



We have much to celebrate!

In 2013-14, as we formed new partnership amongst pastors, staff, council and congregation we started asking a series of questions: **Where is God leading? How can we form and build relationships with our neighbours? How can we be of service? What is our purpose?**

Those questions and others like them led to a variety of possibilities and new openings.

We participated with the Mission and Ministry initiative of the synod. Along the way discovered that open-ended experiments are challenging to us, both clergy and lay people alike. We really thrive better with clear structure and directives. That ultimately led to the LEAD initiative, a multi-year, multi-faceted process, clear process to help us answer the questions: Where is God leading us? How is God speaking through the Word? How is God speaking through our congregation? How is God speaking through our community? The exploration of these questions will help us gain clarity about our purpose in the world and direction for our ministry together. These are exciting times, as the Lead Listening Team has been trained and installed and begins to form the foundation for our exploration together!

We explored the possibility of making our physical space more available to the community. We are blessed with a lively, beautiful worship space that we use only for a few hours weekly.

- We subsequently leased our space to Southwood Church of God, who worship Sunday afternoon, hold monthly pot lunch lunches, and weekly Bible studies.
- We noted that the SW quadrant of Calgary has very few concert spaces and wondered together if we might become such a space. Our hope? To increase awareness and availability of the arts in our community. An amazingly quick fund-raising project coupled with an Alberta Community Initiatives Program (CIP) Grant

funded a concert-quality grand piano and seed funds to begin a concert series. (The Community Initiatives Program (CIP), Project-Based grant stream supports projects that enhance and enrich communities throughout Alberta by providing assistance to non-profit organizations for: new programs and initiatives, community events, and community publications.)

- As we began hosting evening events and increased the annual number of evening worship services, we discovered that our sanctuary lighting was rather poor. Who knew?! But unspent funds from our piano/concert initiative were sufficient for CIP to award us another grant, paying for concert quality lighting in our sanctuary, at no additional cost to the congregation!
- Although we were saddened in 2017

to lose our long-term tenant, Families of Alberta for Conductive Education (FACE) when they purchased their own property, the blessings of welcoming Cantaré Children's Choir onto our campus have been too numerous to count. The Staff relationships are stronger, our worship has been moved by the addition of Cantaré singers, Cantaré families are attending Sunday worship, and the general atmosphere of the Cantaré is one of resounding joy that keeps giving. Martin Luther once said, "One who sings, prays twice," and prayer is certainly in the air.

An initiative of a congregational member led to the restructuring of our children's education program. We know the result as BLAST: Bible Learning and Sharing Together. It's goal is to raise up biblically literate, faith and gospel centered people of all ages. BLAST engages people (not just children!) through storytelling, art, music, drama, and food to tell the story of Gods saving grace to people of all ages and abilities.



We planted a community garden. Garden tilling, planting and tending provides produce to the Dream Centre, Austin Nixon Manor and members of the church and encourages us all to bring and share the produce of our individual urban gardens.

We formed an outdoor group, encouraging activity and exploration of God's good creation in mountain, river, foothill, field, and even the church property.

With extended opportunities to worship during Advent, Epiphany, Holy Week, the Triduum (Three Holy Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter), Reformation, and this year Ascension Thursday, we are taking seriously our call to tell and live the story.

We are renewing our challenging to be open, affirming, welcoming, inclusive, healing, and life-giving to people in marginalized communities. We began with a commitment to the LGBTQ+ community and have increased our awareness and desire to form and build relationships with indigenous peoples and Muslims. Look for a variety of conversations, activities, and opportunities to connect,

grow and build relationships as we expand our participation and awareness in the coming year.

As we move forward together, focus on the creativity, ingenuity, goodness, and community being built in this place. Live in gratitude for the abundant gifts we are receiving. Remember the fragility and imperfection of all of humanity and forgive the things that have hurt you along the way. Thank the staff, committed lay leaders and the many, many people who do a wide variety of things to make God's grace, love, and presence known through the work of Church of the Cross. Remember, the main purpose of a church is to make God's grace, love, and healing known to the world. We're doing so by building community and conversation. We have much to celebrate!

If you feel called to do something, but you don't know what, jot your name on the list by the mailboxes. We'll figure something out together...and we'll make sure it's something you care about and really, really want to do!

Pastor Laura

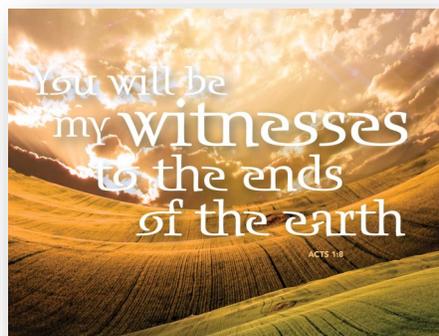
Ascension of Our Lord: Thursday Worship May 10 - 7pm

An often overlooked and under-celebrated feast day of the church year is Ascension Day, always a Thursday!

