

September 2022

VOL. #14 ISSUE #8

# SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

**just because we missed you... and we're happy you're back**  
**BREAKFAST**  
**Sunday, SEPT 4th**

Join us to welcome back and celebrate the return of our beloved Pastor Kristen! Breakfast will be in the fellowship hall and will follow worship service. No need to bring anything! All the food is provided. Cost is \$5 per person.

**New Date!!**

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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 October issue is Sunday, September 18th, 2022

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# Note from Council Chair

Edna Schuerhaus

Greetings from Shuswap Lake!

As I spend my last few weeks of summer at the place I love so much – our family cottage – I can't help but think how lucky we have been here this year. The lake water level rose rapidly in the late spring and then thankfully receded with no flooding; forest fires are burning much further away than last year; there are few, if any, mosquitos; and with the exception of a cool June, the weather has been great! What a difference from last year!

What would it be like if we never had to worry about anything? As I write this, I realize how absurd that question sounds. Really, that would never happen. If every summer would be predictable and always the same, what would there be to look forward to? And, well yes, I feel blessed that another summer is almost over and we haven't had to worry.

Now that doesn't mean we didn't undertake a number of preparation projects here this year, just to be ready. Considerable time was spent clearing excess fuel (dead tree branches, dried out underbrush) from around our cottage. Removal of some larger dead trees which were far too close to the structure, was absolutely essential. The next brutal wind storm might have meant a new roof. We were certainly in preparation mode. Similarly, down at the beach, we fortified and back-filled our rock wall in the event of rising water levels to preserve the land; the pump was raised to protect it from rising ground water, among other things. We were ready in the event that we might face some perils.

Needless to say, my summers at our Shuswap cottage always prepare me for the new year – which for a retired educator like me – ALWAYS begins in September, NOT January. The summer affords me a chance to rest, relax, re-energize and get ready for September.

It's kind of the same for us at church, isn't it? In the past (in pre-COVID times), activities at church slowed down or even stopped for a bit in the summers. Divisions put their work on hold in order to give folks a chance to be away and recharge themselves.

The last two + years, for us as a church, have been very tumultuous – very different from anything we'd ever previously experienced. Not all of us have found our way back to church and this will remain challenging. But, just like in the world around us, our church is seeking a reset, a renewal so that we can move forward again to serve our community and do God's work.

At our May church council meeting, I asked members to ponder what renewal for our church might look like? Where in our church might they become active and lend support? I encouraged them to take some time over the summer to think about how they can be part of our renewal, our big reset.

I'm encouraging you all to give this some thought over these last remaining weeks. Where can you help out? Where can you make a difference? What type of preparation could you do? Where can you help with renewal? How can you be part of our big reset?

Certainly activity in our church has begun percolating again. There are bursts of energy in some places, but in others, not so much. I am confident that God will help folks find their way back to church and, of course, to full involvement at church.

This is renewal.

As I countdown my remaining weeks of summer, I look forward to Pastor Kristen finally being back. Those of you who know me well, **know** that no one has missed her more than I have.

I'm really looking forward to September, when things get back to normal and when all of you come back to church rested, relaxed and re-energized. This is renewal! See you all soon...

In Peace,  
Edna Schuerhaus  
Church Council Chair

# Interim Music Director's Report

Stephen Duncan

Hello Shepherd of the Valley!

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer. It's been a pleasure being your music director for the last year and I'm glad that I could spend these summer months with you. September is such an exciting month; we come back from trips or from time of rest to new jobs, new schooling, new adventures, or even old adventures but with a renewed spirit. September has always been especially exciting for me because that's when choir rehearsals start again! This year is a bit different in that way, for both our SVLC choir and for me. This year I will be in school again full-time and I won't be able to sing in an organized choir, and I will greatly miss it. And as we still search for a new music director, the beginning of choir might be a little delayed at the church. Recently I have been mulling over the different ways that in my own life I will try to keep my singing active and I wanted to share some of those thoughts with you so that we are all equipped with ways to continue singing until choir begins again.

In July I wrote about listening actively to the world around you, to music, and to people. Part of how I like to still feel connected to a choral environment is exactly that, listening to choirs. I have a few favourite albums that I would like to share with you in case that also brings you some joy. The first is *I Have Had Singing: A Chanticleer Portrait*. This album by the San Francisco based men's choir Chanticleer is so well rounded, it has songs from many genres, all executed perfectly. Some of my favourite songs from this album are the Tallis: *If Ye Love Me*, the Berlin: *Blue Skies* and the Alexander: *Jesus Met the Woman at the Well*.

