



## The Journey toward Right Relations

When I was growing up in Texas, I never gave a thought to Turkey and the Turkish people... Now I have friends who are Turkish. You probably know the story... Malik Muradov showed up at a Sunday morning worship here at Church of the Cross and invited Laura and I to an interfaith dinner sponsored by the Intercultural Dialogue Institute. Several dinners, conversations, and shared events later... we realized that we were friends! This friendship has given us an important connection that provides perspective on the current discussions (*and often suspicions*) about Christians and Muslims.

When I was pastor in San Antonio, Texas, over half of the population was Hispanic. I always thought that that it would be a good idea to have “*good relationships*” with Hispanics and to be someone who was helping heal relations between Whites and Hispanics. I certainly knew and liked people who were Hispanic but—if I’m honest—never had any close friends who were Hispanic.

On Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, I found myself in a room with five indigenous elders and about 20 Christian leaders. The elders were Siksika, Metis and Cree. The Christians were United Church, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Anglican, Unitarian and Lutheran. This was the first of six sessions in what we are calling the “*Elder-led project*.” It began with Knox United Church wanting to be a place of reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. Their initial

idea was to have an “Elder-in-residence” to begin the truth-telling and healing. What came up when they tried to create this was that the elders did not trust Church leaders. (It is easy to understand since all of them are survivors of residential schools.) Out of this attempt came the idea of creating an opportunity for intentional trust and relationship building to happen between Elders and Christian leaders ***led and designed by the Elders***.

On this first day of the Elder-led project, I initially experienced some unease and uncomfortability. But as the day went on I was present to hope, truth, forgiveness, healing, and laughter. There is a general feeling that we’re up to something significant.

When I ponder the ways that Jesus took risks by crossing boundaries, challenged established norms that kept people separated, and affirmed the faith and actions of non-Jews like the Syro-Phoenician woman and the Good Samaritan... I can’t help but think that this work of developing right relations with our indigenous brothers and sisters might be a part of God’s reconciling work in the world.

Peace

## A glance at November Ministry Happenings....



**Nov. 1** - PHD - noon

**Nov. 4** - Baby Shower for Intern Kate, Brady & Alliott - 2-4 pm. This is for everyone! (not just women)

**Nov. 7** - Sandwich Making - 7:30 am

**Nov. 10** - Men's Breakfast - 8 am

**Nov. 10** - Glass Fusion Bowl making - 9 am - noon - Sign up sheet in narthex

**Nov. 16 - 17** - Steve Bell retreat - there is still time to take advantage of the \$39 offer for LCC members

**Nov. 18** - Congregational meeting - following worship

**Nov. 21** - Council meeting - 7 pm

**Nov. 22** - Caring Conversations - 5 pm - potluck

**Nov. 24** - Men's Breakfast - 8 am

**Nov. 24** - Women's Ministry - 10 am

**Nov. 25** - Conversation Café - 1:30 am

**Nov. 27** - MENTOR NIGHT at Confirmation - 7 pm



### In this Month's Issue

*Love the Lord your God with.....*

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## Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW Calgary, AB

[www.churchofthecross.ca](http://www.churchofthecross.ca)

[churchofthecross@shaw.ca](mailto: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**

## Cause of the month for November

### Families in Need

During November we encourage members to donate funds to enable us to supply food/or gift cards for families who struggle to meet their needs during the winter and holiday season. Your continued support is much appreciated.

As our Christmas project we will again do the 'stuff a pair of socks' for the Mustard Seed. A box will be placed in the narthex for the collection of socks and needed items.

**List of items needed to stuff socks:** personal hygiene (i.e. soap, toothpaste and brushes, deodorant, lip balm, skin cream, shampoo, comb, tissues) chocolate bars, candy treats, pen and writing pad, bus tickets, gift card (e.g. Tim Hortons).

December 16<sup>th</sup> is the final day for collection.



***" Butterflies are reminders than miracles happen every day"***

~ Robyn Nola

The Listening Team invites you to claim the places and times you have seen God at work. Where have you witnessed God's healing, rescue or influence? What little (or big!) things sustain you, give you joy, or let you know life is worth living?

