



LAKESHORE LINES

Free – and worth every cent!

Good News!

Everywhere you turn these days there is bad news related to the COVID-19 pandemic. It's time for a reminder that there is good news, too.

On Sunday, January 26th Deer Lake held a special congregational meeting to receive the Search Team's report, and to vote on their recommendation to call Joseph Kyser as our full-time minister. The report was received with thanks and the recommendation to call Joseph was enthusiastically and joyously endorsed.

Although he won't be ordained until the Pacific Mountain Regional Council Conference in Victoria on Sunday May 10th, Joseph's official start date at Deer Lake is May 1st. Current circumstances permitting, Joseph will be in the Deer Lake office Tuesday May 12th.

Good things can come from bad situations. Many churches, Deer Lake included, have temporarily closed their doors due to COVID-19. Congregants are turning to online worship services being streamed by other churches. This gave us the opportunity to see Joseph in action at Canadian Memorial United Church on Sunday March 15th. We were impressed and look forward to meeting him in person.

Hopefully, things will return to normal by the time Joseph is scheduled to be at Deer Lake and we can start our journey together without the need to worry about social distancing. See page 3 for a message from Joseph.



Joseph Kyser

Vision Statement

Deer Lake United Church welcomes you into a Christian community for all ages that explores and expresses spirituality through:

- worship and music
- fun and fellowship
- caring and outreach
- involvement and growth

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And much more!

Message from the Board Chair

I suppose I should have saved my "Fear knocked at the door; Faith answered. No one was there." and "**FEAR** has 2 meanings: **F**orget **E**verything **A**nd **R**un, **O**R **F**ace **E**verything **A**nd **R**ise" newsletter items for this COVID-19 edition! Stress, worry, anxiety, and yes Fear characterize the world we find ourselves in right now. Geez, my last day of paid work was Thursday March 12th, and I spent my first day of retirement watching the COVID-19 crisis in Canada and around the world evolving before my very eyes. Watching the Canadian and American press conferences, subsequent announcements and news stories was scary and anxiety inducing. Not just personally, but because of the growing realization of what and how big this really could, or will, become and what that might mean for our families, friends, co-workers, neighbours, church family, larger community, etc. The ripples are far reaching, and outcomes are uncertain. Decisions may be being made based on science, but even that seems to be changing and evolving as we speak.

As hopefully all of you know, Sunday worship services and all church related activities have been cancelled until further notice. These decisions were the result of careful thought and consideration by various Board and committee members. But it doesn't just end there – communication is something that the Board has been working on for some time and the first question was how do we get the message out? The e-newsletter, *What's Up* seemed to reach the largest number of Deer Lake congregants, but not everyone receives it or even has email. That's where the CareRingers came in and phone calls were made to

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everyone in the Directory. I hope that each of you got the message in one form or the other.

What else is happening? We are planning to use the *What's Up* e-newsletter as the main source of Deer Lake United information since it was already set up as a weekly forum. CareRingers will continue to connect with their assigned lists to either provide new information or simply to check in. Anyone requiring assistance in getting groceries or running essential errands (e.g. prescription pick-up, doctor appointments) can either tell their CareRinger, who will pass the message along, or email *What's Up* with their request. Either way their needs will be responded to by someone who has offered to assist fellow congregants in this way. The possibility of live streaming some services is being investigated.

Our Administrative Assistant, Pam Athey, has been working in the office and steps have been taken to get her set up so that she could work from home should the need arise. We would ask at this time that people not go to the office so as to ensure Pam's health and safety at work. If she does end up working from home she would still receive voicemail messages from the church phone and of course email sent to the office@dluc.ca email. We value all of our employees and are working to be compassionate and supportive at this very challenging time.

From my perspective there was a silver lining to cancelling worship on Sunday March 15th – it gave many the opportunity to watch our soon-to-be new minister, Joseph Kyser, lead worship at Canadian Memorial United through live streaming. Feedback from many who watched was very positive and I believe it was a glimpse into an exciting future at Deer Lake!

This is an unprecedented time, of challenge and opportunity. We are challenged to take seriously the need for social distancing (and giving things up – hey, isn't it Lent?) and being responsible for ourselves and others. To acknowledge this crisis and respond appropriately and with compassion. The opportunity comes from the gift of time – for reflection, prayer, connecting in new ways (or old ways if you pick up the phone and chat rather than email

or text), reaching out to people we care about or those we know are lonely or in need. The opportunity to take a step back and really appreciate what is important – to gain a new perspective or simply regain perspective. The opportunity to watch the hummingbirds at the feeder and revel in God's creation. We have so much to be thankful for even amidst all the fear and angst.

