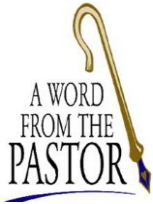




Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH

April/May 2020

1504 Spruce Avenue, Coquitlam, BC
604-936-2939
Pastor: Eric Krushel 604-936-1864
Ministers: You the people of God
www.GSLCC.ca



Hope in Troubled Times

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” Romans 12:12

I came across this verse in my morning devotions a couple of weeks ago. It struck me as a very good guide for our lives during this time of pandemic induced isolation, disorientation, and anxiety.

We all know how we're being inundated with information about COVID-19 and advice about how best to behave in the midst of this crisis. And the information and advice coming from our health authorities is reliable and important for our physical health as individuals and as a community. I hope we are all heeding the instructions.

But Paul's advice in the verse above can help us attend to our spiritual health as well. Which is maybe not something we think enough about at a time like this. “Rejoice in hope”, he says. In other words, be thankful for the hope we have. Hope from the God who so loved the world that he gave his only Son that all might have life in abundance. Hope from a God who has counted every hair on your head. Hope in the form of the beautiful news that no one (and nothing) will ever snatch you out of God's hand.

Then be patient in suffering. Patience is about waiting. And waiting in the Bible is never a passive thing. Waiting is active. We wait by searching for signs of the works of God in our midst. For even in suffering God's hand is reaching out to us through the blessings we too often take for granted.

And finally, persevere in prayer. Prayer is hope in practice. And it's also perhaps the most faithful way of waiting actively. When we pray we are most profoundly relying on our faith in God's promise to be with us always. And we are most consciously paying attention to what God is wanting to give us. In my evening devotions I always try to take a moment to recollect what God has given me that day. It's not always comfort and peace. Sometimes it's a challenging ministry opportunity and the strength to take it up. But it's always a blessing.

Three simple actions: rejoice, wait (actively), and pray. But three profound prescriptions for good spiritual health for just such a time as this.

COVID19 – What YOU can do



By now, we've all heard the emerging recommendations to keep yourself and your family safe. Just today Prime Minister Trudeau announced this will continue for a minimum of six more weeks. Things are fluid, so keep informed of new recommendations as they emerge at canada.ca/coronavirus or www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19.

At the moment, the most effective recommendations are practicing social distancing, self-monitoring and self-isolating as much as possible even if you are not showing any symptoms, and practicing proper hand-washing hygiene to reduce the risk of infection and/or spreading the virus.

Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC's Provincial Health Officer, announced that new resources are being made available every day, including:

- the new online self-assessment tool: <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>
- 1-833-784-4397 (Federal Gov't number for information on covid19)
- 1-888-COVID-19 (Provincial Gov't number)
- the provincial website dedicated to COVID-19: www.gov.bc.ca/covid19

Dr. Henry states "The magnitude of impact of COVID-19 on British Columbians cannot be overstated. However, by working together and supporting each other, we are confident we will get through this."

We say "Amen" to that.

Neighbour Helping Neighbour

In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16 KJV

If any of our GSLC family needs help of any kind, please give the office a call. We are here for you, and we want to honour our call to be God's people and bring hope and light to the world. Even in these times of unknowing, we are trusting that God knows our comings and goings and will keep us safe in his hands while we do his work.

Canada Blood Services has alerted us to an urgent need for new blood donations to maintain their supply. Additional screening and social distancing measures are in place, and it is safe to donate blood. This is an important way to make a difference at this critical time.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY



Happy Anniversary to Jan and Dale Wald who are celebrating their **50th wedding anniversary** on May 1st. Congratulations!

Others celebrating Wedding Anniversaries in April and May are:

- ❖ **Jack & Elaine Sinton** on April 10th
- ❖ **Eric and Jill Schuler** on May 16th
- ❖ **Jacklyn & William Ruth** on May 27th

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Celebrating milestone birthdays are **Davis Gregory Chow**, grandson to Dawn and Jerry Nieman, son of Christal and Jonathan, who turns 1 year old on April 26th!



Happy Birthday also to **Agnes Mattson** who will celebrate her 95th birthday on April 16th, and to **Earl MacRae** who will celebrate his 97th birthday on May 28th.



Others who will be celebrating their birthdays in April and May are:

- Scott Stickler** on April 3rd
- Lily Yen** on April 7th
- Caroline Hunt** on April 12th
- Jill Schuler** on April 14th
- Shannon Svingen-Jones** on April 15th
- Kristian Yen Hansen** on April 16th
- Amy Karhukangas** on April 20th
- Donna Harris** on May 4th
- Bob Derksen** on May 14th
- Flora Pregler** on May 19th
- Nadine Darts** on May 17th
- Judy Derksen** on May 19th
- Donata Startin** on May 20th
- Nathan Inoue-Zwicker** on May 25th

*With Blessings to all from your
Good Shepherd Family*

For Our Prayer

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.