*"Miracles are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see."* - C. S. Lewis (C.S. Lewis was an author, essayist and Christian apologist. He is best known for his children's classic series - The Chronicles of Narnia)

# LEAD ... love God with all your soul

## An Exciting Month Ahead

November is an emotional roller coaster in the life of the church. We begin by remembering our saints who have gone onto glory and celebrating the gift of their lives. For some, this experience is uplifting; for others it is painful. We are all over the map with joy and sorrow as we remember, grieve and give thanks.

For the rest of November, we wrap up the long season after Pentecost in which we have been celebrating the life of the Holy Spirit amongst us and our own spiritual growth. On these Sundays, we hear stories of Christ's return and how to prepare ourselves for its coming. The season culminates with Christ the King Sunday, as we acknowledge Christ's supremacy in every part of our lives and of our life together. Christ the King Sunday is something like New Year's Eve in the life of the church: a time to celebrate our life together, knowing that our resolution-making is coming with the dawn.

This makes November the perfect time to host our annual stewardship drive as we contemplate what it means to follow Christ in his way, open ourselves to being conformed into his image, and dedicate our resources to the building of God's realm on earth.

The colors on the altar will change a lot in November: from white to green to white, moving from "innocence and purity" to "spiritual growth" and back, symbolizing the celebrating and stretching we will do together.

I invite you to participate fully in this exciting month. Be in prayer about those who have touched and molded your life and prepare yourself to give thanks for them on November 4.

All during the month, consider that stewardship means more than you think it does. Stewardship is not just about money, but more importantly about:

- how we order our lives
- what we value
- whom we place on the throne of our lives
- where we hear God leading

These considerations determine how, what, and when we give in a much deeper way than considerations about money and budgets alone.

Be in prayer, discernment, and conversation with your family about God, your faith lives, your values, and your finances and other resources. Talk about what God is calling you to give to the church and what it takes to further

our mission and communal life. Choose together what you will give for the year and come to church ready to make an anonymous pledge on November 25. For detailed help with this discernment, refer to the next several pages of the Crossbeams beginning with "What do I need to know in order to take a step in my giving?" and ending with the "Take a Step in Giving" financial chart.

Spend the last week in November in prayer for all of the families and individuals in our church community. Ask God to support and care for them as they also prepare to keep

their promises in the coming year.

**Come to worship November 25** ready to re-enthroned Christ as Lord and King of all. Luther would say this is hard work, because each of us wants to be God ourselves! What will it take for you to get yourself off the throne of your life and put Jesus there?

peace is yours,

Pastor Laura



## What do I need to know in order to take a step in my giving?

### First, let's understand some things about money....

Financial transactions are nothing more than a system of trading one thing for another (bartering). Before the invention of money, people traded goods and services, agreeing upon relative value and exchanging like for like. For example, if you were strong and could lift heavy things, you could go around lifting heavy things for farmers in exchange for food. Of course, this system breaks down quickly: What if you need a hair cut, but the barber doesn't need any lifting done or the only lifting work is on the farm?

Money allows people to exchange good and services for an item of agreed-upon value, that can then be used as "currency" in the marketplace. (At first it was buttons.) In other words, money is nothing more than an "agreement of value". Money was not invented by God. Money was invented by people to make transactions easier and give people more choices in the marketplace. (As an interesting aside, look up "rai stones" or "stone money" on the internet!)

Currency, transactions, and the desire to accumulate money have a way of creeping into our internal value system and corrupting us. We call this condition "greed." 1 Timothy 6:10 says, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains." (Note that it says, "the love of money", not money itself. Money itself is benign.) Indeed, if you want to discover why people suffer, follow the money in their personal lives, and in our governments, businesses and organizations. Much pain is caused to masses of people by the corruption and greed of a few in pivotal positions.

### Next, let's talk about why financial giving is necessary for everyone, no matter who you are or how much money you have....

Financial stewardship is the best way the worshipping community knows to keep the human heart free of greed and financial corruption. There are several reasons for this.

Financial stewardship helps people recognize that God is God and we are not. We name and claim that God has

given us every good thing, including the ability to prosper. As recognition of God's blessings to us, we strive to give blessings back to God, measure for measure. The regular practice of giving money helps us honor the first commandment. It continually reminds us in a tangible and sometimes painful way that we honor God above everything and everyone else.

