



Every year, the Southwood Community Organization has their Rhubarb Festival on the first Saturday of June (the same day we have Remembrance Garden Planting). They contacted us this year to see if we wanted to have a booth there. Since we have assembled the Listening Team, we know that part of what we will be doing—though, we’re not there, yet—is to listen to God through the neighbourhood. So, Hilary Gray and I decided to give a shot!

Hilary set up her canopy.

I did my cardboard thing:

- made a sign to hang from the canopy
- re-created the *Pastor is IN booth* we used in Lent, 2017; made a large Rhubarb Leaf (*it is the Rhubarb Festival!*).

We set up a table and had paper butterflies that kids could color, cut out, and tape to the cardboard rhubarb leaf.

Then Hilary and I sat down and waited to see if anyone would come by... Me in my booth and her at the table...

AND PEOPLE DID!

There were a few of you from Church of the Cross who dropped by and chatted. We met folks from Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and Shepherd King Lutheran. Several folks from St. Gerard Catholic and Holy Spirit Catholic came by. Most of those folks dropped in to introduce themselves and to comment that it’s great that we were there. We also met Muslims, Hindus and Punjabis.

Beginning around noon, kids started dropping by and colored butterflies. For most of the afternoon, there was at least one kid sitting and coloring at the table.

Some of the things we heard, observed and learned were:

- There were a lot of folks who come to that festival
- A few kids were curious about what a pastor was and

what a church was

- Kids enjoyed something as simple as coloring
- Many of the parents expressed appreciation that we didn’t charge anything for the activity
- One family drove in from Northwest Calgary and by-passed the Lilac Festival because there is plenty of parking at the Rhubarb Festival
- The guy in the booth next to us is a reporter for CBC Radio
- Our most in-depth conversations were with the other people running their booths



In debriefing the whole experience, Hilary and I thought it went really well for the first time out and that we should definitely make this one of the things we do each year. The interest in having hands-on activities that don’t cost anything suggested to us that we should set it up like a BLAST session with a variety of activities that correspond to a story. This would be fun for the

kids and also be a great way to introduce folks to our Sunday morning learning experience.

Of course, it will take more than Hilary and myself to pull that off...

Peace,

Pastor Paul



A glance at September Ministry Happenings....



- Sept. 5 - Sandwich Making - 7:30 am
- Sept. 9 - Adult Study resumes at 9 am
- Sept. 11 - Prayer & Care - 11 am (potluck lunch)
Faith Formation - 7 pm - Mark Bible Study with Pastor Laura
Confirmation - 7 pm - Pastor Phil

Sept. 13 - Clothing Give-Away sorting of clothes

Sept. 14 - Clothing Give-Away sorting of clothes

Sept. 15 - **CLOTHING GIVE AWAY - 10 am - 1 pm**

Sept. 19 - Council Meeting - 7 pm

Sept. 20 - Quilting - 9 am

Caring Conversations - 5 pm - potluck supper (*note the different day*)

Sept. 22 - Men's Breakfast - 8 am

Women's Ministry - 10 am

Sept. 23 - PHD for the entire congregation following worship

Sept. 24 - Social Ministry Mtg. - 7 pm

Sept. 30 - BLAST SHOWCASE - following worship



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

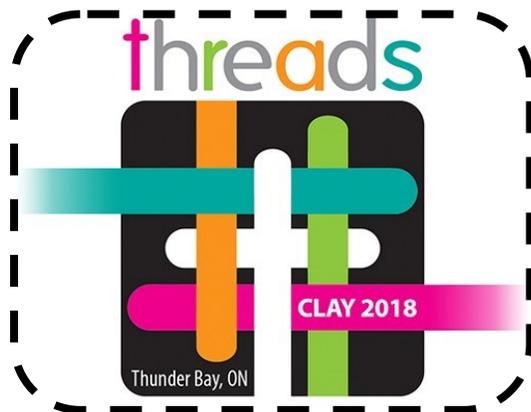
Thoughts from CLAY

"CLAY (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth) 2018 was held in Thunder Bay, Ontario. We started our adventure in Edmonton, where we met up with the other Edmonton youth groups at St. Paul's Church. We stayed the night, and the next day headed to Moose Jaw and experienced the tunnels. From Moose Jaw we headed to Winnipeg, where we visited The Human Rights Museum and the Mint. The last stretch of our pre-CLAY bus trip, we stayed in Dryden, Ontario, and saw Kakabeka Falls. Finally, we ended up at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

CLAY lasted 4 days from Wednesday evening to Sunday morning. Once

there, we had many wonderful experiences. There was a total of 5 large group gatherings (LGG's), exploring the theme

of "Threads", where 4 story tellers shared their stories. In between the LGG's, we had story team time, where different home teams came to debrief the LGG's and to meet one another. We also experienced educational exercises, including the blanket exercise, which explored Canada's past with Indigenous peoples. The educational experiences also included the box exercise, which made us present to the similarities that all of us share. Each night, we had late night spots, where we got to go swimming, dancing, had campfires, did an open night mic, had an improv night, etc. Our off-site activity was an afternoon at Marina Park, listening to story tellers and recognizing murdered and missing Indigenous peoples.