This is also a great opportunity to cultivate Deer Lake's strengths and community spirit. We are all in this together – let us take care of and pray for each other and the world, remembering:

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Be responsible (keep your distance), be cautious (wash those hands!), be compassionate and stay connected. We are not alone.

Humbly submitted by
Dana J, Board Chair



The Search Team from left to right: Dana, Paul, Ellen, Bruce, Trish, Sharon

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the hard work, dedication and patience of our Search Team we will soon have a new full-time minister at Deer Lake United. The team had their first meeting in early February last year with the intention of having a new minister in place by July 1st. They were warned not to settle for second best and they took that to heart. In June they made an offer to a candidate but after much consideration it was declined.

That was a huge disappointment, but the team put their faith in the process and in God, and a year after starting they successfully called Joseph Kyser to Deer Lake.

Thank you, members of the Search Team, for what turned into a marathon search!

Brief Words from Brian

(not necessarily an oxymoron)

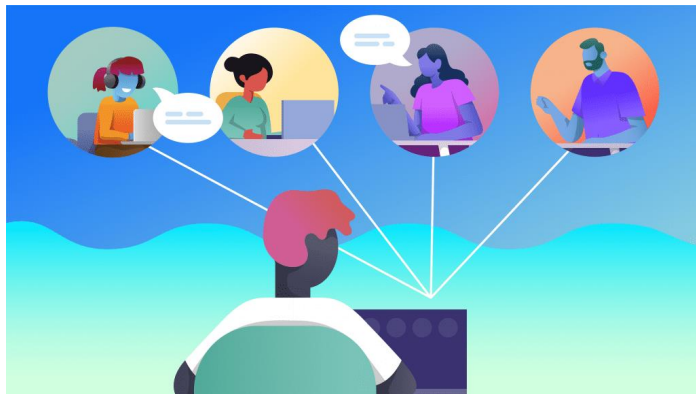
As my (most recent!) term as Temporary Minister for God's truly, and unruly, wonderful people at Deer Lake United draws to a close, I want to offer every kind, conscientious, hard-working, deeply faithful one of you my unreserved thanks for the pure joy of being permitted to walk alongside you as this Congregation strives to turn the Gospel's promise of new life for all into a reality strong and generous enough to withstand the trials and terrors of the age in which we find ourselves.

OK, OK – this is going to be a love letter! And my only defense is that you all deserve it – from the youngest to the oldest, on every single committee, working group, breakfast club, social gathering, weekly study group, ad hoc task force, hasty-huddle-of-two-or-three-to-respond-to-a-crisis.... And the choir! I can't begin to tell you how beautiful I have found that moment in the Sunday worship when between a fourth and a sixth of the entire congregation surges up to the chancel.

The only name I will name is Pam, massively competent and wickedly funny – a true delight and a true follower of Christ. The Deer Lake United Church Directory (November 2019) makes up the other names.

Bill and I both thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Brian



Coping with COVID-19 at Deer Lake United Church

Although COVID-19 is keeping us apart physically, members of our Deer Lake community are reaching out to each other by phone and email. Other churches are streaming Sunday worship services and we hope to do the same soon.

Watch *What's Up* for information on upcoming virtual meetings and streaming services.

**REACH OUT AND DON'T
TOUCH SOMEONE**

Joseph Says Hello

Hello New Friends!

We have not had the pleasure to meet officially just yet, but I have heard a lot about you. Well...maybe not you individually (it's okay, you can relax now), but more so you as a community. And Deer Lake United, I am thrilled to be joining you in a few months' time as your new minister. I can already imagine the many stories that will be shared, the laughs that will echo through the halls, the questions that we will explore together, the food that will be indulged in, and the spiritual trek that lies before us.

It is that spiritual trek, the journey, the path, that has brought us together. And in these times, that trek is not easy. In a world of pipelines, viruses, housing and economic concerns, and so much more, it is too easy to live in fear. It is easy to be afraid of the future; of what is before us, what might and could happen. It is easy to hold one's breath in hesitation and seek to stand still. Yet, God is calling us to live, to laugh, and to love.

As I join you, I invite you to make Deer Lake United a community where we come together, not to put aside the fear, but to walk through it in faith. Often times the first step is just to breathe. Breathe in compassion that gently holds the scared. Breathe in joy that inspires us to dance. Breathe in grace that sees truth and accepts all. Breathe in gratitude for all that we have received and shall be given. Breathe in hope that the future is indeed bright and glorious.

