



Epiphany:

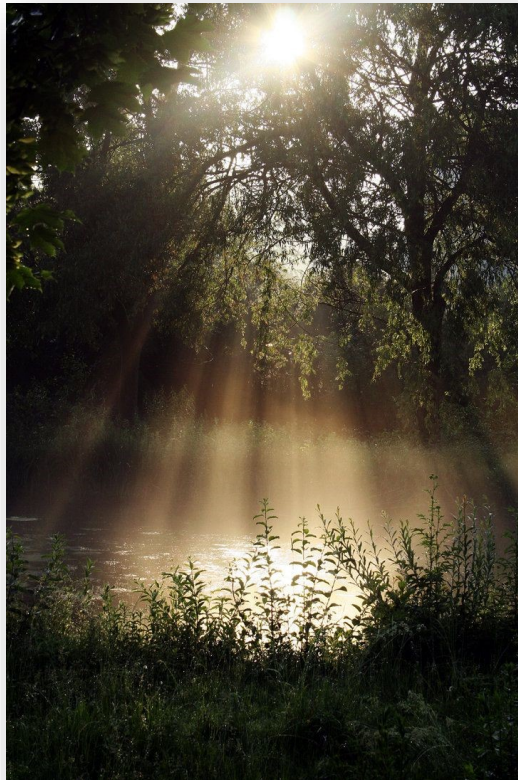
God’s love teaches us to love each other

It has been a miraculous and marvelous Advent and Christmas season. Week after week, God has met us in worship, reminding us that we are precious and beloved.

While the world looks to the powerful to solve the problems and challenges amongst us, God keeps whispering, *“The answers lie within you. Love one another and live in peace. And don’t forget, I am with you.”*

God is not interested in a show of great power, nor in dominating us in any way. God comes to us through small things and through great sacrifices, teaching us over and over again to live selflessly and generously. God leads the way, with a continual demonstration in the life of Jesus, and personal accompaniment through the Holy Spirit as close as our next breath.

The season of Epiphany reveals the power, light and love of God at work in Jesus through simple things: baptism, seeking, discipleship, humility. Jesus demonstrates that common things have great power and relationship is the way to peace and fulfillment.



How can you live Epiphany? How can you love others?

Be gracious, forgiving, and generous with people. Give people the benefit of the doubt and honor their choices.

Respond to bad news with optimism and light heartedness. Offer your presence to people affected by bad news.

Pray diligently for the hope and peace of the world. Connect with new people, especially people of differing faith, national origin, or race. Expand your friendship base in an unpredictable way.

May the reign of God, instituted at Jesus’ birth, find a home in you this Epiphany.

Pastor Laura



A glance at January Ministry Happenings....



Wed. January 4th - Sandwich Making—7:30 am

Thurs. January 5th - Soup Making—9:30 am

Fri. January 6th—8th - Youth Group to Canmore

Sat. January 7th - Knit & Chat—10 am—noon

Sun. January 8th - Africa Slides—following worship

Tues. January 10th - Prayer & Care—11:30 am—potluck lunch

Wed. January 11th—Council Meeting—7 pm

Sat. January 14—Men’s Breakfast—8 am

Sun. January 15—Book Discussion—following worship—Our Advent Journey

Thurs. January 19—7:30 pm—Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sat. January 21—M & M—10 am

Sat. January 21—Lay Academy—10:30 am

Sun. January 22 - Town Hall Meeting—following worship

Mon. January 23—Social Ministry Meeting—7 pm

Tues. January 24—Prayer & Care—5:15 pm

Wed. January 25 - Soup Lunch at St. Gerard’s (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)

Sat. January 28—Men’s Breakfast—8 am

Sat. January 28— Lay Academy—10:30 am

Sun. January 29— Annual Meeting—following worship

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

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



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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.



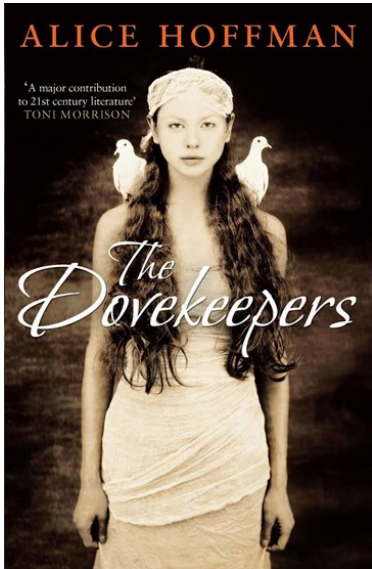
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January Book of the Month

The Dovekeepers

by Alice Hoffman



The Dovekeepers is Alice Hoffman's most ambitious and mesmerizing novel:

"striking....Hoffman grounds her expansive, intricately woven, and deepest new novel in biblical history, with a devotion and seriousness of purpose" (Entertainment Weekly).

