

June 2022

VOL. #14 ISSUE #6

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church



**Take What You Need.
Give What You Can.**

Little Free Pantry

**Little
Free
Library**

Inside this issue

Pastor's Report 2

Interim Music Director's Report 3

Blessing of the Little Free Pantry 4

SVLC Choir Concert Photos 6

Quilt Blessing Photos 8

Pie Social Photos 9

CLWR Ukraine Appeal 10

Financial Communication 11

Stocking the Little Free Pantry 12

Stewardship Division 13

Plan Your Calendar 14

Birthdays & Anniversaries 15

SVLC Phone Directory 16

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 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 19th, 2022

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Pastor's Report

Pastor Kristen Steele

You may have noticed two beautiful orange cupboards installed on the grass in the middle of the church parking lot. These are our new little free pantry and little free library. Both are joint initiatives of the United Way and Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church made possible with a grant from the BC Synod Missions Committee. You may have seen or heard of little free pantries and libraries in your neighbourhoods.

We are excited to partner with the United Way and other groups in our community including neighbours who care about Willoughby to ensure that the pantry and library are well looked after on an ongoing basis.

Here's some more information from the website for the little free pantry and little free library programs about this important initiative:

"The mini pantry movement is a grassroots, crowdsourced solution to immediate and local need. Whether a need for food or a need to give, mini pantries help neighbors feed neighbors, nourishing neighborhoods."

How Does This Mini Pantry Work?

This mini pantry is an easy way for neighbours to help neighbours who need food, hygiene, or paper items. Even though its home is on this property, this mini pantry belongs to all of us.



Please take care of it and the space around it. Tidy the mini pantry if it needs it. If you can, clean up spills, and please don't litter.

Give what you can by placing food, hygiene or paper items inside the mini pantry. Give what you would want to receive. An easy rule of thumb: buy extra of what you buy your household. No gift is too small. A single can of green beans can help. Items should be unexpired and in good condition.

Take what you need. If you find items inside and you need them, take them and know we care about you. Please remember the mini pantry belongs to all of us and take only those items you need, trusting the mini pantry will be here for you again.

The little free library is a place where people can give and borrow books. If you have a book that you'd like to share please feel free to leave it in the library. If you're looking for a new book to read please also take a look and take a book!

We look forward to the conversations that this new addition to our church property might generate around food security in our community and access to libraries and books for all.

Interim Music Director's Report

Stephen Duncan

Hello Shepherd of the Valley!

I hope you all have been keeping well over the last few weeks. It is wonderful to have some warmer weather upon us now and to be able to enjoy the Spring and Summer months to come. This Sunday was our last with the choir before we break for the Summer and I wanted to write a congratulations for a year of fantastic singing from them and to also thank everyone else in the congregation for your support of the choir. Haven't they sounded fabulous!?

For this month I wanted to talk about the relationship between choral music and the church, how intertwined they have been for hundreds of years, and perhaps how it could have been different if it had been given the opportunity to do so. In the Catholic church, more than 600 years ago, composers began writing the ordinary of the mass for multiple voices; this marked the starting point for an incredible European tradition of sacred choral singing. You might recognize names such as Palestrina, William Byrd, or Thomas Tallis; these composers from the 16th century were absolute masters of the voice and of composition, and they tested the limits of what human voices could do when put together. In the following years we would again see new limits tested by Monteverdi, Scarlatti, and then eventually Bach, Haydn and Mozart. For hundreds of years these choral anthems have been helping to facilitate Christian worship around the globe, and they also stand as the base for essentially the entire European choral tradition, both sacred and secular.

As I'm writing this I am in the middle of rehearsals for a concert and recording with *musica intima* where we are performing over a dozen choral works from the 16th and 17th centuries. They are beautiful, they are perfectly written, they are harmonically powerful. They are all originally written in Latin or English. However, for this project we have done something unique and even more powerful. We are working with a composer and early music specialist from Winnipeg named Andrew Balfour. Andrew is of Cree descent, and has taken many of these epic works and has set them to a different text in both Cree and Ojibwe. In speaking with Andrew he said that this project was for him a vision of what could have been possible if the European colonizers had developed a better relationship with the indigenous peoples of North America. What if indigenous peoples could have shared their music with the Europeans, and vice versa. Maybe they could have shared their music in churches, or sung the early works of Byrd and Tallis in their own languages. However, the church has become a place of trauma and fear for many indigenous peoples and the work to repair that is unfortunately slow. But by singing this sacred music in the languages of the people to whom this land belongs, we are making a step forward in the path of reconciliation. This is a way to share both language and music with each other, learn from one another, and make something beautiful in the process.

Choral music comes from a eurocentric, and primarily sacred tradition, but it is so cool and exciting to see it adapting and evolving to what the world looks like today. It has always brought people joy and hope, and now I pray we can use it to bring people connection and peace. I hope to bring some of Andrew's music to SVLC in the coming months; I already know you will all love it.

