



What is that thing on the floor?

*History
Journeys in the Bible
Listening to God*

You may have noticed that there is a lot of masking tape on the floor of the Fellowship Hall. At a casual glance, it looks like a maze. It is actually a labyrinth.

Back in the Spring (or whatever season it is before it stops snowing more or less), I was studying prayer with the Confirmation Class. We began with the Lord's Prayer but I also introduced them to meditation/contemplative prayer, *Praying in Color*, and a *prayer labyrinth*. I initially set up a *pew labyrinth* in the sanctuary but ran into a snag when the sanctuary was not available for our Mentor Night! I made the one with masking tape with the intention of taking it up after we were done with the Prayer Module.

The purpose of a Prayer Labyrinth is to create a space for a sacred journey. They began in Europe as a way for people to simulate a pilgrimage to Rome when that was not possible due to conflicts or finances. One of the oldest and most well-known labyrinths is on the floor of the sanctuary of the Cathedral in Chartres, France. For over a thousand years, Christians have made the journey to Chartres to make the sacred journey in that labyrinth.

The Bible is full of journeys: Abraham's journey from Haran to the Canaan, the Israelites journey in the wilderness for forty years to the promised land, Jesus' journey from Galilee to Jerusalem, and Paul's journeys around the Mediterranean. The journey in the wilderness of the Israelites is a good one to illumine the sacred journey that a labyrinth can provide...

The journey in the wilderness began with the deliverance from the oppression of the Egyptians. It began with them fleeing from a present that was painful, hard, and did not

offer much of a future. They headed out into the Sinai wilderness with a hope and a promise of a *promised land*. As they wandered, they began shedding, naming, and letting go of their life in Egypt and as slaves. In the wilderness, they had a primary encounter with God at Mt. Sinai in which God made a covenant with them and provided them with the Ten Commandments as a sign and component of that covenant. They spent the rest of the time in the wilderness then learning to incorporate this relationship and way of life into their everyday lives.

This is the dynamic of the labyrinth. On the *journey in*, it is a time of naming and offering up to God the present concerns and pressures. Upon reaching the center, it is a time to pause and allow God to present in the "emptiness" that has

been created by clearing out all of the clutter and distractions that tend to fill our lives. After having this time with God in the center, the *journey out* is a processing of what was experienced in the center. Was there an answer to a prayer or concern that came to you? How does this impact or illumine your life now?

About the time I was getting ready to pull up the masking tape labyrinth, we began having our first Listening Team meetings. The Listening Team is tasked to listen to God through prayer and Scripture, to listen to God through the congregation, and to listen to God through the neighbourhood. It made sense to introduce this prayer tool to the Listening Team. As we spent time contemplating our task for the next several months, it became clear that the labyrinth could be a symbol of the work that we are doing as a congregation during this *Tune In* process... We seek and create opportunities to listen. We listen. Then we ponder what we heard.

If you haven't taken a moment to walk the labyrinth, I hope that you would!

Peace,

Paster Paul



A glance at July & August Ministry Happenings....



- July 4 Sandwich Making—7:30 am
- July 4 Movie Night—7 pm
- July 8 Stampede Breakfast—following worship
- Aug. 1 Sandwich Making—7:30 am
- Aug. 11—21 Pastor Phil and youth to CLAY

- Aug. 18 Way of Christ Team Building—all day
- Aug. 19—25 CANTARE “Get in the Groove” Week
- Aug. 26 Movie following worship
- Aug. 29 Council Mtg.—7 pm



In this Month's Issue

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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

Update from Administrators



It seems that spring/summer is in full swing and we want to send out a mid-year update.

It's good to be past the winter thaw and the roof leaks we were experiencing. We still don't have a solution going forward but are looking at doing some tar patching. We will also have to do some repair to some drywall inside that was damaged. We will still have to monitor during any upcoming heavy rainfall.

As many of you have likely noticed, the theatre lighting is complete. We have 4 PAR lights directly over the dais, to illuminate the altar area. There are two more PAR lights positioned on the choir. There are 2 fixed spots to light the front of the altar area, and two movable spots to cover various areas as needed.

The control for the house lights has been integrated into the lighting console, so those lights are now controllable from the sound booth.

The sconce lighting on the north and south walls has been replaced. The old fixtures drew 400 Watts each and have been replaced by 20 Watt LEDs for a saving of 2280 Watts. These lights are still controlled by the same 2 switches by the south door. We also replaced the ceiling fan in the south west corner.

There is a 10 switch box in place that will be configured with fixed lighting options to simplify use of the lighting, Position 1 is configured for just the house lights, while 6 is used to turn them all off.

Our agreement with Cantaré included some outside storage space. We've agreed upon an 8'x 20' C can container. Cantaré will absorb the cost of the container, permit, installation and painting. This will be placed on the east side between the dumpster and our storage shed. It will also be painted to blend in with the color of the shed and dumpster enclosure.

