

The ORLC Connector



We love, because God first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

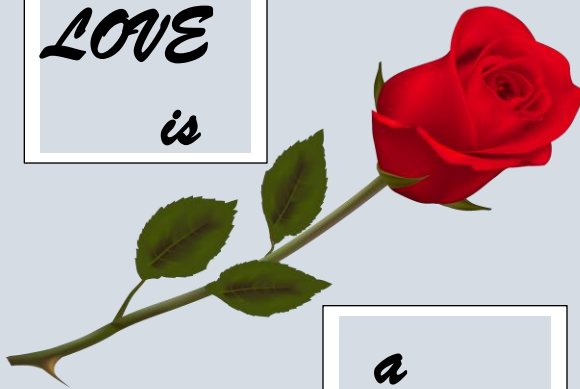
No. 11 - FEBRUARY 2023

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1370 Church Street
Penticton, BC V2A 4R8
Tel: 250 492-6861
Email: orlc@shaw.ca

Editor: Maureen Downey
maureend747@gmail.com
Tel: 250 494-7220

LOVE
is



a
VERB

1 Corinthians 13:13
But now faith, hope and love remain
- these three.
The greatest of these is love

Happy
Valentine's
Day



COUNCIL UPDATE

This past month (mid-January to mid-February), Council has focused on each of our congregation's three major areas of responsibility. In our AGM report, we refer to the "three balls ORLC is juggling to keep in the air": WORSHIP, FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY and INTERCONNECTEDNESS.

Our **Worship** – vibrant, spiritually nourishing – continues to be the foundation of who we are as a congregation. Since the New Year, Holy Communion has been enhanced. Thanks to Pastor Kim, we now hold two Holy Communion services a month. Thanks to Lorraine and her group, lovely choir anthems are often part of our services. For Lent and Holy Week, our worship will be enriched with special services, thanks to 'sister congregations' in Penticton (See WHAT'S COMING UP page for details).

The **Financial Sustainability** focus still is 'aspirational'. Council is encouraging everyone to take advantage of our still unused 'rental spaces' for long term stability, but nothing is firmed up as yet. Council and the Call Committee invite all of ORLC to join us as we try to use this uncertain phase in our congregational life for discerning – creatively, prayerfully, patiently, courageously – the shape of our Mission and Ministry at this time.

As for **Connectedness**, which is vital, this past month has seen both old ways and new ways of strengthening important bonds. Council is pleased that our familiar Coffee Hours are so popular. Simple biscuits or fancy birthday cakes, it's always a joy. This 'ministry of hospitality' depends totally on volunteers. It brings us together in friendship and allows us to welcome newcomers. Council is also keen to connect more intentionally with our 'church families'. Locally, we are joining with Wise Elders churches for the March 18/19 event with speaker Ross Lockhart. We also attend monthly 'lay leader' Zoom meetings with the BC Synod and with Southern Interior churches. It's good to share experiences and ideas and give mutual moral support.

(Continued on page 2)



**PERSONAL REQUESTS
FOR PRAYER ARE
ALWAYS WELCOME**

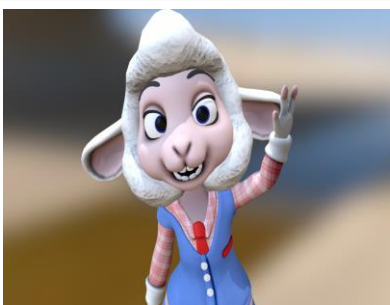
Contact Lynne Marand at
250 492-2209

SPARE A LOVING PRAYER

There are times and events in life when everything is stripped away and all that we can do is pray. Such is the situation in Turkey and Syria following the devastating earthquakes. Much worse than the loss of homes and livelihoods, is the enormous loss of life – over thirty-one thousand souls and more to come. There are cries of heartbreak when the lifeless bodies of loved ones are found, and cries of joy when loved ones are found alive.

And now there are scores of babies, pulled alone and injured from the rubble, their identities unknown and no parents to claim them – separated from mothers’ arms, from fathers, brothers, sisters and grandparents – from the loving family cocoon that we all need at birth. Unimaginable! So many loving families gone forever. Yet in the midst of it, we are reminded that there is one love that will never leave us – the love of Our Father in Heaven. Let us all spare a moment to pray for the victims of this dreadful event and for God’s love to be ever-present to find loving care for the orphans and to comfort all who mourn and must find the strength to go on alone.

We can give support
through C.L.W.R.



**PASTORAL CARE DURING THE
INTERIM**

Call: Anette at the office
250 492-6861 or
Maureen Downey at
250 494-7220
who will help you



(Council Update continued)

This February, **Council has two big ‘asks’** of the congregation:

1. Please read the reports for the AGM
2. Please attend the AGM on February 26th

And a **BIG THANK YOU** to each and every one for having supported – in so many ways – our work as Council during all this past term. It has been a joy!