Peace,
Stephen

Blessing of the Little Free Pantry and Library



Thank you to Ellen for these photos!



Sunday, May 22nd, 2022

**Dedication, reflection,
acknowledgements, and
contributions to the
Little Free Pantry and
Library.**



Thank you to Lorne for these photos!

SVLC Choir Concert

"Together in Song"

On Saturday, April 23rd, the SVLC Choir performed - for a live audience - some beautiful choral music, including a piece with brass and winds (two trombones & bassoon). There was also opportunity for everyone attending to sing some new hymns as well as some familiar and beloved favourites.





Choir Members - Basses: Allan Thorpe, Stephen Duncan (director), Jim Duncan, Peter Mathiasen. Tenors: Sylvia Duncan, Ruby Gole. Altos: Barbara MacKay, Patti Thorpe. Sopranos: Cheryl Conant, Heidi Luthi, Ann Gaertner, Heide Brack-Pohl, Bernice Pollock, Pamela Nel, Barbara Mathiasen. Piano accompanists: Stephen Duncan, Sylvia Duncan, Barbara Mathiasen, Patti Thorpe. Organ accompanist: Stephen Duncan.



SVLC Quilters - Blessing of the Quilts



Thank you to everyone who was involved in creating the quilts and prayer shawls, and who helped with the blessing set-up.
Thanks to everyone who helped organize the quilt sale and pie social!

Quilts Blessing, Sale and Pie Social



Canadian Lutheran World Relief - Ukraine Appeal

Submitted by Council Co-Chairs Muriel Reid and Edna Schuerhaus

Many of you, over the past several months, have been watching the horrible events in Ukraine unfold. In fact, some of you, sadly, have even experienced similar horrors firsthand, and cannot believe that this is happening again.

Millions of innocent people have been rapidly displaced which has created a widespread humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and many of its neighbouring countries, who have offered refuge to the fleeing Ukrainian population.

In response to this crisis, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada through its partnership with Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) called on its members to respond, through prayer and financial support, to the urgent humanitarian needs in Ukraine. There is a worldwide call for an immediate end to violence which has yet to be heeded.

As shepherds, we know God calls us to help those in need and we know you would have wanted us to respond – **and we did.** In March 2022, your church council discussed how SVLC could assist, and council subsequently voted unanimously to make a donation in the amount of \$10,000 to the Canadian Lutheran World Relief – Ukraine Appeal fund. We chose CLWR because this organization is known to us. CLWR has local contacts who have the ability to move food and supplies to Ukraine quickly and also support refugees at the various border points. Recognizing this urgency, we wanted you to know that the cheque was soon mailed, and we are very thankful that we had the chance to respond quickly.

This has been another unique opportunity for SVLC to 'give back' and be thankful for how God has taken care of us.

Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine and the leaders of the world. Pray especially for those who have been forced to flee their homes and those who still find themselves living in threatened areas. Pray that they may be protected and provided for, and, that a peaceful resolution for the conflict may soon be found.

Muriel Reid & Edna Schuerhaus.
SVLC Church Council Co-Chairs



A Covid-19 reminder from SVLC Council:

For our congregation members and guests:

Please note that we strongly recommend that mask-wearing continue to be the practice by everyone who finds themselves inside our church facilities. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing if, within the building, there is virus in the air during worship or fellowship activities. We want to remind everyone that it is still possible for vaccinated individuals to become infected, to get sick, and sometimes even become very sick.

We would welcome all parishioners (whether you find yourself in the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall for various activities) to remain masked as often as possible. While Lutherans like to enjoy food and drink coffee together, we want to remind you that there continues to be a risk of exposure. Please heed this advice.

Thanks, your SVLC Council.

Stocking the Little Free Pantry with Supplies

LITTLE FREE PANTRY Shopping Suggestions



Proteins

- Canned meats: chicken, ham, spam, corned beef
- Fish (canned or packets): tuna, salmon, sardines
- Nut / seed butter: peanut, almond, sunflower
- Shelf-stable cheeses: parmesan, cheese spreads
- Shelf-stable meats: pepperoni, summer sausage
- Jerky: mushroom, beef, turkey
- Assorted nut mixes
- Protein bars

Fruits & Vegetables

- Apple sauce
- Dried fruit: mango, cranberries, raisins
- Canned fruit: mandarins, peaches, pineapple
- Individual fruit cups
- Fruit strips or gummies
- Canned vegetables: green beans, peas, corn, carrots, tomatoes, veg-all, etc.
- Pizza Sauce (cans or jars)
- Baby food (jars or pouches)