CLAY 2018 was an eye-opening experience, especially for many who were unaware of the injustice experienced by Indigenous peoples. Everyone has a story and one story we all share, regardless of skin color, gender, sexual orientation, or creed, we are all children of God. CLAY helped us to realize the power of listening. We are called to tend to other's stories and we cannot do that if we do not listen. God is our weaver. God is constantly at work in our lives as our stories unfold. CLAY 2018 has motivated us as a youth group to be a welcoming and accepting body, listening to everyone and their stories. **We are so excited for CLAY 2020 to be in Calgary!**

Love, The Youth Group."

SOCIAL MINISTRY CAUSE OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

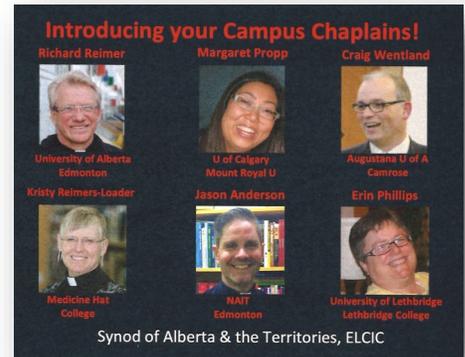


Lutheran Campus Ministry

**Attn: Quilters – We will meet on
Thursday, September 20th at 9:00 a.m.**

to sort fabrics and donations received this past summer.

Our next meeting: September 24th at 7:00 pm. All welcome.



COMMUNITY CLOTHING GIVE-A-WAY



Saturday, September 15, 2018

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW

Donations of clean, gently used clothing
will be gratefully accepted at church

Sept 10 to 14

For an exciting opportunity to make a
difference in the
community follow this link to volunteer

<https://www.volunteersignup.org/XADJE>



The Beginning of the Good News

An eight-week study with Pastor Laura

September 11 Introduction to Mark:

Background, empire, cosmic battle

September 18 Beginnings: Jesus' first words
and first public acts

September 25 Characters: Jesus, his disciples,
religious leaders, & minor characters

October 2 Story patterns and additions

October 16 Authority and boundaries

October 23 Jesus and the empire

November 6 The road to Jerusalem

November 13 Endings

Tuesday evenings 7-8:30 North Meeting Room

*We are currently worshipping using Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary,
featuring readings from the Gospel of Mark December 2017 - November 2018*

GOSPEL
of
Mark
Bible Study



Welcome to September! We are excited to be starting up our BLAST program again every Sunday after church. BLAST is a fun and interactive program for the young and not so young people at Lutheran Church of the Cross where we work together to learn more about different Bible stories and character by experiencing them in unique ways. The program is open to everyone from 3 to 99. We love to have everyone participate and learn with us.

Here are the stories we will be taking up this year:

- Deborah
- Noah
- Elijah
- Angels visit Mary and Joseph
- Jesus is Born
- Wise Men
- Zacchaeus
- Bartimaeus
- The Temptation
- The Chief Priests and Peter
- The Ascension
- A Widow's Offering

If you would like to help out or you would like more information please email Kathy Bishop at bishop4thomson@gmail.com

Confirmation Orientation for the Fall

For Parents & Confirmands

7-8:30pm, Tuesday, September 11

Our confirmation program is an intentional, two-year overview of the primary components of the Christian faith. All youth who are in Grade 7 or above and who have not been confirmed are encouraged to participate in Confirmation. The primary component is the Confirmation Class which meets from 7:00-8:30pm most Tuesdays from September through May. The orientation for this year's program is on **Tuesday, September 11 from 7-8:00pm**. This orientation will discuss all components of the program including: Tuesday evening classes, retreats, mentors, and worship participation. (Tuesday night classes begin on Tuesday, September 11th.) **Youth (both new and returning) and their parents or guardians** are encouraged to attend. For any questions and to RSVP, please contact Pastor Phil.



Needed for the WE CARE LEARNING AND LIVING KITS:

- 3 lined notebooks
- 10 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 metric ruler (30 centimetres),
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 eraser
- 1 pack of crayons (or pencil crayons)
- 1 small and simple toy (new and not requiring batteries)
- 1 bar of un-scented soap
- 1 toothbrush (new and wrapped)
- 1 tube of toothpaste (expiration date no earlier than one year)



 Canadian Lutheran World Relief

*SUGGESTED DONATION FOR EACH BAG is \$5.

Why is this necessary? The cost of shipping a container to places such as Kenya, Mauritania, Jordan and Nicaragua can range between \$7,000–\$11,000. Your donation helps defray warehousing and ocean freight costs. And once they arrive, the cheerful and practical We Care cloth bags and sturdy plastic buckets remain useful for years to come, a reminder of the kindness of strangers thousands of kilometres away.