We want to extend our thanks to the numerous garden volunteers who have been very busy brightening up our grounds. Thanks as well to the quilting group who did some kitchen clean-up and also defrosted and cleaned the freezer and cleaned the cooler in the storage room.

Have great summer.

Tammy Kozlowski & Dennis Kozak



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



Do You Enjoy the coffee fellowship

We are still 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)

A big thank you to Archie Wells who has volunteered to be the new “Reader” Co-ordinator AND the “Communion Set-up” Co-ordinator!!!

A baby is coming and its impact on Internship

Intern Kate is pregnant and is expecting in mid-September! We celebrate with her and pray for a healthy pregnancy and birth.

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

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

Peace,
Pastor Phil
Intern Supervisor



SOCIAL MINISTRY **CAUSE OF THE MONTH FOR JULY & AUGUST**

Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank

This spring the Social Ministry committee completed a grant application to the **2018 'Women of Faith Fund'** for \$1200 for *"Sandwiches for the Homeless"*. We are happy to inform that our application has been successful and have now received the \$1200. This grant money will go toward our ever increasing expenses to make Sandwiches for the Drop-In Center. Our thanks to Georgina and Doug Normandin for completing the application forms.

Saturday, September 15

10 am—1

Annual Clothing Give-away

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



Needed: Home for man

This fellow is single. He is originally from Vietnam. His name is Minh and he works at the Saddledome and McMahon as a cashier. He can only afford to pay \$500 per month. He would be happy with just a room. I've been to his place he is very neat, very quiet and keeps to himself. He would help with household maintenance - such as lawn cutting, snow shoveling - he said to me he would work very hard and I believe him. He does smoke but would smoke only outside.

For contact they can call Lori or Rev. Joanne at McDougall United Church at 403-252-1620.

Youth are off to CLAY

August 11-21, 2018

Thunder Bay, Ontario

Nine of our youth along with **Nyajuok Kulang, Matt Miller and Pastor Phil** are heading to the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering. They will be traveling by bus with other youth from our synod.

The theme is “*threads*” and this is what the National Planning Committee wrote:

The Bible is God’s story and Jesus is our link to it. Christ calls us, with our own stories, and invites us to be a part of God’s story, and in doing so we help continue God’s story beyond the Bible—in our own words and actions today and tomorrow. As children of God, we are threads that when

woven together make this wonderful world come alive with texture and colour and warmth.

So let us look closely at God’s story and at our own. Our hope for CLAY 2018 is that we can all truly come together from across Canada, to discern our own stories and to offer a piece of ourselves to create a tapestry of life called threads in Thunder Bay.



YOUTH GATHERING



The Way of Christ

God is in the process of reconciling all people.

This reconciling act of God is first experienced as FORGIVENESS and GRACE and moves very quickly into a real experience of RELIEF, FREEDOM and JOY. That's real salvation while we live! These are God's gifts to give, and God gives them to everyone.

Sometimes we don't experience ourselves as deserving or included. We can actually believe God loves some people more than others and simply settle for worshipping God on the edges of love and grace.

The Way of Christ is a 3-day experience of lived grace, in which every person who attends experiences God's forgiveness, grace, and love for them.

The experiences of RELIEF, FREEDOM, and JOY are predictable here and they are yours for the taking. If you want a deeper connection to God, yourself, and the church; if you want to deepen your joy; if you want time away to having a renewing and transformative weekend, this is the place for you.

Attendance at The Way of Christ requires the support of someone who has already attended a 3-day weekend experience. If you don't know anyone who can sponsor you, please speak with Lise Wilson, the pastors, or check in with the church office. We will find someone for you!

The Way of Christ
7 pm Thursday October 25 through 5 pm Sunday October 28
Kuriakos (Sylvan Lake)

Registration forms and information brochures are available at the Information Center.

"It is SO much more than a retreat."

I knew Jesus loved me, but I never thought he would send all these people to show me. **WHAT A WEEKEND!!**

I was overwhelmed by the generosity of the weekend leaders and the agape team members. I was surrounded by loving kindness.

Bread for Justice, Life for the World

This summer, we are hosting a 5-part worship series called "*Bread for Justice*"

This series is based on the summer gospel readings in the Revised Common Lectionary centering on Jesus, the Bread of Life. Each Sunday, we will feature bread and justice from the world, we will hear stories of hope and laughter as we neighbors and friends to and around the world who



day, as our worship forgives life to the whole people speaking about their own tradition(s). pain, struggle, resiliency, seek to become better the people in our midst suffer injustice.

