

LAKESHORE LINES

Free – and worth every cent!

TOP SECRET CHRISTMAS FUN!

On Dec 24th, 2020 two little elves made a surprise drive-by delivery to Joseph! They presented him with two brimming baskets of Good Will (and a few cookies) from his Deer Lake family. We realize it was a strange year for all of us and are happy to see our baskets of joy helped make him feel loved. Because he is! Thanks to everyone who participated. See page 3 for more.



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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A New Journey

Happy New Year!

After a very long year, we have finally said goodbye to 2020. I know that so many of us are ready to move on, but I am also mindful that the changing of calendar numbers on paper or screen does not necessarily translate into immediate changes in all areas of life. We still find ourselves at a distance, in isolation, and worshipping from afar. We live in the tension of constantly changing and moving forward in some ways, while also staying relatively the same in others. Some things change rapidly, such as the passing of time, while other things take their time. This is true even for our church community.

2020 saw major changes for Deer Lake United. Not to brag, but probably the biggest difference to the community is my presence as your minister, which began in May. Another major change, perhaps equally important, was the transition of moving worship online and closing the building for all in-person gatherings. As we begin 2021, I am inviting the church community to embrace even more changes but these changes are not just external. I am inviting you to join me on a journey that will fundamentally change how each of us understand the Church and what we do here at Deer Lake United. I am calling this journey DLUC 2.0.

DLUC 2.0 represents a resurrection so to speak. Even before COVID-19, even before my presence in the community, DLUC desired to change in some pretty big ways. The Rev. Scott Swanson, through his interim ministry, began to ask questions, present new ways of being the church, and challenged each of you to take a look

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in the mirror. This is hard work to be sure. I wish to continue that journey on which Rev. Swanson helped you. The framework for DLUC 2.0 includes examining your relationship to the church, the minister, and the world.

We begin this examination in the current worship series on different aspects of the church. There are seven areas which the United Church evaluates its congregations: Worship, Christian Education and Faith Formation, Community Outreach & Social Justice, Church Community & Neighbourhood, Spirituality & Self-Care, Pastoral Care, and Leadership & Administration. This series will conclude on the day of our congregation's Annual Congregational Meeting where we will be asked to consider what our future might look like moving forward.

In addition to worship, members of DLUC will receive materials that explore DLUC 2.0 more fully. I have written articles and created supplemental videos presenting what DLUC 2.0 means - its foundation and framework - as well as articles that engage the seven areas of church life. I will be sharing these on a weekly basis as we progress through the sermon series. Then, after the series is over, these articles and videos will continue on to discuss the role the minister and the world in relation to you and the church.

Unfortunately, we cannot get together to discuss the ideas and questions posed in these writings and videos so this journey will be a two-step process. You are invited, for now, to review the material, to consider the questions, and to talk individually with your friends and family about it. Once we are able to meet in-person, we will gather together to review and discuss all that has been presented as a congregation. For now though, I pray the Spirit will unsettle you, will allow you to question and explore, will even, perhaps, provoke you into welcoming this new land of DLUC 2.0. I have no idea where the journey will take us, but rarely do we know where God is leading. Our place is not to know the destination, but rather to simply say yes to the invitation.

So friends, won't you join me on a new journey to DLUC 2.0?

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Kyser



Advent is Love

Advent – waiting – in Hope, in Peace, in Joy and in Love. My standard wish for everyone was that the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the Christmas season follow us into the New Year. I had planned to begin this message with “Happy New Year”. But with the news of the loss on New Year’s Day of our 45-day old great-nephew, Finn, all of that seems trite.

Joseph asked us throughout Advent to think about what the arrival of Jesus meant and brought into our lives. Well, that seemed pretty simple – the Hope for a better world and the grace to become a better person. The Peace of knowing Jesus brings light, and that that light shines into the darkest corners. The Joy of salvation, and thankfulness for the comfort and safety we enjoy. The Love – unconditionally from God - and the love of our family, our friends, our church community. How does that play out when grieving the loss of a baby? The unfulfilled possibilities of his little life? Where is the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in the devastation of grief?

All I can see at this point is the Love. Even though no one outside of his Mom and Dad actually got to meet him, Finn was loved and adored by so many. I am very thankful for the technology that allowed his parents to share photos, so that we all have his sweet little face in our memories. I have no doubt that he felt the deep love and care his parents brought with them every moment they were together in the hospital. And I don't doubt that he was surrounded by the warmth and love of all of the prayers for him and his family. I don't know why that wasn't enough – and I never will. I can accept that. It doesn't change the heartbreak and loss I feel, especially for his parents and little sister.

