

Koinonia

NEWSLETTER OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

We still do church

Ministry doesn't end because of suspension

Thus I make it my ambition to proclaim the good news, not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written,

"Those who have never been told of him shall see, and those who have never heard of him shall understand."

- Romans 15:20-21

**From the
Pastor's
Pen**



When congregations within the Georgian Bay Area - which is a collection of Eastern Synod congregations stretching from north of Wiarton to Listowel - began suspending in-person services at the end of 2021, some pastors went into a funk.

"I can't bare the thought of the sanctuary being empty again," one of the pastors lamented.

The pastor wasn't alone in this thought.

Even after dozens of pre-recorded services since the start of the pandemic, I am still a bit unnerved by the echo when I record in the LCOS sanctuary. I pray that I never have to get used to the echo.

It's both sad and impressive that when congregational council decided to suspend in-person services first for January and now for February, that we didn't miss a beat. There wasn't a rush of confusion or tentativeness that marked the first suspension back in 2020 - there was no thoughts of "what do we do now?"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Milestones

If you wish to be included in our congregation's Milestone announcements, please email your information to the church office.

Birthday blessings to:

Spencer Bruin - February 2
Ovid Jackson - February 3
Shelly Batterman - February 6
Mildred Smith - February 6
Ron Gardhouse - February 16
Ian Ballantyne - February 17
Eyvind Fogh - February 21
Vera Gutzke - February 22
David Lang - February 24
Richard Prowd - February 27

Birth announcement:

Bryson Knott, born December 24, 2021.

Great grandson of Evelyn Sprung
Grandparents: Wayne and Colleen Sprung

Parents: Shannon and Kyle Knott

Make a secure offering

Even though the pandemic meant we haven't held in-person worship services for about nine months - and were cautious about attending when we were able gather in the Fall - our ministry (and bills) continue.

There are a number of ways to financially support the ongoing work of the church while services are suspended.

If you pay your bills online, you can send in your offering via etransfer - the email address is lcoss1049@gmail.com

You can visit our website - www.lcosos.ca and click on "online giving" on the home page.

You can drop your offering envelope off in the secure mailbox between the doors at the Narthex entrance. Of course, you can always sign up for PAR (see page 10).

The Finance Committee is seeking a volunteer to fill a vacancy on the committee. Email lcoss1049@gmail.com if you are interested.



A laff or two

Why do seagulls fly over the ocean?

Because if they flew over the bay, we'd call them bagels.

My wife is really mad at the fact that I have no sense of direction. So I packed up my stuff and right!

- anonymous
(and rightfully so)

Congregational Council

End of the year a busy time at LCOS

As the end of the year approached, it was a time when council deals with items that will impact the financial budget of the church going forward, while also looking at where money has been spent in the current year.

This means knowing what it is the church wants to do, and what it is the church can do.

The church treasurer, Don Statham, along with the Finance Committee has done a great job in keeping our finances in order and will be updating us at the annual meeting of the congregation later this month.

The end of the year is always a busy time with the Christmas season in full swing.

In December, council did something new by having two Christmas eve services. The traditional one at 7 p.m. and one at 3 p.m. Both services were well-attended and the addition of the afternoon service had enough positive comments that it is likely to be done again.

With the new variant of the Covid-19 virus taking off in mid-December, council made the decision to suspend in-person services starting Christmas day and lasting until the end of January.

At our January meeting this suspension of services was extended until the end of February and will also include the March 2

Ash Wednesday service.

This also means that the traditional pancake supper is going to have to wait another year. The suspension of in-person services will be reviewed by council at their monthly meetings.

The next review will be in mid-February.

Unfortunately, the Annual Congregational Meeting will have to be done over the internet again this year.

The meeting application "Zoom" was used for this meeting last year and will be used again this year.

The report for the meeting will be sent out the week before the meeting using e-mail for those that have it, and a paper copy for those that don't use e-mail.

If you need help setting up or accessing the Zoom application, please call the church office prior to the meeting to see if you can be connected with someone that can help you.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday January 30 at 2 p.m.

I hope that you are able to join in the meeting.

Please do your best to stay healthy.

- Mike Furniss,
on behalf of
Congregational council

Got something to share?

If you have news, a joke or a picture to share, just email or mail it to the Church Office.

Lutheran Social Services & Outreach

Our first two tenants for Hope House will be signing their leases for February 1st, 2022, and we are very pleased to be able to open our doors!

The next two will be later next month. This new venture is both exciting and terrifying at

the same time.

But, with all the support we have from our Development Committee of Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran Outreach Ministries, Mary Lou Walker heading up the management of the delivery for the furnishing of the units, and a terrific

contractor, we've got 'er done! Now comes the work with Grey County, the By-Names List Co-ordinator and Canadian Mental Health Association, and other supports for our tenants; it will be good!

St. Francis' Place has no further word on opening up the Bayview Room.

We are weary, and know how important it is to connect with our friends and fellow tenants, but we want everyone to stay as safe as possible.

- Sharon & Sylvia



Hope House is about to see its first tenants in February. Below, work on a kitchen at the house nears completion. Hope House became a reality through the tireless efforts of volunteers and local groups.



We can proclaim the Good News

Continued from Page 1

Worship and congregational leaders made the transition as practised pros (the determination and skill is impressive, but it's sad that we actually have become so practised in it).

The cantors have already recorded a number of psalms, the recording of congregational musicians has been arranged - we're dipping into the synodical treasure trove in the meantime. All this is done to ensure that the worship life at LCOS continues - even if it is virtually.

Committees are still meeting and planning for the coming months; our ACM is set to be held online and we are continually looking for ways to connect and reconnect with members and with the community.

