
BETHESDA BANNER

February 2021

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 1



Annual Congregational Meeting

Rev. Roy Thakurdyal

Bethesda will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting on March 21 AT 1.00 pm. It will be a virtual meeting held on Zoom. The link to join the meeting will be sent to members in due course. Members are strongly encouraged to join the meeting not only because having a quorum to convene is still necessary but also because your input is important.

The bulletin of reports will be emailed to members well in advance of the meeting. Members are urged to read the reports ahead of the meeting. If you have questions on the reports you are asked to submit them to the office before the meeting. The questions will be forwarded to the relevant authors of the reports. This process will facilitate efficient use of time and speedy expediting of the meeting. Questions may still be asked on the day of the

meeting. Toward the end of getting the bullet of report to members early all leaders of committees, ministries and groups are requested to submit their reports to the office by February 15.

There will be three vacancies on Council to be filled at the meeting. Already two nominations have been accepted. Members are asked to submit nominations for all three vacancies. Seconders to the nominations must be submitted along with the nominations. If you are unable to get a seconder to your nomination this could be done at the meeting on March 21. ■

Ash Wednesday Service

Bethesda will not be recording a service for Ash Wednesday. In place of our service, we will join a synod-wide service which will be conducted by the synod. Information on the link and time of the service will be sent to members as soon as they become
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available. This would be a great opportunity for the whole synod to gather in worship. This service will lead us into the Lent season.

Many of us will miss the solemnity of having the ash placed on our foreheads. This symbolic act reminds us in a powerful way of our mortality. Reminded of our mortality we look to Easter which is God's victory over death and the grave. In this event we have the promise of eternal life. So as the ash is placed on our foreheads in the shape of a cross not only are we reminded of our mortality but we are also reminded of God's gift of eternal life. ■

Worship and Music Update

Dave Smith, Chairman

Worship Update

As you know, with the current pandemic lockdown and restrictions we had to discontinue in-person worship just before Christmas. We will continue to provide pre-recorded worship services on the church Facebook page and website until it is safe to resume in-person services in the church. We thank the worship team that has been involved in recording these services: Pastor Roy

and Dave Smith as worship leaders, Alice Thakurdial as the video camera operator, video editor, and PPT creator, Eric Smith, John Hendrickson, and Adrian Nowaskey as the projection operators, Erich Lattner, Dave Smith and Pastor Roy as the hymn singers, Alice as the hymn recorder, and Wilhelm Von Seefried as the bell ringer. We also thank Pastor Roy for recently beginning to include a children's message in the worship video. The committee has decided to try to get more people, including the youth, involved in the service so you will see others read the bible lesson and special musical items included. We thank Brian Kang for playing Silent Night on guitar for one of the Christmas services. If you would like to read a bible lesson or provide a musical item, please contact Pastor Roy.

Upcoming Worship

The season of Epiphany continues for the first two Sundays in February. Sunday February 14 is Transfiguration Sunday, when we celebrate the transfiguration of our Lord on the mountain.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. Bethesda will not have an Ash Wednesday service this year.

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Instead we will join other congregations of the Eastern Synod in worshiping virtually together in a Synod wide service of word and imposition of ash at 6:30 PM on February 17, led by Bishop Michael Pryse and his assistants. A link to the service will be emailed to the congregation and posted on the church website.

February 21st is the first Sunday of Lent. During Lent we will use the Setting 4 Liturgy and Lenten Gospel Acclamation. Lent continues until Palm Sunday, March 28.

Worship Recording Equipment

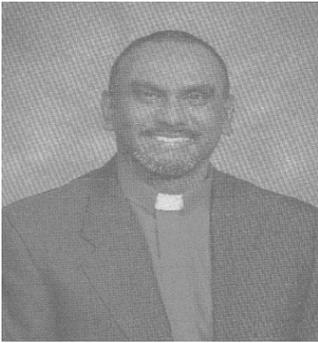
As was previously reported, Church Council has approved the Worship and Music Committee's recommendation to purchase recording equipment, including a new laptop computer to be used by the secretary to prepare the worship resources and produce the worship videos. The committee is currently evaluating quotes for systems and plans to decide on a system in the coming weeks that it will present to Council for their approval.

The next Worship and Music Committee meeting is February 9 at 7:30 PM. ■

Offering Envelopes

Recycle and save the planet. Recycle and save on spending.

