

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

463 Highland Rd., Peterborough, Ontario, K9H 5J8 (705)745-0841

April Newsletter 2020

Website & Facebook www.christlutheranpeterborough.com

Mission Statement: "As Christians living in God's grace we seek to demonstrate our faith in Christ by caring, listening, and responding to the needs of the whole person, serving each other and those beyond our Lutheran community."



Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor's Page

A few years ago there was a popular book called *Love in a time of Cholera*. It may have been one of those that Oprah Winfrey made famous, but I'm not sure. I haven't read it nor have I seen the movie based on it, but that title started bouncing around in my head the last few days. It occurred to me that, if I were to write a book about the current pandemic, I should call it *Faith in a Time of Coronavirus*. Part of the book would be about Christ Lutheran, as with many churches right now, suddenly shifting ministries like worship to email and livestream format. Outreach is primarily being done via telephone and email. We have figured how to be a church that does not commune together and yet finds community somehow.

The other part of my imagined book would lift up the unique value of the Christian faith for times of crisis like this. One of our most natural human desires is to be and stay in control of life. That is what makes a crisis like this feel so threatening - so many things are not in our control right now. Can we protect our health? Will our jobs and health continue? Will retirement funds outlast this meltdown? Will I have enough toilet paper? When can we come out of our caves? Will life ever be the same?

The Gospel, however, recognizes that our desire to stay in control is more than just being responsible for ourselves. It lies at the heart of human sin. By nature, we don't always trust God to care for us and don't really want God to be in control. We wonder why God is letting this virus complicate our lives and why the world is not being healed.

So now, when so much does seem out of control, the Gospel steps in to say, "Of course you're not in control. You never really were." But God is in charge of heaven and earth, of life and death, of health and illness. And most importantly, in the midst of all that, God is for you in Christ Jesus. He claimed you as His own in Holy Baptism and will never renege on that commitment.

In this time when God's presence seems hidden in many ways, the Gospel promise never wavers. We can count on it no matter what else happens, because God's word to you is explicit, clear and entirely in His control. That is why St. Paul could say so confidently, "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39) That is the ultimate, irreplaceable, invaluable gift of *Faith in a Time of Coronavirus*.

Pastor Scott

During times like this when we cannot have physical human contact you are encouraged to call one another on the phone, email, and text but please stay inside. If you need anything, whether to talk to someone or to get food for you please don't be afraid to call Pastor Scott at 705-313-0333.

Every Sunday during this time of social distancing we are coming together by livestream worship service starting at 10:30am.

You can find it on Facebook by clicking on the following link and scrolling down the page.

<https://www.facebook.com/christ.lutheran.peterbough/>

Please mail in or bring your offerings to the church and put in the outside mailbox at the front church door. Cheques only please. Robin is going to the church daily to check for these offerings. Thank you!



A devotion from Pastor Mike

We began Lent with the Ash Wednesday words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." They are words that remind us we are human, that we aren't gods, and that to be whole we need God's life and love in our lives.

But we often forget this and do our best to be our own gods by striving for success, surrounding ourselves with expensive "stuff", nice homes, expensive entertainment, fashionable clothes, costly holidays and on

and on. We can treat ourselves as if we are our own gods and figure life should always be enjoyable and good.

We tend to deny our humanness - until maybe tragedy hits.

This Lent the COVID-19 virus has brought a measure of tragedy to us all and is reminding us of our humanity, and reminding us that we aren't gods. If this disease can help us look more authentically into ourselves this Lent (something Lent is supposed to help us do) perhaps this Lent can be very special for us, even if we can't attend worship or gather together.

Maybe it will help us see that life is not found in what we do but in what God does in us, help us see that the all the things we look to for life are temporary and that life in all its fullness is found only in God and is a gift God freely gives to us humans.

