



Dear friends in Christ:

On the wall in my office, there is a little plaque with a prayer, known to Lutheran pastors as “*Luther’s Sacristy Prayer*”. It can be found in slightly different formats, coming from the ways people may translate. Here is one version:

Lord God, You have appointed me as a Bishop and Pastor in Your Church, but you see how unsuited I am to meet so great and difficult a task. If I had lacked Your help, I would have ruined everything long ago. Therefore, I call upon You: I wish to devote my mouth and my heart to you; I shall teach the people. I myself will learn and ponder diligently upon Your Word. Use me as Your instrument -- but do not forsake me, for if ever I should be on my own, I would easily wreck it all.

I have always appreciated this prayer. It is humbling to remember what the task is to which the Lord has called me and the other pastors and deacons of our church. If the power were in me, truly “I would have ruined everything long ago.” Thanks be to God, that His Spirit is at work in His Word and in His Church, working to build up, encourage and bless those who serve in His name!

That doesn’t mean, however, that there aren’t things to be done to accomplish God’s will for me, as His servant and for you, His church. As Luther says, we devote our mouths and hearts to the Lord. We must learn and ponder diligently upon God’s Word. We need to be growing in that Word and in our understanding of it. This happens in various ways, but I share with you something new we are going to start in our office.

Pastor Eric, Deaconess Miriam and I all have this desire to grow, so that we may be best equipped to share God’s Word and the truth of that Word with you. We have talked about ways we can encourage one another. To that end, we are going to be starting our own “educational programme” for professional development. Beginning on August 13th, we will be setting aside 1½ hours on alternating Monday mornings to learn together. We have assigned ourselves a reading program, and will take time to review, discuss and learn from other teachers in the church. We are dedicating this time, which means that from 9:30-11:00 am every second week, we will be unavailable for anything except for emergencies. We truly hope that you will appreciate the need to have us grow in wisdom and understanding for your sake, so that you will not feel slighted or inconvenienced by this time.

Our study may, at some point, become available to others who wish to join us. For now, we are undertaking this that we may grow. The book we will begin with is entitled, *Closed Communion? Admission to the Lord’s Supper in Biblical Lutheran Perspective*. This collection of essays from Lutheran theologians examines the Scriptural teachings on Holy Communion and how we come to the table of the Lord. It is a fairly lengthy book, so we will definitely be spending a few weeks working through it.

In his sacristy prayer, Luther goes to God for strength for the work he was doing. We, your servants, regularly do that, too. We look for ways to grow in our service to you. Luther prayed for himself, but also knew how important the prayers of the people were. There is an old expression (and I may have used it last newsletter, too) that there will be more power in the pulpit when there is more prayer in the pews. Please keep us, your workers—your pastors and deaconess—in your prayers, that we may be encouraged as we learn from our God, and share that with you!

Rejoicing in His days:

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Children & Family Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL

*"My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word".
Psalm 119:81*

Our last day before the start of summer break was on June 17th. Following our opening, children and teachers gathered in the Fireside Room for a servant event. Children put together backpacks containing school supplies for children who will need them in the fall. Thanks to Mrs. Bablitz for taking them to a school where there are these kinds of needs, and thank you to those who donated school supplies.

Some of our Sunday School teachers participated in a Workshop put together by the Sunday School coordinator at Grace Lutheran Church, together with Deaconess Miriam. Our own Pastor Bode, Betty Ann Chandler, Marilyn Harrison and Jutta Colhoun were presenters at this event! We give thanks to God for the teachers who, this past year, were faithful in bringing God's Word to the children in their classes: Preschool – Jutta Colhoun and Lynn Morine; Grades 1-2 – Tobi Stene and Austin Voss; Grades 3-5 – Patty O'Krafka; Helpers and substitute teachers – Donna Poirier, Jocelyn Cook and Liane Voss.

We are in need of a team teacher for grade 1-2 this fall! If you love telling children about Jesus, their Saviour, and would be interested in team-teaching, please contact Deaconess Miriam.

Although the children are on a break for the summer, adults are not! Their Bible study time continues Sunday mornings at 9:00 am every Sunday morning. If you would like to attend Bible study, and have children of Sunday School age, please contact Deaconess Miriam, and we'll arrange a learning activity for your children during that time.

