



What is Spirituality?

Back in 1992 when I left my career as an electrical engineer (my official title was *Research Scientist!*) and went off to seminary, I remember thinking that I had a pretty good idea about what was “wrong” with the church. From my perspective, the church wasn’t professional enough! If it could be run more like a business it could be much more efficient and do what it does better. After all, almost all my training had been in analytical, rational, un-emotional problem-solving.

When I got to seminary, I gravitated toward *systematic theology* which was sort of like the *science* of Christianity... A lot more “head” stuff. But I also noticed that people were talking a lot more about *spirituality*. **Spirituality** was one of those words that I had heard but didn’t really have a very good handle on. My sense was that it had to do with emotions and feelings and such... things that got in the way of clear, analytical thought! Since that time, I have been on a pilgrimage or journey to both understand and claim my *spirituality*.

We are now in the season of **Pentecost**. Pentecost was the Jewish religious celebration 50 days after Passover and was the time when those first followers of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, we read that Moses, the Judges, King Saul, King David and others were filled with the Spirit of God. The prophets talked about the day when God’s Spirit will fill the people. In general, the *Spirit* represented the presence of God and that the person was living and doing according to God’s will.

Spiritual but not Religious – In 2012, Diane Butler Bass wrote a book about the research she had done into religion in America called *Christianity After Religion*. In the book, she was processing the discovery that polling indicated that the largest “religious” category with which people self-identified was “spiritual but not religious.” Her book delves into the experience that, for many people, religion is a set of doings that do not provide an experience of the divine. She finds hope that there is a hunger and desire for an experience of God (spirituality) but don’t seem to be finding it in the current structures of organized religion.

Indigenous Spirituality – As we continue to work toward right relations with the indigenous people, I am often struck by their deep spirituality with regard to creation. Their relationship with land, the elements, plants and animals is quite different than the subject/object perspective that permeated by scientific training.

When they talk about the rocks, places and animals having *spirits*, it challenges me in a way that piques my curiosity.

Interfaith Relations – Our engagement with the Turkish Community is a ripe opportunity for conversations about faith, religion and spirituality. We certainly have our religious differences which are most clear in the ways that we practice our religion: their practices of praying five times a day and the observance of Ramadan, for example. On the other hand, I have experienced the hospitality and service of those in the Hizmet movement and am often reminded of Galatians 5:22-23 (...*the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*) and find myself quite humbled... It sure seems like the Spirit is present!



Indwelling of the Holy Spirit – In our own Lutheran tradition, we talk about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit... this idea that God’s Spirit is within us and wanting to lead, accompany, sustain and guide us... Christian contemplative prayer practices presuppose that this Spirit is within us and the goal is to quiet the mind so that this Spirit can be *heard* without all of the usual noise going on in our mind.

Connection – Clearly, this article is not intended to be a treatise on the Holy Spirit. It is more an attempt to share some handles that I have found helpful in my own journey of understanding and claiming my spirituality. I will close with the word that I have found most helpful in this endeavour: *connection*. When I substitute the word *connection* for *spirituality*, understanding and possibility open up for me! The *Holy Connection* is a way of describing the relationship I [can] have with God. It is a way of describing the relationship I [can] have with my neighbour. It is a way of describing the relationship I [can] have with creation. When I am in touch with this, it gives me a different way of being in the world.

I invite you to be on your own *spiritual* journey...
Peace,

A glance at June Ministry Happenings....



June 1 - The flowers that were ordered through the youth arrive at noon. North Entrance.

ForWord—6:30—8 pm (see poster inside)

June 2 - Remembrance Garden Planting—9 am

Southwood Community Rhubarb Fest—11 am

Lutheran Church of the Cross will have a booth at this year's

June 10 - Choir Sunday—10 am

Also, Pastor Brian Rude, from El Salvador will be speaking after worship

June 12 - Prayer & Care—10:30 am—final for the summer

June 14—16 Synod Convention—Pastors, Intern Kate and Helmut Hofer will be attending



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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

Minister of Music—Catherine Glaser-Climie

Office Administrator—Dianne Fortier

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

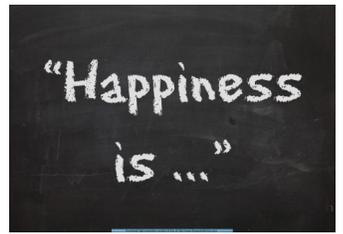
To be a vibrant and growing congregation unified in sharing the love of Christ through words and actions.



CHURCH OF THE CROSS

What makes for happiness?