Financial stewardship invests us in the mission of God. In Luke 12, Jesus says, <sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

<sup>33</sup> Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

<sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." It matters where you put your money. If you invest in hockey, you will live, breathe, and love hockey. You will spend your time there, too. If you invest in the church, you will care differently about the church's mission. You will spend more time there and you will be changed spiritually as you make God and God's beloved community the center of your life. More and more, you will be challenged to pour your life out for others the way that Jesus did. Of course you can invest in more than one thing, but often people invest in many things, leaving the church out of the picture.

We strive to practice first fruits giving. This means giving to God first, before the payment of any bills, financial commitments, or spending desires. Why? Because if we give to God from the leftovers or excess money we have, we often find there is little left to give. "First fruits giving"

requires us to think about and plan where we will spend our money. It forces us to budget and tell our money what to do, rather than watch it drain away leaving us wondering where it all went. People who practice "first fruits giving" often report experiencing having enough money for all the things they want to do, no matter how much money they have.

### You should also know some things about the finances at Church of the Cross:

- All personal financial giving records are confidential.
- No one will ever talk to you or anyone else about how much you give, or "squeeze you" to give more, although they may ask you to give something.



- The weekly counters and the financial secretary, who are responsible for handling everything that comes into the offering plates and making deposits on behalf of the church are the only people who see individual contributions. They have a code of confidentiality they must keep to protect people's privacy in matters of giving. The pastors, staff, council, and members of the congregation do not know how much or how frequently individual people give to the church.

- All of the regular expenses, including the mortgage, utility bills, maintenance expenses, staff salaries and contracts, office supplies, coffee, candles, music, and program costs are paid from the contributions of members and guests and from rental fees received from outside organizations and groups who contract with us to use our building space.

- Sometimes we receive grants from outside organizations for special projects.

- We also receive memorial donations from people wishing to honor and remember a loved one. These funds are used to purchase "permanent furnishings" in the church, particularly things related to worship and enhancement of communal life.

- Your giving is never compared to the giving of anyone else.

- We do not receive funding from the national, synodical, or conference expressions of the church. In fact, we send money to them to fund ministry at those levels. These are things like: seminary education, world hunger relief, the national magazine, and provincial initiatives like mental health ministry.



### Why do we function this way?

Financial giving is a highly personal and spiritual matter. It really is no one's business except yours and God's, and it is best kept between you.

### How do take a step in my giving?

Most importantly, begin where you are. You cannot go from giving nothing to giving a huge percentage of your income in a single swift motion. Yet, it is important that you take a step, small or large. All of us stepping together will make a huge impact on the ministry of the church, and therefore the world.

**Three simple rules in life: If you do not go after what you want, you'll never have it. If you do not ask, the answer will always be no. If you do not step forward, you will always be in the same place.**

Anonymous

To take a step in your giving, you must address to aspects of giving: Frequency and amount.

Use the material following to assess the amount of your giving.

Use the material below to access the frequency of your giving.

As with every mark of discipleship, the pastors are available to meet with you for prayer, consultation and guidance as you take new steps. Remember that taking these steps in giving is an act of spiritual growth and deepening discipleship. May God bless your growth and your giving.

### FREQUENCY

Financial giving is like a muscle that becomes strong as it is exercised and used. We take a step with the frequency of our giving so that financial giving becomes a habit. The questions below are intended to help to assess where and how to take a step with the frequency and regularity of your giving. If you can answer "Yes" to the question, continue to the

next question. As soon as you answer "No" to a question, go to work in that section and assess how to take the next step in your giving.

### Have you ever given money to the church? If not...

Beginning to give is often a matter of confronting our awareness about how ministry is funded and our part in it. Oftentimes we simply haven't thought about giving. Maybe we think other people we take care of it, or that we don't have anything to contribute. Giving to the church, however, is not about any of those things. Giving to the church is about taking a step toward living in right relationship with God and others. Giving to the church is about reordering our economic minds and beginning to make them spiritual. Your first step is to pray. Ask God to reorder your thoughts about money. Listen for how God is calling you to contribution to your congregation.

