

A Round-Robin Letter

From your Bethlehem Family!
(Beth-lehem means 'house of bread')

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www.vancouverlutheran.org
July 15, 2012

NOT JUST DOMINION DAY

– oops ... um ... er –

CANADA DAY!

What a day with St. Matthias and St. Luke as even the weather cooperated. JUNE-uary, with all its rain and cold stayed away as we celebrated our country's birthday and the 15th anniversary of SMSL. People from the neighbourhood came to join the BBQ, there was watermelon for queen and country, and Mr. Ho outdid himself with the marinated pork! We ate outside on the lawn and spilled out onto the sidewalk, and a few over the street to the park just to make sure the neighbours did know that they were welcome.

At worship, where we were guests, we were blessed with the words of Rev. Chin who returned as the 'guest preacher.' After all, he did retire the week before! His message was anchored in 1 Peter 2, and encouraged us as 'living stones' in God's Church. The main verses, 4-6, read: "As you come to

him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen & precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'"

Rev. Chin pointed out that we are sculpted and changed by the master stone worker, we are no longer free individual agents, we belong to Jesus the head and foundational corner of the church. In contrast are those who contradict the corner stone, and not 'squared up' with it, choosing to act and separate themselves from the church even while claiming to be part of, and at times, represent, the church and Christ.

Many blessings to Rev. Chin as he transitions into his well earned retirement. Many thanks SMSL for a wonderful Canada Day! We continue to keep SMSL in our prayers as their new Rector, Rev. Fung moves to Vancouver and Rev. Ben Roberts cares for the interim.

100 Years!

- 100th Anniversary -

November 3-4, 2012.

Banquet- Saturday Nov. 3.

➤ Rev. Dr. Steven Chambers,
Guest Speaker

Service – Sunday Nov. 4.

➤ Rev. Vic Esperanza,
Guest Preacher
➤ Rev. Lorne Reddemann,
Guest Liturgist

Summer Events

TODAY, July 15, Sunday Brunch

- Potato Salad Festival. Hungry?

July 28, Saturday, Block Party

- Starts at 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Food, fun, and games
- Come bless the neighbours!

August 13-17, V-B-S

- Vacation Bible School
- Monday-Friday mornings, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.

August 28, Thursday, Installation

- Rev. Fung will be installed at an evening service. Time TBA

Sept. 9, Sunday School Kick-Off

Sept. 9, Sunday, X-ty Explored

- Christianity Explored Course
- 3:00pm followed by light supper
- Seven week series exploring some of life's big questions
- Please register if interested!

Sept. 16, Sunday, Walther League

Oct. 7, Sunday, Organ Dedication

Stay up to date! Please visit:
www.vancouverlutheran.org

(1) With the Lord being your task; Jesus will direct it. For His aid and counsel as; Jesus will

YES.

Yes. This simple small word speaks volumes. With it a bride and groom seal their solemn vows. With a simple yes, love is affirmed and breath taken away. In the yes word, life may be imparted, confidence given, and strength awakened. Remove the yes and life, love, confidence are shattered in a doubt, in a lie.

A yes word has been spoken to you and to me. The distance this yes word has travelled is greater than all the summer hot pavement of Canada and beyond. It transcends time, it jumps the spark-plug-cleft of lives, politics, race, hate, and stubbornness. It is the yes of a promise to give you and me transforming life even when my yes rings hollow, when your yes is shattered, when cynicism should rightly be the order of the day. The yes to you is one of hope in a life of far too many broken yeses.

Yes is God's answer for his promises. Yes, I will adopt. Yes, I will love you as if we were married. Yes, I will transform, cleanse, heal, change, forgive, encourage, rebuild, and even make holy. The yes comes at his expense. The yes is his doing. The yes, your yes, is in Christ. St. Paul, while trying to build a bridges with a troubled congregation, wrote: "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ" (2 Corinthians 1:20a, NIV). Paul, in the role of pastor, was affirming the yes promises to people who were struggling with their relationship with their pastor, with their

neighbours, and with relevance all their while living in a crazy spiritual society in the port city of Corinth. Think of Corinth this way: in a bowl combine Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, add ¾ cup of New York entertainment, leaven with 1 tablespoon of red light Amsterdam, and turn up the heat! To these people Paul writes about a yes that will not disperse with the next sea breeze! The promises will not be blown about! The yes spoken to Corinth, to you, and to me continues.

What is the answer in response to the yes in Jesus? Paul wrote: "So through him 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God" (2 Corinthians 1:20b, NIV). The amen affirms the yes received. It is the amen of worship and trust. The yes is greater than our amen and fulfils the longings of even the weakest amen. The yes of God in Jesus Christ is yours. It is yours in your crazy life, in your distractions, in your need. Lord, do you promise? Yes. (Your F. Rink)

SUMMER FOOD HUMOUR

"If more of us valued food and cheer and song, above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world."

(J.R.R. Tolkien)

"It has nothing to do with frogs' legs. No amphibian is harmed in the making of this dish."

(Nigella Lawson explaining toad-in-the-hole to Americans!)

Praise and thanks as the clean-up and building maintenance continue!

Beginning in the middle of the week a whole lot of renovating in the balcony has taken place. Tonnes of lumber were removed as the old choir-bench risers were taken down in order to ensure proper head room under the organ speaker loft. Even the stairs lost a few rungs to accommodate the change. The dust – major dust storm – was ably handled on Saturday with a proper mop up.

Hole filling, patching, priming, and mending are on the path to making the building ship-shape for the 100th anniversary. Thank you to everyone for the helping hands.

This week we continue. Please come out even for an hour or so – there is always plenty to do and every bit helps!

WALTHER LEAGUE & YOUTH GROUP REUNION!

September 16, 2012

9:30 am worship

Rev. Daniel Deyell preaching
(The Last Walther League
Organiser in Canada)

11:00 am lunch & program

BASEBALL – to follow!

perfect it. Every morn with Jesus rise. And when day is ended, in His name then close your eyes; He to Him commended. (2) Not each

Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you. Save you from the tempter's might. With His presence cheer you. (LSB 869)

They begin with prayer, praise, and adoration. On the Lord rest thy care; he is your salvation.