Ten things to do and one Lord to follow



In 2016 and 2017 two articles appeared in Forbes magazine analyzing people's personal habits. Researcher and Forbes contributor Travis Bradberry shortened his findings into two lists of ten things each, characterizing the actions of people who are chronically unhappy and people who are incredibly happy. Here are his results:

10 troubling habits of chronically unhappy people

- Wait for the future
- Spend too much time and effort acquiring things
- Stay home
- See themselves as a victim
- Are pessimistic
- Complain
- Blow things out of proportion
- Sweep problems under the rug
- Don't improve
- Try to keep up with the Joneses

10 habits of incredibly happy people

- Slow down to appreciate life's little pleasures
- Exercise
- Spend money on other people
- Surround themselves with the right people
- Stay positive
- Get enough sleep
- Have deep conversations

- Help others
- Make an effort to be happy
- Have a growth mindset

His lists would suggest two things:

- 1) True happiness is connecting with finding meaning in life.
- 2) Jesus and his disciples were incredibly happy people.

The gospels rarely give us a glimpse into the emotions of Jesus or his disciples, but Jesus continually encourages the people around him to be awake and alive to our spiritual practices and care for others. In the gospels, we are encouraged to give our energy and resources away; continually study, question and challenge the scriptures and our religious practices in the pursuit of growth and faith in the Living God; minister to people who are lost, hurting, or lonely; and set time apart to rest, reflect and re-create. Jesus encourages us all to lead lives of meaning and generosity; this is life indeed.

The research 2000 years later confirms what Christians have always known: the path to happiness is found in giving yourself away.

²⁴ [Jesus said,] "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. John 12:24-25

You can find Travis Bradberry's full articles online. Search for them using the titles of the lists above. As a Forbes contributor, Bradberry covers emotional intelligence and leadership performance.

May you find your true happiness in service of others,

Pastor Laura

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

SUNDAY COFFEE SET-UP
June—Choir



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 something 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 JUNE

Sandwiches for the Drop In Centre

The first Wednesday of every month ELCOC members assemble 60 loaves of bread (or buns) into sandwiches for delivery to the Drop-in Center. The cost of fillings averages \$225 per month. Fortunately we can access free bread or buns from Costco in Okotoks. Some months when free bread is not available, we must purchase bread and then our cost increases considerably. Your financial support is much appreciated.



Saturday, September 15

10 am—1

Annual Clothing Give-away

Start saving your clothes that you can contribute to this yearly community event.



A Letter of Thanks:

Greetings,

On behalf of **Canadian Lutheran World Relief**, thank you very much for your donation that recently arrived at our Winnipeg warehouse. Because of your support we are able to place essential aid into the hands of men, women and children around the world that desperately need your help.

Together in 2017 we dispatched four containers of supplies to Mauritania, Tanzania, Liberia and Angola. These shipments benefited many children, and elderly. For families that have already lost so much a warm quilt or a carefully prepared We Care kit means a lot.

We are happy to report that in 2017 the We Care program with your help shipped 22,266 quilts and blankets and 14,696 We Care kits. Together we were able to send 50,134 kg of aid, valued at over \$495,034. We know that with your help we will be able to do so much more in 2018.

The challenges facing the world's poor are immense, but together we have the opportunity to make a positive change in the lives of those displaced by war, famine and natural disaster. Thank you very much for your continued support of CLWR and the We Care Program.

Sincerely,
Ian Mair We Care Program Assistant

The Way of Christ

Weekends and community experiences that make a difference

ForWord

Friday, June 1

6:30-8 pm

at Church

of the Cross

10620 Elbow Dr. SW

- People speak in relevant ways about their struggles and faith
- Small group conversation and prayer
- Music, worship and a free-will giving opportunity to support *The Way of Christ*
- Potluck: Bring something to share

All Are Welcome

For more information, contact Lise Wilson: ublise@gmail.com

*ForWords are also an opportunity to hear about
The Way of Christ Weekends*

Rediscover, Reconnect, Renew your life in 72 hours



On **Tuesday, May 22nd** the Honorable Brandy Payne, Associate Minister of Health, and MLA for Calgary-Acadia dropped by to present ELCOC the \$15,000 cheque for our purchase of theatre lighting equipment. This was part of the Community Initiative Program (CIP) which assists Albertans, in partnership with the Government of Alberta, to enrich the quality of family and community life in our province. Our Pastors and Catherine were very pleased to give Ms Payne a tour of our church and to receive the cheque.

