



May

2018

Redeeming Words

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Calendar

- May 2 Bible Study 7:30 pm
May 6 Worship – Easter 6 10:00 am
Sunday School 10:00 am
Coffee & Conversation 11:15 am
May 8 Seniors' Worship 2:00 pm
May 9 Ladies' Lunch noon
Bible Study 7:30 pm
May 10 Montreal Lutheran Council 7:30 pm
May 12 Spring Cleaning 8:30 am
May 13 Worship – Ascension 10:00 am
Coffee & Conversation 11:15 am
May 15 Congregational Council 7:30 pm
May 16 Bible Study 7:30 pm
May 19 Men's Breakfast 8:30/9:15 am
May 20 Worship – Pentecost 10:00 am
Sunday School 10:00 am
Coffee & Conversation 11:15 am
May 23 Bible Study 7:30 pm
May 27 Worship – Holy Trinity 10:00 am
Anniversary Lunch 11:30 am

Newsletter Compiler/Editor

We're still searching for someone to write, edit, publish and distribute the congregational newsletter, *Redeeming Words*. The printed and electronic form of our monthly newsletter seeks to inform the members and friends of the congregation about our shared ministry. Ask Pastor Jim for a job description.

Pentecost

Before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, described in the second chapter of Acts, Pentecost was observed as fiftieth day after the start of the Jewish Passover. Seven weeks after the raising of a barley sheaf the harvest was completed on what is also called the Feasts of Weeks.

On the fiftieth day of Easter Christians recall that the disciples received the Holy Spirit, in the form of wind and fire. We celebrate this major feast on May 20. Wear red (for fire) to worship.

Anniversary of Building

On May 20 we'll also mark the 50th birthday of our building. After worship examine a photo display (see Cliff Pachal if you have old photos) and stay for a celebratory dinner. Details to follow.

Spring Cleaning

Pitch in on Saturday May 12 to clean our building and yard. There are windows to wash, cobwebs to dust, a kitchen to clean and litter to pick up. All able-bodied members and friends of the congregation are invited to join us for the morning, beginning at about 8:30 am. Bring buckets, squeegees, and dusting cloths.



Congregational Council

Here are highlights from the April 17 meeting:

✚ Approved spending \$2800 for organ repairs (one of the air chambers); fundraising to commence shortly

✚ Several renovations have been made at the parsonage in NDG, including the installation of a stairlift and easy-access bathtub, at the Saabas' expense

✚ We'll celebrate the 50th anniversary of our building on Sunday May 27, with worship, a photo display and a cake

✚ Spring cleaning will be held on Saturday May 12

✚ The Mutual Ministry Committee recommended the adoption/signing of a new Employment Agreement with the pastor, which will be discussed at the May meeting

Employment Agreement

Several years in the making, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and its five synods have developed a new Employment Agreement, to accompany Letters of Call extended to clergy. The EA is intended to gather existing policies and practices into a single document, and to make the responsibilities of pastors and congregations clearer.

The newest parts of the EA require pastors to review the church's Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Policy, and to obtain criminal checks to the congregation's satisfaction.

The EA is likely to be signed by the Council and Pastor Jim at the May meeting.

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Policy

The ELCIC's 2006 policy is posted beside the pastor's office, and at

<http://www.elcic.ca/docs/SexAbusePolicy2006.pdf>

It provides working definitions, and outlines the procedures by which complaints may be made about clergy or other employees of the church. Bishop Michael Pryse will receive complaint forms and respond to allegations in a timely manner.

Ladies' Lunch

Women who are members and friends of the congregation gather each month for a friendly meal at a local restaurant. Pat Pachal is our convenor. This month the group will meet at Chateau Kabob (Sources) on Wednesday May 9 at noon. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Chat Room.

Men's Breakfast

Men from the congregation are invited to cook and enjoy breakfast and a discussion on Saturday May 19, beginning at 8:30 am. David Puusa leads our group. Look for the sign-up sheet.

Katie Ditschun Concerts

Former member Katie Ditschun (partner of Travis, mother of Alexis) is pursuing a professional musical career. Along with serving as the organist at Alexandria United Church and offering private music lessons at home she is in the midst of a tour, which includes stops in Eastern and Southern Ontario. Look for a feature article in the March issue of the Eastern Synod Lutheran.



2018-2019

Worship Bulletins

Beginning in the fall of 2018, at the start of the new Church Year, we hope to produce our own bulletin series, relying on photographs from our members. We'll start with images for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Consider traditional images like wreathes and candles, Chrismons and creches, Wise Men and stars, or try something more creative. The appointed readings for Year C are in the front of the red worship book. Send digital images to the pastor at ctrpastor@videtron.ca

Reform: A Capital Campaign for Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Montgomery Sisam Architects Inc. has been retained to design the \$9-million renewal and modernization of the seminary. This will include seven state-of-the-art classrooms, a Multi-Faith Room, Worship Arts Centre, and energy efficient design. The project will be completed this summer.