God even shows us we don't have to deny our humanness. It was as a human that Jesus surrendered to God's way and suffered and died as a human to win us the greatest victory of all time. Jesus shows us that God can work miracles through mere humans. Jesus shows us that God knows what it is like to be us for Jesus has experienced all we humans have to bear. I find this to be a comforting thought in times of tragedy and fear.

So, as we stay home this Lent and as we are forced to avoid so many of the things we love doing, let us take time to let God speak God's words of love and support to us. Hear God say, "Be still and know that I am God." Hear God say, "Lo I am with you always." Hear God say, "I came that you may have life and have it abundantly.

And may we thank God for our humanness. May we open ourselves to God's life and support and believe God can use our humanness, our dustiness, to work God's miracles of love.

Pastor Mike

April 2, 2020

Dear members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada,

We are about to enter into Holy Week, that time when we follow Jesus from his triumphal entrance into Jerusalem through to his betrayal, arrest, crucifixion and death. At this most holy time of the year we are not going to be able to physically gather in worship. The writer C. S. Lewis once wrote that "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts to us in our pain." Certainly, when viewed from that perspective, Holy Week, particularly this Holy Week,

might well be described as being God's megaphone. During these special days, the distance between the lament of Jesus and the lament of humanity is shortened to the point where we can begin to believe that maybe our anguished cries can reach the one who can save us! We know that these are difficult and challenging times for all of us – our patterns of life have been disrupted and there is much anxiety around us. Please know that we are praying for you. We invite you to pray for each other: for our faith communities, for our government leaders, for those who are medical providers, for those who still work to meet our needs in places like grocery stores and in the transportation industry, for those who are most vulnerable, for those who are alone or afraid. We invite you to enter fully into Holy Week, through online worship or through your own personal devotions. In these special days of looking backwards through Jesus' life, we, who must still "live our lives forward", are given sustenance, power and encouragement for the journey. Remember, that we are Easter people, and that our risen Lord is walking with us in these difficult days. Although we are not able to physically gather in worship, Easter is not postponed. Resurrection is coming! Jesus still comes to each of us into our isolation and says peace be with you! May God bless you in the solemnity of Holy Week and sustain you always in the joy of Easter.

Your bishops, The Rev. Susan Johnson The Rev. Dr. Greg Mohr The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer National Bishop, ELCIC British Columbia Synod Synod of Alberta and the Territories The Rev. Dr. Sid Haugen The Rev. Jason Zinko The Rev. Michael Pryse Saskatchewan Synod Manitoba/Northwestern Eastern Synod Ontario Synod



CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2020 following worship service

Called to Order at 11:30 following a delicious light luncheon.

Attendance: 31, quorum is met

Opening Devotion (back of Annual Report booklet): Pastor Scott Schellenberger

Welcome and Agenda items: Allan Butson thanked everyone for attending and reviewed the agenda. Reminder that reports A-P would be presented and discussed and then a single motion would be appreciated for acceptance of the reports. Brief comments regarding

the success of the congregation's activities throughout 2019 and encouragement for all members to thoughtfully consider being a member of Church Council.

Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting:

Motion to Approve: Iris Gravel Seconded: Sylvia Shea

Motion carried and minutes accepted as printed

Appointment of Tellers – Glenn Coombs and George Maschke (volunteered)

Reports

- a) Pastor's Report: Pastor Scott Schellenberger indicated a date change regarding Bishop Pryse joining us. It will now be June 7 Trinity Sunday not May 31.
- b) Statistics – no discussion
- c) Martin Luther Student House – no discussion
- d) Chairperson's Address – Allan thanked all in the congregation for being faithful members. He noted the congregations' emphasis on outreach and how important volunteering is. It is obvious we are a church supported by volunteers and that we bring forward ideas and discussion regarding our future and outreach activities with Pastor Scott Schellenberger's leadership.
- e) Fundraising – obvious we need fundraising to meet our financial commitments (Glenn commented that he likes the title Fun-raising)
- f) Mutual Ministry – no discussion
- g) Messy Church – Pastor Scott Schellenberger encouraged everyone to participate if they are able
- h) Kid's Nutrition Program/Slice and Dice Team – no discussion
- i) Parish Outreach Committee – no discussion
- j) Parish Support / Church & Parsonage Maintenance -Thank you to George for all the time and commitment put into this work
- m) Financial Secretary's Report – Huge Thank You to Janice!
- n) Social Activities – no discussion /Health and Wellness Team – no discussion
- o) Kid's Club and PA Day – Thank You from Glenn to organizers regarding the commitment to making the days happen
- p) Treasurer's Report (p.15-16) -question regarding Financial Statement difference between Summary and Actual Budget numbers – Allan clarified and corrections were made to lines 9, 20, 106 on pg. 104 of the booklet. Sylvia thanked Brenda Bastian for all her hard work as treasurer and applause was shared to show the congregation's appreciation.