***Rick Enarson & his family** as they mourn the passing of Dan, who died on March 29th, 2020.*

***Susan Wills**, that she may stay safe in light of her recent lung illness*

***Elaine Bouthot** as she continues her battle with cancer.*

***Gail Tremain** that she continue to recover from her recent surgery and broken shoulder, and also as she grieves the death of her beloved cousin Patti and prays for her aunt Pat in hospital recovering from a stroke.*

***Jim Matthews** who is recovering very well from his recent bypass surgery*

***Jesse Werner** as she recovers at home from her recent small stroke.*

***Alicia Grayson** (Dorothy Durand's niece) still recovering from her accident in December.*

***Mary Sommerfeld** recovering from a broken hip*

***Don Forss** (Lois's brother) undergoing chemo therapy for skin cancer.*

***Jean Lentz**, the mother of Bev Poznachuk's friend, in hospital with a broken femur.*



***All those suffering** with the Covid19 virus.*

***All those grieving** the loss of a loved one taken by this global pandemic, both abroad and close to home.*

***All healthcare workers** and those coming in contact with and caring for the elderly and sick,*

Elaine Sinton has officially retired from doing our newsletter!

After 17 years as the **GSLC Newsletter CEO** (Curator, Editor, Official-copier) Elaine has now officially retired! The church office will try it's best to step into her shoes and carry on what Elaine started so many years ago.

Thank you Elaine for your time and effort spent curating, preparing and editing the GSLC newsletter. You've done a spectacular job - as we've all enjoyed your light-hearted jokes and crosswords, and of course the timely event and information reporting on the life of our church.

Thank you, Elaine, for your dedication to a job well done.

Going forward, please pass items to the church office that you would like included in future issues.

This month's newsletter is an anomaly due to the life-as-we-know-it altering effects of the covid19 virus. As previously stated over email, events and gatherings that were advertised in earlier editions of the newsletter have been postponed or suspended until sometime in the future. When "normal" life returns, our normal church life will also be reflected in the newsletter using the format created by Elaine Sinton.

In this edition, we hope to inspire you to remain grounded in your faith, knowing that our help comes from the Lord, and we can call on him always and he will hear our prayers



Change in Office Hours

Generally speaking, Sherry Russell's new office hours are:

Monday	Noon to 5 pm
Wednesday	9:30 am to 2:30 pm
Thursday	9:30 am to 2:30 pm
Friday	Noon to 5 pm

To avoid disappointment, it is always recommended that you call the office first before dropping by.



From the Treasurer

The following is an update on our financial Status as of February 28, 2020:

Total Income	\$20,889.80
Total Expenses	<u>\$18,462.91</u>
Surplus	\$ 2,462.89

Project Contingency Fund
Balance as of February 28, 2020 = \$44,715.45

Please see the letter from our Treasurer and the Stewardship Team on page 8.

Be the change that you wish to see in the world.

- Mahatma Gandhi

LOOKING AHEAD

While we cannot say exactly when these events will happen, we live in hope that they will happen soon...



Once the book club reconvenes, you are invited to join them at Kate Wright's house, where they will be discussing:

The Death of Adam By Marilyn Robinson

This is a book of essays on other ways of thinking about history, religion and society including Calvinism and the divide between the Bible and Darwinism.

Their following selection will be by:

God and Galileo By David Block and Kenneth Freeman

Two professional astronomers explore the relationship between science and faith.

Stayed tuned for this group's restart. In the meantime, you are wished happy reading at home!

Good Shepherd Women

All women are invited to attend when circles reconvene in the future. Current Studies come from the "Women of the Bible" study series.

Looking Ahead, Delilah will be studied

Afternoon Circle: Convenes at 1:00 p.m.
Anticipated Study Leader – Christine Stanley

Evening Circle: Convenes at 7:00 pm
Anticipated Hostess – Elaine Sinton
Anticipated Study Leader- Gail Tremain



We are once again hoping to tie our Garage sale into City of Coquitlam's Garage Sale event (at the end of May). In hopeful anticipation of holding this event this year, feel free to accumulating your treasures at home (in good condition) now. **The worst-case scenario will be its postponement to 2021.**



CLWR Bailing Days are currently scheduled for May 11th and 12th but will likely be postponed. Please call (1.800.661.2597) or email Cody at CLWR (cody@clwr.org) to confirm dates for this event and let him know if you are interested in signing up as a volunteer when the event takes place.



