

Living Word

Christian Church

JUNE 2021 | LANGLEY, B.C. |

Announcement

Happy Father's Day!

We are blessed to have such amazing fathers in our church. We honor you this month and we thank you for everything you do!

Sunday Service

Great news! We are able to hold our in-person service indoors! Don't forget to register online.

Sunday School

Sunday school is held in person located in the Fireside room.

Young Adults

Young Adults bible study has changed to Mondays at 7pm! Contact Pastor Austin for more info.

Tithes and Offering

Don't forget, you can still e-transfer! A box is also available every Sunday for your convenience.

Ministry Spotlight!

Evangelism Ministry

LWCC would like to introduce you to our Evangelism team lead, Elmer Cruz.

Purpose of Ministry: The Evangelism ministry exists to equip and mobilize our people to be effective witnesses of Christ locally and be involved in missions globally.

Goal of the Ministry: To see all members of LWCC intentionally and actively involved in proclaiming the Gospel locally and globally.

We are committed at LWCC to obey the Great Commission by proclaiming the gospel and making disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-47; Acts 1:8).



2021 Evangelism and Mission Ministry:

1. Equip our members to proclaim the true Gospel

Schedule Evangelistic Equipping Session

Date: July 10, 2021

Place: Zoom

Time: 10:00 AM

2. Create our own Gospel Tract with info about our church – website, ministries, prayer hotline
3. Provide each family evangelistic tools to proclaim the true Gospel
4. Pray and Go – Encourage our people to go out and pray for each house in their neighborhood
5. Care and Share – Encourage our people show their love for one another by:
 - a. Caring and sharing with the needs of our people (inward care)
 - b. Looking for opportunities to reach out and share to the needs of the community (outward care).
 - c. Neighborhood Care
6. Encourage our people to intentionally proclaim the true Gospel in all possible media – internet, FB, email, phone call and other means of connection
7. Friendship Evangelism by connecting with Non-believer friends
8. Organize Evangelistic Bible Studies with friends (Prepare Evangelistic BS Materials)
9. Encourage all ministry to integrate evangelism in their goal as a team
10. **Mission:**
 - a. Mission Sundays – Mission Emphasis and Awareness
May 16, 2021: Speaker: Pastor Brad
September 19, 2021: Speaker
 - b. Regularly Pray for our missionaries – Provide list of missionaries
Pray for our missionaries in our Quiet Time with the Lord
 - c. Support Missionaries Prayerfully and Financially
Intentionally connect with missionaries (BGC Etc.)
 - d. Pray and plan for future short term mission trips (start praying and preparing now and should be part of our goal in this ministry)

We would love to have you join our team!

“Only one life and it’ll soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ will last” (C.T. Studd)

Our Motto: Each One Reach One - CONNECT and PROCLAIM the GOSPEL

Pastor's Corner

Community or Cloister?

by Brad Crossley

I survived my first pastorate. In the mean of church life it was actually a very constructive, enriching experience, but some events could have easily dashed my sacred aspirations as thoroughly as when a raw egg slips from the refrigerator basket to the floor.

Earl, delusional and brain damaged by drug use, would stand up and disrupt my sermons with strange behavior or verbal observations. Charlie, the local drunk, would stagger in from the cold and shuffle about, grunting and groaning. Jim, decent and upstanding, interrupted my announcements one morning to state categorically that we were wrong in our plans to have a combined service with another church because we would be lending credence to a cult.

Through these and many other strange goings on, 150 people and I grew and matured. We learned that the church is rife with challenges that are fodder for rifts. The greatest of these challenges, then as now, seems to reside in how we define our ministry. Will we minister as a community or as a cloister?

As a community we invite the uncertain and the unpredictable, but also adventure and opportunity. As a cloister we invite certainty and safety, but we sacrifice impact and relevance. As a community we open ourselves, and our churches, to mutual sharing, companionship, and unity with diverse people. As a cloister we close ourselves off to all but those who thoroughly agree with all our beliefs and practices.

As a community we must adhere to a core, non-negotiable set of beliefs, for example, our LWCC Statement of Faith. But beyond this there should be much diversity, flexibility, and grace. As a cloister there is a bunker mentality that expects uniformity well beyond a foundational core. In community there is divergence and even strong disagreement, but also agreement to disagree, agreeably. In a cloister, conformity becomes a non-negotiable core value. And when dissenters cannot be dissuaded, they are generally discarded.

As a community there is heterogeneity. As a cloister there is homogeneity. A community creates welcome. There is wideness – an embracing. A cloister tends toward exclusiveness. There is narrowness – arms-length wariness.

Individual Christians, and churches, must consciously and consistently determine to side with community. It is, I believe, the harder but discerning way. Paul promoted unity in the midst of diversity in Romans 14 and 15. He preached flexibility in the midst of differences in 1 Corinthians 9. In my mind, the most profound discussion of community's necessity is in Ephesians 2:11 – 3:13. Here God's grand mystery is revealed, namely that Jews and Gentiles, very dissimilar people groups and antagonistic towards one another, are not only reconciled to God but to one another. The barrier, the dividing wall of hostility comes down in Christ and two very

different, separate people groups are recreated into one new, distinct people group called Christian. This is a new people group, a new race, a new society. Though very different from one another, these people are now *members together* of God's kingdom, God's family, God's church.

This new reality in Christ is such a radical departure from what was understood, expected, and practiced, that Paul actually coins a new word to describe it. He says that Jews and Gentiles are *syssoma*, members together of one body (Ephesians 3:6). The word flashes like lightning in the dead of night. As different as the Jews and Gentiles were from one another, they now are bound together in community through a relationship with Christ. Their differences are not abrogated. They are simply subjugated under the more important reality of being *members together*.

In Christ, the redeemed come and experience reconciliation with one another. There is not uniformity, but a profound unity that is lived out in community. In spite of, even in celebration of differences, the reconciled come together for mutual fellowship, shared ministry, combined worship. This very diverse, yet redeemed and reconciled group of people is meant to reflect the city and neighborhood in which it exists.

My first church set me on a steep learning curve of community. In my previous churches, and now in our present church, Living Word Christian Church, I am further along that curve. Today we strive for community, for welcome. In our context this means that we are going to be intentionally multicultural. We represent all walks of life. Some are well educated, some not. Some drive new cars. Others use public transit. Some are able to counsel, others are in need of counsel.

In our church we are decidedly different from one another, and hopefully this will be our legacy – different, but members together. We must always give consideration to our legacy. Will we be known and remembered as those who accepted and welcomed people like Earl and Charlie? Will we include in our circle young and old, black, white and brown, rich and poor, theologians and the theologically confused, the resident citizen and the newly arrived immigrant? Or will we be known as those who invited Jim and all his buddies to help us sandbag and protect a cloister? Every Christian and every church must answer these questions today, not just in theory, but in practice.

I am convinced that if we strive for community we will bequeath a healthy legacy and we will increase our impact in society. Paul and the early church developed a radical commitment to community. They ministered for, they ministered to, and they ministered with those who were different and they, by the grace and power of God, turned the world right side up. That's the result of community. When we love one another, in spite of differences, and we fellowship, worship, and minister together, the world starts to look up and see Jesus. Not only do they see Jesus, but they are convinced that he is God's sent Son, and that through him they can be reconciled to God and to one another.