

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Steven E. Harold 7100 Granville Avenue, Richmond, BC V6Y 1N8
Associate Pastor: Rev. Wayne Zhang Phone: 604-278-5766 Website: tlc-lcc.ca
Youth Director: Ms. Samantha Neeb Email: tlcoffice@telus.net
President: Mr. Allen Schellenberg

SERMON OUTLINE -- APRIL 23, 2023

FREE, But Not Cheap

(1 Peter 1:17-25)

INTRODUCTION:

The old saying – “You get what you pay for”

I. OUR SALVATION WAS NOT CHEAP

- A. Theoretically, God could have used the world’s treasurers to redeem us
 - 1. He “owns the cattle on a thousand hills” (Psalm 50:10)
 - 2. However, the price for our redemption was too steep (1 Peter 1:18-19)

- B. God could have demanded obedience to His Law that we might earn salvation
 - 1. This is what Peter calls “the futile way handed down” (1 Peter 1:18)
 - 2. Jesus answered the claim that ‘good works’ are the way (Matthew 5:48)
 - 3. The prophet Isaiah said the same thing (Isaiah 64:6)

- C. Salvation’s cost was free (for us) but not cheap (to God)
 - 1. Free... but costly beyond measure: “the blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18-19)
 - 2. Our ‘wages’ have been paid (the wages of sin & death) (Romans 6:23)
 - 3. Our salvation cost the death of Christ Jesus (John 3:16)
 - 4. How about a *five hour walk to Sunday worship with an African tribesman?*
 - 5. How precious is your worship, service, & outreach?

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II. WE ARE NOT TO CHEAPEN OUR SALVATION

- A. Early Christians were tempted to do this & so are we
 - 1. In today's sermon text, Peter writes to believers suffering Emperor Nero's persecution
 - 2. Under Nazi persecution, Lutheran Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book: *The Cost of Discipleship*

- B. We are called to live as "*strangers*" to this world's values (1 Peter 1:17)
 - 1. We are not to be "*conformed*" to this world's patterns (Romans 12:1)
 - 2. We are to be *holy* – set apart, different
 - 3. Our life of faith is not cheap... it is a valuable commitment

CONCLUSION: *Salvation at a great cost in World War 2 France*

Pastor Harold's Retirement in 2024

As we prepare for Pastor Harold's retirement, we must also prepare to call a new pastor. The following is a summary of the April 16th Congregational Information Meeting with Regional Pastor Rob Mohns regarding the process to call a new pastor. The dates are Trinity's suggested timeline.

Call Process Timeline (proposed)		
1	2023 - Sep	Formalize Call Committee (ex: Board of Elders, Congregational President & Vice President).
2	2024 - Jan/Feb	Call Committee meets with cross-section of congregation to conduct partial SWOT analysis of our congregation (strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats) and to ascertain key things we want in a new Pastor
3	2024 - Mar	Call Committee requests nominations (names of Pastors) from TLC leaders & membership and suggestions from Regional Pastor
4	2024 - Apr/May	Call Committee gathers information on each nominee (abilities/experience/personality) then creates short-list of names for distribution to membership (suggestion: 3 names)
5	2024 - Apr/May	Decide with Pastor Harold (who is not moving from Richmond) how he can be of service to TLC until the new Pastor begins his time with us.
6	2024 - May	Following Pastor Harold's retirement, Voters have Call Meeting to vote on selection of pastor, then issue call
7	2024 - Jun	Wait for response from called Pastor* (<i>who needs to decide whether he can best serve the Lord by staying at his present congregation, or by moving to Trinity</i>)

* Once a Pastor accepts a call, he must tell his congregation immediately, so for that reason, they usually leave their congregation within a relatively short period of time. Extending a call months prior to actually needing to fill a vacancy is ill-advised. When the new Pastor arrives, the previous Pastor will worship elsewhere and be of service as Lutheran Church - Canada has need.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trinity Ladies

THIS Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 9am to 1pm: All Trinity Ladies are invited to attend our LWML Zone Rally (registration fee \$8.00).

Special guest speaker Rev. Roland Syens will be presenting on Lutheran Support and Missionary Work in the Ukraine.

RSVP to Judy H. by April 24. We look forward to having you join us.

Special Worship Service on April 30

NEXT Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 10:30am: Another Special Bilingual Worship Service this day, before the Annual General Meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, April 30, 2023 at Noon: We will meet for the 2023 AGM to review and approve the 2022 Financials, hopefully decide what to do with the parsonage, and discuss needed housing allowances for Trinity's pastors.

Complete Financial Statements, information on various options for the parsonage, and the text of proposed motions to be voted on may be viewed in advance of the meeting at **www.tlc-lcc.ca/2023AGM**. Printed copies may also be obtained from the front office.

Young Adults

Trinity is hosting a **Young Adult Retreat** (ages 18-35) at **Camp Luther** in Mission from **May 5-7**. Registration is now open for this retreat, the online registration form and more information can be found at **<https://linktr.ee/yaretreat>**

Have any questions about the retreat? Ask Samantha!

Call Process for a New Pastor

Please review the Call Process Timeline in today's handout.

Youth Fundraiser

Thank you for supporting the youth fundraisers over the last couple of months. Your generosity is supporting youth attending the **Youth Retreat** at Camp Luther at the end of April and the **Impact Youth Gathering** in Grand Forks in July