

# Chilliwack Christ Lutheran Newsletter

March 2022



**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**9460 Charles Street, Chilliwack, BC**  
**V2P 6H7**  
**Phone: 604-795-3864**  
**Pastor Dean Andersen**

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From Pastor Dean

Grace and mercy and peace be with you all from the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

We have come again to the season of Lent, that time after Christmas and Epiphany when we journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem, persecution, betrayal, prosecution, torture and the cross. As I sit to write this reflection, I have just finished writing the sermon for Transfiguration Sunday, the account of Jesus going up on a mountain with three of His disciples and His clothes become dazzling white and there is a voice from the cloud that says, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him.” This account in the three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) is the beginning of Jesus turning toward Jerusalem and what would happen there.

There is much that could be said about this journey that Jesus was on but one of the things that I sense is quite important for us to take in is that Jesus knew that it would be a difficult and dangerous and painful journey, but that it was not one that He was taking alone. Jesus knew that God was with Him in this time and that even though others would desert Him (after all, the disciples who had been following Him would all leave Him, and even Peter, who swore that even if all the others ran away he would die with Jesus, was the one who denied knowing Jesus three times) He would not be deserted by God. Jesus’s faith in the presence of God during His ministry was the strengthening factor, even in the midst of doubt, agony and despair, which helped Him to continue on in His mission and ministry, to the cross and beyond.

During this season of Lent, Peace Lutheran Church, Abbotsford and Christ Lutheran Church, Chilliwack will have the opportunity to think about our own journey of discipleship with Jesus as congregations connected to one another. We will be having some joint worship and study times during Lent as we come together on Zoom. We are called, in the Ash Wednesday service, to consider the disciplines of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – and to see how we are called as individuals and as a community of faith to bring works of self-sacrifice and service to others into our daily lives during these forty days of Lent. On Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm there will be a Study focusing on the resource called “Full to the Brim” where will look at elements of the Lenten journey. Then, on Thursday evenings we will get together for an Evening Prayer worship time at 7 pm.

Each day I would encourage each one of us to see the opportunities that are before us for serving God by serving our neighbour, getting closer to God in prayer and worship and Scripture reading, in helping those who are near and far by our offerings to various organizations that are helping those in need.

God bless you in this season as we remember what God has done for us and as we reflect God's love in all that we say and do as God's children.

Pastor Dean

### **Worship and Study times and links for Lent 2022.**

Our Lenten Journey begins on March 2 as we look to Ash Wednesday and the forty days of Lent. I want to make you aware of some of the plans that the combined worship committees of our congregations have prepared using the Sanctified Art resource, "Full to the Brim" looking at the scriptures assigned for the Lenten season which "are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace."

We will begin this Lent 2022 with a **combined Ash Wednesday service on March 2, at 7 pm on Zoom.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89554073707?pwd=U2ovajFZMEFtaDVwZmR1Z09PMTN1UT09>

You will be able to pick up ashes for this service at the church on Sunday, Feb. 27.

Then, there will be a **Zoom Lenten Study on Tuesdays at 1 pm** starting on March 8 until April 5. The link to these meetings is the same for each meeting and it is:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82834974049?  
pwd=OGdEclpjYUdIRIB3d0VNY01TT2gvdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82834974049?pwd=OGdEclpjYUdIRIB3d0VNY01TT2gvdz09)

Meeting ID: 828 3497 4049      Passcode: 362025

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We will also have a **mid-week evening prayer service on Thursdays at 7 pm, also on Zoom**, from March 10 to April 7. The link to these meetings is the same for each meeting and it is

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88242189888?  
pwd=MnhhNTR6MzNIWDJmcXZuTHhtdERvdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88242189888?pwd=MnhhNTR6MzNIWDJmcXZuTHhtdERvdz09)

Meeting ID: 882 4218 9888

Passcode: 926809

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In Holy Week, we will have a combined **Maundy Thursday Zoom service at 7 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032086432?  
pwd=ZkhxbkRwc0Q2VFRnNVIXTW5NNVExdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85032086432?pwd=ZkhxbkRwc0Q2VFRnNVIXTW5NNVExdz09)

