



500 Years of Reformation

A month-long celebration at Church of the Cross

The Reformation began with Martin Luther posting topics for theological debate on the door of the Wittenberg church. Luther understood the church to be a place of civic engagement, moral deliberation, and forward-thinking. (By the way, the revolution that ensued surprised him!)

Following in his footsteps and in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus, we too are called to civic engagement, theological questioning and debate, moral deliberation, and forward-thinking. All month long as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of the 95 Theses and the start of the Protestant Reformation, we celebrate within the context of our own "reformations."

Each week, we will focus on an aspect of our communal reformation as we both celebrate and seek to keep reforming.

Here's the calendar of events:

October 1 You are loved: Celebration of our 5th anniversary as a rainbow church

Pastor Laura preaches and we hear first-hand accounts of people whose lives were transformed by embracing their God-given identities and sexualities. Whether you find this conversation life-giving and celebratory, challenging, confronting, or new, you are encouraged to come to worship, encounter the stories of people in the LGBTQ+ community, and engage the question: "What does it mean for me to fully be the person God created?" Wear your ELCOC affirming shirt, or rainbow or brightly colored clothing to worship. Refreshments in the narthex after worship.

October 8 Young people have power: Confirmation/Celebration of youth leadership

As we give thanks for the harvest and goodness in our lives, we also give thanks for the young people in our midst. They lead worship today, including delivering the

day's message by sharing their faith stories, their belief in the God of life, and affirming their faith in both God and church. If you or your kids have a baptismal or confirmation stole or if you are ordained & have a clerical stole, please wear it to worship. Cake reception for those being confirmed following worship.

October 15 Salvation is for everyone: The Way of Christ/Cursillo movement

Lise Wilson shares her experience moving into the acceptance and love of God and the church as a demonstration that God is in the process of reconciling all people to Godself. This Sunday, experience the process of The Way of Christ/Cursillo movement. As a lay person shares about personal salvation, we consider how that experience might map onto our own lives, and we pray for the salvation and reconciliation of all people. Lise will lead us in a glass making workshop during the coffee time following worship during which freewill offerings supporting The Way of Christ movement will be accepted.

October 22 Everyone has a ministry: Celebration of lay leadership and empowerment

God calls everyone to ministry, to leadership, and to the expansion of their gifts and abilities. Today Sarah Schmidt, Scott Christensen, and Dean and Carolyn Larsen share about God's call upon their lives and open for all of us the possibility of seeing how God is calling us too.

October 29 The church can change the world: Celebration of our role in civic reform

Jesus deliberately sought out people on the margins of society, caring both about their personal situations and the social circumstances giving rise to their troubles. Church of the Cross member Rev. Ryan Andersen, Community Organizer for the Metro Alliance for the Common Good, preaches today about the church's continuing role in the transformation of public policy and action on behalf of the poor and marginalized.

Pastor Laura

A glance at October Ministry Happenings....



- October 1** - Celebrating 5 years as an Affirming Church—10 am
- October 1** - Families and Friends gathering—during BLAST
- October 3** - Faith Formation (Adult study, Confirmation, Youth, Children) - 6—8 pm
- October 4** - Sandwich Making—7:30 am

October 5 - PHD Group—noon—1:30 pm

October 8 - Confirmation Sunday—10 am—also Thanksgiving Sunday

October 10 - Prayer & Care Potluck—11:30 am

October 10 - Faith Formation (*Adult study, Confirmation, Youth, Children*) - 6:30—8 pm

October 14— Men's Breakfast—8 am

October 17 - Faith Formation (*Adult study, Confirmation, Youth, Children*) - 6:30—8 pm

October 18 - Council Mtg.—7 pm

October 19 - Prayer & Care—5 pm—"Caring Conversations" - potluck supper

October 21— SW Conference Convention @ All Saints Lutheran

October 22 - **YOUTH BOTTLE DRIVE**

October 24 - Faith Formation (*Adult study, Confirmation, Youth, Children*) - 6—8 pm

October 28 - Men's Breakfast—8 am

October 28 - Women's Ministry—10 am

October 29 - **Reformation Sunday**—FOOD BANK SUNDAY

October 29 - Youth Pizza Lunch & Mantracker



In this Month's Issue *Love the Lord your God* with.....

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Lutheran Church of the Cross

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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.



CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Meet Kate Zaiser

Our Intern starting on Oct. 1st

I grew up in Calgary, AB. I was good at math and science, so I studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Calgary with the hopes of using science and technology to help society. I met my husband, Brady, in engineering. After graduating I worked in the fertilizer manufacturing industry in Alberta for four years.

I was raised in the Lutheran church. Music has always been an important part of my spiritual practice. As a child and youth I was in all the levels of choir from cherub to adult, and as my church transitioned to a praise band style I joined that as well. Throughout high school and university I was a member of the Calgary Stampede Showband. In addition to performance opportunities in Calgary, North America and even Europe, the Stampede Band gave me a great sense of community during those years.