Women's Ministry

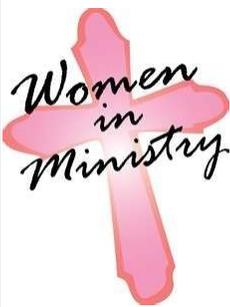
Mary & Martha Bible Study Group

Bible Study will resume in September.

We receive a group subscription to **Gather Magazine** and the theme for Summer 2018 is PRAYER. You, too, may view this exceptional publication online at www.gathermagazine.org

On the left click on Digital Gather, then on next screen click Access digital edition. Click the issue you want to view. Then log in with email address:

churchofthecross@shaw.ca and Password: maryandmarthagroup



The theme for Summer 2018 is Prayer.

A free digital magazine entitled **Bold Café**, is also available with timely articles for women who want to build their faith, at <http://www.boldcafe.org/>

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.

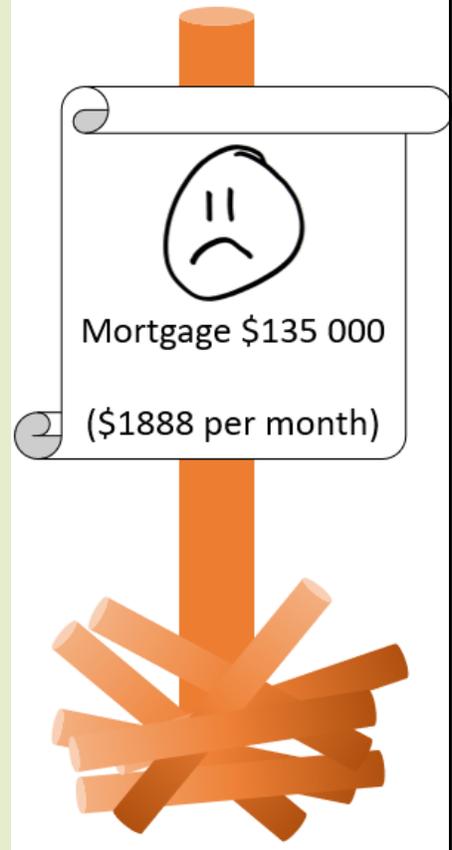
By the way, you can transfer securities without triggering a capital gain. Contact Brian Anderson for more info.

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



The Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre

The Baby Bottle Campaign for the Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre ends on Sunday, June 17 (Father's Day) at which time we ask you to return your filled bottles to the church.

THANK YOU for participating in this year's campaign. We will be collecting the bottles and returning them to the Centre. Your gifts enhance the lives of women and babies in our community.



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!!!

NOV 16 7:30PM – 9PM & NOV. 17 9:30AM – 3:30PM

FOR THE JOURNEY Retreat with host Steve Bell

Refreshing Christian faith and spiritual tradition for the weary and the wary

Cost: \$99 (before October 19th)

Cost: \$129 (after October 19th)

For more information and special student pricing contact Faye Hall at Signpost Music

Call Toll-Free 1 800 854-3499 9AM-4PM (CST)

E-Mail: Faye@stevebell.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION CLOSSES AT 3PM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16.

AT-THE-DOOR REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16 BEGINNING AT 6:00PM.

NOTE: SPECIAL RATE OF \$39 FOR the first 40 people of Lutheran Church of the Cross. See Dianne for the special password!!!



God Moments

The Listening Team is currently studying the book of Acts, listening to how God worked in the early church and what that means for us today. In particular, we have been studying Acts

2:42-47 in depth. Verse 43 says that “Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.” In Acts miracles are common place. The apostles speak in tongues, heal the sick, and even raise people from the dead. The number of wonders and signs in Acts made us wonder why we do not see miracles around us, as the early church did. Trusting that God is active in the world and in our lives today, we asked ourselves “How do we train ourselves to see and participate in miracles?”

I tend to notice miracles as miracles when the timing of an event can only be God’s timing. Most of the people on the listening team have children and many experienced the birth of their child as a miracle. I have not yet experienced the birth of a child, although I look forward to that experience this fall. However, the conversation prompted me to share with the listening team, as I share with you now, how I already see God at work in this pregnancy.