Meeting ID: 850 3208 6432

Passcode: 131917

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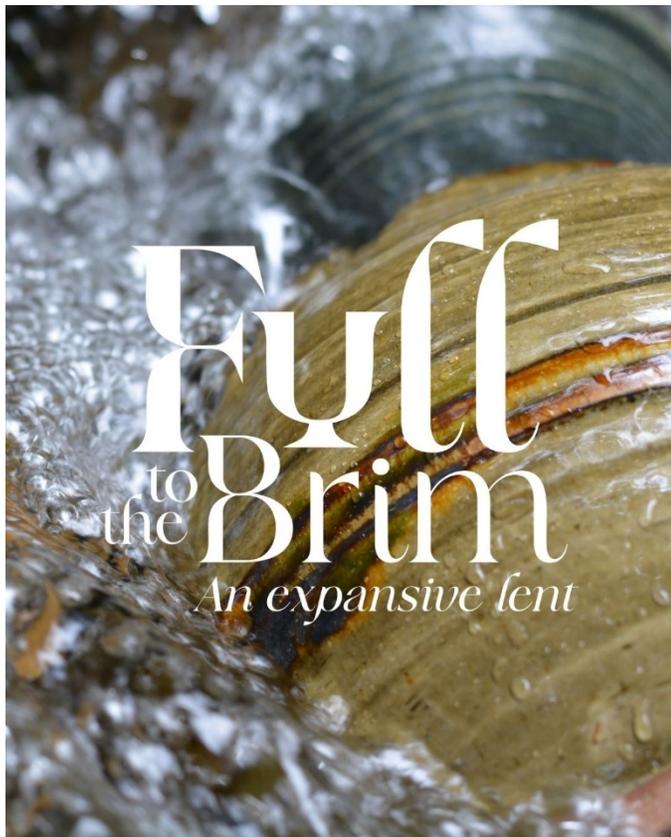
Our **Good Friday services** will be in-person at **11 am at Peace, Abbotsford** and **3 pm at Christ, Chilliwack**. Our **Easter Sunday services** will be at our usual Sunday worship times.

Sunday worship services will be in-person and we require everyone to wear a mask during the service. At Peace Lutheran Church, Abbotsford, there continues to be a proof of vaccination required to attend the service.

I encourage you to highlight this email so that you have it accessible with all of the Zoom links throughout Lent and Holy Week.

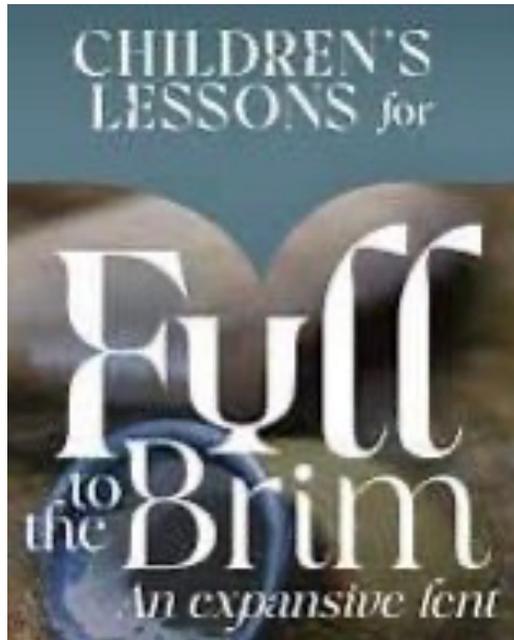
## Join us for Worship during Lent and Holy Week!

Our Lenten theme, Full to the Brim, is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.



## **Full to the Brim Activities for Children**

**Watch for grace-filled "Full to the Brim" emails with activities for children during Lent and Easter**



Hello Friends,

Thanks to the awesomeness of the Christ Lutheran Church website as a highly accessible and easy communication hub, it is time to retire the weekly "What's Happening" email and direct the community to the church website for current updates and announcements. Particular emails can continue to be sent out to the congregation as needed from Church Council, Pastor, etc.

With many thanks and much peace,  
Pam.

### About this Resource

Lent is a season that invites us deeper into intentional living. This tool is designed to help you do just that. Use this worksheet to help you reflect on where you are in your life and how you hope to grow throughout this Lenten season.