The time following worship and conversations speaker and themes.

engage in conversation and respond with compassion, curiosity, and wonder as we join God at work in powerful and transformative ways.

ship will feature activities related to the day's

These are a chance to

- Sunday July 29:** Truth and Reconciliation: Drumming circle; **Preacher: Cheryl Gray Eyes Chagnon, Calgary Friendship Centre**
- Sunday August 5:** Migration in the Americas: Columbia (ABT companion synod), El Salvador, and the US 'zero tolerance policy'; **Preacher: TBA**
- Sunday August 12:** Extremism in the Middle East: Turkey, Syria, and Palestine; **Preacher: Demet Cakir from the Turkish Community**
- Sunday August 19:** Hope for Africa: People for Progress, "*The Lost Boys*" of South Sudan; **Preacher: Stephen Deng.**
- Sunday August 27:** LGBTQ2S+ equality: Screening of "*The Bible Tells Me So*"; **Preacher: Pam Rocker** activist for affirming ministries





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

Women's Ministry

WOMEN'S MINISTRY – Mary & Martha Bible Study Group

Bible Study resumes in September. Meanwhile, please enjoy some summer reading from Gather Magazine which may be viewed online at www.gathermagazine.org

Once you're in the website 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.**

There's also a free digital magazine entitled Bold Café, with articles for women who want to build their faith, at <http://www.boldcafe.org/>



Calgary Pregnancy
Care Centre

The Calgary Pregnancy Care
Centre

THANK YOU for participating in this year's Baby Bottle campaign by filling a baby bottle or donating online. Your gifts enhance the lives of women and babies in our community. Visit www.pregcare.com for further info.



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

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.

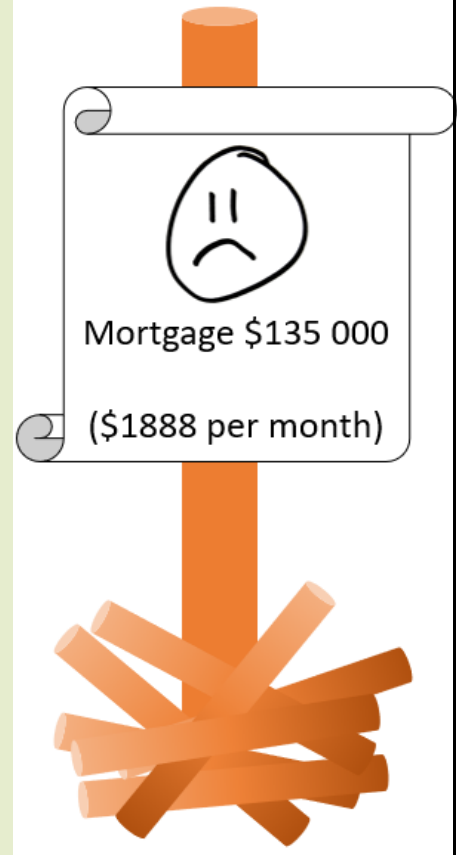
By the way, you can transfer securities without triggering a capital gain. Contact Brian Anderson for more info.

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

Beyoncé and Mustard

A couple of Sundays ago, Pastor Laura preached a great sermon, “How big is a Mustard Seed” on Jesus’ Parable of that tiny seed that can grow into a towering bush big enough to shelter birds and drive farmers insane when they’re trying to keep it out of their fields. I’m not going to go into details on the sermon. If you missed it, check it out here: <https://www.churchofthecross.ca/media/2018-06-17-how-big-is-a-mustard-seed>.

Pastor Laura does mention that Jesus had a special gift for connecting with his audience with simple stories to illustrate his greater point and teachings. He used stories that his audience could readily identify with; stories about mustard seeds and lamp oil and weddings and illness and healing and rich men and poor widows. Everyday stuff that was presented in a context meaningful to his audience to illustrate his point about the Kingdom of God and how to behave and act to achieve a meaningful relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

This got me to thinking about how I can readily identify with the Parable of the Mustard Seed as I’ve pulled enough of it out of the bean fields on my Grandpa Ed’s farm in Minnesota. I’ve seen it growing in ditches all the way from Saskatchewan through North Dakota down into Iowa. I even have fond memories of doing such intense battle with one particularly stubborn mustard plant out in a soybean field in the hot humid Minnesotan heat that when I finally wrestled the giant out of the earth I tumbled flat on my back with showers of rich Minnesota dirt descending on my sweaty face and white t-shirt while the gales of Aunt Dorothy’s laughter serenaded my bruised ego. I get Jesus’ parable about Mustard partly because I was part of a farming family and partly because, well, I’m part of an older generation.

But how many kids today connect with mustard other than out of a French’s yellow squeeze bottle to slather yellow stuff on their hotdog? What sense does the para-

ble mean to them?

Delivering Christ’s message to a contemporary audience is one of the challenges our Listening Team will be focused on in the coming months. The Listening Team is deeply engaged in studying Acts to get a better understanding on how the Disciples and Apostles brought Christianity to the world some 2000 years ago. But we also recognize that simply replicating what was done then, may not work now. Just as we recognize that the approaches to serving the community that we’ve used in the past (since 1961!) may not be the most effective now.



