



Standing for What?

I was born in 1960 and that, literally, makes me... a child of the 60's. As such, I grew up while American society was having a very significant and often tumultuous "conversation" about institutions. In the context of Watergate and the Vietnam War, a great deal of suspicion and criticism of institutions arose. This became part of a wave of *anti-institutionalism* in which it seemed like every organized aspect of our society was suddenly suspect and viewed with scrutiny. In many respects, we are still living in the aftermath of this anti-institutionalism.

Because of this experience, the word *institution* (in my mind) was associated with words like: *bureaucracy, corrupt, stale, insensitive, old-fashioned, behind the times...* Not a very positive list!

Since the sixties, most of society's institutions have been suffering or even been dismantled:

- Church membership is declining,
- Lodges and other fraternal organizations are disappearing,
- Schools and seminaries are often struggling to stay open.

This summer, I attended a community organizing training in Chicago. In this training, they talked about their commitment to building up and supporting the institutions in our society. In my mind, I was saying, *Why? They are just bureaucratic, corrupt, stale, insensitive...* you get the picture.

They continued to explain that *institutions of society are the vessels by which values and culture are passed on from generation to generation.*

Ohhhhhhh...

This made me very curious about what the word *institution* actually means. When I looked into the etymology of *institution*, the root of the word is the same

as *statue*. It means to *set up* or *stand*. Therefore, words with this same root make sense:

- *constitute* means to together set up or together stand for;
- *destitute* means to be out of standing or have no standing;
- *prostitute* means to stand before.

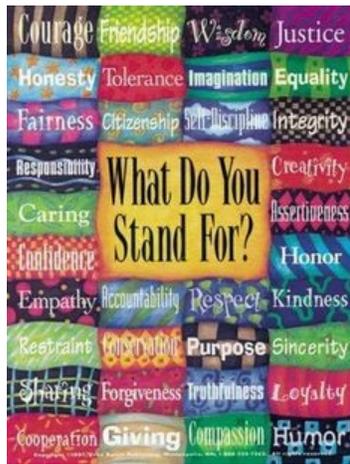
I was able to attend the community organizing training through our association with the Metro Alliance for the Common Good (MACG). One of their commitments is to strengthen its member institutions: churches, synagogues, mosques, neighborhood associations, unions, social service organizations, etc. In light of the dismantling of institutions which has been happening since the sixties, this kind of building up and strengthening is necessary.

In light of the *dismantling* of institutions which has been happening over the last couple of decades, it raises the question, *What are the values we stand for as a congregation and how are we going to pass them on?*

Over the next few months, I (and others) will intentionally be engaging in conversations with you about what it is that *we stand for*.

- What are our core values?
- What do we want to leave behind for the next generation?
- How can we partner with—and even take leadership—in strengthening other institutions which contribute to a healthy society?

What do we stand for?



A glance at September Ministry Happenings....



- **September 3** - Knit & Chat—10 am—noon—first meeting of the knitters for the Fall season. Let's meet and decide how many times a month we want to meet and knit together!
- **September 7**—Sandwich Making—7:30 am
- **September 7**—Wednesday Morning Bible Study resumes—9:30 am—*"Book of Acts"*
- **September 8**—Choir resumes—7:15 pm—All are welcome!
- **September 10**—Clothing Give-A-Way—10 am—1 pm
- **September 11**—Adult Study resumes—9 am
- **September 12**—Communion Set-up Meeting—1—3 pm
- **September 13**—Prayer & Care—10:30 am
- **September 13**—Faith Formation resumes—7—8:30 pm
- **September 14**—Council Meeting—7 pm
- **September 17**—Men's Breakfast—8 am—ALL men welcome!
- **September 17**—M & M Women's Study—10 am
- **September 19**—*Celebration of Life* for Frances Steeves—2—4 pm @ the Glencoe Club
- **September 24**—**Special Guest Speaker**— 10 am—Heidi Grogan—Program Coordinator: Servants Anonymous Society *"Cry of the Streets"* - A presentation attending to what it means to come alongside sexually exploited women involved in prostitution. **All are welcome!**
- **September 24**—Wedding of Jacqueline Bourque & Alex Leeflang - 3 pm
- **September 25**—BLAST SHOWCASE—following worship
- **September 25**—Book of the Month study—following worship
- **September 27**—Prayer & Care—5:30 pm

**Morning Prayer—9 am—
Monday—Thursday**

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



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.



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Radical hospitality: Offering a “Welcome!” to everyone

The Narthex: A place of hope, healing, and welcome

In the 1600’s, the word “narthex” came into common usage. It was used to describe the outdoor porch often found at the west end of early churches. The word came into the English language directly from the Greek, where it was the name of the giant fennel plant, whose stem structure was hollow. The thought was, the narthex of the church was a gathering place leading into something substantive, namely the sanctuary.

Our narthex, the place between the outer doors of the building and the doors of the sanctuary is our “porch”. It is a gathering place, a place to hang out, a place to chat and catch up. Our narthex is the main place where relationships begin and are nurtured.

Every member of Church of the Cross is called upon to minister in this space, in the same ways you would on the front porch of your house. Say hello to people who pass by. Offer coffee to those who linger longer.

Look for those who are new to the neighborhood. Remember what it was like for you when you were new to this place. Make the first move. Welcome them. Introduce them to your friends.

Talk about this community, why you are here, and about your hopes and dreams for the church.

Communities used to be built upon the conversations and friendships begun on the front porch. In churches they still are! Hang around after worship and be kind to everyone you meet.

Pastor Laura



Would you like a visit from one of the pastors or from someone from Prayer & Care?

Let us know! Call or email the church office

We are looking for people to serve as friends and guides for new members. If you are willing to have coffee and talk about life, faith, and our church community with new members, please contact the office. (403-255-4792)

Tell Dianne you are interested in shepherding new members. We'll give you next steps. . . .

Take a step in your discipleship...

Invitation: An Act of Compassion

What are you inviting people to experience when you invite them to church? Are you inviting them to worship? Are you inviting them to meet your friends? Are you inviting them to hear good music, or listen to your pastor? Why do you invite (or not)?

Consider that your invitations are not about you. Consider that you don't have anything to share; you don't have anything to offer; and you don't have anything to lose. Consider that inviting isn't about you at all.

Bringing people to church is about THEM. Inviting people is about hearing something inside of someone else that aches. Maybe the ache is an unresolved pain. Maybe the ache is loneliness. Or abandonment. Or distance. Maybe it is the absence of connection. Maybe you don't know what it is at all.

