

April 2024

VOL. #16 ISSUE #4

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church



*Join us for Sunday worship services
Weekly at 10:00 am.*

Inside this issue

Service Response Forms	2
Music Director's Report	3
Quilters' Page	4
Financial Report	5
Renovation Progress	6
50 th Anniversary Year	8
Plan Your Calendar	10
Birthdays & Anniversaries	11
SVLC Phone Directory	12

*Shepherd of the Valley Mission Statement:
Grounded in the word of God and centered in
Christ, SVLC is an accepting and caring
community sharing God's love, grace and
forgiveness with all.*

Shepherd's Staff is published eleven times each year. It is the voice of the congregation; your articles, letters, and comments are welcome at any time. Submissions to the newsletter must be signed when received, although names may be withheld from the newsletter upon request. Submissions are subject to editing for space and clarity. Please submit articles by email or directly to the office.

The deadline for the May issue is Sunday, April 21st, 2024

20097-72 Avenue
Langley, BC † V2Y 4J8
Phone: 604-530-1311
email: svlc@shaw.ca
website: www.svlc.ca

Stewardship Service Response Forms

Article written by Peter Preuss (originally published in 2019)

Typically every year during April, the Division for Stewardship distributes the annual Stewardship Service Response Form to members of the congregation. This year the campaign starts on April 7th and we ask that the forms be returned by May 26th.

STEWARDSHIP: YOUR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

April's Service Response Forms

This is the time of year when we launch our Stewardship Service Response Form Campaign. During April and May, the Division for Stewardship distributes the annual Stewardship Service Response Form to members of the congregation. Each of us plays an important role in the life of the church. This form provides an opportunity for members to consider how they might serve the church. There are many ways that you can assist; each of you has special talents and learned skills that will be an asset to Shepherd of the Valley. Most of us usually think of only one area of service: money. But from a biblical point of view, stewardship is all-inclusive. It touches every area of life, including our time and talent as well as our treasure. Stewardship is faithfully using whatever God entrusts or gives us (opportunities, interests, skills, employment, family, talents, spiritual gifts, land, money, etc.) for His glory. Stewardship starts from Genesis 1-2 when God made man and woman as stewards of this planet, to Revelation 21-22 when God will make His children stewards of the new creation.

Beginning on April 7th we will be handing out Service Response Forms and asking you to take five minutes of your time during the coffee hour to fill out the forms and hand them in. Consider what gifts and talents God has put in your heart to help with many of the items our church does. Please fill out the forms and let God guide you in whatever way you are able to assist.

Service response forms will also be handed out on April 14th, 21st and 28th in case members missed the service on April 7th and did not receive a form.

Individual completed forms are preferred, however if you complete one form for your entire family, please indicate which family member is specifically volunteering for the items selected. Even if you cannot help out this year, we ask that you complete a form with your name and a check the appropriate box – then we will know that you were aware of the form and had an opportunity to respond, and you will not get any further follow-up. Please place your completed forms in the designated tray on the table in the narthex. We request that all forms be returned by May 26th. If you miss that date, you may place your form in Peter Preuss' mailbox.

I'm sure you are aware that many of our divisions and committees are in need of volunteers. This is one of the reasons we appeal to everyone to fill out a Service Response Form. Here you will have an opportunity to commit your time and talent to one of the many fine church activities. Prayerfully consider what talents and gifts God has given you and how you can use these gifts to help maintain and grow our church community. Every contribution is meaningful. Without your commitment and volunteer work, many of the services this church offers would not be possible. A great many thanks goes out to the volunteers who provide us hours of work each year to help maintain our programs.

Music Director's Report

Gail Suderman

*"Let us build a house where love
can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children
tell how hearts learn to forgive.*

*Built of hopes and dreams
and vision,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;*

*Here the love of Christ shall end
divisions:*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place."*

April 1st was officially my one-year anniversary of starting in the position of Music Director at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church. One full year!

As I look back, thinking of how I started during Holy Week last year with three services in the first week, providing the music for memorial services in late Spring, pondering ideas and plans for building community through music, launching the "Langley Christmas Choir" in the fall with a sold-out concert during the Christmas season, and coming full circle with the Easter season services this year – it all seems to have flown by so quickly. And yet, it feels like I have been here at the church for much longer.

The warmth and welcome I've experienced from the members of the church this past year has been a true gift of kindness and a blessing. The support I have received from Pastor Kristen and Eleanor, along with the members of the church choir, and the encouragement and thanks I've received from parishioners, has brought me much joy and a deep sense of thankfulness.

I look ahead with excitement as the church celebrates its 50th Anniversary. I know singing and music is an integral part of this church family, and I'm so pleased to be able to assist in any way I can to musically enhance and bolster the various events during this anniversary year.