I asked Joseph the reason for the order of the four Advent Sundays, and he said there didn't seem to be an absolute explanation. We all thought it was interesting that Joy was third and Love was fourth – I have to admit that every year I have had to double check the order, because somehow, I always think Joy is last. But I won't be mixing them up again, because I think that Love deserves to be last because ultimately it is the most important in my mind, in times of grief, pain and sadness. If we believe in Love, that we are always, unconditionally loved by God, that we are surrounded by it and can be filled with it, then at some point, Hope, Peace and Joy can again be present in our lives. God is Love – and the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, “God with us”, is about Love, in all its forms. So, through the tears and sadness, I feel the Love of my God, and I trust that Hope, Peace and Joy will come again.

Of course, I hope your Christmas was joyful and I wish you all a Happy New Year. May 2021 be filled with Love. Love in all its forms – devotion, involvement, passion, tenderness, emotion – guides everything else. We are not alone...

With Love,

Dana J.



Christmas Gifts



As I prepared for Christmas Eve Services two little elves stopped by my home to present to me the wonderful surprise of your gracious generosity! Wow! I am still blown away by everyone's love and support to make this Christmas seem special to me while I was unable to visit my family and friends back in the States. I cannot believe over 50 of you contributed. I also loved all of the many cards with your well-wishes and kind words.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!! And Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Joseph



A Better Way to Donate

By Linda P

Did you know that you can save income tax by donating securities from your investment account? When you sell a mutual fund or stock position that has increased in value, you are currently taxed on 50% of the capital gain. If you donate your shares to a charity and they sell the shares, you are not taxed on that gain. This does not apply to investments held in RRSPs and TFSAs.

The United Church Foundation will assist you by receiving the shares, selling them, and then sending the proceeds to the charity you name. You receive a tax receipt from the Foundation. The process is referred to as "flow through". You can make a gift of stocks or mutual fund units to support your congregation, the Foundation, Mission & Service, or an endowment fund lodged with the church or Foundation. In addition to these, you may also give to any Canadian registered charity whose mission and goals are not in conflict with those of the church.

The process is quite simple:

- You fill out a transfer form and send a copy to the Foundation and a copy to your Investment advisor. This ensures they are able to provide you with a receipt and to know what to do with the proceeds of the sale.
- Your investment advisor transfers the stock or mutual fund you directed to the Foundation.
- The Foundation provides you with a tax receipt for the value of the shares or mutual fund units at the close of the markets on the day the Foundation receives them.
- The Foundation sells the securities as soon as possible and then passes on the proceeds to the organization(s) you listed on the form. There is a small fee for selling the shares.
- Once the proceeds of your gift are in the Foundation, the funds can remain there until you are ready to have the money sent out.

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Why a Governance Task Force?

By Linda P

Why do we have a Governance Task Force? It was formed to continue work toward meeting goals first identified by the congregation in 2017. This is not new work. This is the culmination of several years of thoughtful, exploratory visioning by the Congregational body of Deer Lake United Church.

In September, the Board established a task force to study new models of governance and to bring recommendations to the Board and the Congregation. Its assignment is to

- Study Governance models that might fit well within the characteristics of Deer Lake
- Evaluate these structures in relation to our vision statement and values
- Recommend changes that will better enable Deer Lake's community to grow in Faith and to do God's work.

The Governance Task Force (GTF) members are Ellen James, Larry J, Steve Mc, Sharon H, Kathy R, Trish S, Terry Lou B, and Linda P. To ensure that each area of congregational work is represented, members were drawn from the following committees: Executive, Ministry and Personnel, Trustees, Christian Education, Finance, Pastoral Care, Worship and Communication. Our minister, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Kyser is facilitating this work.

What is "Governance" anyway? When we speak of governance, we refer to our Board and Committee Structure, and the policies that support that structure. Our structure, which is common to churches and non-profit organizations, dates to the '50's. It is no surprise that it no longer serves us well. To continue and expand our ministries, the business side of the church work needs to be more streamlined and less time consuming. Can we find a new structure focused on our ministries that is efficient, that allows our volunteers to live out their passions?

The congregation realized that for Deer Lake to continue a strong ministry, we needed to make changes. The big question: What are the changes we need to make and how do we get there? In 2017, we made the decision to go into a two-year period with leadership skilled in Interim Ministry in the person of Rev. Scott Swanson.

