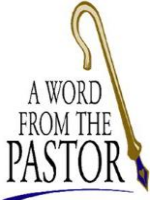




Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH

June / July / August 2020

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



SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

It feels like there hasn't been much to celebrate for a while, outside of certain personal celebrations like anniversaries and birthdays and graduations. And those have been very welcome shafts of light in an otherwise gloomy time. But in the life of our congregation it feels like we've been so focused on keeping the ship afloat that opportunities for celebration have been rare. Even Easter is feeling like a long time past.

So it gives me great pleasure to announce that it has finally been confirmed that our new intern will be joining us sometime this fall. You may recall that we approved this initiative at our last AGM and left the details to the council to finalize. Well, that has been completed and we now have the green light to proceed. Her name is Elina Singh and I couldn't be more pleased that she will be with us. I have worked with Elina on the synod Missions Committee for several years and have been very impressed with her gifts. I know she will be a joy for us all to meet and get to know. We are including her biography with this newsletter for everyone to read and get a bit of an appreciation for the fine candidate she is.

Our plan is to make this into a joint internship with Trinity Lutheran Church in Delta. So Elina will share her time between our two congregations. We're not sure how that will work out yet but it will work out. Many of us will remember that we shared our last intern, Nathan Fong, with King of Life congregation and that worked quite well.

While I have only supervised one intern before (the afore-mentioned Nathan) I am truly looking forward to this opportunity. We are a congregation with many gifts to share and I know Elina will benefit richly from her time with us. At the same time, we have much to look forward to in having Elina among us. An intern brings a fresh voice to our pastoral ministry, a voice shaped by current learnings and insights gained through her seminary studies. And Elina's voice will be particularly fresh for us as a female candidate coming to a congregation like ours which has only had male voices speaking in this role.

And maybe most importantly in these days, an intern is a sign of hope for us all. Hope that God is still at work raising up men and women to serve the church. Hope that God is still guiding us forward as a people of God. And hope that the gospel will continue to be heard and taught and lived under gifted and Spirit-led leadership. Please join me in giving thanks to God for this new adventure and please keep Elina in your prayers for her time with us and for her future.

The Slowly Emerging “New Normal” amid COVID19



BC has made significant progress in our fight against COVID-19 and on May 6th, Premier John Horgan outlined BC’s Restart Plan for slowly and carefully easing restrictions. These changes in restrictions are not a return to normal, but instead are a move towards a new normal. Yes, there is increased freedom and this is encouraging, yet we all must continue to modify our own behaviour and keep protective measures in place that will continue to protect seniors, those at risk, and our health care system, for the foreseeable future.

Our Church Council is working hard behind the scenes to reflect on when and how we will again be offering services in our church facility. Considerations being grappled with are:

- How will health and hygiene protocols, and cleaning practices need to be altered?
- How will we physically distance? Are there physical changes that need to be made to our building (i.e. physical barriers like plexiglass at high interaction areas) or increased ventilation?
- What changes need to be implemented to our service practices? Are there ways or areas we can use to reduce density of people and ensure physical distancing?

These are just some of the weighty topics that are being considered most carefully. Until we can all safely return to some semblance of a service in our church - with the proper safety measures in place - we will continue to offer our virtual services online. Our office is open and you can call anytime should you need any help or assistance.

I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

~Joshua 1:9 (NRSV)

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



Class of 2020 Graduates

Our heartfelt congratulations are extended to this year’s High School Graduates:

Evan Darts Sarah Kerr Hope Svingen-Jones

May God continue to lead and guide you as you venture forth into your next phase of life.

~ Vade ad Deum ~

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY



Happy 25th Wedding Anniversary

Nadine & Les Darts on July 22nd
Betty & John Mossinkoff on August 5th

Congratulations!

MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Celebrating milestone birthdays this summer are:



Vivian Kroeker who turns **94** on June 2nd
Evelyn Morrison who turns **93** on July 14th
Betty Jones who turns **90** on August 17th
Jack Sinton who turns **85** on August 7th
Bob Knudson who turns **75** on August 18th
Gail Tremain who turns **70** on July 22nd
Sue Power who turns **65** on July 8th

*With Blessings to all from
your Good Shepherd Family*

DEATHS

Elaine Bouthot passed away on May 30th. We keep her family in our prayers. May God surround them with comfort and give them peace.

Mary Sommerfeld passed away in April. A graveside service was held for her on April 17th. We keep her family in our prayers. May God continue to comfort them in their grief.



