

Summer 2020

VOL. #12 ISSUE #7

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church



See pages 8 to 11 for a detailed article, with photos, about the work of the SVLC Quilters.

Inside this issue

Pastor's Report	2
Music Director's Report	3
Missionary Article	4
Housing Development Photos	6
Quilters' Article	8
Birthday Parade Photos	12
Summer Meeting Reminders	14
Construction Update Photos	14
Birthdays & Anniversaries	15
SVLC Church Information	16

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 usually 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 September 2020 issue is Sunday, August 23rd, 2020

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Pastor's Report

Pastor Kristen Steele

In this time of global pandemic we continue to be the church in new and different ways. One of the new ways we continue to be fed spiritually is through communion. This looks different these days. We gathered for the first time for communion online. We use the zoom online platform so that we can see and hear each other and worship together. Our first gathering was on June 24th and it was so good to see those who were able to attend, to worship together, pray together, and partake in Christ's body and blood together. For me it was a beautiful time of being together while being safe at home. It meant everyone could be included (including two people who don't have internet). We were able to pray for someone's husband in hospital having tests, and to share the peace with each other from afar.

I chose to use the new chalice (cup for wine) in our online service. It is one most of you have not yet seen. We had been talking for a while about purchasing a new chalice and, when Sharon Richardson died in the fall, the Worship and Music division made the decision to invite family members and friends to make donations in her memory toward the purchase of a new chalice. That chalice was ordered early in 2020 with hopes to dedicate it and use it for the first time on Easter Sunday. Unfortunately, as we all know, we did not gather in person for worship on Easter Sunday.

*New Chalice: handmade in Spain,
dedicated in memory of
Sharon Richardson.*



As Christians we believe in the communion of saints. We believe that as we gather to eat and drink in the Eucharist, we are accompanied by those who have gone to be with God. So as I considered whether or not to use the chalice on Wednesday night, I thought of Sharon and knew that she too would be joining us for communion, and I believe would want us to use this beautiful piece and not let it sit in the sacristy.

We will continue to gather over zoom for communion and, if you are comfortable, I invite you to join us. If you haven't used zoom before and would like an opportunity to practice, please feel free to contact me and we can test it out ahead of time. It is also possible to just call in over the phone and hear the service and participate. It may feel unusual to gather this way but we do it because we know this is the safest way to gather at this time. God continues to work in and through all of this. As the words of the hymn Sylvia chose for us to sing on Wednesday night say "In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever. In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here."

May God's peace continue to surround and comfort you today and in the days ahead.

Music Director's Report

Sylvia Duncan

We continue to navigate these pandemic times as we head into summer. This has been such an interesting few months but I'm certainly glad that we are creative enough to handle the challenges. Choir continued through the month of June, online. It allowed us to still stay in touch and to sing, and I am grateful for that.

We have been fortunate to have many musicians who continue to help us out with our recordings of the services each week. How blessed we are as a congregation.

As we move forward into summer, I will still try and keep up with this year's project of offering special music by composers born in each specific month. June has featured some interesting composers. Eleanor and I performed Gounod's *Ave Maria* that was written to go along with JS Bach's *Prelude in C Major*. Gounod is the composer whose birthday is in June (JS Bach's was in March). Other composers from this month include R. Schumann and E. Grieg. Both of these composers have written beautiful piano concertos; I encourage you to seek them out and listen. They are probably my favourite concertos, and maybe one day I will learn them.

Gounod, Schumann, and Grieg are all from the Romantic era of music history, an era that gave rise to nationalism in music, and beautiful lyrical melodies.

Grieg was famous for using the traditional folk songs of Norway in his compositions, thereby increasing Norway's presence in the classical world of music.

Schumann was from Germany and composed many pieces for the piano, for voice, and for the orchestra. Charles Gounod is less well known, but nevertheless composed some beautiful music, including a few operas. He was French, and his music was to influence many French composers who came after him. He was a prolific composer of liturgical music, but much of that music went out of favour as the century drew to a close.



Next month you will hear music from John Field, Louis-Claude Daquin, and Enrique Granados. August will include music by Claude Debussy and Cecile Chaminade, and others who are yet to be determined at this point!

As we move into summer mode, I wish you all health and safety. And we will continue to see each other over online platforms.

In peace, Sylvia

A Different Kind of Mission - Monthly Missionary Article

Submitted by Peter Mathiasen

About the time I was born, the world was in the midst of the great depression. At just about the same time, a group of people, mostly students, in Minneapolis, USA, was gathering for prayer for Missions. Out of this group came a new organization eventually known as the World Mission Prayer League (WMPL or Wimple as it is affectionately known!) Today it has many missionaries in a dozen or more countries.