**Do you give money to the church each Sunday you attend, or do you give on PAR? If not...**

You have given money to the church before, now the step to take is to plan to give money to the church each time you attend. This step is not so much about giving large amounts of money, but about getting in the habit of giving something regularly. Each member of the church is issued a set of offering envelopes to help with building this muscle. Use your envelopes to plan to make a gift to the church each time you attend. Plan out one month at a time, placing your offering in the envelopes when you plan. Bring the envelopes with you when you worship.

**Do you give money regularly, whether or not you attend? If not...**

You have given money to the church before, either every time you attend, or close to it. The next step in building your giving muscle is to give whether you attend or not. When you do your financial planning each month, plan to give a specific amount for the month. Either divide that amount into your envelopes, make one monthly payment in one envelope, or make arrangements to give of PAR. Giving on Par allows you to give monthly, electronically on a specific date of your choice. The calculations become easier if you do annual planning and plan your giving to the church once for the whole year.

**Do you give money at times above and beyond your regular giving, such as Cause of the Month, Lenten services, special asks, or for memorials? If not...**

If you are already giving regularly to the church, whether you attend or not, the next step is to open your finances to the special projects of the congregation and the extra-mile giving projects that benefit other agencies within the wider church and our community. Pray about which projects you might support and to what extent. Give generously and often.

**Do you give to these sorts of opportunities regularly? If not...**

Plan to give to the special projects of the congregation and extra-mile giving projects that benefit other agencies within the wider church and our community. If you plan once annually, you can budget for these projects and events as a method of planned generosity.

**AMOUNT**

**Are you giving a percentage of your income, or a regular amount each month? If not...**

When determining how much to give, the pastors recommend using a percentage of your income. Starting to give in this manner will reorder your financial life. The absolute best thing to do is to create an annual budget. If you have never done this, use the budgeting worksheet included in this packet. A budget is nothing more than a plan; you telling your money what you want it to do.

If you are giving a percentage of your income or a regular amount each month, the next step is for you to increase that percentage or amount.

Use the step charts to help you calculate how much to budget to give. (Page 8 and 9)



# TAKE A STEP IN GIVING

1. Find your income on the chart below.
2. Pray and reflect on your income and expenses as an individual and/or family
3. What would it take for you to take a 1/2% or 1% step up in giving? What would you have to reprioritize?

