

# Our Saviour Lutheran Church

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## Newsletter

Finally, there is a newsletter. It won't come as a surprise that a newsletter is about sharing information and making sure all are in the loop if not on the same page (no pun intended). In the future we would like the newsletter to include updates from church council and committees. We also want to share the things that are going on or that we are thinking about. So if there's are things that you think relate to our life as communi-

ty, please share it (this may be an event that is yet to happen or an event you have been to and want to tell us about). Suggestions as to what the newsletter could or should include are also welcome. This is a modest beginning and I would be glad to see it grow. Yours,

*Pada Christopol*

### The Boogeyman on the Windshield

I changed schools in grade 11. It had to do with electives. I knew a few people at my new school but not many, and I was a bit shy. Being a Christian, I thought I would drop into the weekly noon hour prayer time some students held. These were nice people for whom the world was black and white. 'Being saved' was pretty much about us saying and believing the right things and people who didn't believe like we did not making it. As I said, they were nice people who meant well. I did not make

any new friends. What shocked me the most was the belief that the earth was disposable and that we didn't need to care for the world because it was soon going to come to an end anyway.

I did not recognize the God I knew. The God I knew did not abandon the world but entered the world in Jesus. The God I knew loves the world, redeems it, and promises to make it new. The God I knew did not exercise violence, though God could have, but suffered *our* violence.

I wonder whether you found a flier on your windshield after Easter worship. Some did. It asked whether your pastor is telling you about

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### Coming Events:

Apr 10th, Special Musical Event, 7pm South Arm United Church.

Apr 15, Bishop Greg to visit Our Saviour.

May 24-27

Synod Convention

May 27 Sunday School Windup/BBQ

Spring 2018

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the end times and about 'the rapture', as if God planned to abandon the world God loves. 'The rapture' is a concept that neither the ancient church nor the Reformation knew and that has no grounding in the Bible. It is a 19<sup>th</sup> preaching device developed by the Scottish preacher John Nelson Darby. Barbara Rossing of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago has written an excellent book on this.

It's odd that people who consider themselves Christian would put fliers on windshields of the cars of people at worship. But those who have been called by our risen Lord are not afraid of the boogeyman. Rather, we are free to share the love of God with all people, for the God who has made

himself known in Jesus does not sacrifice others but gives himself for the world. That is the sacrament we receive in Holy Communion and it is why we pray that through communing with Christ we may become bread for others. It's about giving, not abandoning. Is this important and urgent? You bet it is. But it is about salvation not destruction.

Yours,

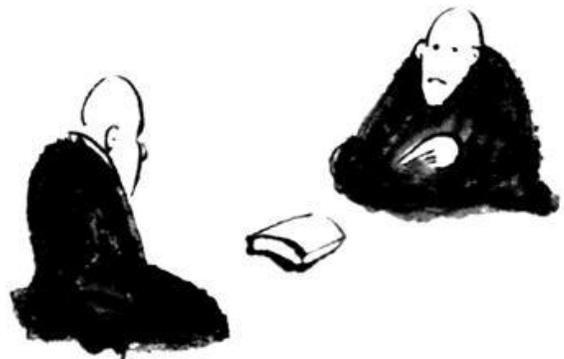
Pastor Christoph

There were two old men who had lived together for many years, and they never quarreled. Now one of them said: Let us try to quarrel once just like other people do. And the other replied: I don't know how a quarrel happens. Then the first said: Look, I put a brick between us, and I say, This is mine, and you say, No, it's mine, and after that a quarrel begins. So they placed a brick between them, and one of them said: This is mine, and the other said: No, it's mine. And he replied: Indeed, it's all yours, so take it away with you! And they went away unable to fight with each other.

Illustration and text are from **Desert Wisdom: Sayings from the Desert Fathers**

Henri J.M. Nouwen and Yushi Nomura,

Orbis Books: Maryknoll, NY, Revised edition 2001



## **Kneelers**

You will have noticed that three of the kneelers are at the altar steps permanently. It is to permit kneeling for those who wish to kneel while leaving room to stand for those who wish to stand.

The way we practice continuous communion allows us to take our place at the altar wherever we prefer. We do not have to go to the next spot just because it's next. You can stand in front of the kneelers or you can move to another spot and leave the kneelers for those who would like to use them.

## **Sleeping during the Service?**

Truthfully, I cannot say that I have never slept during a service, - though never when I was in charge of it.

