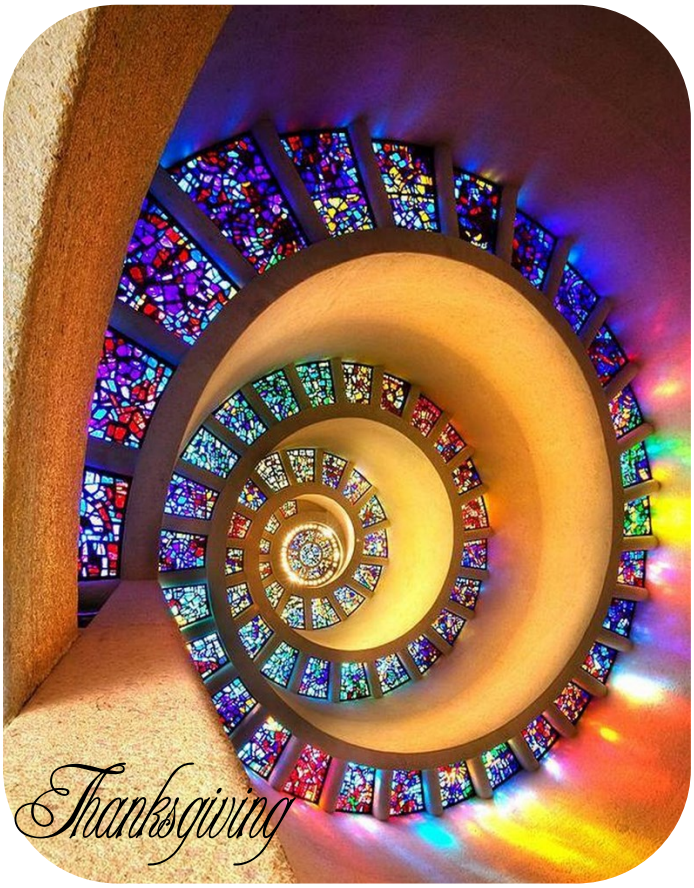
October 2021

VOL. #13 ISSUE #9

Shepherd's Staff

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church



Sunday

October 10th

10:00 am Worship Service

See page 6 for information about Food Bank donations.

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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 November issue is Sunday, October 24th, 2021

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Pastor's Report

Pastor Kristen Steele

I have to say it's hard to sit down and write this article. Partly because Sylvia is much better at grammar and punctuation than I am so will definitely critique my grammar and punctuation but primarily because it is hard to say goodbye to such a great friend and co-worker. I know I am not the only one who will miss having her at the piano on Sunday mornings and her presence here at the church in so many other roles. From my first days here she welcomed me and it quickly became clear that she had a heart for ministry and for the role of music in worship and how it can enhance worship and people's faith journeys. It has truly been a gift to be in ministry with her here at Shepherd of the Valley.

Sylvia has many, many gifts and I'm sure you all can name many of them. I have always been so grateful for her heart for crafting beautiful worship services and for the care and attention she pays to ministering to the congregation. I also have been so amazed at her ability to incorporate a variety of people with a variety of gifts into worship and other events here at Shepherd of the Valley.

She has this ability to involve people of all ages and skill levels in ways that bring their gifts and abilities out in beautiful ways. The meaning of liturgy is "work of the people" and Sylvia has a gift to really ensure that that is truly the case.

Well we bid goodbye to Sylvia and hello to Stephen we also know that she's not going too far and look forward to seeing her in our pews. We will have a formal farewell for her on October 17 after worship. I invite you all to join us as we give thanks for her ministry among us and send her with God's blessings into retirement from church ministry.

Interim Music Director's Report

Stephen Duncan

Hello Shepherd of the Valley! It is my absolute pleasure to be writing to all of you today. The last year and a half has been quite a tumultuous time in the world, but being able to be back in the church and worshipping with all of you in person provides so much comfort for me and I hope you are feeling the same way.

Over the last few years I have spent many Sundays singing and playing with different churches around the lower mainland, I have seen many different views and practices on how music is involved with worship, but none have I seen where the congregation is as involved in the music and worship as SVLC. This is a tradition that I have always admired greatly and I look forward to continuing that as the interim music director. And on that topic I would like to remind everyone that the choir is rehearsing in person again every Wednesday evening at 7:30! Choir is one of the absolute best ways to experience community and fellowship together and I hope to see both returning and new faces. For the next few weeks we will be reading some new music and some new hymns, and hopefully bringing them to Sunday mornings in the not too distant future! (Covid willing)

Many of you have known me since I was very young, but for those that I haven't met yet or for any who would like to talk about music and worship, or be involved with the choir, my door is always open and you are more than welcome to talk to me anytime whether that's via email or in person on Sundays! Thank you all for already making me feel so welcome in this new position; Shepherd of the Valley has always felt like a second home for me and I am excited and energized to be a part of the team!