When we do such things, that is when we proclaim the Good News - even if it is done virtually. When we adapt to the new realities, that's when we are building new foundations rather than build on old ones (to paraphrase Paul).

That is when we do church!

SOME OTHER THINGS

Ash Wednesday: Out of an abundance of caution and care, congregational council has voted to extend the suspension of in-person services until March 7 (which would be the first in-person service if the Covid wave subsides).

This means that the Ash Wednesday service will be pre-recorded. As part of the service offering, we will be making take-

home ash kits available.

Each kit includes enough ashes for four people and a prayer. Since these kits have to be ordered from a U.S. supplier, we ask that you notify the church office by phone or email if you would like a kit as soon as possible. You'll be contacted when the kits arrive and are available for pickup or delivery.

A reminder: The Annual Congregational Meeting is set for Sunday, January 30, at 2 p.m. As a result of the recent surge in Covid cases, the meeting will be conducted via Zoom. An invitation with the link to the meeting will be sent out at least twice before the meeting date. If you have internet access, you can easily take part in the meeting. If you haven't received the invitation by Thursday, January 27, contact the church office and we'll get it to you. For members without internet access, copies of the annual report will be mailed to you. If you have questions or concerns about information in the report, please contact the church office or a member of congregational council and they will be raised at the meeting.

Volunteer sought: As part of our outreach ministry, LCOS makes audio recordings of our in-person services available. A copy of these services is also kept on file as a matter of record. We are seeking someone who can take the digital recording of each in-person service and burn them onto CDs and drop them off at the church office each week. If you are able spare a little time for this important ministry, please contact the church office.

Another reminder: Our congregation will again be participating in the Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) walkathon. There're teams to be named, funds to be raised, and lots of walking to be done for the event this year on February 26, 2022 (mittens and long underwear are advised).

Proceeds will go to Owen Sound's not-for-profit emergency shelter, Safe 'n' Sound. To go forward with this commitment, our congregation must provide the following: 1. A clever team name. Let's show off our Lutheran wit and make it clever. Ideas and suggestions can be sent to the team captain, Nicole Prowd, at nicoproud@gmail.com 2. A team. We'll need some individuals, who are not too afraid of the cold preferably, willing to walk the walk and talk the talk to raise funds.

If you're interested in joining the team, message Nicole Prowd (nicoproud@gmail.com) by the end of January.

3. Donors. This is all for nothing if we aren't using our time and energy to provide for those in our community that could use a helping hand. Please feel free to message Nicole if you want to get involved or have any questions about CNOY.

Yet another reminder: If you enter the church building for any reason and regardless of the duration, you are expected to log your name and phone number in the logbook located in the Narthex.

If there is an outbreak involving someone who has been in the building, the logbook will be turned over to the health unit for contact tracing and notification.

For the ACM

Navigating Zoom

Speaker or Gallery view ... this is gallery view.
Click here if you need to change it. A yellow
frame will appear around
whomever is speaking

Click here to
enter or exit
full-screen view

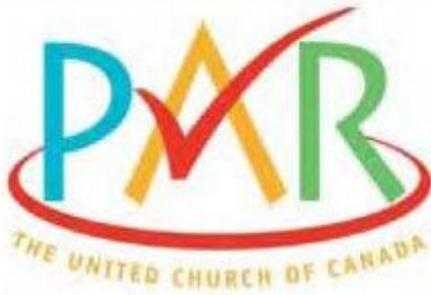


Mute and video
These control your microphone
and camera on your computer,
tablet or phone. If there is a
red line through them, you can't
be seen or heard

"Chat"
This allows you to send a
text message to all participants
or specific people who are
taking part in the service

"Reaction"
This places a
symbol - such
as a raised
hand - on
your picture

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be conducted via Zoom beginning at 2 p.m. on January 30. Invitations with the link for the meeting will be emailed twice. If you haven't received one by January 27, please let the church office know. Remember to keep your microphone muted during the meeting and only unmute when called up by the meeting chair.



PAR AUTHORIZATION FORM

(For new PAR donors and to make changes to banking details)

Church Name: _____

PAR Congregational Number: _____

I/We, _____ (envelope # _____), request and authorize The United Church of Canada to debit my/our account on the 20th of every month in the amount of \$ _____, starting on the 20th of _____ (enter month). This contribution is made on behalf of:

Name of Local Church: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

This contribution by me/us to the above local church is to benefit:

Local Church \$ _____ Mission and Service Fund \$ _____ Other \$ _____

This donation/payment is made by (check one): _____ Individual(s) _____ Business

Please attach a VOID cheque.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

- I may change the amount of my contribution at any time subject to providing notice of 15 days.
- I may revoke my authorization at any time, subject to providing notice of 15 days at which time I will submit a cancellation form obtained from the Church PAR Contact or by contacting my financial institution or visiting www.cdnpay.ca.
- I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this PAR agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights, I may contact my financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.
- **I waive my right to receive pre-notification of the amount of the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) and agree that I do not require advance notice of the amount of PAR before the debit is processed.**

Name of Church PAR Contact: _____ Phone No.: _____

Due to high service charges (2.5% for Visa and MasterCard; we do not accept Amex), we generally do not encourage people to use credit cards for PAR donations. However, if donors wish, this service is still available.

Debit My Credit Card Number: _____ EXP _____
CARD NUMBER MM YY

Name on Card: _____ Authorized Signature: _____

We agree to be bound by, comply with, respect and apply all relevant provisions of the Canadian Payments Act and all related by-laws, rules and standards in force from time to time as they apply to PARs including, without limitation, the Confirmation/Pre-notification requirements or waiver of Pre-notification requirements and cancellation requirements as set out in Rule H1.

The use, retention and disclosure of personal information collected from this form is done in compliance with privacy legislation, including but not limited to, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (2000, c.5).