



My “Normal” Journey

I was raised with a pretty clear understanding of what “normal” was. It was normal for girls to wear dresses to school. It was normal for boys to play with GI Joes and for girls to play with Easy-Bake Ovens. It was normal for men to wear suits. It was even normal to see the latest *Killed* and *Wounded* numbers for the Vietnam War on the evening news. Pertinent to this article, it was normal for women to be sexually attracted to men and men to be sexually attracted to women.

Growing up in this normal world, I participated in the verbal joking and teasing about things that were *gay*. It seemed normal to hear very derogatory terms (*which I don't want to repeat here*) about homosexuals or people who were suspected of being homosexual. We all agreed that they weren't *normal*.

On my way to a Lutheran Student Movement gathering in Colorado Springs, I met a student from Texas Lutheran University named Ken. On the long drive out and the long drive back, we had lots of conversation... Good conversation. In fact, he's the one that kept me alert during the late-night, early-morning stretch across West Texas (*it's a lot like the plains in Saskatchewan... miles and miles of flatness!*). Over the years, we kept in touch. After he graduated from TLU, he went on to seminary and then was ordained as a Lutheran pastor. About once a year or so, we'd find a way to get together and have deep conversations about God, the meaning of life, and such. I found that no matter where I was on my faith journey (*which included lots of questioning*), Ken always had a way of grounding me and giving me a “handle” to help me along my way.

In July of 1992, I realized that I hadn't heard from Ken for over 6 months. So I picked up the phone that hot, July afternoon and gave him a call. I got his answering machine and left a message saying that we hadn't talked for a while and to give me a call. That night, I got a call from his mother. She told me that Ken had died that afternoon of AIDS.

After I hung up the phone, I freaked out. He was dead. He had AIDS. He was a homosexual! I got afraid worrying about if there was some way that he had infected me. I got angry that we were supposedly “friends” and that he hadn't told me this. As I worked through these emotions and thoughts, I started looking back at the times when he had tried to broach the subject and how my responses revealed that it would be a huge obstacle to our relationship. I regretted that I wasn't someone that he felt he could trust.

I had a huge impulse to “throw away” my relationship with Ken... to make him into a fraud & a liar... to somehow discount him and emotionally cut him out of my life. To do this, however, would dishonor the very real friend that he was to me. He was my friend. In many ways, he was a spiritual mentor to me. How could I dishonor what he had been to me?

That was very much the beginning of my investigation into the “normalcy” of sexual orientation.

Over the years, I've found that what is *normal* has changed. Girls are wearing pants now. Some boys love to bake and some girls are tougher than I ever was. Not all businessmen wear suits. It is not normal to see the war body count on the evening news. Since my move to Canada, I found that there are things that are normal here that would be weird for Texans!

I've learned over and over again, that there are always exceptions to the norm and that often the *norm* oppresses those exceptions. I found the ability to be more gracious, to be curious instead of judgmental, and that I'll never be done revisiting my *normals*.

All the time, I encounter people who are making choices and decisions different than what I would. Often, my tendency is to make them wrong. The more I can disable this, the more I am able to be in relationship with them. When I do this, I find that they are just trying to do the best that they can.

I am proud to be pastor of a congregation that almost five years ago voted to be an affirming and welcoming congregation to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. I am proud that we are in relationship with the Turkish community and the Sudanese community. I am proud that we are willing to see how we might have right relations with our indigenous brothers and sisters. I am proud of being pastor of a congregation that continues to inquire into what it looks like to love our neighbors... no matter how challenging and confronting that might be! Let's celebrate not being a *normal* congregation!

Pastor Paul

A glance at Summer Ministry Happenings....



July 6—8— National Convention in Winnipeg—**Nyajouk Kulang** is one of the youth delegates from the Alberta Synod.

July 9— Stampede Breakfast—following worship

July 30—**FOOD BANK SUNDAY**—please bring non-perishable food items for the Food Bank.