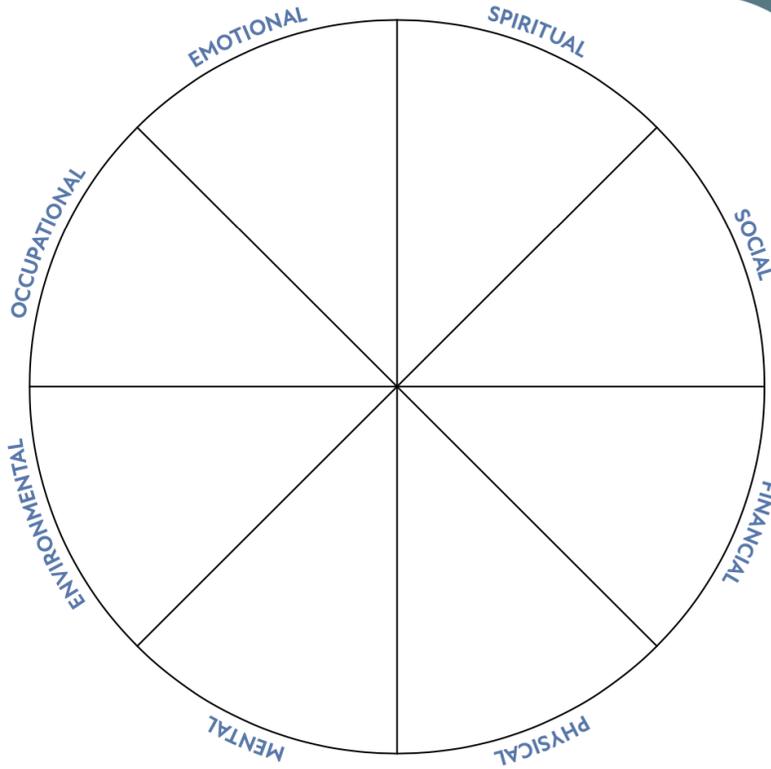
### What is an Expansive Life?

*ex-pan-sive*

The formal definition of expansive is extensive or wide-ranging, spacious and all-embracing. From a spiritual standpoint, we add to that definition. Expansive living is a life that reflects the fullness that comes from right relationships with God, yourself, and others. This will look different for everyone, but might be marked by awe and gratitude, a sense of self-worth rooted in God's love, meaning and purpose in one's life, loving relationships, and joy that comes from using your God-given gifts.

## Wellness Wheel

Wellness wheels have been used as a meaningful reflective tool for years. By inviting ourselves to reflect on individual components of our life, we see a more holistic image of ourselves, which allows us to live more intentionally.



**Within each section of the wheel, respond to the following prompts:**

- **EMOTIONAL:** What emotions do you feel day to day? Which are prominent?
- **SPIRITUAL:** Where are you in your faith journey? Do you have practices nurturing your faith? How are you living from your values?
- **SOCIAL:** What are the positive and healthy relationships in your life? Where would you like to grow? Where do you need to draw boundaries?
- **FINANCIAL:** What is your current financial state, and what emotions or desires does that bring up?
- **PHYSICAL:** How are you taking care of your body? What does your body need?
- **MENTAL:** Are you mentally stimulated? Learning new things? Honing new skills? Curating the information you take in from social media or the news?
- **ENVIRONMENTAL:** Does your home and/or work environment allow you to thrive? Does where you live feel like home?
- **OCCUPATIONAL:** How does your current work use your gifts? How satisfied are you with your vocation? What is your calling?

### Takeaway Reflections

1. What did you learn about yourself in this process?
2. What are you bringing with you into this Lenten season?
3. What areas of your wellness wheel feel expansive and beautiful, and what areas do you want to focus on in the future?

## Expansive Life

You've filled out the wellness wheel. You have a picture of what your life looks like currently. Now, imagine how your life might become more expansive. What does a "full to the brim" life filled with meaning, purpose, faith, awe, beauty, and relationships look like for you? How would you describe a life that full of goodness? In order to live an expansive life, what needs to change? What do you need to take on? What do you need to let go of? Draw or write your reflections below.

## Next Steps

Name three small things you want to focus on this Lent to help you draw closer to God and the wildly beautiful life God invites you to lead:

## Closing Prayer

God of new life,

We know that you want more for us than the rat race of work-sleep-eat-repeat.

In our fiercely independent and competitive world, living a life any other way feels almost impossible.

Remind us that you ate meals around tables.

Remind us that you demonstrated radical generosity.

