



# BETHESDA BANNER

## December 2020

### VOLUME 20 ISSUE 9

## *Christmas Services*

*Pastor Roy Thakurdial*

**B**arring a lock down by the authorities, Bethesda is planning to hold its traditional services on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. However, the services will be shaped by the current pandemic situation.

**P**lanning with the pandemic in mind and the limitations and restrictions it forces on us, the Worship and Music Committee plans to make the Christmas Eve service primarily one for the younger families of the congregation. The Christmas day service will be for the more mature members. However, this does not mean that a younger family cannot come to the Christmas day service if this is the only time available to them. By the same token, if a mature member can only come to the Christmas Eve service for some reason, then they may do so. However, members full co-operation is necessary to make these plans work with as little complications as possible.

**T**here is a limit to how many people we can have at the services. Members who wish to attend any of these services are kindly asked to register with the church office by December 20th. Please indicate which service you wish to attend by emailing or calling the office. It is very important for members to let us know that they are coming so that we do not go over the stipulated limit. Also, if a member indicated that they will be coming to any of the services but then cannot do so, please inform the office immediately so that space could be freed up for other people.

**T**he services will, of course, reflect our present pandemic reality. This means that there will be no

singing. The hymns will be pre-recorded and played at the appropriate points in the service. The readings for the Christmas Eve service will also be pre-recorded. Social distancing and wearing of masks are mandatory.

**T**he Worship and Music Committee is proposing a time option for the Christmas Eve service. The two options are either 4.00 pm or the traditional 7.00 pm time. We are seeking a feedback from our younger families who plan to attend the Christmas Eve service to indicate to us what might be the preferable time for the service. Please let us know asap. The final decision will be made based on the responses, or lack thereof.

**T**he Christmas day service will be at the usual 10.30 am. It will be a service of word and sacrament.

**T**hese are unusual times in which we are living. Notwithstanding all the strangeness imposed on us by the pandemic we are still trying to make life as normal as we possibly can. Worshipping at Christmas is one of the ways we can inject some normalcy into our Christmas celebrations, and indeed, life in general.

**T**he church is doing everything in its power to make worship as safe as possible. We will continue to do so as long as is necessary. ■



# Worship and Music Update

*Dave Smith, Chairman*

## In Person Worship

We continue to have worship in the church sanctuary Sunday mornings. The mandated and recommended COVID-19 protocols and procedures are being followed to keep everyone safe:

- Limiting attendance to 30% capacity
- Recording attendance for contact tracing
- Two meters distanced seating
- Requiring attendees to wear masks
- No singing
- Reduced corporate responses
- Limiting movement and close contact
  - In place “Sharing of the Peace”
  - Entry/exit/communion one household at a time,
  - Minister and assisting minister on opposite sides of altar
  - Contactless communion prepared and administered by Pastor Roy only
  - No after worship fellowship

If you plan to attend worship, we ask that you please register your intent by emailing or calling the church before Sunday morning to help us prepare the seating and other worship details. If you are feeling ill, or have had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, we ask that you please not attend worship.

The committee continues to refine and adjust the services based on feedback from the congregation and council. For example, we have reduced the number and length of the hymns to make the service shorter for those not comfortable wearing masks for long periods. We have also recently started to pre-record some of the hymns. We thank Erich Lattner, Dave Smith and Pastor Roy for lending their voices and Alice for doing the recording, all while being physically distanced and masked in the church. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions about in-person worship at the church please call

Pastor Roy or Dave Smith.

## Advent and Christmas Worship

The season of Advent continues for the first three Sundays in December. The blue paraments adorn the pulpit and altar. The candles on the Advent wreath are lit at the start of service as we await the birth of Jesus. During Advent we use the Setting 8 worship liturgy. This liturgy will be used until Ash Wednesday. We thank Marilyn Huehn for preparing the Advent wreath and Lorne Smith for providing the pine boughs used to make the wreath. We thank Carol Smith for preparing the pine bough swags on the exterior church doors.

We will hold our traditional **Christmas Eve Candlelight service of lessons and carols on Thursday, December 24**. We hope that younger families will attend so are asking if you would like to attend an earlier service at 4:00 PM or would prefer to attend at our traditional time of 7:00 PM. If you are planning to attend this service we ask that you please register your intent by December 20 by calling or emailing the church to facilitate planning and to let us know whether you prefer a 4:00 PM or 7:00 PM service. Based on the registration, if there is enough interest, we will hold a service at both times.