As I proceeded in my engineering career I slowly began to realize that the parts of my job that I loved weren't really engineering, they involved creating community. I started to wonder if there was something else that was meant to do. After being laid off in 2015 I started thinking more seriously about what that something else might be. That fall I started attending Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, taking advantage of the distance program to continue living in Calgary.

My experiences so far at and outside the seminary have been very affirmative. I look forward to continuing my discernment and exploring ministry in this internship. I am interested in building and strengthening community in and beyond church. Having an un-churched husband, I am especially interested in welcoming the un-churched.



What is an “intern” and what will she do?

The intern is a student. She [Kate] will be given responsibility in all areas of pastoral functioning but she is not yet a pastor. Pastor Phil will be her supervisor and there is a Lay Internship Committee who will be supporting her and offering feedback. She will experiment, stumble, learn and grow. During her 18 month internship, she will be taking eight courses in pastoral ministry (education, outreach, leadership, pastoral care, etc.)! These are weeklong courses where she will be traveling to the seminary in Saskatoon. These will inform her ministry and projects here and she will also have one study day a week to support this learning. Your patience, support and constructive feedback are needed to help her develop as a pastor.

The intern is an individual. Remember that Kate is not a copy of anyone else and is not expected to function or respond in the same way as any previous intern (or pastors) you may have known.

The intern is new to this congregation. Kate is coming to a new situation and this may require some time for adjustment. Though Kate is from Calgary, she is becoming oriented to ministry in this congregation. Your patience and support are much appreciated!

Wear your nametag. Coming to a new learning site means meeting many new people. It will help if you wear your nametag and or repeat your name to the student over several months. [Pastor Phil has gotten you used to this!]

Invite the intern. Do not hesitate to invite Kate to be involved in aspects of the life and ministry of Church of the Cross. She will consult with Pastor Phil before taking on significant new responsibilities. The intern also has the same freedom to turn down such invitations as has the pastor. It is not fair to expect the intern to do everything anyone suggests.

Learning to balance. One of the things an intern is learning is how to balance their personal and professional lives and to solicit care for themselves while they are caring for others. While fully engaging in ministry with you, they will be trying to set appropriate boundaries to their time and availability.

The intern is learning how to be and bring Good News to our community. To do that she needs to understand you. You can help by talking to her about the culture and history of Church of the Cross and the surrounding community, sharing your own faith experiences and by sharing opportunities you see for ministry in your community.



SOCIAL MINISTRY

Cause of the month for October

Bethany Care Centre

Traditionally, October has been our month to assist residents of Bethany Care Center to Sunday Worship Services. Our help is no longer required as they have school students who volunteer their services. They would, however, welcome special music during their service. If you can help with this, contact Georgina for more information. Our committee thanks all members of our church who have volunteered their help at Bethany over the years.



Clothing Giveaway—Sept. 9

Through the efforts of so many members of the Congregation and our Community who gave of their time and donated clothing, the Giveaway was again successful in helping many people in our community and our city. Not only the people who walked through our doors today and those clients of the organizations that received the goods left at the end of the day benefitted from the efforts. Everyone who donated a piece of clothing, sorted donations, served refreshments or said Hello to our guests today are better off than they were before.

MANY THANKS to the Congregation for their continued support for this Ministry!

We thank God for having such people in our life.

Marilyn & Norm

October 2017



We continue to accept donations.

You can earmark an offering to the SWCRM at any time. Your congregational treasurer will forward it to the right place. The mission committee will continue to receive and share funds as needs arise.

We meet regularly.

The main mission committee is composed of 10-12 people representing most congregations and we meet monthly. We are open to new members. You would be welcome to join this main group and help determine the best ways to serve and support the refugee community in our city. It is fun and it is fulfilling.

Opportunities to support

1. The Aldakkak family is moving to a new apartment in **Mayland Heights in the NE**. They will need someone to touch base with now and then who lives near that area of the city. Is that you? Could you make contact with them, have a cup of coffee and get to know them?
2. The Al Dayoub family are doing so well. There is a new baby expected in January. They would love to meet new Canadian friends. Mother and Father could use shopping and conversation assistance. And the young men are so ready and willing to continue their search for meaningful work and study in their fields. They live in the **NW, near 4th St. and 40th Ave.**
3. Carlos and Karen Fajardo and their 2 children, a family from El Salvador, live in **McKenzie Towne in the SE**. They are just getting settled in their new city and will benefit from Canadian friendship and support. They speak some English.
4. The Elwan family from Syria live in **Taradale, near the Saddleridge c-train** stop. They are a lovely family of 6 who arrived as government sponsored refugees in May. The father speaks English well and they need Canadian friends and guides.

We will continue to highlight opportunities as they arise.

Watch the bulletin board space in your church.