Your Church Council

**Brita, Stephanie, Ferd, Maureen, Elizabeth
and Kim H.**



A big thank you to Winkie Windcliff who provides us with so many beautiful flower creations which we all appreciate very much.



A TWEET FROM LORRAINE!

What does music in the church mean to you? To me, music in worship speaks with meaning and power of spiritual experience that is too deep for verbal expression. The fact that music has continued down through history, to speak to men of God and to be the language through which man has tried to express his religious thoughts and feelings is evidence that music is a very important religious experience.

The music of the Lutheran Reformation was a language of the people, speaking with strength and conviction of the faith for which they fought. The music of Johann Sebastian Bach, dedicated to “the glory of God”, continues to speak convincingly of the beauty of the pure in spirit. Some music heard in churches speaks neither of eternal truth nor of lasting beauty. Stay tuned for further thoughts about music and worship.

Lorraine

EDITOR’S NOTE:



Google tells me that the word ‘love’ appears 311 times in the American Standard Bible translationBUT.... the word ‘love’ appears 551 times in the New Revised translation! I doubt that I will have enough time or space to include all the texts. Instead, I will sprinkle a few here and there in this February Connector.



THE POWER OF THE PENNY (a word from Debbie)

A new year brings new beginnings. New groups are interested in renting our facilities. Our Narthex is in the second stage of repairs and will be looking brand new very soon.

Last month, our offerings were down a bit but that is quite typical for any January. All other expenses are about the same as in past years except for the insurance deductible which came out of the Restricted Reserve Fund.

We have to plan ahead – it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark!

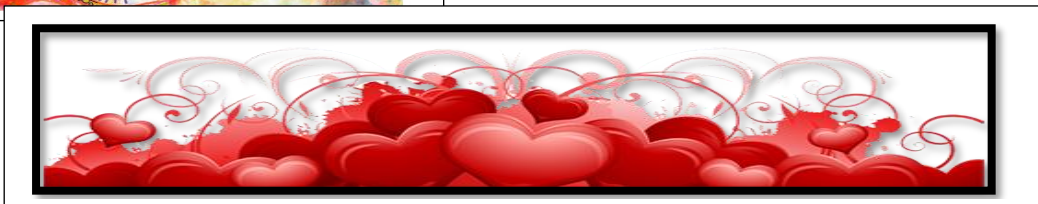
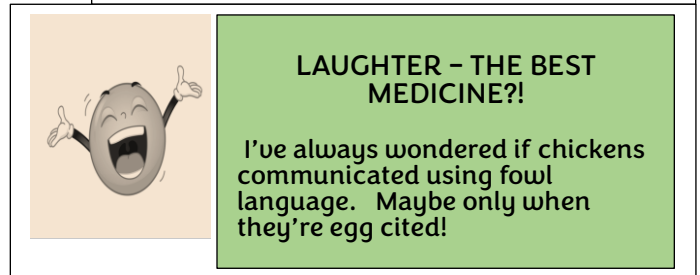
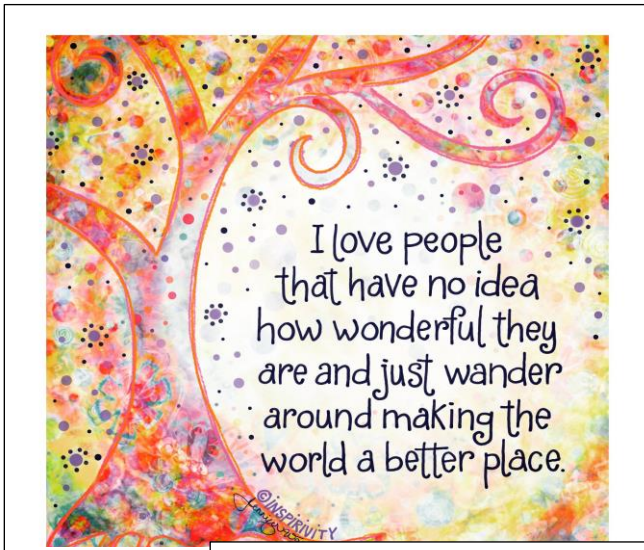
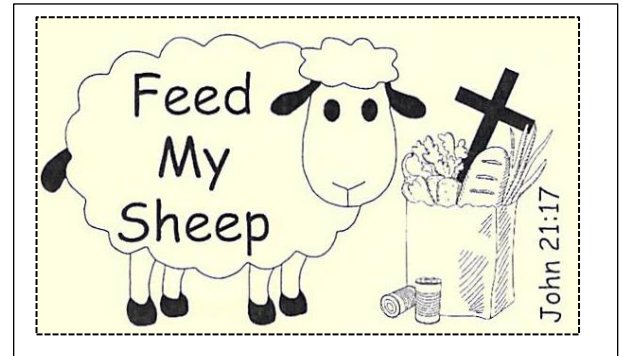
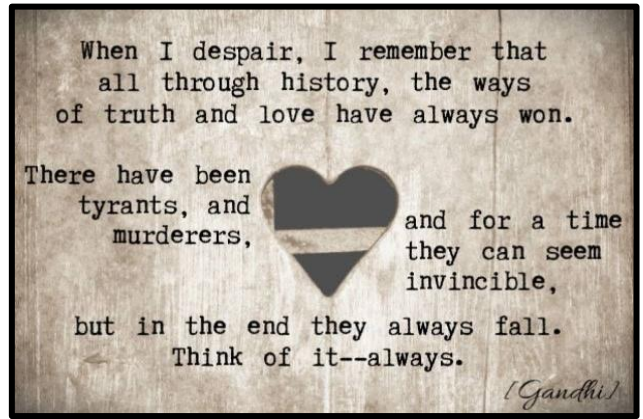
This year we will continue to set aside extra funds to grow the Pastor's Fund for when a Pastor is called – to cover interviews, moving expenses, etc.