How does this sound, friends? Will you come and breathe with me?

Joseph

2020 Committee List

EXECUTIVE

Chair: Dana J Past Chair: Gary H Secretary: Ellen J
Co-Treasurers: Bruce and Susan C

FULL BOARD

The Executive plus:

Vice-Chair: VACANT Envelope Secretary: Kathy R

And all Committee members

BOARD APPOINTED COMMITTEES:

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

Chair: Peggy W Larry J David V

TRUSTEES

Rev. Joseph Kyser (May 2020 onward)
 Tony W Bob C Steve McL Linda P

OTHER COMMITTEES:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair: VACANT Gloria F Sharon H
 Jean J Elizabeth W

FINANCE

Chair: Bruce C Mary C Tony W Kathy R Cathy M
 Susan C

OUTREACH

Chair: Linda W Phyllis S Marj R Paul A Claire S
 Bruce VanL Janet A

PASTORAL CARE

Chair: Shirley McG Mary C Kathy R
 Trish Seeram – Sunshine Committee

STEWARDS

Chair: Paul A Rick M Bob C Bill P
 Don S (tenant liaison) Geoff W

WORSHIP

Chair: Ernie C Ellen J Bayani B Terry-Lou B
 Becky A and Michele C (communion)
 Joanne A (liturgical arts) Mary C
Music Team: Donna P Rebecca T Terri L

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair: Garry F Tony W Linda P

LIBRARY, PHOTOGRAPHS & RECORDS

VACANT

Nobel Award for Accounting

By Tony W

The Swedish Nobel Committee recently awarded its prestigious Golden Calculator Award to Cathy Milne, Treasurer of Deer Lake United Church for the past 20 years. The award citation recognized her heroic work keeping the church solvent through several impecunious periods.

Messages poured in to the church from many quarters:

- Warren Buffet, last year's winner: "Way to go, Babe! I can't read the numbers anymore."
- Nicholas Jiminez, ICBC CEO: "Cathy, can I borrow the calculator? – I need it to cut car insurance rates."
- Bernie Madoff: "Cathy, if only I'd had the calculator, I wouldn't be here in jail."

And of course, all our congregation owes Cathy a huge debt for her dedication and professionalism.



Dana and Tony recognize Cathy's contribution



Cathy accepts the award from Dana

DAILY QUARANTINE QUESTIONS

1. What am I **GRATEFUL** for today?
2. Who am I **CHECKING IN ON** or **CONNECTING** with today?
3. What expectations of "normal" am I **LETTING GO OF** today?
4. How am I **GETTING OUTSIDE** today?
5. How am I **MOVING MY BODY** today?
6. What **BEAUTY** am I either creating, cultivating or inviting in today?

Helping Our Larger Community

By Kathy R

The Outreach Committee makes decisions regarding who and what Deer Lake United supports beyond our congregation. They thoughtfully discern the need in the community and distribute resources accordingly. Some of the on-going projects Deer Lake supports in our community are preparing lunches for the homeless once a month, the Youth Hub, Dixon House, and First United Church through ‘lunch on the run’. Coffee hour donations are often specifically targeted for one of these projects and donations from members for specific projects are also received.

Our Deer Lake Community also supports BASES (Burnaby Association for the South East Side) which works through six Burnaby Schools and three New Westminster schools to help ‘level the playing field’ for children and families who need our support. Edmonds Community School is one of the schools. We also have over half of our congregation members supporting National and International programs through the United Church Mission and Service Fund.

Deer Lake also has a history of supporting families in our community at Christmas time. Over the years, we have received these families from the Christmas Bureau and Edmonds Community School and Dixon House. The last couple of years I have been the liaison with Edmonds and Claire S has been the liaison with Dixon House. I am reporting on behalf of the Outreach Committee to help you understand how much all your donations and work are appreciated in all these endeavors.

In working with both Edmonds and Dixon House, Claire and I met with the people running these organizations to begin discussions about needs and ways we can help. By working through the staff, we are able to more specifically meet the needs of our families. Claire was unable to meet the family due to the policies and circumstances around confidentiality issues at Dixon House. The people at Dixon House met with the family and shared their needs with Claire. Claire and Marj R did the shopping and left it with Dixon House to distribute to the family. I was able to meet with the three families we supported individually with the assistance of a translator.