But your invitations matter. People yearn for connection with God, creation, and other people. These connections are soothing, affirming, and life giving. These kinds of connections comfort us and inspire us; offer us hope and heal us; are they are surprising. Today's world offers few opportunities for these kinds of connections. The church offers them all the time.

Consider that maybe your invitations are a form of compassion for your neighbors and friends. Consider that maybe your invitations are like life savers tossed to shipwreck victims. It's just that the people you are tossing them to don't look like they're drowning.

Things you can do:

- Have conversations with the people in your life about faith. What is their faith? Did they grow up in the church? Are they worshipping somewhere now? If not, what happened? Have your conversations lead to connection and invitation.
- Remember, your invitations are an act of compassion. You aren't trying to get people to do something, but offering relief. If someone were dying of thirst, would you tell them where to find water? Church of the Cross offers all kinds of "water" for people who are "thirsty": worship, prayer, financial relief, study, companionship, entertainment, conversation, life coaching, friendship, compassion.... Make a point of offering these things to others who need them.

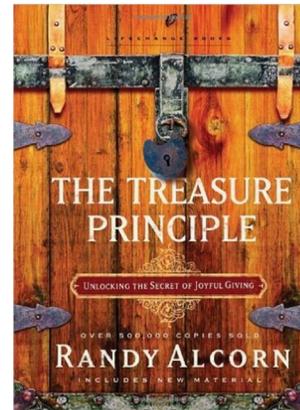
September Book of the Month

The Treasure Principle

Unlocking the Secret of Joyful Giving

by Randy Alcorn

"When you discover the secret joy of the Treasure Principle, I guarantee you'll never be content with less." So claims Randy Alcorn in the introduction to this small gift book on Christian generosity. Noting that fifteen percent of Jesus' teachings in the New Testament deal with money



and possessions (more than his teachings on eternal life), Alcorn compares heavenly treasure, which is eternal, with earthly riches, which "will always be lost".

Alcorn encourages Christians to understand that everything they believe they own is actually God's; they are merely managers. He is a compelling storyteller, whether drawing on Scrip-

ture, accounts of others who have lived generously, or recounting his own experiences.

Analyzing the pervasive disease of "affluenza" and the fact that North Americans' unprecedented wealth does not seem to be bringing extraordinary happiness, he says that he and other people who have discovered the secret of unfettered giving know that they are storing up treasures in heaven, their true home.

Many Christians will appreciate his countercultural messages that "giving is the only antidote to materialism" and the "health and wealth gospel dishonors Christ." Indeed, for many, this could be a life-changing book.

From Publishers Weekly

The *Treasure Principle* is available at church or online at Chapters Indigo and amazon.ca. **Conversations about the Treasure Principle will take place in the North Meeting Room on September 25 following worship.**

Coming up in October: *Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World* by Bob Goff.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Saturday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Mary & Martha Bible Study



Fall begins with a 3-session study from "Gather" Magazine entitled: *"When God's Not Fair: coming to terms with a merciful God"*.

We invite all women to drop in for a session as you are able. We love visitors!

SOCIAL MINISTRY

September Cause of the Month Campus Ministry

During the month of **October**, we will need volunteers for 5 Sundays at Bethany Care Center. Volunteers will assist residents to the Sunday afternoon church services. Sign-up sheets will be available soon.

Next meeting: **Monday, September 19, 2016 at 7:00 pm**

What's Happening

Communion Set-up Meeting

Monday, September 12, 1-3 pm

June Kvicala & Pearl Schuster will have a short training about our new communion vessels, a refresher about setting up for both intinction and regular communion, a conversation about how it's going, and a chance for you to schedule yourselves to serve.

(We're playing it safe by scheduling 2 hours!)

Please RSVP to the church office by phone

403) 255-4792

or email

churchofthecross@shaw.ca

Special Guest Speaker

(sponsored by Women's Ministry)

*****Heidi Grogan*****

Saturday, September 24th @ 10 am

"Cry of the Streets"

A presentation attending to what it means to come alongside sexually exploited women involved in prostitution. On this topic, I could cover some essentials as to how this lifestyle ends up being the daily lived experience of a girl (or a boy) and, as well as how we can support someone trying to exit the lifestyle (i.e. why don't people leave immediately, etc.) I would love to share from the perspective of feedback from past participants of SAS as to what they hospitality took to make it. Here, I would talk about Christian notions of community, mutuality, belonging, gratitude and metaphors of "being in the pit together" versus "shouting down ideas from the rim up top."

"Our hospitality both reflects and participates in God's hospitality."

-- C. Pohl

**This event is for ALL people
please invite your friends!**

*****Education**

M.A. Spiritual Theology, Regent College

B.Sc. (Hon.), University of Guelph

Employment

Program Coordinator: Servants Anonymous Society 2011-2013 SAS is a Calgary agency offering long term support to women exiting the sex trade



**Cleaning closets? Save clothes for the
FALL CLOTHING GIVE-A-WAY**

... coming soon!

**Bring your family & friends for FREE clothing
Saturday, September 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
at Lutheran Church of the Cross
10620 Elbow Dr SW**

**Donations of clean, gently used clothing will be
accepted at the church the following days:
Sept 7 & 8 during office hours
Fri Sept 9 from 10 a.m.-12 and 6-8 p.m.**



**Volunteers needed for sorting and serving guests.
Watch for sign up sheet
or call Marilyn @ 403-968-2049**

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BLAST is our Sunday morning learning experience following worship where children, youth and adults get to experience a Bible story through art, drama, food, building & play.