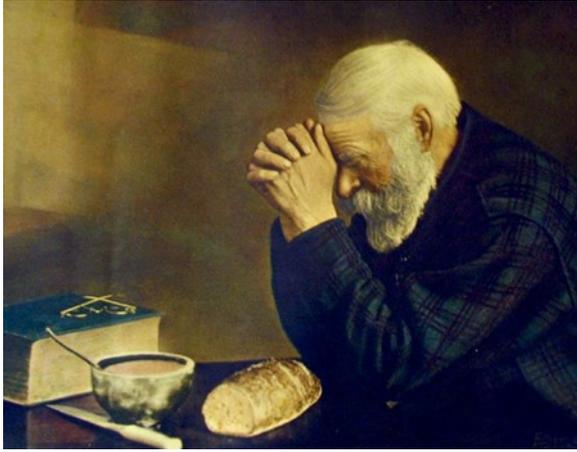
I have always wanted children, but I did not see myself having a baby in the middle of an internship. In fact, I had hoped to have one earlier. In 2016 I had a miscarriage. The timing of that pregnancy had seemed perfect; I would be able to take a year off of seminary to spend with the baby before starting internship. It did not work out that way. I took the miscarriage pretty hard and for over a year I didn’t feel ready to try again. Eventually I realized I need help dealing with the loss and met with a grief counselor. After months of seeing the grief counselor I finally

felt emotionally ready to try again and said so to my husband. That was on a Thursday. On Saturday, two days later, I found out I was pregnant. It’s not the timing I would have chosen, and I still struggle with the role God played in the miscarriage, but I am convinced that this time the timing is God’s timing and that timing is and of God’s grace.

Intern Kate



Listening Team News



“Give thanks to God and Listen to him in prayer”

I remember this picture hanging in our family home and also in my Grandparents’ homes in Minnesota. This makes sense as the picture is actually a photograph taken by Eric Enstrom in Bovey, Minnesota, circa ~1920. The man depicted in the photograph is Charles Wilden, who earned a meager living as a peddler and lived in a sod house. As a young child, I was more curious about what kind of soup the gentleman was eating or “*where was the peanut butter?*”. But just looking at this picture now makes me see a man praying to God, full of gratitude for nourishment not only for the body, but the soul as well. What do you see?

Our Listening Team is continuing our study of the Book of Acts as we learn how to listen to God and to learn from Christ’s example and the actions of the Apostles as they spread Christ’s message across the world. One of the themes that has struck me in Acts is the concept of prayer. Google tells me that reference to prayer is found 31 times in the Book of Acts, more than any other New Testament book.

In Acts, Chapter 1 after Jesus ascends into heaven, the Apostles return from Jerusalem and gather together: *“They all joined together constantly in pray*

er, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers” (Acts 1:14). This fervent and persistent prayer precedes the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.

And prayer continues to precede nearly every significant event in Acts. The lame man was healed as Peter and John made their way to the temple for prayer. The Apostles prayer for boldness and courage was dramatically answered in Acts 4:23-31. The Apostles prayed and then laid hands on the seven deacons they appointed to oversee the feeding of the widows, so that the Apostles could focus on prayer and the ministry of the word.

And who can forget Stephen’s prayer, as he was being stoned to death: *“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Lord, do not hold this sin against them”* (Acts 7:59-60).

Remember, Saul (*soon to be known as Paul*) had approved the murder of Stephen, so the conversion of Saul was an answer to Stephen’s prayer. Powerful.

Prayer played a significant part in Barnabas and Saul/Paul’s beginning as missionaries and the first recorded convert in Macedonia was of Lydia at a place of prayer in Philippi (Acts 16:13). Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise just before the earthquake released them and paved the way for the conversion of the Philippian jailor and his family in Acts 16.

In the Book of Acts, when God’s people were moved to prayer, God did great and mighty works. Your Lutheran Church of the Cross Listening Team together with our congregation, likewise, want to do great and mighty works through the grace and direction of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Keep us in your prayers.

Scott Christensen

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.



Annual Planting of the Remembrance Garden

Saturday, June 2nd, 2018

Rain or shine!

9 am

"Please bring a purple or pink petunia"



Nine years ago, we created the heart-shaped garden on the north-west corner of the church property to honour the life of our beautiful Brittney McInnes.

Brittney's death in January of that year was a terrible tragedy for her family, the community, her church family and we felt that the new life in a garden would bring comfort to all. We decided that as well as making the garden a remembrance of Brittney, we would dedicate it to the memory of all women who have lost their lives through violence, especially our indigenous sisters.

to the memory of all women who have lost their lives through violence, especially our indigenous sisters.

Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW

If you are unable to come to the Remembrance Garden Planting on June 2 but would like to provide a pink or purple petunia, please leave it at the North entrance a few days before.



