

FAITH FORWARD

MAY 2018 ISSUE

*Engaging the Community
in Christian Spirit*



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Anglicans and Lutherans Worshipping Together

250 Gibbs Road West, Kelowna, B.C. V1X 2W3

Telephone: 250-765-0671 Fax: 250-491-9617

Email: faith.lutheran@shaw.ca

Don't forget to "like" us on Facebook!

HOPE ABOUNDS!



It seems like just a few days ago that we were celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord and now I am preparing for the Fifth Sunday of Easter as I write this message! I have heard it said that as you get older the time goes by quicker. I remember scoffing at that saying but it is not so funny any longer. Time just moves on.

Thankfully there are some constants to hold on to. Easter is not just one day but is an entire season that lasts for fifty days. It is a time that we celebrate the hope that we all share in the Risen Lord. A hope that says if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. A hope that reassures us that the best is yet to come.

One of my most favourite movies is called the 'Shawshank Redemption'. The movie has numerous lines that cause one to reflect on their own life and I believe there are many theological issues that are raised throughout the movie. One such interchange happens between the two main characters. Andy tells Red that hope is a good thing. Red in turn counters by saying that 'hope is a dangerous thing! It can drive a person insane!' As the movie unfolds Red finds himself coming to terms with this notion and finally confesses that 'hope IS a good thing. Maybe the best of things!'

This is what the Easter season is all about. It is about building or restoring our hope. It is about engaging the 'Doubting Thomas' among us so that they will be able to see the scars and come to know that Christ is alive. It is about affirming the seasoned veterans among us to continue on the path that they are forging. It is about being able to boldly proclaim the signs of hope that we are seeing on our journey of faith.

There are many signs of hope in our ministry together. We have now 'lived' together as Anglicans and Lutherans in the same building for over four months and the transition appears to have gone quite smoothly. We have undertaken a Confirmation Class for the first time in a few years and we look forward to celebrating with Anna and Sarah on May 17th. We continue to have a very active Inquiring Minds group on Thursday evenings. We have established a flooring fund and are getting dangerously close to meeting our goal and dream of having new flooring in the sanctuary and perhaps even a fresh coat of paint. We have a number of big fundraising events planned and look forward to helping out in any way we can.

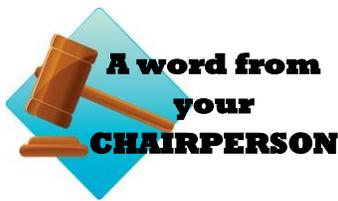
Hope is indeed a good thing, maybe the best of things! We can look forward to all that the future holds because God will lead us on a new journey. A journey that will offer a hope of a far greater joy in the ministry that we share with one another and with the community around us. A hope that will allow us to dream great dreams and a hope that will empower us to find new ways of sharing God's love with those in our midst.

I trust that your Easter journey is all that you dreamed that it would be. I also trust that you will be able to see that 'hope is a good thing' and that through this hope God will bless you richly as you are able to enter the ministry opportunities that we will be engaged in.

May God richly bless each and every one of you in your Easter journey so that your continued Easter celebration will bring new life this spring!



God's blessings on your journey, Pastor Rick



Welcome to Spring!! This is a time of renewal but unfortunately, this spring is bringing with it the threat of flooding and by the reports on the news it will be worse than last year! When this happens I am always reminded that God promised to never flood the earth again – however that does not give much comfort & solace to those that will be affected and are facing the possibility of loosing everything they own by the flooding that may happen in the coming days. Please keep those that are affected by this flooding in your prayers. It is times like these that we need to keep God in the “Centre”. May God give comfort to those that are in need.

Respectfully, Kim Issel



Just a note to let everyone know that in the month of May we'll be celebrating everybody's birthday on Sunday May 20th which is our potluck Sunday. This year we'll be getting one cake from Costco, and anyone can bring other goodies if they would like.

We will be continuing having fellowship after service during the summer months as long as people are willing to help out.

Respectfully
Shelly Zinger

Flooring Update

We are getting **VERY** close to raising what we need to get started on the flooring. To date we have raised almost \$5000 with our fundraising and the gracious donations that have been made. We will keep you updated as we go through the steps to get this project completed.