LEAD

...love God with all your strength



Earlier this year when **Prayer and Care** met to refine and clarify the purpose of our group we agreed that we had fallen short on our educational goals. With that in mind we are offering an exciting opportunity for you to explore **how to care in a distinctively Christian way**.

Beginning **Thursday September 28, 5pm-7pm** come and enjoy a **Potluck and Study!**

Hilary Gray and Wendy McCulloch will lead the group as we work our way through the book...

"Christian Caregiving-a Way of Life" written by the founder of Stephen Ministry **Kenneth Hauck**.

We will meet for **10 sessions** (*September 28, October 19, November 23, January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24*) The group will plan how we can accomplish two more sessions in our busy church year! A mini retreat is a possibility.

Perhaps you have asked this question. **Do I as a Christian have anything unique to offer my friends and family when they are hurting?**

You are invited to come and find good answers as we study together. **Register** at the office or speak to Hilary or Wendy. The cost for the course/book is \$20.00.



- Are you interested in connecting with other young adults and families at the church?
- Do you wondering how your faith can give you new life in the midst of the busyness of work and family?

The Families and Friends group is a chance for families with young children and young adults at the church to gather to build relationships, eat lunch and have meaningful conversations together. This year we will be meeting the first Sunday of the month after church (During Blast) in the small classroom next to the fellowship hall. Each time it will be a new conversation about life and faith. No prep work is expected, and we know life is full, so come when you can and bring simply yourself (and your little ones). You are simply welcome. If you have any questions feel free contact Ryan Andersen at ryancandersen@yahoo.com or (403)993-7123.

LEAD

...love God with all your strength

Giving Thanks for the Most Bountiful Garden Ever

What a summer it's been in the LCOC gardens, but it's likely we don't have to mention the beauty because I'm sure many of you will have enjoyed the amazing display of flowers in both the Remembering Garden and the cedar planter at the west doors.

We chose rainbow colours for the planter and the mix and the vigour and the sheer impact of that display has been a delight.

In the perennial bed along the west wall you may have noticed clusters of red geraniums and white daisies planted there by Maureen in celebration of Canada's 150th celebration. You may have noticed as well, explosions of rudbeckia that have come from Maureen's garden.

As always, the faithful crew of vegetable gardeners has planted, weeded, harvested from June through to September 12th. The yield has been greater than that of any of the previous years since that 40x40 ft. plot was dedicated to producing food for wherever there was a need. In fact, there have been a few Sundays when surplus has been in the narthex so congregation members could "sample" the blessings of this long hot summer.

Our first harvest on July 21 included peas, beans, kohlrabi, beets, and Swiss Chard, delivered to the Dream Centre. Again on July 26 we took more beans (this has been the year of the bean!), zucchini, Swiss chard, carrots and kohlrabi to the Dream Centre.

On August 4, our offering of beans went next door to Austin Nixon Manor.

Through the rest of August we picked and dug and picked and dug and added potatoes, zucchini, beets, and onions to the boxes which were delivered to the Food Bank. We were so pleased to hear that they were accepting fresh produce, as well as backyard fruit (excluding crab-apples) from those of us who had ridiculous crops of cherries and apples.

The harvest is now over, the plot is empty but for a lonely clump of chives and we give thanks for this opportunity to do something which is small in the big picture of need in our world but was motivated by love. Never have we doubted that God's hand has guided our work.

Our sincere thanks to all of you for supporting those of us who were "*out in the fields*" or taking turns watering the planters and pots of flowers that offer a beautiful welcome at our doors.



- Judy Shore-Isford
- Terry Kopperud

- Pearl Schuster
- Barb Nickel
- Genevieve Munroe
- Ruth Ruecker
- Doris Urquhart
- Maureen Leonhardt
- Betty Jane Hegerat





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



COFFEE SET-UP

October—Men's Breakfast

November—Grey Power



Acolytes for October

October 1—Isak Larsen & Leo Rettie

October 8—Jamie Risse & Leo Rettie

October 15—Max Thomson & Kim Reath

October 22—Max Thomson & Kim Reath

October 29—Max Thomson, Jamie Risse & Kim Reath



Morning Prayer—9 am—Monday—Thursday

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



October 5

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

What about Lutherans and Catholics today?

This month, we will be marking the 500th Anniversary of the Martin Luther nailing the 95 Theses on the chapel door in Wittenburg, Germany. As we study and/or remind ourselves of this event, we tend to focus on those criticisms Luther had against the Roman Catholic church in the 16th Century. What about now?

As Lutherans and Catholics, we have gradually moved from protest and power struggle, through consultation and dialogue, to an invitation to move together as Lutherans and Catholics to deepen understanding and strengthen bonds of friendship.

On October 31, 1999, the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification was signed by representatives of the Lutheran World Federation and the Roman Catholic Church. This was the culmination of 30 years of dialogue and a milestone in the history of the ecumenical movement. Justification by faith through God's grace, a cornerstone of Lutheran theology, no longer divides Protestants and Catholics.