LEAD

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

Women's Ministry

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MARY & MARTHA GROUP BIBLE STUDY – All are Welcome!

Saturday, September 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the Church (North meeting room)

Repentance - this Fall's theme

Repentance is one of the most powerful acts of a person or a church, making possible not only forgiveness but also reconciliation. Join us to explore how we as Lutheran Christians understand the role of repentance in our faith, especially as we understand God's grace to be unearned and freely given.



September: Time after time: Turning to God

“Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.” With these words, the prophet Joel reminds us that repentance is nothing to be afraid of—for when we turn to God, we find grace. What does it mean to (re)turn to God with all our hearts, and how do we do it?



Note: *Gather Magazine has been ordered in limited quantities due to cost and will be distributed to those in attendance at Bible Study. Copies will circulate to absent study group members to enjoy the many relevant articles and the total cost will be shared by all. Please come to the September meeting prepared to contribute to the subscription cost. (\$30 each)*

Questioning Our Loyalties

By Fr. Richard Rohr

The following daily devotion for Wednesday, July 11, 2018 was written by Fr. Richard Rohr, a Franciscan monk who is the director of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is someone I consider to be one of my spiritual mentors. Pastor Phil

Most religion is highly “legitimizing religion.” It is used for social control and public order by the powers that be and individuals. This oppressive use of religion has allowed much of Christian history to fully cooperate in toxic and unjust societies—just as long as each person had “a personal relationship with Jesus.” This will not work anymore; in fact, it never did.

The American bishops, paraphrasing many recent papal statements, said that “social justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel, and an essential part of the Church’s mission.” [1] Social critique is not an add-on, an option, a choice, or a unique vocation for a few. If we profess Jesus is indeed “the savior of the world” (John 4:42), we must not, we cannot, continue to think of salvation as merely a private matter. We are wasting our time trying to convert individuals without also challenging corporate, collective sin and fully institutionalized evil. (Corporate or social greed is called capitalism; individual greed was once called one of the seven “capital sins”—but no one believes it anymore.) Our morality is split in two! When we send momentarily changed people back into a corrupt system, people can think they are godly but it will never last for long or at any depth. As Jesus said, “the last state of the house is worse than the first” (Matthew 12:45).

Social justice is clearly God’s concern, starting with liberation of God’s people in the Exodus, yet it has taken Christians a long time to be able to see the Gospel in a fully historic, social, and political context. Truly transformed people organically change the world, while fundamentally unchanged people can only conform to the system and wholeheartedly cheer it on (see Romans 12:2). *Culture will win out every time over the Gospel if it is not critiqued by the Gospel.* That essential critique was much of the point of the evangelists’ writings. However, those politicians and priests who are concerned with their own privilege usually prefer an unaware and superficial populace. The people in

the pews are so used to this arrangement that they usually resent any forays into their public morality. “Keep it private and personal, Father,” they say. We can no longer waste time this way in the name of a God “before whom the very nations count as nothingness and emptiness” (Isaiah 40:17).

Dorothy Day (1897-1980) was not afraid to say it strongly: “We need to change the system. We need to overthrow, not the government, . . . but this rotten, decadent, putrid industrial capitalist system which breeds such suffering. . . .” [2] As long as we unquestioningly buy into the egoic system, where the roots of our narcissism often lie hidden, we’re going to have problems. If we think we can say our private prayers and still genuflect before the self-perpetuating, unjust systems of this world, our conversion will not go very deep or aid in the unfolding of history. There is no one more radical than a real person of prayer because they are not beholden to any ideology or economic system; their identity and motivation is found only in God, not in the pay-offs of “mammon.” Both church and state are threatened by true mystics. Such enlightened people can’t be bought off or manipulated, because their rewards are always elsewhere.

Most of us need to have the status quo shaken now and then, leaving us off balance and askew, feeling alienated for a while from our usual unquestioned loyalties. In this uncomfortable space, we can finally recognize the much larger kingdom of God. Many churches don’t seem to understand this, even flying the national flag in sanctuaries while daring to talk about “one God before us” in the same space. After authentic conversion, our old “country” no longer holds any ultimate position. We can’t worship it any longer as we were once trained to do. Our national identity is okay, probably necessary, but very limited in its capacity for truth, much less universal truth.

[1] U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light*, as quoted <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/new-evangelization-social-justice.cfm>.

[2] Dorothy Day, “On Pilgrimage,” *The Catholic Worker* (September 1956), <http://www.catholicworker.org/dorothyday/articles/710.html>.

