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# BETHESDA BANNER

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## October 2020

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### VOLUME 20 ISSUE 8

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### Resumption to In Person worship (RIPW)

*Pastor Roy Thakurdial*

Bethesda has returned to In Person Worship(IPW) in the church building on September 20. This is the first time since we closed in March, due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, that we worshipped in the building. In August we held two IPW services at the Schickedanz's residence on Warden Ave. We wish to thank Charlotte for making the space available for us to gather and worship.

Bethesda made careful preparation for the IPW. The Worship and Music Committee set up an ad-hoc committee to plan for the RIPW. The members of the committee are David Smith, John Hendrickson, Alice Thakurdial, John Keiper, Wilhelm von Seefried and Pastor Roy. The committee planned and implemented the plans to be in compliance with protocols and guidelines, as required by the Synod and the government. The committee's priority was and continues to be to create a safe environment in which people can feel comfortable to return to church. Members were informed by way of emails and telephone of the steps taken by the church for RIPW. They were also informed of what they are required to do on their parts to ensure a safe environment for all.

The attendances thus far were, as expected, small. There were fifteen and eleven people

respectively at the two services on September 20 and 27. Our maximum capacity to be in compliance is thirty-five. The church can safely hold that amount with chairs placed in the narthex. Members are required to register to attend the service by Friday of every week. However, if for any reason you could not have registered by Friday you may still email and call as late as Saturday evening, as there might still be space. If a member registers and cannot attend the service they are kindly asked to inform the church office. This would free up space for others who may wish to come. Registering is important not only to facilitate accommodating people desiring to worship, but also for contact tracing purpose. This is a requirement by the authorities.

Services will be held in the church every Sunday unless there is another lock down by the authorities. The services will still be recorded and posted on the church's face book page for those who cannot or do not feel it is safe enough for them to come.

As we navigate these challenging times Council is asking members to continue keeping in touch with each other, especially our members who seniors and are living alone. ■

# Worship and Music Update

*Dave Smith, Chairman*

## Return To Worship

We started worshipping in the church sanctuary again after six months on Sunday September 20. 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, we ask that you please not attend worship. If you have any questions or concerns about in-person

worship at the church please call Pastor Roy or Dave Smith.

## Upcoming Special Worship

On Thanksgiving Sunday, October 11, we give thanks for the bounty that God has provided in our fields and gardens and in our lives. The sanctuary will be decorated with produce from the harvest.

October 25 is Reformation Sunday. You are encouraged to wear red to celebrate the Reformation.

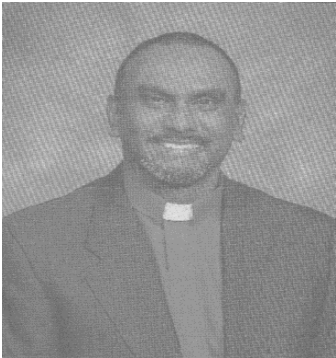
All Saints Day is Sunday, November 1. We will again have the opportunity to light a candle of remembrance for those loved ones that have passed away. Remember that Daylight Savings Time ends that weekend.

## Worship Recording

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

The next Worship and Music Committee meeting is November 3 at 7:30 PM. ■

## From Pastor Roy



### Sola Power of the Church

Every October we Lutherans find ourselves turning our minds to the event of 1517 which changed the course of history of the Church, and indeed of the world. The event to which I refer is, of course, the Reformation. Perhaps this is inevitable since the Lutheran Church finds its genesis in the events of the Reformation. Martin Luther, though not the only Reformer of the Church by any means, stood out as the Reformer of Reformers. It was his history-making and history-shaping act of nailing his ninety-five theses on the door of the church in Wittenburg on October 31, 1517 that set in motion the events that led to the Reformation of the church and commonly called the Protestant Reformation by some. The result of the Reformation is that it brought the Church back to what is central to the faith.