| Income  |             | Weekly Giving to the Congregation (monthly figures are on the reverse side) |         |         |         |         |         |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|---------|-------------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Hourly  | Monthly     | Yearly  | 0.5%    | 1%      | 1.5%    | 2%      | 2.5%    | 3%      | 3.5%     | 4%       | 4.5%     | 5%       | 7%       | 9%       | 10%      | 11%      |
| \$10.70 | \$1,851.10  | \$22,213.20   | \$2.15  | \$4.30  | \$6.46  | \$8.61  | \$10.76 | \$12.91 | \$15.07  | \$17.22  | \$19.37  | \$21.52  | \$30.13  | \$38.74  | \$43.05  | \$47.35  |
| \$11.20 | \$1,937.60  | \$23,251.20   | \$2.25  | \$4.51  | \$6.76  | \$9.01  | \$11.27 | \$13.52 | \$15.77  | \$18.02  | \$20.28  | \$22.53  | \$31.54  | \$40.55  | \$45.06  | \$49.57  |
| \$12.00 | \$2,076.00  | \$24,912.00   | \$2.41  | \$4.83  | \$7.24  | \$9.66  | \$12.07 | \$14.48 | \$16.90  | \$19.31  | \$21.73  | \$24.14  | \$33.80  | \$43.45  | \$48.28  | \$53.11  |
| \$13.00 | \$2,249.00  | \$26,988.00   | \$2.62  | \$5.23  | \$7.85  | \$10.46 | \$13.08 | \$15.69 | \$18.31  | \$20.92  | \$23.54  | \$26.15  | \$36.61  | \$47.07  | \$52.30  | \$57.53  |
| \$14.00 | \$2,422.00  | \$29,064.00   | \$2.82  | \$5.63  | \$8.45  | \$11.27 | \$14.08 | \$16.90 | \$19.71  | \$22.53  | \$25.35  | \$28.16  | \$39.43  | \$50.69  | \$56.33  | \$61.96  |
| \$15.00 | \$2,595.00  | \$31,140.00   | \$3.02  | \$6.03  | \$9.05  | \$12.07 | \$15.09 | \$18.10 | \$21.12  | \$24.14  | \$27.16  | \$30.17  | \$42.24  | \$54.31  | \$60.35  | \$66.38  |
| \$17.00 | \$2,941.00  | \$35,292.00   | \$3.42  | \$6.84  | \$10.26 | \$13.68 | \$17.10 | \$20.52 | \$23.94  | \$27.36  | \$30.78  | \$34.20  | \$47.88  | \$61.56  | \$68.40  | \$75.23  |
| \$20.00 | \$3,460.00  | \$41,520.00   | \$4.02  | \$8.05  | \$12.07 | \$16.09 | \$20.12 | \$24.14 | \$28.16  | \$32.19  | \$36.21  | \$40.23  | \$56.33  | \$72.42  | \$80.47  | \$88.51  |
| \$22.00 | \$3,806.00  | \$45,672.00   | \$4.43  | \$8.85  | \$13.28 | \$17.70 | \$22.13 | \$26.55 | \$30.98  | \$35.40  | \$39.83  | \$44.26  | \$61.96  | \$79.66  | \$88.51  | \$97.36  |
| \$24.00 | \$4,152.00  | \$49,824.00   | \$4.83  | \$9.66  | \$14.48 | \$19.31 | \$24.14 | \$28.97 | \$33.80  | \$38.62  | \$43.45  | \$48.28  | \$67.59  | \$86.90  | \$96.56  | \$106.21 |
| \$26.00 | \$4,498.00  | \$53,976.00   | \$5.23  | \$10.46 | \$15.69 | \$20.92 | \$26.15 | \$31.38 | \$36.61  | \$41.84  | \$47.07  | \$52.30  | \$73.22  | \$94.14  | \$104.60 | \$115.07 |
| \$30.00 | \$5,190.00  | \$62,280.00   | \$6.03  | \$12.07 | \$18.10 | \$24.14 | \$30.17 | \$36.21 | \$42.24  | \$48.28  | \$54.31  | \$60.35  | \$84.49  | \$108.63 | \$120.70 | \$132.77 |
| \$32.00 | \$5,536.00  | \$66,432.00   | \$6.44  | \$12.87 | \$19.31 | \$25.75 | \$32.19 | \$38.62 | \$45.06  | \$51.50  | \$57.93  | \$64.37  | \$90.12  | \$115.87 | \$128.74 | \$141.62 |
| \$34.00 | \$5,882.00  | \$70,584.00   | \$6.84  | \$13.68 | \$20.52 | \$27.36 | \$34.20 | \$41.04 | \$47.88  | \$54.72  | \$61.56  | \$68.40  | \$95.75  | \$123.11 | \$136.79 | \$150.47 |
| \$36.00 | \$6,228.00  | \$74,736.00   | \$7.24  | \$14.48 | \$21.73 | \$28.97 | \$36.21 | \$43.45 | \$50.69  | \$57.93  | \$65.18  | \$72.42  | \$101.39 | \$130.35 | \$144.84 | \$159.32 |
