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Our Saviour Lutheran Church Newsletter July and August 2018

From Pastor Christoph...

Preaching in and for the Churches

Different traditions have different preaching traditions.

Roughly, we can distinguish between topical and scriptural preaching.

Topical preaching – as the name implies – begins with a topic, say marriage, or parenting, or managing personal finances, and then goes to develop a sermon that speaks to the subject. It sounds great because it is so responsive to questions we may have. However, there are reasons this kind of preaching is absent from many churches. The problems with topical preaching are that

- a) it makes it very easy to quote scripture out of context,
- b) it always begins with us and not with God,
- c) it treats the Bible as a self-help book even though Bible is silent on many modern issues.

That the Bible is silent on modern issues does not mean that the Bible does not have something to say on an issue, only that the answers do not come in the form of rules or prescriptive behaviour. Following rules would be simple but because God wants to engage us, God does not make it that easy for us.

A second approach to preaching is expository, meaning that a preacher would preach on, say, Paul's Letter to the church in Rome, from the beginning to the end. There is an argument to be made for expository preaching as a congregation would become more familiar with a specific piece of biblical literature. Expository preaching begins with God's Word rather than with our questions, making it more likely for the biblical revelation to shape our lives rather than the other way around. One drawback can be that the sermon can turn into more of a lecture rather than a word that takes a text and seeks to connect it to our lives.

Lutherans, Catholics, Orthodox, and many churches in the Reformed tradition use a lectionary. In our case the lectionary covers a three year cycle and covers all Gospels and almost all biblical writings (though not their entirety). The main benefits are that lectionary preaching begins with the holy scriptures, is shared by many denominations (thus establishes some church unity), uses the Psalms in worship according to their original intent and use, covers much of the scriptures, and prevents the preacher from preaching only her or his favourite texts.

Cont'd next page

Coming Events:

Aug 15-19

CLAY Gathering for
Anglican and
Lutheran Youth

Aug 19

Celebration Sunday

Sept 9

Rally Sunday

I have a collection of sermons that were preached from American college pulpits on the Sunday after 9/11 and the editors remark that those traditions that followed a lectionary were less likely to replace the cross with the flag than those left to choose their own texts.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada follows the Revised Common Lectionary. It is not binding and expository preaching is an option one could explore from time to time.

Yours in Christ,



Something to think about....

You don't get harmony when everybody sings the same note.

- Doug Floyd in *Spokesman Review* (Spokane, Washington)

Hedge and Roof

First things first: The roof overhang should be repaired some time before the end of the summer. It has been difficult to find a contractor for a small job such as this (not to speak of trying to obtain multiple quotes as this is an insurance claim).

The hedge on the south side of our property: Council felt that the hedge created a visual obstacle that might inadvertently cause people to steer away from *it* rather than from the roof overhang. In order to reduce the psychological obstacle it was decided the hedge should be trimmed. Many thanks to Allan Forch who in the heat of the summer carried out this work on behalf of church council (and offered invaluable advice).

Supply Clergy and lay-led services

This year on some Sundays we will have supply pastors presiding and preaching on some Sundays while on other Sundays we will have lay-led services. You may wonder why.

One reason is that the supply list published by the Synod Office is very short, and some of those on that list are engaged in interim ministry in congregations currently without pastor (e.g. Pr Vida). So finding supply pastors is not easy and sometimes simply not possible.

Another (perhaps marginal) factor has been our budget deficit.

This is an area in which we can save a little and even if it's not much, it's something.

Perhaps the most important reason for me has been that speaking about God is not reserved for pastors but is part of the life of all of us. I see lay-led services as an encouragement to speak about God and about our faith, even if this starts with reading a sermon on Sunday morning.

Gertie Gatzke was parish worker at Peace/Abbotsford for many years and a good friend. I was blessed to work with Gertie for a number of years. Whenever someone spoke of a congregation that was vacant, Gertie would interrupt and state that there was no such thing as a vacant congregation, only pastoral vacancies. She was right.

From the Refugee Committee..

As we reach the midpoint of our one year commitment to our refugee family, we are pleased to report that all is well. The family is progressing in their English as they are attending classes 4 times a week. In fact Aung Mya has found employment as a floor attendant for the Four Seasons hotel in downtown Vancouver. It is a full time position working night shift. Aye Chit and Tin Win will continue with their English training and it is hoped that Aung Mya can join them if his work schedule allows.

The family now handles all of it's banking needs and pays all their bills. Our church and our partner church Spirit of Life Lutheran continue to support the family financially. Our support is funded through the Refugee Fund and we are on budget. It appears that we may have a surplus in the Refugee Fund at the end of the year.

We are also in the application process for a sponsorship of a new family from Eritrea who are now residing temporarily in Israel. They are family of Michael Tesfagherigis who has been attending our church over the past several months.

This application is markedly different from our current sponsorship.

