

July 18th, 2021 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – Email Missal

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.30 am on July 18th, 2021, can be found here

Sunday Worship July 18th, 2021 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.

Click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86566578300?pwd=WnlrZ01zRXp3b3V0Q1RiTUx5RTlHZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 6657 8300

Passcode: 411838

You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the "One tap mobile" option:

+12042727920,,86566578300#,,,,*411838# Canada

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Dial by your location

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

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Announcements:

Church Council met Wednesday July 7th. The following are some highlights of our meeting:

A big thank you to Bonnie and Stuart Scott for tap and hose fixing; to Melissa, Kari and Malekai for watering and weeding the community garden; thanks to Helga, and others for cleaning up the flower beds!

Council is looking at upgrading internet connection.

From the Risk Management Team:

*hoping to re-open: tentative date is September 12th

*need volunteers to do this - please contact Donna Graham

* people have been gathering/sleeping/eating/leaving garbage outside on the Fellowship Hall steps; therefore solar motion lights have been put into place by Luis Gomes and Donna Graham to deter nighttime gathering; police have also been called to do health checks; Luis will call the police to help determine what the white powder left on and around the steps and railings is - please be careful

*the pigeon deterring spikes are falling off the steeple - please be careful; this is going to be looked into as safety of people walking in the area is important.

From Ministry of Redevelopment

*the survey will be out sometime this coming week!

*purpose of survey is to gather info from members with respect to their vision for ministry in our community of St. Peter's and Preston Cambridge area

*the following are websites you could look at to see what possible community partners have to offer

Menno Homes links - [About Menno Homes](#) [Why Affordable Housing?](#)

Indwell links - [About Us - Indwell](#) [Our Model - Indwell](#) This includes a video about their model for housing and support.

Lastly, Council is planning ways to gather over the summer over zoom, so next week, please join us at 9:30am before service, with your coffee/tea and breakfast for a pre-service sharing time/chat.

Warm regards, Heide

PASTORAL VISITS: Even though our church is closed, please know that our Interim Pastor Chun Zhang is available for safe visits with social distancing requirements in place, and also for telephone visits. Please reach out to him by calling the church office at 519-653-4721 to arrange a visit.

MAPLE SYRUP: You can order your own Maple Syrup from St. Peter's. Our partner is a 5th generation Woolwich Township farm that has been producing maple syrup for over 100 years. They adhere to the production guidelines issued by the Ontario Maple Syrup Association, which state the number of taps per tree (max. of 2) for best forest management practices. Handling of the sap and syrup is minimized to reduce the chance of contamination. Their syrup is pure with nothing added, only the water has been removed. As of 2018 their maple syrup is certified organic. **1 litre Mason Jars of maple syrup are \$22.00.** Contact the church office to place your order(s) at 519-653-4721.

Thanksgiving for Our Presence on This Land

Click here: <https://youtu.be/SqEZLBrAu4c>

Gathering Hymn: ELW # 777 'Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty' (Bradley Moggach – organ)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/4XJvKWcHTyA>

(Title: Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty (Beach Spring) Text: Delores Dufner © 2008, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

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Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, in your home and in mine.

Prayer of the Day: O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

The First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness." (NRSV)

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.***

Psalm: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

***The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.***

You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

***Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.***

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

***Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.****

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The Second Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. **(NRSV)**

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.***

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed. **(NRSV)**

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon: (Imagine Interim Pastor Chun Zhang’s voice here)

The Church has a long tradition of describing its leaders as shepherds. The bishop’s staff representing power and authority is really a shepherd’s staff. And church people call me and other ordained minister pastors, which literally mean shepherds.

But a long time ago, this title was not limited to religious leaders only. Actually, in many ancient traditions, the title of a shepherd was used for political leaders, especially the kings. Archaeology has uncovered many ancient sculptures of kings in shepherd garments, signifying the rulers’ responsibility of guiding and protecting the people of their realm. Today’s reading from prophet Jeremiah reinforces this understanding.

In this particular passage, the prophet cursed the king of Israel and his ruling officials, because these leaders simply neglected the people of God, they were occupied with their own advantage rather than with the wellbeing of the people, and they caused the people to be scattered. So God will gather together the lost

sheep and then appoint good shepherds to care for them. The reading ended with a promise of salvation from a good shepherd.

Responding to this promise, in today's Gospel reading, we read that Jesus had pity on the crowds, "for they were sheep without a shepherd."

At the times of both Jeremiah and Jesus, people did not strictly separate civil and religious realms as we do today. They believe that both civil and religious authorities are from God and they both have the responsibility of caring for the people who are in need. Ultimately, they exercise their authority as representatives of God, who declared, "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep" (Ezekiel 34:15); or the representatives of Jesus, who proclaimed, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:14).

