



Trinity Team

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120th Anniversary Year



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Bishop's Message

Dear Beloved of God -

In preparation for the Lutheran World Federation Assembly, September 2023, in Krakow, Poland, a pre-assembly for the Americas was held in April 2023, in Bogota, Colombia, under the LWF Assembly theme: "One Body, One Spirit, One Hope." (Ephesians 4:4)

I was invited to present on the third phrase of the Assembly theme, "One Hope." I began by recalling a gathering where Rev. Dr. Rafael Malpica Padilla shared a definition of faith and hope that has stayed with me: "Faith is the ability to listen to the melody of the future and hope is the courage to dance to its rhythm now."

With so many causes for despair we are still called to hope. On what do we base our hope? What is the melody of the future? How can we dance when the melody is faint, unfamiliar, or forgotten; and the melodies around us are not of promise or hope, but destruction, violence, and polarization?

We all know of the social, political, economic, and ecological marginalization happening globally, regionally, and locally. The COVID-19 pandemic further unmasked these injustices. Yet in the midst of these overwhelming realities, we are still called to witness, dance, and hope.

Paul's letter to the Ephesians insists on hope. Why?

Hope is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Hope knows what God has done in Christ and sees it in everyday life.

This hope is "eschatological" – not yet fulfilled, but already active where faith moves us to renew the earth and to reform injustice. Luther's catechism teaches that this hope is expressed when we pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Hope liberates from worldly powers and encourages us to forge ahead, united in purpose.

Hope proclaims that in this broken world, God does not abandon us.

So how are we to dance to the melody of the future with courage? Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen, retired professor from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, Canada, recently wrote: "When we experience the gospel, we and the church cannot help but be engaged in the transformation of lives and the transformation of society." (Jensen, Canada Lutheran vol. 38, no. 1 Jan/Feb 2023, p. 8)

The Spirit compels us to participate in God's work of establishing justice and making peace – to transformation – so that all may have abundant life.

Gifted and nurtured by the Spirit, hope is a vital component of our common mission through our worship, proclamation, diakonia, humanitarian work and advocacy in the public space, and through our ecumenical and interfaith commitment.

The late Vitor Westhelle wrote: "The theology of the cross ... [moves] into hopeful solidarity, the solidarity

of those who are moved by the pain of God in the midst of the world, or by the pain of the world in the midst of God." (From Padilla, "Martin Luther for the Life of the Church," in *The Forgotten Luther III*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2021, p 92)

In this hopeful solidarity we know that our dance will be changed – will be enriched and strengthened – and other dance steps will be learned, shared, taught. In this hopeful solidarity we recognize moving to a vocation of living and working together in ongoing reformation.

This is not a static reality, nor an end in itself: we live and work together to respond to God's call and to join God in God's mission in the world, supporting each other to witness vibrantly in our diverse contexts through diaconal service, and through advocacy for justice, peace, and reconciliation everywhere and always.

Padilla concluded his presentation in 2022 with these words: "The tools for the work [are]: faith, hope, and love. Faith, the ability to hear the melody of the future; hope, the courage to dance to its rhythm here and now; and love, a stubborn and unwavering commitment."

May we together have such faith, hope, and love.

In Christ Jesus

Shalom, +Larry

Trinity Team 120 Anniversary Edition

Our year of celebrating Trinity's 120th anniversary has come to a close and throughout the year we have shared in many wonderful events, details of which you will find in this commemorative issue.

Reflecting on this past year, I can see how the working hands and collective efforts of our congregation have given us the opportunities to radiate the Love of Jesus to the world. God started this work many years ago and we have been blessed to continue it through the seasons.

The many changes in our world particularly in the past 3 years have brought us new and different ways to welcome new attendees via on-line services, share our faith with other local Lutheran churches through traveling Lenten services, serving and sheltering our broader community, and transforming how we as a faith centered community approach the challenges of our current times.