Regular Sunday School classes resume Sunday, September 9th! Watch your bulletins and e-mails for more information as we get closer to that date.

MOMS & TOTS



Summer brings a few changes to our schedule. On **Thursday, July 5th** we will meet at a local splash park for some fun with the children. Moms and Tots alumni are welcome to join in! Watch your e-mail or contact Deaconess Miriam for information about time and location. Our regular schedule will resume in September.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Children's choir has ended for the summer. The children were grateful for the opportunity to sing during worship in late May, and look forward to resuming rehearsals in the fall. New members age 4-10 are always welcome. Please watch for information as September approaches!



SATURDAY KIDS BIBLE CLUB!

Has also ended for the summer, but we look forward to resuming our monthly gatherings in September. Stay tuned!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018!



GOOD NEWS! Children will gather again this year for Vacation Bible School, offered July 16-20 and July 23-27. Thank you to everyone who has stepped forward to share their time and their gifts so that children can hear the **GOOD NEWS** of salvation in Jesus Christ! There are still spaces available during the second week. We encourage you to invite children of friends and neighbours to come and hear **GOOD NEWS!**

August Mission of the Month

FLC Benevolence Fund

There are many times when our members have been in need of help and support. While our Board of Human Care Ministries has a budget to help with the needs of those who come to us, this fund is for the support of the members of FLC who may be at risk of being without their basic living needs. The fund is not a budgeted item, but is supported through the free-will offerings of our members. You can support this effort with your gift, simply designate "Benevolence Fund" on your envelope.

A Peek Into Our Preschool

Because of what Jesus did for us, we have the hope of heaven. Our preschool students drew pictures of what they imagined heaven to be like. These are some of their thoughts:

Heaven is more beautiful than:

- A rainbow
- A birthday cake
- A zip line that hugs the world
- A forest

Heaven is brighter than:

- The sun
- A house with all the lights on
- A star
- A lightbulb

Heaven will be more fun than:

- Playing with a robot
- Balloons
- Christmas
- Playing at the park

Heaven will be happier than:

- Donuts with sprinkles
- Watching TV
- Birthday parties
- Getting tickles

Heaven will be more peaceful than:

- Home
- Blue water
- My bed
- Fishing

Thank You – From Our Preschool

(Mrs. Chandler and Ms. Amy)

- We were blessed by the many parent volunteers as well as Jutta Culhoun from our congregation who helped in our classroom by spending time with the children and sanitized our toys each week as mandated by health regulations. Other parent volunteers helped outside the classroom by doing chores like supplying play dough, laundering paint shirts and taking our empty juice boxes to the recycling depot.
- We are thankful to be working with Big PLANS for Little Kids who provide a free speech/language and occupational therapy screening for our 4 year-old students and utilize provincial government funding to assist children with delays and those learning English as a second language. Ms. Tracy & Ms. Heather supported 4 children with special needs in our classroom. In addition, Cause & Effect's Ms. Abby & Ms. Aileen supported 2 other special needs children in our classroom.
- We are thankful for our church family for helping us gather recyclables such as cardboard rolls and empty rectangular Kleenex boxes that we used in various art projects throughout the year. We are also thankful for your prayers.
- We are thankful for all the staff members at FLC who support the work of our preschool.
- Above all, we thank God for the opportunity to share His love and His Word this school year, with 66 children born in 10 different countries. 16 of these children had parents at the University of Calgary.



Preschool Registration for Fall Classes

Registrations for the fall are currently being accepted. There are both morning and afternoon spots available. Registration packages are available on our website (www.preschool.foothillslutheran.com) and on the table outside our classroom. Meet the Teacher visits will be scheduled for the week of Aug. 28. Orientation for new students with a parent will be on Wednesday, September 7, with classes beginning on Thursday, September 8. If you would like more information about our program, Betty Ann would be happy to speak to you.

Board of Fellowship

Past Events

Celebrating Women “Pot-Blessing” Dinner, May 14th

Along with the LWML, a special dinner was held on the Monday after Mother’s Day to celebrate the important women in our lives.