August 14—18—Summer Day Camp 8:30 am—3:30 pm—*In partnership with Camp Kuriakos*

August 19 - Taryn Plater recital—2 pm

August 27 - **FOOD BANK SUNDAY**- please bring non-perishable food items for the Food Bank.

SAVE THE DATE:



Saturday, September 9th

Clothing Giveaway! Start putting away your clothes to give away!!!



Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW Calgary, AB

www.churchofthecross.ca

churchofthecross@shaw.ca

Pastors Laura & Phil Holck

403-255-4792

Mission

Gathered by God to worship and grow.
Empowered by Spirit to love and care for each other
Living Christ's love by witnessing to all.

Vision

To be a vibrant and growing congregation unified in sharing the love of Christ through words and actions.



In this Month's Issue

Love the Lord your God with.....

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Figuring Out Where We Are

I have a confession to make.

I like watching *Mantracker*. (It is of on-going consternation to Pastor Laura!).

If you don't know about *Mantracker*, it is a TV show where a couple of people (the *prey*) have 36 hours to make it through the wilderness to a finish line about 35 km away. They are given a 2km head start on the *Mantracker* who, with his *sidekick*, track and try to "capture" the prey without knowing where the finish line is.

The reason I bring it up is because no small part of the challenge for the prey is to continually figure out *where they are!* They only have a map and a compass. They end up relying on trails, rivers, lakes, and mountains to give them their bearings so they can (hopefully) keep heading in the right direction.

Here at Church of the Cross, we are on a journey together with God. There is general agreement that we want to grow our congregation and deepen our relationship with God. In order to figure out how to "move things forward" and "head in the right direction", however, sometimes we need to stop and figure out *where we are!* For the next couple of months, we are going to try and do that. The tool we are going to use is the LEAD Assessment.

Last month in the Crossbeams, Pastor Laura talked about **LEAD (Living Everyday As a Disciple)**. **LEAD**, in addition to being a cool acronym, is a set of resources developed by the Gulf Coast Synod of the ELCA (the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). In 2012, that synod voted to make leadership development and discipling top priorities for the synod. Since then, they have been working to develop resources and processes which help equip congregations who choose to move forward and thrive... to do so! Based upon the Greatest Commandment of *loving the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength*, they have identified ways to have congregations and individuals develop and deepen in each one of these areas: *heart, soul, mind and strength*.

In order to powerfully utilize these resources to move us forward, we need to figure out where we are. The way that we are going to try to determine that is through the LEAD Assessment. This is a rather simple survey which you as a member are invited to fill out. This online survey includes 20 statements about the congregation. You are asked to choose the response that you think best describes the congregation. It takes less than fifteen minutes (Nyajuok took it and said it

took her less than five!). The goal of is to have over half of our worshipping community to complete the assessment. Each of the Council Members has completed it already.

Here are the particulars on how to do it:

- Go to this website:

waytolead.org/take-lead-assessment

- Enter this Password **Assessment-cong**

(It is case sensitive)



Living every day as disciples

- Complete the Assessment

If we have your email address, you can count on getting an email from the church which provides this information. There will also be announcements and other encouragements to invite to participate in this effort. If you do not have email or do not have easy access to a computer, there will be one in the Narthex set up before and after worship to assist you.

If you would prefer to fill out a printed assessment, these will also be available from the Office or on Sunday morning.

Our goal is to reach the 50% threshold before the end of summer so that we can analyze the results, figure out where we are, and start moving ahead on the area that will be most helpful to us.

Thank you for your willingness to help the Council determine how to lead us forward. There is no *Mantracker* who is on our tail, but there is a God who is calling us to future that makes a difference!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Flud".

SOCIAL MINISTRY
Cause of the month for July
 Sandwiches for the Drop-In Center
August
 Food Bank




Experienced house cleaner looking for a weekly part-time. Hours available are 3 - 6pm or 4-7p.m.

Contact
 Rebecca at 403-389-6184.