As we begin a new chapter in our church, let us join in prayer that our lives will continue to depict Christ's nature and his glory, strengthening us for spiritual growth as well as the continuation of his goodness to bless our future as a community with many more anniversary celebrations to come.

And Yet Now...

Ours is an ancient-future faith. And we are called to live in the present.

Trinity has a good deal of history we have honoured and remembered this past year – over a century of worship, gathering, community, and life together! The past twenty years specifically have seen a good deal of change of all kinds.

120 years ago, Trinity would never have dreamed of even considering a woman to be in the pulpit. Yet now, we have grown to a space where we are learning that God calls and ordains all genders in our world.

120 years ago – even as little as twenty years ago – Trinity would never have dreamed of a queer person being in any kind of church community or leadership. Yet now, we are slowly coming to a better awareness of Scripture, God's love, and God's call for people of all orientations.

120 years ago, Trinity could not have dreamed of livestreaming any kind of service. What possible technology was present for that to have even been a part of their communal imagination? Yet now, we have the technology to invite people – people who are homebound or confined to hospices or care centres, who live outside the Edmonton area, who have little to no access to transportation, or simply need to stay home – to still be a part of our worshipping community on Sunday mornings, special evening services, funerals, and weddings. God's Spirit shares love through technology!

120 year ago, we had an awareness of the Anglican churches near to us. Yet now, thanks to the efforts of both Anglican and Lutheran leadership, we have a humming ecumenical relationship that understands that we are better together in community rather than working parallel in isolation.

120 years ago, a group of German immigrants planted and began a small congregation here in Edmonton. Today, we are the ones who continue to grow that community, to change, to learn about the wider community around us, to share in love, and to evolve in faith.

Our ancient-future faith.

What is planted as a seed cannot remain as a seed only. It must change, grow, evolve, and engage in the soil in which it has been planted. Looking back over the past twenty years especially, I see hallmarks of how Trinity is living that growth process! This is our faith in action! Our faith in growth.

It can be distressing at times to witness fewer numbers on a Sunday morning. Yet part of our faith's evolution is to realize that people worship and gather and seek and question on days other than Sundays; that there are other venues, ways, and spaces where we can and do meet to explore who God is and how we are to be in the world. Numbers on Sunday mornings are not a terrific metric of deep growth. Any church can have hundreds of people show up on a Sunday morning, and yet demonstrate next to no signs of depth or growth in the Spirit at all. And yet tiny churches of but a few can demonstrate a vibrant depth with focus on love and compassion for the world around them.

As hard as it might be to believe, the numbers of people on a Sunday morning actually tell us very little about church growth. It is one metric that might have any number of compounding factors swimming beneath it. Yet it is often the metric we hold up as the singular measurement of the health of the church.

Our ancient-future faith runs deeper than numbers, large or small. Our ancient-future faith springs from the wild and holy Spirit of God who grows us and sends us into the world to be God's love and compassion. We are encouraged & welcomed to look back on where we've come from, but we are also called to look at all the growth we have experienced. This growth will help us learn who and how we will be in the future.

Even as we hold this incredible ancient-future faith in tension and with gentle love, we come to learn that we can only truly show up here in the present. Right now. This moment. Holding on too tightly to the past in an effort to reclaim what we once had will wilt us; striving for the future too earnestly will keep us from being able to see how deeply we are loved right now in this moment.

As much as our faith is both ancient and of the future, our community and our love is undoubtedly of the present. The faces of Christ are in our midst in this time and space – in all of you, in me, in each person walking through our doors.

As we look towards the years to come, may each of us revel in this deep and soulful ancient-future faith that we are all a part of; and may we also choose to be grounded here in the present, engaging in Spirit-led love, community, and worship.