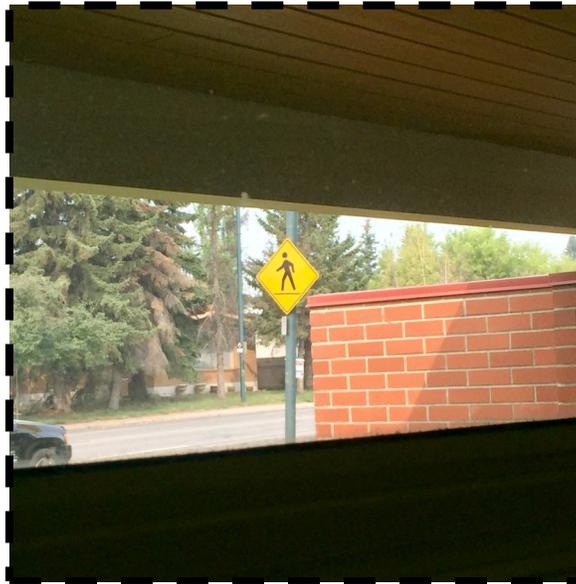
Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer* (The Crossroad Publishing Company: 1999),

LEAD ... love God with all your heart

The View from My Pew

I'm a creature of habit, admittedly, some pretty strange habits. One habit some of my fellow parishioners may recognize is that I always (well at least 98.75% of the time) sit in the third pew, south side, centre right, first seat next to main aisle. I do this partly out of habit but more so to better hear the spoken word and the exquisite tones of our Petrov piano and just to be close to the action. Granted, when our Pastors are over-zealous with spreading the baptismal water with palm fronds waving...a little too close to the action.

But there's also one very interesting religious icon that I can view from my pew that you may not see where you sit. This important religious emblem wasn't installed by our Church...indeed, we have the City of Calgary to thank. It's not even in our sanctuary but outside our Church building where it marks the crosswalk across Elbow Drive. That yellow sign means "*pedestrian crossing*" to most people. But from where I sit in the Church it reminds me that one of our most important responsibilities as Christians is to listen to, think

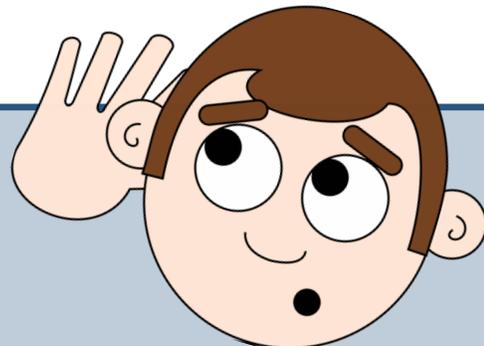


about, and believe in Jesus Christ's message in worship and then go out into the community and share Christ's message. That sharing could be through words or actions, but every time I look at that sign I'm reminded, "when you've worshipped, go out and spread the Good Message".

Our Listening Team has been enjoying the summer respite along with the rest of you, but this coming week we'll be meeting with restored vigor. And high on our agenda is speaking and listening to you and your ideas on how we can interact better with our neighbors outside our walls. Please stay tuned and receptive to what the Listening Team will be up to as we move closer to the end of summer and the vibrant colours of fall.

And check out the view from my pew. I'll be on vacation until the end of August so you can keep it warm.

Scott Christensen





God Moments

There have been a couple of months since I started writing this column where I have looked back and realized that, for whatever reason, I hadn't paid attention to where God might be present in my life.

This summer my excuse is that it's been too hot, or too smoky, or both. That I'm having trouble sleeping in the heat and/smoke. That my feet are swollen. That I'm getting bigger. And so on.

I'm learning that when I have a tough time recognizing where God is in my life, stories from the bible often point toward where God is in life today. Mark 6:34 says that Jesus had compassion for the crowd *"because they were like sheep without a shepherd."* Throughout his ministry Jesus has compassion and shepherds the people that he encounters along the way, even as there are so many people that Jesus and his disciples *"had no leisure, even to eat"* (6:31). Jesus feeds, teaches, and heals everyone he encoun-

ters, the incarnation of Psalm 23: *"The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want."*

Many of the people in the gospels that Jesus encounters have sought him out. As his ministry progresses a crowd gathers around and people approach him hoping to be healed. There are also many stories of people who were not looking for Jesus and encountered him anyways. The sheep does not have to be looking for the shepherd for the shepherd to care for the sheep. When the bible talks about God being like a good shepherd I am reminded that even though I am not paying attention, God is still working in my life.

Through the voices and hands of people around me, God provides me with grace when I am tired by inviting and encouraging me to rest. I experience God's grace when things turn out to be less complicated than I feared. God provides me with joy when I visit people and hear their stories. God provides me with health, with strong kicks, and with wonderful healthcare providers. This is how God, my shepherd, cares for me: making me lie down in green pastures and leading me beside still waters, even when I forget to look up.

Intern Kate

Maternity Leave

It is now less than a month until the baby is due. I will be starting maternity leave after the September long weekend (*Labour Day could have multiple meanings here!*). I will be returning as Intern at the beginning of January. In the meantime I look forward to bringing the baby along to worship on Sunday and maybe even some of my favourite weekday events like bible study. I will have approximately six months of internship remaining when I return from leave.

Intern Kate



Listening and Conversations – So Many Teams!