In a Lutheran world where missionaries are sent out by churches and mission boards, this group is decidedly different. Their missionaries live on an allowance plus benefits package as God provides through praying members, instead of on a fixed salary. There are no financial appeals. For an old missionary like myself who had a salary guaranteed by a board for 17 years, this gives me the willies. But it succeeded and has for almost 90 years, for one reason: prayer (& God's provision!)

So you can understand why it is called a Prayer League. The basis for its existence is prayer for God's mission to the world in response to Jesus' expressed desire that his disciples go into all the world and make disciples of all nations.

According to WMPL Canada's website, there are 6,000 members across Canada and the United States that have committed themselves to pray for missionaries and the people to whom they go. Some of these, Barbara and I included, meet on a regular basis in small groups (during the pandemic via Zoom.) We pray for the missionaries, for those they work with and minister to, for the fields Jesus mentions as "white unto harvest," and the many unreached people groups numbering in the thousands.

Is this what the Apostle Paul was referring to when he talked about the "foolishness of the Gospel?" Maybe, but it has resulted in hundreds of missionaries over the past 90 years going out to many different parts of the world and many countries. Today over 40 individuals and couples can be found in countries of Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America, some in places that pose considerable danger. Some of the work is simple proclamation. Most is in areas of development, education and health care including hospitals, eye clinics etc, always in cooperation with other Christian missions.

Bolivia, where the first missionaries went, still has personnel, now working alongside the church born from their early efforts. When I was there representing our ELCIC at a Lutheran World Federation conclave around 1995, I attended worship with a small indigenous congregation. Given the chance to speak, I conveyed greetings from a friend, former missionary and former director of WMPL. I was rewarded with enthusiastic applause, words of thanks for those who brought Christ's message to them, and a palpable sense of gratitude. That visit left a lasting impression on me!

Truly WMPL has something to teach us: to be faithful in prayer for missions, missionaries and for the world around us including the many people groups still unreached by the message of Jesus.



For more info on the World Mission Prayer League, look up their website at ww.wmpl.org

Affordable Housing Development



Photo credit (for all): Steve Norbury

June 2



June 3



June 10



June 10

APARTMENT BUILDING FOR SENIORS



June 12



June 17



June 18



June 19

Construction Progress . . .



June 5



Planter Boxes - June 11



Playground - June 11

FAMILY HOUSING / PROPERTY



Paving Back Street - June 8

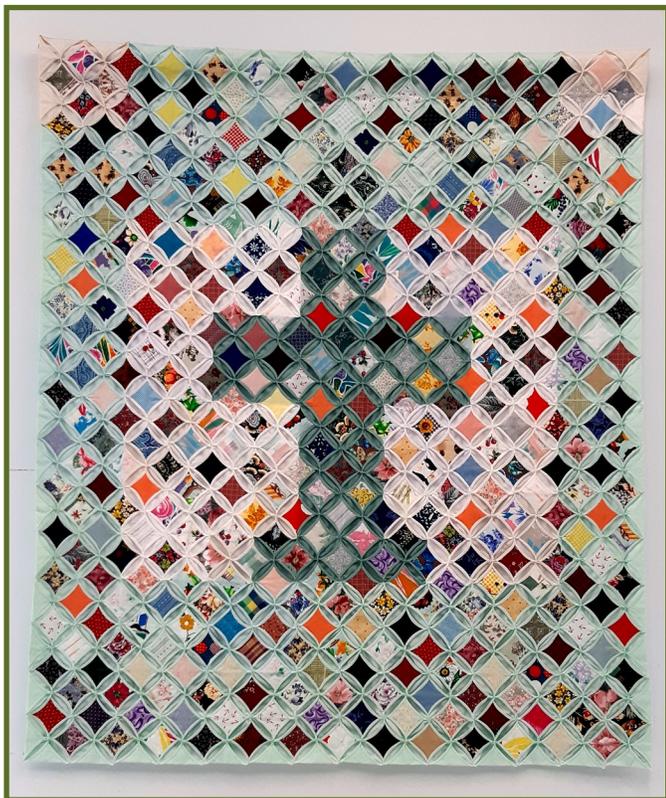


"Green Space" - June 18



Future Front Sign - June 19

The Quilters: We Care! We Share!



This exquisite quilt was made by Anne Mickelson and hangs in our fellowship hall. The pattern is Cathedral Window.