Pastor Erin



LUTHER LEAGUE REUNION 2023 – REVIEW

by Ruben and Sonja Marinoske with an introduction by Marlene Gruenberg

In the early 1960s about 30 people from our congregation met weekly with a city-wide young adults group called **Luther League**. This was a powerful instrument of



evangelism and Christian education among young people in North America and first started in the US in 1848. The first organization of a district Luther League took place in Alberta at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ellerslie in 1926. Originally it was a singles' young adult organization but later it included all youth above confirmation age. Sometimes pastors and adults supervised and led the group but later young people took over the direction of their own

league and even regional organizations. Tremendous resources such as program and devotional material, handbooks and song books were made available to the young people. Luther League placed special emphasis on Bible study, worship, home and foreign missions, parish help, special projects and recreation. Large numbers of youth gathered at regional conventions for days of inspiration, singing and spiritual growth. While the formal structure disbanded in the 1960s, many lasting friendships and romances have remained over the years.

While the Luther League reunion held this past May was not officially a Trinity 120 anniversary event, with so many former Trinity Luther League (LL) members, we are including this "highlights reel" of the LL reunion in this issue of the Trinity Team.

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LUTHER LEAGUE REUNION 2023 – Camp Visit

To all those who attended the events and to all those who could not for whatever reason, we wish to report as follows:



The camp visit was awesome – thanks to Lorraine Kalis for being tour guide and delivering information on the history of the LL – and thanks to the 20 who attended and participated.

The Meet and Greet provided time for some 35 participants to reacquaint with long time LL members, and to make new friends while enjoying the baking from Esther Wallbank, Marleen Gruenberg, and Nancy Jeske. Thanks to all who attended.

The Luncheon!! Wow, the smiles, the hugs, the conversations, said it all. The high volume coming from the 83 participants indicated that no one had trouble finding someone to reminisce with. ... while enjoying a good meal provided by Cena Catering, and desserts!

Thank you too to all those who brought memorabilia for the table for everyone to enjoy!

Fun seeing those youthful bodies and faces ☺



Thank you to Nancy and Gerry Jeske, Marleen and Dieter Gruenberg, Adam and Helga Roth, Esther and Ron Wallbank, and Rose Frank for all their assistance in organizing the event, and setting up and taking down, and their friendship during the whole event. Thank you to Gerry also for saying grace. Special thank you to Rev. Roy Oswald who presented a wonderful devotional speech for us – enjoyed by all – and for providing free books that he has written...such a nice gesture.

Hope that the journeys back to Halifax for Doreen (Wagner) Valverde and to Moose Jaw for Rose (Taube) and Lorne Overbye and to Baltimore Maryland for Rev Roy Oswald were good ones and that you enjoyed your time with us in Edmonton.

Also a pat on the back to Marleen and Dieter Gruenberg (and Lorraine Kalis ☺), and to Heinz Frank for providing such an enjoyable time with music and song.

It is hoped that re-visiting Trinity Lutheran Church brought back good memories as well.

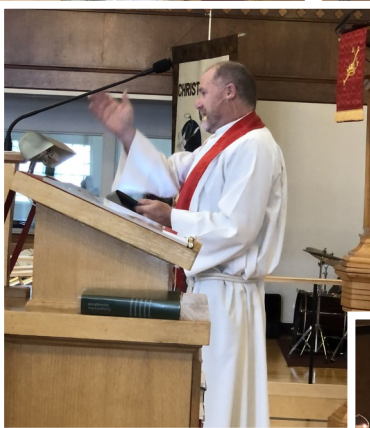


We enjoyed coordinating this event – with all the emails, phone calls, and paperwork! Not work when one is having fun ☺

There was a small amount of dollars left over from the event and these have been donated to Mulhurst Lutheran Camp and to Trinity Lutheran Church for the free use of its facility.

Thanks to everyone as well for maintaining the spiritual relationship that you learned through the Luther League and letting it show at such an event as this. You are all a very special generation – have lived through very trying but wonderful years – and have remained good friends. We hope to see many of you again in the future.