Over the past couple of months you may have heard about the Listening Team and about Conversation Circles and wondered what the difference is. They are both council priorities, they involving listening to the congregation, and could have a similar format. Even members of the teams have expressed confusion about what the difference is. The big difference is the objectives of each team.

The Listening Team

Back in summer 2017 you may have participated in the LEAD (Living Everyday As Disciples) congregational assessment. The results of that assessment indicated that ELCOC would benefit from following the LEAD Tune In Process to become more aware of where God is working in our congregation and in the community around us. In spring 2018 we formed a Listening Team that will spend the next year listening to God in scripture, in the congregation, and in the community.

In the spring and summer the Listening Team began by studying the book of Acts to practice listening to God in scripture. This fall the team will start the second phase of the Tune In Process: listening to God in the congregation. This means that at some point before the end of the year, we will want to listen to YOU. The Listening Team is still working out how we will listen to the congregation. Watch Thursday Thoughts and the October Crossbeams for updates on the Listening Team.

LEAD Vision:

- To be outwardly focused, joining in God's mission in a changing world.

Listening Team Objective:

- To become a listening congregation that pays attention to where and how God is working so that we form new community partnerships and participate in God's mission in new ways.

Team members: Hilary Gray (Facilitator), Scott Christensen (Communicator), Sasha Craven, Gates Fortier, Pastor Laura, Pastor Phil, Barry Kopperud, Terry Kopperud, Doug Normandin, and Intern Kate.

Conversation Circles

Following the AGM in January 2018 the new council wanted to improve communication between different small groups within the congregation. Someone suggested that having conversation circles could facilitate that. A council team called "Conversation Circles" was created to figure out what these "conversation circles" would look like.

We decided to try hosting one-off house-meetings that would bring together members who would not necessarily interact with each other on a regular basis and have a conversation on a particular topic. This summer we hosted two such events with the theme "Cultivating Generosity." As we enter the fall our team will review how these events went and plan more.

Objectives:

- To bring together people who would not normally talk.
- To start conversations in the congregation that will spread.
- To hear people's stories, thoughts, and feelings on the chosen topics.

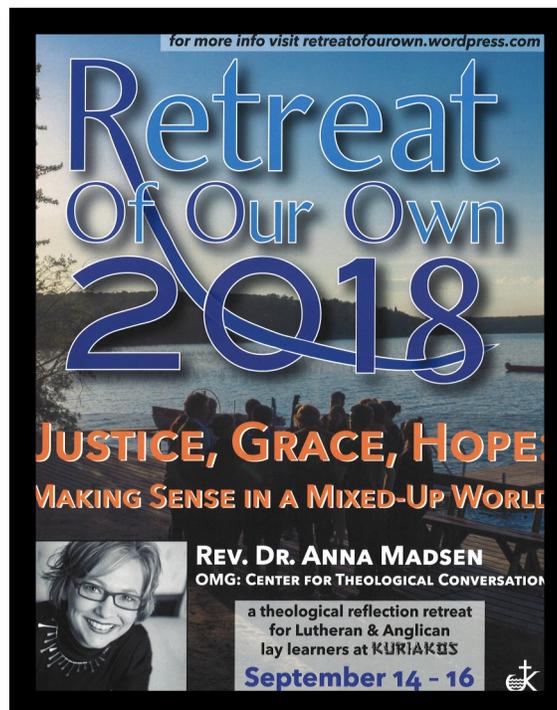
Team members: Kate Bedi, Pastor Laura, Nyajuok Kulang, Lisa Rude, and Intern Kate.



Synod Convention News!!

I attended the convention as a lay delegate for our congregation. The last one I attended was in 2012 where we first elected Bishop Kochendorfer. I am pleased to report he was re-elected on the first ballot. The various clergy I spoke to were unanimous in their support for the Bishop and the contention that he is a pastor for the pastors as well as the Synod. One motion that was passed by the convention came from Pastor Laura and Brian Anderson concerning the establishment of a synod fund that would be used for growth opportunities and renewal and be funded by congregations that are winding up and closing. One highlight of the convention was the Dr Anna Madsen who spoke about faith and used her personal experiences as a basis. She is speaking at the September “Retreat of Our Own” (at Camp Kuriakos) and should not be missed. My own personal experience of the convention was a mixture of sadness and hope. I was sad to talk to several delegates who were in the process of winding up rural churches and cemeteries, that were closing due to people moving off the farms to the cities and towns. I was also hopeful as I attended sessions on the church’s missions and projects in our urban centers and other countries. Overall It was well worth attending I would encourage anyone interested in the church at large to be a delegate in the future for national or local Synod conventions.

Helmut Hofer



LEAD 

... love God with all your heart

AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM



**YOU MATTER
NO MATTER!**

Wine, Cheese, and Fabulous Fun....draising!

Join us for wine, cheese, music, and a silent auction, not to mention scintillating company as we raise funds for Camp fyrefly and Wild Rose United Church.