A church member once apologized to me that she would frequently nod off during the service (and the sermon). She was in her mid-nineties and I was always impressed that she made it to the (German) service at 9 am.

She did not need to apologize (which, I think, she knew). I was always glad to see her, as were all others. Yes, the sermon is important but it's not the only reason we gather. We gather for Word *and* sacrament, we gather to be the body of Christ, we gather for each other, we gather for the Lord.

The **Reformation learning events** of Our Saviour Lutheran, St Anne's Anglican, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic, Gilmore Park United and South Arm United continue. The next gathering will be for a special musical event on April 10 at 7:00pm at South Arm United Church (11051 No. 3 Rd, Richmond)

The last two sessions of our study will be May 1 and June 5 at 7:00pm at St Joseph the Worker School (4451 Williams Road, Richmond) and will focus and how we can realize more of the unity God has granted us.

St Marks College and Carey College at UBC are co-sponsors of a series of **events on dementia care**. Both colleges are Christian schools, so dementia care will be approached from a faith perspective. Presenter is Dr. Gemma Jones who founded the first Alzheimer Café in the UK. She developed a unique program for health-care professionals, family carers, caregivers and anyone involved with the provision of compassionate care.

*Essential Understanding for Dementia Care* is held April 16 – 17 at Carey Centre (5920 Iona Dr, Vancouver, BC). For more information or to register, contact CAREY via email at [communications@carey-edu.ca](mailto:communications@carey-edu.ca) or by phone at 604-225-5920

The full schedule can be accessed at <http://carey-edu.ca/portfolio-item/alzheimer-cafe-full-schedule/>

## **Google Reviews:**

One of the downsides of the internet is the ability to quickly leave a review about anything (truthful or not) and never have to revisit it. One of the upsides of the internet is that you can take the writing of a review seriously and that your review will be noticed. It would be wonderful if some of us could write and post a positive review of OSLC and post it to Google. Don't make stuff up, don't exaggerate, just think of the reason(s) you are here, and think of it as an invitation. Just google "Our Saviour Lutheran" or find us on Google Maps in order to do so. Thank you!



## Supportive Housing?

I am not sure to what extent we have all followed the debate on Supportive Housing in Richmond.

The City has the following announcement on their website:

*A 3-storey modular housing building with 40 safe and secure studios and supportive services is proposed to be located on the site for up to five years. Services would include breakfast and a hot meal each day, life-skills training, and access to primary health and mental health services. This type of housing fills a housing gap in Richmond for individuals seeking to exit the shelter system or streets, and moving towards housing independence and improved quality of life. The proposed housing would be managed safely and responsibly by RainCity Housing, an experienced and professional supportive housing operator.*

While I filled in my “Let’s Talk Richmond” survey, I missed the community meeting at the library. We know that an announcement of a Supportive Housing development causes neighbours to articulate concerns and fears, no matter where it is.

Most of us are uncomfortable around people

who are different and people we don’t understand. That the media often speak of shelters when the proposal is for supportive housing does not help. A shelter you can go to for a night but you remain homeless. If you are lucky, they may have a bed for you the next night but if not you are on your own. Supportive Housing on the other hand gives people the stability of housing so that the rest of their lives may also become stable (through regular medical care, addictions treatment, employment programs, etc), because you can’t address any other issues when you don’t know where you will spend the night.

The other thing Supportive Housing does is that it takes people off the street. People who have a home will not loiter in the neighbourhood. And, of course, homeless people are in our community already, it’s not like Supportive Housing created homelessness. So it’s really about how we live together in a city, in a community. The strength of a community is measured by how it cares for its weakest members.

That’s where you and I come in. We know that Jesus seeks the last, the least, the lost, and the little. Jesus is not afraid of those who are different and in need, why should we who live in Christ Jesus. It’s important that followers of Jesus make their voices heard and that they speak with the voice of Jesus.



## Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering – CLAY

Lutheran and Anglican youth 14 to 19 years of age will gather in Thunderbay, ON from August 15 – 19, 2018. The keynote speaker will be Steve Green who at previous gatherings has led Slam Poetry.

Steve introduces himself: I was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, by a single mother. I was blessed that she worked diligently as a mother and as a registered nurse that it left an indelible mark. Her words (hindsight is a crazy thing!), her stories and her life challenged me to be faithful in

everything I do. My family is from Barbados, so the West Indian culture and Scriptural importance of the Bible were fixtures in my upbringing. From high school to my first stint at university (dark days!), I was taught that I must always give my best. Michael, my older brother and I are the first-born Canadians of our family and we hold deeply and dearly the roots, the sacrifices and the struggles which our mother and extended family have encountered for us to enjoy our way of life. To get a glimpse into my world, I enjoy: sports (i.e. football) and weightlifting, all things related to comics, reading and baked goods!!!

