

Our Saviour Lutheran

6340 Number 4 Road • Richmond, BC
V6Y 2S9 • 604.270.0085

www.oursaviour.ca • office@oursaviour.ca



Newsletter

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body
(1 Corinthians 12:13)

I survived the last 18 months alright. There was some panic at the beginning, not because I was more fearful than anyone else, but because I felt about 10 years too old to figure out how to stream our worship. Thanks to Jordan we overcame that hurdle and overcame it well.

It was important to us that we streamed from our beautiful sanctuary, that we streamed at the usual time, and that any images we used all connected us back to this place. We wanted to provide continuity and normalcy in the midst of disruption, and give a sense of stability in the midst of instability, for *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble* (Psalm 46), and by streaming on Sunday mornings at 10 am we wanted to give a sense of the community gathering, even when we were unable to see each other.

We as a community and I as your pastor are profoundly grateful for people's ongoing prayer, financial support, phone calls, and visits during this time. Your commitment to Christ's church ensured there was still a church as we approached the other side of the pandemic.

And yet gathering online is not the same as seeing each other in person in the same way that air hugs aren't the same as real hugs. We need each other and we need each other's presence. One of you said to me last Sunday that our online worship was great, except that it was a bit like trying to exercise at home. Going to the gym is a routine and discipline that often slips when we move our exercise to our home and to our own schedule. In their experience the same was true for worship.

It has been wonderful to gather again in person, to see each other, to speak with one another, to worship together, to celebrate the Lord's Supper together. St Paul speaks of the church as the body of Christ. Therefore in being present to one another also gifts us with the presence of Christ. Jesus promised to present when we gather in his name.

We are a real community, not a virtual one, we are the body of Christ.

For that we give thanks.

Yours,

P.S. I understand that not everyone is comfortable yet about returning to church, and everyone needs to determine the time that is right for them.

**We are back to
regular
(although modi-**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCbep7VZLuIp0gqRvd64p9QQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbep7VZLuIp0gqRvd64p9QQ)

Sept/Oct 2021



Our Return to In-Person Worship

With the vaccine roll out we wanted to give ourselves plenty of time before resuming indoor and in-person worship. It made sense to resume on the Sunday after Labour Day.

We know that Covid is transmitted through aerosols, therefore, ventilation, space, and a mask requirement are the primary ways in which we are able to ensure the safety of the congregation. Last Sunday the doors in the front as well as the back were open, the furnace fan was running, and the garage doors open to ensure both air exchange and safe spacing.

The details of our current Covid protocol can be found under the worship tab on our website: <http://oursaviour.ca/covid-protocol/>

It was a gift to be together. It was a gift to worship together. We are thankful for your continued prayers for and support of the congregation and trust that our attendance will slowly rebuild over the next little while and as people feel comfortable.

Communion

We have changed the way we celebrate communion in order to allow for 2 m between communicants. There are two stations at the front of the church, one for bread, one for wine/juice. The organ/pulpit side communes first. We go forward through the centre and return on the respective sides.

If you remain uncomfortable attending in person at this time but would like to receive Holy Communion, please call Pastor Christoph to schedule a personal celebration of Holy Communion in our beautiful sanctuary.

If you are unable to travel to the church, Pastor Christoph will be glad to come and see you.

Streaming

Council made the decision to pause streaming for September in order to encourage as many of us to return in-person as are able and comfortable. In this time we continue to post Sundays' sermons to our website: <http://oursaviour.ca/recent-sermons/>

We will also need to make a few technical changes to allow for in-person worship and streaming at the same time. We plan to resume streaming in October.

We are profoundly grateful to Jordan P. who spearheaded and directed our streaming during these last 18 months and ensured the high video and audio quality of our recordings. Jordan was always here for the streaming and many times and hours besides.

We would like to recruit a few more people to assist with the streaming of our services so that Jordan no longer would have to be the only doing so and to allow for a rotation.

Training will be provided and as the system is set up in such a way that it is not difficult.

Sunday School

We have not yet resumed Sunday School as we are assessing people's comfort level.



After a difficult year, I am so happy to have graduated from Vancouver Christian School in Vancouver. In September, I plan to attend SFU and study Computing Science and eventually work in the field of Digital Media. I would like to thank my family and my OSLC family for continually praying and supporting me.

Christian



Hi, all! I'm thrilled to be studying and living on the UBC campus for the next 4 years. I am in the Bachelor of Arts program with hopes of majoring in either Computer Science or Cognitive Systems. My goal is to have a video game related career in the future! So far I've been spending the last few weeks getting to know my roommate, settling into my dorm, and meeting so many amazing new people.