Distracted by the trappings of worldly power and preoccupied with material wealth the Church had lost sight of the

true faith in its apostolic teaching and beliefs and practices. The Reformation corrected this defect. The Reformation bought to the centre of the Church's life what can be called the FIVE SOLAS of the faith. They are Sola Scriptura (scriptura alone) Sola Fide (faith alone) Sola Gratia (grace alone) Sola Christus (Christ alone) and Soli Deo Gloria (to God alone is the glory). These SOLAS speak to the essence of what the Church teaches, believes and are at the core of its life and practices. Christians should seek to have more than just a passing knowledge of these important teachings and beliefs of the Church.

This October as we Lutherans reflect on the Reformation we could derive much benefits to our understanding of the faith and to our walk with God by reflecting on the five solas of the Reformation. They are, in a real way the sola power of our personal faith. This is not about Lutheranism or being a good Lutheran. It is about centering our lives in what are at the core of the faith and practice of Christianity. ■

## Council Report

*Dave Smith, Chairman*

It has been almost seven months since the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown and restrictions closed our church building and suspended church activities. We are grateful to Pastor Roy and Alice for starting to record worship devotions immediately after the lockdown occurred. Later on they were assisted by Roswitha and Wilhelm Von Seefried and others as the recorded services became more complete. We thank all those involved in providing online worship during this period. We thank Pat Neuman for organizing the Sunday morning virtual coffee hours we had during the summer that allowed us to have some fellowship time with other church members. We also appreciate Lorne Smith's updates and invitations to meet on his home deck or at the cemetery. If anyone else is interested in sharing updates with the congregation, please call or email Pastor Roy or myself. Since we have limited face to face contact with members now this is another way to fellowship with the congregation.

Early in June the Eastern Synod asked all congregations to suspend in-person worship until at least September. The Synod created a taskforce to provide guidance to congregations to prepare

for resuming in-person worship. Church Council thought it important to restart in-person worship so a "Return To Worship" committee was formed, made up of the Worship & Music Committee, plus John Keiper and Wilhelm Von Seefried. They met to develop the procedures to keep everyone as safe as possible while attending worship, following all of the guidelines from public health agencies and the Synod task force. In-person worship at Bethesda began again on Sunday September 20. We thank the committee for all of their work to prepare for a safe return. Attendance has been low which is understandable given we are in the second wave of the pandemic now. The services are being recorded and posted on the church Facebook page for those not able to attend worship in person. Council will continue to monitor the situation and follow any new restrictions or guidelines that are announced.

Council has decided to continue restricting the use of the church building to Bethesda and St. Paul worship only. The church hall has been cleared of all furniture, the nursery and kitchen are closed, as are the Men's and Women's washrooms. Only the large single, accessible washroom is open for use. Only the middle door is used for  
*(report continues on page 5)*



*(Council report continued from page 4)*

entering the church for worship. This has all been done to limit the cleaning required. Touch points are sanitized following worship and the church is thoroughly cleaned once a week. We thank Pastor Roy for doing most of the maintenance of the church grounds over the summer.

The fall is usually a busy time for our congregation with several social functions and special worship services. Unfortunately this year they cannot be held as they normally would. The Council and committees are investigating how to carry on some of these activities in some other form.

As Kim McKenney, our treasurer, indicates in his report, church givings are down which allows Bethesda to qualify for the federal government emergency wage subsidy to cover a portion of Pastor Roy's salary. Even though we are trying to reduce expenses, there are still ongoing fixed expenses like insurance, taxes, telephone, internet, and utilities that need to be paid, plus unanticipated expenses such as repairs to the parsonage. We invite you to continue mailing or dropping off your offerings or signing up for monthly PAR giving. Information about PAR can be found on the church website or by calling the church.

We encourage you to continue to follow the public health recommendations to stay safe and keep in contact with one another by phone or social media.

Take care and God bless. ■

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## Sharecropper Report

*Lorne Smith*

Our Wheat growing project has been successfully harvested by Arthur Schickedanz and his crew (Galten Farms) but we have not yet received the results but it was a good crop again this year. We will host our usual member fundraising campaign in November but it will look different as we will not be hosting our usual dinner. We hope members will continue to support our Sharecropper project because the Canadian Foodgrains Bank reports that the need this year is overwhelming.

