will introduce the following new measures:

Fund up to 14 new marine protected and conserved areas and up to 10 new national parks. In addition, they will fund up to 10 new national marine conservation areas and 15 national urban parks. This will increase terrestrial conservation to 30% and marine conservation to 28% by 2030.

They will advance the Wiinipaakw Indigenous protected area and nation marine conservation area in Eastern James Bay off of Quebec.

Advance the Seal River Watershed National Park Reserve in Manitoba.

Reinforce Indigenous-led conservation work by expanding the Indigenous Guardians program to establish a new Arctic program.



Support the recovery of wood bison populations along the Alberta/Northwest Territories borders.

Invest in the ghost gear fund to further remove harmful fishing gear from Canada's oceans.

A few other promises include:

Launch efforts to develop Canada's first National water security strategy.

Restore Pacific salmon populations.

Invest in wild Atlantic salmon strategy.

Strengthen protection and recovery of species at risk.

Avoid and minimise environmental impacts of development across Canada.



All these plans, including interprovincial transmission line and low emitting energy sources, are welcome investments to protect our land and marine areas.

The other side of major announcements are plans for two more oil pipelines, one to Robert's Bank in Delta which is a sensitive area for salmon and whales and one to Sarnia Ontario.

We are seeing plans to dredge parts of the Burrard Inlet which can disrupt toxic sediment, eel grass beds, and local salmon, orca, and herring habitats.

Another 140 kilometers of natural gas pipeline running from Chetwynd to Sumas.

An LNG expansion that is expected to double capacity in Kitimat, a plant that is still having substantial flaring issues, causing black smoke and loud operational noise.



photo by The Narwhal

Also included are mine expansion projects across the country.

Canada's major industries span three main economic sectors:

Service Industries, which includes trade.

Natural Resources, which includes agriculture.

Advanced manufacturing, which includes technology.

Balancing the needs of all three of these sectors can be a challenge. We, as Canadians, need to decide which areas are the best fit for all of us.

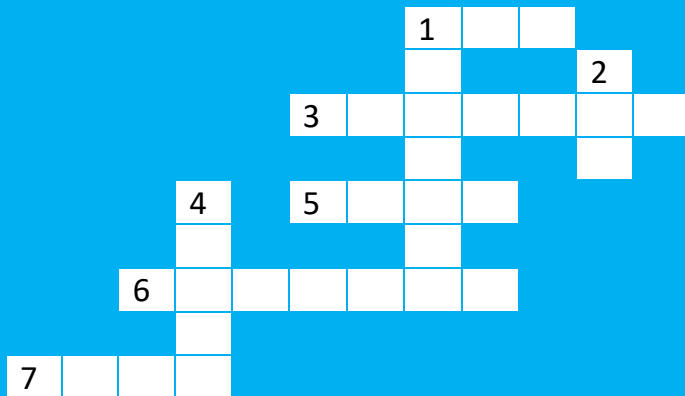
Respectfully submitted,
Claire Thompson

Hey Kids - Did You Know...

Yay! It's the Season of Creation in the church! This year we'll be looking at God's gift of water.

Water brings life and healing. We are baptized into God's family with water. In Psalm 23 "Still Waters" means good, life-giving places that God leads us to. Did you know that God wants us to be like calm waters for others, overflowing with kindness and generosity?

All this talk about water reminds me of the story of Noah from Genesis 6-8. See if you can remember that story and think about how you can become like calm water to others!



Kids Corner



Down

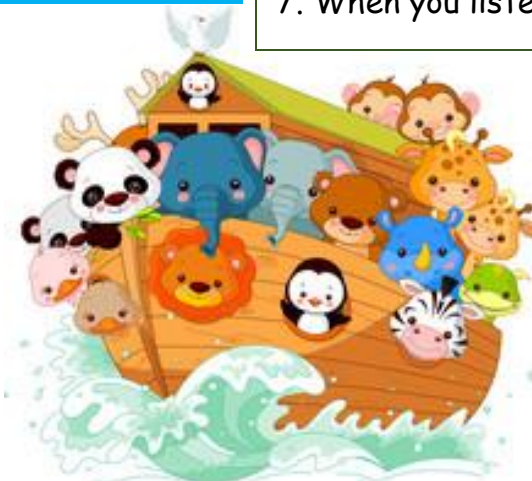
1. God's plan was to save all the ____ by bringing them with Noah & his family.
2. Who told Noah how to build the ark?
4. Rain fell on the earth for ____ days and ____ nights. (same word)

ANSWER KEY

- ⊙ ANIMALS ⊙ ARK ⊙ FORTY ⊙ GOD ⊙
 ⊙ NOAH ⊙ OBEY ⊙ PROMISE ⊙
 ⊙ RAINBOW ⊙

Across

1. The super big boat that Noah built was called an ____.
3. When the rain stopped God put this in the sky.
5. Who was the man that God trusted to listen to his instructions and build the ark?
6. A covenant is a ____.
7. When you listen & act accordingly, you ____.



Regular Church Events

We have a number of opportunities available for you to consider, to gather with us for fellowship, worship and learning. **All are invited to join** in any or all of these in-person or Zoom events. The links to join these events can be found on our website at gslcc.ca or by clicking [here](#). All are welcome!

Sunday morning Bible Study - HYBRID

Recommencing **Sunday, September 20th**, 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 both in-person or by Zoom.

Sunday Morning Worship - HYBRID

We gather every **Sunday morning at 10:30 am** for our weekly worship service. This service will continue to be live streamed over our YouTube Channel, and a recording of the service will be posted shortly after the service ends.

Tuesday morning: Woodworking & Crafters Group – IN-PERSON

Restarting **weekly on Tuesday, September 1st**, this group meets from **10 am to 11:30 am**.

Tuesday afternoon: Good Shepherd Women's Group – IN-PERSON

This group of women meets **monthly every 2nd Tuesday at 1 pm**, for a bible study, refreshments and fellowship.

Wednesday morning: Midweek Bible Study – IN-PERSON

Beginning **Wednesday, September 16th**, our **twice-monthly** midweek in-person bible study recommences on the **1st and the 3rd Wednesdays from 10:30 am to noon** in the Fireside Room. Bring a bagged lunch, and stay for conversation afterwards as we eat together.

Wednesday afternoon: Prayer Gathering – OVER ZOOM

Starting **Wednesday, September 2nd at 1:30 pm**, our weekly prayer gatherings reconvene as follows: On the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays** we practice free style '*Prayers of the People*', offering up our thanks, praise & concerns with those present. On the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** we pray in the style of *Lectio Divina*, delving into the Word of God, followed by communal prayer. A **5th Wednesday** is always a special prayer gathering with a changing format. Access available [here](#).

Thursday: Happy Hour – OVER ZOOM

All are welcome to join \for an hour of fellowship on the **4th Thursdays of each month at 4 pm**. It's always a fun time of social interaction and lively conversation, about what's going on in our lives and in our world. Access available [here](#).