

Participants in Video Devotions for October, 2021

Date	Worship Assistant (Psalm)	Reader (reading)	Prayer leader
October 3	Tim L	Pam R	Eric N
October 10	Katharine B	Monica P	Christa M
October 17	Tom R	Marilyn C	Jett I
October 24	Kim D	Eric N	Tim L
October 31	Monica P	Katharine B	Tom R

Readings and prayers available on the "Sunday Service" page (and archive) of our website. Video clips need to be submitted in advance; contact Pastor Tyler if unclear about parts.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is located on original lands of Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

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*We come to the hungry feast hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill,
the hunger will stay with us; still we come,
we come to the hungry feast.*

EvLW #479

In these weeks of the Season of Creation, we hold up our place as stewards of the earth and all its abundance. In this broader season of the church, or the weeks of "Ordinary Time" following Pentecost, we are reminded in scripture and in prayer of the role of the church.

We are the Body of Christ in the world. We are called into being, into unity, and we are sent to serve and proclaim a word of hope and peace.

The words of the hymnist resonate with me in this time because we all know the feeling of hunger – even just a little. It can be an image of justice in the most basic way: is someone hungry? Do we have the means to feed them? Let us break bread together!

Through this pandemic time, we have all experienced hunger of different kinds – be it for food, or be it for connection, or be it for rest from what feels like a never-ending time of fear and isolation, grieving for what is missing in our lives. In our country, we have had access to vaccines; I heard a report on the news that, while countries like ours are starting to talk about "booster shots," there are many countries where citizens haven't even had opportunity to receive their first shots.

Where is the hunger? Where is there injustice? How might we work to help others feel fed?

We have much for which to give thanks. God desires that all experience life abundant.

-Pastor Tyler

Considering Resumption of In-Person Worship Services

A letter was sent out to our membership in the second half of September to lay out a plan for resumption of in-person worship services.

In brief, we intend to try small, indoor, mid-week services starting on Thursday afternoon, October 14th.

Attendees need to be fully vaccinated, and need to pre-register. These mid-week services will be video recorded, and parts of those services will be used in our public, online worship which will be available on YouTube by Sunday, each week.

Our in-person gatherings are subject to health orders, based on the risk of virus transmission.

Wednesdays – 9:30am Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays – 9:30am Bible Study,

10am time of prayer:

- those who are ill
- those who have experienced loss
- those celebrating birthdays, and other good news

To join in these social times, follow the link provided in the e-news.

Once per month, our prayer time includes online Eucharist (see calendar) – have some bread and juice ready!



As Gloria Dei celebrates its

60th Anniversary in 2021...



What memories do you have of the past?

What dreams do you have for the future?

Let's share our stories, and hopes!

What is "National Day for Truth and Reconciliation"?



September 30, 2021 marks the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The day honours the lost children and Survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

The creation of this federal statutory holiday was through legislative amendments made by Parliament. On June 3, 2021, Bill C-5, *An Act to amend the Bills of Exchange Act, the Interpretation Act and the Canada Labour Code* (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) received Royal Assent.

Both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day take place on September 30.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day that honours the children who survived Indian Residential Schools and remembers those who did not. This day relates to the experience of Phyllis Webstad, a Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, on her first day of school, where she arrived dressed in a new orange shirt, which was taken from her. It is now a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.



On September 30, we encourage all Canadians to wear orange to raise awareness of the very tragic legacy of residential schools, and to honour the thousands of Survivors.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI – October 4

Born circa 1181, in Assisi, duchy of Spoleto, Italy, Saint Francis of Assisi, though revered today, began his life as a confirmed sinner. His father was a wealthy cloth merchant who owned farmland around Assisi, and his mother was a beautiful Frenchwoman. Francis was not in want during his youth; he was spoiled, indulging himself with fine food, wine, and wild celebrations. By age 14, he had left school and become known as a rebellious teenager who frequently drank, partied and broke the city curfew. He was also known for his charm and vanity.

In these privileged surroundings, Francis of Assisi learned the skills of archery, wrestling and horsemanship. He was expected to follow his father into the family textile business but was bored by the prospect of life in the cloth trade. Instead of planning a future as a merchant, he began daydreaming of a future as a knight; knights were Medieval action heroes, and if Francis had any ambition, it was to be a war hero like them. It wouldn't be long before the opportunity for warfare beckoned.

In 1202 war broke between Assisi and Perugia, and Francis eagerly took his place with the cavalry. Little did he know at the time, his experience with war would change him forever. Francis and the men of Assisi came under heavy attack, and in the face of superior numbers, they took flight. The whole battlefield was soon covered with the bodies of butchered, mutilated men, screaming in agony. Most of the surviving Assisi troops were immediately put to death. Unskilled and with no combat experience, Francis was quickly captured by enemy soldiers. Dressed like an aristocrat and wearing expensive new armor, he was considered worthy of a decent ransom, and the soldiers decided to spare his life. He and the other wealthy troops were taken as prisoners, led off to a dank underground cell. Francis would spend nearly a year in such miserable conditions — awaiting his father's payment — during which time he may well have contracted a serious disease. Also during this time, he would later report, he began to receive visions from God.

In his early-20s, Francis began turning his focus toward God. Instead of working, he spent an ever-increasing amount of time at a remote mountain hideaway as well as in old, quiet churches around Assisi, praying, looking for answers, and helping nurse lepers. During this time, while praying before an old Byzantine crucifix at the church of San Damiano, Francis reportedly heard the voice of Christ, who told him to rebuild the Christian Church and to live a life of extreme poverty. Francis obeyed and devoted himself to Christianity.

Francis' embrace of Christ-like poverty was a radical notion at the time. The Christian church was tremendously rich, much like the people heading it, which concerned Francis and many others, who felt that the long-held apostolic ideals had eroded. Francis set out on a mission to restore Jesus Christ's own, original values to the now-decadent church.

Francis of Assisi died on October 3, 1226, at the age of 44, in Assisi, Italy. Today, Francis has a lasting resonance with millions of followers across the globe.

In 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio chose to honor Saint Francis by taking his name, becoming Pope Francis. (<https://www.biography.com/religious-figure/saint-francis-of-assisi>)

WORLD FOOD DAY – October 16

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) created World Food Day to commemorate its founding in Quebec City, October 16, 1945. The goal of the FAO is to free humanity from hunger and malnutrition, and to effectively manage the global food system. World Food Day events are organized in over 150 countries across the world, making it one of the most celebrated days of the UN calendar. These events promote worldwide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and help strengthen the link between agriculture and food security. (www.foodgrainsbank.ca)



Theme for 2021: "Hope In Times of Trouble"



CLWR celebrates 75 Years in 2021!

*We hold up the work of CLWR in our
September 26 online devotion*

REFORMATION DAY – October 31

Lutherans are part of a reforming tradition! We always ask, "What does this mean?" Using language that was held up in the 500th commemoration of the Reformation, here is part of a 2015 *Resolution on the Doctrine of Discovery* from our ELCIC:

Liberated by God's Grace, we will:

(www.ELCIC.ca)

Pray for wisdom, humility, courage and God's guidance towards action as we live into the reality that salvation is not for sale, human beings are not for sale and creation is not for sale.

Encourage all members and congregations to reflect upon our own national and church history, and seek greater understanding of the issues facing Indigenous peoples.

Where is our church being called today?