Pysanky Workshop – June 2nd

On Saturday afternoon, 15 of us learnt how to decorate eggs using beeswax and a kistka (wax stylus) and then made them beautiful colors by dipping into various dyes. Jean Richardson made the class a lot of fun. She even varnished the finished eggs for us so they were shiny and less fragile.



Father’s Day – June 17th

Chocolate cigars were handed out to the fathers in the congregation to celebrate their importance in the family.

Upcoming Events

Stampede Breakfast, July 15th

Our Stampede Breakfast is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family from far and near. We enjoy a great breakfast together, visit with one another, and celebrate the word of God outside. More information is available from the Stampede Breakfast committee which includes Anni Adams, Heather Sommers, Pastor Bode and Tim Roth.



Continuing Events

Coffee Teams

We are blessed to have the following teams provide coffee, tea and a little treat to welcome us on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in joining a team, please contact Belinda Perrin at (403) 239-9100 or Belindaperrin@gmail.com

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Team 1 | Mark Kihn, Art Hanger, Kim Harvey, Alice Churney, Ron & Diane Voss and Liane Voss-Roper |
| Team 2 | Anni & Brad Adams, Elfrieda Stewart, Jan Geggie, and Marilyn Harrison |
| Team 3 | Elise Glans, Vi & Otto Dusterhoft and Anne Marie Kothari |
| Team 4 | Pat & Lorne, Kristy & Kellen Rosenau and Lucy Oberhammer |
| Team 5 | Tracy & Tim Roth and Jay & Kim Anderson |
| Team 6 | Belinda & Dave Perrin, Herb & Jane Gurski and Brenda Bode |
| Team 7 | Ingrid Kubke and Robert Kubke |
| Team 8 | Shirley & Carl Berdahl, Ellen Wagner and Cheryl Lemke |
| Team 9 | Heather Sommers, Merv & Kareen Borgeson, and Warren Kee, |
| Team 10 | Carol & Lloyd Sandau, Joan & Tom Copeland and Bob & Elsie Will |

Parish Planning Council Effective July 1, 2018

President: Tim Roth

Vice President: vacant

Treasurer: Terry Naven

Directors / Board Chairs:

Education: Trevor Heumann

Evangelism: Mark Kihn

Fellowship: Heather Sommers

Stewardship: Jay Anderson

Church Properties: Rick Bennetts

Human Care Ministries: vacant

Board of Elders:

Gary Anderson

Thomas Benz

Merv Borgeson

Darcy Drysdale

Robert Heumann

Rob Kaut

Warren Kee

Phil Lemke

Goodluck Nwaerandu

Lorne Rosenau

We are still in need of a Vice President and Board chair for the Board of Human Care Ministries. Please contact Tim Roth if you are willing to serve in this capacity.

Human Care Ministries



Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Summer is truly a time that we as God's children, appreciate his blessings of relaxing with family at the lake, rest from work or school, and watching the growth of the coming harvest. Let us also take time to continue to love others through service and care this summer. Here are some possibilities:

Fill a backpack for a child in need. While many children in Calgary have their school supplies covered through school fees, there are also families who could benefit from having these same supplies in their home so that their children can colour, draw, write, cut, and paste to reinforce what they have learned and develop their creativity.



You can drop off your filled backpack to the church this summer, or take it directly to the Salvation Army at 3720 19 Avenue SE.



Do some late spring cleaning and drop off gently used clothing (in the church bin or at The Seed: 102 11 Ave. S.E.) or share of your treasures or working hands to provide a meal to a neighbour in need.

With the increases in gas prices over the summer and the additional cost of food for children at home for summer vacation (who during the school year may access breakfast and lunch programs at their school), consider donating to the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank.



If you have a service opportunity that you would like to share, please feel welcome to share it by posting it on the Human Care Ministry bulletin board this summer. Also, if you know of a member who could benefit from some help in their home or yard this summer, please contact Stacey Bablitz.