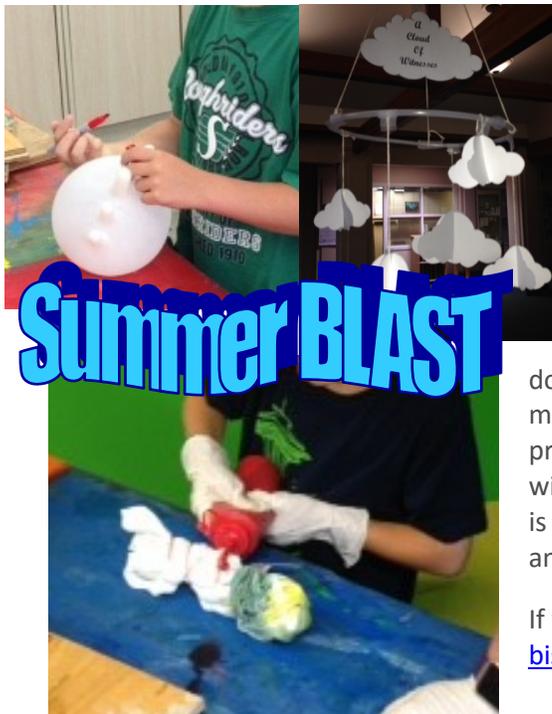
Full BLAST in September

September 4: Last Week of Summer BLAST

September 11, 18 & 25: Samson
September BLAST Showcase
Sunday, September 25th

All are invited to come and participate in the activities each week following worship. Sunday (9/6) we finish up with our Summer BLAST. On the 13th, we move back to the full BLAST program experiencing the story of Hannah & Samuel. The congregation is especially invited to come and see completed projects at the **BLAST Showcase on Sunday, September 27th.**

Topping the Temple



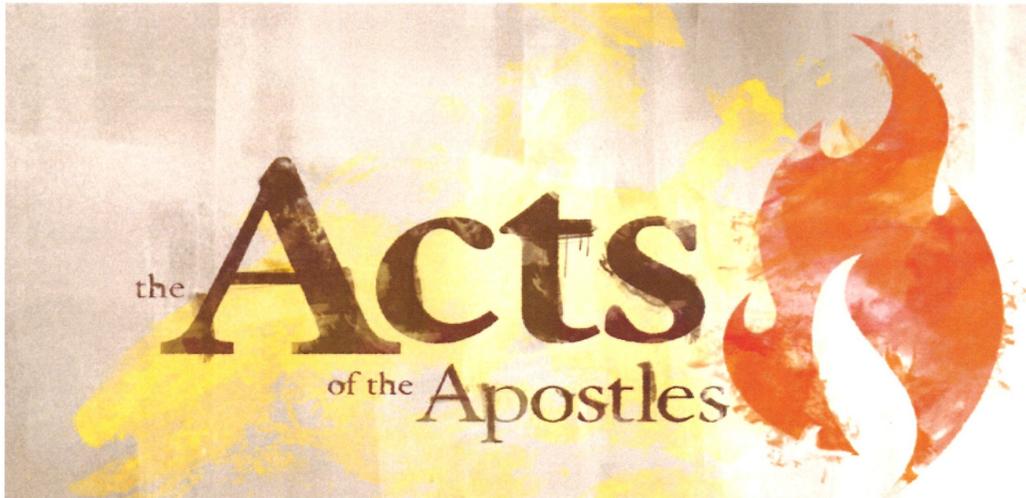
Passing on the Faith to our Children!

BLAST will be *FULL BLAST* on September 11, 2015! We are looking forward to what the New Year brings! We already have plans and activities set up to accompany the stories of **Samson, Ruth, Moses and Isaiah.**

We are now looking for **volunteers** to help make it happen! If you have a special skill or talent that you can share with the young people of the congregation or if there is something you have wanted to learn how to do – NOW is the TIME! You could volunteer for one Sunday or more in a month. We are looking for **leaders** for each activity (people who are prepared to teach and lead a group) as well as **facilitators** (people who are willing to help the children follow the leader and complete the task). There is no previous experience required but just a willingness to share your time and experience.

If you are interested please contact Kathy Bishop – bishop4thomson@gmail.com or let Dianne know at the office.

Faith Formation Opportunities



This study resumes from the late spring, but all are welcome to join the conversation. Newcomers to the conversation will be given background information and brought “up to speed.” We encourage your participation and look forward to welcoming you!

As a continuation of the gospel of Luke, The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the growth of the early church from the original disciples huddled together in Jerusalem, to Asia minor and all the way to Rome. It is a particularly helpful book to study as we seek to discover and recover the essence of being the Church.

We resume our study with Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 8.

How does it work? Group participants volunteer to read from the biblical text. Lively group conversation, studied by pastoral comment, background information, and current events brings scripture and faith into sharp, relevant life context. This study has a “soft start”; it begins with casual conversation amongst friends old and new, coffee, song, and prayer. Great conversation usually carries us beyond 11:30, even though that is our designated end time. People stay or leave as they wish. *Note: We try to end on time!*

When? Wednesday mornings, 9:30-11:30 am beginning September 7

Where? Narthex (area just outside the sanctuary)

This course is led by Pastor Phil Holck philholck@gmail.com

Join us every

Wednesday



Faith Journey



*Discipleship involves four stages
repeating endlessly over the life of a
believer...*

INQUIRY Reflect on your story and the biblical story. Bring questions about God, faith, and the church. Search for meaning.

EXPLORATION Reflect on Christian life: scripture, worship, service, prayer, mission, community.

INTENSE PREPARATION Explore the covenant of baptism and possible responses to God's promises.

BAPTISMAL LIVING Discern spiritual gifts. Make meaningful connections in the life of the church and its mission in the world.

Faith life is like a bottomless well: You can go as deep as you want.

Join others who want to go deep.

*Study scripture. Share how the Word intersects with our lives.
We expect God to undergird our conversation and guide us on our way.*

*Your questions are welcome as we also engage other stories: historic
Christianity, Lutheranism, Church of the Church, and life in general.*

Are you interested?

Are you curious?

Are you ready?

*Faith Journey is for everyone who wants to deepen their discipleship,
including those new to the faith and those who have been church members
for life.*

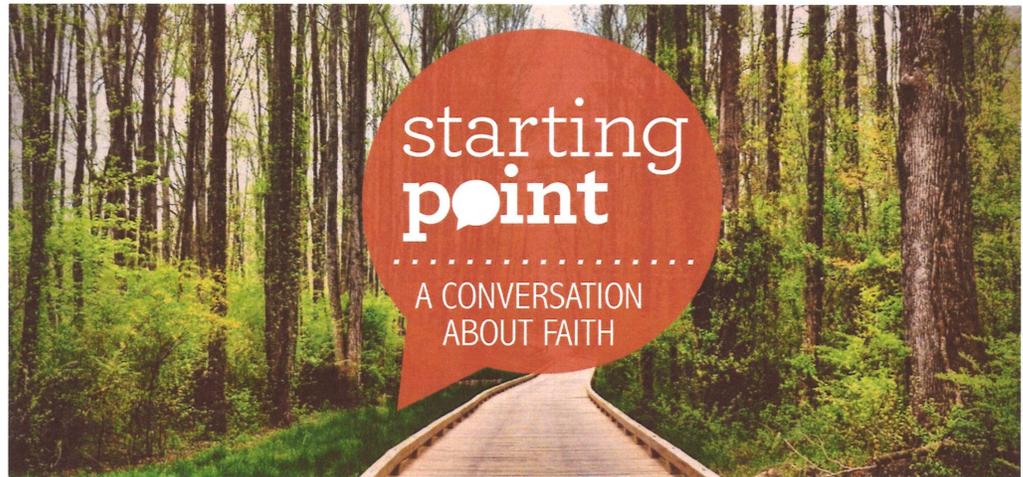
How does it work? In each session, we will read the sermon text for the coming Sunday using lectio divina (divine reading, in which a text is read multiple times, interspersed with silence for reflection). Each person present is invited to share their thoughts and reflections on the text. These reflections are honored by all participants. Then a conversation follows about the text, our lives, faith, the church and the world. Questions that surface are researched, then addressed the following week. Tea is normally served & sometimes accompanied by a light snack. *This course encourages participation with Cursillo, which begins with a 3-day weekend experience in either the fall or the spring.*

