

September 2020

# Redeeming Words

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## September Calendar

Sept 6	Zoom Worship	9:30/10:00 am
	Meeting ID 896 9570 9825	
Sept 12	Zoom Confirmation Class Mt	1:00 pm
	Meeting ID TBA	
Sept 13	Zoom Worship	9:30/10:00 am
	Meeting ID 896 9570 9825	
Sept 16	Zoom Book Study	7:00 pm
	Meeting ID 852 0435 4673	
Sept 17	Montreal Lutheran Council	7:30 pm
Sept 20	Zoom Worship	9:30/10:00 am
	Meeting ID 896 9570 9825	
Sept 22	Zoom Council	7:00 pm
	Meeting ID 845 4514 2683	
Sept 23	Zoom Book Study	7:00 pm
	Meeting ID 852 0435 4673	
Sept 27	Zoom Worship	9:30/10:00 am
	Meeting ID 896 9570 9825	
Sept 30	Zoom Book Study	7:00 pm
	Meeting ID 852 0435 4673	

## Youth Stars

After nearly eight months of negotiation Council approved an agreement for the use of some parts of our building by Youth Stars. The organisation provides a variety of programs for young people in our community.

Beginning on the first day of September one of the Sunday School rooms will become a staff office. Up to six leaders of Youth Stars will work from this space from Monday to Friday.

Two grant applications promise to provide some upgrades to our building, including new LED ceiling lamps, folding doors in the Fellowship Room, a solid wall in the Sunday School wing, and new tables and chairs for special events.

For the time being Youth Stars programs will be held on Saturdays. This will be coordinated with our use of the building as well as the Evangelical Apostles of Jesus Christ. Eventually the group also hopes to offer after-school programs on weekday afternoons and evenings.

## When Are We Opening?

This is the most popular question people have been asking me these days.

In June some places of worship in Quebec opened to in-person worship, according to guidelines negotiated with the province. But many denominations, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and our partners in the Anglican Church of Canada, decided to remain closed until this fall. This has given us time to develop detailed plans for a safe return to worship.

This summer the Worship and Music Committee and Council have examined a checklist developed by a Task Force of the Eastern Synod. This includes instructions for disinfection and social distancing for worship and other gatherings. This work will continue in September.

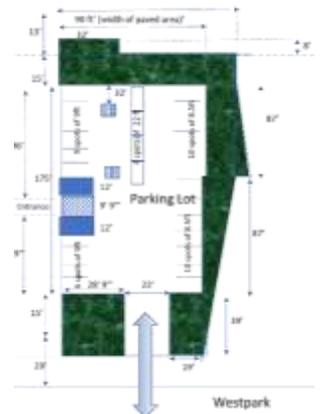
When we decide to re-open greeters will meet you at the door, ask you to sign-in, wash your hands and wear a mask, and lead you to your seat. In worship there will be no congregational singing. Communion will likely be celebrated just once a month; bread only. We will not host Coffee and Conversation.

But bit by bit we will return to a more familiar and interactive worship experience.

## Parking Lot

At the August 25 meeting of Council members expressed support for a new parking lot design submitted by Paul Rossi, and will begin to seek quotes for both short-term and long-term projects (the latter involving the replacement and compaction of material beneath new asphalt). New guidelines from DDO require us to give up some parking spaces adjacent to city streets.

We also hope to install several LED lights.



## Congregational Council

Your Congregational Council held two Zoom meetings in June, and two more in August.

An agreement for the use of space by Youth Stars was finally settled. Our thanks to Susan Hildebrant, Paul Rossi and Pastor Jim, as well as Bonnie Robinson and Malik Shaheed. See page 1.

The reconstruction of a paved parking lot is moving forward. Compaction tests were conducted in the late spring. In light of local by-laws we will not be able to park cars adjacent to the Westpark sidewalk, or near Carleton St. in the rear. So a new parking lot design has been adopted; tenders to follow. See page 1. (The green area on the sketch could take the form of grass or stones.) As far as we can tell it has been at least 25 years since any major paving repairs have taken place.

The steps required to safely open our building for worship and other in-person meetings are still being examined. One of our questions has to do with weekly cleaning and disinfection. When we are able to comply, a date for a return to face-to-face services will be announced.