Confirmation Anniversary - March 26, 2023

P. Sigmar Reichel

Confirmation is a solemn blessing service in which young people profess their Christian faith. The confirmands thus confirm their acceptance into the Christian community, which previously happened with baptism, usually in infancy.

As a young person, you are the center of attention at the confirmation celebration. The Latin word "*confirmare*" means something like encouraging or confirming. You will receive blessings as you move into adulthood and your faith will be strengthened. In the past, your parents



already decided to have you baptized as a child. With the confirmation you are now confirming your yes to the Christian faith as a member of the congregation.

Since confirmation is a very important step in our life as Christians, we had the idea to include a special worship service during the year of the 120th anniversary celebration of Trinity Church. It was meant to be a reminder to all members of our confirmation day at the time when we were still very young. It was a great challenge for many of us to find the confirmation certificates, memorabilia, dresses and pictures from the day of confirmation.



A total of 34 jubilees of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Edmonton had gathered on Sunday, March 26th, for their jubilee confirmation. On a glorious, sunny Sunday, the jubilee confirmands had gathered first for the nice and dynamic combined service with beautiful music, choir participation, and later in the Luther Center, for a special meeting and a wonderful lunch.

Pastor Erin Thomas and Pastor Sigmar Reichel opened the Jubilee Confirmation Service by expressing their joy that this celebration was happening for the first time in this church.

Based on Psalm 100, 4b-5: "*Thank the Lord, bless his name because the Lord is good and loves us forever and is faithful through all the ages*", the following was said to the jubilee confirmands:

"How beautiful it is to thank God, as we heard it in this Psalm. We have to thank God for the opportunity to be here today to celebrate the anniversary of your confirmation. So many years have passed since you said YES for the first time in order to confirm your baptism in God's church. It was a conscious decision to live a life with God. And, this is a reason to be thankful, to praise God, and to ask Him for His blessings, so that He may continue accompanying, blessing, and strengthening you during your life."

Afterwards, the jubilee confirmands were blessed and each one received a certificate and a Luther-rose with a small lamp, a symbol of Lutheranism. After the service, everyone headed to the Luther Center for food and fellowship.



For many weeks afterward, this important event in the life of Trinity Lutheran Church was still talked about. Yet, as some of the jubilee confirmands told me, while the event itself was remarkable, its effect on them was even more important. Celebrating this confirmation jubilee helped them realize the significance of the decision made in their lives many, many years ago to publicly turn to and affirm their faith in God.



How Trinity has Shaped Me

I joined Trinity in 2003, when my husband Markus became pastor here. I stayed on when in 2013 he moved to a different congregation, because Trinity is where I had found a spiritual home.

The Faith Discussion Group, which I joined early on, played a key role in that. This group meets about twice per month and offers supportive listening and prayer as members share faith and life questions. It is probably the quality of conversation in this group that has made me feel most at home at Trinity.

In part through that group, I found people at Trinity, women especially, who practiced a combination of deep trust in God and deep compassion/justice for the world. People who were open to, rather than afraid of, questions and experiments. Here are some examples:

Early on in my membership, Trinity was deciding whether it would become an "Out of the Cold" overnight shelter. At the congregational meeting, some members expressed their fear of being unsafe coming to church. Then Hanae Kiyooka stood up, acknowledged the fears and said, let's work on solutions together so you do not have to be afraid and we can still be a shelter. That blew my mind. Compassion for all parties, not choosing one over the other, and trusting God rather than giving in to fear. The "Out of the Cold" shelter was approved.

Overhearing the late Camilla Witt speaking on the phone with food bank clients (we shared a shift), I was struck by her ability to form a connection with each caller. She listened, problem-solved with them and inspired faith in them, all with a sincerity and creativity that blew my mind. Volunteering for the food bank perhaps impacted me (and our daughter Ella, who often came with me and helped) as much as the clients.