When? Tuesday evenings 7-8:30 pm, beginning September 13 and following the Tuesday Faith Formation Schedule

Where? The pink chairs in the narthex (area immediately outside the sanctuary)

This course is led by Pastor Phil Holck philholck@gmail.com

Got Questions?



Everything has a starting point—your life, your relationships, your education, your career.

Sometimes we forget that faith has a starting point as well. For some of us, our faith journeys began in childhood as a set of beliefs handed to us by a parent, teacher, or pastor. Maybe you developed a framework of faith based on personal experience. Or maybe you had no faith at all. Too often, a faith formed in childhood isn't strong enough to withstand the pressures of adult life.

But what if you could find a new starting point for faith?

Welcome to Starting Point – an 8-session small group conversation about faith. Whether you're new to faith, curious about God, or coming back to church after some time away, it's a place where your opinions and beliefs are valued, and no question is off limits. During the eight sessions, you will:

- Watch a video component each week
- Use a Starting Point Conversation Guide to reflect on central questions of faith and life.
- Explore and share what you're learning with other people in a conversational environment.

Come as you are, build relationships with others, and discover your starting point!

SESSIONS INCLUDE:

- 1 Start
- 2 Problem
- 3 Trust
- 4 Rules
- 5 Jesus
- 6 Grace
- 7 Faith
- 8 Invitation

Starts September 13

When? Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30. Eight Sessions:
September 13 & 20; October 4, 18 & 25; November 1, 8, & 15

Where? Church of the Cross North Meeting Room

Facilitated by Hilary Gray hgray64@icloud.com

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

CONFIRMATION



Students in grades 7 and 8 are invited to explore matters of faith en route to affirming their baptism. (Students in grades 8 & 9 may participate upon consultation with the pastors.) *Confirmation is a rite of passage in which young people assume responsibility for their own lives of faith. Confirmed youth are considered full members of the congregation, given voice and vote in congregational matters and able to hold positions on official congregational committees.*

So much more than a means to gaining voice and vote in the congregation, the Confirmation process is a time to learn and practice critical thinking in matters of faith and life. Here young people gain a vital faith foundation that can serve them their entire lives.

Questions and exploration undergird this two-year adventure, as we explore the Apostles' Creed, the 10 commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the sacraments of the church, the Bible, and Luther's life and contribution to the church and world.

If you have never been confirmed and are older than grade 9, you are encouraged to participate in Starting Point.

How does it work? We meet weekly to discuss faith and life matters, take on special projects, and attend a weekend program at Camp Kuriakos in the early spring. Young people are partnered with a mentor (an adult member of the congregation who serves as a role model, guide, and friend in the Christian faith) throughout the process and confirmed on Reformation Sunday following two years of program participation.

When? Tuesday evenings 7-8:30 pm, beginning September 13 and following the Tuesday Faith Formation schedule

Where? Sanctuary

This course is led by Pastor Laura Holck lauraholck@gmail.com



**Starting on Sunday, December 4—
9 am**



Confirmation Sunday

October 30



animate



Seven big conversations about faith.

This adult education course imaginatively explores central topics of Christianity:

God: Faith is a Quest

Religion: Spirituality is not Enough

Jesus: The Revolution of Love

Salvation: Abundant Life Now

Cross: Where God Is

Bible: A Book Like No Other

Church: An Imperfect Family

How does it work? In each Animate: Faith session, we will watch a video featuring a leading voice from the Christian faith, spend time in personal reflection and share ideas with the group. Animate: Faith is built on solid theology and allows adults the opportunity to strengthen faith through spirited discussion, wondering, and journaling. You will receive an illustrated Faith Journal providing space for personal reflection, notes, and prayer.

When? Sunday mornings, 9-9:45 am: December 4, 11 & 18; January 8, 15, 22 & 29

Where? Meeting Room 1 (down the hall on the other side of the fellowship hall)

This course is facilitated by Gates Fortier gatesf0@gmail.com

These are the voices of Animate Faith:

Brian McLaren, Lillian Daniel, Shane Hippias, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Mark Scandrette, Lauren Winner, Bruce Reyes-Chow



Looking for renewal in your faith life? Consider



Cursillo

("Cursillo" is Spanish for "little course")

Approximately three dozen men or women meet from Thursday evening until Sunday evening with a team of two-four ordained ministers and fifteen to thirty laypeople. Fifteen talks are given, ten by laypersons and five by the clergy. The talks lead to lively discussions in small groups.

The three days are interspersed with music, sharing, laughter, prayer, reflection and silence as you discover what it means to say, "We are the body of Christ."

Holy Communion is celebrated each day (except Thursday) as well as morning and evening prayers. There is nothing dull about a Cursillo weekend. It is a joyous workshop in the fundamentals of beautiful, lively faith where everyone learns by experiencing a living community.

Is Cursillo for me?

Cursillo is for you, if:

- You feel called to a deeper commitment to your faith.
- You want to more fully understand the mission you are called to through your baptism.
- You are looking for a way to sustain your Christian journey.
- You attend Church regularly (or want to)

It is an encounter with Jesus Christ.

When?

Men Thursday eve Oct 27 through Sunday eve Oct 30	Women Thursday eve Nov 3 through Thursday eve Nov 6
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Where?

