

May 2021

VOL. #13 ISSUE #5

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

"Join us" for online worship on Pentecost Sunday on May 23rd. Video worship service will be provided by the BC Synod.

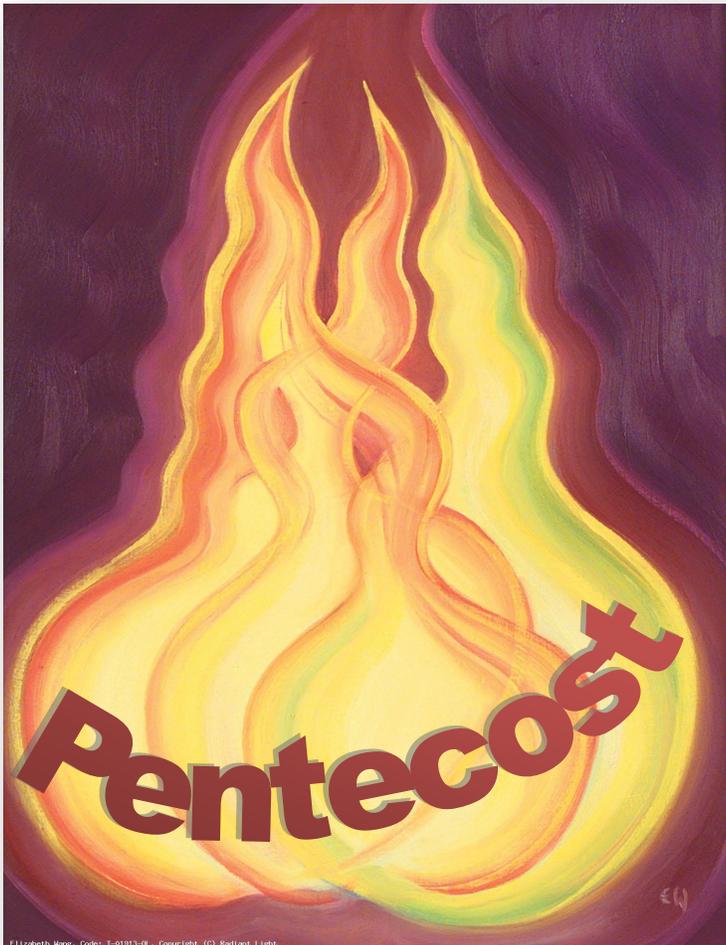


Illustration (behind text) by Elizabeth Wang, T-01913-OL, 'Each Divine Person, each flame, possesses the same Divine Nature. Together they are one God, one Fire', copyright © Radiant Light 2003 – 2017, www.radiantlight.org.uk

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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 June issue is Sunday, May 23rd, 2021

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Pastor's Report

Pastor Kristen Steele

There's a song we sing here at Shepherd of the Valley by local artist Brian Doerksen that has spoken to me just a little more this year than perhaps any other time in my life. The lyrics start with:

Are you tired
Worn out and empty
Is your soul weary
Have you tried
releasing your burdens
Do you feel the weight
of worry

(Enter the Rest of God, Brian Doerksen)

I know that we have all at various points felt the weight of this year. As we now find ourselves firmly in the middle of a third wave just as the hope of vaccines is starting to appear and as we have passed the one year mark I believe we are all finding ourselves a little more tired and a little less patient. We are ready for this pandemic to be over and are tired of being tired.

I'm finding all around me and within myself a tendency to move toward anger or frustration faster than I would like. I hear the shortness in the words of other people and in the words I'm speaking. I am seeing the reality of hurt people hurting people just a little more these days.

I know we are all hurting. We are all at the end of our rope with this pandemic. We all want life to go back to some kind of normal. It is hard to hear about vaccines while at the same time hear staggering case numbers and hospitalizations and stronger restrictions. We are missing the things that seemed so simple and common just fourteen months ago.

In these times it is important to recognize that this is hard, that we are tired, that we are frustrated and sad and discouraged and hopeful and so many other feelings. It is important to also recognize that we all feel this way at different times and so it is now that we more than ever before need to have grace for each other and to reach out to one another in care.

It is now that we are called to pray for one another and to be the body of Christ for each other and also to be reminded that Christ invites us to rest and to give our burdens to Him.

So as we journey through this third wave, as we see the hope of the end of the pandemic on the horizon but not quite here yet let us take comfort in the invitation Christ offers each of us:

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

(Matthew 11:28-29)

Music Director's Report

Sylvia Duncan



Our ELW red hymnals now are 15 years old. That's quite amazing to me. It seems like just yesterday that we were introducing new music from these hymnals. We have used, and continue to use, much of the music in these books, and I believe they have been a great addition to our worship services. But as we all know, nothing stays the same, and music is no different. The publishers of our hymnal have now produced a supplementary hymnal, *All Creation Sings*. The church has purchased a few copies of this new songbook, with the purpose of exploring the new music to see how well it would fit in with our congregation. I look forward to exploring this new supplement with you over the next while.