There is no financial commitment by the church as funds to support the family will be provided in advance by others and placed in a trust account. In addition, Michael will be responsible for many of the tasks that we have been providing with volunteers for our current family. However, without our sponsorship, the family has no hope of coming to Canada and live under a potential expulsion from Israel. The application process could take two years or more.

You know how we like to try new things...

There will be a "honey-dew" list posted on the middle bulletin board . The items on this list are things that are not in the cleaning contract but do need to be done with varying frequencies. We would encourage you to take a look at it , put your name beside something you would take care of (in this instance, not necessarily ongoing) or you can simply do the job and cross it off the list. This list will be ongoing, some of the items will be more than one person would like to do (eg: shampooing the carpet, and by the way there is a carpet shampooer here at the church) however you are welcome to indicate if you would like someone to help (or form your own group to accomplish the task) . Also, please let us know if there is something not on the list and it should be.

The idea is that this could supplement a church work day (which hasn't happened in a year) and it allows those who can-

Google Reviews:

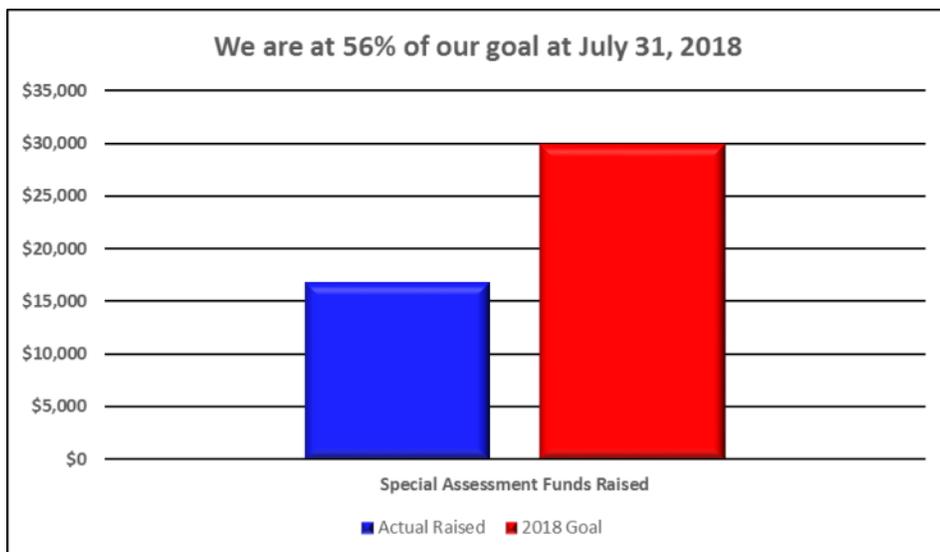
One of the downsides of the internet is the ability to quickly leave a review about anything (truthful or not) and never have to revisit it.

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!

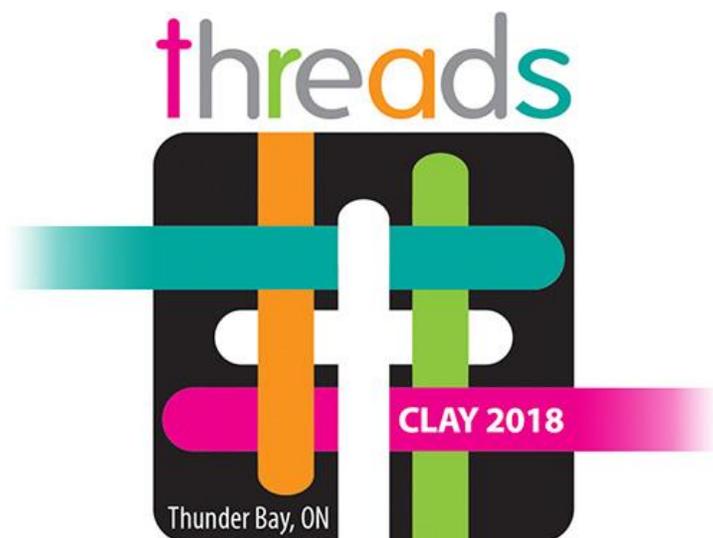
From the Treasurer....

Progress report on Special Assessment/Appeal as passed at AGM on 25 February 2018.



Please remember the ongoing needs of the church throughout the summer.

Thank you!



Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering – CLAY

Lutheran and Anglican youth 14 to 19 years of age will gather in Thunder Bay, ON, from August 15 – 19, 2018.

Our Youth will be heading out for CLAY on August 14th. Pastor Christoph is attending with Duncan, Tom, Christian, Marc and Joshua.

We hope they have fun!

Gifts of Service

August 5

Greeters: Lorraine S. & Jean R.

Ushers: Dave & Audree R.

Offering Assistants: Dale S. & Michael T.

Basket Holder: Emma P.

Reader: Duncan M.

Money Counters: Doug K & Chris S

August 12

Greeters: Dorothy S. & Lila H.

Ushers: Wayne & Ellen T.