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 as he settles into his new apartment and continues to grieve the loss of his mom and dad.

Al Startin as he re-enters his treatment for prostate cancer.

Elaine Sinton as she begins her treatment for cancer.

Gail Tremain as she continues to heal from her broken shoulder.

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

Jim Matthews as he continues a robust recovery from his recent bypass surgery

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

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

Jean Lentz, mother of Carole Lentz, in hospital with a broken femur.

Sandi Carter, a friend of Laurie Sinclair, who was diagnosed with Central Nervous System Lymphoma and who recently had a mass taken out of her neck

All those suffering affected 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 first responders as they risk their lives in the course of their normal workload





You are invited to join us at our next book club on June 17 at 7:15 via Zoom when we will be discussing:

God and Galileo

By L. Block and Kenneth C. Freeman

"A devastating attack upon the dominance of atheism in science today." (Giovanni Fazio, Senior Physicist, Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics)

Looking ahead to September, we will be discussing
St. Thomas Aquinas: The Dumb Ox
by G.K. Chesterton.

This book was chosen for review by Dan Enarson when he was a member of Book Club and will be reviewed as a tribute in memory of Dan.

Good Shepherd Women

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, the Good Shepherd Women's Groups will not be meeting in June. If some of the restrictions are lifted, and we feel it is safe to do so, it is our hope that we will be able to reconvene in September.

In the meantime, stay in touch with each other by telephone, social media or social distancing. The friendships and fellowship we experience in our groups are a blessing and it is our hope that our contacts will continue during this time of self-isolation.

PRAYER GROUP

The former *Pathways to Prayer Group* is taking a new path! Now meeting weekly on Wednesday afternoons at 1 pm via Zoom we alternate between exploring the prayers in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book, and Praying Lectio Divina style: where bible passages are read aloud 3 times, with reflection and discussion following each reading. Each week we close out our group with "Prayers of the People" – those prayers brought forward by the participants in the group as they feel so led.

All are welcome to check out what we're doing, even those just curious. No attendance commitment is required. Please let the office know you have an interest and the appropriate Zoom link will be provided to you.



On **Sunday, October 25th, 2020** we will be commemorating GSLC's 60th Anniversary

6-TEA High Tea

While we're still uncertain which restrictions will be in place at that time, plans are still going ahead to make this a most memorable celebration.

No matter which alternative is available to us, either in person or a virtual party, we hope that all will be able to join in and commemorate this historic anniversary in our church life.

MEET OUR NEW INTERN!

It's now been confirmed that **Elina Singh**



will be starting her term as our new intern sometime in the fall. She kindly provided a biography, starting on the next page of this newsletter.

While we're not too sure how this Pandemic will effect this position in terms of start date and workload, we trust that it will unfold as God wills and we look forward to welcoming Elina sometime in the months ahead.

Elina is a current fulltime student at LTS (Lutheran Theological Seminary) studying long-distance from her home in Vancouver. She is married and they have currently been blessed with one small child.

Welcome, Elina!

Refugee Sponsorship

The paperwork and financial obligations have now been completed by Ruta Kifle, a Coquitlam resident who contacted us last year seeking our non-financial sponsorship of her adult nephews. As a result, Senait at CLWR has in turn begun the resettlement process for Solomon [currently living in Sudan] and Tesfay [currently living in Ethiopia] to their waiting Aunt Ruta here in Coquitlam.

In reality this process will likely span somewhere between one and two years before the nephews actually arrive in Canada, so now, let us pray for their safety abroad while they are waiting to immigrate to Canada... and for a swift and safe arrival into Vancouver... even as we wait.



From Our Treasurer

The following is an update on our financial Status as of April 30, 2020:

Total Income	\$21,802.65
Total Expenses	<u>\$17,605.95</u>
Surplus	\$ 4,196.70

Project Contingency Fund
Balance as of April 30, 2020 = \$45,309.45

Thank you for responding so faithfully with your gifting in these uncertain times.

Well done, good and faithful servants

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

- John 14:27 NRSV

My Story

By Elena Singh

I grew up in Finland, the oldest of three daughters, on a farm outside a small village. Ours was a typical Finnish Lutheran family – my parents dropped me and my sisters off at Sunday school in order to have some peace and quiet on their Sunday mornings. For me, their desire for peace and quiet was the beginning of hearing God’s call. When I was about 8 years old, we had a missionary visiting our congregation, and she stopped at the Sunday school to tell her stories. My Sunday school teacher still tells the story of how I listened thoughtfully, and then sighed “when I grow up I want to be a missionary!”