WINE

CHEESE

SILENT AUCTION

ENTERTAINMENT

Saturday
September 15
7-11 pm

Wild Rose
United Church
1317 - 1st St. NW

Tickets: \$25

Available at
Eventbrite.ca

or at the church office

403 277-5576

office@wildroseunited.ca



wild rose
united church

CALGARY PRIDE

Lutherans Walk with Pride!

Lutherans Supporting Pride will be walking for the second year in the Calgary Pride Parade to show our support and love for our LGBTQ friends, family, and community.

All Lutherans and their family and friends are invited to walk with us as we affirm that everyone is a beloved child of God.

Sunday, September 2,
11:00am-1:00pm

The parade starts at 3rd St SE and goes down 6th Ave to 6th St SW and then to Eau Claire and ends at Prince's Island Park.

To join in, email Kayko Driedger Hesslein
kaykodh@gmail.com
(if you can only come for a bit, or just jump in as you see us walk by, that's fine, too)

I'm walking!
Pastor
Laura

I'm walking
for wedding
Intern
side

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



FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

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

FRIDAY STAMPS *vs* ARGONAUTS **\$21** /PERSON
 SEPT. 28 • 7 P.M. + \$3 TICKET FEE

ADDED INCENTIVES:

100+ TICKETS

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

76-100 TICKETS

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

50-75 TICKETS

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

Churches with 10+ tickets will be acknowledged post-game on our big screen

Individual tickets can be purchased at Stampeders.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

Stampeders jersey

See Dianne if you would like to order tickets for the football game.





Prayer and Care meets to learn and give and receive support for those going through good times and stressful times. Perhaps you are grieving the loss of a loved one or you are caring for someone with a health issue. Perhaps your child is heading off to University or you know is struggling with work issues. Life events both sad and happy remind us of the following verse.

Ephesians 6:18 *“Pray in the Spirit at all times.”*

Everyone is welcome at any of the following events. You are welcome to attend regularly or as needs arise. Perhaps you have a friend in need. Consider being a support to them by bringing them to **Prayer and Care**. We have an open door for the following events.

Sept. 4 @10am – members meet for **Coffee and Visiting** each Tuesday @Tim Horton’s (Braeside Drive & 24th St)

Sept 11 - (monthly on the 2nd Tues] @ 11:00 -**Prayer and Care with Potluck Lunch**

Sept 23 - **Pot Luck, Hymns and Devotion** following worship with Catherine Glazer-Climie presenting.

“Singing with others gets to the core of our human existence”

There will be regular PHD events held on the first Thursdays of some months. Watch the Crossbeams and bulletins for ads. **Next one is November 1st at noon.**

Sept. 20 - (NOTE THIS MONTH ONLY ON THE 3RD THURSDAY) monthly on the 4th Thursday @ 5-7 pm- **Pot Luck Supper and Caring Conversations**

LEAD ... love God with all your heart

From Your Gardening Group

In spite of scorching heat, lack of rain, and flash hail storms, all is beautiful and bountiful in our LCOC gardens.

In the vegetable garden, which has the benefit of full sunshine all day long, we are once again witnessing the miracle of each tiny seed planted by loving hands in late May.

The first two Sundays of “harvest” allowed us to offer bags of kale and Swiss chard to congregation members Judy and I wander the narthex after worship with greens in hand and sometimes are met with enthusiasm, and sometimes a rabbit-in-the-headlights look from those who believe that *only* rabbits should be eating this “stuff.”

Two impressive loads of beans, turnips, carrots, onions, kohlrabi, potatoes, kale, and zucchini delivered to the Food Bank and another planned for August 24. There will likely be at least three more good harvests. We are so pleased that the Food Bank is accepting fresh produce this year. They are also accepting backyard fruit if anyone has apples, pears, or anything else to offer.

As always, the Remembering Garden blooms as though blessed, which we know to be true. The roses, after a splendid first blooming, were somewhat battered by the hail but there is a new crop of buds and they will again call to passing pedestrians to stop and smell and then move on to rest on the bench facing the Remembering Garden.

Along the west wall of the church the perennials, roses, and saskatoons(!) add the colour and the welcome that guided the first efforts to expand the gardens almost fifteen years ago. A member of the congregation who has become not only my sister in gardening but a dear friend asked, after visiting me at home and taking note that I am gardener, if I would join her in cleaning up the existing perennials, and creating new flower beds.

So it began. First a new perennial bed, which a few years later became the rose bed. Then our Remembering Garden which grew out of a need to create something beautiful in response to the horror of losing our beautiful Brittney.

Around the same time we decided to expand our mission

to growing food. With the help of Doug Normandin (*we have so many people in this congregation who respond to our requests for help with good humour and awesome skills*), we created a small garden of raised beds on the east side of the church. Unfortunately, because of construction we were forced to dismantle the beds the next year, but were able to pass the building materials on to the community association for their garden beds.