LEAD ... love God with all your heart

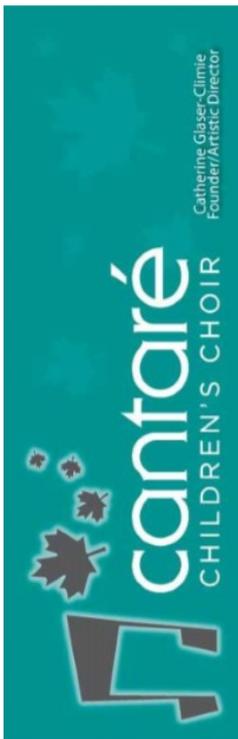


Thank you so much for all the kind and caring people and love that was shown during Ron's illness and stay in the hospital. Also to the choir and anyone else that brought meals after Ron's passing. We really appreciate all these actions of love. Thank you to the women (and men) who arranged and served the wonderful luncheon after the beautiful memorial service led by Pastor Phil, Pastor Laura, Evan and our choir.

Shirley Spielman and family

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 ELCOC 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



Things that Never Die

Saturday June 9th, 2018
7:30 PM








Featuring our Senior Ensembles: Cantare and Cantando
Catherine Glaser-Climie, Founder/Artistic Director
St Stephens Anglican Church 1121 14 Ave SW Calgary | 403.685.1132
Tickets \$20 | www.brownpapertickets.com | www.cantarechildrenschoir.org

LEAD ... love God with all your heart

FROM THE GARDEN

Our Mission Statement:

Lord help us: to promote stewardship in our Community, to provide food for the greater Community wherever there is a need; to grow in community and outreach at ELCOC.

Out in the vegetable patch

This year we will be responding to a cry from the Food Bank to "Grow an Extra Row." They have lost two local produce suppliers and the need for fresh produce is great. Consider them if you have extra bounty in your own home vegetable and fruit gardens.

On May 22, six of our team prepared the vegetable beds and planted potatoes, onions, zucchini, parsnips, turnip, rutabaga, kohlrabi, Swiss chard, kale, and doubled our usual amounts of carrots, beets, and beans (both pole beans and bush beans.) All done! Except, of course, for weeding, thinning, harvesting and delivery to the Food Bank.

As always, we are looking for help wherever and whenever you can provide. There is no requirement to make a summer long commitment. Even an hour of your time now and then is a great help. If you can make this part of stewardship at ELCOC, just ask either Judy Shore-Isford or Betty Jane Hegerat to include you in the emails that go out whenever we've planned some hours of work. Good company, opportunity to learn what you think you don't know about gardening, and an enormously gratifying result.

We are nearer God's heart in a garden, than anywhere else on earth.

--Your gardening team

NOT JUST A FLOWERBED

In January of 2010, a young woman in our congregation, Brittney McInnes, was violently murdered. Everyone reeled with shock, sorrow and helplessness. There were over 500 people at her Funeral. Pastors Greg Kern, Cindy Werner and Bill Wiegert presided. Pastor Bill's eloquent

sermon was the most difficult he had ever written. There was also a service for the youth and students from E.P. Scarlett, Brittney's school. In the ensuing months, prayer vigils were held.

Through our tears, many things took place to help out Brittney's family. There were donations (some anonymous) and a Families in Need Fund was established at LCOOC. Authors contributed money from a reading and book sale. Meals were prepared and delivered to Brittney's family: Kelly, her mom, and Blaine and Katie, her brother and sister.

In the early spring of that year, two gardeners, Judy and Betty Jane came up with a plan. Why not create a special flower bed to honour Brittney and all women who have

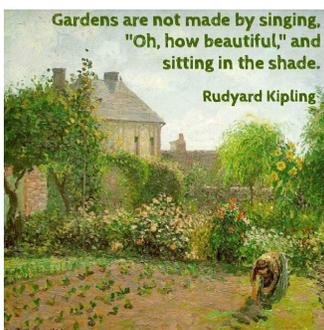
died through violence? A sunny location by our Church sign facing Elbow Drive was chosen. That first year, we removed sod, brought in dirt, and we began a commitment to a yearly planting and commemoration event. Within a few years, steps led to a lovely heart shaped garden, bordered by interlocking bricks. Two plaques were installed: REMEMBERING and FORGIVING. We are each on a journey, experiencing these emotions differently, with God's help. The nearby bench provides a place to sit and contemplate and pray, and perhaps remember someone you know who has died in a violent manner.

So the first Saturday in June, we gather to plant purple and pink petunia. We also remember our indigenous women who have been murdered or disappeared by specifically planting one flower for each of those 100 women.

Please join us on **Saturday, June 2** with a petunia. Enjoy fellowship, song, drumming, prayer and mostly God's presence among us. If you are unable to attend, feel free to leave a plant in the alcove at the north doors, or come by after June 1 and plant a petunia whenever you can. We have several people already who do this.