Knocking on neighbours' doors with Rosanne Thede on a -30°C Saturday in 2010. We gave them a heads-up that the next day, we would ring our bell not the usual 7, but 350 times. We were joining churches all over the world in sounding the alarm about global warming, warning that increasing CO2 in the atmosphere beyond 350 parts per million would have severe consequences (as we are experiencing now). The neighbours were supportive, some even showed up that Sunday. So did the media. The event was a strong symbolic action in the honourable tradition of the prophets.

I could go on - the ongoing experiment of the church/community garden (founded in 2012), hosting Indigenous awareness events in 2014 during the TRC, including the powerful exhibit "The Creator's Sacrifice" by Indigenous artist Ovide Bighetty, yoga in the church, midweek Prayers for Peace, and finally the Trinity Community Mural

(2016), a collaboration of the church with artists, The Paint Spot and neighbours of all walks of life to create what I feel is a beautiful symbol of our motto: *Loving God - Loving Each Other - Loving the World*.

I loved collaborating on these things with other Trinity people. Sometimes I was even the leader (e.g., mural). I experienced that there was room for my gifts and more importantly for my passions *in* the church, that the church can be relevant to things I care about, and that there are others who care similarly.

It was perhaps no accident that after all that, when Hannah Young asked me one Sunday out of the blue if I had ever considered becoming a pastor, I was thunderstruck. Apparently, some other people had made the suggestions earlier (they told me later), but I did not hear them. Hannah, I heard. Perhaps serving on the lay committee for Erin Thomas' internship had softened my heart a little. God works in mysterious ways.

I entered seminary in the fall of 2020 with the plan to discern whether the vocation of pastor was for me. And three years later I am still on that path, currently as intern pastor in the Red Deer area. God willing, I will graduate in May 2024. All this would not have happened without the people I met at Trinity and without the space at Trinity for my passions and for experimentation.

In hindsight, I know that God gave me those passions, a heart which cares about justice, creation, diversity and community

building. So of course there should be room for that in the church.

It is all the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and in the church.

I know things are changing at Trinity. Its purported "glory days" are long gone. That's not only happening at Trinity, and I don't think it's a bad thing. I believe and pray that we will become clearer on what we are about as the church. We may end up looking more like the small committed faith communities of the first three centuries before Christianity "went mainstream" and all the baggage that came with that. Trinity's mission statement, *In community with one another, we are called to be the embodiment of God's love in the World*, is an exciting, hopeful step in the right direction.

Let me close by encouraging you to continue to experiment, and to listen to your passions (your own and each other's), they might just be from the Holy Spirit.

I am so grateful, Trinity friends. May our faithful, open-minded God bless you as you experiment with *Loving God - Loving Each Other - Loving the World*.

Andrea Wilhelm



A Pastor's Prayer

O Lord my God, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; yet you have called your servant to stand in your house, and to serve at your altar. To you and to your service I devote myself, body, soul, and spirit.

Fill my memory with the record of your mighty works; enlighten my understanding with the light of your Holy Spirit; and may all the desires of my heart and will center in what you would have me do.

Make me an instrument of your salvation for the people entrusted to my care, and grant that I may faithfully administer your Holy Sacraments, and by my life and teaching set forth your true and living Word. Be always with me in carrying out the duties of this ministry.

In prayer, quicken my devotion; in praise, heighten my love and gratitude; in preaching, give me readiness of thought and expression; and grant that, by the clearness and brightness of your holy Word, all the world may be drawn into your blessed kingdom.

All this I ask for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN

(This prayer was part of the Rite of Installation for Pastor Lisa Basboll, on May 2, 1994)

Shared with thanks for all the pastors that have faithfully served Trinity over the years - with special thanks to those who have served us in the last 20 years:



What's in our Name? 121 years of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hannah Noerenberg

Faith-led people have been gathering at this corner of 81st Avenue and 100th Street in today's Old Strathcona neighbourhood of Edmonton, formerly home to the Pa-paschase Cree Nation, for over 120 years. In 1902, a group of forward-thinking German settlers in the area organized as a congregation and built the first Trinity Lutheran Church on this location.