Enter our new pastors, who, very soon after their arrival, engaged all of us in a meeting in the narthex after worship and asked the question (and I paraphrase here, but this is how I heard it): What can this church do that will keep you here? So easy, the words came out before I even knew I’d formed them: Grow food! Be good stewards of this property. From the size of the group that gathered to talk about possibilities, it became clear that we were on our way with measuring tapes, and stakes and the laying down of cardboard and truckloads of dirt to cover it. Beds and paths to stake out, mulch to put down on the pathways. And so it went and still goes on. Since 2014, our 40x40 ft plot of land— formerly “lawn” that needed fertilizing, watering, mowing, and more fertilizing and watering to keep it growing so that it could be mown again— has produced food that we have shared with the Made by Momma organization, the Dream Centre, and the residents next door at Austin Nixon Manor. This year, we are committing our produce to the Food Bank. We may not be feeding the 5,000, but are determined to take a small part in the large task of feeding Calgary’s hungry.

What next? My fellow gardeners, most of whom share my belief that growing grass does not work toward good stewardship of this property we are so fortunate to own, smile when I talk (repeatedly) about turning over the front lawn to potatoes. Seriously, it is my hope that one day the expanse of land in front of the church will be a glorious life-sustaining garden.

Yes, there are so many details, so much effort required to make this vision a reality, but with the dedication of your Gardening Group and the spirit of the congregation at LCOC, and God leading us, we know that all things are possible.

Betty Jane Hegerat on behalf of your hardworking, dedicated gardening group: **Judy, Doris, Barb, Pearl, Terry, Laurie, Maureen, Genevieve, Kathy, Sandi, and Marilyn.**

FOR THE JOURNEY



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

RETREAT WITH **STEVE BELL**

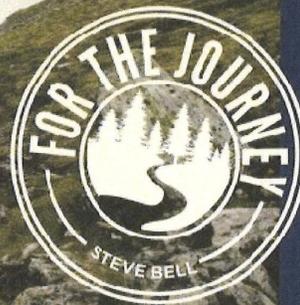
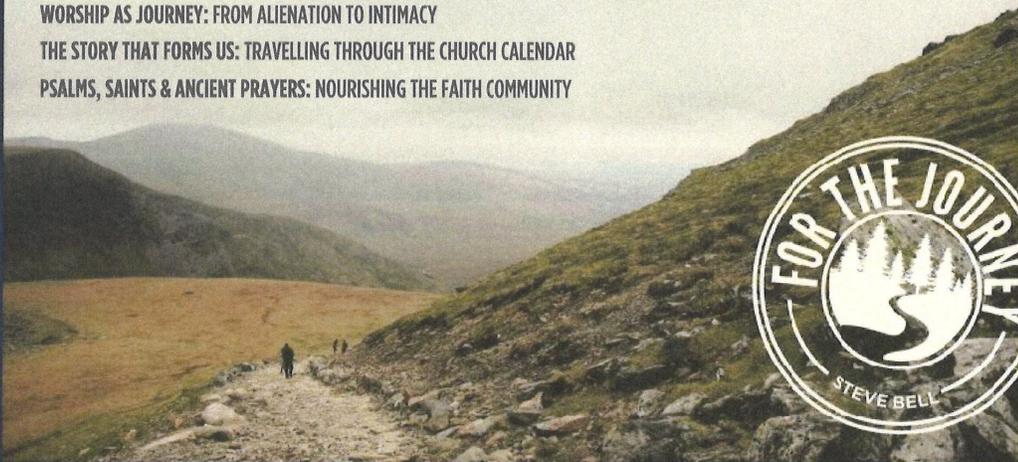
SESSIONS:

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

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Christian Pastoral Caregivers Association



CREATING SPACE TO BECOME A HEALING PRESENCE



Saturday, October 13th, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Carewest Colonel Belcher
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Calgary, AB**

\$55 per person

REGISTER at cpcassoc.ca

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: Friday, October 5, 2018
DEADLINE FOR CANCELLATION: Friday, October 5, 2018**



SouthWest Communities Resource Centre September 2018 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 community partners, please contact the office at **403 238-9222** for details on the referral process and the dates of availability.

Programs and Workshops

Chat 'N Play This program is designed as a casual social time with parents and children ages 0-6. Drop by and meet other parents for coffee and play time.

Mondays 10-12pm Starting September 10th, 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

Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting an 8-week program for parents of children of all ages in Heart of South Calgary Family Center.

Wednesdays 10-12pm September 12 - October 31, 2018

Youth Tutoring For students in grade 7—12. Volunteers from our communities support youth with their homework and help them learn to be critical thinkers.

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 pm starting September 19th, 2018

Pre-employment Workshop a 4-week program for resume writing, resume critique, Job Search skills, and interview skills

Mondays 1-3pm September 17, 24 & Oct. 1, 15, 2018

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

Thursdays 12:30-2:30pm September 6th & 20th, 2018

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



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

CanLearn Society: Magic Carpet Ride — Tuesday mornings in September

Aspen Family Center: Positive Discipline in Everyday Practice will be delivered in the Heart of South Calgary Family Center

Columbia College Calgary: Pre-employment workshop



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.

