

June 2021

VOL. #13 ISSUE #6

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church



**Semi-Annual
Congregational Meeting**

Via Zoom
Sunday, June 27th
starting at 11:00 am
(See page 10 for instructions)

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*Shepherd of the Valley Mission
Statement: Grounded in the word of God
and centered in Christ, SVLC is an accept-
ing 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 Summer issue is Sunday, June 20th, 2021

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Pastor's Report

Pastor Kristen Steele

Another month has gone by and we have been on yet another round of the corona coaster. I am sure we all waited with both anxiety and excitement last week as Dr. Henry, Minister Dix and Premier Horgan announced BC's re-start plan. Would we be able to hug our friends? Would we be able to travel to visit friends or family on the island or the interior? When can we see a show or go to the movies? And for many of us very high on the list of questions is "When can we worship together in our church building?". I continue to be grateful to live in a province where there has been a very cautious approach to re-opening. The message I heard last week repeatedly and in the days since has been "we're almost there, we just need to be patient a little longer".

We have come through a very long 14 months. We have waited sometimes patiently and sometimes not so patiently. We watched case numbers, hospitalizations and deaths increase and decrease and increase and decrease all over again over the months. We celebrate each time someone receives their vaccine and now are beginning to look forward to a time when we will be able to receive our second shots. I know that we all want to be back together again in our building. You may have seen news articles yesterday indicating that churches could open this weekend to a maximum of 50 people. What is missing in a lot of those news articles is the detail of what that would look like. It would still require masks and physical distancing. No one other than a worship leader would be permitted to sing.

There are many, many more details that all would need to be attended to as well. Even with all of those protocols in place it is still not safe to gather in person for worship yet. We will get there and there is light on the horizon. We will be patient for a while longer. Council continues to discuss each month the most recent government restrictions and what is possible and what is safe. We all want to be able to gather but I believe it continues to be safest and the best practice to wait just a little bit longer.

We will continue to be in regular contact as details about the next steps in the re-start plan are announced. We do not know what the future holds but we hold on to the hope that it will include brighter days. I am grateful that we can continue to gather on zoom, worship together on YouTube and continue to be in touch in so many different ways. God continues to walk with us as we journey through these unusual and often challenging times.

*May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by
the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

Music Director's Report

Sylvia Duncan

I sincerely hope we are seeing the light at the end of this very long tunnel of Covid 19. It has been a most difficult year and I, for one, am ready for it to be over. With more people getting vaccinated by the day, hopefully soon we can return to in person worship services, we can return to singing, and we can return to seeing each other again. It seems like we have a little way to go yet, so we just have to be patient.

I know we all have our stories about how our lives have been affected by this virus, and they range from being mildly inconvenient, to knowing someone who has died. For me, as a musician, it has been disheartening to have had a year without singing, without concerts, without live music with friends. But there have been benefits that will continue. I've discovered that I can teach online from anywhere. This was evident when I travelled up north to be with Laura as she had her second baby. Furthermore, with recorded services we can reach people who are in nursing homes, or who live far away. These benefits will continue past Covid, I believe.

It is interesting to read some of the research dealing with plagues from long ago, and the role of music. Christopher Macklin writes in his essay dated March 20, 2020, that there is evidence shown that during a deadly plague in the 16th Century, King Henry VII dissolved the English Court, but kept his physician, his three favourite gentleman, and the organist, showing the importance of music. In the 17th Century in Milan, public singing was banned, so people would sing from their doorsteps, to the glory of God. Interesting how history repeats itself; I believe that there is a video circulating of people singing from their balconies last summer in Sienna.

Macklin also discovered words written by Tommaso del Garbo, a 14th Century professor of medicine, who advised his patients to:

not occupy your mind with death, passion, or anything likely to sadden or grieve you, but give your thoughts over to delightful and pleasing things. Associate with happy and carefree people and avoid all melancholy. Spend your time in your house, but not with too many people, and at your leisure in gardens with fragrant plants, vines, and willows, when they are flowering... And make use of songs and minstrelsy and other pleasurable tales without tiring yourselves out, and all the delightful things that bring anyone comfort.