Psalm 100:1-2 "A Psalm for giving thanks. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!"

Peace,
Stephen

Important Reminders for In-Person Church Gatherings

Protocols to Follow for all Church Gatherings:

1. Wear your mask
2. Maintain physical distance from each other
3. Only come if you are fully vaccinated
4. Stay at home if you are feeling unwell
5. Expect doors to remain open for air flow (bring a sweater or jacket if it's chilly outside)

Choir Practices

Please wear your mask, expect to be spaced apart, and stay at home if you feel unwell. Ensure you are fully vaccinated.

In-Person Worship

In addition to the above protocols, please place your offering envelope in the collection plate as you enter the sanctuary. Fellowship will occur outside only.

Quilters

Masks are required, tables and work stations will be spaced apart, and please stay at home if you feel unwell. Expect some changes to the usual routine.

Artists' Circle Group

Please wear your mask, work stations will be spaced apart, and there may be some changes to the routine from previous years. Stay home if you're unwell.

Parish Reminders

Food Bank donations for Thanksgiving Sunday

On Sunday October 10th please bring non-perishable food items. Leave them in the Narthex before the service and they will be brought to the altar during the service.

Neighbourhood Kindness Evening

Sunday, October 31
6:00 pm
Back gate

Can you help serve?

Please let Pastor Kristen know if you can help greet our neighbours at the back fence. Candy will be spread out on a table at the back gate, and we will have individual packets of hot chocolate.

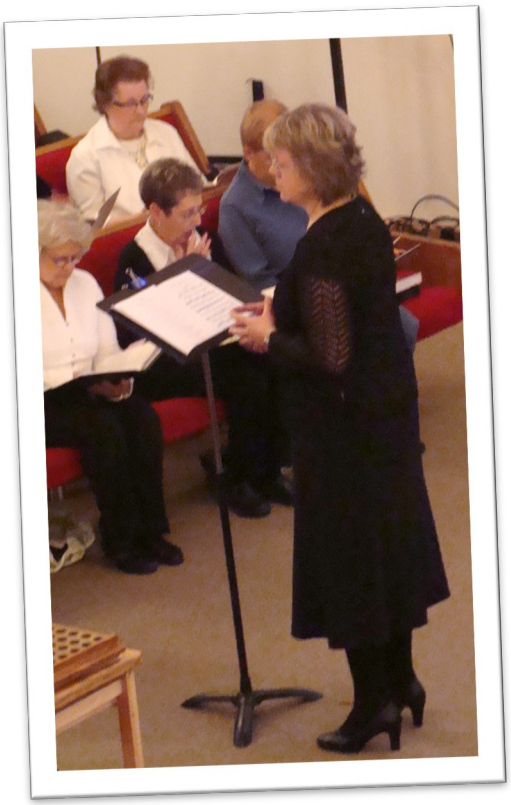
BIBLE WORDS FOR TODAY

Bible Verse for October

Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33 (New International Version)

Fond Memories of our Wonderful Choir Director, Sylvia



Happy Retirement, Dear Sylvia!

Shepherd of the Valley's Music Director Extraordinaire!

Plan Your Calendar for October

Quilting

Mondays

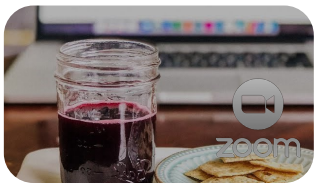
9:00 am in the hall

Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 5th

7:30 pm by Zoom

October Communion Service



Wednesday, October 6th

7:00 PM

(Zoom & in-person)

Choir Practices are on Wednesdays

7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Church Office Closed

Friday, October 8th

Tuesday, October 12th

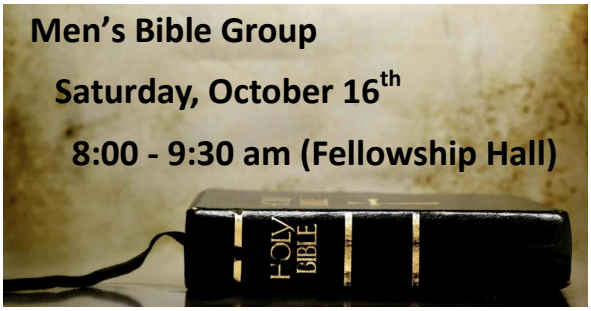
Thanksgiving Worship Service

10 October

Men's Bible Group

Saturday, October 16th

8:00 - 9:30 am (Fellowship Hall)



Farewell Gathering for Sylvia!

Sunday, October 17th

Following Worship Service

Worship and Music Division Meeting

Wednesday, Oct 20th

10:30 am

Deadline for Submissions to the

November 2021 Newsletter

Sunday, October 24th

eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca

Artist's Circle Drop-in Group

Tuesdays in the Hall **9:30 am**

Starts October 26th.

Bring your own materials.

Neighbourhood Kindness Evening

Sunday, Oct 31 at 6:00 pm

Back gate