

# **CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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



## **NEWSLETTER**

***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."***

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS** – Tuesday and Thursday 9 am – 4 pm

**We return to worship at Christ Lutheran Sunday September 6, 10 am**

### **Prayer in the time of COVID**

**Posted: August 14, 2020 | Filed Under: From the Bishop's Desk**

This past fall, our church began a four-year deep dive into some of our primary Christian faith practices. Our National Bishop invited us to join her in a new four-year emphasis on Living our Faith, as together we pray, read, worship and love. From September 2019 until September 2020, ELCIC members were invited to join in a year of prayer. Little did we know what that might mean for us as the early spring of 2020 unfolded.

The last public worship service I attended was on March 15, 2020. It was during a joint meeting of the ELCIC National Church Council and the Anglican Church of Canada Council of General Synod. I have no idea whether or not in-person worship will be a possibility for us by the time you read these words in early August.

My spiritual life has been sustained by prayers and worship that are both private and public. In private prayer I feel an intimate and close relationship with God, much like a child to a parent. When I pray and worship in public, I come to God as part of a community, the communion of saints both here and beyond. I am but one voice in the timeless prayer of the ages! Both are enriching but in very different ways. I need them both.

Here's the thing. I was not surprised to find that my private prayer life has been enriched during these months of lock-down and physical distancing. I expected and hoped that might be the case. Where I have been surprised, however, is by the ways that public prayer and worship, have not only been possible, but perhaps even enriched and enhanced during these strange days where we cannot physically congregate as church.

It has been an absolute delight to share in prayer and worship with so many of our congregations, pastors and deacons over these months. Those experiences have all been mediated in some form; some high tech and others low tech. I've experienced livestreams, pre-recorded video, audio feeds, printed prayers and sermons; I've worshiped and prayed with individuals over the telephone. These experiences are surely not the same as coming together to pray and worship "in-

person” with flesh and blood brothers and sisters. But they are certainly “real” experiences of communal prayer and worship. They are not “virtual” as the word is often used; as being somehow fake or less than authentic. They are very real, very authentic; albeit mediated in some form.

By most accounts, and I have been checking in with our rostered leaders regularly throughout this time of pandemic, we are connecting with more people, and in more ways, than was the case before the down. More people are gathering and connecting for worship, bible study, prayer, conversation and fellowship. Bishop Susan’s call to prayer has surely been answered within the life of our church, but in ways that none of us would have ever imagined when it was issued. Whenever we get back to what we once considered “normal” – and we now know that it will be anything but normal – we must continue to practice and build upon all that we have learned. In the midst of circumstances that are simply awful, we have received precious gifts from the Spirit. We dare not squander them

**This article appeared in the Canada Lutheran July/August Issue in Bishop Susan Johnson's** Our Bishop - July 2020

The Freedom That Comes From Generosity

I know it is unusual, but I grew up in a family that talked about money. Well, not all money — we never discussed salaries. But my grandparents and my parents were always comfortable talking about giving money back to God through the church and church related agencies.

When I was little, I remember hearing my Grandpa Stolee talk about being a tither. Although at first, I thought he was telling me he was a tiger.

A tithe is to return 10 percent of income to God. By the time he died, Grandpa was giving 40 percent!

When we visited their home some of the kids’ books they had included a book called *Tommy has a Quarter*, written by my Mom’s cousin Jim Kerr and published by Augsburg Fortress. The book followed Tommy learning how to use his money including sharing a portion of it with the church.

I remember watching my mom write the cheque for the offering every Sunday and we were allowed to see the amount. I also remember my dad telling me about how he had been challenged about his stewardship in a temple talk and then deciding to tithe his salary to the church. Later in life Dad would complain that it was hard to keep ahead of the tithe because the government kept on giving him tax dollars back due to his charitable giving.

I’m glad I was raised by tithers. I know it has become much more difficult for people to talk about money both in and outside of the church. The statistics we have show that ELCIC members give about two percent of their income to the church.

That means that some give more, and some give less. We also know that the average amount of debt for Canadians continues to rise. I have heard that the number of stewardship committees, requests for people to pledge the amount

they will give in offerings, and sermons about giving are all less than what they used to be.

You may be thinking, "She has a vested interest because her salary is paid by the church." I think many clergy struggle with this but my real concern is for everyone's spiritual health.

If we profess the importance of love for God in our lives but don't "put our money where our mouth is" what does it say about what is most important in our lives? I have found that by being a generous giver a weight has come off my shoulders. Although I still occasionally suffer a little jealousy and want to "keep up with the Joneses," remaining a generous giver helps to keep my life in balance.

It wasn't always that way. When I first started to earn my own money, I certainly didn't tithe it. I didn't always regularly give offering. And then, in a stewardship presentation at my church I was challenged to figure out what my annual offering to the church was. I was asked to figure it out as a percentage of my salary. And I was asked to work towards increasing it a little bit each year. While it took a few years to hit tithing on my net income and a few more to hit tithing on my gross income—I did.

At a time when I was much younger, without much money, I took out an insurance policy and designated it to a part of the church. Those monthly payments have been tax deductible for years. I have put our church in my will, making it an equal beneficiary to my other heirs. And I am always evaluating my giving and checking it against a percentage of my income.

God knows I'm not perfect. And I'm not bragging. I just want you to know the freedom that comes with generosity. The Lord does provide!

You may never be able to give 10 percent of your income, but like me, you can make a conscious effort to start small and see where God takes you. Blessings to you in your generosity.

*National Bishop Susan Johnson*

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada*



### **Student House Update**

September 1 will see the Student house fully occupied by four male Trent Students. They are all responsible young adults who are pleasant to interact with. Einstein and David A. started renting with us last year. Rakib moved in at the beginning of May and Felix will be moving in on September 1. If anyone knows of an affordable and energy efficient fridge/freezer, it would be a welcome addition to the house, as the boys are cooking at home these days and, trying to be cost-effective in their shopping.

