

OSLC NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL SUMMER EDITION



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Pastor's Pondering ...An Inviting Place

What joy filled my heart on Monday, July 11. I walked to work that morning, rather than riding my bike, so I could take some extra time for prayer. I was filled with a sense of thanksgiving for having reached a decision about the call to Medicine Hat, and the call to OSLC, and was glad for a final day to seek confirmation about staying. As I gave thanks to God, and talked with Him about some of the ideas a number of you shared with me, I was surprised by a three word phrase that entered my thoughts. It was clear .. and one of those experiences we talked about in the recent course about promptings from God. The phrase? "An inviting place."

What does this mean? Well, as we talked about in that course, often there are a few ways to interpret such promptings. You could certainly identify that this came to my mind, because of all the loving invitations so many of you gave me to stay. I thank you for those. But I don't think that is what it meant.

That Monday the old carpet was being removed. I was looking forward to a day of physical labour, and thinking about the voter's meeting where so many, so clearly identified they wanted to see all the carpet replaced in the Sanctuary. I was thinking about what people had said, and how important it was for many for the building to have an inviting appearance. So .. you could easily say that is why this phrase came to mind. You could be right. But I think there was something more to it than that.

That Monday I was also thinking about the comments that had led me to conclude I was to stay. Comments like 'After being with us through our grief, we've just started to move forward

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together - it's not time for you to leave.' Comments like 'Your call to Medicine Hat has made me think about some things, and I intend to make some changes, and become more involved.' Comments that had me thinking about how God might guide us in our service of the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus. (Acts8:12) When the words "An Inviting Place" came to my mind, I was filled with joy.

I was filled with joyful memories of comments I have heard from many visitors to OSLC. It had never occurred to me before, but you could summarize what they said with this - they found OSLC to be "an inviting place." I was filled with joy in recognizing - I think this really summarizes what the people of OSLC, want OSLC want to be. I was filled with joy, because I love being a Pastor that is part of helping a congregation be 'an inviting place.'

Well, those are my thoughts. I'd love to hear yours. - Pastor Craig

Dedication & Celebration

On Sunday, September 18 we will have a special service of dedication for our revised Chancel and new carpet. As we do so, we have much to celebrate. To help with that, I invite you to write out a personal expression of your thanks, a story of the project, a comment on the impression it has made on you, or someone you know, or something else (a poem, pictures) that can be included with a special display, or perhaps, in the service. You may give them to me, drop them off to Megan at the church office, or email them to me at pcatoslc@uniserve.com. Of course, we will also need to have a potluck after the service!

One thing we would like to do, is show appreciation to those who have made this possible. I want to start that by saying .. this has happened as a result of dedication and grace on the part of all who are part of OSLC. As your Pastor, I have to confess, it has been a joy for me to brag to others about your dedication in labour, and giving, both financial, and personal, to enable us to reach this day, with a wonderful experience of having worked together so well.

The final design, and completed work, has happened with all being willing to set aside personal likes. Some have done so with the design, others with the speed at which this



has all happened – much slower than some would normally like – faster than some would normally be comfortable with. Having said that, there may be a few people you feel should receive special mention on the day. If so, please tell me of them.

So .. plan on coming Sunday, September 18 for a service of dedication .. a celebration of grace .. thanksgiving for special efforts .. and a potluck! And if you have any other suggestion(s) for the day., let me know.
– Pastor Craig



This Fall, we will be using the curriculum from CPH called “Growing in Christ”. The leaflets and activity sheets that come with it are geared very much for the children to be able to take them home and have an activity or devotion time with their families.

In the Sunday School area we are going to put a book shelf and have baskets on it, one for each child. These will be their individual “mailboxes”, where they can pick up their lesson for the day, and also lessons from any Sundays that they missed.

We have about a dozen children that I know of so far that will be attending Sunday School this term. We also have an awesome group of youth

SUNDAY SCHOOL

that are willing to go out with the teacher for the day and help out. How our Sunday School works is that the children are with us in the worship service up until the sermon time. Then they go out for their own lesson, and return about 20 minutes later, on a communion Sunday (so families can go up for communion together), and 25–30 minutes later on a non-communion Sunday.

For teachers, some like to teach once or twice a month, some like to teach just once or twice per term. The sermon is recorded and put on the church website, so the teacher can listen to the sermon during the week.

I encourage you to consider taking **one Sunday** this Fall and spending the time with our children. They are a great bunch to hang out with. If you are interested in getting involved with our Sunday School,

ALPHA 2011

*“Is There More To Life Than This?”
Coming soon to Our Saviour....*



Welcome Pasta Night – Monday, Sept. 26 6:00 pm
Course starts Monday, October 3—for 11 weeks
6:00 Dinner and Fellowship, followed by DVD and discussion

Come be a part of these exciting, exploratory sessions filled with fellowship, fun, and spiritual growth.