Jeisa

More graduation congratulations to our extended church family!

Congratulations to

Ryan P (Dave and Audree's grandson)

Who graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science.

Megan R (Dave and Audree's grand daughter)

Who graduated from high school in Shoreline, Washington and will be attending University of Washington in Seattle.

Caitlin H (Lila's granddaughter)

Who graduated from Simon Fraser University with a Bachelor of Science

Emily H (Lila's granddaughter)

Who graduated from BCIT with a Diploma in Marketing.

Good luck to all in their future endeavours!



Column: The dilemma of feeding birds

Planting native species of plants can help offer food for birds.

One of the positive consequences of the pandemic is the surge of interest in nature. At the beginning of the health emergency, we were requested to restrict our excursions to what was essential, giving many of us the opportunity to start looking more closely at what was happening in our immediate surroundings. Those of us who lived in a house and had a garden were fortunate because we had nature right outside our door and could experience it first hand.

Even if we didn't notice them before, birds will likely have visited or at least flown over, our garden as a matter of course. If our garden is well stocked with native plants and a few mature trees, the birds will probably have tarried a while to check out the bird-friendly environment.

The effect of this unprecedented attention to nature, and especially to birds, was also felt in the marketplace. Stores that sell food and supplies for birds couldn't have been more gleeful at the sudden increase in business. There were times when stores couldn't replenish their shelves fast enough.

Recently, Dr Alexander Lees, a senior lecturer in conservation biology at Manchester Metropolitan University, published an [opinion piece in The Guardian](#). Although his analysis focuses on the situation in the UK, many of his observations are relevant for us as well.

Dr. Lees points out that some bird species, identified as the dominant species, have come to rely habitually on food provided by humans. Their numbers have grown substantially and they're monopolizing resources needed also by other species, whose populations are in decline as a result. A further problem with bird feeding is presented by the quantity of birds converging at the feeders, which can lead to conditions that allow for the rapid spread of diseases. This happened here in B.C. in February and March, when we witnessed an irruption of pine siskins and the sudden outbreak of salmonella.

So what can we do? It's a dilemma (from the Greek 'di', twice, and 'lemma', premise), a difficult situation, with a solution that won't be popular with all. While businesses such as Wild Birds Unlimited won't like to hear it, the safest thing we can do for our birds is limit the handouts, restricting them to the periods in the year when harsh weather conditions prevail. We should be making an effort to establish a natural habitat in our garden that will provide the nourishment birds need.

How to achieve this? By planting native species that offer the food nature intended for birds. By refraining from tidying up the garden after the plants complete their seasonal cycle, to allow them to go to seed, seeds the birds will eat and disperse. By leaving the dead plants standing – they're inviting to insects as well as birds. By leaving the fallen leaves where they fall – insects hide beneath the leaves, and the birds know that abundant meals are to be found there.

Birds use their instinct – let's do the same!

Sabine Eiche is a local writer and art historian with a PhD from Princeton University. She is passionately involved in preserving the environment and protecting nature. Her columns deal with a broad range of topics and often include the history (etymology) of words in order to shed extra light on the subject.

All Saints Sunday -November 7th

The Christian holiday of All Saints' Day falls on 1 November, followed by All Souls' Day on 2 November, and is currently a Solemnity in the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, a Festival in the Lutheran Churches, as well as a Principal Feast of the Anglican Communion. At Our Saviour, we celebrate by praying for our loved ones who have already gone to be with the Lord.

Pastor Christoph found this grasshopper in the pollinator garden, this guy really knows how to camouflage himself.



Did you know...



Collen M.'s daughter has written a new Liturgy and we will be learning it soon, John and Rita A. celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary at the end of August, there were 46 people at church on Sunday (the 19th) morning (it was lovely), you cannot hum while you hold your nose closed, (how many tried it?), one minute of anger weakens the immune system for 4 to 5 hours but one minute of laughter boosts the immune system for 24 hours, chickens can remember and recognize over 100 different faces (both human and animal), and egg contains every vitamin except vitamin C, smelling or eating an orange can reduce stress by over 70%, there are only 8 more Sundays until Advent begins, God created each of us, so we must be just right!





September has arrived and our garden is still in bloom. We are very pleased with the results of our first season..

We were able to prune some of the annual growth which helped the garden to produce seeds and more growth for the end of the season. The bees and other pollinating insects spent a very happy summer in our area.

We have received a load of wood chips from Ben Christie and will distribute them on September 30 in the morning on the pathways to get the area ready for winter.

We believe that leaving any of the plants as is will provide some food for the creatures as winter progresses.

Many thanks to all who have helped with watering and various tasks needed