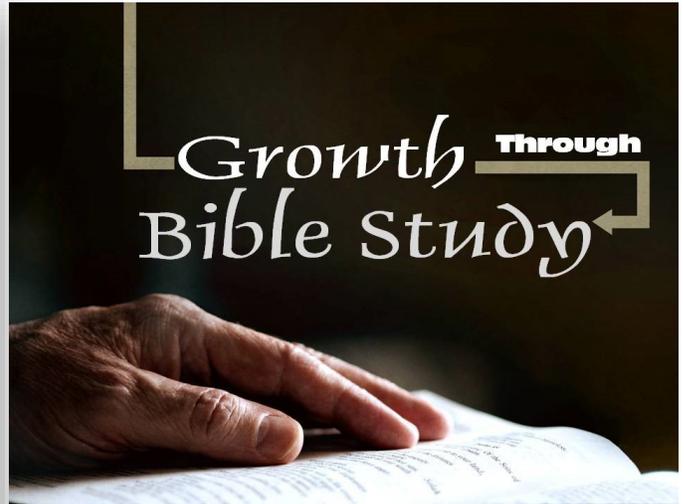
Etheos Retreat Centre 242032 RR 40 Calgary, AB T2P 2G4

Cost?

\$215 covers lodging, meals and materials

How do I register?

You must have a sponsor to attend. Talk to Pastor Laura, Pastor Phil, Lisa Rude, Carolyn Larsen, Dean Larsen, Jan Haki, Lloyd Haki, Hillary Gray, Lise Wilson, Keith Ball, or Dane Bridge



Old Testament

Amy-Jill Levine's commentary on the Old Testament thoughtfully explores selected passages from the texts called the Old Testament, the Hebrew Bible, and the Tanakh. She provides clear examples of how various approaches to biblical research and interpretation can enrich your understanding of this inexhaustibly fruitful and powerful text. *She makes the Old Testament accessible to everyone.*

Professor Amy-Jill Levine observes: "The Old Testament is endlessly fascinating because it offers everything to explore: myth, saga, and history; tragedy, comedy, and farce; economics and politics; literature and poetry of surpassing beauty; court intrigue and prophetic morality; heavenly miracles and sometimes heavenly silence; questions of theodicy; answers that satisfy and answers that may not; destruction and rebuilding; despair and hope."

Twelve sessions, covering these subjects:

- The Book of Judges, Parts I and II
- Samuel and Saul
- King David
- From King Solomon to the Prophets
- The Prophets and the Fall of the North
- The Southern Kingdom
- Babylonian Exile
- Restoration and God's rule
- Wisdom Literature
- Life in the Diaspora
- Apocalyptic Literature

How does it work? In each session, we will watch a video talk from Professor Amy-Jill Levine and share ideas with the group. Beginning and advanced Bible students are welcome.

When? Sunday mornings, 9-9:45 am: September 11 through November 27

Where? Meeting Room 1 (down the hall on the other side of the fellowship hall)

This course is facilitated by Dane Bridge danebridge@shaw.ca

"The study of the Bible is a simply marvelous endeavor, and each time it's approached, students will see new things. I'm continuing to see new things."



Dr. Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies, and Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and the College of Arts and Sciences. She is also Affiliated Professor at the Woolf Institute, Centre for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations, at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom. Dr. Levine earned her B.A. with high honors in English and Religion at Smith College, where she graduated magna cum laude. She went on to earn her M.A. and Ph.D. in Religion from Duke University. Professor Levine's numerous books, articles, and essays address such topics as Second-Temple Judaism, Christian origins, Jewish-Christian relations, and biblical women. She has served on the editorial boards of the Journal of Biblical Literature and the Catholic Biblical Quarterly and has held office in the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Biblical Association, and the Association for Jewish Studies. A widely sought-after speaker and favorite at the Chautauqua Institution, she has given hundreds of talks on biblical topics to both academic and nonacademic audiences, including church, synagogue, and community groups throughout the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Her awards include grants from the Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies.

Starting on Sunday, September 11

@ 9 am

Garden News



A Bountiful Harvest from our Community Garden headed for Made by Mama
(an organization that provides meals for women in need or distress).



Harvest from August 24th. Also going to "Made by Momma".
We have very faithful gardeners!

CLAY 2016 – Thanks for your incredible support ELCOC!

* I want to start by saying thank you to everyone who assisted in some way or another to make this trip to CLAY happen as well as the pre-CLAY trip. I found that I gained a better understanding of religion and how connected we all are through God's grace. I also found this experience incredibly fun and exciting, especially the tidal bore rafting! The trip allowed us to get to know each other better. Thank you for helping to make it possible. – *Laniah*

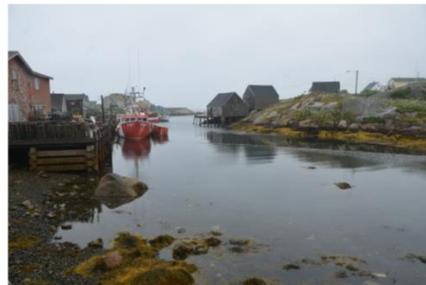
* During the gathering, a lot of words were said that I also felt were true. It was nice to know that I wasn't alone in my thoughts. CLAY is a community that really means something to the youth who attend. – *Sarah*

* We learned that creation, salvation and people are not for sale. We learned that human trafficking is still happening. – *Isak*

* At CLAY, everyone always kept saying that it was all about us. That's true, but seeing the passion of all the volunteers, specialist hometeam members, dram and band members, I understand that CLAY isn't just a "youth" gathering, but of all people of faith, young and old. The dedication of all the leaders around me, from ELCOC and elsewhere was inspiring. One particular conversation we had which struck a chord with me was when the leaders shared their thoughts on faith and the future. It made me really excited for my future. I can't help wondering what I'll be doing at that point in my life! I think the essence of CLAY is to inspire youth to start their own stories through the stories of older people (in their 20s+). – *Mikaela*



Pre-CLAY Bus Trip



* During this trip, I realized how majestic God's creation is and can be, from the ocean, rivers, and all this nature. – *Gundars*

* CLAY was one of the best experiences I've ever had. My favorite thing was going to the front to sing with the band. It really showed how close everyone was and that everyone came from different places. It was heartwarming! –

* In my ministry project about welcoming, I learned about ways some people are made to feel unwelcome. This encouraged me to try to be more welcoming towards others. The energy everyone brought to the large group gatherings was amazing! – *Heather*

* What I will always remember is that humans are all custom made and priceless. – *Goanar*

* CLAY 2016 has been an amazing experience. There was the incredible overwhelming energy in the songs. There was the conviction in Mark's voice as keynote speaker when he told us, "You are a bonified freaking miracle!" and that we are free from the judgements of others. There was the horror I felt at stories of human trafficking, followed by the resolution to do something about it. There was the image by one of our own youth describing grace as a violin player surround by an audience of awed rock stars. And, in the midst of it all, there was me, soaking it all up. – *Hannah*