Now, after this not so brief introduction to today's readings, I will ask you a question – How many of you consider yourself a shepherd?

And how many of you consider yourself a sheep?

And if most of you consider yourselves sheep, then who's the shepherd? Me?

Well... in a way it explains why most of our Lutheran churches are small churches, how many sheep do you expect 1 shepherd to feed?

In the book of 1st Peter, chapter 2 verse 9, it says "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." Based on this verse Martin Luther developed one of our Lutheran church's founding doctrines, which is called the priesthood of all believers. Martin Luther translated the Bible from its original languages to the language ordinary people can read, and he wanted every believer to be a shepherd to feed sheep scattered away, those who still do not know Jesus and his salvation.

According to Luther, we can all be shepherds of this world by God's grace. And actually, it is the calling of each and every Christian. When through baptism we became part of God's flock, we are all called to pay attention to the needs of this world as shepherds tending their sheep. But how can it happen? Can we be sheep and shepherds at the same time?

Yes, we can. Isn't Jesus both the lamb of God and a good shepherd at the same time? By following Jesus step by step we are also sheep of God when he is tending us, but at the same time, we are called to be shepherds of this world when so many sheep are still being scattered away and wandering around when so many needs need to be fulfilled and so many broken hearts need to be comforted.

So, shepherds, people of St Peter's, where is our flock? Where are our sheep? Are we willing to lay down our lives for our sheep? Are we going to desert our flock when they are under attack? Those are tough questions. Especially in our redevelopment context, especially when sometimes our needs are complicit with the needs of our neighborhood community, those questions become even more difficult to answer. And to be honest, I don't think anyone of us including me who is called "pastor" can answer these questions without any hesitation. But I do believe that with the help of God and the life-giving Spirit, and the example of Jesus' life and his teaching, we, people of St Peter's, shepherds of our community will give a satisfying answer to this Holy challenge. Amen

Hymn of the Day: SBH # 522 'The Lord's My Shepherd (Crimond)' (Bradley Moggach – organ)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/8k3YyC8pV2s>

(CCLI Song # 23608 - The Lord's My Shepherd (Crimond); Francis Rous | Jessie Seymour Irvine | William Whittingham

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Prayers of Intercession:

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Tend your church, O God. Encourage bishops, pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel. Raise up new leaders and encourage those pursuing a call to ministry. Embolden all the baptized to embody your love and justice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restore your creation, O God. Sustain croplands and pastures and safeguard all farm animals and livestock. Preserve lakes, rivers, and streams that offer refreshment. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters and protect coastlands threatened by rising oceans. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile the nations, O God. Break down the dividing walls that make us strangers to one another and unite us as one human family. Equip leaders to deal wisely with conflict and guide diplomats who seek peaceful solutions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal your people, O God. Look with compassion on immigrants, exiles, and all who are afraid or feel lost. Give rest to those who are weary, comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice and Don. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungering spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and revitalize our ministries of feeding and nurturing hungry neighbors. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Come to the aid of our Muslim neighbours whose mosque in our own community was vandalized. Comfort them so that they feel safe, and give them peace. Help us overcome the divisions of race and religion, and where there is hatred, grant us compassion. We pray that you will lead us away from hatred, and instead show us how to love, as shown by our Muslim friends who have put a sign on their Baitul Kareem Mosque that reads 'Love for all, hatred for none'. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy. Our minds and our hearts can barely fathom the numbers of Indigenous children lost to the Residential School System in Canada. Their families and their communities were forever changed by cruelty done in your name. We grieve the loss of generations of Indigenous children. Lord you know that the depth of pain we feel is small compared to the pain felt by the families of these children. Give us strength and courage to stand with our Indigenous siblings as they seek answers and demand justice. Help us to more fully demonstrate that you are a God of love and compassion who also grieves the loss of these little ones. Lord, the names of these precious souls may never be known to us, but they have always been known to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You lead us home, O God. We give thanks for all who have died, now citizens with the saints. As you have received them into your heavenly home, so welcome all of us to dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Share the peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.

Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/-RnRfJoYmjs>

Prayer after Communion:

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen

Blessing:

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✝ be upon you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW # 399 'O Holy Spirit, Root of Life' (*Bradley Moggach – organ*)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/Pz0nj7qwak>

(Title: O Holy Spirit, Root of Life (Puer Nobis) Text: Jean Janzen Inc. © 1991 admin Augsburg Fortress All rights reserved.

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Dismissal:

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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