I would like to extend a big thank you to everybody who helped to make our Annual Spring Craft Sale a big success. From the donations of baked goods, *books and the BBQ and concession all the help was greatly appreciated. We were able to raise \$927 which will go toward the flooring fund.*

It is that time of year again where we are getting ready for our garage sale on June 2nd. If you have any gently used items that you would like to donate you can bring them anytime now. We will be storing the items in the room with the furniture off the hall. We will be having a bake table, BBQ, and coffee and pie sales. If you would like to donate any baked goods or pies that would be very helpful. I will be having a meeting in May to arrange what needs to be done and I will be posting a sheet on the bulletin board for volunteers. This is always a fun filled day so please consider joining us.

Our soup and bun so graciously organized by Alma will continue through June with a break in July and August. Thank you to everyone who donates the many delicious soups for all of us to enjoy as well as the fabulous buns!!

We will be having a concert and rib dinner on August 11th. More details to come. We are looking forward to a year filled with exciting events and fundraising to help get that new flooring. Together anything is possible!! Thank you😊

Respectfully yours, Brenda Watson



New Website

Our New website is up and running. Please take a look and check it out at
www.faithlutheranelowna.ca

What you can find there are news and upcoming events, newsletters and sermons. This is an ongoing project and the website will grow as new things continue to happen within our walls

If you have some thoughts on what you would like to see added, please let Kim Issel know.

Happy Surfing!

Lutheran Anglican Refugee Committee (LARC) Update, Backgrounder and Future Plans Update

Good news! LARC is preparing to welcome a second Syrian refugee family: Abdel Alhajji (aged twenty-five), his wife Fati-ma (eighteen) and their two little girls, Mariam (three years old) and Maram (one year seven months). They were recently interviewed by Canadian immigration officials in Turkey and were told they should be coming to Canada in July or soon after.

Abdel is the eldest son of Sader and Mariam Alhajji, parents of the first family sponsored by LARC, who arrived in Kelowna in early 2016, together with their six younger children. As required by our sponsorship agreement with the Canadian government, LARC provided financial, practical, social and emotional support throughout their first year in Canada. After our sponsorship ended, we have continued to provide support in many areas, and our friendship with the family is ongoing.

After two years in Canada, the family is doing well. The father, Sader, is now working for a roofing company following a year of orchard work. The mother, Mariam, continues to learn English while taking care of their large family. Raad, aged 22, has completed 16 months of apprenticeship as a pedorthic technician with Orthoquest Orthotics. Yaser (18) is in Grade 12 and working part time for Olympia Greek Taverna. Yosra (16) is in Grade 10. Sidra (11) is in grade 6 and Yazan (9) is in grade 3. Hala (3) is learning to speak Arabic and English! The family has also bought a food truck and hopes to earn extra money selling Mariam's delicious Syrian dishes.

The Alhajjis' biggest concern has been the well-being of their son Abdel and family, who are living in hardship as refugees in Turkey. LARC therefore agreed to sponsor them as well. The process has taken longer than anticipated, so we are overjoyed to hear that they should soon be here.

Background

The Lutheran Anglican Refugee Committee (LARC) was formed in late 2015 in response to the Syrian refugee crisis, and the call from the Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, Primate, urging Canadian Anglicans to sponsor refugees through the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program. This

unique program enables ordinary Canadians to engage in the resettlement of refugees and to increase the number of refugees that Canada accepts. Sponsoring groups undertake to financially support a refugee family for one year and to assist them in all aspects of settlement.

LARC is comprised of parishioners and clergy from Anglican Churches in the Central Okanagan plus Christ Evangelical and Faith Lutheran congregations, and operates under the auspices of the Diocese of Kootenay, which has a sponsorship agreement with the Canadian government. LARC raised funds and recruited volunteers from all of our parishes and beyond, in order to sponsor and support our first Syrian refugee family.

The Alhajjis were refugees in Lebanon considered by the UN High Commission on Refugees to be in urgent need of resettlement. They were selected by the Canadian government and “matched” with LARC. Under this particular type of sponsorship, Canada Immigration provided six months of income support (at social assistance rates) and LARC provided for start-up costs, an additional six months income, and other expenses. The family arrived quickly, and we had to scramble to be ready. It was only the day before their arrival on January 30, 2016 that we held our volunteer orientation and found a house for them. The rest of the year was an amazing experience for those of us who had the privilege of getting to know this remarkable family. Thanks to the compassion, generosity and commitment of many people, LARC was able to fulfill our undertaking to the government and assist this family to resettle successfully in Canada.

The Future – Welcoming the Second Alhajji Family

Our first family came through a “matching” process and a financial partnership with the Canadian government. Our sponsorship of Abdel Alhajji and family is through a purely “private” sponsorship under the Private Sponsorship of Refugees program that allows groups to identify and apply for the particular individual or family that they want to sponsor. The Department of Immigration then determines if they are eligible to come to Canada as refugees.