Cathy passes the baton to Bruce and Susan

All three of the families we sponsored have students at Edmonds and Byrne Creek Secondary School. There were two refugee families from Syria and one from Iran. Through the Community School Coordinator at Edmonds, I learned about their backgrounds, lawyers and teachers, single parent and two parent families, a single person living in inadequate housing and all very committed to their new communities. They volunteer at the school and in the broader community, helping to babysit and support each other. They were all very eager to do what they can for others even when they are struggling to support their families day to day. It is a privilege to work with them to find the best ways to meet some of their needs.

In some cases, we shopped for things and other times a gift certificate was better as then they were able to meet their unique needs. Sharon H and I delivered bikes to the families that were donated by two generous church families! We also distributed stockings and cards which were organized by Wendy and Ryan K. The stockings were filled with writing materials, paper, toiletries and some treats! The cards were made by the Sunday School children. We received the smiles and the hugs and their genuine gratitude!! These families have suffered much trauma and scarcity in their lives and are yearning for the best for their families as we all do. We sat and shared coffee and some conversation with the help of a translator. But, at times the translator was not available, we communicated through laughter and hand signals and it was good too!!

One of the side benefits for me was that as I entered the school and was introduced as a person from Deer Lake and the BASES community, I was embraced and treated ‘royally’! The support that BASES gives the Edmonds students and families and that Deer Lake has offered over the years is sincerely acknowledged and appreciated! BASES Family Thrift Store is where the funds come to support these schools through before- and after-school, and noon-hour programs. Many members of the congregation support the BASES Thrift Store through regularly volunteering, collecting and delivering donations and shopping at the Thrift Store! We are, indeed, a giving, generous group of people.

Through the many gifts donated, families have been encouraged, embraced and ‘lifted up’ and for that we are most grateful!

In case you’re wondering:



Also available in white!

Empowered Young Mothers in Uganda

By Tony W

I have written before about a program which Water School is supporting in Uganda, where we are helping young teenage mothers get their lives back on track by putting them into good schools and counselling them to work out life plans. It is called the “Empowered Girls Initiative”. Many of you have supported Water School with this and our other work with our water, sanitation and hygiene program.

Just before the Covid 19 epidemic hit, the EGI leader, Jane Otai, held meetings with the girls and their parents, during a school break. She reports that the girls are succeeding in their schoolwork and vocational courses and are determined to finish their studies, despite the many pressures on them. This is an excerpt from Jane’s report:

“Acham put up her hand and asked me, “Jane, what worries you about us?” I was not very prepared for this question from the girls, but they are so empowered and will ask questions that they would not have asked in the past. My response was “I sometimes worry that you will be tempted to drop out of school and go back into marriages that may not work. I worry that we will invest so much in your education only to be disappointed by you not completing education as planned. I worry that you will disappoint us, and the school which has risked to have you back in school even when other parents were against your joining this good school with the excuse that you will spoil their daughters. But I also have faith that you will make it, and this does not worry me too much”.



A group of girls from Mpoma Secondary School

Namugodi then says “Madam, be rested. We are a determined lot. We will not disappoint you at all. We were so stupid. Instead of learning from other girls’ mistakes, we made our own mistakes and have learnt valuable lessons from our own mistakes. We are not going to disappoint. You will attend our graduation parties and wedding ceremonies. Go rest and look for more funds to support more girls. We should not worry you at all”. She looked at other girls who nodded in affirmation that they will be a success with this opportunity.

I thought this was encouraging. The parents were so grateful for this support to the girls. They could not believe that anyone would come in to support their daughters. They promised to write a letter of gratitude to the donors and asked me if this was in order. I allowed them to have this letter written through our project managers and I will ensure it gets to the donors.”

Currently, like other countries, Uganda is dealing with Covid 19 with a partial lockdown – schools are closed, and public transport is shut down. So the girls are back in their villages, where there are many pressures on them. So we have adapted, and our counsellors are keeping our local offices open as a safe place for the girls, and where they can meet (safely) and support each other.

In a general note – in a very poor country like Uganda, many people live on day to day wages, have no savings, and if they cannot work, they go hungry very quickly if they don’t have anywhere to grow food. This will quickly lead to increased crime by desperate people. We think we are suffering in Canada, but it is nothing when compared with conditions in very poor countries.



The Season of Lent



This Lenten season, many of us in Canada and other First World countries are learning what it is like to have to do without. We are learning what it is like to stand in long lines to buy food. We are learning what much of the world experiences every day. Perhaps this isn't such a bad thing.