Thank you so much to all for making me feel so welcomed and appreciated this past year. I look forward to continuing the work and joy of music-making at Shepherd of the Valley.

*"Let us build a house where all are
named,
Their songs and visions heard and
loved and treasured,
Taught and claimed as words within
the word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
Prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to
rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
All are welcome in this place."*

SVLC Quilters - Featured Quilts of the Month

Submitted by Darlene Gamble



Here are a few quilts we are working on. Virginia and Sandra have created them. Pamela machined sewed them. I will trim and pin the edges, and Eileen will sew the edges. It takes a village.

These quilts remind me that we are all a work in progress. God has a plan in place for us all. He has put people in our path that will help shape us in many ways.



Progress of our Sanctuary Renovations . . .

Temporary Worship in the Fellowship Hall for the month of March . . .



The Sanctuary without pews . . .

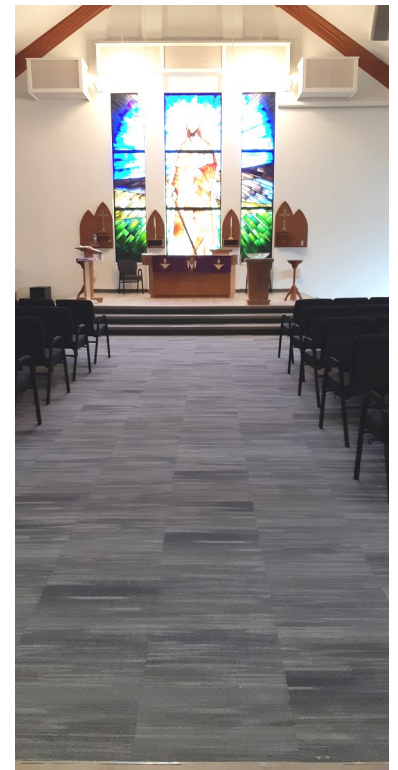


Painting (walls & ceiling) and staining (window trims, wood panels at back) in the Sanctuary . . .

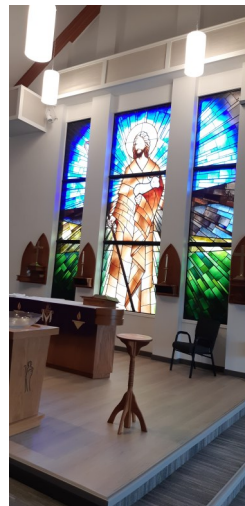
Building the expanded platform . . .



... And Completion of our Renovations!



The old pews are replaced by handsome, comfortably padded chairs . . .



Major renovations are now complete. Minor finishing tasks around the building are still pending.

50th Anniversary Year Celebration Launch

Grace & Gratitude



Above: Special cake for the 50th Anniversary Year Launch that was enjoyed by the congregation on Palm Sunday. Thank you to everyone who came together to help organize this celebration.

Below: Current SVLC members who were also signing members on the original charter roll back in 1974.



50th Anniversary Year

1974 - 2024

celebrating
50
YEARS



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church



The charter roll of SVLC was opened to signing on Epiphany Sunday, January 6th, 1974. SVLC became a self-governing congregation on Palm Sunday, April 7th, 1974 and was received into the Western Canada Synod of the Lutheran Church of America in mid-April, 1974. The church building was designed by past parishioner Irmtraud Rathmann, and construction was completed in 1984. Founding members gathered for worship services in a little white church on 56th Avenue in Langley prior to moving into the newly constructed facility on 72nd Avenue.

Plan Your Calendar for April

SVLC Quilters in the Hall
Mondays
at 9:00 am



Artist's Circle Drop-in Group
Tuesdays
9:30 am - 3:00 pm in the hall.



Stewardship Division
Service Response Campaign Starts
Sunday, April 7th

Please complete your form and place in the white tray on the narthex table.

Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 9th
7:30 pm
In the fellowship hall.
Arrive early for refreshments.



TWU Spring Concert
Friday, April 12th at 7:30 pm
In the Sanctuary.
Everyone is welcome.

50th Anniversary Planning Committee

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 16th at 5:00 pm in the hall.



SVLC Langley Housing Society Annual
General Meeting
Tuesday, April 16th at 7:00 PM

Men's Bibles & Breakfast

Saturday, April 20th
at 8:00 am in the hall



Deadline for Submissions to the
May 2024 Newsletter
Sunday, April 21st
eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca



Worship and Music Meeting
Wednesday, April 24th
11:00 am
In-person at the church.



50th Anniversary Event

Photos and Stories after the worship service. Please bring your photos of the church and of past church events. Photos will be gathered, scanned, and shared.

If there are other division meetings in April or May (and in the Spring or Summer months), please let the church office know by email at eleanor.svlc@shaw.ca