*Respectfully submitted in His service,
Stacey Bablitz*

Foothills Lutheran Church – Greeters Team

Meet some of our parish's 'doorkeepers'! Every Sunday, a few of them are assigned to greet you in the narthex as you arrive to church and as you leave the sanctuary after worship service. This committed team has now been active for the past 3 years. It's a great opportunity to welcome visitors and connect with your fellow parish members... and an opportunity to get to know your Brothers & Sisters in Christ in a social setting! Consider 'signing up' next fall when you are asked to fill in the Board of Stewardship's *Time and Talent Survey*. You will enjoy participating in this Christian service initiative.

FLC Greeters Team BBQ at the Lemke residence – June 22, 2018. Missing from photo: Gary & Laurel Anderson, Rick Bennetts, Brian Chandler, Otto & Vi Dusterhoft, Marj Fiesel, Jan Geggie, Elfrieda Heiden, Christine Heumann, Mark Kihn, Anne Marie Kothari, Goodluck & Heather Nwaerandu, Don & Barb Oatway and Bill & Erika Schultz.

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. (Psalm



Summer Sermon Series

For several weeks, we offered you an opportunity to say what you would like to hear in a sermon, as we seek to apply the wonderful, powerful, living Word of God to the questions of our lives. We had some interesting responses and appreciate your thoughtfulness.

As we hear that Word applied to our questions, may we be encouraged again in the fact that the Word of the Lord is the “one thing needful”, the very source of our hope, our life and our strength for each day.

The following is the schedule for this series, including the request that was made and the text and theme that will be the basis of that sermon. Not all requests have been filled; some will come later in the fall and winter.

Requested Theme	Text and Theme	Date
Infinite Firewood! The Burning Bush and the Power of God		Jun 24, 2018
<i>The Sermon on the Mount</i> - the greatest sermon ever?	What More Can He Say? Matthew 5-7	Jul 8, 2018
Friendship Sunday Guest: Adam Chandler		Jul 15, 2018
The Lord's Table: the benefits of and exhortations to	Given For You	Jul 22, 2018
Matthew 6:25-31: Law or Gospel? Is this use of “anxious” different from the modern understanding of struggling with anxiety, which can often seem uncontrollable? These verses seem to make the struggle harder.	The Lord Who Cares Matthew 6:25-31	Jul 29, 2018
1 Corinthians 11:25-26 - What does “often” mean?	Never Too Often 1 Corinthians 11:25-26	Aug 5, 2018
The new heaven and the new earth	All Things New Revelation 21:1-4	Aug 12, 2018
About the Millennium	The Days of our Lives Revelation 20:1-9	Aug 19, 2018
The Tabernacle, and its relevance to the Gospel message	Dwelling Among Us Exodus 25:1-9; John 1:1-14	Aug 26, 2018
Biblical guidelines for animal treatment (proper hunting motivations and practices) - Genesis - have dominion	Given to Care Genesis 1:29	Sep 2, 2018
Revelation	Comfort from the Christ Revelation 1:1-3	Sep 16, 2018

We try to match the topics with the lessons for the day—something very hard to do this year. That may mean your request is being addressed while you are on holidays, and we apologize. You can get the text of the sermons from the website: www.foothillslutheran.com

As we look to God's Word, may it bring blessings to use and encourage us for all we do in His name!

First Annual (in a long time) Foothills Camping Trip

On June 8 to 10, 2018, 19 adults and 15 kids from our congregation. We stayed at Crawling Valley Campgroup near Bassano, and were blessed with an amazing weekend of camping, fishing, boating, campfires, worship, rain, and – most importantly – Christian fellowship. God's glory shone on the beautiful reservoir, and the circle drive was perfect to set up around, with a central shelter and firepit for our shared meals, gatherings, and worship.



On Friday, we set up and settled in while the kids enjoyed our enclosed field and nearby playground. We had our first campfire and first encounter with water: the sprinkler system!

Saturday started out sunny and the beach, boat, and fish beckoned. By the afternoon, the rain started and continued all night. Despite the storm, our potblessing dinner was a huge hit. We had more than enough for all, with plenty left over for Sunday lunch. Perhaps we were being reminded of the Feeding of the 5,000?