We are also adding to the contingency fund. Maybe we should call it the 'rainy day fund'?

Thank you, everyone, for your continued support.



Debbie



IT'S HAPPY BIRTHDAY TIME

(open to those 90 and over!)

Who are happy to share their expert advice with us 'young'uns!



Words of wisdom from the Three Musketeers (see above)



Cal Reid says: Marry the right girl (would that be Nola?!)

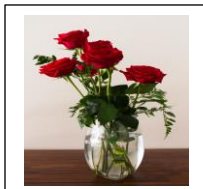
Margaret Munro says: Keep on the move!

and Evelyn Turner has passed along the inspiring words below!

WORDS TO INSPIRE US!

Life is a pathway -- walk it
 Life is a journal -- write it
 Life is a dream -- dream it
 Life is a song -- sing it
 Life is a picture -- paint it
 Life is a novel -- write it
 Life is about giving -- give it

(handed down by Evelyn)



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Worship

- More sign-ups on the volunteer sheet in the Narthex
- Altar Guild for Communion Sundays
- Singers, for Singing Sundays and CHOIR
- Folding Bulletins before church
- Putting up the numbers of the hymns
- Opening or closing windows, as needed
- Receiving the Offering
- Readers are always needed

Coffee Hour

- Host(s) to make the coffee/tea, set out snacks
- Bringers of cookies, juice and fruit
- Doers of dishes (with dishwasher) and general cleanup

Grounds

- Help as needed

Outreach

- Planners and fund-raisers
- Liaison with local agencies supporting the vulnerable

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ARE HELPING



LESSONS FROM THE BIBLE

(who should make the coffee?)

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said "You should do it, because you get up first." The husband said, "You are in charge of the cooking around here so you should do it, because that is your job and I can just wait for my coffee." The wife replied, "No. You should do it, and besides, it says in the Bible that the man should do the coffee." The husband replies, "I can't believe that! Show me." So, she fetched the Bible and opened the New Testament and showed him - at the top of several pages it indeed says: **HEBREWS!**

God has given us:

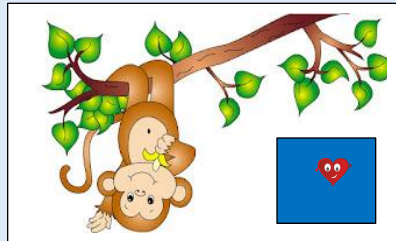
- Eyes**, not to judge others but to look beyond situations,
 - Mouth**, not to criticize but to speak for the truth,
 - Hands**, not to punish but to give a helping hand,
 - Ears**, not to be insensitive but to listen and aid those in pain.
- Everything** God gave us has its purpose. Use them for the greater glory of the Lord.



What does the **LORD** require of you, but to **Act Justly** to **LOVE MERCY** and to **Walk Humbly** WITH **YOUR GOD**
MICAH 6:8



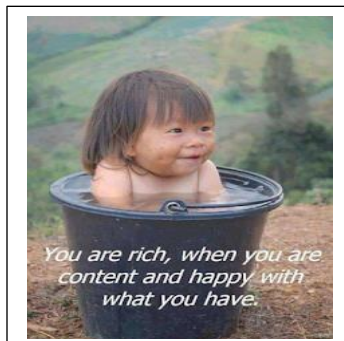
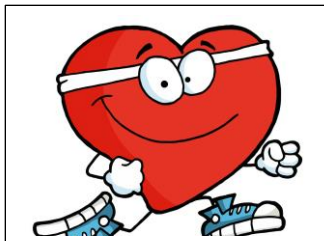
A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



I'M TAKING A BRIEF TIME OUT!

BACK IN TIME FOR EASTER

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from **the love of God** that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
-Romans 8:38-39



PLEASE NOTE – THE 'WHAT'S COMING UP' PAGE IS BEING SENT SEPARATELY

SEE YOU IN APRIL