Additionally, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), our sister church body in the United States, at their 2016 Churchwide Assembly took several significant steps Wednesday moving forward the mission of this church as a church for the sake of the world.

By a vote of 931 to 9, the assembly overwhelmingly accepted the "Declaration on the Way," a unique ecumenical document that marks a path toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans. Following the vote, an emotional assembly stood to applaud the momentous decision. At the heart of the document are 32 "Statements of Agreement" that state where Lutherans and Catholics do not have church-dividing differences on topics about church, ministry and the Eucharist. More tentatively, the document also explores differences that remain.

Here in Canada, the ELCIC and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) appointed a joint working group co-chaired by CCCC Archbishop Richard Gagnon and ELCIC Bishop Susan Johnson. This group has generated several resources to encourage Lutherans and Catholics to intentionally gather together and pray. This last spring, several members of our Wednesday morning study traveled down Elbow Dr. to St. Gerard's Catholic Church to participate in of these



studies entitled, *Together in Christ: Lutherans and Catholics Commemorate the Reformation*.

This is not to say that there are things that still keep us from celebrating Holy Communion together and "reuniting," but many if not most of those theological disagreements that triggered the Reformation are no longer the reason we are not one. I have many Catholic brothers and sisters in Christ whom I consider partners with me in working toward the kind of world which Jesus modeled and envisioned for the world.

We've come a long way in 500 years!

Peace,

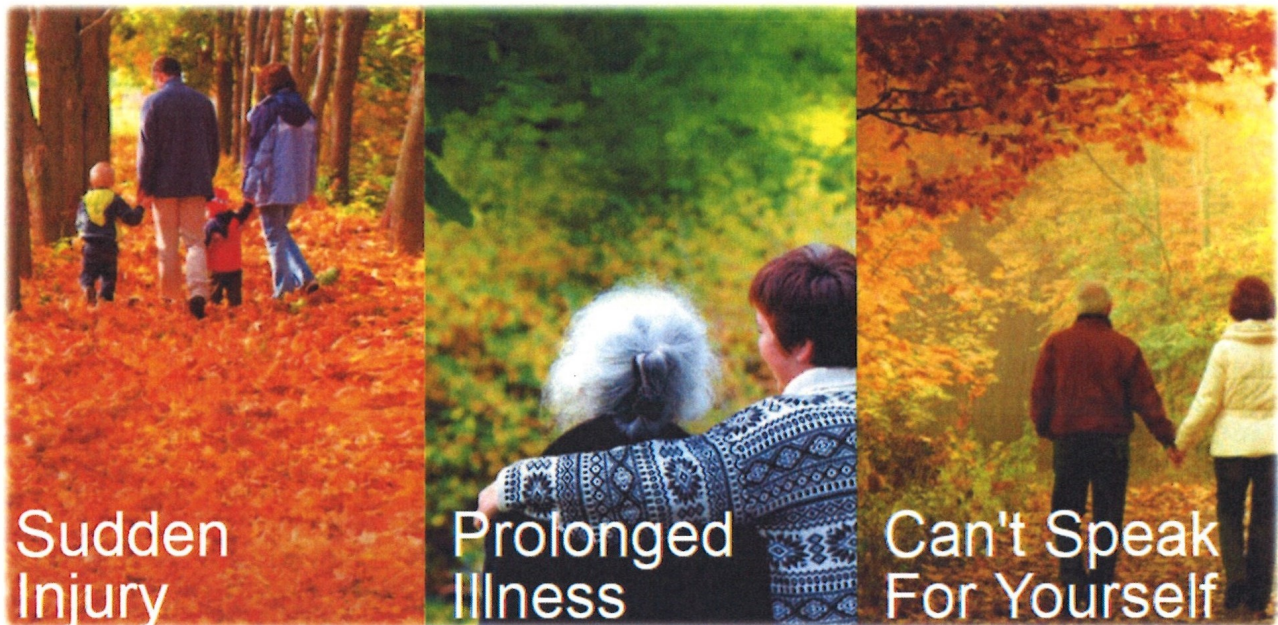
Paster Flud

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>



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

BIBLE STUDY – Self-led study and discussion
Saturday, October 28 at 10:00 a.m. at the Church

Please join us for part two of a three-session Bible study on the Apostles' Creed: *I believe in Jesus Christ ...*

"For our life of faith together, creeds are more than just words. They are vessels for carrying one another through doubt, joy and sorrow."