Nearly two thousand years ago, nine hundred Jews held out for

months against armies of Romans on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. According to the ancient historian Josephus, two women and five children survived. Based on this tragic and iconic event, Hoffman's novel is a spell-binding tale of four extraordinarily bold, resourceful, and sensuous women, each of whom has come to Masada by a different path. Yael's mother died in childbirth, and her father, an expert assassin, never forgave her for that death. Revka, a village baker's wife, watched the murder of her daughter by Roman soldiers; she brings to Masada her young grandsons, rendered mute by what they have witnessed. Aziza is a warrior's daughter, raised as a boy, a fearless rider and expert marksman who finds passion with a fellow soldier. Shirah, born in Alexandria, is wise in the ways of ancient magic and medicine, a woman with uncanny insight and power.

The lives of these four complex and fiercely independent women intersect in the desperate days of the siege. All are dovekeepers, and all are also keeping secrets—about who they are, where they come from, who fathered them, and whom they love.

Pick up at copy in the narthex for \$15

Coming up in February& March: Devotions for Lent A 40-Day Journey with Martin Luther

Wrapping up Advent

A Congregational Conversation

From Jesse trees, to Sunday worship, morning prayer, Women's Advent Tea, and Council meeting and personal devotions, Ann Voskamp's devotional book *The Greatest Gift* framed our Advent journey.



On **Sunday January 15**, we will meet in the sanctuary following worship to talk about this devotional material and our Advent journey.

Grab a coffee after worship and stick around for some amazing conversation about our life together.

Stick around for conversation in the sanctuary

Sunday, January 15 following worship

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MARY & MARTHA BIBLE STUDY

M&M monthly BIBLE STUDY at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, January 21st in the north meeting room

Theme: No Other Gospel (Galatians 1:1-21; & Galatians 2:16)



We listen to Paul explain we are justified by grace through faith in Christ ... an idea central to Martin Luther's understanding of the Christian tradition.

Please drop in for fellowship and discussion – we'd love to have you attend! No preparation required.

*Saturday morning Knitting on
Saturday, January 7th
@
10 am—noon.*

Come and knit and chat!!!



Town Hall Meeting—Sunday, January 22—following worship

AGM—Sunday, January 29—following worship

Deadline for reports for the Annual Report—January 4th (please email to Dianne)

**What's
Happening**

SOCIAL MINISTRY

January Cause of the Month

SANDWICHES for the Drop-In Center

On the 1st Wednesday of every month, we make 60 loaves of sandwiches for delivery to the Calgary Drop-In Center. Because the Food Bank can no longer supply us with the bread, we now must purchase bread from the McGavins outlet store and our cost is much **increased**. Your continued support is much appreciated. We do purchase the ham for sandwich filling from the Superstore at a very good price with the occasional 10% discount. Bill Ruecker continues to pick up day old donuts and baked goods from 3 Tim Hortons which are also delivered with the sandwiches.

A Thank You to everyone who supported our Christmas project – ‘stuff a pair of socks’ for the Mustard Seed. We were able to send them 3 boxes of stuffed socks plus 2 bags of knitted scarves, mitts, etc.

Our next meeting will be **January 23, 2017** at 7:00 pm.

Note: Pancake Supper will be held on Shrove Tuesday, February 28, 2017.



January Soup Making

Thursday, January 5th

9:30 am

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

“Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us” (2 Cor. 5:14)



In this year of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will have two accents. It will be a celebration of God’s love and grace, reflecting the main concern of the churches marked by Martin Luther’s Reformation. It will also recognize the pain of the subsequent deep divisions which afflicted the Church, and offer an opportunity to take steps toward reconciliation.

Pope Francis’ use of the quote *“The Love of Christ Compels Us”* (2 Cor 5:14) in his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (“The Joy of the Gospel”, Paragraph 9) provides the theme for this year. This biblical text emphasizes that reconciliation is a gift from God, intended for the entire creation. As a result of God’s action, those who have been reconciled in Christ are called, in turn, to proclaim this reconciliation in word and deed, living

no longer for themselves, but for Christ who died for all.

The love of Christ compels us to pray, but also to move beyond our prayers for unity among Christians. Congregations and churches need the gift of God’s reconciliation as a wellspring of life. Above all, they need it for their common witness to the world.

May the wellspring of God’s gracious reconciliation overflow in this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, so that many people may find peace, and so that bridges may be built. May people and churches be compelled by the love of Christ to live reconciled lives and to break down the walls that divide!