Five Years as a Rainbow Church

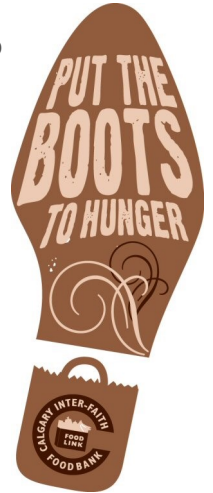
October 20, 2012, Lutheran Church of the Cross voted to accept the Human Sexuality Resolutions adopted by the ELCIC in June 2011. On that day we officially became an affirming congregation. As the five year anniversary of this significant event approaches, it seems a good time to offer opportunities to revisit the Resolutions, to talk about what "affirming" has meant to our church, and to invite speakers to share with us the significance of "coming out in faith." Look for a suggestion box marked with a rainbow in the narthex. We welcome questions, comments, and suggestions as to how we can prepare for a celebration in October.



Stampede Breakfast July 9 to benefit Calgary Food Bank

Following worship on **Sunday July 9**, we will host our 3rd annual Put the Boots to Hunger Stampede Breakfast benefitting the Calgary Food Bank. Bring a friend and a non-perishable food donation and get your fill of Stampede Breakfast fare. A representative from the Calgary Food Bank will also be on hand to collect any financial donations you wish to make to the Food Bank.

If you are willing to help set-up, cook, serve, or clean-up, please contact the church office.



Here's more about the Put the Boots to Hunger campaign:

Now in its tenth year, the annual Put the Boots to Hunger campaign raises important food and funds for the Calgary Food Bank through the Stampede season, at a time when it is typically slower for donations.

Pivotal to the initiative is the donation of the chuckwagon tarp from campaign sponsor, Burnet Duckworth & Palmer LLP (BD&P). Each night, during the ten days of the Calgary Stampede, a different business sponsors the Put the Boots to Hunger™ chuckwagon tarp and all funds raised contribute to a successful fundraising venture for the Calgary Food Bank.

In 2016, the campaign raised over \$300,000 in food and funds between tarp sponsorship and Food Bank involvement at many stampede breakfasts and barbecues. Since its inception in 2008, the campaign has raised over \$4 million in food and funds for Calgary Food Bank initiatives.



Watch it Grow and Bloom

Just two weeks after the glorious sunny morning our Remembering Garden was planted, it is all abloom and the flowers will soon have spread to blanket the heart-shaped bed.

In the community garden, beans, peas, zucchini, carrots, beets, parsnips, potatoes, onions and garlic are up and making haste to produce.

If you haven't already checked out the cedar planters at the west entrance, slip out the front door and see our rainbow of colours. Then around to the bed at the west where climbing roses and all manner of perennials and saskatoon bushes are thriving.

Finally, go up and smell the roses. After a poor awakening in spring, the bushes are loaded with buds and just beginning a breath-taking bloom fest.

Enjoy and give thanks for the sun and the rain and our God whose glory resounds in the miracle of gardens.

Blessings to all.

From your LCOC gardeners



On behalf of Lutheran Hospital Ministries - Southern Alberta, a big **"thank you"** is sent in appreciation to our Lutheran Church of the Cross for the continued support of their ministry through the annual fundraiser **"Walk for Love"** and through donations made during the year.

In 2016, over 40 LHM volunteers logged 6600 visits representing nearly 1900 hours of visits to the hospitalized and those in many seniors homes throughout the city. Volunteer training is available to anybody interested in joining this valuable service to our Lutheran community.

This year's "Walk" on May 6 featured 30 participants aged 8 months to 92 years young.