If you are just exploring the Christian faith or have been coming to church for 25 years, Alpha is for you!

Register at the church, phone or email or call Josey Palleson at 752-5971 for more info. Invite a friend or neighbour or come yourself to ALPHA – it is a life changing experience!

***This fall at OSLC
“3 week” studies***

ANGER

Handling a Powerful Emotion
In a Healthy Way
(last 3 weeks of September)

THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY

Jesus’ Master Class for Life
(first 3 weeks of October)

“How can we get more people to benefit from this?”

I hear this question regularly in studies at OSLC. This fall I am trying two things:

1. Offering complete studies in 3 sessions. I hope that having fewer sessions, and a shorter time commitment, will enable more to think about trying a study that sounds interesting or helpful to them.
2. In September, in addition to the regular Wednesday night time slot (7 to 8:15 pm), I will be offering a day time slot on Monday (4 to 5 pm).

I welcome your comments on this. If these time slots don’t work for you, and you would like to attend one of the studies I will be offering, let me know. – Pastor Craig

“Intense anger and the inability to handle it is part of the human experience.”

How are you doing with this? I was helped by a very practical session at the Breakforth Worship Conference this past January. It was led by Gary Chapman, best known as the author of The Five Love Languages. I am pleased to be able to offer the material he covered in that session, along with some additional thoughts from his book ANGER: Handling a Powerful Emotion in a Healthy Way.

If you ever struggle with feelings of anger in yourself, or another person, I hope you will consider joining me in this study. The Monday sessions (from 4 to 5 pm) will be on September 12,19,and 26. The Wednesday sessions (from 7 to 8:15 pm) will be on September 14,21,and 28.

Topics to be covered will be:

- Anger and the image of God
- When you’re angry for good reasons
- When anger is wrong
- How to handle your anger
- Responding to an angry person
- Helping children handle anger

We will hear thoughts from Gary Chapman, the Bible, and each other, on all of the above. Please feel free to invite friends and neighbours. – Pastor Craig

There is a conspiracy.

You've always suspected it. Now .. you can know. God is at work in ways that are often hidden .. and you can be part of it. Join me in a three week study of THE DIVINE CONSPIRACY: Jesus' Master Class for Life, and find out how. Based on the book by Dallas Willard, and featuring video clips of John Ortberg in discussion with Dallas, the three sessions will be:

- The good news Jesus proclaimed
- The path to a blessed life
- Becoming a good person

Dallas claims "The hunger for conspiracy is based upon the deep human need to find an intelligibility for what is happening. .. That need is based on the way God created us." If you know someone that is trying to make sense of what is going on in the world, or in their life, invite them to join you. They just might.

Wednesday evening sessions will be October 5,12,19 from 7 to 8:15 pm. I will be offering a day time session as well, but have not decided when it will be. Because of the thanksgiving weekend, Monday's at 4 will not work in October. I welcome your suggestions. – Pastor Craig

LADIES 3rd Annual "Spa- Zatively Spectacular"

When: AUGUST 19 - 21

Where : At Josey Palleson's house, 931 McFeely Drive, Qualicum Beach

Friday-Dinner and lots of fun and laughs - amazing food!

Saturday - a day of spa treatments, or just leisure at your pace

Sunday - breakfast and worship time

Cost - \$40 for all the food + cost of individual treatments (about \$25 to \$30 each).

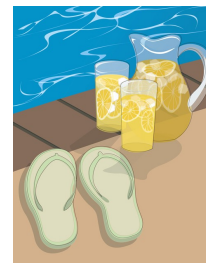
**FUN -----FOOD-----LAUGHTER-----
RELAXATION-----SWIMMING-----
QUIET REFLECTION----FELLOWSHIP**

Sleep over night if you like, just come to the dinner on Friday or come for the day on Saturday.

This is a weekend for just "just doing your own thing"

pick your pleasure or your leisure ladies!!

Register with Josey 752-5971 or Susan 586-5119, call us for info----or sign up on the sheet at the church.



Men's Camping Trip



A little jealous of those ladies and their fancy weekends, so I think it is time for us men to have a weekend of our own. Just imagine spending a night on a small terrace overlooking Amor Lake enjoying the warm colour of a sunset on the steep sides of Mt. Menzies while listening to the call of the loons. The day activities will include whatever you want to do. No plans. No schedule. For those that find that disconcerting, we can arrange for one of those lady type of activities; such as, a mud bath in a local swamp or a gentle exfoliation of the skin courtesy of some winged insects.