Motion: to Accept reports a) through p) as presented – Robin Butson

Seconded: Ralph Bastian

Motion voted on: Carried

New/Other Business

-Amelie wanted to emphasize that the youth group activities are good - Pastor Scott Schellenberger agreed – Robin acknowledged pg. 6 of the report booklet comments on the youth activities

-Pastor Scott Schellenberger spoke to the GTA East workshop that is coming up early in May at Peace Pickering – David McGinley to be the presenter

-Glenn asked if we know why the furnace still flips off once in a while – some discussion followed regarding trying to figure out what the problem is – Andy suggested that we have some formal way of detailing the issues when they occur, a systematic way to communicate what has happened or been done regarding the furnace

Motion by Robin Butson: Council is directed to look into the issues with the furnace until it is resolved.

Seconded: Glenn Coombs

Motion voted on: Carried

Motion by Elizabeth Ichniovsky: Council is directed to investigate replacing all fluorescent lights with LED and/or solar lights throughout the church and parsonage

Seconded: Ralph Bastian

Discussion: There are government grants available to check out. Ralph will look into LED store and the cost/manner of replacing the florescent tubes. George says the upstairs narthex and outside lights are already LED. Spike suggested considering the length of time the lights are actually on. George suggested considering the lights in the main worship area also. Elizabeth said Hydro One will give tips and supplies to help become more efficient.

Motion voted on: Carried

Motion by Andy: Council investigate costs and benefits of installing a solar system for powering the church.

Seconded: Pauline Parsons

Discussion:

Andy installed the cottage system for 6-7 thousand dollars. Ralph suggested it may be more expensive than we are prepared for, as there is not the same government incentive as there was 10 years ago. Bruce Schenk questioned if buy-backs were still happening. Ralph stated they were not.

Motion voted on: Carried

Motion by Elizabeth: For church to give permission to hang one of Barry's paintings in the women's washroom. Painting to be purchased by Milan and Elizabeth in memory of Edith Bailey (Elizabeth's mom).

Seconded: Iris Gravel

Discussion: Agreement that it is a wonderful idea. Some good-natured banter followed regarding the men's washroom and sharing Barry's talent in a more public space like the basement meeting room.

Pastor Scott Schellenberger called the question.

Motion voted on: Carried

7) Election of Councilors

George Maschke, Sylvia Shea, Connie Baker and Iris Gravel are councilors whose terms expire this year. Thank you to all for their devotion. Many thanks Sylvia for staying on for another term. George is stepping down. Iris and Connie have served two consecutive terms and as such need to take a year away.

Charmaine Mugambe has volunteered to join council and we greatly appreciate her willingness to serve.

As of today; we need one council member for a 2-year position and one council member for a 3-year position.

Robin has volunteered to be on council and will fill the two-year position. Elizabeth Ichniovsky is nominated from the floor and accepts the nomination.

Motion that Nominations be closed: Robin

Seconded: Gord Guse

Motion voted on: Carried

Elizabeth will fill the three-year council position.

Welcome to new volunteers! Please note the next council meeting is on February 11 at 6:30 at the church.

8) Budget (last four pages of the report booklet)

Allan summarized the totals for income and expenses. Discussion followed.