* CLAY, for me, was an experience of a lifetime. To see youth fully express themselves and their faith, take on causes greater than themselves, and stand for God's creation. It's inspiring. And to have the opportunity to develop bonds with our entire youth group, I truly treasure. – *Matthew*

* The passion and the desire to learn and act, which was displayed by the youth, stuck out for me. Mostly, though is remembering and sharing God's grace with others, whatever it is that we are doing. – *Carolyn*

* CLAY made me realize I can use history to teach the world about the destruction we have caused in the past and help prevent it in the future. – *Paul*

* For my ministry project, I signed up for singing without an instrument. One thing that I learned is that music is prayer. When you have no words for healing, you can turn to music with a message. – *Nyajuok*

* Our young people are extraordinary stewards of God's gifts, including the planet and one another. CLAY is a special opportunity for me to walk alongside them as they discover and develop their counter-cultural and faithful voices in a world that would rather inspire their consumerism. We would all do well to support them and one another in this amazing conversation about freedom, faith, and responsibility. – *Pastor Laura*

CLAY – Not For Sale



* I found our youth inspiring as they worshipped and pondered faith and how we can respond with passionate grace to the world around us. I found the thoughts they shared about their own life in response to what they were learning to be deep and thought provoking. I am excited about their future, where God is leading them and how they will share God's grace with the world around them. I am thankful for the chance to know our youth and learn from them. – *Lisa*

* It was great seeing so many youth interested in the challenges facing our society (i.e. homelessness & human trafficking). Our future is in good hands... And the set was awesome! – *Pastor Phil*

* I've never really been into rock concerts, but at CLAY it was different. The songs we sang were ones we hear all the time in church and actually have a lot of meaning behind them. The one really powerful part was when everyone put their arms around each other's shoulders and swayed together. I went to a radical welcoming workshop. We talked about assumptions we make about people because of their race, style, customs, etc. before we actually get to know them. – *Natalie*



The Rag Doll Prayer Project

By Hannah Rude

At CLAY 2016 each of our youth got to sign up for two ministry projects. These were sessions that were meant to give them a more in depth look at a variety of topics including yoga, liturgical dance, improvisation, singing, drumming, spoken word, photography, indigenous and non-indigenous relationships, ecological justice, hunger, life on the streets, prayer, radical welcoming, and true gift-giving. The first ministry project that my sister Mikaela and I signed up for was entitled *“Stop Traffick”* and focused on the many types of human trafficking and the effects they have on their victims. We watched a film entitled *“Not my Life”* by Robert Bilheimer that was compiled of interviews with survivors of the sex trade, domestic slavery and child labour and soldiery. In this film, we learned about the fishing boys of Lake Volta, who work 14 hour days, sustained only by one small meal. Many of these boys die because of entanglement in the underwater fish nets. We listened to Grace as she told how she was forced to kill as a child soldier, and we learned that sometimes the first people these children are forced to kill are their parents, their siblings, and their relatives; those they hold closest to them. Sometimes, they even turned the gun on themselves when it just becomes too hard. We saw the lines of shacks where young girls were housed, dreaded being hand-picked by men that would have them delivered to their hotel rooms for anywhere from a few hours to a month. We heard the voice of a young woman who, at seven, was told that if she did not comply and give her body to her attacker, she would be electrocuted, forced to eat hot peppers, and be stung by poisonous insects. Another woman named Angie lived

just across our border, in the United States. At fifteen, she ran away from her home with two other girls, one of which knew a guy who could come and get them. That evening, Angie and the other girls became victims of the sex trade and were told that they had better come back with money, or they would be killed. She saw pictures of her sex partner’s grandchildren, and could only think, “He could have been my grandpa.” She then tells us that at that moment, she just wanted to die. We also heard the other side of these stories, the voice of an attacker. He started when he was 14; he was just fooling around. He describes not feeding his victims, and beating them with his fists, and with his feet. And the whole time he tells us this, he is smiling.



Every one of these stories is woven into the gruesome tapestry of human trafficking, and every one of them gave us a better understanding of what was happening in our world today. Together, we discussed what stuck out the most in the video for us. We listened to each other’s thoughts and reflected on the horror of what we had heard and seen, and then we turned towards the One who hears all, and we prayed about it. But one prayer would never be enough, and

that’s where the rag dolls come in. These dolls were stuffed and clothed by youth from all over Canada as a reminder to pray for human trafficking victims. They are faceless because they have lost their identity to this unimaginable plight. One of these dolls can be found at our church, and all we ask is that you take a moment to stop whatever you are doing, and pray for all the men, woman, and children who are affected by human trafficking daily. Think of Angie, and Grace, and all the others. Remember the survivors, and the ones that didn’t make it. And remember the traffickers, because they need just as much help as the victims do.

Message from our Bishop

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ –

Throughout 2016 I invite you to reflect with me on the theme of *“Practicing Our Faith”* as you gather for church council, adult study, youth group, coffee group, choir rehearsal and are engaged in learning, discernment and reflection together. Dorothy Bass has edited an excellent resource published several years ago by Jossey-Bass, *Practicing Our Faith*, which I will be using as a primary resource. Together with Don Richter, Dorothy Bass has also edited a second book, *Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens*, published by Upper Room Books, which is also an excellent resource. Each article will include a Scripture reference, thematic reflection, questions for consideration, and a prayer. Part 1 was available May 2016.

*Sing to the Lord a new song.
God’s praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel be glad in its Maker;
...Let them praise God’s name with dancing.
Making melody to God with tambourine and
lyre.*

Psalm 149:1-3

SINGING OUR LIVES – PART 2

At this past summer’s National Anglican-Lutheran Worship Conference, Formation & Reformation: Worship, Justice, and God’s Mission, presenter The Rev. Dr. Stephen Larson posed several questions as he began his first keynote address.

These questions stirred up my memory and caused me to reflect. Questions like: *What is the first childhood prayer that you remember? What was your earliest awareness of the liturgy? When did you memorize hymns? Who are your musical mentors? Your liturgical mentors? What is the most meaningful season or day of the church year for you? What are your favorite hymn, carols, songs?*

This last one sent me on a deep trip down memory lane. There are so many I thought. In fact, I have a list of favorites. *“Children of the Heavenly Father”* sung at every family funeral that I can remember. *“Joy to the World”* proclaimed on the Eve of Christmas. *“Beautiful Saviour”* sung without accompaniment and in four-part harmony...or more. The beauty and simplicity of *“Jesus, Remember Me.”* *“Holy, Holy Holy”* sung in Spanish and with friends from Colombia or El Salvador. Oh, the list goes on!