WORSHIP MATTERS

Gathering on Treaty 7 Territory

We begin each worship service by reminding ourselves we are gathering on Treaty 7 territory. We do this for several reasons:

We honor the people and cultures who have inhabited this land for 15,000 years. Whether our families have been here for generations, or just a short while, all immigrants to this land are relative new comers and we do well to remember the graciousness, hospitality and culture of those who have inhabited this land for millennia. When we acknowledge Treaty 7, we acknowledge that we have indigenous elders. *Our worship announcement is an announcement echoing the fourth commandment (honoring our parents).*

We take responsibility for the treaties made with indigenous peoples across Canada that swindled them out of their homelands. The concept of land ownership is foreign to indigenous ways of thinking. For First Nations people, the land is sacred and is given by the Creator. It cannot be sold, bartered, or “treated” away. Although we were not personally responsible for the treaties, Residential schools, the Indian Act, and other actions with devastating consequences, we take responsibility for them anyway. We commit ourselves to a different, reconciling and renewing relationship with the First Nations peoples. *Our worship announcement is a confession and call to repentance.*

We acknowledge that indigenous ways of thinking have much to teach us and are closely aligned with our call to Christian discipleship. Indigenous society operates in a state of relatedness. Everything and everyone is related. There is real belief that people, objects and the environment are all connected. Law, kinship and spirituality reinforce this connectedness and identity comes from connections. Sound familiar? *Our worship announcement is a call to renewed discipleship.*

We acknowledge that our relationships with the people around us are the way to peace. Our friends in the Turkish community live an ideal: World peace will come about through friendship (my interpretation). When we acknowledge our gathering on Treaty 7 territory, we are restating our commitment to form friendships with our neighbours, both near and far. *Our worship announcement is a commitment to life together.*

Who are the Treaty 7 people we name in worship? In worship, we name five First Nations: The Stoney/Nakoda, Kainai, Piikani, Siksika, and Tss T’ina. Some of these nations have more than one tribe. Here is the complete list of First Nations and the tribes within those nations that comprise the Treaty 7 Nations:

- Bearspaw First Nation (Stoney First Nation/Nakoda)
- Chiniki First Nation (Stoney First Nation/Nakoda)
- Blood Tribe (Kainai Nation) (Blackfoot)
- Piikani Nation (Blackfoot)
- Siksika Nation (Blackfoot)
- Tsuu T’ina Nation (Sarcee)
- Wesley First Nation (Stoney First Nation/Nakoda)

What does our worship announcement mean to you?

NEWS ALERT: CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES FOR 2018

For a number of years we have been ordering 200 contribution envelope boxes. This is turning out to be a waste as we are using less than 150. So for 2018 those who have an envelope number over 150 (*this number may change a little*) will be reassigned a lower number. There will be written notification to those who have their number changed, this will be done later in the year. If you have any questions or concerns please contact **Brian Anderson**, Financial secretary.



Join the **REFORMATION** **CHALLENGE!**

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

The Lutheran World Federation encourages Lutherans around the world to lift up this commemoration.

Join with Lutherans across Canada and take the **Reformation Challenge** as we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and demonstrate our excitement for the theme *Liberated by God's Grace*.

The Reformation Challenge calls us as a national church to:

Sponsor 500 refugees to Canada. *Update: Our SW Conference of Lutheran congregations has sponsored the arrival of a 4-member family from Syria. Want to be involved? Contact Walter Driedger. His number is in our member directory.*

Provide 500 scholarships for ELCJHL schools. *You can make a credit card donation to support schools in the ELCJHL at www.opportunitypalestine.org.*

Plant 500,000 trees. *This includes planting trees on your own property as well as participating in organized tree planting projects in Calgary and around the world.*

Give \$500,000 to the LWF Endowment Fund. *Donate to the LWF Endowment fund online. Go to www.lutheranworld.org and search on "Endowment Fund" and follow the instructions.*

You can also make an offering to any of these appeals

by giving a gift to the congregation with your usual offering (payable to Lutheran Church of the Cross) or by sending it directly to the ELCiC National Office (payable to ELCiC, address below). In either of those cases, please mark the memo line "Reformation Challenge:" followed by "refugees", "trees", "scholarships", or "LWF" according to how you would like your gift to be applied.)

The young people in our congregation have raised over \$1,200 for planting trees. (Thanks, Marvin Erickson for constructing bird houses for the "It's for the Birds!" campaign!). Look for their congregation-wide tree planting event in the fall.