As written in "A Historically Informed Approach to Music in Times of Pandemic", from the Early Music America website.

This pandemic will pass and life will become normal again. Maybe not the normal that we are used to, but certainly easier than it is right now. But this has happened countless times during history, and music and worship will continue, and will continue to nurture us. Hang in there!

In peace,
Sylvia

Parish Tid-Bits

SVLC Langley Housing Society

Official Notice of Annual General Meeting

Monday, June 21st
7:00 pm



BIBLE WORDS FOR TODAY

Bible Verse for June

So I tell you, whatever you
ask for in prayer, believe
that you have received it,
and it will be yours.

Mark 11:24 (New Revised Standard Version)

Daily devotions that come right
to your iPhone, smartphone,
iPad and tablet!



*Eternity for Today
is produced by the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada.*

Get the Eternity
for Today App!



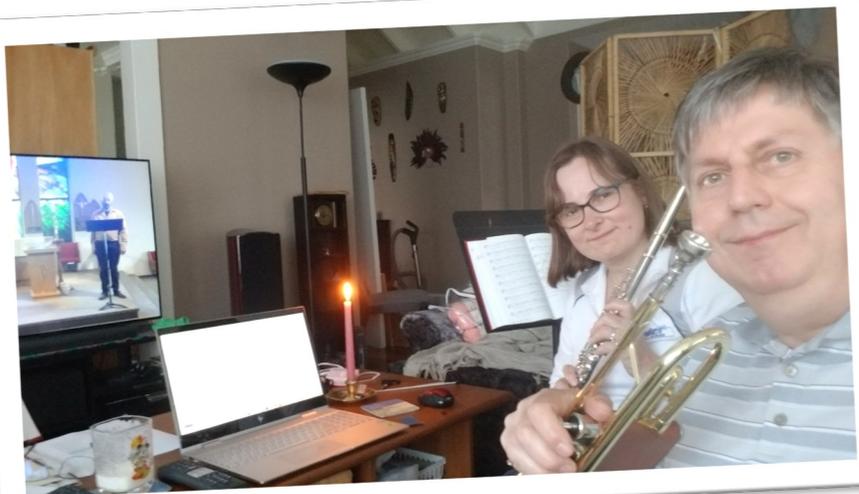
DOWNLOAD TODAY!



Creative ways to worship from the comfort of home...

This is how our long-distance
SVLC members Jamie and Marlis
join and enjoy the pre-recorded
Sunday worship service videos
from their home.

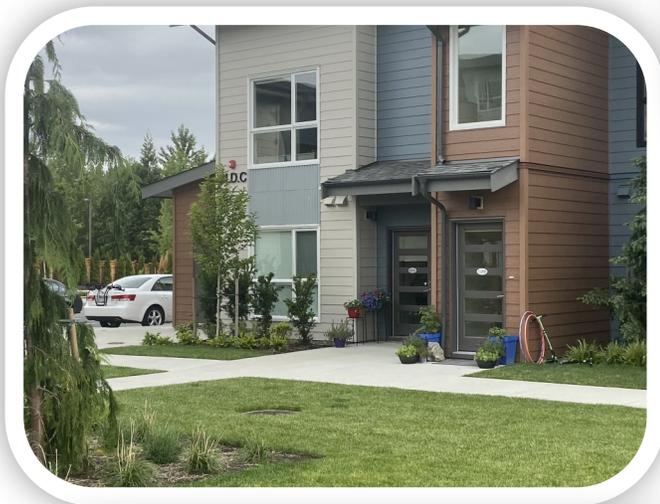
If you want to share your own
version of home-worship, send
your photos to [svlc@shaw.ca!](mailto:svlc@shaw.ca)