That evening, we made a joyful noise unto the Lord under our tarped shelter with Christian campfire songs, accompanied by Pastor Eric on the guitar. We decided to sing only a few choice verses of *I've Got the Joy* instead of the full 17! The evening was made complete around the campfire with plenty of laughs and snacks.

We gathered on Sunday morning ready for worship. Pastor Eric's meditation was based on Genesis 3: 8-15, and we could all relate to the first sins. We sang more camping favourites, and our attendance was even recorded for the church records! After lunch, most of us packed up and hit the road before the next rainfall.



Many thanks to Hans Dueck for organizing this wonderful trip. Thanks also to Pastor Eric and Trixie Hennig for their musical talents and leadership. Thank you to the barbeque cooks, Goodluck and Dennis, as well as to Brad Otke for sharing his boat, fishing gear, and expertise. Thank you to everyone who blessed our group with their delicious culinary creations.

Most importantly, we give thanks to God for His goodness as we stayed safe during travels and rain and for our shared abundance in food and fellowship. It was a weekend of great memories – a foretaste of what we pray will be repeated next year.



- Submitted by Jean Bauer-Wong

Third Annual Photo Scavenger Hunt



The annual photo scavenger hunt was June 22, and Team Tahoe (Monica, Colin, Tobi, Doug, Stacey, and Ralf) won by a thousand points! They have the honour of keeping the trophy lamp, signed by the three winning teams,



The second place team was Trevor (not pictured), McKenna, Jessi, Ashley, and Erica. This year's locations were all sites of local history, and players had to identify them just from the address and take a photo of the entire team. Each team member also had to wear/hold a prop provided by Kayla and Michelle.



The third place team was Jaxson (not pictured), Faith, Hans, Josh, Evan, Carter, and Pastor Eric. Location points were based on proximity to the church, so the Olympic torch at McMahon, being close to the church, wasn't worth as much as...



...a place further away, like Lougheed House, and bonus points were awarded if two teams were in the same spot at the same time.

Watch for info next spring about the FOURTH ANNUAL PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT!

- Submitted by Michelle Heumann

FLC Choir



MANY joyful notes from the choir!

What an exciting season we've had, singing our way through our Lord's passion and resurrection – HALLELUJAH!! June 10th was the last Sunday for the choir for this season, and we look forward to seeing everyone back again, as well as NEW voices!! Thank you to everyone for your encouragement and kind words for the choir – it truly is a blessing for this fellowship. Do you have a favourite song that the choir has sung in the past and want to hear it again? Send me a note! Watch Sunday bulletins in August for more information about when our first Wednesday practice will be in the fall. For more info, please contact Christine Heumann.

Silver Saints

The Silver Saints thank everyone who spoke to our group with interesting topics and videos this past year. We thank Carol and Lloyd Sandau for their hospitality as they once again allowed us to use their beautiful home and yard for our "end of the year" picnic. Thank you Carol and Lloyd!

We have been organizing plans for the 2018-2019 season and are looking into an "Octoberfest" event in September.

Details for it and future activities will be posted in the church bulletin and on the bulletin board near the entrance to the Fellowship Hall. A video of the recent picnic is shown on the monitor also near the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Bob Will for taking pictures.

Silver Saints Wind-Up June 13, 2018



Refugee Sponsorship Update

The Ibrahim family arrived in Calgary on May 31st, from Cairo, after living in a refugee camp for 18 years. There will be a photo of their arrival on the Narthex monitors, along with the rest of our committee, Cathy Weger from Lutheran Church of the Good Shepard, Beth Johnson from Grace Lutheran and Theo and Sabine Dillenburg from St. Matthew, as well as our interpreter, Nigel.

We have had the honour of helping the Rabie Ibrahim family settle in their new home and city. The committee has worked diligently to arrange what is needed for the family. We've taken them to numerous essential appointments (health care, language assessments, banking and many more). Belinda and Dave Perrin have been most gracious in helping the family see and learn about Calgary. We'd be very pleased if some of you would also like to spend time with the family - they are very appreciative of what we have done for them. If anyone would like to donate any gift cards (SuperStore/Walmart), Calgary Zoo passes, movie passes, these would be greatly appreciated. Please leave them at the Office.