If you participate personally in supporting the goals of the Reformation Challenge, please contact the church office and let us know about your participation so it can be counted on our national church website.



Students of the ELCJHL Schools
ELCIC

600-177 Lombard Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5

BLAST Summer Programming

Tie-dye

JULY

Bring your plain white cotton or cotton blend T-shirts, tote bags, socks, aprons, or other items! (We'll have some on hand, too!)

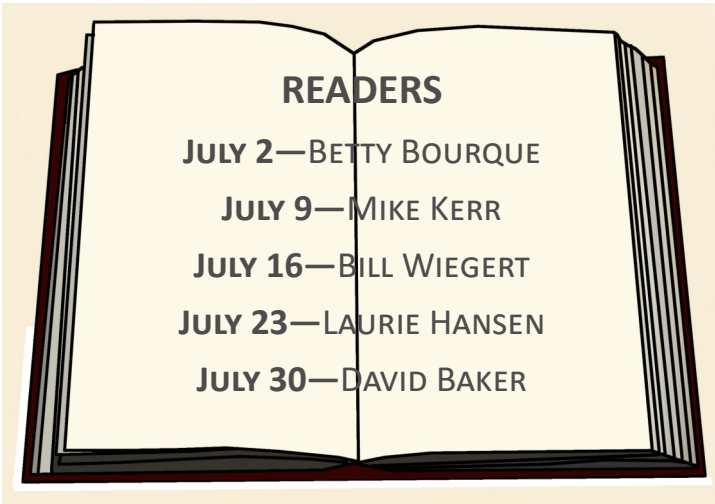
We'll learn tie-dye techniques and turn everything psychedelic.

Because that's what God does, you know?

We have aprons, but come in clothes you don't care about.

LEAD

...love God with all your soul



WORD FOR CHILDREN

JULY 2 -GEORGINA NORMANDIN

JULY 16— RENATE ERICKSON

JULY 23— LAURIE HANSEN

AUGUST 6 - GEORGINA
NORMANDIN

AUGUST 13 - LAURIE HANSEN

AUGUST 20 - RENATE ERICKSON

AUGUST 27— RENATE ERICKSON



Morning Prayer—9 am—Monday—Thursday

Fellowship & Coffee at
Tim Hortons—every Tuesday morning at 10 am.
11472 Braeside Dr. SW.



September 7th

12:00 noon to 1:15 pm

We would like to welcome you to Church of the Cross for a
revival of the PHD program.

PHD means – POTLUCK/HYMN/DEVOTION

There will be a potluck lunch, a presentation regarding the contemplation and reflections of the composer of a hymn (*chosen by the presenter*), then a devotion followed by a short hymn sing.

Please join us for:

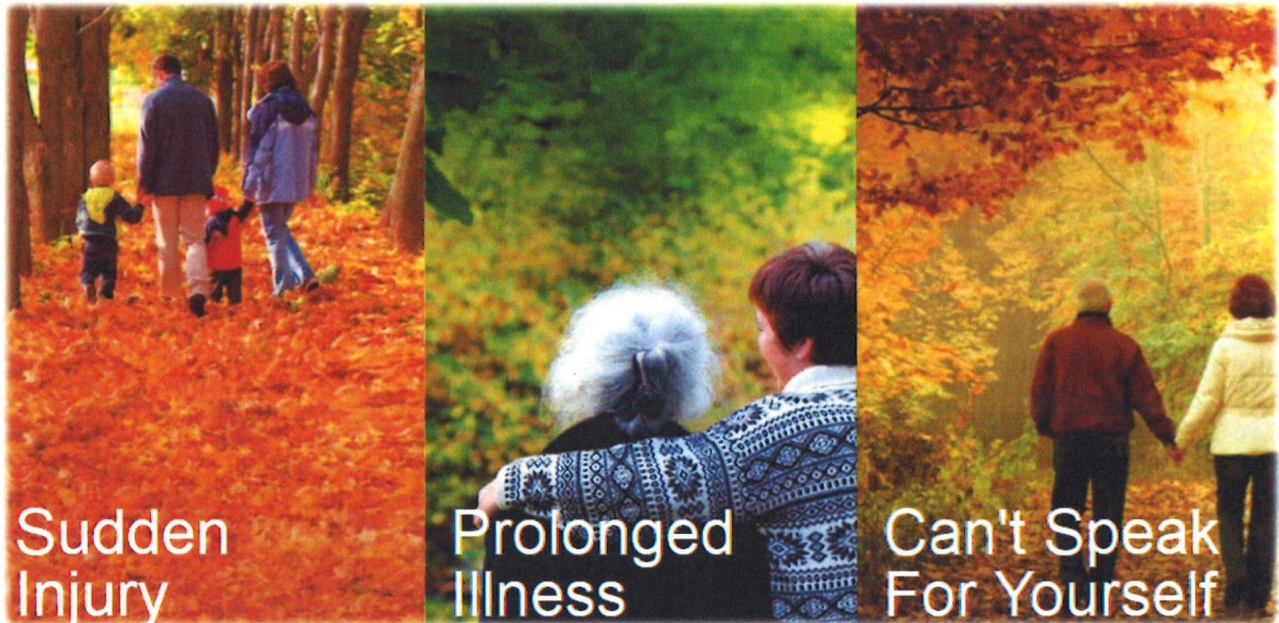
GOOD FOOD/ GOOD COMPANY/ FUN/ KNOWLEDGE

Decisions that Count – Personal Directives, Advance Care Planning & Goals of Care Designations

Everyone is invited, we can all benefit from Advanced Care Planning. If an unexpected event or change in your health occurs and you are unable to make decisions about your health care, planning in advance ensures your wishes will be known.

Conversations Matter

It's about decisions and how we care for each other



Advance care planning is the process of thinking about, talking about, and documenting your wishes for health care. We will bring resources related to Advance Care planning (free Personal Directives) and share an informative presentation. Advance Care Planning is translated into Goals of Care Designations for patients in the health care system, and all of this is communicated in a Green Sleeve – your very own Health Passport!

When Sunday, November 19

Time following worship

Where Lutheran Church of the Cross

Further information can be found at <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Alberta/Pages/advance-care-planning-topic-overview.aspx>

Summer Day

The Water of Life

We need volunteers!
Call the church office if you'd like to help!

August 14-18
Monday-Friday
8:30am-3:30pm
\$75/camper

Lutheran Church of the Cross
10620 Elbow Dr. SW

Ages 6-11

Younger children may attend if accompanied by a parent/guardian

Older youth may attend as volunteers

Please pack a lunch. Morning/afternoon snacks provided.

Program provided in partnership with:



KURIAKOS

on Sylvan Lake since 1930

I belong at camp.

WWW.KURIAKOS.AB.CA

To register or get more information, call Church of the Cross (403) 255-4792 and talk to Dianne! Or check out our website: churchofthecross.ca

Saturday with Sondheim: A Voice Recital

On **Saturday August 19th at 2pm**, join Taryn Plater (Soprano) and Scott Rumble (Tenor) for an afternoon recital, featuring the music of Stephen Sondheim!

Many of you know **Taryn Plater** as the granddaughter of Bill and Ruth Ruecker. She is studying voice performance at UBC (in addition to Linguistics and a Master of Management degree).

A lifelong member and confirmand of ELCOC, Taryn is coming home for a few days to rehearse and give you this music recital.

Scott Rumble received his Bachelor of Music and Artist Diploma from Western University. He is currently completing a Masters in Opera Performance at UBC, studying with acclaimed tenor, Patrick Raftery.

The hour-long recital will be accompanied by ELCOC's own **Evan Mounce**.

Admission is by donation.
Hope to see you there!

*Special Thank You: This Recital is sponsored by RCM Representative and Patron
Leonora Bridge, in recognition of Emerging Artists.*



Germany: Luther, Bach & the Beatles

It's not too late!