I am honoured to be the husband of a wonderful wife and the father of five!! Tracy and I are blessed to have Divine, Zachary, Autumn, Trinity and Joshua in our lives to keep us active and attentive. We are also foster parents for infants. The beauty of being the father of five and a foster father to many, enables me to learn and grow.



More information at  
<http://claygathering.ca/>



From time to time we come across the wisdom of children as it relates to their understanding of God. Many of us probably have our own stories to tell. Here is the wisdom of an adult answering the question of a child. Rowan Williams served as the Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 to 2012.

### **Rowan Williams: A letter to a six-year-old**

A six-year-old Scottish girl named Lulu wrote a letter to God: “To God, How did you get invented?” Lulu's father, who is not a believer, sent her letter to various church leaders: the Scottish Episcopal Church (no reply), the Presbyterians (no reply), and the Scottish Catholics (who sent a theologically complex reply). He also sent it to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who sent the following letter in reply:

Dear Lulu,

Your dad has sent on your letter and asked if I have any answers. It's a difficult one! But I think God might reply a bit like this –

‘Dear Lulu – Nobody invented me – but lots of people discovered me and were quite surprised. They discovered me when they looked round at the world and thought it was really beautiful or really mysterious and wondered where it came from. They discovered me when they were very very quiet on their own and felt a sort of peace and love they hadn't expected. Then they invented ideas about me – some of them sensible and some of them not very sensible. From time to time I sent them some hints – specially in the life of Jesus – to help them get closer to what I'm really like. But there was nothing and nobody around before me to invent me. Rather like somebody who writes a story in a book, I started making up the story of the world and eventually invented human beings like you who could ask me awkward questions!’

And then he'd send you lots of love and sign off. I know he doesn't usually write letters, so I have to do the best I can on his behalf. Lots of love from me too.

+Archbishop Rowan

I found this posted by Ben Myers on the blog Faith & Theology. Myers' comment is: Now that's what I call real theology! Isn't this exactly why we need theological specialists: Not to make the faith more complicated and obscure, but to help us grasp how simple it really is?

#### **A note from Jennifer and Martin Cuthbertson:**

“Jennifer and I are seeking to increase her support base, both in prayer and financially. Jennifer's salary for her work with Langham Partnership USA is based on the giving of friends and relatives to her ministry through that organization ...”

Please find their letter and an endorsement letter from the Program Director of Langham Preaching on our bulletin board.

We are hoping for good weather for April 14 for the **youth to go snow shoeing** on the north shore (weather permitting).



Here is Joshua's report from our last outdoor event: *On August 26, the youth went to hike up Tunnel Bluffs on a beautiful Saturday morning. We began our adventure by first crossing the highway at 10 in the morning. Pastor Christoph dashed quickly between the rest of the cars, but the rest of us were much more cautious of the heavy stream of speedy traffic! We then made our way up the mountain, way too tired on a Saturday morning to be going for a hike. However, our first viewpoint was quite special, and we trekked on with spirits lifted. After a series of dusty trails, steep heights, and an area with a rope, we continued to hike up the mountain, awaiting the final view. After a couple hours, a couple empty water bottles, and a couple litres of sweat, our group made it up to a viewpoint that was well worth the hike. The hike itself was quite challenging, but we could all agree that the final view of Howe Sound was truly a moment beyond words. - Joshua*



# April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Sunday	2 Easter Monday Office closed	3	4 Readers Group 9:30	5 Choir 7:30	6	7 Men's Breakfast 7:45 Steveston Hotel
8 Confirmation 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 10:00 Potluck Lunch-	9 Church Council 7:00	10 Special Music Event SouthArm United	11 Worship Com. 7:00 Ministerial Meeting 11:00 Benediction	12 Choir 7:30	13	14
15 Confirmation 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 10:00 Bishop Greg / Celebrat	16	17	18 Readers Group 9:30	19 Choir 7:30 Low/Main Ministerial Gathering 11:00 am Good Shepherd	20	21 Ladies Breakfast Rickys on 3Rd. 9:00am
22 Confirmation 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship 10:00	23	24	25	26 Choir 7:30	27	28
29 No Sunday School Or Confirmation Worship 10:00	30					