After confirmation I participated in our parish youth group. We had a charismatic leader – young, cool, conservative and pietistic. This was really the time of faith formation for me, and many of those conservative ideas are deeply ingrained, although they have been feeling increasingly foreign as time passes. I am learning to understand why I thought the way I did, and why that does not work anymore.

I grew slowly into leadership roles in my youth group. I served as a camp counsellor and helped organize events throughout high school. My faith was strong and I knew I wanted to work for God, to be part of God’s mission. I had applied to serve with Operation Mobilization after high school, and was sure I’d spend a year or two sailing the high seas. At my parents’ urging I applied to colleges as well but I was sure I wouldn’t study anything for a while...

Well, plans change. God closed that door, and in the fall I found myself in a classroom, not on the deck of a ship. I had been accepted to Diaconia University of Applied Sciences, to a Bachelor of Social Services program. This unique program gives the graduates the qualifications for social work as well as parish ministry, either as a deacon or a youth worker. Three and a half years later I graduated as a youth worker, knowing I would never be very good at it. Turns out I was right– I’ve done youth ministry for three years, and it’s definitely not my strongest point!

After graduation I decided to take a break. I took a job as a nanny near Geneva, Switzerland, and met my husband, Jason, at the coffee hour of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva. He had applied to come and study in Vancouver, and was waiting for his visa! After a few short weeks we spent the next eight months on different continents, writing dozens of letters, until I was able to find a job and move to Canada.

Soon I got involved with ELCIC’s Global Mission, on synodical and national level. I worked a variety of jobs (youth ministry, bakery, after school care, receptionist, etc.), and

continued to volunteer in the church. The whole time it was clear – no matter how much I enjoyed the various jobs I was doing, it didn't feel like I belonged unless I was doing something for the church. Five years ago I took on a job as an office administrator for a small Anglican parish, and finally I felt at home again!

Finally I started to consider studying again. I talked to a deacon I know, thinking maybe that would be something I could do, but it didn't seem right. However, I never even considered ordained ministry. While I wasn't exactly against women being pastors (I had been, due to the teachings of my youth group, but I had met too many women who clearly belonged to ministry), I certainly didn't think I should ever be one! Besides, I really didn't want to be a parish pastor, the way I understood that ministry to be.

Then two things happened. The BC Synod started the Missional Renewal process, and while my congregation didn't engage in it immediately, our pastor did. I learned some things from her, some more through the Synod's Missions Committee I'm part of, and more on my own – thanks in part to Pr. Kathy Martin who answered questions and suggested books to read.

Around the same time I got involved in Friends InDeed ministry at First Lutheran. Friends InDeed was created to provide pastoral care support by lay volunteers, and over time has become a network of people who offer their time and talents for service to others. I joined the ministry in 2015 as an Information and Communications Coordinator, to help with some of the practical aspects of the work. A year later I became the coordinator for the ministry, and it has been a challenging but wonderful time. Both of these, Missional Renewal and Friends InDeed have shown me other ways of being in ministry, and reminded me that being a pastor doesn't mean you have to fit into a certain box – that God works in many ways.

In the fall 2016 I was talking about this with a friend. He asked me if I felt called for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and I said “no”. It was a very definite “no”, but that's when I started to hear a quiet voice asking “why not?” A few nights later I had a dream where I was presiding over communion, and it seemed very natural, like I belonged there. I woke up, laughing at the dream, and thought, no. “Why not?” I was talking to my pastor about some of this, but then shrugged it off, and said, no. “Why not?” And soon the call became too strong to resist.

I feel energized by the changing church. I sense the Spirit of God at work in the changes that seem daunting at times. We are being called to transform, called to die so that we could live. It's scary, like big changes always are, but it's moving the church outside of stagnant existence and into a new, committed future. Churches are no longer community hubs and social clubs, and it is time to reclaim the gospel, the one thing that has always set us apart

from other community gathering places. It is time to reach out to the communities and neighbourhoods with the message of God's abounding grace.

All this is what excites me about ministry – I feel called to find out what can be. The past couple of years of seminary studies have been challenging but also energizing. I have learned new-to-me theological insights that have given words to how I see the world. I look forward to discovering how to put everything I have learned into practice, and how the theory fits in ministry.

Here is an updated version of *Jesus Loves Me* written for those of us in the church who have white hair, or even no hair at all! For all of us over middle age (or even those almost there), check this out and we hope you enjoy...