Confirmation Sunday October 8

Prepare to celebrate with these young people and their families as they affirm their faith in public worship:

Mattias Allison, son of Brent and Laura Allison & grandson of Tom and Wendy Allison McCullough

Blake Craven, son of Mark and Sasha Craven

Justin Bailey, son of Brian and Marlene Baily & grandson of Bob and Beth Kilbach

Mikaela Rude, daughter of Laverne and Lisa Rude

Natalie Rude, daughter of Laverne and Lisa Rude

Nyachang Reath, daughter of John and Martha Both Reath

Sam Urquhart, son of David and Carmen Urquhart & grandson of Don & Doris Urquhart

Plan to arrive early for worship so you can sign the seven stoles woven by these young people, as a symbol of your ongoing support of their faith journey. We will have a basket to receive your cards of congratulations for each of the confirmands.

If you have a baptismal, confirmation, or clerical stole, please wear it to worship **October 8**.

Join these families after worship for a cake reception honoring the confirmands.

GOD SAVED US THROUGH THE WATER OF REBIRTH AND RENEWAL BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. Titus 3:5

CONFIRMATION





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(AREA CODE)

Email: _____

Canada Lutheran Representative: Dianne Fortier

Return by: Nov. 12



CL-BULLETIN/2018

Deadline: November 12



Commemoration of the Reformation Lecture Series:

Transformed by Love:

Martin Luther and Ignatius of Loyola, Renewers of the Church

Thursdays, 7:00 pm—8:30 pm. October 12, 19, 26, November 2, 2017

Hope Lutheran Church – 3527 Boulton Road NW

The sixteenth century was a time of tremendous upheaval in church and society. Social and religious movements resulted from the new ideas and insights of individuals that changed the course of history and left legacies that are still alive today. Martin Luther (1482-1546) and his younger contemporary Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) represent in many ways the essence of the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counter-Reformation that followed their contribution to that era. While divided by the forces of history, each man began with a personal spiritual transformation that set him on a path to renewal in the church.

This four-part lecture series will explore the gifts and legacies of Luther and Ignatius in an appreciative and ecumenical spirit. Co-teachers, Fr. Charles Pottie-Pâté, SJ and Rev. Kristian Wold of Hope Lutheran Church, will unfold and discuss the core insights of Luther and Ignatius, and point to their ongoing relevance in today's world. Each evening will feature a presentation followed by a response and open discussion.

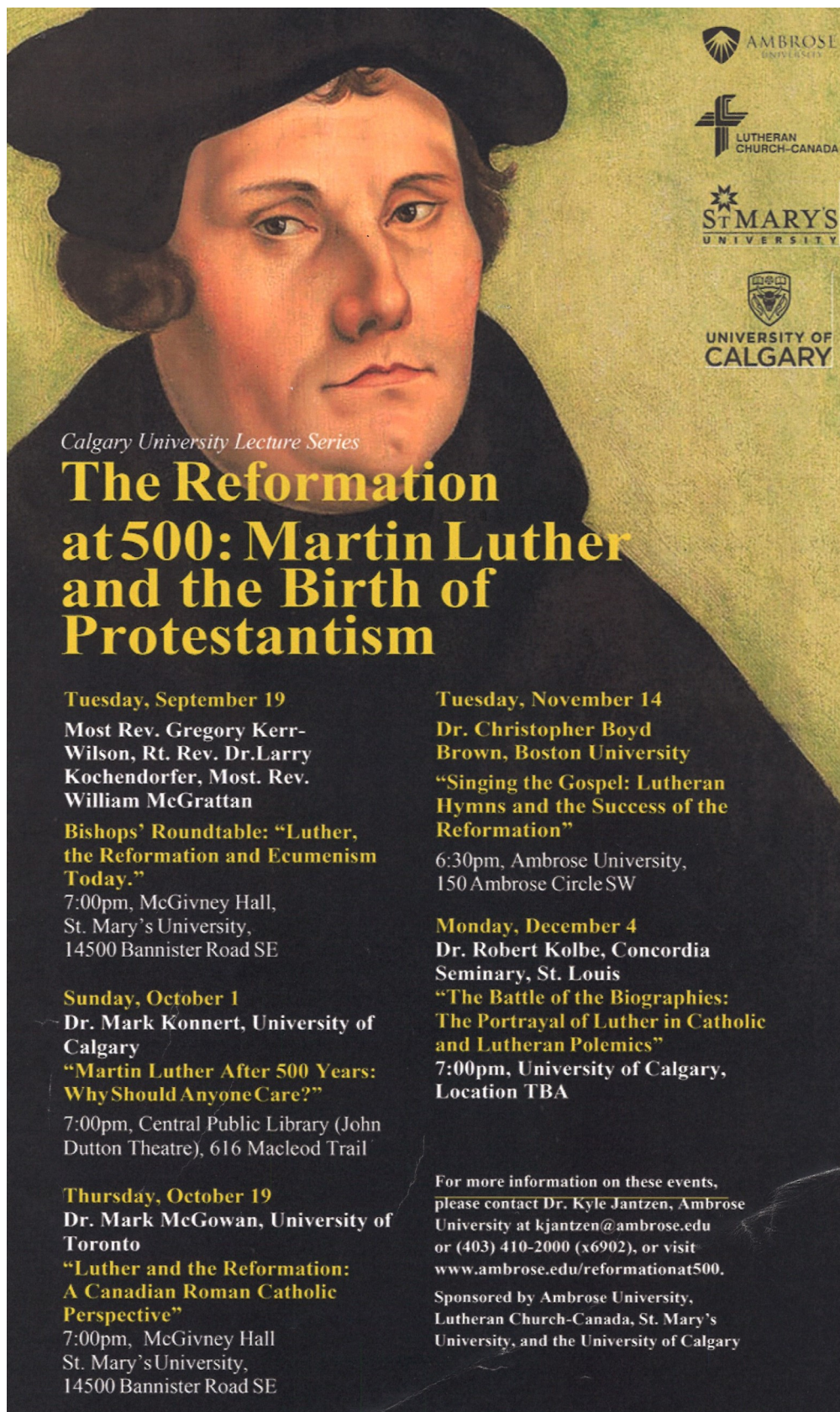
October 12: Luther in the 16th century: the context of the Medieval church and Luther's personal history and core insight of "salvation by grace alone through faith."





