

Dec-Jan
2024/2025

O Canada! Our home
land! True patri-
sons comman-
hearts we see
True North st-
From far and v-
We stand on
God keep our li-
free! O Canada
guard for the
stand on g-
for

EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 6344 SPERLING AVE., BURNABY, B.C.

Emmaus Newsletter



Pyhäinpäivän kynttilöiden sytytys poisnukkuneille. All Saints Day Service and Memorial Candles, November 3rd. Thank you for the Choir!



So many Pullas and Karelian Pastries were baked before Emmaus Bazaar!

Thanks for all the great volunteers!



Aurin Hannes Heikkinen's Holy Baptism was celebrated in West Kelowna on November 16th.



Thanks for the FinnGoods!



Emmaus Christmas Bazaar Nov 23. Kiitokset lahjoittajille!



Bazaar photos by Markku Venäläinen

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Suomalaiskirkon Ystäväkirje

Paljonko matkaa seimelle? - How far is it to the manger?



Joosefin ja Marian matka Nasaretista Betlehemiin kesti arviolta neljä päivää. Aasin nopeudesta ei ollut paljon apua noin 150 kilometrin pituisella matkalla. Idän tietäjien lähtömaata emme tiedä tarkasti. On arveltu, että se olisi ollut Babyloniassa (nykyinen Irak) tai Syyriassa. Betlehemin tähteä seuraavilla tietäjillä oli useamman päivän matka kuljettavanaan kunnioittaakseen syntynyttä juutalaisten kuningasta. Kedon paimenilla oli sentään lyhyempi reitti Jeesus-lapsen luokse.

Ennen vanhaan, jo varhain aamulla ajettiin hevosella joulukirkkoon, joskus matkojenkin päästä. Tänä päivänä kirkkoon pääsee onneksi huomattavasti nopeammin autolla, ja toiset jopa kävellen. Ja jos liikkuminen ei kaikilta onnistu, niin virtuaalisesti kirkkoon voi osallistua kuka vain.

Ehkä näin joulun alla voisimme miettiä omaa matkaamme Jumalan luokse. Kuinka pitkä se on tai miltä se tuntuu? Jumala on onneksi meitä lähempänä kuin osaamme usein ajatellakaan. Fyysinen välimatka ei ole sama kuin hengellinen. Jumala on rukouksen päässä. Rukous on sydämen puhetta Jumalan kanssa.

Jeesus, Jumalan Poika, syntyi ihmiseksi tähän maailmaan. Jumala ymmärtää ja tietää mitä on ja miltä tuntuu olla ihminen. Jeesus, joulun Herra ja maailman vapahtaja tuli tähän maailmaan sinua ja minua varten. Hänen luokseen ei ole enää pitkä matka. Riittää, että avaan hänelle oman sydämen oveni. "Minä seison ovella ja kolkutan. Jos joku kuulee minun ääneni ja avaa oven, minä tulen hänen luokseen, ja me aterioimme yhdessä, minä ja hän." (Ilm. 3:20).

Siunattua Joulun aikaa! Timo-pastori

Joseph and Mary's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem took an estimated four days. Donkey's speed was not much help on a journey of about 150 kilometers. We do not know the exact country of origin of the wise men of the East. It has been speculated that it would have been in Babylonia (current Iraq) or Syria. The wise men following the star of Bethlehem had a journey of several days to honor the born king of the Jews. The shepherds of the meadow had after all, a shorter route to the baby Jesus.

In the old days, early in the morning, you would ride a horse to the Christmas church, sometimes for long distances. Fortunately, these days you can get to the church much faster by car, and others even on foot. And if travelling is not possible for everyone, you can participate online.

Maybe this way, during Christmas, we could think about our own journey to God. How long it is or how does it feel? Thankfully, God is closer to us than we often realize. Physical distance is not the same as spiritual distance. God is a prayer away. Prayer is a conversation of the heart with God.

Jesus, the Son of God, was born as a human into this world. God understands and knows what it is and how it feels to be human. Jesus, the Lord of Christmas and the Savior of the world came into this world for you and me. It's not a long way to get to him. It is enough that I open the door of my own heart to him. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." (Rev. 3:20).

Blessed Christmas season! Pastor Timo

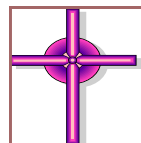
**On Our Way -
Kastehetkestä iankaikkisuuteen**



**Baptized: Nou 16, 2024
Aurin Hannes Heikkinen**

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Gal 3:26-27

**IN MEMORIAM
Sirkka Karlén 83 yrs**



Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life. He, who believes in me will live even though he dies." John 11: 25

Church Council President's Greetings!