**Worship on Christmas Day will be at 10:30 AM** and will be a service of Word and Sacrament.

Please note there will be **no worship at Bethesda on Sunday, December 27**. We invite you to join other church’s online worship on that Sunday.

January 3 is the second Sunday of Christmas and Bethesda will have a service of Word and Sacrament.

## Worship Recording

We continue to record the worship services. They are posted to the church’s Facebook page and are accessible from the church’s website under Sermons. Church Council has approved the Worship and Music Committee’s

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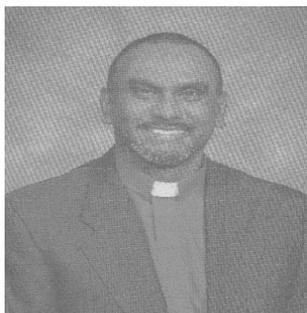
recommendation to purchase recording equipment. Currently we are borrowing equipment. We thank Pastor Roy and Alice for the use of their video camera and tripod and St. Paul for the use of their spotlights. The committee has applied for a Synod grant to cover some of the cost but we invite members of the congregation to be partners in this project by making a donation towards the cost of the equipment.

### **Thanks**

**We** thank Alice Thakurdial for preparing the worship presentation for each worship service and special video items for hymns and other special occasions like the National Anthem in honour of Remembrance Day.

**We** thank Eric Smith for playing and recording a trumpet fanfare that was used on Christ the King Sunday.

The next Worship and Music Committee meeting is January 12 at 7:30 PM. ■



## **Christmas Under A Cloud**

***From Pastor Roy***

**Against** all hope Christmas reaches us this year under a cloud caused by the Covid 19 pandemic. Back in the summer most of us hoped and expected that by Christmas the pandemic would have subsided to an extent that would have allowed us to celebrate Christmas with less rigid and strict restrictions. Alas, it is not so. We are paying a dear price of taking the virus lightly during the summer. The resurgence is frightening to most and damper on the Christmas celebrations for all. This Christmas will be devoid of the hectic shopping, busy preparations, social

gatherings and family reunions to which we are accustomed. Of course, the church is not exempted from the effects of the pandemic. Our Christmas Family Social and Christmas pageant are not possible. Christmas services are limited. Some might philosophically say, "Well, it is what it is." For others it is almost a disaster. As people of faith we trust God to lead us in these difficult times and into a new and better day. It will happen sooner rather than later.

**The** children of Israel waited for a long time for the coming of the promised Messiah. They did not give up hope no matter how dire their situation. In fact the worse their situation, the stronger their hope for the coming of the Messiah grew. In God's time God sent the Messiah, the Saviour of the world. He was born at a time when the people were under the yoke of oppressive Roman rule. To say that he was born under austere conditions would be to make an understatement. A stable was his home. His cradle a feeding stall, swaddling pieces of cloths were his baby clothes. Yet a choir of angels celebrated in songs of praise and shepherd rejoiced at his birth. Kings visited, paid him homage and presented him with gifts. It was a celebration of great proportion embracing heaven and earth, despite the hard circumstances surrounding the birth of the Christ child. This is the paradigm for our celebrations of Christmas.

**This** year the Covid 19 pandemic has curtailed our celebrations of Christmas. It cannot take away the reason why we celebrate. We celebrate the birth of the Saviour. We celebrate God coming among us to share our life and identify with our human conditions and struggles. So, let us look to the manger and see the reason for the season and thereby celebrate Christmas in the spirit of the season. ■

**A blessed and peaceful  
Christmas to all.**

# Council Report

*Dave Smith, Chairman*

**W**e all continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Being in the “second wave” now we all need to be vigilant, keep wearing our masks when indoors, practice physical distancing and reduce our contacts as much as possible. We may need to endure more restrictions over the coming weeks and months until vaccines are available. Unfortunately it looks like our Christmas celebrations this year will need to be curtailed. Large public and family gatherings are being cancelled or discouraged. This will affect our church celebrations and gatherings as well. We already had to cancel our annual fall events like the Corn Roast and Campfire, and the Sharecropper Dinner. We cannot have our traditional Christmas Social and Sunday School Pageant. We all miss the experience of fellowship and enjoying a meal together at these events but we need to keep congregation members safe.