October 19: Ignatius in the 16th century: Ignatius of Loyola and his first companions, their personal history and context and core insight and charism – "Finding God in all things."

October 26: Luther in the 21st century: presentation of the ongoing relevance of Luther's theological gift, based on the Lutheran World Federation's themes – Salvation Not for Sale, Human Beings Not for Sale, Creation Not for Sale.

November 2: Ignatius and Ignatian spirituality in the 21st century: the ongoing work of the Society of Jesus and its collaborators and the relevance of Ignatius of Loyola's gift to the church, based on recent documents of its General Congregations.

Free and Open to the Public

Calgary University Lecture Series

The Reformation at 500: Martin Luther and the Birth of Protestantism

Tuesday, September 19
Most Rev. Gregory Kerr-Wilson, Rt. Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Most. Rev. William McGrattan
Bishops' Roundtable: "Luther, the Reformation and Ecumenism Today."
 7:00pm, McGivney Hall, St. Mary's University, 14500 Bannister Road SE

Sunday, October 1
Dr. Mark Konnert, University of Calgary
"Martin Luther After 500 Years: Why Should Anyone Care?"
 7:00pm, Central Public Library (John Dutton Theatre), 616 Macleod Trail

Thursday, October 19
Dr. Mark McGowan, University of Toronto
"Luther and the Reformation: A Canadian Roman Catholic Perspective"
 7:00pm, McGivney Hall, St. Mary's University, 14500 Bannister Road SE

Tuesday, November 14
Dr. Christopher Boyd Brown, Boston University
"Singing the Gospel: Lutheran Hymns and the Success of the Reformation"
 6:30pm, Ambrose University, 150 Ambrose Circle SW

Monday, December 4
Dr. Robert Kolbe, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
"The Battle of the Biographies: The Portrayal of Luther in Catholic and Lutheran Polemics"
 7:00pm, University of Calgary, Location TBA

For more information on these events, please contact Dr. Kyle Jantzen, Ambrose University at kjantzen@ambrose.edu or (403) 410-2000 (x6902), or visit www.ambrose.edu/reformationat500.
 Sponsored by Ambrose University, Lutheran Church-Canada, St. Mary's University, and the University of Calgary

We are asking the congregation to bring sweets, appetizers, fruit or vegetables to share as we gather following worship to celebrate this anniversary.

Five Years as a Rainbow Church

A Celebration of Inclusive, Affirming, and Reforming Ministry at
Lutheran Church of the Cross

Sunday October 1, 2017

Worship at 10 am

Coffee, Conversation, and Celebration following worship

A Reflection on Rainbows, churches, & Reformation

Have you ever been in the fellowship hall of Living Spirit United Church? The people there have dedicated a full wall, floor-to-ceiling to making their ministry transparent. They have painted panels in all the colors of the rainbow, with descriptions, pictures, and budget numbers of every ministry in which they are engaged. Across the top read's their charge: "Bridging the Gaps." They, like we, are an open, affirming, and welcoming congregation. The evidence of it is splashed on their walls!

Of course, we see the rainbow splashed everywhere these days, and equate it with the LGBT+ community, but did you know the rainbow flag originated with the Protestant Reformation?

That's right, WE started it! The rainbow flag was the symbol of the Peasants' Revolt during the Protestant Reformation as a symbol of new hope, a new era, and social change. (Technically, Luther distanced himself from that movement, but still....!) The rainbow flag has been used broadly as the symbol of peace movements since that time and was even used to identify neutral ships during the American Revolutionary War.

Of course, people in the intervening time have long forgotten the biblical meaning behind the rainbow, but we ought remember well. It comes to us from Genesis 7-9: The rainbow is God's retired weapon, a reminder that God has vowed to never again flood the earth.