Remind us that you took quiet time on the mountainside by yourself.

Remind us that you opened doors and said, "Come on in!"

Remind us that you created friendships that transformed.

This is the life you modeled, and it's the life we long to lead.

Holy God, help us tap into this deeper and more expansive way of living.

Help us use this season of Lent as an intentional one.

Starting today, help us build a life not measured by to-do lists, but measured by love.

With hope we pray, amen.



## Dear members of Peace and Christ Lutheran churches.

In October 2021 we embarked on a 6-month trial of sharing ministry. Pastor Dean has been providing Pastoral services to both congregations.

A steering committee consisting of Pastor Dean and two representatives from each church, has been meeting monthly to monitor this transition.

In December of 2021 a survey was distributed to both congregation's members. The responses were favorable and reviewed by the steering committee and both Peace and Christ Lutheran councils. Some combined opportunities for joint programs have been implemented, i.e. Lenten services and more joint opportunities will be announced as COVID restrictions allow.

We are now approaching the time for a second review by all members. We have compiled a short survey and asking you to submit back to us.

If you are completing the printed survey at the church, please put the survey in the box marked SURVEY in the Narthex.

If you are completing the survey online, please return the survey by replying to the church office [christlutheran@telus.net](mailto:christlutheran@telus.net) or [peacelc@shaw.ca](mailto:peacelc@shaw.ca)

We are asking that all surveys be **returned by March 13**

(please circle your response)

1. Are you satisfied with the current agreement between Peace and Christ Lutheran churches to share ministry?

Very satisfied

satisfied

unsatisfied

very unsatisfied

Comments

1. Are you in favour of changing worship times every six months?

Yes

No

Neutral

2. Please note your preference of times for church services –

a) Leave the same – early service at 9:00 am with later service at 11:00am

b) Change to – early service at 9:30 am with later service at 11:30am

c) Neutral

4. Do you have any other comments or concerns for the Steering Committee and Church Councils to consider:

The information gathered will be correlated and will help both congregations move forward in the future.

If you prefer to speak to any members of the steering committee, please feel free to contact any of us.

Respectfully submitted

Pastor Dean Andersen, Dorothy Reid and Sandy Strowbridge from Peace Lutheran Church and Merle Presseau and Pat Schepanowsky from Christ Lutheran Church.

We also wish to thank Annie Coelho for her previous participation in the Steering Committee.

**NOTICE OF MEETING  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHILLIWACK**

**10 February 2022**

It is hereby advised that a full congregational meeting for the purpose of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is to be held on **Sunday 13 March 2022 at 9:45 am**, immediately after the completion of the 9:00 am service. All members are invited and encouraged to attend the meeting.

The meeting will be held in the church, provided that an in-person service is held. Should it be determined by the church council that due to COVID-19, that there will not be an in-person service, the meeting will be held virtually, via Zoom, immediately after the completion of the 9:00 am service held on Zoom, and will be constituted in accordance with the laws of the Province of British Columbia, Canada. Should the meeting be held via Zoom, the link for the meeting will be provided closer to the date of the meeting. The link information will provide for connection via computer, tablet or phone.

The purpose of the meeting will be to approve the annual reports for 2021, elect a new Council for 2022 and approve the budget for 2022.

The agenda, reports and budget will be sent separately to this notice of meeting. Please read all the documentation provided, before the meeting, as the reports will be taken as read.

J P BOWER

(Council Chair)

## **This is my beloved Son. Listen to him” (Luke chapter 9 Verse 35)**

**“Listen to him!”** There is a sermon in these words. We listen to so many voices today, all of which seem wise and attractive—pundits, columnists, commentators, political analysts, religious gurus, celebrities, tempters, seducers. They promise us health, wealth, and happiness, but seldom live up to their promises and often lead people toward ruin. Is there any trustworthy voice amidst the cacophony? The voice from the cloud says that we can always trust Jesus—“Listen to him!”

- We say, “But Jesus is too idealistic to understand the bare-knuckles world in which I live!” The voice says, “Listen to him!”
- We say, “Later, perhaps, but I have other things to do right now!” The voice says, “Listen to him!”
- We say, “But I am not sure that I truly believe.” The voice says, “Listen to him!”

How many broken hearts and broken lives could be avoided if we would just listen to him! There are many people who regret not listening to Jesus.