Offering Assistants: TBD

Communion Assistants Dianne J. & Ed J.

Replenisher: Marion E.

Basket Holder: TBD

Reader: Carrie G.

Money Counters: Dale S. & Ross G

August 19

Greeters: Cora Lee P. & Irene L.

Ushers: Wayne J. & Ed J.

Offering Assistants: Wally & Sheila T.

Communion Assistants: Dave & Audree R.

Replenisher: James M.

Basket Holder: TBD

Reader: Dale S.

Money Counters: Ed J. & James M.

August 26

Greeters: Wayne & Ellen T.

Ushers: Dewey & Tova L.

Offering Assistants: Wayne J. & Duncan M.

Communion Assistants: Ed J. & Elise K.

Replenisher: Sara J.

Basket Holder: TBD

Reader: John F.

Money Counters: Chris S. & Doug K.

**Prayer is less about changing the world
than it is about changing ourselves.**

- David J. Wolpe

Teaching Your Children about God



Duncan MacIntyre

After only five years at high school, Duncan graduated from McMath Secondary in June. He will begin the Science One program in September at the University of B.C. Despite years of frantic saving by his parents, Duncan still complicated the family budget by earning enough scholarships, including a Ted Rogers Scholarship, to pay for his first year at university. Duncan also received a fellowship from the TRIUMF facility at UBC and is squandering most of his summer at Canada's national particle accelerator.

When the fellowship ends, Duncan and his brother Tom will travel to the CLAY gathering for youth in Thunder Bay, Ont. He is also squeezing in weekend family trips to various places in B.C., looking after his garden, playing trombone, reading and trying to relax before his academic explorations begin.

I graduated from W.J. Mouat in Abbotsford with a Double Dogwood in 2017. This past year I chose to work to save money for school and to help me decide what I would do next.

I worked at SaveOn Foods and have met many people who have worked there their entire lives. It has motivated me to enrol in labour studies at the University of Manitoba. I will move to Winnipeg at the end of August.



Elias Reiners



Julia Nimchuk

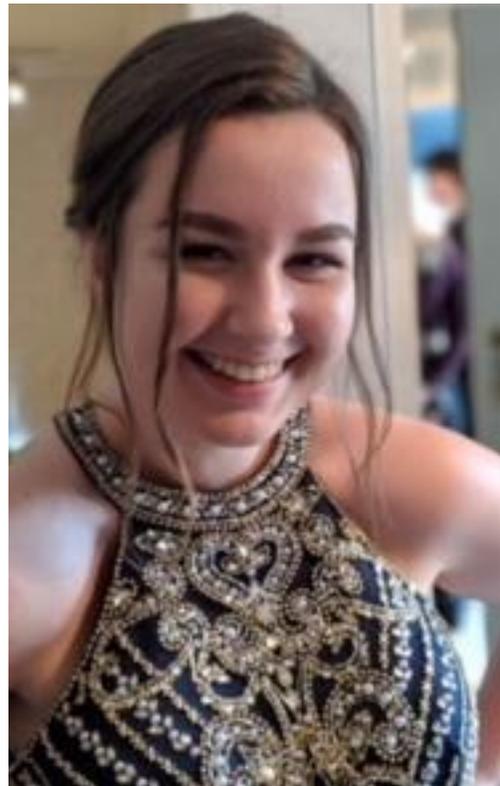
I recently graduated from McMath secondary and I will be continuing my studies this fall at Langara College.

I have always been interested in marketing and I will be taking a Marketing Management course.

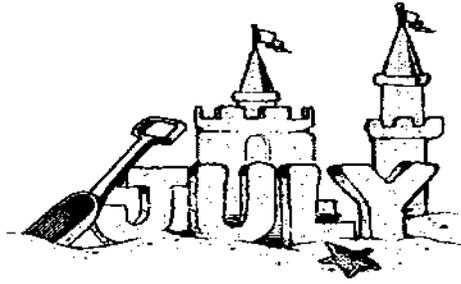
I will continue working at Kisamos and begin my new journey at Langara. I am so excited to start this new chapter.

Sarah is planning to get a degree in Music Therapy from Capilano University.

She will be going to Douglas College next year to get the pre-requisite courses for this program. She is very excited about what the future will hold.



Sarah Jones



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes- day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service 10:00	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Worship Service 10:00	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Worship Service 10:00 Celebration Sunday	16	17	18 Readers 9:30 Church of- fice closed	19 Church of- fice closed	20 Church of- fice closed	21
22 Worship Service 10:00	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Worship Service 10:00	30	31				





AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes-	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Readers 9:30am	2	3	4
5 Worship Service 10:00	6 Church of- fice closed	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship Service 10:00	13	14	15 CLAY	16 CLAY	17 CLAY	18 CLAY
19 Worship Service 10:00 Celebration Sunday CLAY	20	21	22 Worship Committee 7:00pm	23	24	25
26 Worship Service 10:00	27	28	29	30	31	



Rally Sunday.

September 9, 2018