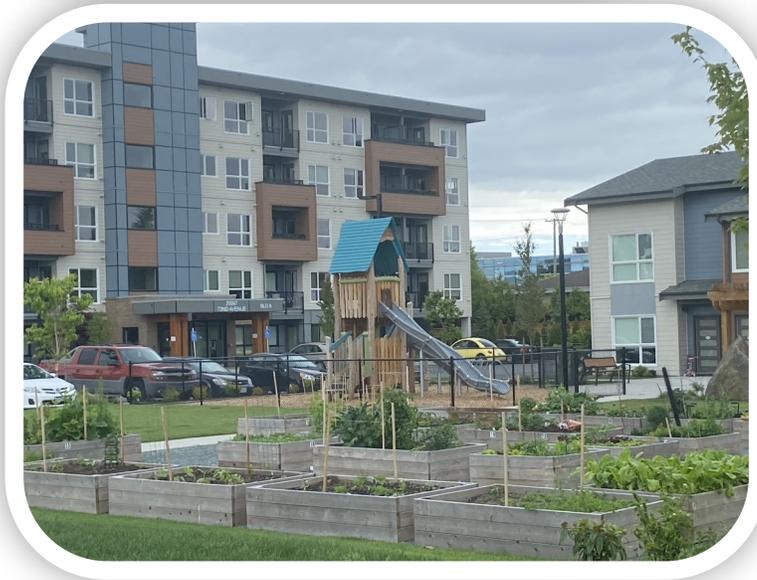
Life and Living at Emmaus Place

Right: Residents in the apartment building for seniors have made their balcony spaces feel like home.

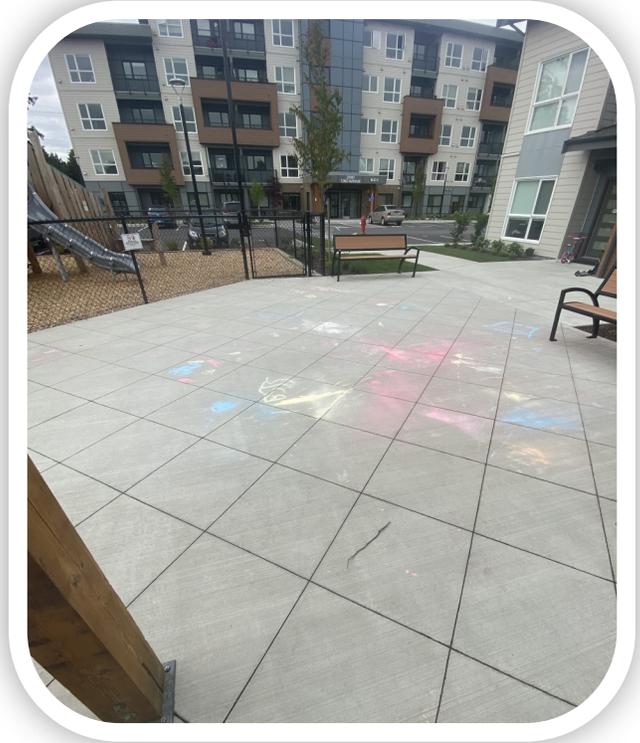
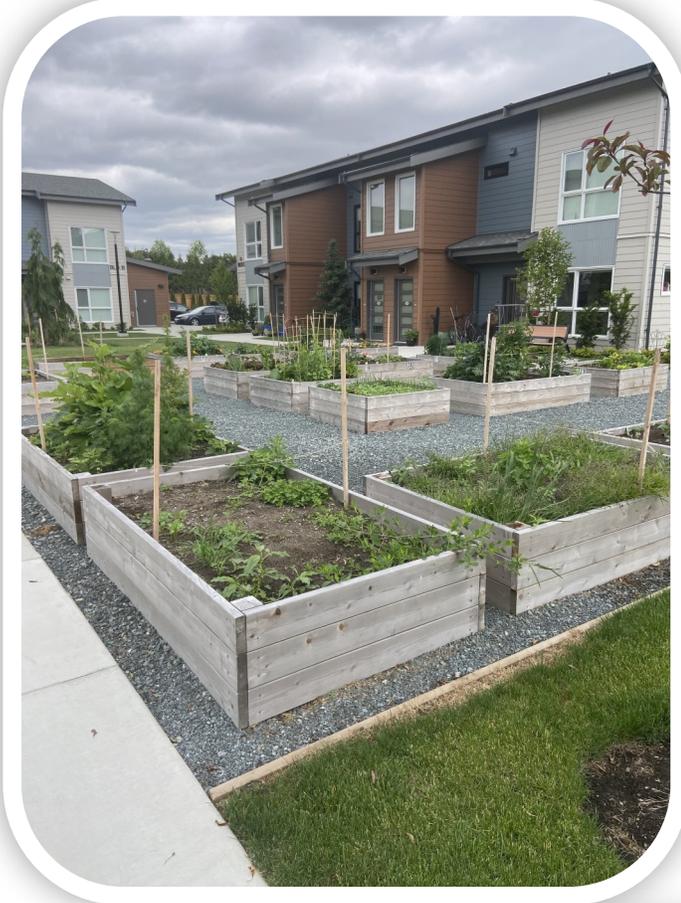
Below: Families have personalized their front entrances with stands of potted flowers and plants.