Jesus has been raised from the dead and has appeared in a variety of ways to convince people of God's power. On Ascension Day, Jesus is taken to heaven, but not without promises and action plans for those who remain. Wait here! You will receive power to be witnesses throughout the whole earth. You will receive a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know God. You will receive an inheritance. You will know hope. You, the church, are Christ Jesus' body, even as his body disappears from sight.

It's like a holy game of tag in which Jesus tags followers, saying, "You're it. Now, you're me in the world." These are words we gather in worship to wait for, and we don't have long to wait. As we dip fingers in the font, we touch promises. We're a part of Christ's family. As we meet at the table, we taste promises. We become Christ's body.

And then in a few short days (on Pentecost), the Holy Spirit comes as promised, to call, bring together, inspire, and make holy.



These promises connected to Jesus' ascension result in the followers who worship, bless God, gain hopeful attitudes and a sense of mission as recorded in the book of Acts.

On the Day of the Ascension of Our Lord, two men in white robes urged those gazing up toward heaven to get going! We also need a similar prompt:

This living Jesus comes the same way as you saw him go. So watch for the presence of Christ, powerfully making the church his body. Watch for the presence of Christ, whenever the church pours itself out in love for others. As we come to know him and the hope to which he has called us, may we have open minds, enlightened hearts, and be clothed with power from on high.

A glance at May Ministry Happenings....



May 2 - Sandwich Making—7:30 am

May 3 - PhD. Group—noon—1:30 pm—Open to everyone. Potluck lunch

May 3—6 - Way of Christ Weekend—please keep this weekend and the participants and leaders in your prayers.

May 8 - Prayer & Care—10 am—@ Tim Horton's on Braeside Drive and 24th St.

May 10 - Listening Team Meeting—5 pm

May 10 - Ascension Day worship—7 pm

May 12 - Men's Breakfast—8 am

May 12 - Dutch Canadian Choir—2:30 pm

May 19 - Women's Ministry—10 am

May 21 - OFFICE CLOSED

May 22 - Mentor Night at Confirmation

May 23 - Council Meeting—7 pm

May 24 - Caring Conversations—5 pm—potluck supper

May 26 - Men's Breakfast—8 am

May 27 - BLAST SHOWCASE—following worship



In this Month's Issue

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with.....***

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Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW Calgary, AB

www.churchofthecross.ca

churchofthecross@shaw.ca

Pastors Laura & Phil Holck

Intern Kate Zaiser

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

Focus on World Religions

Breaking the Ramadan Fast: Street Iftar May 17

For an entire month, Muslims around the world celebrate Ramadan, the ninth month in the Islamic calendar commemorating the first revelation to the prophet Mohammed in the Quran. During Ramadan Muslims observe strict fasting from sunrise to sunset, eating and drinking nothing at all during daylight hours and devoting themselves to prayer, study, and renewed acts of kindness and service. They often break each day's fast together, with neighbors or extended family in a large meal called "*iftar*," which begins after sunset at the call to evening prayer.



Ramadan is based on the lunar calendar, beginning on the sighting of the crescent moon and ending on the sighting of the next crescent moon, and moves 11 days earlier each year. This year Ramadan is May 15-June 14. The observance of Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam.



We have been invited to a "*street Iftar*," a large outdoor neighbourhood meal and celebration, on **May 17** at the home of **Mahmut and Selma Elbasi**, owners of Anatolia restaurant in the Arts Commons. You are also invited to participate in the Ramadan fast on that day, although fasting is a not requirement for your attendance at the Iftar. We are invited as guests.

If you would like to attend the Iftar, please sign up by the church mailboxes, so our hosts know how much food to prepare. The address, date and time of the Iftar will be printed there. Whether you attend or not, be sure to wish your Muslim friends a Holy and Blessed Ramadan.

LEAD ... love God with all your **soul**

SUNDAY COFFEE SET-UP

May—Church Council

June—Choir



Acolytes for May

May 6—Leo Rettie & Jamie Risse

May 13—Max Thomson & Leo Rettie

May 20—Jamie Risse & Kim Reath

May 27—Max Thomson & Kim Reath



Morning Prayer—9 am—Monday—Thursday

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



May 3

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

We would like to welcome you to Church of the Cross for
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



... love God with all your **soul**

Do You Enjoy the coffee fellowship
after worship?

We are looking for a new co-ordinator for
the Coffee Ministry Fellowship Time on
Sunday mornings. If you feel this is some-
thing you could offer to do, please call the
church office for more information.

[403-255-4792](tel:403-255-4792)

Thank you to **Jan Reimer** who has been
doing this ministry for the past 2 years.



We are also looking for a co-ordinator to find
Sunday morning or special services readers of scripture.