Grace Cathedral in San Francisco was founded in 1849 and is one of the largest Episcopal cathedrals in the United States. Construction on this beautiful building was started in 1928 and finally completed in 1964. It has over 7,000 square feet of stained glass, a forty-four bronze bell carillon, incredible works of art and over

5,000 people attended a sermon delivered by the Reverend Martin Luther King in 1964.

Yet, Grace Cathedral suffers from the same dwindling membership that Lutheran Church of the Cross is experiencing. The congregation consists of lots of faithful seniors but as the age lowers, so does membership representation and participation. We share this situation with a lot of congregations around the world.

One of the ways Grace Cathedral decided to bring in a new audience was to host a special mass: the “Beyoncé Mass”. For those of you who don’t know, Beyoncé is a major music superstar with over one hundred million albums sold and winner of twenty-eight Grammy awards. I, personally, couldn’t tell you one of Beyoncé’s hits but I do know that she’s a regular headliner on Entertainment Television which I quickly switch over to either the news or the Murdoch Mysteries (which tells you I’m pretty close to being one of the elder Seniors in our Church).

....continued on page 10

LEAD ... love God with all your heart

The idea for this mass sprang from the Rev. Yolanda Norton, a San Francisco Theological Seminary professor whose specialty is the Old Testament. She developed a series of programs at Grace Cathedral called “Speaking Truth: The Power of Story in Community”, which aims to tell stories of those traditionally marginalized in Christianity, such as women and people of color.

So they decided to host this special “*Beyoncé Mass*” on a week day evening and they posted an invitation on their Facebook page and in the bulletin. On the evening of the event, after the final warm-up rehearsal, they looked out the doors and saw to their amazement that the lineup went well around the block (BIG blocks in San Francisco). Over 900 people attended that event for a joyous celebration of God’s message blended with Beyoncé’s music; an incredible and unexpected success.

To quote Professor Norton, “*I don’t know that Beyoncé necessarily intersects with religion, but religion intersects*

with everyone, every experience, every hardship and every trial. Her lyrics speak to that all the time, just as Christ’s message does”.

Grace Cathedral found a way to make Christ’s message resonate with their community.

I don’t think a Beyoncé Service would have the same level of success in Calgary, Alberta.

But I will tell you that the Listening Team is going to be listening to our community to find out what needs exist outside the four walls of our church and we must be ready, able and willing to send forth God’s message in a context that our audience needs.

Stay tuned!

Scott Christensen—Listening Team



God Moments

Since January I have been working with a small group of youth and young adults Tuesday nights called Peer Ministry Training. It is a program designed to develop personal

leadership in young people and practice skills to minister to others, including listening, welcoming, and encouraging. In Peer Ministry, peers are not limited to only people your own age. They can be anyone, even authority figures. Every skill practiced in Peer Ministry is linked to a bible passage.

It has been exciting to see how God is at work in these young people’s lives. I see God at work in their hunger to hear and understand God’s Word and in the connections made between university students and the recently confirmed. I am encouraged by their prayers for one another. I see the Spirit opening their eyes to injustice in their lives and empowering them to do something about it, in how they respond and how they treat their neighbours.

Intern Kate



LEAD ... love God with all your heart

SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Bring your family for a program at Kuriakos!

We offer retreat and summer programs for kids, youth, adults, and families. Well-trained staff, beautiful facilities, engaging activities, and vibrant community make Kuriakos a highlight in the lives of our campers and keep them coming back year after year.

Want to join our community? Contact our office at 403.746.2702 or www.kuriakos.ab.ca. Because you belong at camp!

KURIAKOS



**LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT**

LIT WEEK JULY 1-6
LEARN VALUABLE LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO USE IN
LIFE AND AT CAMP.

**VOLUNTEER AT CAMP AS A
SERVANT IN TRAINING
(SIT).**

AGES 14+
MUST HAVE COMPLETED GRADE 10

WWW.KURIAKOS.AB.CA

I belong at camp.
KURIAKOS 

Synod Convention News!!

Here are some of the first things people saw as they entered or left the convention hall from one side or the other.

Photo left: Quilted Applique. These three banners, submitted by **Lutheran Church of the Cross, Calgary**, were made as a memorial for two members of their congregation. All applique was hand sewn. Size - 18 x 72 inches each.

Photo right: Two banners made by Rev. Susan Horton, Good Shepherd, Stony Plain.

1: "Bound by Hope" - Susan's Biblical inspiration was: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it ...". She was also thinking about the sun shining through the clouds on a wheat field.

2: "Seeds of Resurrection" - 1 Corinthians 15:35-38 "...As for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to come, but a bare seed..." What happens in the resurrection will be unexpected, fruitful, glorious. That's exciting and hopeful.



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.



From your council.....