(the **new** version of) **JESUS LOVES ME** (for those who are **old**)

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

CHORUS: YES, JESUS LOVES ME.
YES, JESUS LOVES ME.
YES, JESUS LOVES ME
THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way. **CHORUS**

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
Have no fear, I am here. **CHORUS**

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love. **CHORUS**

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day. **CHORUS**

Thank you, Flora
Pregler, who kindly
passed this on to the
office for sharing with
you all.



Refugees, COVID-19 and The Church

Saturday, June 20

1:00PM - 2:00PM (CST)

What does quarantine mean for displaced people around the world, and for churches in Canada who want to help?

Join Carla Blakely (Director of Community and Donor Relations with CLWR, who spoke at our church last year on CLWR's work and its impact) along with others from CLWR, for a virtual gathering on **World Refugee Day** to hear about the big picture facing refugees today, meet a former refugee who is now working on the frontlines of COVID-19 in Canada, and explore how your church can continue walking with refugees in the COVID-19 era.

Featuring:

- **Fikre Tsehai**, Senior Policy Advisor at Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- **Meredith Cherland**, Chair of the Regina Lutheran Refugee Committee, sponsors of Abdulnaser Alkhatib ([featured on CBC's The National](#))
- **Robel Sereke**, Registered Nurse and former refugee
- **Rev. Susan Johnson**, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- **Rev. Timothy Teuscher**, President of the Lutheran Church–Canada
- **Cheryl Bauer Hyde**, President of the Board at Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Click on the link below to Register for this event:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/refugees-covid-19-and-the-church-tickets-108896849408>

PERSPECTIVES – By Jason Wood



It's been a season of both **sadness** and **joy** for our youth ministry. Sadness, because of the many ways COVID has impacted the youth:

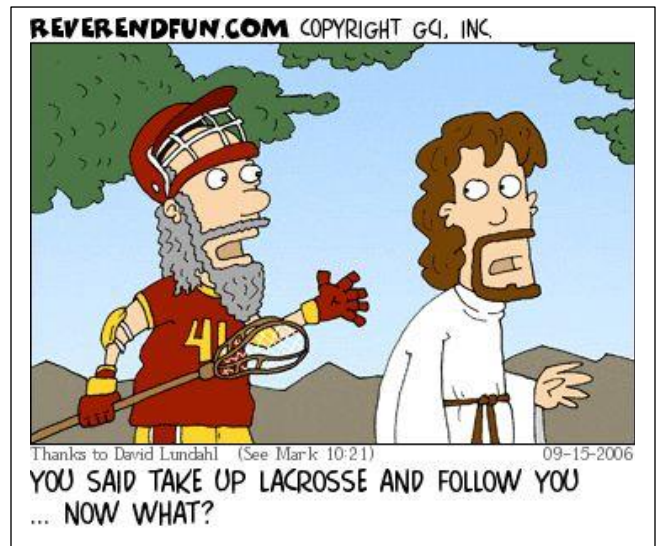
- CLAY's postponement to next year,
- the graduation ceremonies cancelled and postponed, and
- all the challenges of isolation and doing school online.

But also **joy**, as we've found new ways to be community through weekly online gatherings on Sunday and our youth-led Alpha course. Being forced to let go of our ordinary habits is offering us a chance to connect with new people and re-imagine what youth ministry will look like in the years ahead. And *that's* both scary...and exciting!

'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.— Acts 2:17 (NIRV)

You can help!

- *-Pray for inspiration and wisdom as we vision and plan for the year ahead.*
- *-Pray for deepening and widening community amongst all our youth, during the summer and as we enter a new season for the youth ministry*
- *-Pray for our youth leading Alpha and that God would continue to raise more of our youth up as bold leaders and disciples of Jesus*



Introducing a new series of articles penned by Gene Blishen ~ to enhance our understanding of who we are as a church, and how we are directly impacting the world around us.

Did you know that Gene's background includes work at the National Church level (as National Treasurer) and the Global Church level? Through his work, he networks with charitable organizations and he has had the pleasure of seeing first hand where our benevolence monies go and whom our monies directly benefit. He thought it might be helpful for our parishioners to learn a bit more about who GSLC *really* is as a church. For we are not just Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Coquitlam, although that is our physical location and hopefully we individually also impact positively this community through our own service and interactions. But we are also one of 52 congregations, belonging to one of four regions that make up the BC Synod; which is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC); which is part of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF); which is represented at the highest level through its association with the World Council of Churches (WCC).