The Student House Team,  
Scott, Al, Marlys, Johanna



**Living our Faith: Read: Bible Book Club**

**You are invited to a year of reading the Bible!**

Beginning this September, ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson is inviting us to consider forming a Bible Book Club with other members of your church, your friends, family or others from your community as a way to study scripture and discuss the Bible together.

Each month we will focus together on a different book of the Bible. Our first month, September, will have us reading the book of Genesis.

Form your Bible Book Club, read the appointed book, use the introduction taken from the Lutheran Study Bible, download the prepared questions and join in the discussion.

- [Watch the Bible Book Club introductory video from Bishop Susan Johnson here.](#)

<https://m.youtube.com/watcht=14s&v=Vu1qKoPfht4>

**We will gather Thursday September 24 at 630pm via zoom to begin.**

**This study is in addition to our regular Tuesday morning Study.**

**If you are interested, please email Pastor Scott.**



**Growing  
in CHRIST**

**Bible Study** will resume on Tuesday September 8 at 10 am Evening at 6:30 pm as a Zoom meeting.



No date set and will keep you posted.



**SLICE & DICE - FOOD FOR KIDS**

No date set and will keep you posted.



**Men's fellowship MEN'S CLUB** No date set and will keep you posted.



No date set and will keep you posted.



**KAWARTHA FOOD BANK SUNDAY**

On Sunday September 20th we will be having a Kawartha Food Bank Sunday, please bring along a food item. Thanks!



**PARISH OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

One Roof Community Centre dinner set for November. We will keep posted to changes closer to the date.

*Christmas*



**CHRISTMAS TEAROOM & BAKE/CRAFT BAZAAR**

We have cancelled this event this year and look forward to November 2021.



**Team COVID-19 update**

**Return to Service Guidelines**

We strive to make the return to service safe. Here is what we are doing to prepare, and the protocol you can expect to see during services.

The government is limiting indoor gatherings to 50 persons. There will be 2-metre social distancing and wearing a mask during our services. Both are mandatory.

**Preparation for Meeting**

We have engaged the services of Cintas to provide our cleaning and sanitizing supplies. Before the first service, and following subsequent services, the church, top and bottom, will undergo a thorough cleaning and sanitization of all horizontal and frequently touched surfaces.

**When you arrive**

1. Review the COVID-19 sign at the entrance door when you arrive and take the appropriate action. Refer to the Stop – COVID 19 Poster.
2. Greeters and Ushers
  - a. You will find a greeter at each of Parking Lot entrance door and Highland Road Entrance door to:

- i. Confirm you have read the STOP COVID questions and can answer “no” to all questions
  - ii. Confirm the entry, assembly and exit procedure with you
  - iii. Control entry and exit of the members to maintain social distancing
  - iv. Ensure you have a mask – masks are mandatory. We encourage you to bring your own mask, but masks are available at the church.
  - v. Sanitize your hands. A sanitization station is available at each entrance doors and the chancel.
- b. There will be a greeter at the entrance of sanctuary to take attendance, confirm seating procedure, and manage the social distancing.
  - c. Ushers will help you with the seating arrangements, control entry and exit, and communion, to maintain social distancing.

### 3. Seating

- a. Some pews are closed to maintain distancing.
- b. Seating in the open pews is limited to one member / family at each end of the open pew.
- c. There will be overflow seating in the basement, if necessary.

### 4. Worship

- a. Hymnals will be removed from the pews. The service handout will be in the pew for each service, including liturgy and hymns.
- b. The pastor and assistants will wear masks. Masks will be removed for reading, singing by the soloist, service, and liturgy. Being in the chancel, these persons will be socially distanced from the congregation.
- c. There will be no singing by the congregation. Instead, hymns will be sung by the soloist from the front of the church. Members can read or hum along with masks in place.
  - i. An offering plate will be in the Narthex at the end of service. Offerings can be deposited by members as they leave the service

### d. Communion

- ii. No wine will be served.
  - iii. Pastor will distribute the Bread (pita bread) with tongs. The bread will be cut into pieces prior to service using good kitchen food-handling procedures (including wearing gloves)
  - iv. Ushers will direct members to altar pew-by-pew / family-by-family maintaining social distancing.
- e. The services will continue to be available on-line.

### 5. Other considerations

- a. Members will enter and go directly to seating. Please no handshaking or visiting.
- b. No access to basement – except for overflow seating or washrooms.
- c. No social gathering before service, after service, inside or outside the church.



**READERS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS, ALTAR CARE &**

**USHERS TRAINING** On Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm there will be training for Altar care, readers, communion assistants & usher volunteers. Please wear a mask and we will be social distancing.



Zoom meeting starting Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> 1 pm



# September 2020

		1 Altar Care, Ushers, assistants meet 6:30 pm at church	2	3	4	5 Church cleaning
6 <b>Worship 10 am Virtual worship</b>	7 Labour Day Holiday	8 Bible Study 10 am Zoom mtg	9	10 Coffee time 1 pm Zoom mtg	11	12
13 <b>Worship 10 am Virtual worship</b>	14	15 Bible Study 10 am Zoom mtg	16	17 Coffee time 1 pm Zoom mtg	18	19
20 <b>Worship 10 am Virtual worship</b>	21	22 Bible Study 10 am Zoom mtg	23	24 Coffee time 1 pm Zoom mtg	25	26
27 <b>Worship 10 am Virtual worship</b>	28	29 Bible Study 10 am Zoom mtg	30	Oct. 1 Coffee time 1 pm Zoom mtg	Oct. 2	Oct. 3