In August we received, with regret, the resignation of Council member Gilles Labrie, whose work as a real estate agent has made it hard to attend meetings. We thank him for his service, and his work regarding our In-Reach events.

## Greeters

When we return to in-person worship we will require additional support from an expanded corps of Greeters. These volunteers will require others to wait in line to be admitted to the building. After members and guests have signed-in, washed hands and donned a mask the Greeters will escort them to their chairs. When communion is distributed it will occur at a central "station." Greeters will also lead people out of the building, one household at a time.

If you are able to help us with this task please contact Corinne Verpoorten or Pastor Jim.

## Organ Repairs

Our Cassavante pipe organ is in need of significant repairs. Over the summer nearly half of the pipes have been removed, and work on a new air chest has begun. In the weeks to come other much-needed repairs will be made, perhaps in time for fall worship. The project is estimated to cost about \$15,000, funded from two major gifts.



## Virtually

Not so long ago many of us over might have used the word "virtual" as a prefix to other words like "classes", "meetings" or even "worship." And we would have meant something like "not in person" and "not really real." We might have been inclined to say that the virtual-world is make-believe, composed merely of charged particles on an electronic screen. One's virtual-friends may never be met in person.

Such exchanges seem to fly in the face of the church's assertion that God came to us in flesh and blood, because the incarnate Word is better than words (or images).

But over the last few months many of us have been led to reconsider what it means to meet virtually. Perhaps, like me, "virtual" has shifted from meaning "unreal" to "the next best thing to being with others in person."

During a recent Council meeting members mentioned some of the benefits of meeting via Zoom. It saves travel time (and fuel). Meetings may be shorter and to the point. Sharing reports or other images is easy.

At the end of our summer lessons' study participants said that offering sessions on the internet makes good sense during the cold, dark nights of winter. This format may allow others to more easily join us.

And in worship we've welcomed members and friends of the congregation we wouldn't have seen otherwise, including those who were on vacation or at summer homes. The net is cast a little wider.

While "virtual" may never mean the same as "in person," some of the ways we have been gathering have shown us that when two or three are gathered in Jesus' name through a phone, tablet or computer, and can see and hear one other in real time, our Lord accompanies us.

So what are some of the things we can do, even as we ease back into face-face face worship, meetings and studies? Zoom may be blended with in-person worship every Sunday. Some of our Council and committee meetings might use the technology to conduct business. Sunday School, Confirmation Class and other studies might occur virtually; at least in some cases.

Such two-way interactions might also allow us to worship and meet with those from other denominations and locations. Imagine Lutherans in Montreal having joint worship on the fifth Sunday of the month. Or a shared Bible study, with the pastors and others taking turns leading?

Yours in Christ, Pastor Jim

## Canada Lutheran

Several copies of the ELCIC's official magazine arrive at CTR eight times a year, and may be borrowed. A few of our members also have home subscriptions

The July/August issue includes a feature article encouraging everyone to prepare a will, for the benefit of family and other charities (including the church). Highlights of activities in the five synods also appear.

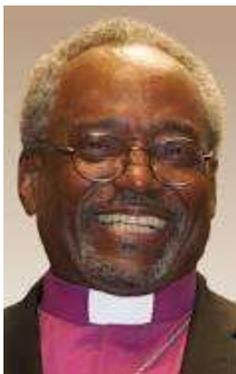
A resource called *Season of Creation* has been developed by Anglicans and Lutherans in North America. Look for it at <https://elcic.ca/Documents/documents/2020SeasonofCreation.pdf>



## From Bishop Michael Curry

*If I make room for you,  
and you make room for me,  
and if we will work together  
to create a society  
where there is room for all of God's children,  
where every human being,  
every one of us is treated as a child of God,  
created in the image and likeness of God,  
where everybody is loved,  
everybody is honoured,  
everybody is respected,  
everybody is created as a child of God...*

*If we work together  
to build that kind of society  
and don't give up,  
then love can save us all.*



*Presiding Bishop of Episcopal Church USA*

## Lutheran World Federation

The international Lutheran body offers a free 2019 annual report of its ministry working together for justice, peace and reconciliation, under the theme *Because We Know God's Voice*. Visit <https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-lwf-annual-report-2019>

## Live-Streaming Services

The ELCIC office in Winnipeg has created a list of live-streamed and other electronic worship services being broadcast from Lutheran congregations across Canada. To visit them virtually go to the list at <http://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm> And click to your soul's content.