It contains two new settings of Holy Communion, a service of Word and Prayer designed for a more contemplative type of service - possibly evening services, and over 200 new hymns. The music and texts of these new songs are very good, touching on many current issues that the church and the world face. The title, *All Creation Sings*, was decided upon because of the scriptural theme. Revelations 5:13 states, "Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever!" And from Romans 8:22-23 "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, groan inwardly while we wait for... redemption." Much of the music texts are based on social justice issues, health of our planet, health of human beings, and human community.

One hymn text that I found particularly meaningful for our congregation was the hymn, *Let Us Enter* by Ray Makeever. This is included as a sending song, so it's not talking about us entering the church building. It's talking about us entering the world and doing God's work in our community:

*"Let us enter in to the heart of a world that is broken.
Let us enter in to the start of a hope
we can share.
Let us enter in to the part
where we call one another sister and brother.
Let us enter in."*

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How appropriate for us, with our sign above our exit door, which states "servants' entrance".

I believe that you are going to be happy with the inclusion of this new music. We sang one of these new hymns on April 11, *Touch that Soothes and Heals*, and we will be singing it again in May. In March we sang a hymn By *Grace We Have Been Saved*, and on Easter Sunday, my son Stephen sang a hymn from this supplement called *Earth, Earth Awake*. You will be hearing more music from this book in the months to come.



More Soup for May!

Potato Leek Soup

Shared by our very excellent music director, Sylvia

- 1 TBSP butter
- 3 leeks, cut up (discard dark green parts)
- 2 stalks of celery
- 2 medium size potatoes
- 2-3 cups chicken or turkey stock (homemade is best)
- 7-8 sprigs of thyme
- salt and pepper
- Cream or milk



1. Wash and cut up the white and light green parts of the leeks and sauté them in butter.
2. Add chopped up celery. Continue cooking until soft.
3. Add chopped up potato, soup stock, thyme, and salt & pepper to taste.
4. Simmer until everything is well cooked.
5. Purée and add cream (not too much).

Notes from the chef: for added interest, add garlic to the first step.

I've also thought about adding chopped up bacon, but never have. That could be quite good too.

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BIBLE BOX

Monthly Verse, for May:

(as chosen by Peter Mathiasen)

A Promise

The Lord will keep you from all danger; he will keep you safe.

Psalm 121:7 GNB

Thanks from Patti and Allan

Some months ago, you gave us a beautiful and generous treat; some gift cards for Harrison Hot Springs Resort. We decided that last weekend was a good time to use those and we took ourselves away for a lovely weekend. We had many dips in the beautiful outdoor hot pool (the inside one was open too but we felt that outdoors was best) and some lovely meals on the patios of local restaurants. We also did a few great walks in the local area, to Whippoorwill Point as well as the Spirit Park where there are whimsical terra cotta masks on the huge, moss covered, beautiful trees.



Thank you for your gift, and thank you even more for your prayers and kind words. We hope you know how much we value the opportunity to participate in recording the services each week. To see how hard Pastor Kristen and Sylvia are working to keep these services coming each week just makes our hearts overflow.

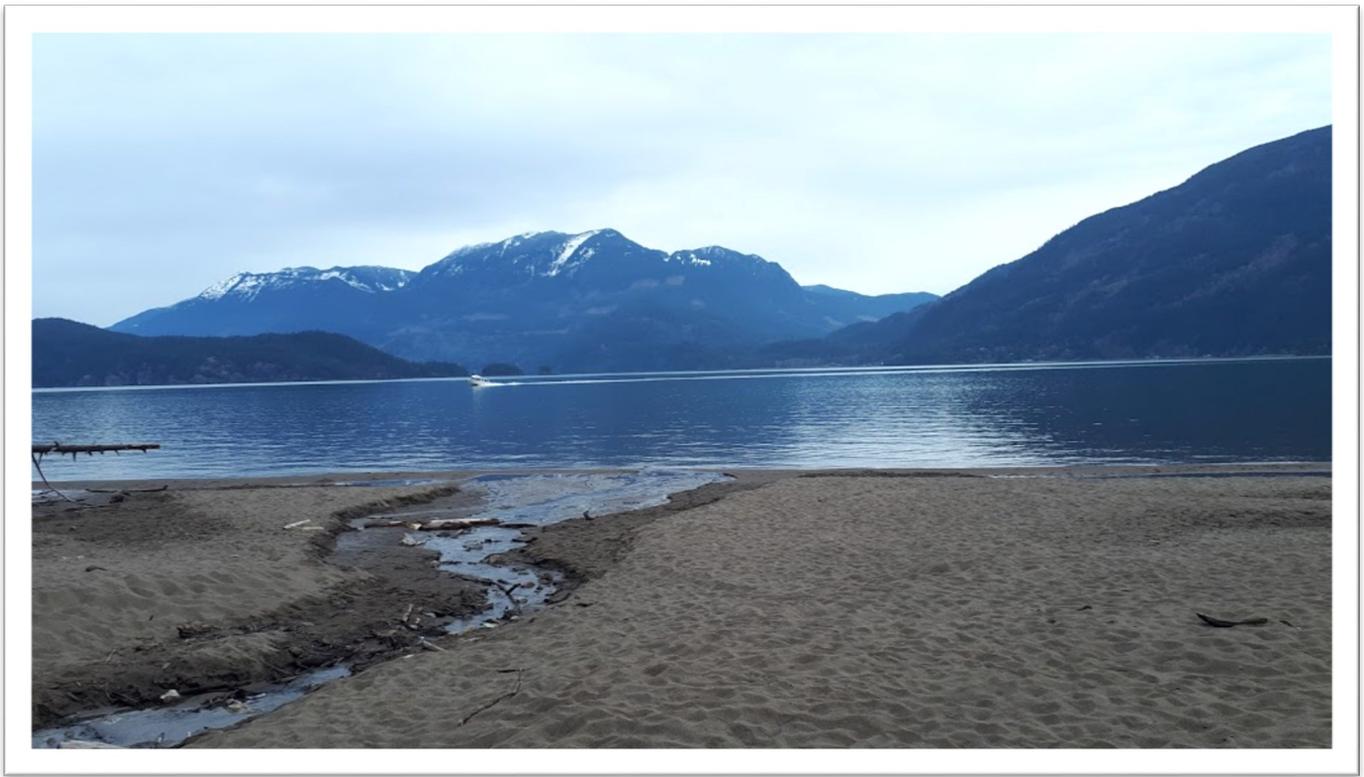
We think of you often, and dream of the day when we will worship in the same sanctuary again.