Thank you to **Gail Anderson** who has done this
ministry for over 7 years.

Please call the church office or email the church office if
you would like to help out in this way.



The
Word
of God

SOCIAL MINISTRY CAUSE OF THE MONTH FOR MAY

Lutheran Hospital Ministries

Ongoing Program:

- Visitation with Lutheran patients in hospitals and long-term care facilities in Calgary and Southern Alberta.
- On-going training of volunteer visitors.
- Creating awareness of our programs via web site and newsletters for distribution to Lutheran churches and donors.

Make cheques payable to Lutheran Church of the Cross. Charitable receipts will be issued.



QUILTING: 72 quilts and 4 afghans were presented for a blessing on Sunday, April 8th. The boxed quilts and We Care kits were delivered by Lillian and Dennis Kozak to **ARNOLD BROS. TRANSPORT**, who provide free transport to CLWR warehouse in Winnipeg. We thank everyone who donated fabrics so we can continue this project year after year.

SANDWICHES: We have an on-going need for funds to support our once a month project of 60 loaves of sandwiches for the Drop-In Center.

Lutheran Hospital Ministries
Southern Alberta needs your
help.

Hospitals and Long term Care Facilities are expanding in our city. In order to fulfill our mandate

"TO VISIT THE SICK"

We need more trained Visitors.



If you feel moved to become a Volunteer Visitor, we will have a training course in the fall.

Please contact the office of LHMSA for more details @ 403-264-4045

LEAD ... love God with all your **strength**

Working for the Common Good



For the last couple of years, I have been involved with the **Calgary Alliance for the Common Good** (formerly called *Metro Alliance for the Common Good*). This is a com-

munity organizing alliance that is building relationships between faith communities, non-profits, labour unions and other community organizations for the sake of identifying pressures and challenges facing citizens... and identifying what we—together—might be able to do about it.

A couple of years ago after conducting a listening campaign amongst their membership, they identified two areas to focus on: senior citizen support and indigenous/non-indigenous reconciliation. Since then, they have formed a couple of research action teams to investigate and identify possible solutions that could make a difference in these areas.

Non-medical Support for Seniors to stay in their homes

When seniors are able to stay in their homes, they continue to be connected to, contribute to and supported by their established communities. One of the things that hinders this is that they are no longer able to do simple, manual tasks and are not able to find people to do this work for them. These can be as simple as snow shoveling, lawn care, changing light bulbs, hanging drapes, etc. MACG has identified this as an issue that they can do something about. They have begun meeting with the mayor and city councilors to work toward a city-supported initiative that will help give seniors access to these non-medical services by providing a central place to call identifying & vetting providers of these services. It could also include assisting such service-providing companies to get started.

Indigenous Gathering Place in Calgary

Most of the urban, indigenous population in Calgary are not members of the surrounding Blackfoot nations. In order to support this population spiritually and culturally, the Reconciliation Research Action Team identified the creation of an *indigenous gathering place* as a need for the indigenous community. It would also be a source of education and interaction between indigenous and non-indigenous people and, hence, a place to promote reconciliation. The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good is supporting this initiative to provide an Indigenous Gathering Place here in Calgary.

For additional information about the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good or about either of these initiatives, you can talk to me (Pastor Phil) or Ryan Anderson (*a member of Church of the Cross and CACG community organizer*).

Peace,
Pastor Phil

SAN SALVADOR

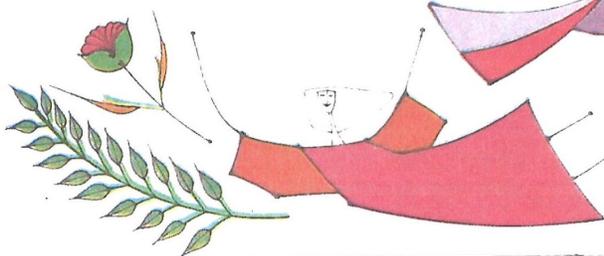
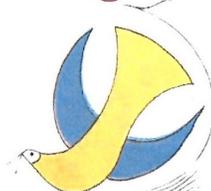
EASTER MONDAY, 2018

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF EL SALVADOR:

EASTER GREETINGS FROM EL SALVADOR,
THE LAND OF THE SAVIOUR,
THE LAND OF SAN ROMERO DE AMERICA.

YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT – PRAYER, FINANCIAL, FRATERNAL AND SOLIDARITY – IS MUCH VALUED AND APPRECIATED, BY MYSELF AND BY MANY BENEFICIARIES. I AM GRATIFIED AND HONOURED TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE REPRESENTING YOU IN THIS SACRED PLACE, AMONG THESE EXEMPLARY SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN RISEN CHRIST JESUS.

