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# BETHESDA BANNER

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**Special Edition**  
**July/August 2022**

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## **ELCIC Convention**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada(ELCIC) held its national convention on July 15-16. Initially, it was planned to be an inperson convention in Saskatchewan. Subsequently, it was decided by the planning committee to hold it virtually, because of covid. There will be an in person version in 2023.

The convention was convened under the theme, “Let There Be Greening.” The opening service and convention werelive-streamed. There were elections for officers and members to the National Church Council(NCC). The following persons were elected as officers; ViceChair- Bruce Cook, Secretary- Linda Grainger, Treasurer-Gene Blishen.

Pastor Roy was selected by the synod as one of its rostered representatives. The synod chooses its representatives to the national convention. I ■

## **Summer Fellowship**

After a more than two-year hiatus, Bethesda has resumed its fellowship time after service. Thus far the response has been very good. As in past years, we will hold our fellowship during the summer months of July and August, outdoors. The offerings for the outdoor fellowship will be simple; cold drinks and light snacks. Thanks to volunteers to host the fellowship, all the Sundays are taken care of. Please note that on August 7th and 28th the fellowship will be in the form of barbecues. We wish to thank those families who volunteered to provide snacks and host the fellowship. ■

## **Ecumenical Engagements**

During the summer months of July and August, Bethesda will be having an ecumenical engagements with other congregations. These engagements will be in the forms of joint services and barbecues. For several years now, Bethesda and Central United Church have been holding joint services in the summer. This year Bethesda will join Central United for worship on July 24th at 10:00 AM. The following week Central United will join Bethesda for worship at 10:30 AM at Bethesda. Members are asked to note that there will therefore be no service at Bethesda on July 24th.

The other Ecumenical engagements involve Bethesda and its sister congregation, St. Paul Lutheran Church. On August 7 the two congregations will hold a joint service of word and sacrament. After the service, there will be a barbeque. The barbecue will be sponsored by Wilhelm and Roswitha Seefried. Members are not required to bring anything in terms of food.

On August 28th, there will be another joint service between Saint Paul and Bethesda. Again, this service will be followed by a barbeque. This time Saint Paul will be hosting the barbeque.

Members are reminded to bring along their own lawn chairs to both barbecues.

It has been more than two years since we have been able to gather in social settings as a congregation. The barbecues afford us an opportunity to gather and enjoy ourselves after a long period of not being able to socialize.

We encourage members to come out and let's have a wonderful time together Worshipping and fellowshiping.

As the time for these events draws closer we will be in touch with you by e-mail to give you more detail as necessary. ■

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## **Outdoor Service**

Bethesda held an outdoor service on July 10th at the Schickedanz farm on Warden Avenue. The Worship and the Music Committee decided to have an outdoor service in the summer time so that people who are a little skeptical of gathering indoors, may have an opportunity to gather for worship. It was a wonderful service. The weather was great. After the service members were taken on a tour to see four foals in the field. Following the tour we had a wonderful time socializing. All in all, it was a very good day. ■

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# **Worship & Music Committee**

*Chairman – David Smith*

## **Upcoming Worship**

**We** continue with the season of Pentecost during the summer and fall.

**On** Sunday, July 10 we worshipped outdoors at the Schickedanz farm on Warden Avenue just north of Major MacKenzie Drive. It was a service of Word and Sacrament and we were blessed with beautiful weather. A light lunch followed the worship service. We thank Charlotte, Tom, Caroline and Adrian for hosting us in their backyard and providing the lunch.

**We** will have our annual joint worship with our neighbours Central United Church. On Sunday, July 24 at 10:00 AM we worship at Central at 131 Main St. Unionville and then on Sunday, July 31 we host members of Central at 10:30 AM. The service at Central United will be live streamed. Please see their website:<https://centralunitedchurch.com/> for the streaming link. Please note there will be no worship at Bethesda on July 24.

**Pastor** Roy and Alice will be on vacation from August 1 to September 10. During this time we

will continue to have worship at Bethesda. Sunday August 7 and 28 will be joint worship with St. Paul. A BBQ will follow each service, the first one hosted by Bethesda and the second one hosted by St. Paul. For the other Sunday's worship will be lead by a member of the congregation. Holy Communion will be served on Sunday, August 7 and 28. Please note the worship services during August will not be recorded or posted online.