Members' envelopes were placed in their mailboxes in the church. The prevailing situation of no in person worship and Covid 19 advisory to remain at home as much as possible militate against members collecting their envelopes. In the absence of in person worship members have been giving their offerings once per month. It is expected that this trend will hold for the duration of the first half of 2021. This means that members will have excess envelopes from 2020. The same will hold for 2021. Members are kindly asked not to discard their excess envelopes. Please use them by just changing the date. This will help the church to cut down on expenditure in a time that is financially challenging. Your cooperation in this would save the church from having to buy envelopes for 2021. ■



Blessings of Lent

From Pastor Roy

Perhaps no other season in the church's liturgical calendar offers opportunities for spiritual reflection as LENT does. The joyous Alleluias of Christmas and Easter are more conducive to a spirit of celebration than reflection though the two are not by any means mutually exclusive. Pentecost Day brings its own excitement with sounds of mighty rushing wind and tongues of flames and the birth of church. Lent comes with its sombre notes and subdued moods which beckon us into a contemplative mood.

In our Lenten spiritual journey we follow Jesus from the wilderness of temptation to the hill of Golgotha. Between these two places we see him teaching the multitudes on the mountain, in the synagogues on the Sabbath; we behold his compassion and love as he heals the sick and forgives sinners; we marvel at his power over creation and the evil one in miracles and exorcisms; we witness as he eats and drinks with outcasts and celebrate at a wedding in Cana, and finally we behold the spectacle of him hanging in agony on a cross dying for our sin-dying in our place.

A spiritual pilgrimage during Lent contemplating on the life, suffering and death of our Lord can offer the benefits of renewal of life, rejuvenation of faith, and a reawakening of spirit dulled by indifference, preoccupation with the things of the world and neglect of the "the one thing that is needful"(Luke 10:41 – 42). Sometimes we allow the cares of life to separate us from our walk with God. It happen that peoples' faith become weak and their religion meaningless and boring. In such cases even the joyous strains of the alleluias of Christmas and Easter feel empty and incapable of evoking any excitement. For those who find themselves under these threats to their Christian walk, Lent can be for them a time for rediscovering a vital faith in God and a warm relationship with Him. For those who do not face these threats Lent will be another welcomed opportunity to experience the spiritual benefits that Lenten disciplines bring.

Christians would do well to embrace Lent in the spirit and mood of contemplation. Here is an opportunity to find again the excitement of Christian discipleship. Use this Lenten season to reflect on your life in Christ. May you emerge from this season renewed, refreshed and rejuvenated in faith, spiritual life and in your walk with God. ■

Chairman's Report

Dave Smith

The second wave of the pandemic seems to be subsiding as I write this. We hope it continues to subside and with vaccines being administered we have hope for a better future in 2021. We thank Pastor Roy and Alice, the rest of the Worship and Music Committee, and their worship team for their ministry of providing worship videos for us during this time of lockdown and stay at home orders. We thank Pastor Roy and Alice for including a children's message and activity sheets in the worship videos. We again thank Pat Neuman for organizing the Sunday evening virtual coffee hours every other week so we can get together virtually and have some fellowship that we sorely miss. We invite you to join us if you are able. We thank Pastor Roy for continuing to contact members and Alice for sending out birthday greetings, but we encourage all members to continue reaching out by phone, email or social media to each other to catch up and support each other during these times of restrictions and isolation.

The Council has decided to have a virtual Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 21 at 1:00 PM. The 2020 Annual Report will be sent out via email and paper copies will be delivered to those that do not have email. Please note committee reports are due to the church office by February 15. Please review the annual report early and send your questions to the office email

address so they can be addressed at the meeting.

Church Council has approved the Worship and Music Committee's recommendation to purchase video recording equipment to record Bethesda's worship services so they can be posted on the church Facebook page and website. Following the end of the pandemic when we are able to worship normally again, Council feels it will be part of Bethesda's ministry to continue to offer an online ministry to the congregation and the wider community. Bethesda has received a small grant from Synod to cover some of the cost but we invite members of the congregation to be partners in this project by making a donation towards the cost of this equipment.

We thank all those members who continue to support the church and its ministry with your offerings. With your donations and the wage subsidy from the federal government we were able to finish the year with a smaller deficit than expected. In the spirit of reducing expenses and being environmentally friendly the Council has decided not to order offering envelopes for 2022. Some members do not use all of their allotted envelopes and others do not use many at all. We ask that you please save unused envelopes from this coming and previous years and either reuse them in future years or return them to the church so we have a supply on hand for visitors and members that
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forget to bring their envelope to church. Another option to using envelopes for your offering is to consider signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) Information about PAR can be found on the church website or by calling the church.