Prayer:

Loving God,

Thank you for your words of life, your directives, and for the example of Jesus, whom we are to follow. Be with us through the journey of Lent and the miracle of the resurrection.

Help us to hear your voice when you say “Listen to Him”.

Amen

(Submitted by Berni, Women’s Bible Study Facilitator)

Greetings Christ Lutheran Church family,

On behalf of the COVID Committee I would like to inform you that we are going back to in-person worship as of February 27, 2022. We are not requiring proof of vaccination but we are requiring that everyone in the building wear a mask which covers your mouth AND your nose so that it is effective. We will not be taping off the pews but will ask you to sit in your "family groups" and distance from others. Singing will also be with your mask on and we encourage you to "sing gently". Sharing of the peace can happen by bowing or an appropriate "sign of peace."

The reasoning for this decision, supported by your church council, is that by not requiring proof of vaccination we are able to have a capacity of 50% of our normal capacity and our thoughts are that we will not have more than 100 people in our worship services.

We pray that this will relieve concerns that some have expressed and that we will take care of one another as family.

Blessings,

Pastor Dean on behalf of the COVID Committee

**JUNE**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER**

**Deadline**

**MAY 26,2022**

**Will be available**

**June 1,2022**



She took us back  
to a time,  
in her youth

that was  
understood by us,

the hardships, and  
rewards of a  
simple life.

at times we  
laughed  
and sometimes  
you wanted to cry!

She was wise,

insightful

and very humble.

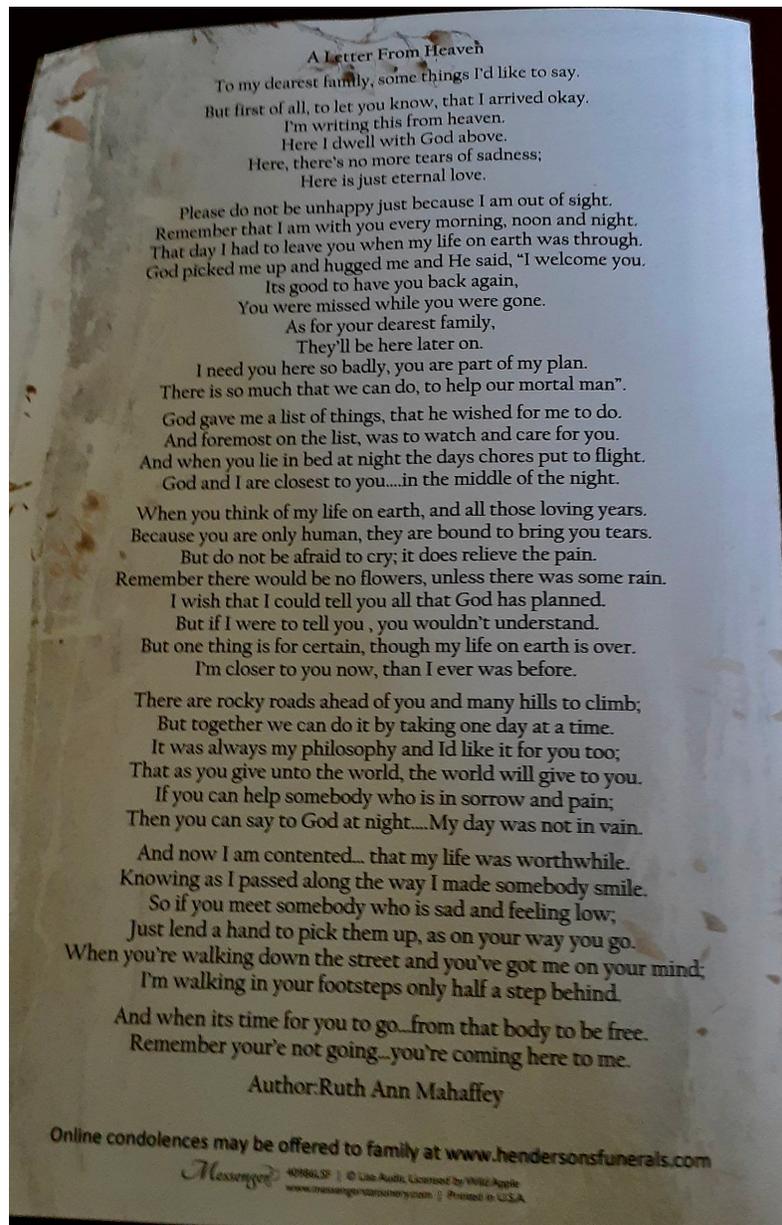
**Jeanie came  
regularly to  
bag lunch at  
Christ  
Lutheran, she  
was very  
missed when  
she was in  
hospital,  
which was  
quite often.**