The following proposal was presented by the Pastors and enthusiastically and unanimously approved by council. They have been working far beyond their expected hours. This should help to restore some work/life balance. We will be using the calendar in the Crossbeams, and on the Church website to document when each will be “away”.

“Pastor Laura and I continue to be working well over the 30 hours/week (each) as defined in our calls. We are considering going to a three-weeks-on/one-week-off scheme to give us a structure that has us work appropriate hours. Except during vacation times, the one-week-offs would be staggered so that one of the pastors would be available each week.”

July & August schedule

Pastor Phil	July 2—8 - vacation July 16—22—Week off Aug. 11—21—CLAY Gathering
Pastor Laura—	July 9—15 (from June) - Week off July 23—29—Week off July 30—Aug. 5 vacation Aug. 13—19—Week off Aug. 20—24—Camp Kuriakos
Catherine -	June 26—July 4 (professional) July 11—26—vacation
Dianne -	July 16—Aug. 12—Leave of Absence

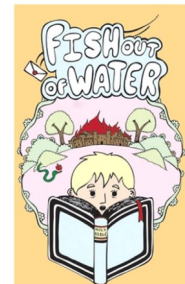


... love God with all your heart

AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM

PRESENTS: A MOVIE NIGHT—Wednesday, July 4th @ 7 pm

This documentary uses humour and original animation to make a traditionally complex and controversial topic accessible to those who don't like talking about religion and sexuality. Fish out of Water dives into the underbelly of America, crisscrosses red and blue states and talks to ministers from every denomination to uncover America's impassioned relationship with homosexuality and the Bible. With slapstick animation and quirky interviews taken everywhere from barbershops to mega churches, Fish out of Water delivers a voice to the oppressed and informs the misled. Most importantly, Fish out of Water sits down with hundreds of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender folks to impart their experiences with faith and sexuality.



DID YOU KNOW??

Homosexuality is no longer as widely criminalized as it used to be. However 74 nations still have laws against it. In some cases, such as Egypt, there is a vague but harshly enforced law against "debauchery". Other countries have laws against "unnatural acts". Chechnya has recently had a brutal campaign against gay and bisexual men.

The 74 countries with anti-sexuality laws are in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Americas (such as Barbados, Jamaica, and St. Lucia) and Oceania. In the United States, anti-Sodomy laws were ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 2003. Having said that, there are still 13 States that have that law on their Books.

Discrimination and harassment of our LGBTQ Community is ever present. As recently as two weeks ago, in downtown Calgary, a gay couple were assaulted and robbed. Hard for many of us to imagine, but true. Having to think about our personal safety and freedoms, when we choose a country to travel to, is not something most of us have to think of ahead of time.

Food For Thought.

Web Source: Erasing 76 Crimes

BE CAREFUL WHO YOU HATE, IT MAY BE SOMEONE YOU LOVE

Judy Shore-Isford



FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

Game experience includes: post-game field access and player testimonials

FRIDAY STAMPS VS ARGONAUTS

SEPT. 28 • 7 P.M.

\$21

/PERSON
+ \$3 TICKET FEE

ADDED INCENTIVES:

100+ TICKETS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four (4) pre-game sideline passes to raffle off• Signed Anthony Parker jersey• \$60 in Stamps Bucks	76-100 TICKETS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two (2) pre-game sideline passes to raffle off• \$60 in Stamps Bucks• Four (4) Stamps t-shirts	50-75 TICKETS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$30 in Stamps Bucks• Two (2) Stamps t-shirts	Churches with 10+ tickets will be acknowledged post-game on our big screen
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Individual tickets can be purchased at Stampede.com/Faith by using the promo code: **FAITH**

CHURCHES WITH THE HIGHEST REPRESENTATION WILL RECEIVE:	1ST PRIZE Team-signed jersey	2ND PRIZE Team-signed football	3RD PRIZE Stampede jersey
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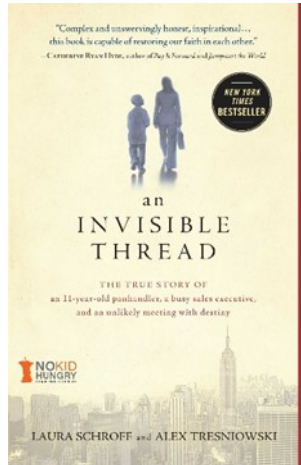
See Dianne if you would like to order tickets
for the football game.



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

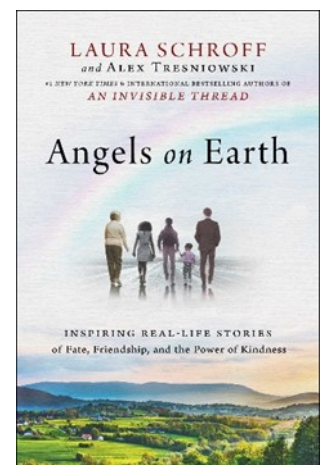
From the #1 New York Times bestselling authors of An Invisible Thread comes a heartwarming book about the huge impact that small acts of kindness from strangers can have on the world around us.