PRISON MINISTRY, AS YOU PROBABLY KNOW, HAS BEEN BLOCKED BY THE SALVADORAN GOVERNMENT OVER THE PAST 2.5 YEARS, ESPECIALLY DUE TO "TEMPORARY" "EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES" WHICH ISOLATE PRISON INMATES, ELIMINATING CONTACT WITH FAMILY, LAWYERS, THE RED CROSS, PASTORS AND BISHOPS, ETC. THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IS BEING ENCOURAGED BY THE FMLN GOVERNMENT TO APPROVE AN EXTENSION FOR A THIRD YEAR. TUBERCULOSIS (3,400 CASES, OFFICIALLY, 17 DEATHS) AND EXTENSIVE MALNUTRITION ARE THE GRAVE RESULTS, THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT BLAMES THESE CRISES ON THE 400% OVERCROWDING, SO HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH THE INHUMANE PUNITIVE MEASURES, DENOUNCED IN FEBRUARY BY THE UN RAPPORTEUR.



LEAD ... love God with all your strength



IN SPITE OF THESE RESTRICTIONS WHICH MAKE ME FEEL LIKE I AM IN EXILE FROM MY PRIMARY MINISTRY, THERE ARE MANY MEANINGFUL OPTIONS KEEPING ME FULLY OCCUPIED AND FULFILLED IN MINISTRY:

- OUR "FE Y ESPERANZA" HISTORICAL MEMORY ASSOCIATION, KEEPING OUR "FAMILY" FROM THE 80s TOGETHER AND CELEBRATING;
- "IPAZ" ECUMENICAL CHURCH LEADERS PROMOTING DIALOGUE AS A SOLUTION TO RAMPANT SOCIAL VIOLENCE;
- SECRETARY OF THE "CRISPAZ" BOARD;
- ACCOMPANYING THE ROSALES PUBLIC HOSPITAL HIV MUTUAL SUPPORT GROUP;
- ACCOMPANYING A DIVERSITY OF EDUCATIONAL AND SOLIDARITY DELEGATIONS;
- ELECTION OBSERVATION AND TEAM COORDINATION;
- HOSTING A HOUSEFUL OF DISPLACED PERSONS, SEVERAL OF WHOM HAVE BECOME PERMANENT RESIDENTS;
- ACCOMPANYING THE SALVADORAN LUTHERAN CHURCH IN A RICH VARIETY OF WORSHIP, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL MINISTRY ACTIVITIES.

SINCE OUR ABT SYNOD'S ARRANGEMENT WITH CANADA REVENUE AGENCY FOR THIS "IN MISSION WITH EL SALVADOR" MINISTRY ALLOWS ONLY FOR PRISON AND HIV/AIDS MINISTRY EXPENSES, I WAS GRANTED AN INCREASE IN MY MONTHLY STIPEND FOR 2018 TO COVER SOME OF THESE DIVERSE MINISTRY EXPENSES. UNFORTUNATELY, AN INCREASE IN HOME RENT EATS UP MUCH OF THAT. AT ANY RATE, IT IS ILLEGAL TO HELP OR SUPPORT THE PRIMARY GROUPS WE HAD BEEN WORKING WITH FOR TWO DECADES, AS MANY ARE NOW OFFICIALLY "TERRORISTS," AND ANY CONTACT IS CONDEMNED AS ILLEGAL ASSOCIATION, EVEN FOR PASTORS AND BISHOPS.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AND NEEDS PRESENT THEMSELVES DAILY, AND, CONSIDERING THEIR URGENCY—EVEN LIFE AND DEATH—IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DENY REQUESTS FOR ACCOMPANIMENT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. THE RECIPIENTS ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE, AND THE GIVERS—YOU INCLUDED, I TRUST—ENRICHED.

MAY WE CONTINUE TO BE INSTRUMENTS OF THE COMING OF GOD'S REIGN IN 2018, THROUGH OUR PRAYERS AND ACTIONS.

GOD BLESS OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER.

PAZ, 
REV. BRIAN RUDE, DD

"IN MISSION WITH EL SALVADOR" / "EN MISIÓN CON EL SALVADOR, ABT SYNOD, ELCIC



LEAD ... love God with all your **mind**



On Saturday, April 21, 15 women from the Turkish community and ELCOC gathered together to cook and to learn from each other. We are building relationships and breaking down barriers. Watch for upcoming information regarding the next time we are meeting.

Women's Ministry



The Women's Mary & Martha Bible Study Group will gather on Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. for our final meeting before summer. All are welcome!

The topic is an intergenerational devotional entitled "*Hospitality for all*"

It's easy to extend welcome to people who are similar to us, but how can we offer a welcome to all? This devotional will explore how we can open our groups and congregations to diverse newcomers. Using examples of biblical welcome and hospitality, pastor and author Julie A. Kanarr will explore how we can define ourselves beyond ideas about age that can so often be damaging to women and encourage us to define ourselves as God does—through love.