Two events to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Ecumenical worship

Lutheran Church of the Cross

Thursday January 19, 7:30 pm

Preacher: Bishop Frederick Henry
Catholic Diocese of Calgary

Presider: Lutheran clergy



Soup Lunch & Conversation

St. Gerard Catholic Church

8944 Elbow Dr. SW

Wednesday, January 25

Noon – 1 pm

This event is jointly sponsored by
St. Gerard Parish, Lutheran Church of
the Cross, Southwood United, St. Peter’s
Anglican, St. Andrew’s Presbyterian, and
Shepherd King Lutheran



Photographic Journey

Through Africa visiting Rwanda, Tanzania, Victoria Falls and Botswana.

Sunday January 8th following worship

Goodwill donations to **Inspire Africa** – A Canadian foundation dedicated to supporting widows and orphans of the Rwanda genocide -

www.inspireafrica.org



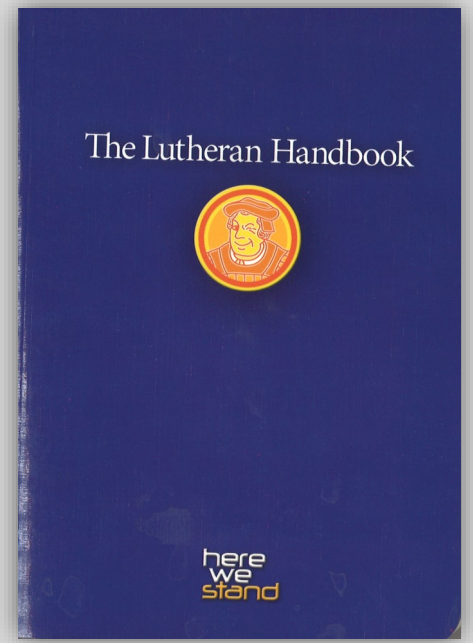
Grab a cup of coffee after worship and come experience the beauty of Africa. Slides presented by Hilary Gray.



Starting in January:

Tuesday night's Faith Formation will be starting a 7 week series on the **Fundamentals of Lutheranism**. Starting date will be **Tuesday, January 10th** . This will be facilitated by Hilary Gray.

1. How to Tell the Difference Between the Law and the Gospel
2. Five Things You Should Know about the Lutheran Reformation
3. The Anatomy of a Baptism
4. How to Receive Communion
5. The Three Most Rebellious Things Jesus Did
6. How to Read the Bible
7. How to Share Your Faith with Someone



Going Deep: Discovering Our Spiritual Selves

Men's Breakfast

**8-9:30am, Saturday Jan. 14th
& 28th**

Come for breakfast and join the conversation about deepening our connection with God. Our primary "mentor" is Father Richard Rohr, founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conversation is facilitated by Pastor Phil.





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.

January BLAST

Healing the Paralytic [Matthew 9:2-8]

In January, the activity rooms will be focused on the story of Jesus healing of the man who was paralyzed.

Children's Offerings for January

Dear young people and children:

As we work toward sending We Care Living and Learning kits to help students around the world, please bring small plastic pencil sharpeners, plastic rulers, and/or monetary offerings in January.

Our We Care kits will be assembled in February, when we celebrate CLWR as our Cause of the Month.

Your offerings of money help purchase We Care school bags and support our congregationally sponsored World Vision children.

Updates about World Vision sponsored children and community progress are normally posted on the Faith Formation board opposite the washrooms.



Germany: Luther, Bach & the Beatles

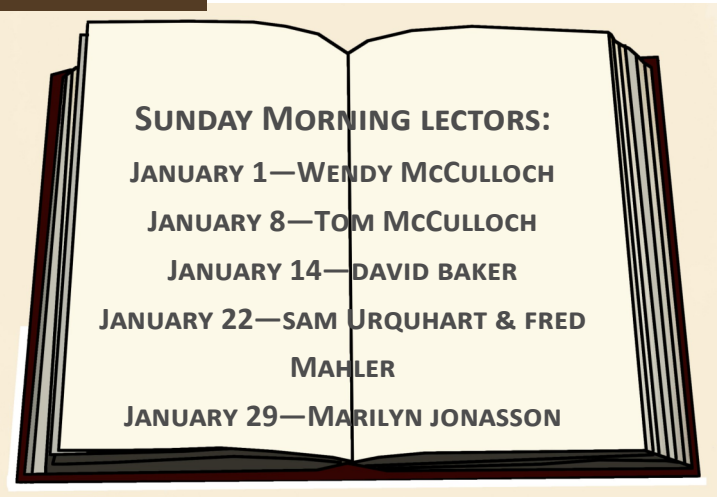


Reserve the date now! **October 21—November 4, 2017**

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.

Thank you so much to all the groups that are making coffee on Sunday mornings. Your dedication to this ministry is very much appreciated!



**Congratulations to Stan Climie and Ensemble Resonance,
who will be performing in New York in January.**

Ensemble Resonance, featuring **Stan Climie** on bass clarinet (and laptop), will perform three concerts in New York in late January, including "Sonic Images of Canada" at Carnegie Hall on January 26.