Stay safe,

Patti and Allan Thorpe



Inukshuk



Harrison Lake



Trillium

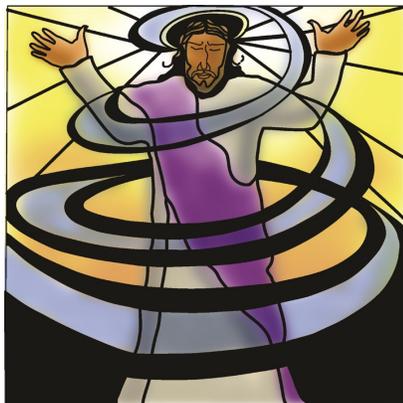


"j tree"

Liturgical Worship Events for May

Ascension of our Lord May 16

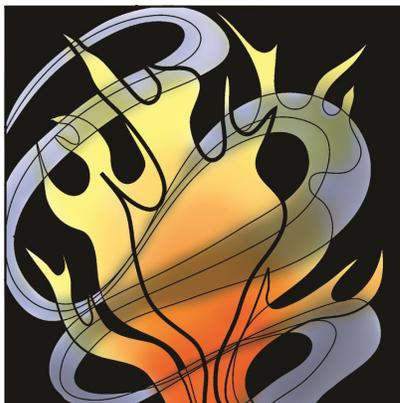
1st Lesson: Acts 1:11
2nd Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel: Luke 24:44-53



In the readings for this day, the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

Pentecost Sunday May 23

1st Lesson: Acts 2:1-21
2nd Lesson: Romans 8:22-27
Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15



Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world.

Holy Trinity Sunday May 30

1st Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8
2nd Lesson: Romans 8:12-17
Gospel: John 3:1-17



When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

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Committees with SVLC Langley Housing Society

Dear congregation members,

As many of you have seen, the Emmaus Place project is complete and the residents are occupying the buildings. As part of The SVLC Langley Housing Society plan to create an inclusive community, we are forming three committees. All members of the congregation are invited to participate in the committees.

1

Community – To foster community-building. This committee will be focused on things like the community garden, special events, and finding ways of welcoming the new tenants at Emmaus Place into the neighborhood community and the church through potlucks and existing programming (where applicable).

2

Financial/Accounting – This committee will review and approve monthly financials, have discussions regarding costs that arise outside the budget, and complete year-end reporting back to the housing society.

3

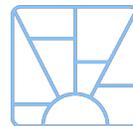
Building – This committee will be focused on warranty issues, outstanding deficiencies, mechanical systems, and all the building-related issues that tend to come up during the first year.

If you are interested in participating in one or more of the committees, please contact Pastor Kristen.

Many thanks for your consideration,

Ellen van Eijnsbergen

SVLC Langley Housing Society



emmaus place

Parish News and Reminders for May

Council Meeting

Tuesday, May the 4th

7:30 pm

Zoom



Communion Services

Wednesdays at 7 pm

May 5th & 19th

Zoom



Choir Practices from Home

Wednesday evenings

7:30 pm

Zoom



Men's Bibles & Breakfast

3rd Saturday of the month

8:00 - 9:30 am

Zoom



Worship and Music Division Meeting

Wednesday, May 19th

11:30 am

Zoom



Deadline for Submissions to the

June 2021 Newsletter

Sunday, May 23rd

eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca



Pentecost Worship

Sunday, May 23rd

Video Worship Service provided by
the BC Synod

Victoria Day Holiday

Monday, May 24th

Office closed Tuesday, May 25th

Ladies Night "Out"

Keep an eye on
your email for
more details ...