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.

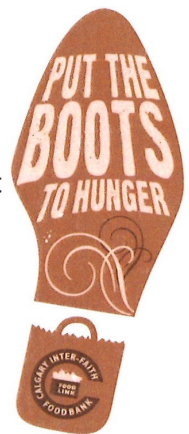
Both are available in paperback, eBook and at the Calgary Public Library. Contact Lisa Rude if you would like to order a copy.





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.

BRING FOOD FOR THE FOOD BANK

CALGARY FOOD BANK

FAST FACTS

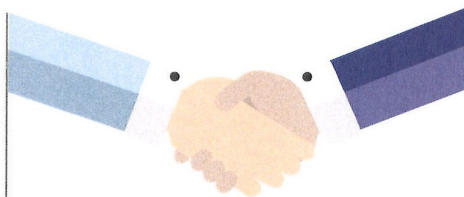
Numbers reflect the Calgary Food Bank's fiscal year, September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017.

184,548

LIVES AFFECTED



59% families 41% individuals
39% children **18% single parents**



2.9 MILLION

POUNDS OF FOOD

WAS DISTRIBUTED
TO 220+ FOOD LINK
AGENCIES.

3 MILLION

MEALS & SNACKS



90,864

TOTAL HAMPERS

68,084

EMERGENCY HAMPERS

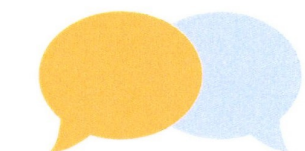
3.5 MILLION MEALS

35,918

SPECIALTY HAMPERS

10

COMMUNITY DEPOTS



26,556

referrals from 300+ agencies for hampers

61,069

CALLS

The average call
is 5 minutes



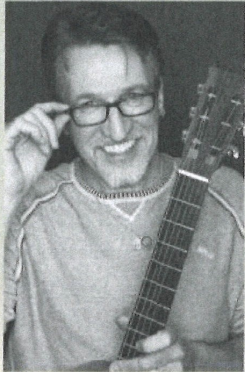
ABOUT US

The Calgary Food Bank is the first line of emergency food support for families and individuals facing crisis. Once the food emergency is addressed, we refer clients to our proven partner agencies. Our deep collaboration and food support to other charitable organizations that address the root causes of food insecurity aligns with

our mission to work with our community to fight hunger. We are the largest, most accessible Food Bank in Calgary serving families, individuals and organizations. We are not a government or United Way agency. We rely solely on the generous support of the community. Together, we can create a hunger-free community.

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

FOR THE JOURNEY



REFRESHING CHRISTIAN FAITH AND SPIRITUAL
TRADITION FOR THE WEARY AND THE WARY

RETREAT WITH **STEVE BELL**

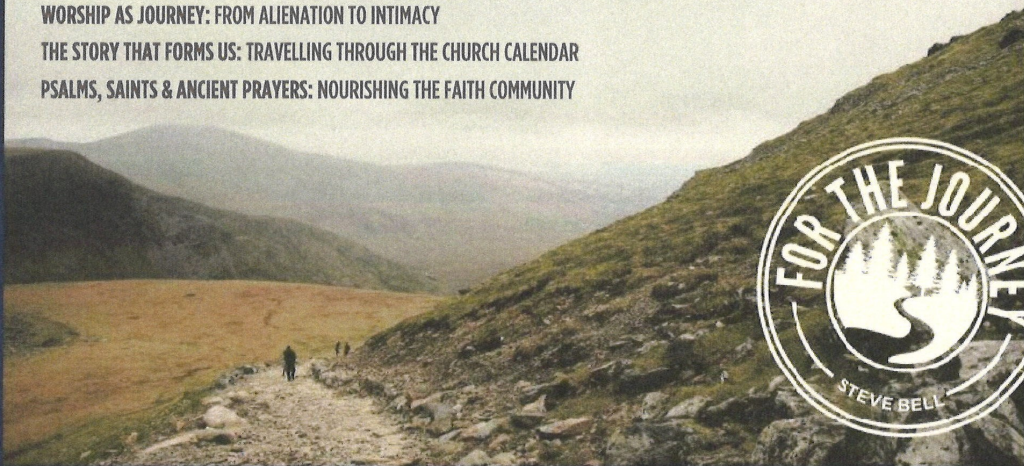
SESSIONS:

TRINITY: THE MASTER KEY

WORSHIP AS JOURNEY: FROM ALIENATION TO INTIMACY

THE STORY THAT FORMS US: TRAVELLING THROUGH THE CHURCH CALENDAR

PSALMS, SAINTS & ANCIENT PRAYERS: NOURISHING THE FAITH COMMUNITY



FRI. NOVEMBER 16 - SAT. NOVEMBER 17

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

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COST: \$129 | EARLYBIRD: \$99 (BEFORE OCT. 19TH)

Special rate for church members (limited number).