Grains & Carbs

- Pasta: spaghetti, linguine, penne, macaroni
- Rice: instant packages, bags
- Beans (canned or dry): pinto, black, cannellini
- Shelf stable pizza crust
- Tortillas
- Cereal & granola (individual packages or boxes)
- Cereal bars & granola bars
- Trail Mix
- Crackers
- Rice cakes
- Pretzels
- Popcorn (kernals or microwaveable)
- Pudding or jello cups

Soups, Stocks, & Broth

- Soups (boxed or canned): tomato, chicken noodle, beef stew, vegetable, cream of mushroom
- Broth or stock (boxed or canned): beef, chicken, veggie

Boxed Entrees

- Mac & cheese boxes
- Canned chili
- Cambell's Ready Meals

Milks & Beverages

- Shelf-stable almond or soy milk
- Powdered or condensed milk
- Water bottles
- Juice boxes

Non-food Items

- Dog / cat food
- Socks
- Rain gear
- Baby wipes & diapers
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste & alcohol-free mouthwash
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Sun block & SPF lotions
- Toilet paper
- Feminine hygiene products
- Sanitizer sprays or wipes
- Gloves
- First-Aid supplies
- Cleaning supplies

All pantry items must be:

- Shelf-stable (non-perishable)
- Sealed
- Able to withstand high temperatures

If the pantry is full, consider dropping off at these other LFP locations:

- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
- South Creekside Apartments
- Feed Communities



Stewardship Division

Submitted by Dan Krygsveld

So, what do you think about when you hear the word “steward”? Do you think about your finances? Do you have visions of your church running a giving campaign? Does taking care of the environment come to mind?

All of these ideas, and much more, are parts of what it means to be a steward. But they don't paint a complete picture of the biblical meaning of stewardship.

In short: **Biblical stewardship is one of the primary ways Christ calls us to live our life.** So, what does stewardship mean in the Bible?

Stewardship a theme in the Bible you can trace from Genesis to Revelation. It's a calling rooted in creation, highlighted throughout the Bible, and influences the way you live your life for the glory of God.

“If the term *stewardship* makes you think of sermons you've endured about church budgets and building programs, think again. In the ancient world, stewardship was not a religious term. Rather it was a key component of commerce. Almost every business concern had a steward who served like an ancient chief operating officer, running the daily affairs of the master of the house. Simply put, a steward was someone entrusted with the management of someone else's affairs.

In the Bible, stewardship is the inherent standard to which God calls leaders—whether we're leading a country, business, church committee, community organization, pack of Cub Scouts, our family, or ourselves. Paul's exhortation to Timothy on the topic of leadership selection for the early church is applicable to leaders in all these areas.

Contrary to popular understanding, the opposite of a leader is not a follower. It is a passive spectator—someone who waits for others to take responsibility. Rather than stepping forward, a non-leader steps back. Leaders don't wait for someone to tell them what to do. Leaders take the initiative and responsibility to be a faithful steward in God's Kingdom in both public and private life.

The essence of stewardship implies a two-party proposition. One person owns the resources and the other person is entrusted with the resources. By definition, a steward is accountable to his master for how resources are invested. So how does this apply to us today? Since God owns all things, he is the Master; he distributes gifts and resources at his discretion. We are stewards, accountable to him for all that we do with all that we are given.”

Taken from [Bill Peel's](#) essay on stewardship

The Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church is lacking in Stewardship. We need fresh minds to lead us into the coming years, minds that God has given us to use for His glory.

Any church member 18 years and older can join the Stewardship Division of SVLC. If you are interested in being a part of the growth of the church, you can contact any member of the Stewardship Division: Peter Preuss at 604-514-1021, Ralph van Eijnsbergen at 604-882-9306, or Daniel Krygsveld at 778-241-5243.

Plan Your Calendar for June

Semi-Annual Meeting Division Reports Due on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th

Please email your report to:
eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca

Church Council Meeting Tuesday, June 7th 7:30 pm in the fellowship hall



June Dates when Church Office is Closed:

Thursday, June 16
Friday, June 17
Thursday, June 30

If you need access to the building, please make arrangements ahead of time.

Do you have something special to contribute to the summer newsletter?

Maybe some photos, or a story,
or an announcement?

Submissions Deadline for the Summer Newsletter



Sunday, June 19th
eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca

COFFEE HOSTS

We need pairs of people to prepare and serve coffee after worship.



There are two Sundays in **June** that still need coffee hosts. Please sign-up to host coffee time in June or during the summer - watch for the July/August sign-up sheet. You can add your name to the sheet, or call the office to have your name added to a specific Sunday.

SVLC Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting in the hall

Sunday, June 26th

Following worship service



FLOWER CHART

There are blank spaces on the flower chart for June 19th and all of July and August (and beyond).

Please consider adding your name to the chart to bring flowers for the glory of God, or to honour a special occasion or person in your life.



Photo by Ralph Steele