Prior to that, from 1898 until 1902, German speaking immigrants who wished to gather for worship in their mother tongue and following Lutheran liturgical traditions made the trek by horse and wagon to the small prayer chapel known as *Lutherhort Betsaal*. This small chapel (21' x 21') stood on Ellerslie road somewhat west of Calgary Trail, a distance of roughly 16 kilometers from Strathcona. (The refurbished Betsaal currently stands on the grounds of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ellerslie.)



With the immigration boom to this region, in 1914 the old church was moved north on the property and the current brick church was erected to accommodate the growing number of worshipers attending Trinity at the time. Over the

decades, the church building was extended north and west, and the Luther Centre and Atrium were added.

A constant factor has been the name of this congregation. The congregation was organized in 1902 and officially incorporated as the German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Church of Edmonton (Evangelisch-Lutherischen Dreieinigkeits Gemeinde zu Edmonton) in 1913. Although it can be quite a mouthful, each of the words in the name chosen by past church members for this congregation of believers has meanings that are well worth unpacking today.

Evangelical - The Gospel of Jesus Christ—the *evangel* or good news—has been described as the “*treasure of the church, the content of its preaching and teaching, the heartbeat of its mission and service.*”⁽¹⁾ To be evangelical is to “*present the good news of Jesus Christ as the very center of Christian faith and life and the standard by which all else is understood, explained and judged.*” Imagine having attended an absolutely awesome concert, movie or sporting event. Would you not want to tell others about it? Even recommend they go see it themselves? Maybe even share information as to how to get free tickets

so they, too, could enjoy the awesomeness of the event? Given that the mouth speaks of what the heart is full of, when our heart is full of joy, relief, peace and happiness, knowing the awesomeness of God's love for us, would it not follow that we are eager to let others know of this source of our spiritual sustenance? That is what being evangelical means. For many, our society appears increasingly worrisome these days, with news of wars, pestilence, environmental phenomena, increased violence, and more. If we enjoy peace of mind knowing the future lies in God's almighty hands, does it not fall to us to share that peace with those around us who might be anxious, frantic, even suicidal? Sharing Jesus' teaching and parables (like that of the sparrow), letting others know that God provides us with sustenance and how God settles our inner spirit, that is evangelical. So is letting people know that they are unique, loved by God just as they are, despite all uncertainties, doubts, weaknesses and imperfections.

Today many of us find ourselves caught in the tension of wanting to promote diversity and respect for other belief systems while acknowledging that historically religious authorities have used coercion, threats and forms of violence to “convert” others to the faith. Not wanting to offend, we stay silent. And yet, we are told by our Lord not to keep our light covered, but to let it shine brightly for others to see. Living our lives prayerfully, modeling hope and grace wherever we go, that too is what it means to be evangelical.

Many of the early German Strathcona Trinity members were used to the distinction in Europe between the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant denominations and used the word *Evangelisch* to indicate their Protestant church traditions when discussing their faith. It is clear that the word “evangelical” has multiple strands of meaning. For some, it can simply mean not Catholic; for others, it is an umbrella term for a range of Christian denominations often associated with a certain political view which they may not share. But principally, the word ‘Evangelical’ in our name reminds us how we are part of the priesthood of all believers, and how in every conversation we have the opportunity to share the good news from which we, by the grace of God, experience strength and sustenance.