At their interview in March, Abdel and family were found to be eligible. Their date of arrival will depend on how long it takes to complete security clearances and obtain Turkish exit visas. The family was told they would likely travel in four to six months from the date of their interview, so we are looking at July at the earliest. We will need affordable housing in the Rutland area, preferably within walking distance of the first Alhajji family (in the Springfield Elementary School area).

In purely private sponsorships, Canada Immigration does not provide any income support, so LARC will be responsible for fully supporting this family for one year. (The family is, however, entitled to the Child Tax Credit). Thanks to a generous donation to the diocese for the sponsorship of a refugee family, as well as other donations we have continued to receive through our local parishes, we have enough funds for startup costs and a number of months of income support. We will be making requests for specific in-kind donations and additional funds as necessary. We will also be looking for volunteers for specific tasks.

Parishes will be updated through their bulletins.

***The members of the LARC Committee are heartfelt in our
Thanks to you for your interest and support.***



REFUGEE FAMILY LAUNDRY/CLEANING/ HOUSEHOLD/ CHECKLIST

If you are able to donate any of the below items, please bring them to the church and we will forward them onto LARC to distribute to the family when they arrive.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> laundry detergent | <input type="checkbox"/> fabric softener |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clothes basket | <input type="checkbox"/> wooden clothes pegs (1 pkg.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> portable drying rack | <input type="checkbox"/> clothes hangers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> iron | <input type="checkbox"/> kitchen garbage container |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ironing board with cover | <input type="checkbox"/> plastic bags for kitchen garbage container |
| <input type="checkbox"/> broom | <input type="checkbox"/> wastebaskets for each room (3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dust pan | <input type="checkbox"/> plastic bags to line wastebaskets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> step stool | <input type="checkbox"/> wooden matches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bucket | <input type="checkbox"/> candles in containers for emergencies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mop | <input type="checkbox"/> ziplock bags (variety of sizes) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cleaning rags | <input type="checkbox"/> light bulbs (variety of watts) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sponges | <input type="checkbox"/> masking tape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dusting cloths | <input type="checkbox"/> duct tape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> glass cleaner | <input type="checkbox"/> string |
| <input type="checkbox"/> all purpose cleaner | <input type="checkbox"/> small flashlight with batteries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bleach | <input type="checkbox"/> large flashlight with batteries |



Inquiring Minds

Thursday May 3rd, 10th, 24th & 31st at 7pm

Pastoral Care Committee Meeting

Wednesday May 9th at 10am

Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday May 9th at 11am

Confirmation

Thursday May 17th 7pm

Everybody's Birthday

Sunday May 20th

Council Meeting

Monday May 28th at 6:30pm

GARAGE SALE

Saturday Jun 2nd 8am-3pm



**IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT
YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THE
NEWSLETTER SUCH AS AN
INTERESTING ARTICLE YOU
WOULD LIKE TO SHARE OR MAYBE
A CARTOON PLEASE SEND AN
EMAIL TO FLCNEWS@SHAW.CA
OR SPEAK TO KIM ISSEL TO MAKE
ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE IT
INSERTED TO THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER**

CHURCH COUNCIL



- ✝ Chairperson – Kim Issel
- ✝ Property Management – Vivian Wagner
- ✝ Congregational Life – Shelly Zinger
- ✝ Education – Howard Hisdal & Pastor Rick
- ✝ Outreach – Kim Issel & Pastor Rick
- ✝ Stewardship – Brenda Watson
- ✝ Worship – Helen Baumgarter
- ✝ Secretary – Sherry Brooklyn
- ✝ Member at Large – Helen Leboe



The Guiding Team

- ✝ Jan Schulz
- ✝ Zinger
- ✝ Lenore Issel



WORSHIP TEAM LEADERS

- ✝ Team 1 – Jan Schulz
- ✝ Team 2 – Sherry Brooklyn & Helen Leboe
- ✝ Team 3 – Kim Issel
- ✝ Team 4 – Jeremy Zinger & Brenda Watson



Other Supportive People and Committees

- ✝ Treasurer – Jo-Ann Bartz
- ✝ Envelope Secretary – Lenore Issel
- ✝ Music Ministry – Vivian Wagner
- ✝ Pastoral Care – Arlene Papov



"Every man must do two things alone; he must do his own believing and his own dying."

Martin Luther