Jean (Jeannie) Elizabeth Stagg passed on August 29th, 2021 at Chilliwack General Hospital. She is survived by her two sons Kenny and Robert and her two daughters April and Valariejean. In her legacy, she leaves seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, all of who loved her deeply and dearly.

She had lived a zest for life, always loving caring with a great sense of humor. Affected all she had met through her journey of life.

Services will be held Wednesday, September 22nd, 2021 at 2 pm at Henderson's Funeral Home, 45901 Victoria Avenue Chilliwack BC

This was shared by Jeanie during our Bag Lunches with Pastor Dean  
This was very precious, for her and she wanted everyone to understand that.



## **AND SO WE LEFT**

On the 14th of November, during our family Sunday dinner, and contemplating the constant rainfall, someone asked if we would have water in our crawlspace. Of course not, we've never had water, so why now.

To prove my point I crawled into the crawlspace and to my disbelief I saw about a 1/4 inch at the lowest west area. Susan then rolled up the carpets about 10 feet to the east, bit of an exaggerated effort?

Apparently sometime Monday night there was an alert to be prepared to evacuate.

Tuesday morning at around 6:30 Susan came and told us to grab what we needed for the next few days, we have to be out in 10 minutes! My mind said calm down, it takes me this long to get dressed, we were still sleeping. Good thing I'm always prepared to travel and had suitcases for packing, what to put in them, underwear, socks, I started emptying drawers, I couldn't think, oh ya meds, toiletries, purse, wow they're honking, the cops are here!, shoes!

Susan told us that Kathy and Clayton were going to take the 5th wheel for us to stay in. That only had some bedding and essentials, no food, or water. Since the pandemic it was not used, I phoned Birkholz's and asked to stay in their driveway. The answer was 'of course' and asked Clayton to pull it there. Thank heavens for cell phones!

Our kids helped us to set up, and when they left, we realised we left without boots, jackets and blankets. We slept in our clothes that night and in the morning Kathy bought us Jackets and brought some blankets she had in the pickups, also food from the Deli, FOOD was not an issue, we still needed heat, we knew our propane would not last long. Susan bought a portable heater and under Rudi's instruction, the smallest one you can find, we don't want to blow our landlords breaker.

Because our three kids live on the same street as us, we were evacuated at the same time, once you left the property you could not get back in, they had guards at the road accesses. Susan and family stayed at her cousin's on Marble Hill, Kathy at Loni and Claytons house, 3 houses from the Deli, Dave stayed in Greendale, 'cause Yarrow also got an evacuation notice and he could go to work, Luke refused to move out, somehow they didn't go to his house and he knew that if he left he could not get back, the water eventually rose to the point of— it's now or never and he put Clayton's camper on his truck and stayed in the Deli's parking lot.

## Coming Home

November 22, in the afternoon we heard the floodwater from our road No.4, was gone and we decided to try our luck and see if they would let us back. When asked if we were going in and out we said yes, at that time we didn't know. We arrived at the house and the property was fully flooded, even though the water had receded 1 foot, our house and about 8 feet around was dry, we had power, phone, and gas we decided to stay. As I was walking around to see the damage, a van stopped and asked if we were hungry and needed help, I said no thanks, he said yes you don't look good, I attributed that to our camp-out, but he insisted. I told him (Mark) that Susan can only access her house by boat, but they are a family of 5! He said go into the van and take anything you need, so I took a serving for each and he said that's not enough so he doubled the amount, along with water.

Finally we went under the house and had 2 1/2 feet of water, those rolled carpets were now weighted in putrid water. The next day Susan and family came and dragged the carpets onto the front lawn, not an easy task, 'cause we have hardwood floors. Now what. My boots weren't high enough to check-out the chapel or greenhouse, or any of the out building with the tools and yard equipment. I heard a truck pull away at the driveway, and saw all our carpets had been loaded and taken away.