Our committee, the Calgary Circuit Pastors, and many of our circuit congregant members have reached out to help this family in need. We know that this is what we have been asked to do in the Bible. We are definitely blessed by this opportunity.



Board of Evangelism

Good News in the Bad Lands! On Sunday afternoon, July 22 @ 2 p.m., you'll have the opportunity to attend the Badlands Passion Play in Drumheller. We'll hop aboard a Red Arrow Motorcoach and go as a group. The event begins at 4 p.m. We'll be back to the church at about 9 p.m.

We got a great deal on tickets (1/2 price) and also a discount on chartering the Motorcoach. The entire rate is \$60 per person. We only have a limited number of tickets.

We'll have lunch after the worship service, relax, then head out. We'll have fruit and snacks on the coach. You can travel in comfort while viewing the mid-summer Alberta countryside.

This is a great opportunity to bring a non-church friend/relative/neighbor along to head the Good News of Jesus' salvation for us.

Please contact Mark Kihn of the Evangelism/Outreach Committee: markkkih55@gmail.com



Albertans re-build Houston houses; sample America too

--by Mark Kihn, Calgary. Mark was the fourth re-build volunteer on the Waters' SP team. This article appears in the July 2018 issue of "City Light News."

Few Canadians could have sampled America like several Albertans did in late April/early May in Houston, Texas. They had volunteered with Samaritan's Purse (SP) to re-build homes wrecked by Hurricane Harvey, which ripped through the Gulf Coastal Lowlands last August.

The sampling wasn't only culinary delights, although the workers wrapped up a week at a well-known Texas BBQ eatery on Friday evening. "The beef brisket was top-notch at Killen's Texas Barbecue," offered a volunteer.

A 16-person Canadian crew spent their "free" time cleaning, sawing, hammering, and painting in an effort to get people back into their flood-ravaged homes. Many of the affected home-owners had little or no insurance.

As for the American accents, the Canadians had "tastes" of those also. "I'll admit, my North Carolina boss was hard to understand at times," said Stephen Hiebert, a carpenter from Beaumont, Alta. He was in a sub-group of five who tackled the house deficiencies of the Maldonado family, Pasadena, Texas, a huge south Houston suburb.

Handyman Craig Poulsen, Three Hills, Alta., worked mainly at painting the house interior, and therefore, he dealt with the Spanish-speaking wife, Esperanza. "Her English was pretty good – better than my Spanish," Poulsen claimed.

At the Samaritan's Purse base camp in Pearland, Texas, also in south Houston, the teams listened to morning and evening briefings from SP project leader, Shawn Vollmering, a born and raised Texan. His perfectly smooth drawl would be so out-of-place in Canada, Hiebert suggested.

The teams' "home" was that SP base camp. The regimented set-up, established last September on the grounds of a large Baptist church, meant a bunk-bed dormitory, cookhouse meals, and portable showers on semi-trailers, plus pre-dawn wake-ups, and lights-out at 10 p.m. "You get used to it," Hiebert analyzed. "I didn't expect any frills." He still found time and energy for evening runs. "I didn't want to venture out too far and get lost," he mused.

Poulsen said the southern heat wasn't oppressive, although the first day "featured" 34C temperatures. He noticed the higher humidity, as compared to dry Alberta. It was difficult working in the heat, Poulsen said, "But helping people overrides my discomfort."

As for exploring and sampling the local area, the Canadian volunteers had Saturday morning as "free time." Poulsen and Hiebert joined in with a group who headed

to the Gulf of Mexico and Galveston, 60 km south. Galveston is perched on an island just into the Gulf. The vulnerable city of 50,000 often bears the brunt of all Coastal Lowlands hurricanes.

Zippering along six-lane Houston freeways to the airport (and home), the groups by-passed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Johnson Space Center by about five km. Whereas "Houston, we have a problem!" is engraved into the American lexicon with reference to Apollo 13 troubles, the phrase has been appropriated. It has now gained notoriety for its use during the Hurricane Harvey disaster last August.

That disaster was one of the largest in American history. Harvey damaged 203,000 houses (12,700 were destroyed). Samaritan's Purse will be working most of the year to restore and re-build. "I'm on contract until late November. I'll likely re-up for another term," said Mark Waters, the re-build boss.