The COVID-19 health crisis is creating a global hunger crisis. Jim Cornelius, Executive Director of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank reports "The World Food Programme warns we may see the worst humanitarian food crisis since the Second World War. Millions of people will face extreme forms of hunger--missing meals or selling livestock and tools to buy food. The number of people in distress could double this year alone".

In 2019-20 the CFGB has provided \$42 million of assistance for 866,000 people in 34 countries. The founders created the Foodgrains Bank for times like these, and the 37 years of working together to end global hunger means we are prepared.

All of the funds we provide through our Sharecropper project are sent to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg, enhanced 4:1 by the Government of Canada and made available to our own Canadian Lutheran World Relief for meeting need around the world. We hope members will faithfully support this outreach as in the past. ■



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## COVID 19 Blessings ???

COVID 19 is wreaking havoc in the world. There is no place on the globe it has not spread its deadly tentacles. It has the world reeling from economic, social, political and

personal devastation. Yet there are some good things coming out of the situation. “What good”?, you might ask. Well, consider the following:-

- 1) Forced curtailment of all forms of travel has significantly reduced the air and water pollution. In this sense we might even say that the creation is having a Sabbath rest.
- 2) Families now spend quality time together, something which, in busier times of “long ago”, their extremely hectic lives did not permit.
- 3) People have learnt to slow down their fast-paced lives and take things easier.
- 4) Many have used this time to discover hidden talents, rediscover old ones and revived old hobbies.
- 5) These strange times have taught us to, once again, find pleasure in the simple things of life such as a walk in the park, woods and neighbourhood or just to sit quietly in the outdoors.
- 6) This new normal has sharpened our consciousness of the freedoms we have come to take for granted; to gather with others, to travel, to speak uninhibited, to work...

No doubt you can add to this list. As you do so you will recognize that indeed in the worst of situations there are good things too-the proverbial silver lining. ■

# Treasurer's Report

Kim McKinney

For the Month Ended August 2020 \*

	August		Year to Date		Prorated	Approved
	2020	2019	2020	2019	Monthly Budget	Full Year Budget
<b><u>Operating Results:</u></b>						
Recurring Receipts (1)	\$6,413	\$9,980	\$63,818	\$80,082	\$86,868	\$130,300
Expenses (2)	<u>7,967</u>	<u>7,863</u>	<u>66,046</u>	<u>89,642</u>	<u>94,467</u>	<u>141,700</u>
Operating Position before below	<u>(\$1,554)</u>	<u>\$2,117</u>	<u>(\$2,228)</u>	<u>(\$9,560)</u>	<u>(\$7,599)</u>	<u>(\$11,400)</u>
One-time Memorial Donations	-	-	400	600	-	-
<b>Net Operating Position after above</b>	<u>(\$1,554)</u>	<u>\$2,117</u>	<u>(\$1,828)</u>	<u>(\$8,960)</u>	<u>(\$7,599)</u>	<u>(\$11,400)</u>
<b>Net Other Receipts - Sharecroppers (3)</b>	<u>\$700</u>	<u>(\$3,062)</u>	<u>\$2,735</u>	<u>(\$3,083)</u>		
<b><u>Capital Items:</u></b>						
Receipts (4)	\$75	\$2,397	\$23,858	\$5,548		
less: Capital Expenditures	<u>0</u>	<u>(7,728)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(19,097)</u>		
<b>Net Capital Items</b>	<u>\$75</u>	<u>(\$5,331)</u>	<u>\$23,858</u>	<u>(\$13,549)</u>		
<b>Net Position</b>	<u>(\$779)</u>	<u>(\$6,276)</u>	<u>\$24,765</u>	<u>(\$25,592)</u>		

\* As tabled and approved at the Church Council Meeting September 24, 2020

**Notes:**

- (1) Donations in the month were 36% below the August 2019 offerings due to the impact of COVID 19 reducing the number of offerings. This trend qualified the church for a 75% wage subsidy. Donations were also impacted negatively by the current charitable status of the church which is being addressed for year end.
- (2) Excludes the positive impact of the receipt of anticipated wage subsidies (\$6,776.00) expected to be received in September or early October.
- (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.
- (5) After accounting for ongoing projected commitments including contributions to the Synod - Current Net Cash Available for Ongoing Operations (estimated) **\$29,384**

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