Another favourite album of mine in a very different style is called *Te Deum*. It is a collaboration between the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and the Tallin Chamber Orchestra. If you have an hour and want your own personal concert, I'd suggest sitting down with a glass of wine and closing your eyes and listening to the whole album; you will be transported into a different world. The album features the ethereal and beautiful writing of Arvo Pärt. His *Berliner Mässe* is on this album, which holds a special place in my heart as this was the piece I sang with my university choir at Carnegie Hall.

One great thing about older choral music is that often you can find the music for free online! There is a terrific website called IMSLP that you can download almost all public domain classical music from. You simply google the name of the work that you want, say "IMSLP Beethoven 9" and there will be many different versions of scores that you can download. So while you are listening to a choral recording you can follow along and sing along. It is a great way to practice and a fun way to sing through repertoire you might have never sung before!

I hope that this provides some tools for all you singers out there, and this is also a great way to get introduced into the world of choral music! There is no wrong time to start singing or to start listening to choirs. Thank you all again for a wonderful past year; it has been an absolute pleasure to serve all of you as interim music director and I will miss you dearly.

Sing on,  
Stephen

# Outreach Division

Submitted by Edna Schuerhaus

## Go Do Something Beautiful ... In The Name Of Jesus

Recently, our Langley community experienced a very traumatic event; an incredibly senseless tragedy. I'm reminding you today of the violence which was directed at some of our community's very marginalized, unhoused citizens and which resulted in several deaths. I found myself wondering, yet again - **why had this happened?** **Why** do things happen the way they do?

Earlier this spring Pastor Kristen, in one of her sermons, suggested that we should ask God, **why?** Lately, I often find myself asking God that question. Maybe you do too?

While we will likely never know what went on in the mind of the individual responsible, this event certainly underscores our duty to protect and support our fellow citizens, **all of them.**

I too was feeling vulnerable on that very Monday morning as I made my way to an 8:15 am eye appointment in Langley City. You may remember that the situation remained very uncertain for several hours and that police had asked everyone to stay out of the downtown core. I pondered whether it was safe to go down there? Would the police have the situation under control? But then, I had some choices, didn't I? I could cancel my appointment and go another day. I could phone the doctor's office to check and see if things were safe in the area where they were located. Or, I could just stay put, in my **safe** home and **wait.**

These thoughts, once again, reminded me how important our work is, as a church, to continue to look beyond our building and work hard to support our community.

God has told us that we must help those who cannot help themselves. We must love them, care for them, and give them hope.

Isn't that the Golden Rule? "Do unto others as we would have them do unto us" (Matt. 7:12) Treat **every-one** with compassion and take that love we receive from God and find ways to bring love and goodwill into our community.

On **Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>**, the evening before that tragic event was to occur, our SVLC Outreach team prepared and delivered another delicious, nutritious meal in support of Langley's housing challenged citizens. *That evening over 100 of our very vulnerable citizens were nourished by the meal we prepared, including one of the victims who would tragically lose his life that next morning as a result of this senseless violence.*

God has called us to do this wonderful work.

From time to time in church we sing the hymn, "Do Something Beautiful" in which there is a line that goes something like this: "Go do something Jesus would, do something beautiful, in the name of Jesus..."

*We feel grateful to have this chance to do something Jesus would; to help in this necessary outreach into our community. Thank you to Darlene, John, and to all of our church volunteers.*

*Wouldn't it be beautiful to find more opportunities to carry out this 'bigger', 'taller' mission and continue to be of service to our community.*

**Go do something Jesus would, do something beautiful, in the name of Jesus...**

*Peace be with you!  
Edna Schuerhaus  
Church Council Chair*

# Plan Your Calendar for September



**Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**just because**  
we missed you... and we're happy  
you're back **breakfast!**  
**\$5**  
To welcome back Pastor Kristen.  
Following worship. Cost is \$5 per person.

*Artist's Circle Drop-in Group*  
Tuesdays in the Hall  
**9:30 am**  
Starts September 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Bring your own materials.



**Church Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>  
**7:30 pm**  
in the fellowship hall



**Worship and Music Division Meeting**  
Wednesday, Sept 7<sup>th</sup>  
**11:00 am**  
In-Person



Office Closed  
Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>  
(for Labour Day)

*Quilting Starts*  
Monday, **Sept 12<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00 am in the hall



**Men's Bibles & Breakfast**  
Saturday,  
September 17<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 - 9:30 am



**Deadline for Submissions to the**  
**October 2022 Newsletter**  
Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>  
[eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca](mailto:eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca)



If there are other division meetings in  
September, please let the church  
office know by email at  
[eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca](mailto:eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca)

