

November 2020

VOL. #12 ISSUE #10

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church



Please see page ten for details about this event.

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The Shepherd of the Valley Mission Statement: Grounded in the word of God and centered in Christ, SVLC is an accepting and caring community sharing God's love, grace and forgiveness with all.

Shepherd's Staff is published eleven times each year. It is the voice of the congregation; your articles, letters, and comments are welcome at any time. Submissions to the newsletter must be signed when received, although names may be withheld from the newsletter upon request. Submissions are subject to editing for space and clarity. Please submit articles by email or directly to the office.

The deadline for the December 2020 issue is Sunday, November 22nd, 2020

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Pastor's Report

Pastor Kristen Steele

I can't believe it's already November and yet at times 2020 has already felt like it's been about 100 years long. I write this during a week when the reported numbers of covid-19 have hit all-time highs. Not an accomplishment any of us were hoping for. More and more we are hearing Dr. Henry caution us to be very careful in all of our interactions outside of our family. It is also a time of the year when the days are getting shorter, the weather getting worse, and when we would in any other year begin to think about the holidays. We don't know what they will look like this year but we do know that they won't look the same.

As we journey through November, a month typically cold and rainy and dark, we recognize that that will have a bigger impact on our mental and spiritual health than it has in previous years. I think it is important to take time this November to ensure that we are caring for ourselves and each other. I have been greatly enjoying seeing some of you on our Zoom communion services on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. If you haven't joined us yet I encourage you to think about coming some time to see what it's like.

I am also looking forward to our hymn sing on Sunday, November 1st - also on Zoom - where families from our congregation will share their musical talents and lead us in some of their favourite hymns. I will also continue to offer tours at Emmaus Place on Tuesdays and Fridays throughout November. Please book your time with Eleanor (office secretary) and join us for one of those tours.

I miss seeing each of you on Sunday mornings for a hug, smile, handshake, quick visit and catch up. Please know that you continue to be in my prayers and that I am here if you need to talk or if you are finding these times challenging. As Dr. Henry often reminds us, these times will not be forever but they are for now and so we need to continue caring for each other and for ourselves.

May the peace of God surround and comfort you today and in the days ahead.

Music Director's Report

Sylvia Duncan

I'm not sure who else feels this way during this pandemic, but it seems like the days and weeks are just flying by, and not in a good way. Maybe it's because every day feels like the same, and every week feels like the same. Nothing changes. Eleanor had to remind me that this newsletter article was due today. I was stunned, not only by the fact that the end of October was approaching, but also by the realization that it was a month ago that I wrote the last article, not last week! Sometimes it feels like this COVID thing will never end, but we do know that eventually it will. We just have to have patience. Please stay safe everyone.

On Sunday, November 1st, All Saints Day, we are going to have a **Zoom Hymn Sing** in the evening, starting at 7:00 pm. I'm quite excited about this, because of how we are going to present it. Instead of me playing all the hymns, I have enlisted the help of several of our church families. Each family grouping will lead one or two of the hymns, and we will all sing from the comfort of our own homes; no need to drive to the church on a dark, wet November night!!



For those of you who haven't participated in a Zoom thing yet, be aware that the only voices heard are the ones leading the singing. Everyone else is on mute, so you are free to sing as loudly and as proudly as you like.

We are so very fortunate to have so much talent in this congregation, and I feel blessed indeed to have all these people volunteering to do this. I really hope we have a good turn out of the congregation. Please mark this on your calendars, even if you just want to sit and listen to all the glorious hymns.

Thinking down the road a bit, we are going to arrange a **Zoom Talent Show** for January, hopefully tying it in with Epiphany, when the Magi brought gifts to Jesus. We can share our gifts with the congregation. So start thinking about how you can participate in this fun event. You can read a poem or an excerpt, sing or play a song, or act out something, tell a few jokes, etc. I'm really hoping the children will get involved too. Please start thinking about what gifts you can offer.



I hope you are enjoying the music during our online worship services. I am very grateful for all those who have volunteered countless hours to bring the music to our congregation. It is such a blessing to work with all these fine musicians. Thank you so very much. Please know how much you are appreciated by everyone.

In peace,

Sylvia



emmaus place Small Group Tours of Emmaus Place

All tours must be pre-arranged. Tours will take place on **Tuesdays at 2 pm** and **Fridays at 10 am**. Please book your time slot through Eleanor in the church office (eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca or 604-530-1311). If Tuesdays or Fridays do not work for you, please contact Pastor Kristen to find another time. **Drop-ins will not be permitted.** Tours will be in groups of no more than 6 people. You will be asked to follow protocols and sign a waiver prior to the tour.



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BIBLE BOX

Monthly Verse, for November:

(as chosen by Peter Mathiasen)

God's Promise

I will instruct you and
teach you the way you
should go .

Psalm 32:8 NRSV

Thanksgiving Food Bank



Drop-Off Drive-Thru



Thank you to everyone who drove through our new parking lot and dropped off food donations for Sources Food Bank in Langley. The congregation gathered enough food donations to fill 13 banana boxes!





emmaus place



Underground parking, seniors' apartment building



Photo credit (for all): Steve Norbury



Aerial views of parking lots

Interior Views of Emmaus Place



Seniors' Apartment Building: lobby, elevator landing, and hallway.



Below: apartment kitchen, bedroom, and patio space, plus kitchen/dining area view of family unit (lights on).



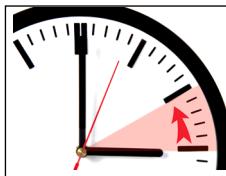
Parish News and Reminders

All Saints Sunday

Nov 2nd, 2019 -
Nov 1st, 2020

Frederick Friedrich
Syd Long
Ronald Taylor
Middy Lundy
Ferdy Baglo
Randy Schramm
Anne Mickelson
Marilyn Meyer

Remember to email photos of your loved ones to Pastor Kristen before Sunday, October 25. Photos will be included in a slideshow during the video service on All Saints Sunday (November 1st) when we will honour those who have passed away.



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 1st

Remember to set your clocks back ONE HOUR on Saturday night, October 31st

Hymn Sing

All Saints Day

November 1st at 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

On Sunday, November 1st - All Saints Day - at 7 o'clock in the evening, there will be a Hymn Sing for the congregation (or anyone else interested). The event will take place on Zoom. Instructions on how to join will be sent out by email.

Christmas Hampers



Things will be a little different this year for our Christmas hampers.

The Langley Christmas Bureau (who we typically work with) is shifting to gift cards for hampers, rather than food and toys. We will follow this practice as well.

Please make a donation to the church through the regular channels (drop off, by mail, e-transfer) and mark it "Christmas hampers".

If you know a family who needs a hamper, please be in touch with Pastor Kristen by the end of November.

Birthdays November

Evan Beier

Dean Dalke

Coby Fredrickson

Phil Meister

Elda Mitchler

Harvey Mitchler

Harrison Mufford

Cameron Nickel

Samantha Olson

Noah Polok

Eileen Stewart

Veronica Schopp

Lance Wall

Gordon Wark



Anniversaries

Alex & Roslynn Booth

Ed & Ann Gaertner



If your birthday or anniversary has been missed, please inform the church secretary so that it is included in future newsletters.



Church Information



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
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Office Hours:
Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

If you need access to the church when the office is closed, please first contact a Division Chair.

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Music Director: Sylvia Duncan
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