Below: The children living in the family units have been busy with their sidewalk chalk!



Left: The playground is often busy with activity in the afternoons.



Above and Right: The community garden boxes are growing and growing! Tenants have planted a wonderful variety of vegetables and herbs that are lovingly cared for every day. The church has two boxes (pictured above) with a few different things planted, including rhubarb!



Donations needed for SUMS

Greetings dear friends of SUMS,

I trust this finds you and yours well in these challenging times.

Many thanks from SUMS and from myself for your support of the Mission through this Drive-Thru program since last June. I am assured weekly that your contributions make a great and positive impact on the lives and well-being of the guests being provided services and care.

The most urgent tangible need right now is for men's sweat pants and track pants in small to medium sizes and personal use towels of all sizes. Along with the daily food needs, these are high on the list of what is in short supply currently. Please do adhere to the list as shown below when contributing, as other items can create the need for additional sorting and storage, personnel, time and space that are not easily available with the Provincial Health Authority protocol of limited numbers of volunteers.

No matter how big or small, your donations are always welcomed, of course and much appreciated. However, these first few months of 2021 have seen a considerable decline in the on-site donations of needed items overall and that might be for many understandable reasons, of course. If our outreach for SUMS is to continue to be of help to them, I feel it's only fair that I assure them we are still committed to this collection. That said, if the program has run its course, one always has to know when it is time to move on to other ideas. Your ideas and suggestions are encouraged!

My plan is to be there to collect on Tuesdays until the pandemic requirements do not dictate such a drastic response for the homeless and hurting of Surrey and for as long as our community supports the collection. With current Public Health restrictions and the management of four 24/7 shelters with up to 170 meals cooked off-site being delivered to the shelters and Emergency Response Centre each day, I feel this is still an area of great need.

If you or friends or family find you have the opportunity to donate any of the items needed or wish to make a financial donation to SUMS, please see below how your kindness might be facilitated.

We share basic needs with these people served by SUMS, I feel, and I believe having compassion for each other in this shared pandemic, and every day, can encourage a more closely knit sense of our shared humanity with neighbours near and far.

Blessings and thank you again and *again(!)* for offering aid to our neighbours in Whalley.

Be well!

Patricia 
(on behalf of SUMS with Mount Olive Lutheran Church)
<http://www.sumsplace.ca>
<http://www.mountolivelutheran.ca>

THE SUMS DRIVE-THRU HAPPENS:

**Every Tuesday:
9:30 am - 12:30 pm
2350 - 148th Street
South Surrey
Mount Olive Lutheran Church parking lot**

Please do not get out of your car, just pop the trunk or the back door.