Quilting at Shepherd of the Valley has a long history. Hilde started the group in the 1970's. Quilters later met in Alice Dalke's home, and have quilted at the church since the early 1990's. There have been many faithful quilters over the years, stewards of resources, time and talents. Church members, friends, neighbours - all work side by side with a common purpose of caring and sharing. It's about faith and it's about friendship.

Pastor Kristen comments, *"For me it is the beautiful friendships that have come out of the group, but also the stories of how incredibly touched people are when they receive a quilt. Over and over again quilts have been beautiful blessings for people in their times of struggle."*

Darlene shares this tribute: *"I was thinking how the quilting group has been such a blessing. Not just for the fact we quilt, but the friendships we made. How the more experienced quilters have mentored us less experienced ones. Lorna's mentor was Anne Mickelson, mine in the early days was Lorna. These friendships have endured the test of time. Lorna visits Anne at Menno Home often, ever since she went there, and takes care all her needs like a family would do. All because of quilting. We are very close to Ed and Lorna today and she still mentors me.*

I know that quilting has been very important in Eldeen's life, too, and we have developed a really close relationship with her through quilting. She's an adopted mother to me and a grandmother to Malina. John and Jedda hold a special place in her heart as well. So many dear friends have come out of quilting. Connie has been such an inspiration to me. These are not connections we would have made at a church service. Sandra and Virginia are such assets to our group as well, and they have become dear friends.

Quilting has made so much of a difference in my life and I appreciate everyone, past and present, in the group."

Virginia says, *"Monday's are one of my favorite days of the week! God has blessed us with a beautiful, well-lit workspace and location. I feel blessed to be part of a team of friends who also like to work with beautiful fabrics and be creative, and knowing that I play a small part in blessing people in our own community and all over the world. Many thanks to Shepherd of the Valley Community for opening your doors and giving us the opportunity to share with others!"*

Quilters at Shepherd of the Valley



Over the years, well over 2,000 quilts have been made by Shepherd of the Valley quilters - with Connie Moore having made 1,000 of them. The majority of the quilts are distributed globally by Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) who, since 1946, has been sending aid to people around the world who are experiencing need. Our quilts, boy's shorts, and girl's dresses were sent to Angola last year. This year's items were also destined for Africa but are on hold due to the pandemic. Quilts have also been given locally to individuals or organizations such as Gateway of Hope, Ishtar, Surrey Urban Mission, and Wagner Hills. Still others are dedicated as prayer quilts.

The quilting group has a prayer ministry. Specially made quilts and crocheted shawls are given to those dealing with chronic or acute illnesses, treatments or grief. They are reminders of God's presence. The quilters gather around, laying hands on the quilt or shawl, and pray for healing and comfort for the recipient.

About a dozen prayer quilts and shawls were given this past year. Alley Cuthbertson received a prayer shawl and prayer quilt and has said that when she is having a tough day, she turns to the quilt and/or shawl and it helps knowing someone cares enough to have made them for her.



Above: Alley with prayer quilt and shawl. Left: Bonnie with prayer shawl.

Quilters at Shepherd of the Valley



Eldeen creatively combines small pieces and says she particularly enjoyed working on this diagonal patterned quilt.



Baby quilts are machine quilted, while adult quilts are tied.



Tying and pinning edges.



Baby Quilts





Sometimes we purchase bolts of fabric and we are often blessed with donations of samples and bolt ends from a fabric wholesaler. Any donations of fabric or sewing supplies that we cannot use, we share with other congregations and with Helping Hands in Abbotsford.

On three occasions we have sent suitcases of fabric to the Masibumbane sewing project in South Africa.

For two years we received grants from the ELCIC's Women of Faith Fund which helped defray costs. Otherwise we rely on selling a few quilts each year to pay for the batting (filling) and shipping.



Quilt sale at the SVLC Christmas Market in November 2019.