Line 50 is left for future use. Line 55 is where we might have to increase if we are to follow through with furnace or other larger expenditures. Congregation is reminded that any very large expenditures come to a separate congregational meeting for approval.

Motion by Robin: to add \$1000.00 to line 55 -bringing that expense to \$2500.00

Seconded: Pauline Motion voted on: Carried

Mike appreciates line 39 which shows that we keep CLWR as a focus for giving

Robin noted that Benevolence paid was \$11000.00 which was more than we approved at the last meeting. But good for us to be one of the few congregations that give as much as we do.

Motion by Robin: Benevolence to be allotted in this budget, for the year 2020, be a total of \$10,000.00 Seconded: George Maschke

Discussion: Pastor Scott Schellenberger reviewed that Benevolence money pays for the mission work that ELCIC participates in and Lutheran World Federation programs, as well as programming for church leadership, worldwide issues as well as travel for the Bishop to carry out his mission activities. It is not for payroll expenditures of any sort.

Brenda stated that Benevolence is supposed to be 10% of all incoming cash – if we adhere to that, our Benevolence would be \$14,000.00 instead of \$10,000.00.

Pastor Scott Schellenberger opposed to the motion. Bruce stated this is how we participate in the greater church. Allan thinks we should help as long as we can. Robin spoke in support of the motion, noting volunteers are how we continue to do our mission. Iris reminded us that we do an amazing job. Robin noted larger churches don't do as much as we do regarding mission. Spike said we need to look after ourselves or we won't be here to pay benevolence. Mike thinks we are here to serve others not ourselves. George would like to see us hang in there for another year at least. Pastor Scott Schellenberger stated we have money in the bank and a parsonage worth \$350,000.00.

Motion voted on: Defeated therefore Benevolence will stay at \$11,000.00 in the 2020 budget.

Mike noted that the organist budget line is going up – some good-natured banter regarding her not being paid enough followed. A round of applause showed our appreciation to Gerry for all she does.

Marlys noted we are currently receiving a Bell special price and asked how much will that change? We anticipate keeping costs the same.

Al asked for a motion to approve the amended budget. Moved by Glenn Coombs. Seconded by Bruce Schenk Motion voted on: Carried.

Mike made a comment regarding the deficit budget and encouraged everyone to consider how we might be able to give extra to get rid of the deficit. He challenges everyone to give something.

Closing devotions at 12:45, led by Pastor Scott Schellenberger.



Health and Wellness Team

We hope that you are all staying healthy and well during these very challenging and strange times. We want to really encourage you to continue to try to stay connected with other members of our Church Family in any safe way that you possibly can as this definitely will prove helpful for each of us.

Also remember good hand hygiene and social distancing continues to be vital for everyone!!

We so hope that we will be able to host a few informative workshops once again as soon as we get the all clear.

Do stay healthy and be safe!



Church Council Meeting – Tuesday March 10th

6:30pm-8:30pm

Present: Sylvia, Elizabeth, Scott, Al, Marlys, Janice, Brenda, Milan, Johanna

Regrets: Charmaine, Robin

Opening Devotion led by Pastor Scott Schellenberger.

The minutes of February 11, 2020 approved:

Motion: Marlys Seconded: Milan Passed

Correspondence:

Mail and Other

-letter from Bishops regarding Coronavirus has been shared and posted
Electronic Updates

- Facebook continues to be updated regularly and is reaching people –

Pancake Dinner was an example of reaching out and getting results

-it is worth keeping Social Media up to date

Reports:

Pastors Report

Council Report March 2020

12 visits in February

5 phone visits in February

1 hospital visit in February

Worship – Thank you to everyone who has been using their gifts to enhance our worship music and worship space. In the coming year it will be my goal to continue to enhance our worship experience with new and different banner/decorative aspects as well as continued differing music selections. During lent we will be using setting 5 from With One Voice.

Why are the blocks at the chancel?