## **Summer Fellowship**

**During** July and August, fellowship following worship will be held outside on the church lawn, weather permitting. Lemonade or juice and snacks will be provided. We thank the families that have volunteered to host fellowship during the summer.

**The** next Worship and Music Committee meeting is September 13 at 7:30 PM. ■

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# Chairman's Report

*Dave Smith*

**A**lthough the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, it is starting to feel like life is getting back to somewhat normal. Restrictions have lifted. Most people have been fully vaccinated with many having a third and even a fourth vaccine shot. The virus is still circulating as some members of the congregation have caught it in recent months. We still need to be vigilant and isolate and test if we develop symptoms. Church activities like Bible Study and fellowship following worship have resumed. We thank Wilhelm and Roswitha Von Seefried for providing all the food and Ben Liang and Ruijie Kang for doing the grilling for our Spring BBQ in June. The Church Council will continue to monitor the situation and adjust church programs and activities accordingly to keep members safe.

**We** thank those members that completed the Congregational Survey. The responses will be consolidated and then reviewed and discussed by Church Council and the Worship and Music Committee over the summer. The feedback provided in the survey responses will be used to develop plans and activities for the congregational ministries. The results of these discussions will be shared with the congregation in the fall.

**O**ur church charity re-registration is still under final review by CRA. The church name change in our constitution document was accepted. We thank all that voted for this change and attended the recent congregational meeting to

have this change approved by the congregation in a timely manner. All required reports have been filed with CRA. We expect the CRA approval to happen in the next couple of months, barring any further issues raised in the review. We will notify the congregation immediately when the charity status is approved and mail the 2021 donation tax receipts to you.

**We** again thank you for continuing to support the church with your offerings during this pandemic. However, since the end of 2021 when the federal pandemic wage subsidy program changed, the church no longer qualifies to receive financial assistance from the government. As a result, along with continued reduced attendance at weekly worship services resulting in weekly offerings well below pre-pandemic levels, the church's operating account is being depleted. We ask all congregational members to prayerfully consider your church giving, especially over this summer period, to help the congregation get through this financially difficult time.

**If** you drive by the church during the week this summer you may notice more activity there. The church basement hall and kitchen will be rented to the Rooks to Cooks Cooking Camp for the summer. This same organization rented the facilities during the summer of 2019 but the camps were cancelled the last two summers because of the pandemic restrictions.

**P**astor Roy and Alice will be taking a well deserved vacation during the month of August until September 10. We wish *(continues on page 5)*

*(continued from page 4)*

them well during their holidays. In Pastor's absence, for urgent pastoral care, please contact Rev. Jun Gao at 416-832-9978. For all other urgent matters, please contact me, Dave Smith, at 905-472-5598.

On behalf of Council I would like to wish everyone a happy, relaxing, healthy and safe summer. ■

Take care and God bless,

Dave Smith  
Council Chairperson  
905-472-5598

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## **From Pastor Roy- Time To Reclaim Our Lives**

*Rev. Roy Thakurdyal*

The COVID-19 virus has been with us since September, 2019, though it was declared a pandemic only in March 2020. Ever since then our lives have not been the same. We were made prisoners in our own homes through mandated but necessary isolation. Our social life was drastically curtailed. We could not gather for worship, family reunions, weddings, funerals, celebrations of any kind. Working from home became the norm. In person gatherings were replaced by virtual ones. During this time a whole new way of life and living evolved involving social media and technology. It has been a long haul

and people are ready to return to, what they understand as, normal life. But we are not quite out of the woods yet. There is talk about rising cases of infection, increased hospitalization, another wave and booster shots. These and other expressions have become part of our daily lexicon since COVID-19 struck. They hang like a dark cloud over us.

The fact is, from all appearances, Covid will be with us for a long time to come. We may have to learn to live with it, just like with the common cold or flu. So, we will have to decide whether we will continue to be captive to COVID or to live our lives albeit, wisely. Because of preconditions such as compromised immune systems, ill health, chronic illnesses, some people are afraid to expose themselves to contracting the virus. This is very understandable. Fortunately, there are ways and means of living life without capitulating to fear or the virus itself. The first line of defense against the virus is the protocols that have been established. These, along with prudent actions on our part, would enable us to live our lives fully in a covid environment. The alternative is to live under siege; living in isolation and fear. It is time to reclaim our lives. ■

# **Rooks To Cooks Summer Camp**

The Rooks to Cooks organization is holding a summer camp using the church hall. The camp teaches children the art of cooking along with life's skill. The camp is held every weekday between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The camp will be for the duration of the months of July and August.