The rainbow is a symbol of peace and welcome. Wherever we find it, it is a symbol of sanctuary. The presence of the rainbow reminds us that we are called to follow this God and to put down our weapons, too. We are called to follow the nonviolent Jesus, who took up God's covenant of peace, and calls us to do the same.

At Church of the Cross, we practice welcome, inclusion, and interest in all people. That means we often have to confront our own values, morals, prejudices, and opinions. We lay down the ones that threaten others as we build the muscles of social justice, diversity, and community. The rainbow is not a magnet to attract any particular people; it is a sign for all people: Everyone is welcome here. Here, you are safe. Here we are working on being good allies for all sorts of people who face oppression or persecution.

As we celebrate our heritage, we remain mindful of those who need us to be continually reforming and continually at work to make welcome, inclusion, and affirmation our way of life. Remember: Jesus died because he was too inclusive. He is risen, and we with him!

Pastor Laura Holck

Welcome, Cantaré Children's Choir!

We have welcomed the Children's Choir already, after a summer of relocating, shuffling, and settling in. It is so important that we keep welcoming the staff, choristers, parents, and volunteers of this program on-goingly, as we develop relationships and find our way forward together.

There are many great gifts and opportunities before us in this new partnership, some of which are immediately obvious (we love the amazing chairs and their storage racks!) and some of which will only become clear over time.

We still have a few things to work out, among them storage space for garment racks, garments, and white boards, but we are committed to bringing grace, compassion, and support to the Choir as it settles into its new home. Your patience and understanding are welcome gifts in this regard. I encourage you to ask questions, stop by the church and meet the choir staff, and welcome "new" people you see around our campus. Know that the staff is doing the same. We are noticing and experiencing very different things in our work week than we did when sharing the space with FACE.

In September, our church staff spent some time reflecting on our joys and positive experiences in sharing space with Cantaré Children's Choir. I'd like to pass along some comments from that meeting, so you might have a glimpse inside our thoughts and feelings regarding this new partnership. (*Note that these are not direct quotes, but my attempt to capture the spirit of what was shared.*)

Dianne: The energy and joy are infectious. The church is full, and full of vibrant activity.

Pastor Phil: The synergy of the music program is amazing. It is clear that this program is not simply about developing musical ability, but about creating leaders. The training young people receive in Cantaré is truly a gift to the world.

Pastor Laura: It is great for me to be around the integrity and strength of the Cantaré program. It is helping me raise the bar on my own integrity and the integrity of our church programs.

Catherine: I didn't realize how splintered my work week was, until we moved here and my two work worlds came together. I have one place to call home. Everything is here and I am excited to see these two staffs and communities come into relationship with one another. I am excited for the projects we might create together.

Thank you for being wonderful, for being welcoming, and for being you. This is the beginning of a truly amazing year.

Pastor Laura



**Last chance
to give your input!**



For the last couple of months, the Council has been inviting members to fill out the LEAD Assessment so that we may get an accurate picture of where we are and what we need to focus on in order to grow. Thanks to all those who have taken the 10 minutes to do this assessment. We are about to end this phase and begin the analysis of this data and moving forward.

If you have not filled out the LEAD Assessment, please go online to:

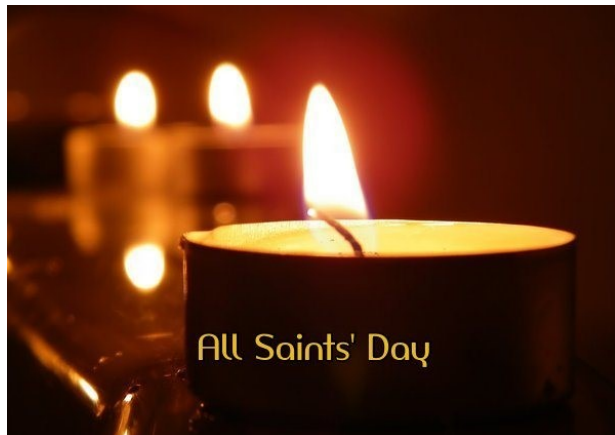
<waytolead.org/take-lead-assessment>

And enter the password: **Assessment-cong**

(the password is case sensitive)

Stay tuned for the results and our path forward!

Sunday, November 5 is **All Saints Sunday**. As usual, we will be celebrating the names of those who have gone before us. Please submit the names of your loved ones that have passed away in the last year (*From November 2016—now*) to Dianne by **October 19 this year**. Dianne is away from October 21—Nov. 4 so needs the names early. Thank you.



Thursday Evening
Knitting resumes on

Thursday,
October 5 @
5:30 pm

*Come and knit and
chat!!!*





October 2017 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

Soon we will be gathering across our Synod, the ELCIC, and indeed, around the world to Commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Already much has taken place, for example: the *Common Prayer* service in Lund, Sweden in October 2016 with His Holiness Pope Francis, Rev. Dr. Martin Junge – General Secretary of the LWF and Bishop Munib Younan – President of the Lutheran World Federation; and of course, the international Lutheran Commemoration during the 12th Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in Namibia this past May.