Gene also thought you might enjoy knowing about where your benevolence monies go, and how they impact the world. When you make a specific gift through the church, the church forwards your money directly to the charity of your choice. And you may also be aware that GSLC also sends 20.6% of all monies received through offerings to other charitable organizations. But have you ever wondered where that money goes to, and how it is used to impact the world? Stay tuned to later editions, where we'll take a look at how far reaching your gift giving really goes...

We sometimes have the view of the church from the position of sitting in the pew. In recent years this has expanded into our local community and other local congregations of the ELCIC, Anglican and Catholic Church. As a national church (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada) there are other communities that make us the church from sea to sea. At the recent National Church Council meeting in Mississauga I encountered a pastor from the other end of Canada.

Pastor Kimber McNabb is the pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She also serves as the Dean, Atlantic Ministry Area of the Eastern Synod, ELCIC and on the National Church Council of the ELCIC. She is a long distance runner who has participated in international marathons.

How long have you been a pastor? *28 years - 16 years being in Halifax.*

Where do you live? *In Halifax, Nova Scotia and previously in New Denmark, New Brunswick.*

Where did you grow up? *Near Owen Sound, Ontario*

What excites you about your calling? *The diversity, using one's creative juices in our daily circumstances.*

What is the most unexpected event? *Interactions with people as their first female pastor.*

What do you hope for the future? *Living Word, Living Church - bringing hope and life to all God's people. Having the right relationships.*

What are your thoughts about our church? *It is trying very hard to live the gospel.*

Any final words? *#forthehealingoftheworld*

When we speak of our church we affirm the calling of each pastor. It is something each congregation has and each congregation holds dear. They are there to lead us, help us, listen to us in times of pain and sorrow and celebration. We need to always remember them in prayer as they do us. They are a gift of God to each of us, to each congregation, to our church.

KIDS CORNER

The resurrection of Jesus Christ

from the Books of Matthew and Mark

Bible Crossword No.3

Copyright 2011 - biblewordgames.com

ACROSS

- Where they laid Jesus after he died (Matt 27:60)
- The place where Jesus dies (Matt 27:33).
- Jesus and two thieves were _____ together (Matt. 27:38)
- Mother of Jesus.
- The angel said "He is ____ He is not here" (Mark 16:6)
- They made Jesus wear a scarlet ____ (Matt 27:28)
- Jesus was betrayed for ____ pieces of silver (Matt 27:28)
- Jesus was _____ of any crime (Matt. 27:4)
- The 12 companions of Jesus.

DOWN

- Jesus shed His _____ for our sins.
- Judas Iscariot _____ Jesus (Matt. 27:4).
- Roman commander of a hundred men (Matt. 27:54)
- Jesus said "May God, My God Why hast thou ____ me?" (Matt 27:46)
- A title of Jesus (it means anointed one) (Matt 27:17)
- They laid the _____ of Jesus in a tomb (Matt 27:59)
- Jesus wore a "crown of _____"
- Our Lord and Saviour

Kids Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Resurrection of Jesus Christ Puzzle #3

ALIVE
ANGEL
BETRAYED
BLOOD
BODY
CHRIST
CRUCIFIED
DISCIPLES
FEET
FORSAKEN
FULFILLED
GOLGOTHA
JESUS
JOY
JUDAS

C	G	A	T	H	O	R	N	S	A	D	U	J
D	R	O	L	H	X	D	O	O	L	B	K	O
X	F	U	L	F	I	L	L	E	D	D	E	Y
Y	J	Y	C	G	D	R	T	P	I	E	O	R
T	E	E	F	I	O	W	T	S	N	Y	N	A
O	S	B	E	F	F	T	C	Y	I	A	C	M
M	U	R	O	O	I	H	M	G	R	T	L	
B	S	P	F	R	P	R	E	A	H	T	H	H
N	E	V	I	L	A	T	S	D	T	E	K	C
B	E	N	E	L	A	D	G	A	M	B	B	T
N	O	S	E	L	E	G	N	A	K	S	F	A
U	R	D	I	S	C	O	U	R	G	E	D	W
L	I	P	Y	R	X	R	A	I	M	E	N	T



LORD
MAGDALENE
MARY
NIGHT
PILATE
RAIMENT
RISEN
ROBE
SCOURGED
SOLDIERS
SON
THIRTY
THORNS
TOMB
WATCH

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

~Matthew 19:14