To support the project, the Board of Governors has embarked on the \$1.5-million *Reform* capital campaign. Christ the Redeemer hopes to

raise \$500 per year for the next three years. An offering of about \$350 from the Pancake Brunch in February 11 has already been directed toward this goal. Special envelopes will soon be available at the Greeters' table.

Outreach

Until June our Outreach Committee invites you to join Canadian Lutheran World Relief and its campaign to FIGHT BACK AGAINST DROUGHT. This will include the construction of small-scale dams and reservoirs, in Ethiopia and northern Egypt., to sustain crops and livestock during dry spells. This project is also eligible for matching grants from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Global Affairs Canada. Pick up a paper raindrop or two the next time you visit the church building.

CLAY Gathering

Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth will gather August 15-19, in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Visit www.claygathering.ca



Eastern Synod Lutheran

The latest edition of the Eastern Synod's newsletter is available by following this link:

<http://www.easternsynod.org/content/tesl-april-2018>

From the Church Mouse

I was scurrying about the silver-haired man's office one day, searching for any tasty crumbs he may have left behind from a snack, when I literally ran across this quote on his desk:

"The future of religion is in the mystery of touch. The mind is touchless, so is the will, so is the spirit. First comes the death, then the pure aloneness, which is permanent, then the resurrection into touch." (D.H. Lawrence, 1885-1930) *Literary Companion*

I have been reflecting on "the mystery of touch". Common gestures like a hand gently resting on our arm or being enfolded in an embrace communicate to us at a level deeper than simple physical contact. Such touch shares comfort, understanding, strength and encouragement. We experience that we are not alone; that we are safe and loved.

There are also negative experiences of touch such as physical violence, abuse and rape which communicate in a profound and lasting manner that the world is not a safe place and that we have little or no value.

As humans, we hunger for good, nurturing touch. It is known that babies left neglected and alone will not thrive, some even die. Isolation and despair afflict many in our world. Could we be hard-wired to need contact?

I am reminded of the description in Scripture of God taking clay into His hands and molding us lovingly into being. We are created through touch. Then we develop in our mother's womb; fed, safe, intimately connected to her through blood and heartbeat and completely surrounded, all of our body being touched. Finally, we are born and experience ourselves as individuals disconnected from other people and, in a physical sense, disconnected from the touch of God. Yet the need for touch remains as part of our God-given design. So we look to one another to help meet this need in healthy ways as God loves us and nurtures us through these others.

The last line of the quote fills me with hope and anticipation. There may be difficulties finding the "mysteries of touch" in this life yet I have faith that as God's child I will be "resurrected into touch"; this God-given need perfectly met; intimately connected to my Lord in body, mind and spirit.

Sunday School

In May our classes for children age three and older will be held on the 6th and 20th. Students begin in worship at 10:00 and return in time for Holy Communion. Parents are encouraged to speak with Vicki about a Sunday School Picnic in June.

New Members' Class

We are tentatively scheduled to offer classes, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm, on the following dates:

May 17	Introduction to the Bible
May 24	Luther and the Reformation
May 30	Law and Gospel
May 31	God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit
June 6	Sacraments – Baptism & Communion
June 13	Spiritual Gifts and Discipleship
June 20	Students' Choice

Members, Lutherans from other congregations, Christians from other denominations, those who practice other faiths, and those who have no religious background are all invited to attend. Confirm your attendance with Pastor Jim.

Bible Study

A series called *A Cast of Unnamed Characters* will continue on Wednesdays until May 23. Here is an outline of the remaining sessions:

May 2	Women
May 9	Children
May 16	Servants
May 23	Others



Bring your Bible, your faith, and your curiosity, from 7:30 to 9:00 each evening.

Lessons

May 6 Easter 6 Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98,
1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

May 13 Ascension Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47,
Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:24-44-53

May 20 Pentecost Ezekiel 37:1-14,
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Acts 2:1-21,
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 27 Holy Trinity Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29,
Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

New-Birthing Spirit

Primordial Spirit,
who once brooded over the face of the deep,
before such chaos was given order,
and before we mortals were given place

Redeeming Spirit,
who dried the waters of the Flood,
restoring life where sin had been washed away

Anointing Spirit,
who shook up the first King of Israel

Transforming Spirit,
who carried your servant Ezekiel
to a valley of dry bones,
rattling them back to life

Trying Spirit,
who spoke to Job through his youngest friend,
naming you the breath of life

Descending Spirit,
who rested dove-like on Jesus,
just immersed in the Jordan

Eternal Spirit,
commended to God
by One hanging still on the cross

Life-giving Spirit,
who shook a hide out in Jerusalem,
appearing as fiery tongues,
giving birth to the Church

Order,
Restore,
Shake up,
Move,
Rattle,
Speak to,
Rest upon,
Commend and
and bring me to New Birth

In Christ, Pastor Jim Slack