Over the course of my lifetime these texts and melodies have shaped my faith. I’ve sung them “by heart,” in the heart, and from the heart. Through the practice of singing, the dispositions and beliefs expressed in the words of the hymns – gratitude, praise, trust, lament, joy, hope – have been knit into my body, as integral parts of the theology by which I live.

These hymns and songs are carried – profoundly – deeply – within my bones.

This formation of an embodied theology happens whenever congregations sing, even though they do so in a great variety of ways from one culture to another – from one congregation to another.



Read and Reflect: Colossians 3:16

Discuss and Reflect:

- What in this reading leads you to say, “I wonder about...”, or, “I noticed...”
 - Consider sharing (and singing) a song from childhood that is part of your faith tradition.
 - What is the most powerful memory the song evokes? What does it say about the faith of your childhood? Are there connections to the faith of your adulthood?
 - Reflect on the various ways in which music is sung in worship.
- Comment on the following: *“Over the course of my lifetime these texts and melodies have shaped my faith.”*

Pray together: Maker of creation's choir, you sing the Song of Love to us. Breathe your Spirit into our singing until the rhythm of your mercy shapes all our music-making and we join with one another to give you thanks and praise. Amen. (Susan Briehl)

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).

In Christ Jesus –

Shalom,

+Larry

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop

Synod of Alberta and the Territories

**Spirit -Led Leadership - Hope-Filled Discipleship -
Innovative Tradition - Collaborative Partnerships**

CAMPUS MINISTRY DRIVE FOR 5 SUNDAY



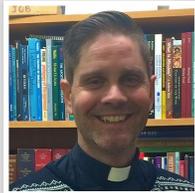
Edmonton

Richard Reimer
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
and Jason Anderson
NAIT



Camrose

Craig Wentland
AUGUSTANA CAMPUS, U of A



Calgary

Margaret Propp
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY



Medicine Hat

Lisa Waites
MEDICINE HAT
COLLEGE



Lethbridge

Erin Phillips
UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE
& LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE



KEEP OUR CAMPUS MINISTRIES DRIVING!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

- All loose cash offerings on "Drive for Five" Sunday will be divided between our synod's five campus ministries. (unless designated for a specific campus ministry)
- Donations payable to the "Synod of Alberta & the Territories", and designated to "Campus Ministry" will be receipted.



Germany: Luther, Bach & the Beatles



Reserve the date now! **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, reserve October 2017 on your calendar and have a conversation with Pastor Laura.

Information Dinner will be held on **Sunday, September 25th at 5 pm.** This is for people that have already signed up **AND** for people that have some interest in signing up. Please RSVP to the church office.



Do you have old or used road maps that you no longer need?

We can use them for BLAST learning activities. Bring you used maps to church and leave them in the map donation bin beneath the table by the mailboxes. Thanks!

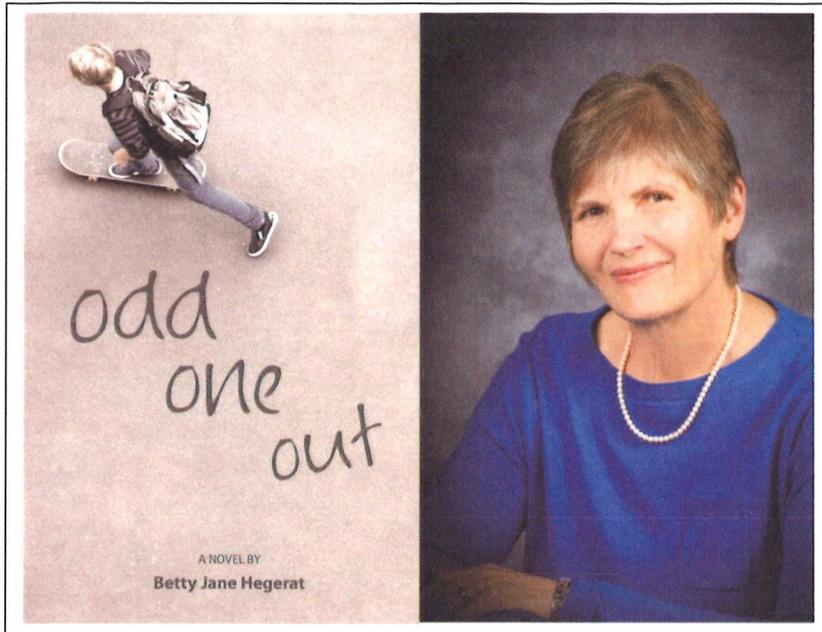


Will you be able to donate to the Refugee Mission fund?

As part of our commitment to our refugee family, we will help support them financially for six months – the Canadian Government adding their financial support for another six months. Financial support is, then, ongoing, necessary and very much appreciated!

You may contribute to this fund through your own congregation by designating an offering to the **Refugee Mission.**

Watch for details on the moving bulletin board in the narthex.



Odd One Out Betty Jane Hegerat

"There's a person here, Roof. You need to come home."

"Here where? In the house? You let a stranger in the house?"

"Well she's just a girl. Or like a young woman or whatever."

My phone was fading again. It does that. Mom got it as a cheap add-on to her own cell.

Or: Maybe the stranger had her hands around Josie's throat?

Every single lesson we'd been taught about what to do when we were home alone--and our mom and dad take their child-rearing way more seriously than any normal parents--was racing through my head. 911 flashed in big red numbers. "Josie!" I shouted. "Can you hear me? Should I call the police?"

"No! You idiot!" No problem with the volume now. I held the phone a few inches from my ear. Then Josie's voice dropped to a whisper. "This isn't dangerous, Roof, only kind of... weird. Just come home, 'kay?"

Rufus Peters has never felt exceptional in any way. How could he, with a twin sister who outshines him at everything they do? His two problems are finding a way to wiggle out of a student exchange to Quebec, and liberating Boreas, his skateboard, from the principal's contraband cupboard. After Amelia knocks on their door, life in the Peters family goes from plain old "Just Cheese Please" to Nick's Pizza's "Grand Slam and More." Roof makes it his mission to solve The Mystery of the Mexican Stranger.

Betty Jane Hegerat has generously donated 15 copies of her most recent book, **"Odd One Out"** to the youth group to help them kick off their fundraising for the next CLAY gathering in 2018. If you have yet to pick up a copy of her book, consider supporting the leadership and faith development of our youth and buy the book from us!