In Lent we experience barrenness like a desert, the dry bones in the valley, the darkness of questioning faith, and the despair of temptation in the wilderness. Gone are the exquisite fabrics, the fresh flowers, and the opulence of décor. The blocks represent the hard, empty, difficult parts of our lives. The light that adorns them represents the light of Christ which helps us on the journey. Come Easter there will be a transformation from the hardness of Lent to the glory of Easter.

Midweek services – Every Wednesday during Lent soup and sandwiches will be provided at 5:30pm and service will begin at 6:15. It is a good time for fellowship and a chance to mark the season of Lent.

Attendance – The attendance at church has been quite consistent as of late around 35 and we have had several returning visitors week-after-week. This happens only because of the congregation's hospitality and love. Thank you.

65th Anniversary Worship Celebrations with Bishop Pryse – CHANGED June 7 2020 10am worship. Dinner is being planned for after worship._

Bible Study – None until after Easter.

Youth Ministry – Charmaine, Scott and Amelie have made some plans: March 28- 1:00pm Mug Painting and Crafts, April 11 – Egg Decorating 1:00pm. Milan is assisting. We will be doing a "pick and paint" -gathering rocks from the park, bring them back, paint them with blessing messages and return to neighbourhoods for people to find.

Student Ministry – Nothing new to report. Tenants are much happier.

Confirmation Classes starting in May!

We have two confirmands beginning in May. We will be starting a two-year program. The program consists of two overnight retreats at Stoney Lake and two Saturdays from 10-4. We will be working with Christ the King Whitby to make our class sizes larger and have more fun. The first retreat is May 22-23.

The Greater Toronto Area East is presenting David Maginley

4-time cancer survivor, chaplain, pastor and author of Beyond Surviving will be presenting a day long workshop on Near Death Experiences. It is on May 9 9am-12 and 1pm-4pm at Peace Lutheran Church Pickering. As seats are limited reservations can be made by purchasing a ticket for \$5. A free will offering will be collected the day of the event. Talk to Pastor Scott Johanna or Iris for more info.

Eastern Synod Generous Practicum Event June 22-24 2020

Scott attended this event in 2016. It is intense and well worth it. It is offered at no cost to clergy of Eastern Synod. It as an opportunity to gather with a group of your colleagues in rostered ministry and explore the ways ordained leaders can create a culture of generous giving in a congregation.

The speakers for this year's event will include: **National Bishop Susan Johnson**; Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada **Lori Guenther Reesor**; Speaker, writer, consultant **Paul Nazareth**; Vice President, Canadian Association of Gift Planners **Rev. Hilla Lahtinen**, Director of Worship Ministries for the Synod, will be the worship leader.

Parish Support (Al, Milan)

LED lights will use one-half of the energy of fluorescent lights -based on our usage of about 1600 hours/year LED lights should last 30 years; if we replace the fluorescents with LED they will pay for themselves in 1.8 years; the total cost of replacing would be approximately \$187.00 + taxes. (22 lights at \$8.50 ea.)

Motion: by Milan to replace the fluorescents with LED lights

Seconded: by Pastor Scott Schellenberger

Discussion: Should we replace/remove the ballasts right away?

Suggestion to replace tubes in now and replace all ballasts when the first one goes. (That would mean one major electrical service as opposed to many small electrical services.) Motion voted on: Carried

Milan will get the ball rolling on installing the LED lights

-request to replace the knob and lock on the church office door

Motion by Marlys: Replace the knob and lock on the office door with a new knob and lock set. Seconded: Al

Agreement to get the job done. Brenda will look into locks

-red emergency switch in the furnace room should always be left in the "Up" / "ON" position

Treasurers Report (Brenda)

1. Book Balance is \$ 88,393.79
2. Bank Balance is \$ 92,050.92

Notes: Student rent not deposited yet

- as of March 8 - current \$19,205.00
- memorials \$ 1,715.00
- GST \$ 1,359.11

Outreach (Milan)