We are hoping to be able to offer VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL from July 6th - 10th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Mission Control will invite all kids (ages 4 - 11) to join us as voyagers, at **TO MARS AND BEYOND VBS** as we explore where God's power can take us. We will discover that there is no safer place than where God is. When we are surrounded by God we can have faith, be bold, show kindness, share thankfulness, and be full of hope!



YOUTH

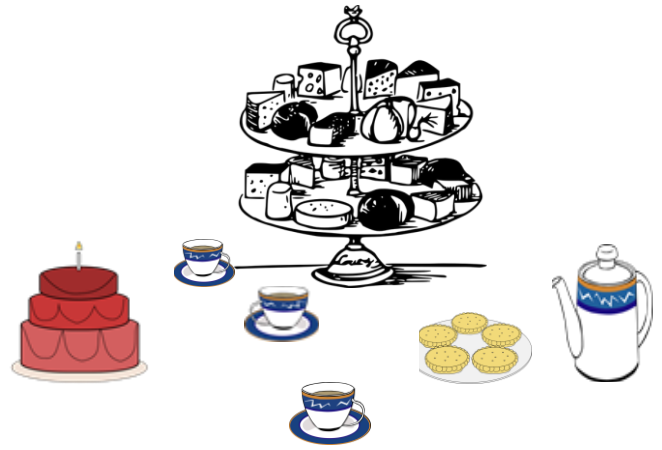
By now you may have heard that the weekly youth gatherings have gone ~~virtual~~ virtual.

Jason and the youth are meeting via ZOOM conferencing to hold their hang-outs. While not quite the same thing as a face-to-face get-together, so far this platforms seems to be working to hold their bible studies and play a game of Scattergories. The only thing really missing was the pizza.

Please pray that these virtual hang outs continue to be a lifeline for spiritual mentoring and connection in a world currently avoiding contact.

Pray also that the fall CLAY event will not be cancelled due to this pandemic.

*You are Israel's only hope.
You save us when we're in
trouble.* - Jeremiah 14:8A (NIRV)



Save the Date!

*On **Sunday, October 25th, 2020** following the morning Church service, GSLC will be commemorating its 60th Anniversary with a*

6-TEA High Tea

A light lunch of finger foods from the decades and teas has been planned.

We hope that all of you can join us in celebrating this milestone anniversary in our church life.

While it was sad that the Youth's Maundy Thursday Sleep-over had to be cancelled...with this new technology now in use, the youth will be having a **virtual region-wide youth event on Wednesday, April 8th, at 7pm!**

We hope all youth will join Jason and others, and journey into Holy Week together, play some games, try some songs, and come together as youth. Sure, it'll be different from a sleepover - but this can still be a meaningful way for the youth to be in community, have fun, and worship together.

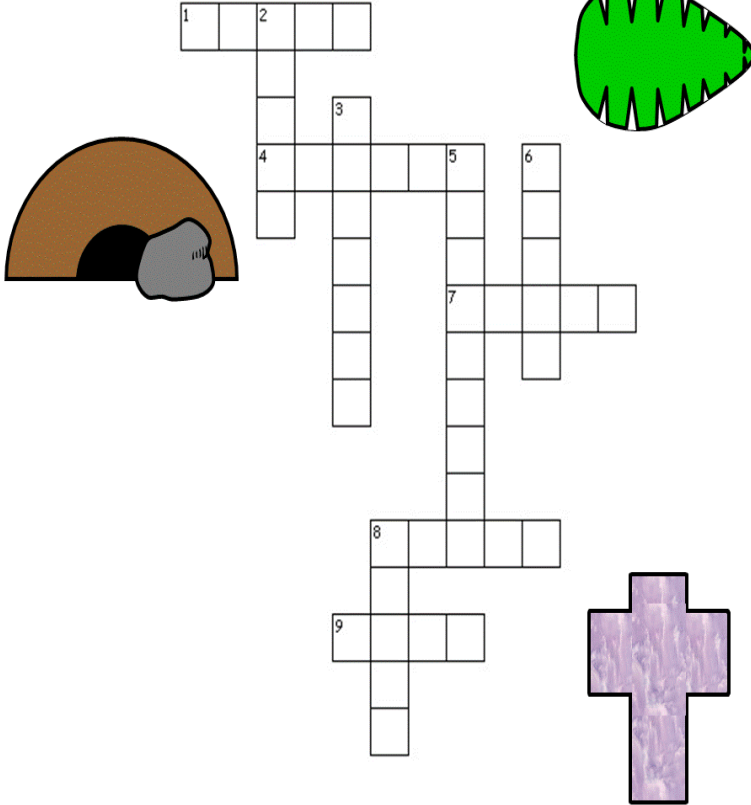
In order to participate, you'll need to contact Jason for details and to get the link that will take you to the Zoom call on the 8th. Hope all youth can join in!