We made a promise to Kelly that Brittney would never be forgotten. My heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports this ministry in our Church.

God's Blessings-- Judy



After worship on June 10



Brian Rude & Ministry in El Salvador

For several years, Brian Rude (*brother of Laverne Rude*) has been a missionary in El Salvador including prison ministry with gangs. **On Sunday, June 10**, Brian will be here to talk about life and ministry in El Salvador and how it shapes his perspective of life and ministry here in Canada.

Interfaith Generosity Conversation and Potluck

Sunday, June 24th

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. – Galatians 5:22-23

In Christianity generosity is considered one of the fruits of the Spirit. Other religions also recognize generosity as an important part of spirituality. On **Sunday, June 24th following worship Church of the Cross will host an interfaith conversation on generosity, giving, and service. Our friends from the Turkish community will be joining us. The conversation will be accompanied by a potluck lunch. Please bring a Halal dish to share.**

Halal Guidelines:

"Halal" means "permissible."

It applies to all foods, but particularly regards meat products.

Permissible meat-based foods are derived from animals that have been raised and slaughtered humanely.

Halal butchers pray & give thanks to God for the animal's sacrifice for the lives of those who will eat, butcher ritually, bleed the animal, and treat all parts respectfully. These meat products are marked with the symbol shown below. Halal meat can be found at Superstore and No Frills.



You can then make whatever you normally make.

Watch out for meat products sneaking into otherwise non-meat items; for instance, gelatine contains beef products and is not halal.

Cheese can also contain a meat by-product called "*rennet*", which is not halal and therefore makes the cheese **haram** ("*not permissible*"). Look for this ingredient and avoid products that contain it. Tres Stella cheese products like ricotta and mozzarella normally carry the halal symbol very small on the container.

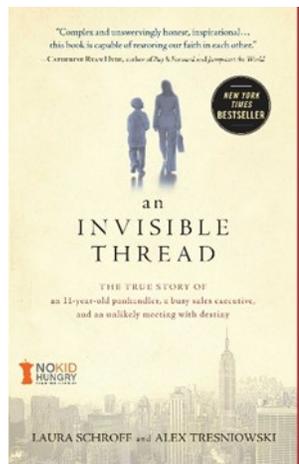
Eggs, vegetables, and fruits are **halal** automatically.

All pork and alcohol (*and therefore flavoured extracts*) are **haram**.

LEAD ... love God with all your heart

ELCOC Summer Book Club

Looking for something to read this summer at the beach? We recommend:



An Invisible Thread: The True Story of an 11-Year-Old Panhandler, a Busy Sales Executive, and an Unlikely Meeting with Destiny

By Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski

An Invisible Thread tells of the life-long friendship between a busy sales executive and a disadvantaged young boy, and how both of their lives were changed by what began as one small gesture of kindness.

When Laura Schroff brushed by a young panhandler on a New York City corner one rainy afternoon, something made her stop and turn back. She took the boy to lunch at the McDonald's across the street that day. And she continued to go back, again and again for the next four years until both their lives had changed dramatically. Nearly thirty years later, that young boy, Maurice, is married and has his own family. Now he works to change the lives of disadvantaged kids, just like the boy he used to be.

An Invisible Thread is the true story of the bond between a harried sales executive and an eleven-year-old boy who seemed destined for a life of poverty. It is the heartwarming story of a friendship that has spanned three decades and brought meaning to an over-scheduled professional and hope to a hungry and desperate boy living on the streets.

Angels on Earth: Inspiring Real-Life Stories of Fate, Friendship, and the Power of Kindness

By Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski

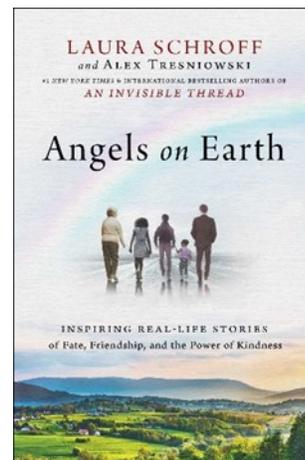
From the #1 New York Times bestselling authors of An Invisible Thread comes a heartwarming book about the huge impact that small acts of kindness from strangers can have on the world around us.

One day in 1986, Laura Schroff, a busy ad sales executive, passed a small boy panhandling on the street. She stopped and offered to take him to McDonald's for lunch. Twenty years later, at Laura's fiftieth birthday party, Maurice Mayzik gave a toast, thanking Laura for that small act of kindness, which ended up changing the course of his life. In that toast, Maurice said that when Laura stopped on that busy street corner all those years ago, God had sent him an angel.