Later we were told this was a group from the MB in Yarrow, they stripped Kathy's house and emptied the crawlspace, drywall, flooring, insulation, days of work and took everything to the flood dump, which was just down the road from us. A farmer donated paved area for locals and it was open for weeks, Luke removed our flood stuff from our properties with his truck and trailer and some stuff with the tractor and loader.

A boil water advisory came into effect and because we were already boiling our drinking water for years, no problem? Well, not so fast, you don't know how much water you use— and not allowed to wash in it. It takes 12 kettles of boiling water in the bathtub and then add 6 kettles of cold, **forget it** it isn't going to work. Oh I forgot to mention our water heater, with a bunch of electric circuits was fried, (it's a water On Demand heater) so the water tap mixer in the bathtub won't let water flow through. We came to a decision, we are old and for washing, the water will not kill us? Of course we still had to heat it, and we bought water for drinking. The plumber was able to install a new one in a week.

Our grandkids severed all our downspouts so no rain water could flow into the house as the yard was still under 2 feet of water.

At our property most of the debris that floated onto the gardens and lawns has been removed, any pots, tools etc. had to be washed in warm soapy water, the silty white coating could not be removed by spraying with cold water, the items in the greenhouse has taken untold hours of cleaning. The chapel will need new flooring and wall panelling to the height of the water line.

When we get together invariably the conversation turns to how high should we build shelves. We definitely will not be leaving any electric and motorized equipment at floor level, and will try not to be in such a strong denial state, that even when we saw the water approaching, we still said "it won't reach us".

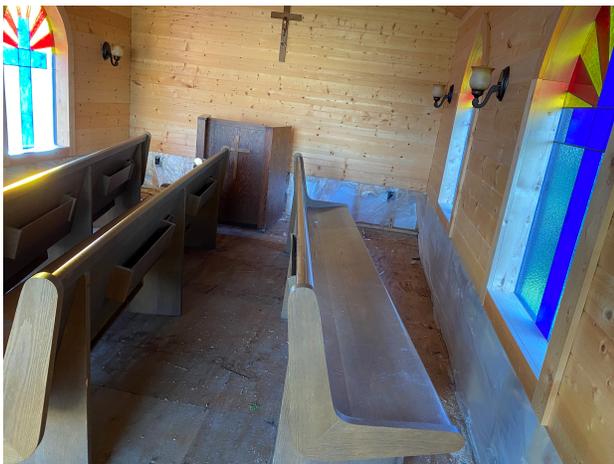
The photos are self explanatory and our house and Luke's sustained no damage, Susan's and Kathy's each in excess of \$100.000

All things said we are grateful for so much help from family and community and very fortunate to be among the ones with the least damage in Sumas Prairie

Our final words are  
**WE'RE NEVER EVACUATING AGAIN**

Louise Thoma

**We saw it,  
But did not  
believe**





Top - our back yard  
Middle left- Susan's  
Middle right- Luke's  
Bottom - Kathy's backyard