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REGISTRATION & INFO: STEVEBELL.COM or 1-800-854-3499

Contact
Dianne to
get the
coupon
code to
get the
special
rate for
LCC
members.

LEAD ... love God with all your heart

Catherine will be in St. John's, Nfld June 26—July 4 to attend **PODIUM**, the national conference of Choral Canada. Catherine has been invited to present an interest session to the delegates and chair several panels.

Catherine will present a retrospective look on the rich treasure of treble choir repertoire written by Canadian composers over the past 100 years. She will explore the early influence of British composers, the first wave of 'homegrown' Canadians to the vast repertoire that is sun and celebrated all over the world.

Graeme Climie has been chosen to represent Alberta in the National Youth Choir which will meet as part of PODIUM in St. John's, Nfld. Each province selects a quartet of singers (*Soprano/Alto/Tenor/Bass*) to gather for three weeks of rehearsals and concerts throughout Newfoundland. What an honour to be part of this prestigious ensemble of singers!



Have you noticed the beautiful plaque that is standing in our peace pole garden?

Many thanks to Cam Fontaine who took this project on and built a permanent home for the plaque that the confirmation class gave the congregation a few years ago.

Thank you Cam!



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



SouthWest Community Resource Centre

GIRL EMPOWERMENT

Inner Beauty

Empowerment

A Six-Week Program

Self-Respect

Self-Love

Nurture—Nourish—Blossom

- Learn Skills to **Thrive**
- Discover Your Unique Gifts
- Build Confidence & Self-Esteem
- Educate & Explore
- Connect and Share with Others
- Ages 10-13 (max. 8 people)



FREE Lunch will be provided

Wednesday Afternoons

1:00-3:00pm

July 11—August 15, 2018

Call us 403.238.9222

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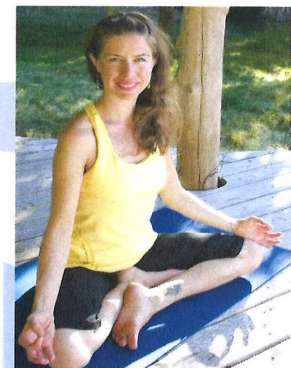
For more information, or to register
for this FREE program, phone
403.238.9222