-Carla from CLWR made a good presentation to the congregation and will be having a 75th anniversary next year

Messy Church (Sylvia)

-on March 2 there were 14 or 15 in attendance – the theme was falling and breaking

-next one is April 6 – theme is Biggest Miracle ever

-discussion took place regarding the name 'Messy Church' and whether we should pursue joining some Facebook groups to increase our profile in the community

Kids Club (Marlys)

-March Break activities are to include: twinning toilets, hygiene, handwashing, St. Patrick's day activities, cookies (making and then selling to support toilet twinning project), on Friday we will have a pancake party for approximately 10 adults

-already advertised in the Examiner and hopefully on radio LIFE100.3

Health and Wellness (Robin)

-March 29 is the date for a Hospice Update, there will be a speaker and light refreshments

Social Activities (Robin)

-March 15 – Irish Dinner after worship

-coffee times have been going well and people are volunteering to host them

-Thursday's Art group -Kawartha Outdoor Artists -are hoping to have a show here at a date to be arranged

Stewardship and Fun-raising (Sylvia)

-May 2 – yard, plant and bake sale – no clothing - baked items to be delivered on May 1, between 10 am. and 7 pm.

-for Church Anniversary (65th) -proposing to offer wine bottled with special labels for a donation to the church -planning an evening event with possible wine tasting and charcutier boards – May 30 is tentative date -it will take place at the church

Mutual Ministries (Sylvia)

-Pastor Scott and Sylvia will meet after Easter to set up the performance review, which is to be completed before the summer

Martin Luther House (Johanna, Al, Marlys, Scott)

-there has been interest in the vacant room, but no takers to date

Old Business

-a trumpeter is coming for Easter service to augment the music

-Al and Peter are organizing the Easter Breakfast

-Milan will host egg colouring on April 11 at 1:00 at the church

New Business

- Police Checks – need to be on file in the office
- Special Recognition Cards – We have cards in the office to give to persons for special occasions. Let's talk about how we use them, how we coordinate their use. – Let's ask Pauline if she would like to co-ordinate this
- Council Focus – let's continue to think outside the box
- Coronavirus procedures – we need to put procedures in place

Motion by Milan: A request not use the common cup and no handshakes during the service.

Seconded: Allan

Discussion: people still have the option of individual cups, last time we went through this we reminded them the common cup is wiped; maybe we are ok right now but maybe it will get worse; continue to offer choices; perhaps we can ask everyone not to touch for now and to stay in pews and say 'Peace be with You" to neighbours; there will be more hand sanitizer available; Pastor reinforced keeping the common cup as a necessary part of the ritual

Motion voted on: Defeated

After further discussion, consensus was reached that we will try to be pro-active by: 1) remaining in the pews to orally share the peace and; 2) parishioners will still have the choice of using individual cups or the common cup and: 3) We will have extra hand sanitizers placed around the building. Council will re-evaluate these steps at the next council meeting.

Reminder to post the list of where documents and important items can be found. Council will have an e-mail meeting on April 7 regarding communion practices over Easter. Marlys will re-visit MARS re: poster about renting our space for music rehearsals Sylvia presented information re: re-filling laser printer cartridges from a Peterborough company

Next meeting: April 14, 2020

WORSHIP PLANNING
 COVID19 PANDEMIC EDITION

Breathe on Me, Breath of God.....NOPE
 Precious Lord, Take my Hand.....NOPE
 Just a Closer Walk with Thee.....NOPE
 Gather Us In.....NOPE
 Close to Thee.....NOPE

COULD WORK

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
 Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley
 I Come to the Garden Alone
 Trust and Obey

@STEPHCLIMM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2020</h1>						
			1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday Livestream worship at 10:30 am on Facebook	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday Livestream worship at 10:30 am on Facebook	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 EASTER 1 Livestream worship at 10:30 am on Facebook	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Easter 2 Livestream worship at 10:30 am on Facebook	27	28	29	30	May 1	May 2