**W**e thank Pat Neuman for organizing the Sunday evening virtual coffee hours. We will try to have them every other week to allow us to have some fellowship time with other church members. We thank Katarina Matthiessen for organizing virtual get-togethers for the youth to allow them to catch up and hang out. We thank Pastor Roy, Alice and rest of the Worship and Music Committee for continuing to offer in-person worship services and record and post them online so people who don't feel comfortable attending can participate in worship at home. We thank Pastor Roy for continuing to contact members but we encourage all members to reach out by phone, email or social media to each other to catch up and support each other during these times of restrictions and isolation.

**W**e thank all those members who continue to support the church with your offerings. It is

especially important at this time of year as we try to balance the books for the church's fiscal year end on December 31. If you do not feel comfortable attending worship but are willing and able to support the church, you can mail or drop off your offerings at the church or sign up for monthly PAR giving. Information about PAR can be found on the church website or by calling the church.

**O**n behalf of Church Council I would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. 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

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## Christmas Gifts

**I**t has become a tradition at Bethesda that we give gifts to our children at Christmas time. The gifts have been generally Christmas tree decorations. The intent behind the nature of the gifts is to allow our children to develop a collection of these decorations which will become a part of their memory and experience of Christmases when they grow up. They can also have them for when they become people with their own families, to put on their Christmas trees. Despite the COVID19 pandemic and our not having a Christmas social this year we shall still hold to this tradition.

**W**e wish to thank Wilhelm von Seefried and Benjamin Liang for making this meaning gesture possible over the years. We wish to also Bonnie Hendrickson for taking the responsibility to purchase the gifts and wrapping them.

**S**ince there is no Christmas family social this year, when we usually give the gifts, we have to find a way for this to happen. Some members have kindly volunteered to distribute the gifts. We extend our thanks to them as well. ■

## Sharecropper Project

*Lorne Smith*

November is the month we normally host a dinner in support of our Sharecropper Project for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Arthur has completed the growing project and reports an excellent crop of good quality wheat. We have not yet received information on the returns.

This year has been particularly difficult for people in many parts of the world. We in Canada have had no difficulty in purchasing food for our families. In spite of COVID-19 we have access to unlimited food from around the world in our grocery stores. For many in the World, the pandemic has destroyed their already fragile food chain. The World Food Programme warns that the millions of people facing the highest crisis levels of hunger could double due to COVID-19. 2020 could see the worst humanitarian crisis since the Second World War.

It is important to remember that all our donations to the Sharecropper project are matched by the Government of Canada 4:1 so every dollar donated by our congregation becomes \$5 of support to those in need around the world. Canadian Lutheran World Relief as a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank is involved in the distribution of our

Sharecropper donation.

We hope all members and friends will take this opportunity to make a generous personal donation to our Sharecropper Project before the end of the year. Cash or a cheque (made out to Bethesda Lutheran Church) can be included in your weekly offering envelope indicating it is for our Sharecropper Project. This is the major annual outreach of our Bethesda Congregation. ■

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## Thank You

We acknowledge with thanks the following persons:-

- Marilyn & Thomas Huehn for decorating the Christmas tree as well as making the Advent wreath.
- Dave Smith for putting up the Christmas tree with the assistance of Alice and Pastor Roy.
- John Keiper, John and Bonnie Hendrickson with the help of Pastor Roy for stringing the lights on the Christmas tree outside and putting out the nativity scene (crèche).
- Carol Smith for making and placing the swags on the church doors.
- A big thank you to our Chairman, Dave Smith for providing leadership in these difficult times.

# Recipe for Therapy

Alice Thakurdyal

I really love baking. Baking makes me relax a lot. It is a good therapy. I wish I can bake every day. I really enjoy baking anything that has to do with flour. **I also find reading the bible, the word of God, calms my spirit. Jesus says, "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35). He knows that we need physical bread. He fed the people bread. And I love baking bread.**

There are other things people can do with the time available to them. For example, some people find that reading is therapeutic for them. Others turn gardening as a way to escape the stresses of everyday life. Still others find their relaxation in sports, exercising, watching movies, leaning new things on the internet, experimenting with new recipes. But baking is my go-to for relaxation when I feel a little under the weather.

Sooooooooo I encourage you to start by baking some doughnuts.

Here is a recipe for baking yeast doughnuts. ■

## BAKED YEAST DOUGHNUTS

Yield : 10 doughnut



2 cup all purpose flour  
50 g melted butter  
1.5 tsp instant yeast  
1/2 cup evaporated milk

1/4 cup hot water  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1/2 tsp salt

## COATING

1/4 cup melted butter  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 tsp cinnamon

## METHOD

Combine melted butter, milk and hot water in a small bowl.