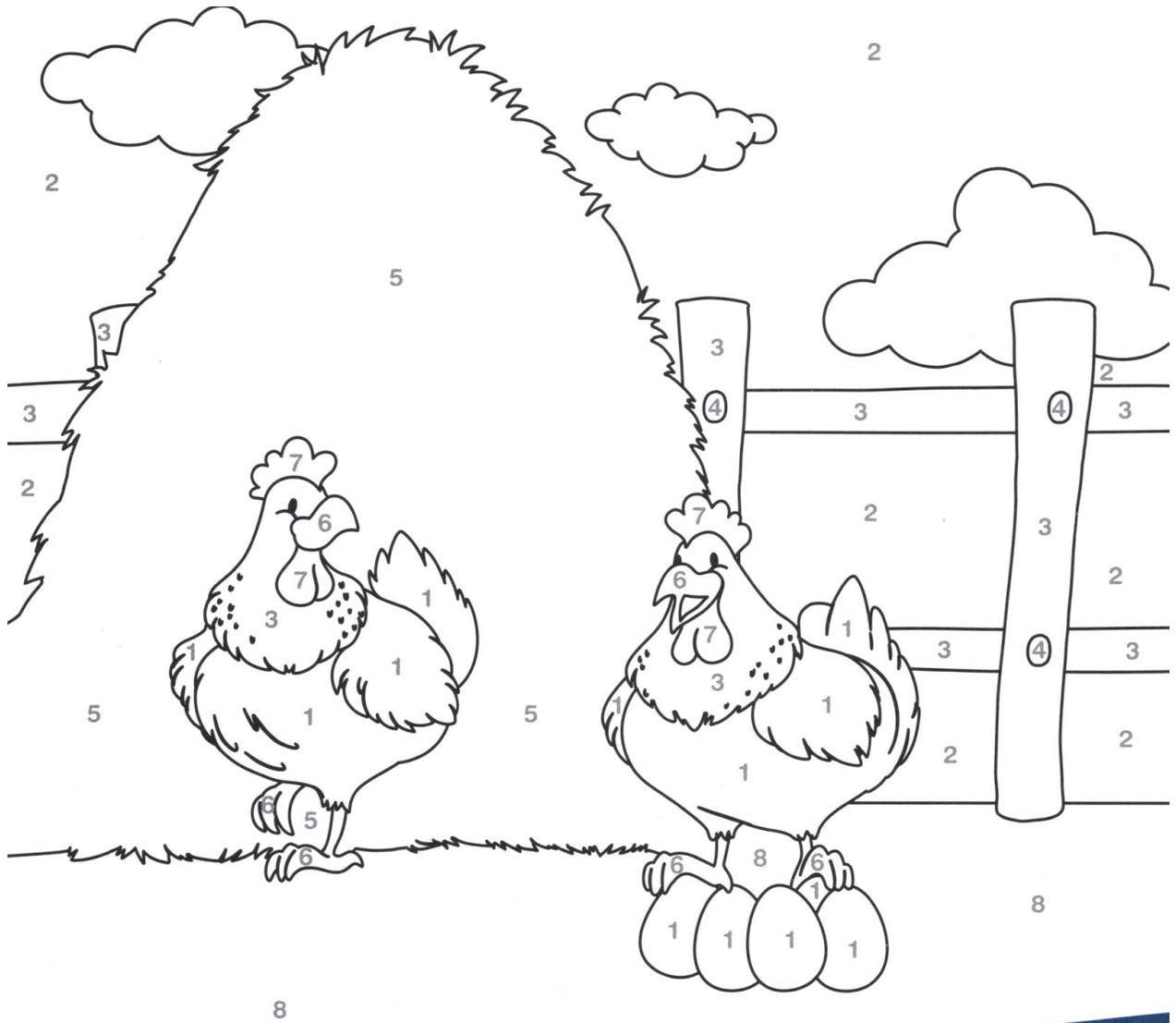
Heute gehen wir in den Wald,  
lasst uns sehen: der Frühling kommt bald.  
Seht, wie die Knospen dick sind und braun,  
und wie die Vogel die Nester schon bau'n.  
Heute gehen wir in in den Wald,  
lasst uns sehen: der Frühling kommt bald

Drüben hoppelt ein brauner Has,  
spitzt die Ohren und schaut durch das Gras.  
Eichhörnchen mit dem buschigen Schwanz  
springt durch die Zweige in lustigem Tanz.  
Drüben hoppelt ein brauner Has,  
spitzt die Ohren und schaut durch das Gras.

Auf der Wiese die Blumen blühen;  
weisse Wolken am Himmel nun ziehen.  
Dort fliegt ein bunter Schmetterling her;  
hell scheint die Sonne. Wir freuen uns sehr.  
Auf der Wiese die Blumen blühen;  
Weiße Wolken am Himmel nun ziehen.

In jeder braunen Knospe,  
da schläft ein grünes Blatt,  
das auf die Frühlingssonne  
schon lang gewartet hat.  
Und eines Tags die Knospe springt  
im ganzen Wald es grünt und singt.  
Hab Dank, o Schöpfer, diese Pracht  
hat deine Hand allein gemacht.

In jeder Knospe  
ein Bleumlein sich versteckt,  
bis dann die Frühlingssonne  
die grüne Knospe weckt.  
Dann ist der Garten plötzlich bunt,  
Und leuchtend blüht der Wiesengrund.  
Hab dank, o Schöpfer, diese Pracht  
hat deine Hand allein gemacht.



Peach



Light Blue



Dark Brown



Grey



Yellow



Orange



Red



Green