The Board appointed a transition team to work with Scott. Early on, it was clear that this work would take more than two years. The Team focused on laying groundwork for the next minister to build on. It studied the congregation's history and values. It

A Better Way to Donate, continued from page 3

The whole process takes approximately three weeks. For more details, a contact number, and an example of how this process can save you income tax, follow this link.

<https://www.unitedchurchfoundation.ca/ways-to-give/gifts-of-securities/>.

Some individuals at Deer Lake use this method to contribute financially to our congregation. Our Envelope Steward, Kathy R, monitors these donations. Please let her know if you choose to do this so she can watch for the cheque to arrive. If you would like to talk with someone who has done this, Kathy can put you in touch with someone.

established the need for changes in our governance. Early in 2018, a Board Retreat studied possible changes in Board structure and entered a trial where the Board Executive handled more of the business to free up Board meeting time for study and visioning.

Early in 2019, the transition team consolidated all that had been discerned into the Ministry Profile and Search Report (MPS). This report was approved by the Board, by the congregation on January 20, 2019, and by the Pacific Mountain Region. This report became the basis of the search for our next minister. The Position Summary in the report states:

Deer Lake United Church seeks a minister

- Who will apply a high standard to planning and implementing the Sunday worship service while including lay participation and an abundance of music.
- Who will support and encourage experimentation with change begun during the Interim Ministry while gently stretching the congregation's comfort zone.
- Will facilitate personal and spiritual growth in individual members through learning opportunities and leadership development.
- Who is looking for a long-term commitment.

We called the Rev. Dr. Joseph Kyser to begin in May of last year. The Board gave priority to this work on Governance and the task force began work in September. We established a timeline starting from 2018 and we expect it will extend into 2021. We have reviewed the structure and policies of several successful United Churches, studied the Deer Lake policies and the United Church manual. Although it may take a year to get to a new structure, we are considering small changes that can be made in the short term. A book by Dan Hotchkiss, "Governance and Ministry – Rethinking Board Leadership" was highly recommended. We are currently doing a weekly study of this book. Copies are available in the church office for anyone who wishes to read it.

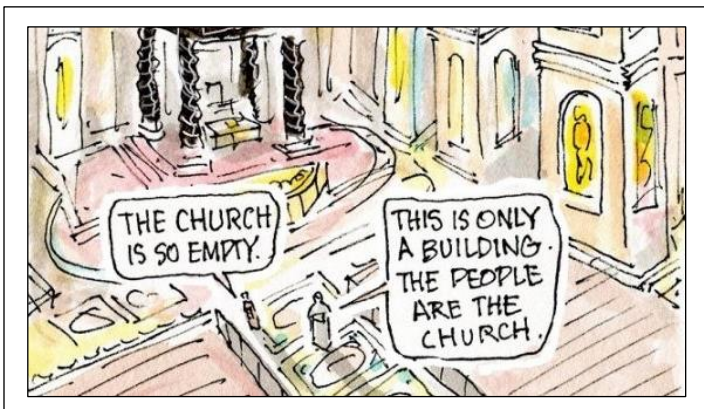
It is important for congregation members to be engaged in this process. Please talk with our members, read our communications, ask questions, and make suggestions. The old structure that was successful in the past will be difficult to leave behind. Because it is so engrained in our habits and behavior, change will be a challenge. That is why it is imperative that everyone in the congregation follow this work so that you are ready. In your prayers, please ask for God's guidance.

It is rewarding to follow through on work started in 2017. Each of us feels extremely fortunate to be collaborating within this diverse, thoughtful group of congregants. We appreciate the trust you have placed in our group, to discern thoughtfully and make choices that best meet the needs of our entire Deer Lake Body. We are all fully aware of the significance of this important work and are approaching it with this (and God) in mind. We appreciate Joseph's energy, enthusiasm, and farsightedness as we navigate these waters. He ensures that we give priority to our ministries of spiritual growth, pastoral care, and outreach while he keeps Deer Lake's vision in front of us. He meets, or exceeds, the requirements for change and challenge outlined in the MPS. Most importantly, he keeps God in our work.

From the Scrapbook



DLUC Choir rap up June 22 2014
Standing - Kathryn S Ernie & Marlene C Dana J (behind)
 Evan P Cathy M Don S Pat Y Bruce C
 Jim Y Joanne A Donna P (organist) Kristy O'
 Terri L Audrey & Glenn L Declan O Beverley T
Sitting - Riley P Rebecca T (choir leader) Laurie S
 Shirley Mc (Sadie O behind) Grant L



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

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