## Eternity for Today

The free quarterly devotional booklet of the ELCIC can be picked up at the church, or Pastor Jim could be asked to deliver them to your home. Each issue is composed by lay and clergy from across the country, in short daily installments, based on the Lectionary.

There are also free copies a similar volume called *Our Daily Bread*.

## 2020 Budget

As you might expect the COVID-19 virus and the closure of our building to worship and other events since March has had a significant effect on our revenue. Treasurer Andrew Saabas reported in August that offerings have declined by about \$6000 compared to 2019. At the same time expenses have declined only slightly.

If you are able, please send your gifts electronically, by PAR, in the mail, or by dropping them off at the slot by the door facing Anselme-Lavigne. Contact Andrew or the church office if you require further information.



## No Oktoberfest in 2020

The regulations regarding social distancing, dining and masks have led us to cancel our Oktoberfest celebration in 2020. Is there any interest gathering over sausages, sauerkraut and beer on Zoom this fall?

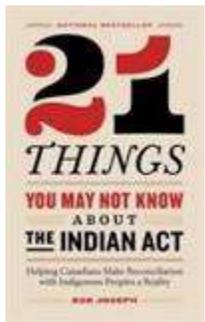
## Sunday School

The guidelines recommended to us by our synod leaders propose that children sit with their parents during worship. Provisions for face-to face classes have not yet been offered. Is there any interest in student packs, which can be sent to families with young children? Or some on-line gatherings from time to time? Contact Vicki Valois or Pastor Jim.

## Confirmation Class

The returning students from CTR and Good Shepherd, as well as new students and their parents, will meet on Zoom on Saturday September 16 at 1:00. We'll develop a schedule for fall classes, which will take the form of a whirlwind tour of the Bible.

Such instruction is offered by Pastor Jim, and is intended for teens age 13 and older, to prepare them for adult membership in the church.



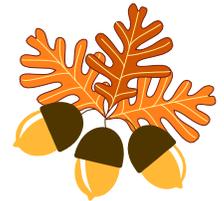
## Book Study

This book, from Bob Joseph, introduces readers to Canada's Indian Act. Five sessions will help participants understand the origin of some of the prejudices and problems that still plague our First Nations' neighbours. You can order the book at *Chapters* or *Amazon*, for our fall study

beginning on Wednesday September 16 at 7:00 pm. (Though you might be able to manage without it.) Everyone is welcome to this on-line series.

## Chrismons

If anyone is looking for a fall craft project Pastor Jim can provide supplies to create new Chrismons for our tree in December. A variety of Christian symbols, made of styrofoam, and decorated with sequins, ribbons and glitter, could be made at home, to refresh our collection.



## September Birthdays

Yan Fagundes	3 September
Mary Thicke	3 September
David Nagassar	5 September
Ayan Kumar	7 September
Mark Corwin	8 September
Lorraine Lahti	8 September
Kyle Kuppens	9 September
Sylvain Mailhot	10 September
Susan Rossi	11 September
Elisabeth Hamacher	12 September
Stephanie Manroop	19 September
Maegan Broadhurst	20 September
Diane Manroop	20 September
Gloria Doskie	21 September
Lisa Joseph	25 September
Micaela Fassina	25 September
Ferdinand Adamako	26 September
Christina (Tina) Provost	29 September
Gudrun Gundlach	29 September

## Lessons

### Lectionary 23 September 6

Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

### Lectionary 24 September 13

Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

### Lectionary 25 September 20

Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

### Lectionary 26 September 27

Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

## Rory & Stephanie

Rory Parsaram (son of Edna Gunpat) and Stephanie Duval were married in Pointe-Claire on August 8. Congratulations!

## Gloria Green

Gloria Green, who died earlier this year, will be interred at a family service at Mount Royal Cemetery on Saturday September 4 at 2:00. Please remember daughter Heather and the extended family in your prayers.