Closer to home and within our Synod two Hymn Festivals were held in Calgary and in Edmonton using the Hymn Festival commissioned for our 2016 Synod Convention. I know of many other congregations who have used or will be using this Hymn Festival too within their own context and inviting their sisters and brothers in Christ from other congregations to join them.

Already in Lent 2016 Roman Catholics and Lutherans in Edmonton gathered for study, conversation and Evening Prayer focusing on the joint Roman Catholic and Lutheran document, *From Conflict to Communion*. And this past year with a resource prepared by the ELCIC and Roman Catholics, *Together in Christ*, other Roman Catholics and Lutherans from across the Synod gathered during Lent or at another time.

Many lecture series, workshops, presentations and worship are being prepared for this October. Wonderful! As these are further opportunities for learning, reflection and relationship building.

Please do forward posters or information to the Synod Office for inclusion in *Wednesday's Word*.

And I pray that many will gather for three 'larger' events within our Synod, *Common Prayer*, together with the Roman Catholics and Anglicans:

Sunday, October 29, 2017 5:00 pm Cathedral Church of the Redeemer, Calgary with Bishop William McGrattan, Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson and myself.

Monday, October 30, 2017 7:00 pm All Saints Anglican Cathedral, Edmonton with Archbishop Richard Smith, Bishop Jane Alexander and myself.

Thursday, November 16th, 2017 7:00 pm Sacred Heart Cathedral, Whitehorse with Bishop Hector Vila, Bishop Larry Robertson and myself.

Similar *Common Prayer* services are happening across Canada.

I encourage you to join in on the Commemoration. Invite your neighbor. Join me in Calgary, Edmonton and/or Whitehorse as we make this milestone and perhaps more importantly, look forward.

Rev. Dr. Martin Junge, preaching at the Commemoration Service of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, Federation of Lutheran Churches in Switzerland, September 10, 2017 says it well: "The Reformation continues. But it is not about how right we are, and how wrong are the others. Instead, it is about what we have in common in Christ."

Blessings as you gather to commemorate what we have in common in Christ.

In Christ Jesus –
Shalom,
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

*The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
Romans 15:13

The Lay Academy presents

CONNECTING CONVERSATIONS: THE ARRIVAL

"Our Bishops on Advent"

Expectation. Preparation. Anticipation. Hope. Longing.
And then, Good News!

Join Bishop Sid Haugen of the SK Synod, Bishop Larry Kochendorfer of the ABT Synod, Bishop Elaine Sauer of the MNO Synod, and Bishop Greg Mohr of the BC Synod as they discuss the Advent texts and help us to 'get ready and remember'.

Our four Bishops of the Western Synod will be conversing together with us and one another on the Readings of Advent.

Mark your calendars for November 18th and 25th and save the dates!

More information to come!





October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Cause of the Month Bethany Care Centre			Pastors and Dianne to Germany—October 21— November 4			
1 Affirming Sunday Worship—10 a BLAST—following wor- ship Families & Friends — during BLAST SWCG—1—3 pm	2 Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Youth Band—4:30 pm Cantare—6—10	3 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Faith Formation—6-8	4 Sandwich Making—7:30 am Morning Prayer—9 am SWCG—7 pm Cantare—6—10	5 Morning Prayer—9 am Quilting—9 am PHD—12—1:15 pm Knitting—5:30 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	6 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	7
8 Confirmation Sunday Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	9 OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING MONDAY	10 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Prayer & Care—11:30 am Faith Formation—6:30-8	11 Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am Cantare—6—10 SWCG—7 pm	12 Morning Prayer—9 am Quilting—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm Knitting—5:30 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	13 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	14 Men's Breakfast—8 am
15 Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am— BLAST—following wor- ship SWCG—1—3 pm	16 Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Youth Band—4:30 pm	17 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Faith Formation—6:30-8	18 Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am Cantare—6—10 Council Mtg.—7 pm SWCG—7 pm	19 Morning Prayer—9 am Quilting—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm Prayer & Care—5 pm Knitting—5:30 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	20 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	21 SW Conference Con- vention—All Saints Lutheran
22 Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am— BLAST—following wor- ship YOUTH BOTTLE DRIVE SWCG—1—3 pm	23 Kodaly—9:15 am Cantare—5:30—10	24 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Faith Formation—6:30-8	25 Cantare—6—10 SWCG—7 pm	26 Quilting—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm Knitting—5:30 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	27 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	28 Men's Breakfast—8 am Women's Ministry— 10 am
29 Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am— BLAST—following worship Youth—Pizza & Man- tracker SWCG—1—4 pm FOOD BANK SUNDAY	30 Kodaly—9:15 am Cantare—6—10	31 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am	Communion Sundays Oct. 1, 8, 15 & 29			