Burn it! Burn it!

Normally one frowns upon greenhouse gas emissions, but this one would be most satisfying...

We have an opportunity on August 1, 2018 to pay down, or ideally pay off, our mortgage.

This would greatly help our current operating expense situation (by almost \$23 000 per year, if we pay it off).

So, you have some stocks or other investments just laying around? Need more tax deductions? Found another couple of ounces of gold under the couch? Or maybe you've got just a few hard-earned bucks to share in addition to your regular offering...but if we pull together we can put a huge dent in our monthly mortgage, if not be free of it completely.

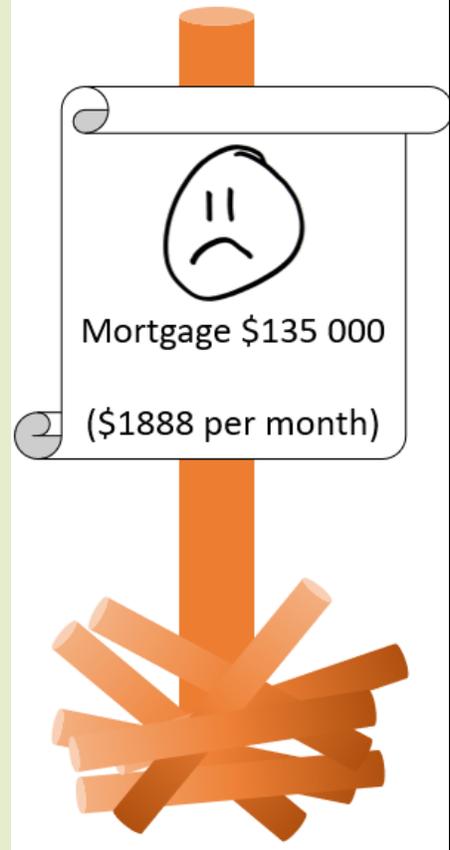
By the way, you can transfer securities without triggering a capital gain. Contact Brian Anderson for more info.

Please consider what you can give on top of your normal offering to reduce our debt burden!

Please direct your contributions to the Building Fund in advance of July 15, 2018.

Thank you!

Dean Larsen, Council Secretary



LEAD ... love God with all your heart



A baby is coming and its impact on Internship

Intern Kate is pregnant and is expecting sometime in the Fall! We celebrate with her and pray for a healthy pregnancy and birth.

Internship is arranged by the seminary in order to fulfill the requirements of the Master of Divinity degree. Internship sites are chosen by the seminary based upon the applicability of that site for preparing the intern for their anticipated parish ministry. The seminary then contracts with the site to provide this learning opportunity to the student with all fees being paid directly to the seminary.

In consultation with the seminary, Kate will be taking maternity leave for a couple of months after the birth of her baby. Her internship will be suspended until she returns from this maternity leave and the length of her internship will be extended by the length of time of her leave. She will complete her internship with us in May or June of 2019.

Peace,
Pastor Phil
Intern Supervisor

November 16 & 17 STEVE BELL



FOR THE JOURNEY - Retreat with host Steve Bell Refreshing Christian faith and spiritual tradition for the weary and the wary. Steve explores the fertile tradition and spirituality of a Trinitarian faith, navigating a pattern for corporate worship in tandem with the Christian calendar year, the Hebrew psalms, and ancient prayers of the church.

HERE AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS!!!

More information to follow!!!

SAVE
THE
DATE



God Moments

I spent two weeks in April at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon taking a course on Indigenous Intercultural Relations. The course covered topics including colonialism

and Indian residential schools; the Indigenous understanding of relationships between humans, land and the Creator; and treaties. We kicked off the course by participating in the Kairos Blanket Exercise on Monday evening.

The Kairos Blanket Exercise is an experiential lesson about the history of Indigenous people and colonialism in Canada. At the beginning of the exercise blankets were laid out on the floor representing the land that is now known as Canada. The participants walk across the blankets, representing the many First Nations who lived in Canada prior to contact with Europeans. There is a facilitator who narrates the history of the colonization of Canada. As time goes on participants are asked to leave the blankets and sit down as Indigenous people die from things like disease and starvation. At the same time the size and number of blankets shrinks as land is taken from First Nations through treaties or otherwise. Some of us remained standing but off of the blankets to represent Indigenous people who are disconnected from their communities and culture.

I was one of those who was asked to stand off of the blanket. Up to that point I had been approaching the exercise as a game: if I stayed standing on the blanket I won. That quickly changed. As the narrator described the Sixties Scoop – the name given to the period from the 1960s to the 1980s in which thousands of Indigenous children were removed from their families and adopted by non-Indigenous families – and pointed to me, a voice in my

head boomed, “You’re Garry. You’re Garry. You’re Garry.” How could the narrator know about Garry?