Laura knows better than anyone that angels—divine and otherwise—are all around us.

After An Invisible Thread was published and became an international bestseller, people began telling Laura their own stories about how chance encounters with strangers have changed their lives. From a woman who saved a life simply by buying someone a book, to a financier who gave a stranger the greatest gift of all, to a teacher who chose a hug over discipline and changed a lost boy's future, Angels on Earth is a touching and heartfelt collection of stories about how one seemingly small act of kindness can make a profound difference.

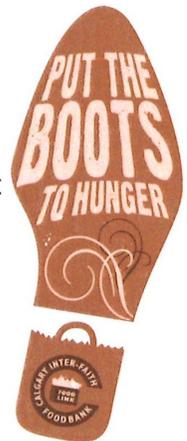
Both are available in paperback, eBook and at the Calgary Public Library. Contact Lisa Rude if you would like to order a copy.





Stampede Breakfast Sunday, July 8TH Following worship to benefit Calgary Food Bank

Following worship on Sunday July 8, we will host our 3rd annual *Put the Boots to Hunger Stampede Breakfast* benefitting the Calgary Food Bank. Bring a friend and a non-perishable food donation and get your fill of Stampede Breakfast fare. A representative from the Calgary Food Bank will also be on hand to collect any financial donations you wish to make to the Food Bank. This is a great way to support July's Cause of the Month at Church of the Cross!



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

Now in its 11th year, the annual Put the Boots to Hunger campaign raises important food and funds for the Calgary Food Bank through the Stampede season, at a time when it is typically slower for donations.

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

In 2015, the campaign raised over \$340,000 in food and funds between tarp sponsorship and Food Bank involvement at many stampede breakfasts and barbeques. Since its inception in 2008, the campaign has raised nearly \$3.5 million in food and funds for Calgary Food Bank initiatives.

LEAD ... love God with all your heart



**SUNDAY JUN 3, 10AM
AFFIRMING
MINISTRY
CELEBRATION**

Let's Celebrate
Inclusion!

June 3, 2018 @10 am

Great Music! Exciting
Message

Refreshments
following the
service!

Affirm Gathering

**LAKEVIEW UNITED
CHURCH**

3023 63 Ave SW
Calgary, AB
(403) 242-5760

Email:
lakeviewuc@telus.net

www.lakeviewunitedchurch.
com

2018 **RHUBARB FEST**

**June 2, 2018
11 am - 5 pm**



FEATURING:

LIVE MUSIC

CASH BBQ & MARKETPLACE

FACE PAINTING & PETTING ZOO

KIDS GAMES & ACTIVITIES

VILLAGE BREWERY BEER GARDEN

SOUTHWOOD COMMUNITY HALL AND GROUNDS
11 SACKVILLE DR SW

CAN you help?

Bring a donation to the Calgary Food Bank!



Peace by Piece Marketplace

Spring Market June 2, 2018

Fiber Arts of all kinds, Paper Artists,
Photographers, Jewelry Artists,
Savory and Sweet Foodies, and Direct Sales too!

Email peacebypiecemarket@yahoo.com
for an application and further details.

St Peter's Anglican Church
903 75th Ave SW
Calgary Alberta



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.

Thank you to Leonora Bridge for supporting this event.

LEAD ... love God with all your heart



JUNE 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.

June Programs and Workshops

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

Mondays 1:00—2:45 finishing on June 18th, 2018

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

Wednesdays 10:00– 12:00pm June 13 – July 18th, 2018

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 June 7th, & June 21st, 2018

Counselling and Therapy: offering individual and family counselling for \$5.00 per hour for low-income-must complete intake **By appointment only**

Upcoming Events

Girls Empowerment Workshop this 6-week program helps girls 12-15 year old to improve self-esteem and to build positive relationship with others in activities of art, yoga and meditation.
Wednesdays 1-3pm July 11 - August 15, 2018

Magic Carpet Ride Free 16-week program family literacy program for families with children 3-5 years.

Tuesdays 10-12pm Starting September 18, 2018



There are times in everyone's life when challenges arise and we need someone to help us work through our difficulties. Since 2003 the SouthWest 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: Offering individual and family counselling for \$5.00 per hour

Canadian Mental Health Association: Live life to the Full

Homebridge: Homeless Prevention Program; Children's Cottage

Calgary Learns: Family Literacy Program— Tuesday morning in September

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.

This month I share more Convention highlights, in addition to those mentioned in my May 2018 Message.