With vaccinations starting and continuing in the months to come there is light at the end of the tunnel. Let's all continue to follow the public health recommendations to stay safe and we'll get through this pandemic together.

Take care and God bless. ■

Dave Smith
Council Chairperson
905-472-5598

Something to Laugh

The Lord is My Shepherd

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her 2nd grade class memorize Psalm 23, one of the most quoted passages in the Bible. She gave the children a month to learn the chapter.

One little boy was excited about the task, but he just couldn't memorize the Psalm. Although he practiced and practiced, he could hardly get past the first line. The day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the congregation. The little boy was nervous. When his turn came, he stepped up to the microphone and proudly said, "The Lord is my Shepherd and that's all I need to know!"

I Come According to Your Command

Heavenly Father, dearest God, I am an unworthy, poor sinner, not worthy to lift my eyes or hands to you or to pray. But since you have commanded us all to pray, and since you have promised to hear, and since you have taught us by word and example through your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, I come to you, according to your command, obedient to you, and relying on your gracious promise, and in the name of my Lord Jesus Christ, with all your holy Christians on earth, I pray as he has taught me:

Our Father...

Source: Martin Luther,
in *Die Gebete Luthers*, #135.

Original in German:

Ach himmlischer Vatter, du lieber Gott,
ich bin eynunwürdiger, armer Sünder,
nichtwerth, das ich
meine augen oder hende gegen dir auffhebe
oder bette. Aber weil du
uns allengebotten hast zu betten und
darzu auch erhörung verheissen und
über 1 dasselbe uns beyde wort und
weise gelehret durch deinen lieben Son,
unsern Herren Jesum Christ, so komme
ich auff solch dein Gebott, dir gehorsam zu
sein, und
verlasse mich auff deine gnädige verheissung,
und im Namen meines Herrn Jesu Christi
bette ich mit all den heiligen Christen
auff Erden, wie er mich gelehret hat:

Treasurer's Report

Kim McKenney

For the Twelve Months Ended December 31, 2020

	December		Year to Date		Approved
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Full Year Budget</u>
<u>Operating Results:</u>					
Recurring Receipts (1)	\$14,265	\$15,518	\$93,152	\$127,771	\$130,300
Expenses (2)	10,865	9,641	125,322	135,369	141,700
Wage Subsidy	<u>(2,160)</u>		<u>(29,998)</u>		<u>141,700</u>
Operating Position before below	<u>\$1,240</u>	<u>\$5,877</u>	<u>(\$2,172)</u>	<u>(\$7,598)</u>	<u>(\$11,400)</u>
One-time Memorial Donations	-	-	400	1,000	-
Net Operating Position after above	<u>\$1,240</u>	<u>\$5,877</u>	<u>(\$1,772)</u>	<u>(\$6,598)</u>	<u>(\$11,400)</u>
Net Other Receipts - Sharecroppers (3)	<u>(\$7,685)</u>	<u>(\$18,294)</u>	<u>(\$40)</u>	<u>(\$2,360)</u>	
<u>Capital Items:</u>					
Receipts (4)	\$885	\$3,203	\$25,778	\$26,929	
less: Capital Expenditures		<u>(1,261)</u>	<u>(7,801)</u>	<u>(22,441)</u>	
Net Capital Items	<u>\$885</u>	<u>\$1,942</u>	<u>\$17,977</u>	<u>\$4,488</u>	
Net Position	<u>(\$5,560)</u>	<u>(\$10,475)</u>	<u>\$16,165</u>	<u>(\$4,470)</u>	

* As tabled and approved at the Church Council Meeting January 21, 2021

Notes:

- (1) Donations in the month were only 8.1% below the December 2019 offerings due to the impact of COVID 19 reducing the number of offerings. The trend again qualifies the church for wage subsidy for the next two periods. FALL donations are were expected to similarly trend downwards as the pandemic continues.
- (2) **Excludes** the positive impact of the receipt of anticipated further wage subsidies of \$2,100
Includes the net impact of the annual Sharecropper's campaign and HST rebates previously reported.
- (3) Please note some members of the congregation are making regular **CAPITAL** committed offerings including memorial donations. An investment of short term available cash of \$6,000 with the ELFEC was made in September.
- (4) After accounting for ongoing projected commitments including contributions to the Synod -
Current Net Cash Available for Ongoing Operations (estimated) \$32,894

The "W" Upholstering & Interiors Ltd.

The Management of "W" Upholstering & Interiors Limited

Mr. Wilhelm von Seefried would like members to know that he is willing and available to help if there is a need for transportation or shopping.

Banner Contact

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