A few years ago, before COVID struck, the organization used Bethesda as one of their sites to hold their camp. Now, after two years and with COVID waning, the organization is holding their camp again. Holding this camp at Bethesda is another way the church utilizes its facilities for the benefit of the community. It is a win win situation for all parties. ■

# Treasurer's Report

For the Period Ended May 31, 2022

## Operating Results:

	May		Year to Date		Prorated Approved				
	2022	2021	2022	2021	Monthly Budget	Full Year Budget			
Recurring Receipts (1)	\$5,149	\$7,634	\$25,977	\$29,168	\$47,833	\$114,800	\$20,828	\$21,534	\$5
Expenses (2)	9,746	18,850	49,891	55,128	54,229	130,150	40,145	36,278	
Wage Subsidy	-	-	-	(8,711)	-	-	0	-8,711	
Operating Position before below	<u>(\$4,597)</u>	<u>(\$11,216)</u>	<u>(\$23,914)</u>	<u>(\$17,249)</u>	<u>(\$6,396)</u>	<u>(\$15,350)</u>	<u>(\$19,317)</u>	<u>(\$6,033)</u>	
One-time Memorial Donations	-	-	2,000	0	-	-	2,000	0	
Net Operating Position after above	<u>(\$4,597)</u>	<u>(\$11,216)</u>	<u>(\$21,914)</u>	<u>(\$17,249)</u>	<u>(\$6,396)</u>	<u>(\$15,350)</u>	<u>(\$17,317)</u>	<u>(\$6,033)</u>	
Net Other Receipts- Sharecroppers (3)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$54)			\$0	(\$55)	(\$4)\$2,735
Capital Items:									
Receipts (4)	\$75	\$324	\$8,167	\$6,949			\$8,092	\$6,625	
less: Capital Expenditures			-	(4,212)			0	(4,212)	
Net Capital Items	\$75	\$324	\$8,167	\$2,737			\$8,092	\$2,413	
Net Position	<u>(\$4,522)</u>	<u>(\$10,892)</u>	<u>(\$13,747)</u>	<u>(\$14,566)</u>			<u>(\$9,225)</u>	<u>(\$3,675)</u>	

\*As tabled and approved at the Church Council Meeting, June 23, 2022

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### May/June Outlook

#### Receipts-

May/June receipts were expected to grow as 'live' services continue and attendance increased. The

Congregation is encouraged to consider using the automatic donation process to make their contributions.

#### Expenses-

There were no unusual expenses incurred in May. For May Council delayed the donation (\$3,000) made to the

Synod in 2021 and the insurance premium payment (\$8,100) sent in May last year was mailed in June. The

church is no longer eligible for the wage subsidy program and as a result the funds received during COVID from

the program will not be available going forward to cover decreased donations. Council continues to manage

discretionary costs effectively.

### Notes:

- (1) YTD Donations are now falling behind the previous year but are expected to increase as COVID protocols are reduced and live worship continues. Ongoing donations are expected to trend upwards as church activities get back to normal.
- (2) Variable operating expenses continue to track slightly below budget as church activities come back to normal and partially offset the donations shortfalls. Increased costs versus 2021 for utilities, caretaking, secretarial fees and the organist are occurring as church activities ramp up.
- (3) Sharecroppers activity in the month and year to date in 2021; no similar 2022 activity.
- (4) Please note some members of the congregation are making regular CAPITAL committed offerings including
- (5) After accounting for ongoing projected commitments including annual contributions to the Synod- Current Net Cash Available for Ongoing Operations (estimated) \$760 Previous month was \$5,400

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

**905-475-7857**

## **The Management of "W" Upholstering**

**Wishes everyone well in these difficult days of the Covid 19 Pandemic. It encourages everyone to do the following:-**

**C**ontinue to stay safe.

**O**ffer your kindness always to others.

**V**ulnerable lives matter; think of these persons.

**I**nspire others to be responsible by example.

**D**istancing socially is very important.

## **Take care of yourselves.**