Garry was a Cree child adopted by my Father and his first wife in the early 1970s. The adoption had dissolved and the family was no longer in touch with Garry by the time my parents met. I have never met Garry and do not know most of story. He has recently reached out to my father and older siblings. How did the narrator know about Garry? The narrator did not, but I am sure that the Holy Spirit did and was speaking to me through the Blanket Exercise and the narrator.

Garry was on my mind as I began that course. I was aware that my own family had, with the best of intentions, participated in the destruction of Indigenous culture, what the Truth and Reconciliation Commission identifies as cultural genocide. Garry was one of those First Nations children who never re-established ties with his Cree roots

and culture. Embarking on this learning journey, I wanted to know what my role is in reconciliation with Indigenous people is. The Holy Spirit was reminding me that I do have a role, not only as a person of faith, but also as a settler and descendant of a family who had been part of the Sixties Scoop. My role is in creating and sustaining healthy relationships with Indigenous people,

including this Indigenous brother who I have never met, yet.

The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to injustice, past and present, and points fingers at us, and lights a Pentecost fire under us to love and to restore right relationships with all our neighbours. I have a role in reconciliation with Indigenous people in Canada, as do all people of faith.

To learn more about the Kairos Blanket Exercise and watch a short video, go to www.kairosblanketexercise.org/about/.



Listening Team News

A while back I was wondering if my Mom had a hearing problem. So one Thursday evening when we all got together for groceries and dinner, I stood behind her while she was sitting at the kitchen table. I softly said, "Mom, can you hear me?" No response. So I came a little closer and said again, "Mom, can you hear me?" Still, no response. So I moved right behind her and said, "Mom, can you hear me?" She replied, "**For the third time, Yes!**"

Mom's hearing is stellar, mine needs work. So I'm glad to be part of the Church of the Cross Listening Team and we're deep into our training to learn how to become better at Listening to God, Listening to God in our Congregation and Listening to God in our Neighborhood. The Listening Team is part of our congregational LEAD initiative: Live Every Day as Disciples.

Our Listening Team is still studying and building our skills, right now we're studying the Book of Acts and learning from the examples of the Disciples as they bravely took the message of the Son of God out to the world. We'll keep you updated on our next steps but we did want to share both the vision and our purpose with you so you're aware of what we're doing and to keep us in your prayers as we go through this journey.

Our Vision: To be outwardly focused, joining in God's mission in a changing world.

Our Purpose: To create a congregational movement that generates curiosity and wonder across the community.

Together, we have chosen the passage from Mark 12:30-31: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength...and love your neighbor as yourself."

Our Listening Team members include: **Sasha Craven, Gates Fortier, Hilary Gray, Pastor Laura Holck, Pastor Phil Holck, Barry Kopperud, Terry Kopperud, Doug Normandin, Kate Zaiser and Scott Christensen.** Please keep us in your prayers and we look forward to sharing with you more once we've completed our training.



LEAD ... love God with all your heart

Splashed with Promise is currently looking for someone interested in taking pictures for baptisms within the church. If you are interested please contact Sandi 403-228-0463 for details.



Scandinavian Centre Spring Concert – Friday May 4, 7 p.m., 739 20 Ave. N.W. With the Scan Centre Choir, Youth Choir, and guest performers. Refreshments included. Adults, \$10; age 16 and under, free. Advance tickets available at the Scan Centre office, ph: 403-284-2610.

Trollhaugen Family Cultural Camp

Summer camp for everyone! Trollhaugen is a one-week family camp offering accommodation, meals, and lots of activities. This year's theme: Norwegian mythology. When: August 12-18. Where: Deer Valley Meadows, near Alix, Alberta. Please apply by May 30th. Information and registration forms are at www.trollhaugenalberta.ca



Trollhaugen
Language arts and culture camp

Affirming Ministry Team



On Friday, April 6, our Affirming Ministry Team attended the *Coming Out In Faith Monologues* at Hillhurst United. Five individuals from the LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) community told personal stories of how faith and spirituality has connected or collided with their coming out journey. The speakers ranged from a person discovering different expressions of gender in their Hindu faith, to a former clergy person who had lost his faith in the process of coming out, to people coming out in affirming communities in Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. Many of the stories included great joy; all of them also

included heartbreaking times. Afterward, some of us reflected on how hurtful casual remarks and jokes made at work, school and even church can be.

Our Affirming Ministry Team is made up of allies seeking to make ELCOC a more welcoming place for people of all sexual orientations and genders. **Stay tuned for our next event.**

LEAD ... love God with all your heart



The Baker Family would like to take a moment to thank the many people that helped with the Memorial Service for Dorothy. To those that ushered, the many hands that prepared, served and setup the luncheon. To the ELCOG Choir for singing. Thank you to Catherine for singing the Lord's Prayer and Evan for playing. Thank you to Pastor Laura & Pastor Phil for a beautiful and personal service to celebrate Dorothy's life. These were such wonderful and meaningful contributions that truly meant so much to our Family & Friends. We have felt and continue to feel the congregation's arms around us as we grieve the loss of our mom. We are so grateful for the love and support of our church family.