Linda Szentes wows Deer Lake

By Ernie C

Friday, March 6th brought a whole new experience to the DLUC sanctuary. Linda Szentes and Jazzlinks presented a concert tribute to Doris Day and Anita O'Day: What a Difference a Day Makes. Linda shared her easy-listening light jazz vocals, while Brenda Baird on piano and Ron Thompson on guitar dazzled us with their improvisation, ably supported by Johann Worst on bass and Zoltan Kolles on percussion. Every piece they performed from that era was familiar and memorable to virtually every one of the 70+ folks at the concert to whom we say a huge thank you for their support for this fundraising event. There were several suggestions to invite them back next year.



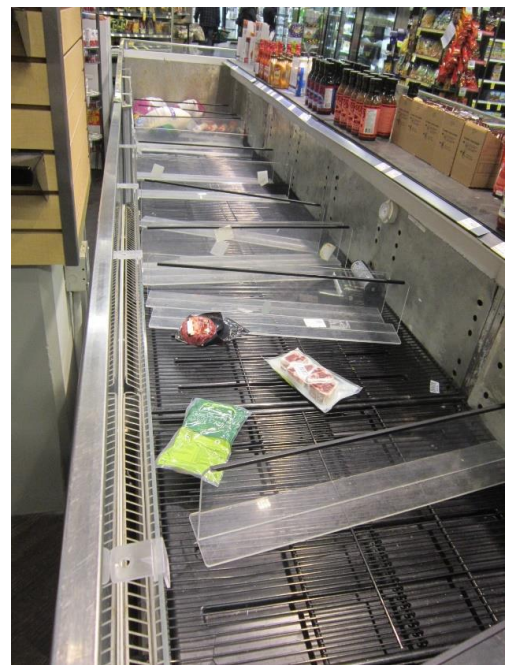
A Lesson in Doing Without

By Glenn L

We go out every day for groceries at either Safeway or Save-on Foods. Each day we come home with things which were not on our list. One store says to come at 7.00AM. The other store says, "We put the stock out as soon as it arrives, but we only get about 30% of what we order." The only thing more scarce than canned goods is toilet paper.

These photos illustrate this old nursery rhyme I remember from my childhood:

Old mother Hubbard
 Went to her cupboard
 To fetch her poor dog a bone, but when she got there
 The cupboard was bare,
 And the poor dog had none.



For where two or three are gathered in my name, there among them am I. Matthew 18:20

Who Are We? – the Art of Community

During the interim ministry with Rev. Scott Swanson we were asked to consider who we are as a community of Christ. As we look forward to a time of searching and discovery with Rev Joseph Kyser the Board would like you to consider not only who we are as a community, but who you are as a member of that community.

Please consider these statements and ask yourself to what degree they describe Deer Lake, and to what degree do they describe you. Do they accurately reflect Deer Lake? You? Is anything important missing? We will revisit these during the coming year.

- We do God's work, using Jesus Christ as a model for our actions.
- We acknowledge the importance of the Holy work each member of the Church engages in and the positive outcomes that result when consistent participation, full involvement and accountability is practiced by that member.
- We fulfill our responsibilities to the best of our ability and complete the tasks we agree to in a timely manner.
- We are respectful to all others and listen patiently and respectfully to any feedback they may offer. We direct them to the appropriate person or group, as needed.
- We have open, non-judgmental minds and show interest in learning from those with opposing points of view.
- We accept that differences of opinion are healthy and expected and discuss, debate and disagree openly and respectfully, assuming that others have the best intentions and the good of the Whole Church Body in mind.
- We accept and support final Board decisions reached by consensus even if they do not reflect our personal point of view.
- We are respectful and care for all other church members, avoiding gossip and divisive interactions.
- We fully support our Clergy and Staff and strive to enable them to do their job without hinderance or second-guessing.
- We treat our time on the Board as an opportunity to offer an important gift to our church
- We explore and express spirituality through: worship and music, involvement and growth, caring and outreach, fun and fellowship
- We acknowledge that we work and play on the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish People



Upcoming Events At and Around Deer Lake United Church

Good Friday Service (livestreamed)

Friday April 10 at various locations and times

Easter Sunday Service (livestreamed)

Sunday April 12 at various locations and times

Please visit <https://broadview.org/church-services-livestream/> to find a service to attend online.



Submissions

Lakeshore Lines is published four times each year. Submissions may be made to one of the Communications Committee members (preferably by email):

newsletter@dluc.ca

Next Issue: June 2020

Submission Deadline Sunday May 31, 2020