A third crew member, retired school-teacher Brian Nicholls, Minnedosa, Man., would like another go-round there too, possibly in fall, thereby missing the Texas summer heat of +35C. His highlight was working with the home-owner and knowing the Maldonado family was "thrilled with our work and progress." Esperanza brought out afternoon snacks of oranges and mangoes for the work crew. The grateful family also treated the Waters crew to a Friday noon chicken dinner.

Both Heibert, 23, and Poulsen, 22, stayed on for a second week helping out in Houston.

Nicholls, 57, said he went on the trip "not knowing what to expect, but I came home excited and happy." Perhaps he neglected to mention "tired." "Helping others in circumstances far worse than your own lifts the human spirit," he said, "Yours and theirs."

Samaritan's Purse is a Christian faith-based disaster relief organization headed by Franklin Graham, son of the late renowned evangelist, Billy Graham. Their Canadian office is based in NE Calgary.



Brian Nicholls and Esperanza Maldonado

Noteworthy

AS YOU TRAVEL THIS SUMMER we encourage you to attend a Lutheran church wherever you happen to be and ask that you bring back the bulletin from that church. Place the bulletin in the office mailbox and we will track that location on a wall-sized map of North America. The map is posted on the bulletin board outside of the library under the heading “This is My Father’s World”.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES: The summer months are an excellent time to stock up on some items for your shoebox. T-shirts, balls, skipping ropes and small toys are all available during July and August and school supplies are often on sale in August.

DISTRICT SOFTBALL: The District Softball Tournament is happening in Revelstoke, BC on August 11 and 12. We have registered a team for the tournament, and would love to have you come out and play with us! Or if you just want a beautiful weekend in the mountains and take in some ball that is great too! Please contact Pastor Eric if you are interested as we will be starting our practices soon! And if you can't make the tournament but would love to join our practices to play some ball please also let Pastor Eric know!

NEEDED: VICE PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR FOR HUMAN CARE MINISTRIES. We are looking for someone who is willing to fill these vacancies. Please contact Tim Roth if interested.

OUR NEXT VOTERS’ MEETING is scheduled for September 30th. Please mark it on your calendar and plan to attend.

MAJOR REPAIRS: At the last voter’s meeting, there was discussion about some needed repairs for our building and the student residence. We will also be looking ahead at the need to replace our current organ. These are major expenses, but there are some safety concerns, as well as just normal upkeep that is important for God’s house. We will share more as the needs are finalized.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: Please make sure to phone the office prior to coming by the church to ensure that someone will be here to let you in. Pastor Bode, Pastor Eric and Deaconess Miriam are out of the office at various times as their work requires (and hopefully will take some well-deserved time off, too).

Family Time in Christ

As the hot weather comes, families head outside with their children. Maybe to the park, maybe to the beach. In both places, you are likely to find sand. What a wonderful opportunity to remember together how God uses the image of sand to convey His intent to bless His people. He tells Abraham in Genesis 22:17 that his descendants will be “as numerous as the stars in the sky and the *sand on the seashore*.”

God’s intent was to bless all of the families of the earth through one descendant that would come through the family of Abraham. That descendant is Jesus! But then St. Paul tells us just who all the other descendants of Abraham are. In Galatians 3:29 he tells us that all who believe in Jesus are true children of Abraham. In 2015, according to Pew Research, there were 2.3 billion Christians in the world. Is that as numerous as stars in the sky?

The next time you are at the beach, or in the sandbox, let sand run through your fingers as you take some time to ponder these questions:

- How many grains of sand are there on one seashore? In the world?
- Why did God promise Abraham that He would be the father of a nation? Who are his descendants?
- Galatians 4:4-7 and read Romans 4:7-8. What gifts do all of Abraham’s descendants receive? What does it mean to be an heir?

Buy some coloured sand at a craft store, and make a jar of colourful layers of sand. Keep it handy to remind yourself and your children that, by faith in Jesus Christ, you are one of the grains of sand in God’s promise to Abraham!

I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. (Genesis 22:17)