If you have the following items "kicking around" please bring them to us:

NOVELS (as in fictional books to read) - preferably with soft covers, but hardcovers are OK, too. Please bring to the collection site in a box, IF you're able. Sturdy/reusable bags are alright, too.

COFFEE MUGS (the ceramic kind, not the travel, reusable kind) in good condition, please. And again, if you have a box for them, great!

Donations for Surrey Urban Mission (SUMS)

We are in desperate need of:

TOWELS of all sizes (no rags, thanks)

Men's sweat pants/track pants/'joggers'

(especially small and medium sizes)

Men's new underwear (mostly smaller sizes)

Tins of Coffee. We need an on-going ground coffee supply, in case you know anyone who is 'in the business'! Please and thanks. (But large tubs from Costco etc. are much appreciated).

Please bag or box in manageable quantities.

Travel-sized toiletries

Individually wrapped snacks (e.g. "Dad's" cookies, soft breakfast bars, puddings, juice boxes, soft drinks, chocolate bars, chips)

Bulk food: large quantity packs for use in cooking

- pasta, pasta sauce, rice, lentils, beans, fresh veggies (broccoli, cauliflower, sweet onions, etc.)

Snack Foods to add to bag lunches prepared daily by a church group in Whalley for those living outside:

- Soft breakfast bars
- Individual bags of potato chips
- Individually packaged cookies ("Dad's" type)
- Individual puddings, fruit cups, apple sauce
- Juice boxes
- Pop

Other Food Items:

- Gravy, packaged or tinned
- Ground coffee
- Meat (chicken, beef - ground or stewing, pork, sausages, bacon)
- Rice
- Potatoes
- Vegetables (peppers, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, etc.)
- Cheese
- Pasta
- Pasta/tomato sauce
- Pancake mix
- Syrup
- Eggs (Always needed! An ongoing supply would be great, if you know any egg farmers).

Financial Donations: are always welcomed and needed for items that cannot easily be donated, or donated in the quantities needed.

Cheques are gratefully received on-site Tuesday mornings at the Drive-Thru collection ... **or please mail and make payable to:**

Surrey Urban Mission Society
10776 King George Blvd.
Surrey, BC V3T 2X7

Your cheque to SUMS (via Canada Post or via the Drive-Thru Site on Tuesdays) goes 100% to Surrey Urban Mission Society in Whalley. Tax receipts are issued for donations over \$20 at the end of the month donated. Thank you!

OR...

Donate Online via the following website: CanadaHelps.org
Search 'SUMS' in charity field.

Thank you for your quiet support from a distance; you are much appreciated and the finances are put to good use for those items that cannot easily be donated.



SURREY URBAN MISSION

Parish News and Reminders for June

Communion Services

Wednesdays at 7 pm

June 2nd & 16th

Zoom



Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 8th

7:30 pm

Zoom



Choir Practices from Home

Wednesday evenings

7:30 pm by Zoom

Until June 23rd



Men's Bibles & Breakfast

3rd Saturday of the month

8:00 - 9:30 am

Zoom



Worship and Music Division Meeting

Wednesday, June 16th

11:30 am

Zoom



Deadline for Submissions to the

Summer 2021 Newsletter

Sunday, June 20th

eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca



SVLC Langley Housing Society

Annual General Meeting

Monday, June 21st at 7:00 pm

SVLC Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting (by Zoom)

Sunday, June 27th

Meeting starts at 11:00 am



Just as we did last year, the Semi-Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom and you can join with your computer or mobile device, or the meeting can also be accessed by a regular phone call. We will send out information with the link and phone number in June. We will also ask you to RSVP to ensure we have a quorum.

We will start the meeting at 11:00 with a short reminder about how an online meeting will be run and how to use some of the basic features of zoom. Please ask for help over the next few weeks if you need a refresher. The Semi-Annual Report will be distributed by email on Friday, June 18th.