Copies are available for \$20 in the church office.

Payments can be made by cash or cheque to **Church of the Cross** and should be directed to **"Youth Conferences and Conventions"** fund.

Around Town

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!



**HERITAGE SENIORS
OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATON**

*St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
703 Heritage Dr. S.W.*

Refreshments will be served

September 1, 2016 9:30 – 11:30 A.M.

Come see what we have to offer.

Membership \$20.00 per year – Sept. to July

Meet & greet your executive, instructors, leaders, and returning members.



Creative Kids Preschool
YOUR CHILDREN MATTER the Most



Montessori-based preschool
EXPLORE. PLAY. LEARN.

Excellent and loving preschool teachers
Flexible morning/afternoon programs
Organic snacks
Child-focused
Play-based learning

creativekidsyyc@gmail.com
403-837-7272



**RSVP BY
SEPT. 12**

CALL THE CHURCH
OFFICE—403-255-4792

Sept. 12-RSVP

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

 **VS** 
STAMPEDERS vs BLUE BOMBERS

\$20 per person

Presented by **Shine 88.9 FM**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 • 2 P.M.

CHURCHES WITH THE HIGHEST REPRESENTATION WILL RECEIVE:

1 ST PRIZE Team signed jersey	2 ND PRIZE Team signed football	3 RD PRIZE Stampede jersey
---	---	--

100+ TICKETS

- Four (4) pre-game sideline passes to raffle off
- Signed Anthony Parker jersey
- \$60 in Stamps Bucks

ADDED INCENTIVES:

76-100 TICKETS

- Two (2) pre-game sideline passes to raffle off
- \$60 in Stamps Bucks
- Four (4) Stamps t-shirts

50-75 TICKETS

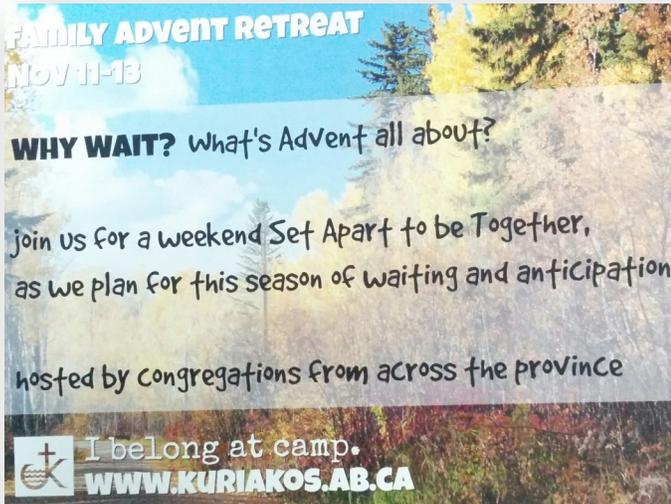
- \$30 in Stamps Bucks
- Two (2) Stamps t-shirts

Churches with 25+ tickets will be entered into a draw for a pizza party at your Church with Stamps player(s).

Family Advent Retreat at Kuriakos

Join us at this new retreat for families and congregations, **November 11-13, 2016.**

This year's theme, **Why Wait?**, focusses on the reasons for Advent, and will help us to prepare for Christmas with our congregations and our families. You'll leave Kuriakos with a plan for how to live out this season of preparation within your family, and resources for sharing Advent with the rest of your congregation.



This retreat is intended to enrich faith and worship, providing support for practicing Advent. It's a chance for families to become involved in worship, and for congregations to share ideas. Enjoy a weekend *Set Apart to be Together* as your family and congregation still and settle for a season of waiting and anticipation.

Developed in partnership with congregations from across the province. Activities will be provided for all ages.

Register at: www.kuriakos.ab.ca or call: 403-746-2702



Visitor Training Session - Lutheran Hospital Ministries

Would you like to be a care centre or hospital Visitor? Lutheran Hospital Ministries-Southern Alberta will host an initial Fall training session to be a Visitor on **Saturday, September 10 from 10 a.m. to**

2 p.m. at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 66-7th St. NE Calgary. Bring a bag lunch. You are invited to take in this training event. There is no charge.

Phone or email Pastor Mark Lobitz, Director, at 403-637-2650/mclobitz@gmail.com.



September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Cause of the Month <i>"Campus Ministry"</i>				Communion Sundays Sept. 4 & 18		
				1	2	3
				Morning Prayer—9 am EA—7 pm	OFFICE CLOSED SWCG—7 pm	Knit & Chat—10 am
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship	OFFICE CLOSED	Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons—10 am FACE—3—8 pm	Sandwich Making—7:30 am Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am Caregivers—1 pm FACE—3—8 pm SWCG—7 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm FACE—3—8 pm EA—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	OFFICE CLOSED FACE—9—8 pm SWCG—7 pm	FACE—9 am—3 pm Clothing Give Away—10 am
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Adult Study—9 am Coffee Set-up class—9:15 Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship Young Family BBQ—@ Holck's—11:30 am SWCG—1—3 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Communion Prep Mtg.—1—3 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons—10 am Prayer & Care—10:30 am FACE—3—8 pm Faith Formation—7—8:30	Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am FACE—3—8 pm Council Mtg.—7 pm SWCG—7 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm FACE—3—8 pm EA—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	OFFICE CLOSED FACE—9—8 pm	Men's Breakfast—8 am FACE—9 am—3 pm M & M—10 am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am BLAST - following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am <i>"Celebration of Life"</i> for Frances Steeves—2-4 @ Glencoe Club. Social Ministry Mtg.—7	Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons—10 am FACE—3—8 pm Faith Formation—7—8:30 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am FACE—3—8 pm SWCG—7 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm FACE—3—8 pm EA—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	OFFICE CLOSED FACE—9—8 pm SWCG—7 pm	FACE—9 am—3 pm Women's Ministry Special Guest Speaker—10 am Wedding—3 pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am BLAST - following worship <i>"Book of Months"</i> study SWCG—1—4 pm Germany Dinner—5 pm FOOD BANK SUNDAY	Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am	Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons—10 am FACE—3—8 pm Prayer & Care—5:30 pm Faith Formation—7—8:30 pm Mentor Night—Fred Mahler speaking	Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am FACE—3—8 pm SWCG—7 pm	Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm FACE—3—8 pm EA—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	OFFICE CLOSED FACE—9—8 pm SWCG—7 pm	

Dianne on vacation—September 26—29