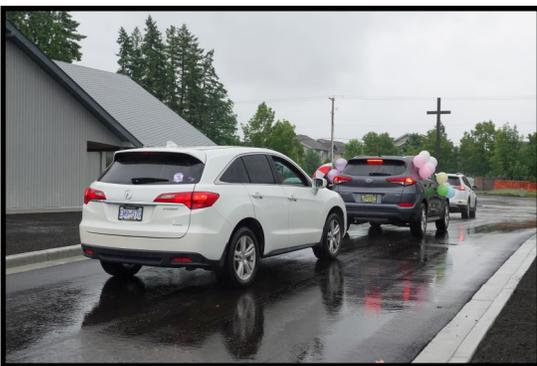
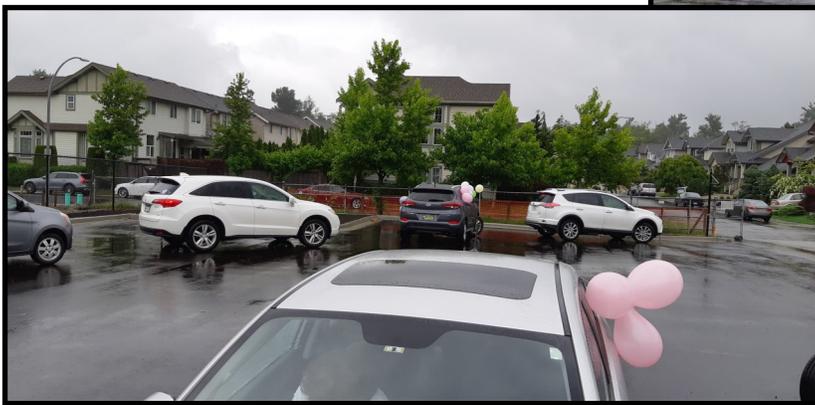
We enjoy our work and we enjoy one another. We are especially grateful for Darlene's leadership (and for her baking!). Eileen adds, "We enjoy fellowship, sharing life experiences - past and present - and much laughter, as we work on quilts and during our coffee time. A great way to start a new week by gathering on Monday mornings and volunteering our time and talent." And Marion notes that quilting is cheaper than therapy! Indeed.

Article written by Pamela Nel based on contributions from members of the Quilters Group.

Surprise Birthday Parade for Pastor Kristen!



The snake of cars lined up waiting for the surprise parade to start . . .



Special thanks to Sylvia for coming up with this great idea, and for everything she did to make it happen! Thanks also to Jim Duncan for all of his behind-the-scenes help. And to Eleanor for her role as traffic conductor.

And of course, thanks to everyone who knew about the surprise parade and didn't spill the beans!



Thank you everyone who came out on this rainy day!



Plenty of physical distance was created and maintained!

All photos on this page taken by Ralph Steele and his fancy camera - thank you, Ralph!

Summer Reminders

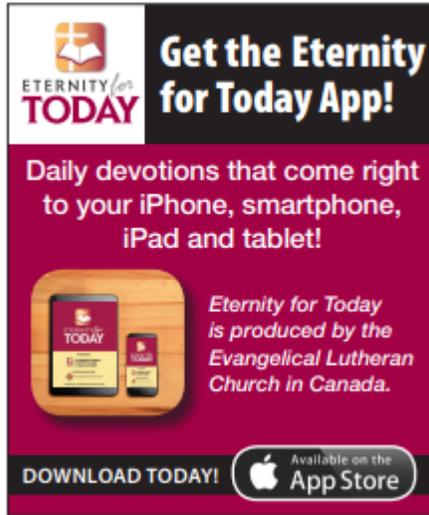
Zoom Meeting Reminders:

Council Meeting

Tues, Aug 4th at 7:30 pm

Worship & Music

Wed, Aug 26th at 10:30 am



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Photos, stories, and articles for the September Newsletter are due August 23rd

Please submit by email to eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca

Continued Construction around the Church Building



Birthdays

July and August

Carol Anderson
Matthew Booth
Laurel Chiarizia
Nicholas Exelby
Darlene Gamble
Sharon Koss
Barbara Mathiasen
Shelley McConnell
Christine Mitchler

Stephanie Olson
David Peck
Madison Portner
Axel Rossa
Andrea Rowan
Margaret Thorpe
Kelly Vargas
Luke Vandekerkhove
Shea Thomas-
Vandekerkhove

Samantha Brack
Jenna Charlton
Amy Cronmiller
Jim Exelby
Edna Field
Barbara MacKay
Jordan Marwood
Peter Mathiasen
Tanya Mitchler
Don Nimchuk
Michael Preuss

Rebecca Preuss
Adrian Schuerhaus
Bailey Senften
Jordan Tardi
Tyler Tardi
Katrina Teitz
Cassie Thorpe
Janelle Trapp
Steve Trummler
Luiz Vargas
Tara Wagner



Anniversaries

July and August

Beth Manning & Ken Bardy
Sylvia & Jim Duncan
Marlis & Jamie Enders
Christine Moffatt & Gerard Jorssen
Lilly Anne & Lars Poulsen
Rebecca & Peter Preuss
Ellen & Ralph van Eijnsbergen
Ingrid & Luiz Vargas
Nicole & Lance Wall
Tara & Gordon Wark

Esther & Jim Exelby
Lorin & Sharon Koss
Leanne & Chris Long
Pamela & Michael Nel
Barbara & David Peck
Muriel & David Reid

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





Church Information

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

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