Mix together flour, yeast, sugar and salt in a mixing bowl.

Add milk mixture to the fry ingredients, forms into soft dough.

Knead by hand on floured board for 8 minutes until smooth,

Transfer into covered and oiled bowl, let rise until doubled for 1.5 hours.

Punch down dough, roll out about 1/8 in thick. Cut out into round using 2 in cookie cutter or use doughnut cutter if you have.

Using small cutter to make a hole. Transfer doughnut onto baking sheet.

Let the dough sit for 45 minutes. Towards the end of rising time, preheat oven @ 190 C.

Combine sugar and cinnamon for coating.

Bake 10-15 minutes until golden brown.

Remove from the oven, brush with melted butter and roll in cinnamon sugar.

## Cool on rack.

Recipe Posted by [Treat and Trick](#)

# Treasurer's Report

Kim McKinney

For the Month Ended September 30, 2020 \*

					Prorated	Approved
	September		Year to Date		Monthly	Full Year
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b><u>Operating Results:</u></b>						
Recurring Receipts (1)	\$3,039	\$12,266	\$66,857	\$92,347	\$97,725	\$130,300
Expenses (2)	<u>11,123</u>	<u>12,768</u>	<u>77,168</u>	<u>102,410</u>	<u>106,275</u>	<u>141,700</u>
Operating Position before below	<u>(\$8,084)</u>	<u>(\$502)</u>	<u>(\$10,311)</u>	<u>(\$10,063)</u>	<u>(\$8,550)</u>	<u>(\$11,400)</u>
One-time Memorial Donations	-	-	400	600	-	-
<b>Net Operating Position after above</b>	<u>(\$8,084)</u>	<u>(\$502)</u>	<u>(\$9,911)</u>	<u>(\$9,463)</u>	<u>(\$8,550)</u>	<u>(\$11,400)</u>
<b>Net Other Receipts - Sharecroppers (3)</b>	<u>\$251</u>	<u>\$995</u>	<u>\$2,985</u>	<u>(\$2,088)</u>		
<b><u>Capital Items:</u></b>						
Receipts (4)	\$885	\$13,833	\$24,743	\$19,381		
less: Capital Expenditures	<u>(6,000)</u>	<u>(472)</u>	<u>(6,000)</u>	<u>(19,568)</u>		
<b>Net Capital Items</b>	<u>(\$5,115)</u>	<u>\$13,361</u>	<u>\$18,743</u>	<u>(\$187)</u>		
<b>Net Position</b>	<u>(\$12,948)</u>	<u>\$13,853</u>	<u>\$11,817</u>	<u>(\$11,739)</u>		

\* As tabled and approved at the Church Council Meeting October 23, 2020

**Notes:**

- (1) Donations in the month were 75.5% below the September 2019 offerings due to the impact of COVID 19 reducing the number of offerings. The trend qualifies the church for wage subsidies of 65% of salaries.
- (2) FALL donations are were expected to similarly trend downwards as the pandemic continues. **Excludes** the positive impact of the receipt of anticipated wage subsidies (net \$6,776) from August and September received October 12. A Synod benevolence donations of \$6,000 was made in September.
- (3) Includes the net impact of the annual Sharecropper's campaign and HST rebates previously reported.
- (4) 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.
- (5) After accounting for ongoing projected commitments including contributions to the Synod -  
Current Net Cash Available for Ongoing Operations (estimated) \$19,578

# **The "W" Upholstering & Interiors Ltd.**

## **The Management of "W" Upholstering & Interiors Limited**

**wishes to encourage everyone to  
stay safe**

**by observing all the advisories  
and protocols for dealing with the  
COVID 19 Pandemic.**

### **Banner Contact**

**Bethesda Evangelical Lutheran Church - Unionville**

20 Union Street, Markham ON L3R 2H5

**Phone :** 905 - 477-1731  
**Email:** [office@bethesdalutheranchurch.ca](mailto:office@bethesdalutheranchurch.ca)  
**Website:** [www.bethesdalutheranchurch.ca](http://www.bethesdalutheranchurch.ca)  
**Facebook:** [bethesdalutheranchurchunionville](https://www.facebook.com/bethesdalutheranchurchunionville)