Lutheran - Martin Luther did NOT want his supporters to be known and named after him. And yet...many congregations worldwide carry the name of this former Cath-



olic monk. In the early 1500s he had been inspired and emboldened to speak out against the religious structures in place that did not align with God's written Word. Martin Luther and other European church reformers were subsequently referred to as Protestant. One of Martin Luther's legacies is translating the Bible from Latin (which only the Church hierarchy understood) to German (so that God's Word would be made plain for ordinary people). Other Reformers soon followed suit in other languages. A key dogma of the time was that one was to earn God's favour through works, actions and donations. Luther countered this by pointing to Paul's letters teaching of God's love, grace and mercy despite human failings. Another focus was to break down the church hierarchy that functioned as intermediary between each person and God, structures that kept people away from the direct experience of God working in their lives. As Jesus prayed directly to His Father, so too these reformers enabled and encouraged people to pray directly to God. Martin Luther composed many songs, prayers, liturgies and devotional texts to inspire people to reach out to God daily in their own homes. Many of the components we follow each Sunday in our Order of Worship can be traced back to our namesake.

Trinity - Three in one - One in three. The mystery of the Trinity. God in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Creation, Sanctification, Inspiration. God, at whose desire and command all that is, has come to be. God with all powers, seen and unseen, whose vast greatness is incomprehensible for the human mind. Yet, as Jesus spoke to His Father in prayer and as God's voice rolled out "This is my Son" at Jesus' baptism, so every week we offer up statements of belief in which we credit God as the Maker of all things, the Source of life in all forms and we follow Jesus' lead in calling him our Father. As well, we confess Jesus as God's Son and our Saviour who carried the burden of our sins and shortcomings, bearing the consequences we should deserve on account of our human frailties, to allow us to be remade as holy and acceptable in order to join God in eternity. We confess also God as the Holy Spirit, the Helper promised us by Jesus as he departed into Heaven. We believe in the Holy Spirit whose presence and action teach, strengthen and inspire the faithful ever since that first day of Pentecost, when the Spirit first poured out over Jesus' followers.

Church - "In community with one another, we are called to be the embodiment of God's love in the world."

Church - where believers gather and find sustenance in the preaching of the Word, the celebration of Baptism, the public Confirmation of the faith, the Commendation of the deceased into the Saviour's hands, and the sharing of Bread and Wine as reminders of Christ's ongoing presence with



us and in the world.

Church - where we build community around one small part of the family of God in this place while also praying for, and taking actions around, for, with and among the larger community, the nation, the world. As stated in the Mission Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada: "*The mission of this church, as an expression of the universal Church and as an instrument of the Holy Spirit, is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with people in Canada and around the world through proclamation of the Word, celebration of the sacraments, and through service in Christ's name.*" ⁽²⁾

Church - where we learn of the mysteries of God, as Jesus explains that getting to know Him is getting to know the Father. ⁽³⁾

Church - where, as we regularly hear God's benediction upon our lives, together we hone the ethical and moral courage needed to act in the face of injustice in the world, communally confessing our faith in the One in Three, in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit who lead the way in showing us where to speak and act as messengers of God's grace.

Church - the wooden and later brick building envisioned by those who stood in this place 121 years before us.

Church - the connections we feel to each other as we gather virtually and in person to learn, worship and celebrate God's presence.

Church - the Christian fellowship we have which includes loving one another in the family of God, caring for one another, sharing with one another, bearing one another's burdens, and rejoicing and growing together, along with the uplifting fellowship that arises as we worship, sing and pray together, all essential to our spiritual growth. ⁽⁴⁾

Church - what links us with others who share the faith, within and beyond many different denominations.

Church - the gathering of God's faithful people from time into eternity.

So much in this name.

Thanks be to God for the past 121 years.

We look forward to God's guidance into the future, whatever that may bring.

1) *Evangelical Catechism - Christian Faith in the World Today*. Augsburg Fortress Publishing House. 1982, p. 9.

2) <https://elcic.ca/mission-and-vision/> (Accessed June 20, 2023)

3) John 14:7-9

4) *Our Daily Bread. Special Edition. Day 40*. RBC Ministries. 2001.

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or drop them off at the church office - Attn: Trinity Team

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