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

Thank You

We would like to thank the congregation for their prayers, cards and phone calls. Also thank you to all who helped Gail during the service.

Gail & Brian Anderson



Join in service with...

Lutheran Hospital Ministries

SOUTHERN ALBERTA

...serving Christ through visitation in
area hospitals and care centres in
Calgary and Southern Alberta



Interested?

Phone: 403-264-4045 or 403-637-2650

Email: lhmsac@gmail.com or
mclobitz@gmail.com



August 15 Harvest

Dear Beloved of God –

Immediately following the June 14-16, 2018 Synod Convention, the Synod of Alberta and the Territories was pleased to host a Global Consultation which included Companion Synod partners: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO), the South Carolina ELCA Synod, the SE Minnesota ELCA Synod, ELCA Global Mission staff and the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.

Bishop Atahualpa Hernandez from IELCO had requested the Consultation in order to further our conversation and deepen our expression of communion following the November 2016 International Consultation held in Peru.

As we gathered, the consultation participants often referred to the Emmaus story of the disciples walking together and Jesus coming among them. The global mission's accompaniment model is one of walking together in solidarity, side by side, practicing interdependence and mutuality, in service to God's mission. The values of the accompaniment model are interconnected, and include mutuality, inclusivity, sustainability, vulnerability and empowerment. The core purpose of these relationships, this accompaniment, is God's mission.

The devotions one morning focused on Revelation 7:9-12, "After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands" (vs. 9).

"Here," shared the devotion leader, "here in this text from Revelation we see God's dream of one global congregation. Gathered are the Colombians, those from the United States and Alberta. One global congregation speaking a multitude of languages. One global congregation standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

Here we see God's vision. Here we see God's dream of one global congregation."

I experienced this one global congregation when together with Tricia (Ariza) Hoepfner from Ascension, Edmonton we facilitated our Synod Delegation's journey to Colombia July 26-August 7. Our journey, primarily to the rural congregations and ministries of IELCO outside of Bogota, was life-transforming as together we learned of the vast and important ministries: seniors, displaced, marginalized, children through visits to three of the four IELCO schools, single mothers, deaf children and youth, after school meals and homework assistance, various congregational ministries...and most importantly, the significance of relationships...meeting with the leadership of the Lutheran World Federation's World Services office, meeting most of the pastors of IELCO, worship, generous hospitality...one global congregation.

Personally, I was refreshed through the journey and the relationship within the delegation, and the conversations with many friends previously met in Colombia...dear dear friends. And refreshed in the values of family and relationships, faith and hospitality.

Global relationships are complex, and they require time and attention to sustain, but how life-giving as together we live into God's one global congregation dream.

In Christ Jesus – Shalom,
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

"The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)



September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Communion Sundays Sept. 2, 16 & 30 </div>						1
2 Worship—10 am— Pride Parade - 11 am SWCG—1—3 pm	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Cantare - 5 - 9 pm	5 Sandwich Making - 7:30 am AHS caregivers - 1 pm Cantare - 5 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	6 E.A.—7 pm	7 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	8
9 Adult Study - 9 am Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship MAC-G Training SWCG—1—3 pm	10 Kodaly - 9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare Children's Choir - 5 - 9 pm	11 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Prayer & Care - 11 am Faith Formation - 7 pm Confirmation - 7 pm	12 Bible Study - 9:30 am SWCG—7 pm Cantare Children's Choir - 5 - 9 pm	13 Kodaly - 9:15 am Clothing Give-Away - Set-up - 9 am - 9 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	14 Office Closed Clothing Give-Away - Set-up - 9 am - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	15 Clothing Give- Away - 10 am - 1 pm
16 Adult Study - 9 am Worship—10 am BLAST —following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	17 Kodaly - 9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare Children's Choir - 5 - 9 pm	18 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Faith Formation - 7 pm Confirmation - 7 pm	19 Bible Study - 9:30 am SWCG—7 pm Cantare Children's Choir - 5 - 9 pm Council Mtg.—7 pm	20 Quilting - 9 am Kodaly - 9:15 am Caring Conversations - 5 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	21 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	22 Men's Breakfast - 8 am Women's Ministry - 10 am
23 Adult Study - 9 Worship—10 am PHD following wor- ship BLAST - following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	24 Kodaly - 9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare Children's Choir - 5 - 9 pm Social Ministry Mtg. - 7 pm	25 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Faith Formation - 7 pm Confirmation - 7 pm	26 Bible Study - 9:30 am Cantare Children's Choir - 5 - 9 pm	27 Quilting - 9 am Kodaly - 9:15 am E.A.—7 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	28 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	29
30 FOOD BANK SUN. Adult Study - 9 am Worship—10 am BLAST SHOWCASE SWCG—1—4 pm	<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Cause of the Month Campus Ministry </div>					