Sincerely the Baker Family

Opera Serenade

Saturday July 21, 2018 at 2pm

McDougall United Church

Join soprano **Taryn Plater** and tenor **Scott Rumble** for an enchanting afternoon of opera. Alongside pianist **Evan Mounce**, these up-and-coming artists will bring life to some of opera's most passionate and vibrant arias and duets, from *La Bohème* to *The Merry Widow*.

Praised for his "strong stage presence" and "darkly burnished tenor" (*Vancouver Classical Music*), Scott Rumble is a rising talent. While completing his Master of Opera Performance, he has appeared with Opera Kelowna and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

Taryn Plater frequently takes part in recitals, operas, and choral performances. Currently studying Opera Performance at the University of British Columbia, her rich soprano voice and compelling presence serves opera and art song alike.

Entrance by donation, reception to follow.

LEAD ... love God with all your heart

News from the SW Area Refugee Mission: (our new name and acronym is S.W.A.R.M. (like God's busy worker bees :-)

We are delighted to share the joyous news that Ehsan Aldayoub, one of our Christian refugee friends, was married February 16/2018. Ehsan's wife Waad, is still caught in Syria and he cannot return to Syria after escaping the war 2 years ago. Their marriage in Lebanon was with travel permission from the Canadian and Lebanese governments. The bride and groom (both engineers) met in their Christian Orthodox church in Syria. We ask for prayers for this young couple, divided by war, red tape, and challenging finances. They trust that God will help them to be united in Canada.

We welcome donations/wedding gifts to help with their many expenses as they work to bring Waad to Canada. If you would like to make a donation to assist with the significant expenses related to the process of Family Class Sponsorship/Immigration to Canada, please consider one of the following:

1. Personal cheque or cash to Ehsan directly. His full name is Ehsan Aldayoub. **Cheques/cash can be placed in one of the cards we have provided, then in your offering plate or left in your church office. The SWARM will ensure they are delivered to Ehsan. Please include your name and church so your gift can be acknowledged.**

Make a donation through your church offering envelope/process. Mark your envelope/cheque SWARM Support.



YOUTH EXPO

May 11th - 12th, 2018

Faith Calgary

destinyarts.ca

403-922-4407

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Greg Denie
Chantel Denie
Trina Eagle Tailfeathers
Alison Springer
Winston Pines
Jacee Pines
Kayla Walsh
Trickster Theatre
Nicole Boyle

CONCERT WORKSHOPS OPEN MIC

Spoken Word
Hip-hop Urban Dance
Personal Empowerment
Public Speaking
Drama / Theatre
Aboriginal Art
Voice / Choir

LEAD  ... love God with all your heart

The **DUTCH CANADIAN CHOIR** of Calgary Presents

SPRING SING

Director: Carey Gruber
Accompanist: Gaylene Hennar



Join us for a lovely afternoon of song to welcome glorious Spring!

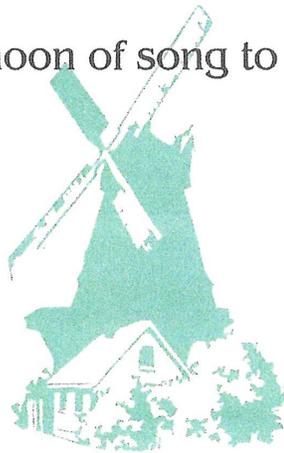
Special Guests

German Canadian Male Chorus of Calgary

Director: Susan Woodward
Accompanist: Jeannie Park

Instrumental Duo

Violin: Pearl Lu
Piano: Gaylene Hennar



Tickets

\$15 (adults)
\$5 (children 6-12)
free (children 1-5)

For advance tickets
please contact:

Michelle
403.852.0946

Coffee, tea and dessert follow the concert – all ages welcome!

Saturday, May 12 2018
Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW, Calgary

2:30pm (Doors open at 2:00pm)



LEAD ... love God with all your heart

May

2018 SWCRC Programs

Residents living in south west communities have **FREE** access to all our programs and services . Do you need information on community resources or need a referral to other agencies? Are you interested in registering for a program or booking a time with one of our resource workers, please contact the office at **403 238-9222** for details on the referral process and the dates of availability.

May Programs and Workshops

Chat 'N Play Drop by and meet other parents for coffee and play time.

Mondays 1:00—2:45

Computer Skills Workshop free 4-session beginner computer classes is provided in partnership with South Wood Public Library.

Tuesdays 1:00-3:00pm May 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th, 2018

Family Literacy Program free program for immigrant families with children 3-5 years old to get their children ready for school

Wednesdays 12:30-2:30pm finishing on May 9th

Youth Tutoring For students in grade 7—12.

Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:30 finishing on June 20th, 2018

My Community, My Home This is a new bi-weekly program at the SWCRC that offers senior immigrant women (50+) a place to build friendship, develop community support and reduce isolation

Thursdays 12:30-2:30 May 3rd, 17th, and 31st, 2018

Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting an 8-week program for parents of children of all ages.

Thursdays Evenings 6:00-8:00pm April 5th—May 24th, 2018

Feeding Your Baby nutrition class for parents

Friday 9:30-11:30am May 11th

Living Life to the Full a 6 Week program provided by Canadian Mental Health Association

Wednesdays 10:00– 12:00pm June 13 – July 18th



Here to help

There are times in everyone's life when challenges arise and we need someone to help us work through our difficulties. Since 2003 the South-West Communities Resource Centre has provided resources, information, referral, counseling, education and prevention programs to help our neighbours to deal with challenges, develop a sense of belonging, learn new skills and build resilience to stress and adversity.

Community Partnerships

The SWCRC builds partnerships that provide a variety of services that are closer to those who live in the south west. Agencies that offer programs in our Resource Centre:

Insight: **Counselling and Therapy:** sessions cost \$5 per hour available for community residents

Homebridge: **Homeless Prevention Program; Children's Cottage**

Immigrant Service Calgary: **Family Literacy Program**



Dear Beloved of God –

Soon we will gather in Convention in Camrose – UofA Augustana Campus – June 14-16, 2018 under the theme based on I Cor. 13:13, “Faith, Hope, Love: and the greatest of these is love.” I am appreciative of the work of Wendy Christensen-Grosfield who has again been contracted to serve as Convention Manager. Our Convention Chaplain will be The Rev. Jeff Decelle (Unity Lutheran, Medicine Hat).

Convention highlights will include three keynote presentations and opportunities for conversation facilitated by The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen (<http://omgcenter.com/about/>). We are planning to video Anna's presentations which will be made available following Convention.

We will also welcome and hear from our National Bishop Susan Johnson, four guests from The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO): Bishop Atahualpa Hernández Miranda and his wife, Rev. Angélica Bernate Rojas, along with Rev. Diana Carolina Londoño Espinosa and her husband, Óscar Ricardo Niño Durán and ELCA Global Mission Staff, Manager for Relationships, Latin America and the Caribbean, Paulina Dasse, The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude, En Mision Con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador, the Lutheran Theological Seminary President, The Rev. Dr. Bill Harrison, CLWR, and LCBI.

Convention actions will include a second reading of our Synod Constitution and decision-making related to our Synod By-Laws. Elections for Synod Bishop, Synod Secretary, several Synod Council Positions, Rostered Minister to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors, and Delegates to the 2019 ELCIC National Convention.

I invite your prayers as final preparations are made for the Synod Convention: for Wendy Christensen-Grosfield, for our Convention Chaplain and those preparing for worship; for Anna Madsen as she finalizes her keynote presentations; and for our guests as they journey to be with us. As we gather please be in prayer for each of the elections which will be taking place.

In Christ Jesus – Shalom,
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer The God of hope fill you



Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Communion Sundays May 6 & 20		1	2	3	4	5
		Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Confirmation—7 pm	Sandwich Making—7:30 am Morning Prayer—9 Bible Study—9:30 am AHS Caregivers—1 pm SWCG—7 pm Lay Internship Mtg.—7	PHD—12—1:15pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	Way of Christ Weekend Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG—1—3 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 Dutch Cd. Choir rehearsal—6-9 pm Cantare—6—10	Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Prayer & Care—10 am—at Tim Horton's Faith Formation—7	Morning Prayer—9 Bible Study—9:30 am Cantare—6—10 SWCG—7 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am E.A.—7 pm Ascension Worship—7 pm Choir—following worship	Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	Men's Breakfast—8 Dutch Canadian Choir concert—2:30 pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG—1—3 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare—6—10	Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Faith Formation—7 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am Cantare—6—10 Bible Study—9:30 am SWCG—7 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	Women's Ministry—10 am
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG—1—3 pm	Office Closed	Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Faith Formation—7 pm— MENTOR NIGHT	Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am Cantare—6—10 Council Mtg.—7 pm SWCG—7 pm	Morning Prayer—9 Caring Conversations—5 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	Men's Breakfast—8
27	28	29	30	31		
Worship—10 am— BLAST SHOWCASE— following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG—1—4 pm FOOD BANK SUN.	Morning Prayer—9 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare—6—10	Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am	Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am Cantare—6—10 SWCG—7 pm	Morning Prayer—9 E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm		
Cause of the Month Lutheran Hospital Ministries				Vacations: Intern Kate—May 14—21 Pastor Laura—May 22—June 7 Catherine—May 6—12		