Holy Week Virtual Youth Event
April 8

Join us in worship, games & community
Wednesday Apr 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM via ZOOM
Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://tinyurl.com/dymvirtualevent>

Easter Crossword

KIDS CORNER



ACROSS

1. Taking this during the last supper symbolized Jesus' body.
4. Jesus was forced to wear a crown made of these instead of a crown meant for a real king.
7. The angel told the women, "Don't be afraid, Jesus isn't here; He has _____!"
8. Instead of praying the disciples did this when Jesus went off to pray by himself.
9. The main reason that God gave His only son, Jesus to die for each of us.

DOWN

2. On Sunday the two Mary's didn't find Jesus but a tomb that was _____.
3. The word people shouted to Jesus that means blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
5. Jesus became the _____ for us, so we could be forgiven for our sins.
6. Jesus was meant to die on this.
8. This was put in front of the tomb so nobody could steal Jesus' body.



COUNCIL CORNER

Here is a timely excerpt of an inspiring email from Council President, Mogens Hansen translated from a 1527 letter that Martin Luther wrote to Johann Hess (here a Google translation from Danish):

In these circumstances, I would pray to God that He is gracious to us and protects us. Then, in addition, I will disinfect and help clean the air I want to give and take medication. I want to avoid places and people where you do not need me, so that I myself will not be infected and many others through me will be plagued and infected, and thus due to my carelessness will cause their illness and death.

If my God wants me, then he will surely find me, and then I have done just what he has given me to do, and I am not guilty of my own or the death of others.

But where my neighbor needs me, I will not avoid places or people, but go freely to this one and help as mentioned above.

We hope your faith is fortified by this timely reminder from Martin Luther.

When you feel afraid, ask Him for courage. When you feel weak, ask Him for strength. When you feel overwhelmed, ask Him for new eyes to see and a new heart to be His presence in the world around you. Take all your needs to Him in prayer and you will be surrounded in His love.



Dear members and friends of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

We write to you in a time of challenge, uncertainty, and for some, fear. Our lives have been turned upside down by the events of the last days and weeks. A closure of the church for services and all gatherings has never before occurred in the history of Good Shepherd Lutheran.

It is unknown how long this period of closure will last. It could be several weeks or several months. COVID-19 will have a long-lasting and far-reaching effect on the economy. All churches will feel this impact, and Good Shepherd Lutheran is no exception. As ministry will continue in the best way possible, we cannot stress how important it will be to continue to make our offerings. Bills still need to be paid and commitments honoured.

Some of you have already been asking how you can keep making your offerings while services are suspended. During the COVID-19 crisis, here are some options available to continue making your donations:

1. By internet banking: send an eTransfer to goodshepherd@telus.net Include your envelope number and indicate if your offering is for general revenue or a special purpose.
2. By credit card through CanadaHelps. Click the Donate Now button on our website or follow this link [https://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx? CharityID=d5214](https://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=d5214) CanadaHelps issues the receipt.
3. By mailing a cheque or a series of monthly post-dated cheques to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1504 Spruce Ave., Coquitlam BC V3J 2P6.
4. By mailing a cheque or a series of monthly post-dated cheques (made out to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church) to the church's Financial Secretary, Bob Berry, at his home address, 1843 Walnut Cres., Coquitlam, BC V3J 7S9.
5. By dropping a donation envelope containing a cheque or a series of monthly post-dated cheques through the church's front door mail slot.
6. By arranging for someone to pick up your cheque at your home and deliver it to the church.
7. By delivering cash to the church office during office hours.

The online methods are the safest in the event that Canada Post deliveries are interrupted or personal travel becomes further restricted.

The days, weeks, and months ahead will be a challenging time for us. But let us never forget that, "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is [God's] faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23). As God provides for us so faithfully, let us also provide for our ministry together just as faithfully. We will open again, and when we do, we must ensure that Good Shepherd Lutheran is prepared to resume normal operations.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry".

Jerry Nieman, Treasurer, jerry.nieman@telus.net , 604-936-1853
and the Good Shepherd Lutheran Stewardship Team