The destination will be Amor Lake, northwest of Campbell River at the boat-only-accessible Mr. Canoehead Recreation Site. We will be camping there for the nights of September 9 and 10th. Amor Lake provides excellent opportunities for fishing, kayaking/canoeing or just exploring the area.

Everyone will be responsible for their own food for Friday night, and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Breakfasts and Saturday supper (chilli again?) will be shared meals. Everyone coming contributes ten dollars plus gas money, and any volunteers will plan and prepare those meals (those that don't cook, wash the dishes). For those interested and wanting further information talk to Matt Koebernick or Dave Domes

OSLC First Annual Garden Tour

We are pleased to bring you the first ever garden tour thanks to several members of our congregation. Earlier this spring when we did Hobbies Among Us, we realized there were a number of people who gardened as a hobby, but we did not have a good way of sharing their expertise at the church that Saturday. So, the idea was born to have a garden tour so that we can learn about their gardens and their hobby too.

Mark your calendars for Saturday Sept 10, 2011. We will convene at Arrowsmith Elementary School at 12:45 and divide into 4 groups. We can leave our cars at the school, and carpool to the various homes. We will

be able to marvel at 4 gardens that afternoon, and each group will rotate through each garden. This way we split up, and do not overwhelm one spot all at once.

After the tour, by 4:30 at the latest, we will convene at Larry and Elinor Mix, who have graciously offered to host us for an afternoon tea.

For those participating in the tour, please bring a square, treat, or fruit to share at the tea. We can leave them at the Mix s before we leave on the tour. A special thank you to the 4 congregational members for opening their gardens to us, and to Larry and Elinor.

Kathy Bender and Doreen Hagedorn





Save the Date! A Top-Notch Outreach Conference is Coming to Vancouver! You are invited to be inspired, energized and equipped to share God's love, nurture your family and witness to the community! Join hundreds of other mission-minded individuals

Oct. 14-15 at the Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia, for the Regional Outreach Conference hosted by Lutheran Hour Ministries. This conference features the new Speaker of The Lutheran Hour radio program, Rev. Greg Seltz, and includes other compelling presenters and workshops as well as opportunities to connect with ministries that can help you share the Gospel. Marcus Huff will also be one of the speakers on October 15. For more information, visit www.lhm.org/roc or call 1-800-876-9880

Same-gender Issues Among Lutherans in Canada?

Yes, there are. In fact, there are different ideas about same-gender issues amongst the members of OSLC. Some have friends or family that are in same-gender relationships. Some cannot conceive how anyone could be this way. Some cannot conceive how God would condemn those who are. Some cannot conceive how God could save those who are. Many are aware that the strong feelings about the appropriate way to respond to same-gender relationships have already led to the split of a congregation in the Oceanside area. Many would prefer we ignore the issue. Some are looking for guidance on how to talk about same-gender relationships in a way that fits the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

For a number of people, this has come to a head with the bulletin insert from July 24th titled "Same-gender Issues Among Lutherans in Canada: A statement from the Council of Presidents/Bishops of Lutheran Church - Canada (LC-C)." LC-C is the church body that OSLC belongs to. The insert is a response to recent decisions by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (of which a number of people at OSLC were members before moving here) to "authorize its pastors to conduct same-gender marriages, as well as .. finding that sexual orientation is no longer an issue in certifying candidates for the ministry." ("Candidates for the ministry" is a way of referring to Pastors and other church workers.)

I have heard from a number of people that

would like to discuss this document, and the issues it raises for them. In response, I will be hosting a discussion night on Wednesday, September 7 from 7 to 8:30 pm. The content of the discussion will be based on the questions and comments of those who come. Some of the topics I anticipate we will discuss are:

- What is the impact of this on OSLC?
- Why are Lutheran Church - Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada different on this?
- What are the most important Biblical principles that apply?
- How can we stay together with those we disagree with on this?
- If we do stay with them, or let them stay with us, aren't we saying what they think/say/do on this issue is OK?
- How can we best represent the Good News of the Kingdom of God to those who do not believe?

You are welcome to bring friends and neighbours to this discussion. I also welcome your questions and comments about this in advance. You may speak to me in person about them, write them down and drop them off at the office, or email them to me at pcatoslc@uniserve.com.

Finally, I have one request. Please pray for this discussion, pray for me, pray for all who come, pray for all whose lives are being affected by these issues. Pray for God's grace and truth in Jesus to reign. Thanks.

Pastor Craig