Worship is a significant focus of Convention as we will begin and close each day with worship. A Worship Committee, chaired by Carolyn Ethier and including Chaplain Jeff Decelle, Colleen McGinnis, Rev. Kathy Calkins, Robyn Simpson-Mohr, and Dr. Joy Berg has planned a series of unique services to bless and enrich our worship time together.

The celebratory Opening Eucharist with organ and brass begins in the Chapel at 2:00 pm on Thursday, June 14. We gather again in the chapel for Thursday evening's Jazz Vespers, a time of prayer as well as remembrance of those who have died. Each day we share in Morning Eucharist with a time of Dwelling in the Word in the convention hall. Our brief Sending Worship, with installation of Synod Council, Synod Secretary and Lutheran Theological Seminary rostered representative and Blessing of the Bishop, is scheduled for 3:00 pm on Saturday, June 16. Offerings will be shared equally between the Lutheran World Federation Endowment Fund and the ABT Synod Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

There will be a Convention choir singing at the Opening Eucharist service that you are welcome to join. The practice for the Convention choir will be held in the Convention Hall at 12:30 pm on Thursday, June 14. Dr. Joy Berg will lead the choir.

We will gather Friday evening for a celebratory banquet honouring those with ordination anniversaries, as well as the first recipient of The Synod of Alberta and the Territories Stephen D. Wildfang Leadership Award.

Video presentations highlighting our four mission priorities through story will be shared throughout the Convention and each delegate/congregation will receive a DVD of the same and discussion guide for use in their own context.

New this year: Registrants to the Convention are invited to register for Friday and Saturday “Lunch and Learn” events. Up to 25 registrants will meet in identified rooms for lunch and further conversation with: National Bishop Susan Johnson on ELCIC Global Mission, President Bill Harrison from Lutheran Theological Seminary, The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude, our guests from Colombia, CLWR and Jeff Pym with ELFEC (Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada). All other registrants will have their lunch in the cafeteria.

Also new for this Convention is an invitation for submissions of artwork to be displayed in the convention hall, reflecting the theme of the convention. Thanks to each contributor. I am looking forward to walking through the art gallery.

Throughout the Convention as you worship, listen, pray, discern and share stories registrants are invited to write their thoughts to the following two statements on sticky notes and to post them to the large print paper in the convention hall: “I am hearing God say to us...”, and, “I sense that one of the places the Spirit is inviting our Synod to join with God in God's work is...” These will be gathered and reviewed for action at the September 2018 retreat of Synod Council.

As we gather from across our Synod it is my prayer that together we will be open to the Spirit's work among us... shaping...transforming...reworking...guiding...and that we will know the reality of the words of Paul to the church in Rome (15:13): “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.”

In Christ Jesus – Shalom,
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer





June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Communion Sundays June 3 & 17					1 Office Closed Plants arrive! Noon! ForWord -6:30-9 pm SWCG-7 pm	2 Remembering Garden Planting-9 am Honens Master Class-9 am-2 pm
3 Worship-10 am- BLAST-following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG-1-3 pm	4 Cantare-4-10	5 Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Private recital-6:30-8:30 pm -fellowship hall	6 Sandwich Making- 7:30 am AHS Caregivers-1 pm Cantare-6-10 SWCG-7 pm Lay Internship Comm.-7 pm	7 E.A.-7 pm Choir-7:15 pm	8 Office Closed SWCG-7 pm	9
Pastors on vacation						
10 Choir Sunday Worship-10 am BLAST-following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG-1-3 pm	11 Staff Mtg.-10:15 am Cantare-4-10	12 Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Prayer & Care-10:30 am	13 Bible Study-9:30 am Cantare-6-10 SWCG-7 pm	14 E.A.-7 pm	Synod Convention	
17 Worship-10 am BLAST -following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG-1-3 pm	18 Staff Mtg.-10:15 am Cantare-6-10	19 Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am	20 Bible Study-9:30 am Cantare-6-10 SWCG-7 pm	21 Caring Conversations-5 - 8pm E.A.-7 pm	22 Office Closed SWCG-7 pm	23
24 Worship-10 am BLAST SHOWCASE - following worship Interfaith Potluck Youth Faith Lens SWCG-1-4 pm FOOD BANK SUN.	25 Staff Mtg.-10:15 am Cantare-4-10	26 Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am	27 Bible Study-9:30 am Cantare-6-10 SWCG-7 pm	28 E.A.-7 pm	29 Office Closed SWCG-7 pm	30
Catherine away-June 26-July 4						
Cause of the Month Sandwiches for the Drop In Centre						