As we celebrate this joyful season of Advent and Christmas, there is much to be grateful for. We had a successful winter bazaar thanks to the hardworking members in our congregation and many wonderful fall events.

We are grateful for the strength and unity that Emmaus continues to demonstrate. Your support helps us to grow in faith and fellowship, and as we look ahead to the new year, we will continue working towards redevelopment. We will keep you updated on our progress and look forward to more updates in the New Year.

We ask for your continued support through your prayers and generous donations. Your gifts allow us to further our mission and ensure that our congregation remains vibrant and impactful. As we approach the end of the year, your year-end gifts are especially important in helping us close out this year strong and prepare for the opportunities ahead.

We also invite you to join us for our Christmas services, where we will gather in worship and celebration of Christ's birth. It is a wonderful time for fellowship and reflection, and we would love to see you there. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our shared faith, Finnish heritage and

the mission of this church. May the blessings of Christmas be with you and your family now and in the year ahead. With heartfelt gratitude, Sofia Joensuu

**Christmas at Emmaus—Welcome!
Joulunajan tapahtumia –Tervetuloa!**

- ♦ Sun. 8.12 at 11 am Kauneimmat joululaulut, Carols # 1 with Emmaus Choir, Coffee
- ♦ Sat. 14.12 at 6 pm Emmaus Christmas party—Sing-along We also welcome performers of all ages! If you would like to play, sing, dance, recite a poem, tell some jokes, show off your nunchuck skills.
- ♦ Sun. 15.12 at 11 am Kauneimmat joululaulut, Carols #2
- ♦ Sat. 21.12 at 1 pm Christmas party in West Kelowna
 - ♦ Sun 22.12 4.s Adventtisunnuntain jumalanpalvelus klo 11
- ♦ Tues . 24.12 at 5 pm Christmas Eve Bilingual Candlelight Service
- ♦ Wed. 25.12 at 11 am Bilingual Christmas Day Service, Choir
- ♦ Thurs. 26.12 Christmas Party in Victoria at 12pm (Sun 29.12 No service)
- ♦ Wed. 1.1.2025 Uuden Vuoden juhla - New Year's Day Service at 12 pm.

Tulevat jumalanpalvelukset Victoriassa sekä Länsi-Kelownassa:

Victoria: Grace Lutheran Church, 1273 Fort St.
Tues. at 2:30 pm! Dec 26th Christmas party,
Sat. at 2 pm! Feb 8 & May 24

West Kelowna: Grace Lutheran Church, 1162 Hudson Rd.
Sat. at 1 pm Dec 21 Christmas party
Sat. at 1 pm Jan 18, Feb 15, March 15,
April 5 & May 3

Memorial Gifts



Muistolahjoituksia

Donors names are not available on the website...

Thank You for your support!
May God Bless You!



Memorial donations after Nov. 24 in the next Newsletter

**Tax receipts 2024 will be mailed in the next Newsletter at the end of January/early February.

*Gifts from the Heart 2024 Christmas Catalogues are also available at Emmaus. Ways to Give through Canadian Lutheran World Relief (www.clwr.org/GFTH). Your gifts have the power to change lives this Christmas! Share God's love with the world and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others with **Gifts from the Heart!** Clean water, food, opportunities, hope in crisis, healthy land. Last year 244 people went from refugee to Permanent Residents in Canada thanks to Lutheran churches and community groups across the country.

*Pastoral services: If you have lost your loved one, we are happy to serve you and arrange Celebration of Life and Memorial Services at Emmaus. Please don't hesitate to ask me also baptismal ceremonies or weddings at Emmaus! Pastor Timo

****Emmauksen jumalanpalvelukset sunnuntaisin ja joulunaikaan myös Zoomin kautta –Tervetuloa kirkkoon tai voit osallistua virtuaalisesti Zoomin kautta jumalanpalveluksiimme!**

We offer both in-person and online services! Huomaa eri Zoom-linkit jouluna ja uutena vuotena – Please see Zoom links for each meeting!

*If you would like to receive an email invitation to services via Zoom, please let me know!
Email: timo.emmaus@gmail.com

zoom	Timo Saarinen is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Emmaus Lutheran Church Sunday Service (including Carols on Sundays) at 11 am Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 858 3251 8901 Passcode: 3zqXaT	zoom	Timo Saarinen is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Emmaus Time: Dec 24, 2024 5:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 821 8818 8141 Passcode: 446919	zoom	Timo Saarinen is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: Christmas Day Service at Emmaus Time: Dec 25, 2024 11:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 865 0277 9888 Passcode: 779035	zoom	Timo Saarinen is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: New Year's Day at Emmaus - Uuden vuoden juhla Emmauksessa Time: Jan 1, 2025 12:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 898 5587 1835 Passcode: 826468
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