October 21—November 4, 2017

Your church staff is traveling to Germany to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and you are invited to join them! If you are interested, call the church office, check out the bulletin board across from the washrooms or go to rostad.com



A Christian Syrian refugee family is moving out of an apartment and into a house. They need tools and yard/gardening/grass equipment. If you have donations please contact Dianne for more information.



CHECK IT OUT!

10% DISCOUNT

GOOD NEWS!!

We share in the excitement of our Syrian refugee family as Zuheir has found a job. You might remember that Zuheir is a chef. He was hired as the kitchen and food manager for a brand new restaurant. The owner of the restaurant has expressed his thanks to us all for sponsoring Zuheir and his family.

As a way of thanking our churches for this blessing, he would like to offer us all a 10% discount at the restaurant. Just bring your bulletin, or tell the manager, Sayeed, that you are a member of one of the sponsoring churches.

What a great way to support Zuheir in his new job, by helping the restaurant to be successful.

The restaurant is called

Farooj King

#119-9950 Macleod Trail S.E. (south of Canadian Tire) Calgary
403-990-2324

Check out the website for more information:

info@faroojking.com or www.faroojking.com




CANADA 150

July 2017



CANADA 150

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Cause of the Month Sandwiches for Drop-In Centre		Communion Sundays July 2, 16 & 30			1 	
2 Worship—10 am— BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am	5 Sandwich Making—7:30 am SWCG—7 pm	6 Morning Prayer—9 am E.A.—7 pm	7 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	8
				National Convention—Winnipeg		
9 Worship—10 am— Stampede Break- fast—following wor- ship SWCG—1—3 pm	10 Morning Prayer—9 am Staff Mtg.—10 am	11 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am	12 Morning Prayer—9 am SWCG—7 pm	13 Morning Prayer—9 am E.A.—7 pm	14 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	15
16 Worship—10 am BLAST—following wor- ship SWCG—1—3 pm	17 Morning Prayer—9 am Staff Mtg.—10 am	18 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am	19 Morning Prayer—9 am SWCG—7 pm	20 Morning Prayer—9 am E.A.—7 pm	21 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	22
23 Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	24 Morning Prayer—9 am Staff Mtg.—10 am	25 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am	26 Morning Prayer—9 am SWCG—7 pm	27 Morning Prayer—9 am E.A.—7 pm	28 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	29
			Pastor Laura to North Carolina			
30 FOOD BANK SUNDAY Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—4 pm	31 Morning Prayer—9 am Staff Mtg.—10 am					



August 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Cause of the Month Food Bank			Communion Sundays August 6 & 20			
		1	2	3	4	5
		Dianne—Vacation				
		Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am	Morning Prayer—9 am Sandwich Making—7:30 am SWCG—7 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am E.A.—7 pm	Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	
6 Worship—10 am— BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am	9 Morning Prayer—9 am SWCG—7 pm	10 Morning Prayer—9 am E.A.—7 pm	11 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	12
13 Worship—10 am BLAST—following wor- ship SWCG—1—3 pm	14 Staff Mtg.—10 am	15 Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am	16 SWCG—7 pm	17 E.A.—7 pm	18 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	19 Taryn Plater— recital—2 pm
Summer Day Camp 8:30 am—3:30 pm—In partnership with Camp Kuriakos						
20 Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	21 Cantare children's choir—8:30 am—6 pm Morning Prayer—9 am Staff Mtg.—10 am	22 Cantare children's choir—8:30 am—6 pm Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am	23 Cantare children's choir—8:30 am—6 pm Morning Prayer—9 am SWCG—7 pm	24 Cantare children's choir—8:30 am—6 pm Morning Prayer—9 am E.A.—7 pm	25 Office Closed Cantare children's choir—8:30 am—6 pm SWCG—7 pm	26
	Dianne—Vacation					
27 FOOD BANK SUNDAY Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—4 pm	28 Morning Prayer—9 am Staff Mtg.—10 am	29 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am	30 Morning Prayer—9 am SWCG—7 pm	31 Morning Prayer—9 am E.A.—7 pm		