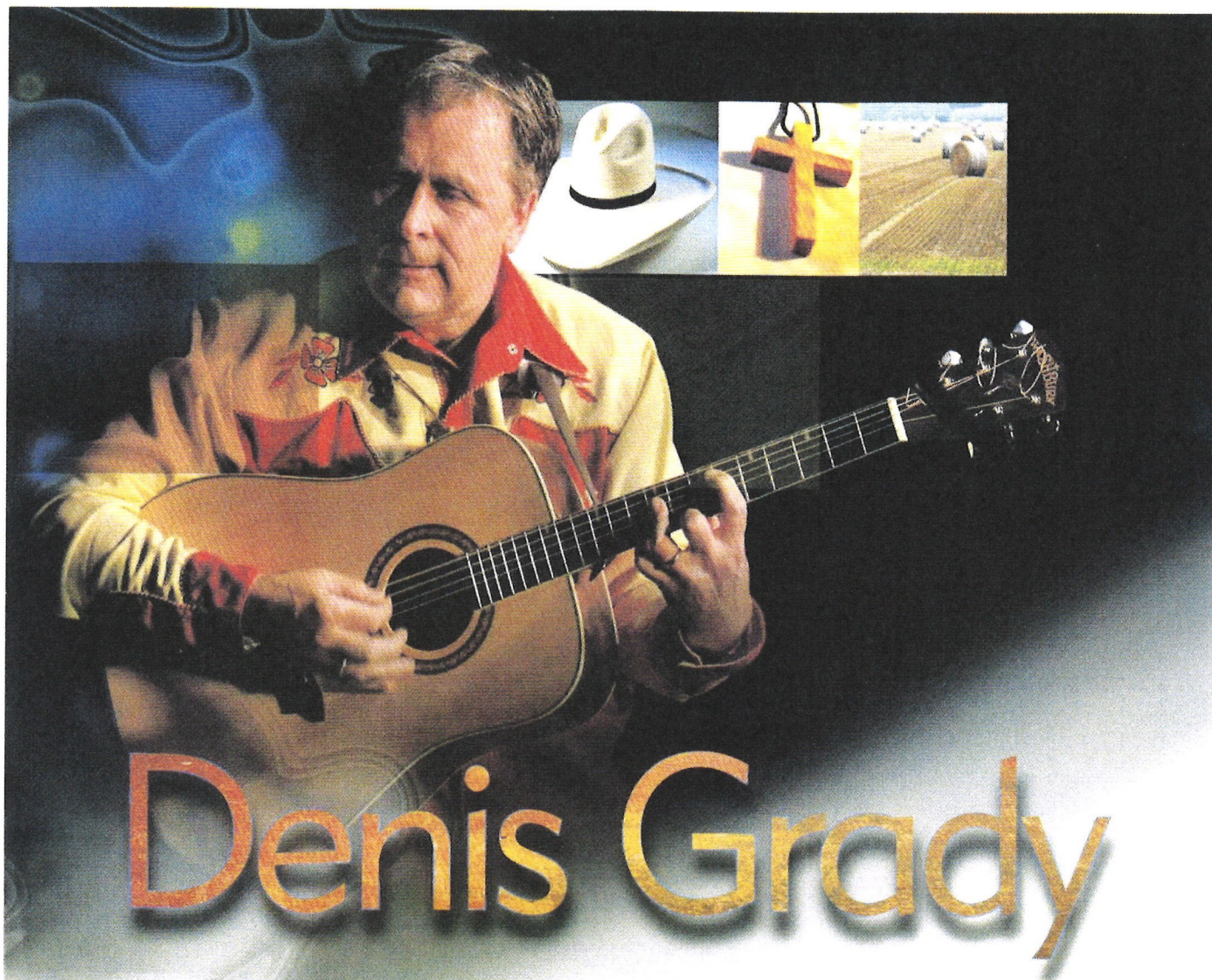
Facilitator: Nicole St. Michel

In Partnership with:



Insight 
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July & August 2018

Dear Beloved of God –

I am writing on Tuesday morning, June 12, just days before the Synod Convention begins in Camrose under the theme based on I Cor. 13:13, "Faith, Hope, Love: and the greatest of these is love."

As we gather on Thursday afternoon we will take time for a few minutes of conversation around expectations of our time together: what are you looking forward to at this convention? What do you anticipate taking home with you from convention? What am I looking forward to? What are my hopes as we gather? In no particular order:

- Worship that is deeply meaningful
- Welcoming and learning from our Colombian guests
- Signing, together with Bishop Atahualpa, the "Covenant" between our Synod and The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia
- Daily Eucharist
- Singing that blows the roof off of the Convention Hall
- Nourishment through the three presentations – Faith, Hope, Love – from Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen
- Enriching debate, decision-making and elections
- Conversations
- Learning through "Lunch and Learn" opportunities and guests to the Convention: for example, CLWR, Pastor Brian Rude, Lutheran Theological Seminary, and so on

- Ordination Anniversaries and presentation of the first Synod of Alberta and the Territories Stephen D. Wildfang Leadership Award
- Chillin' with the Chaplains gelato event
- Mission Priority videos – hearing the stories
- Prayerfully walking through the Art Display with items from across the Synod
- And the list could go on...

As we gather from across our Synod please remember all who gather in your prayers 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



Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

July 2018



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	4 Sandwich Making—7:30 am Movie Night—7 pm SWCG—7 pm	5 E.A.—7 pm	6 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	7
8 Worship—10 am—Stampede Breakfast—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	9 Staff Mtg.—10:15 am	10 Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am	11 SWCG—7 pm	12 E.A.—7 pm	13 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	14
15 Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	16 Staff Mtg.—10:15 am	17 Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am	18 SWCG—7 pm	19 E.A.—7 pm	20 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	21
22 Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	23 Staff Mtg.—10:15 am	24 Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am	25 SWCG—7 pm	26 E.A.—7 pm	27 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	28
29 Worship—10 am BLAST SWCG—1—4 pm FOOD BANK SUN.	30 Staff Mtg.—10:15 am	31 Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am				
Communion Sundays July 1, 15 & 29		Cause of the Month Food Bank				



2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Sandwich Making— 7:30 am AHA Caregivers—1 pm SWCG—7 pm	2 E.A.—7 pm	3 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	4
5 Worship—10 am— Stampede Break- fast—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	6 Staff Mtg.—10:15 am	7 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am	8 SWCG—7 pm	9 E.A.—7 pm	10 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	11 Youth leaving for CLAY
12 Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	13 Staff Mtg.—10:15 am	14 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am	15 SWCG—7 pm	16 E.A.—7 pm	17 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	18 Way of Christ Team Building—8 am—4 pm
19 Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	20 Staff Mtg.—10:15 am	21 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Youth return from CLAY	22 SWCG—7 pm	23 E.A.—7 pm	24 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	25
Cantare—Get in the Groove Week						
26 Worship—10 am Movie following worship BLAST SWCG—1—4 pm FOOD BANK SUN.	27 Staff Mtg.—10:15 am	28 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am	29 Council Mtg.—7 pm	30 E.A.—7 pm	31	
Communion Sundays Aug. 5, 12, 19 & 26		Cause of the Month Food Bank				