This concert of contemporary Canadian music celebrates Canada's 150th birthday in 2017, with music for piano, violin, bass clarinet, soprano, and laptop files by some of Canada's leading composers.

Repertoire highlights include **Ensemble Resonance** commissioned works such as *A Great Arch Softening the Mountain* by Juno Award-winner Allan Bell; *Braga* by Brent Lee; *Pisikby* by Roberta Stephen; *Hailstorm* by Robert Rosen; and music by Harry Somers.

You can experience "Sonic Images of Canada" here in Calgary before their New York engagement. They perform at Mount Royal University Conservatory at 8 pm Saturday January 14, 2017.

Visit Ensemble Resonance at ernewmusic.com for tickets and more information.

Ensemble Resonance:

- Colleen Athparia, Piano
- Stan Climie, Bass Clarinet and Laptop
- Steve Lubiarz, Violin
- Michelle Todd, Soprano



Thank you once again for a wonderful year here at Church of the Cross! Thank you for all the gifts and cards at Christmas; it is truly a privilege and blessing to be part of this congregation.

Dianne

January 2017

May the Lord Bless you so abundantly
that you fall to your knees in thankfulness
May the Lord Heal your broken heart
that you dance in the shadows
May the Lord reveal His amazing plans for you
and you hear Him
May the Lord renew your strength
that you may have His power to stand firm
May the Lord give you peace
that you may rest in Him
May you know the Lord deeper this year than last
year..
May you be all that God has created you to be no
matter the season you are in.
God Bless you my very sweet friends!
Happy NEW Year

January 2017

Cause of the Month

Sandwiches for the Drop In Centre

Communion Sundays

January 15 & 29

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| 1 Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm | 2 Office Closed | 3 Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am FACE—3—8 pm | 4 Sandwich Making—7:30 am FACE—9 am—8 pm AHS Caregivers—1:30 pm SWCG—7 pm | 5 Quilting—9a m Soup Making—9:30 am Kodaly—1:15 pm FACE—3—8 pm Knitting—6 pm Choir—7:15 pm E.A.—7 pm | 6 Office Closed FACE—9 am—8 pm SWCG—7 pm Youth Group to Canmore | 7 FACE—9 am—2 pm Knit & Chat—10 am— noon Youth Group to Canmore |
| 8 Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am BLAST—following wor- ship Africa Slides—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm | 9 Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Water2Wine—4:30 pm | 10 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Prayer & Care—11:30 am FACE—3—8 pm Faith Formation—7 pm | 11 Morning Prayer—9 am FACE—9 am—8 pm Bible Study—9:30 am SWCG—7 pm Council Mtg.—7 pm | 12 Morning Prayer—9 am Quilting—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm FACE—3—8 pm Knitting—6 pm Choir—7:15 pm E.A.—7 pm | 13 Office Closed FACE—9 am—8 pm SWCG—7 pm | 14 Men's Breakfast—8 am FACE—9 am—2 pm |
| 15 Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am Book Discussion—"The Greatest Gift" - follow- ing worship BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm | 16 Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Water2Wine—4:30 pm | 17 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am FACE—3—8 pm Faith Formation—7 pm | 18 Morning Prayer—9 am FACE—9 am—8 pm Bible Study—9:30 am SWCG—7 pm | 19 Morning Prayer—9 am Quilting—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm FACE—3—8 pm Knitting—6 pm Ecumenical worship— 7:30 pm E.A.—7 pm | 20 Office Closed FACE—9 am—8 pm SWCG—7 pm | 21 FACE—9 am—2 pm M & M—10 am Lay Academy—10:30 am |
| 22 Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am BLAST—following wor- ship Town Hall Mtg.— following worship SWCG—1—3 pm | 23 Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Water2Wine—4:30 pm Social Ministry Mtg.—7 pm | 24 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am FACE—3—8 pm Prayer & Care—5:15 pm Faith Formation—7 pm | 25 Morning Prayer—9 am FACE—9 am—8 pm Bible Study—9:30 am SWCG—7 pm | 26 Morning Prayer—9 am Quilting—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm FACE—3—8 pm Knitting—6 pm E.A.—7 pm | 27 Office Closed FACE—9 am—8 pm SWCG—7 pm | 28 Men's Breakfast—8 am FACE—9 am—2 pm Lay Academy—10:30 am |
| 29 Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am BLAST—following wor- ship AGM—following wor- ship SWCG—1—4 pm | 30 Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Water2Wine—4:30 pm | 31 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am FACE—3—8 pm Faith Formation—7 pm | Pastors on vacation—January 1—7 Pastor Phil in Whitehorse—January 18-23 Catherine on vacation—January 23—27 Dianne on vacation—January 30—Feb. 8 | | | |