| \$38.00 | \$6,574.00  | \$78,888.00   | \$7.64  | \$15.29 | \$22.93 | \$30.58 | \$38.22 | \$45.87 | \$53.51  | \$61.15  | \$68.80  | \$76.44  | \$107.02 | \$137.60 | \$152.88 | \$168.17 |
| \$40.00 | \$6,920.00  | \$83,040.00   | \$8.05  | \$16.09 | \$24.14 | \$32.19 | \$40.23 | \$48.28 | \$56.33  | \$64.37  | \$72.42  | \$80.47  | \$112.65 | \$144.84 | \$160.93 | \$177.02 |
| \$42.00 | \$7,266.00  | \$87,192.00   | \$8.45  | \$16.90 | \$25.35 | \$33.80 | \$42.24 | \$50.69 | \$59.14  | \$67.59  | \$76.04  | \$84.49  | \$118.28 | \$152.08 | \$168.98 | \$185.87 |
| \$44.00 | \$7,612.00  | \$91,344.00   | \$8.85  | \$17.70 | \$26.55 | \$35.40 | \$44.26 | \$53.11 | \$61.96  | \$70.81  | \$79.66  | \$88.51  | \$123.92 | \$159.32 | \$177.02 | \$194.73 |
| \$46.00 | \$7,958.00  | \$95,496.00   | \$9.25  | \$18.51 | \$27.76 | \$37.01 | \$46.27 | \$55.52 | \$64.77  | \$74.03  | \$83.28  | \$92.53  | \$129.55 | \$166.56 | \$185.07 | \$203.58 |
| \$48.00 | \$8,304.00  | \$99,648.00   | \$9.66  | \$19.31 | \$28.97 | \$38.62 | \$48.28 | \$57.93 | \$67.59  | \$77.25  | \$86.90  | \$96.56  | \$135.18 | \$173.80 | \$193.12 | \$212.43 |
| \$50.00 | \$8,650.00  | \$103,800.00  | \$10.06 | \$20.12 | \$30.17 | \$40.23 | \$50.29 | \$60.35 | \$70.41  | \$80.47  | \$90.52  | \$100.58 | \$140.81 | \$181.05 | \$201.16 | \$221.28 |
| \$52.00 | \$8,996.00  | \$107,952.00  | \$10.46 | \$20.92 | \$31.38 | \$41.84 | \$52.30 | \$62.76 | \$73.22  | \$83.68  | \$94.14  | \$104.60 | \$146.45 | \$188.29 | \$209.21 | \$230.13 |
| \$54.00 | \$9,342.00  | \$112,104.00  | \$10.86 | \$21.73 | \$32.59 | \$43.45 | \$54.31 | \$65.18 | \$76.04  | \$86.90  | \$97.77  | \$108.63 | \$152.08 | \$195.53 | \$217.26 | \$238.98 |
| \$56.00 | \$9,688.00  | \$116,256.00  | \$11.27 | \$22.53 | \$33.80 | \$45.06 | \$56.33 | \$67.59 | \$78.86  | \$90.12  | \$101.39 | \$112.65 | \$157.71 | \$202.77 | \$225.30 | \$247.83 |
| \$58.00 | \$10,034.00 | \$120,408.00  | \$11.67 | \$23.33 | \$35.00 | \$46.67 | \$58.34 | \$70.00 | \$81.67  | \$93.34  | \$105.01 | \$116.67 | \$163.34 | \$210.01 | \$233.35 | \$256.68 |
| \$60.00 | \$10,380.00 | \$124,560.00  | \$12.07 | \$24.14 | \$36.21 | \$48.28 | \$60.35 | \$72.42 | \$84.49  | \$96.56  | \$108.63 | \$120.70 | \$168.98 | \$217.26 | \$241.40 | \$265.53 |
| \$65.00 | \$11,245.00 | \$134,940.00  | \$13.08 | \$26.15 | \$39.23 | \$52.30 | \$65.38 | \$78.45 | \$91.53  | \$104.60 | \$117.68 | \$130.76 | \$183.06 | \$235.36 | \$261.51 | \$287.66 |
| \$70.00 | \$12,110.00 | \$145,320.00  | \$14.08 | \$28.16 | \$42.24 | \$56.33 | \$70.41 | \$84.49 | \$98.57  | \$112.65 | \$126.73 | \$140.81 | \$197.14 | \$253.47 | \$281.63 | \$309.79 |
| \$75.00 | \$12,975.00 | \$155,700.00  | \$15.09 | \$30.17 | \$45.26 | \$60.35 | \$75.44 | \$90.52 | \$105.61 | \$120.70 | \$135.78 | \$150.87 | \$211.22 | \$271.57 | \$301.74 | \$331.92 |

# TAKE A STEP IN GIVING

1. Find your income on the chart below.
2. Pray and reflect on your income and expenses as an individual and/or family
3. What would it take for you to take a 1/2% or 1% step up in giving? What would you have to reprioritize?

| Income  |             | Monthly Giving to the Congregation (weekly figures are on the reverse side) |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |            |            |            |
|---------|-------------|---|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Hourly  | Monthly     | Yearly  | 0.5%    | 1%       | 1.5%     | 2%       | 2.5%     | 3%       | 3.5%     | 4%       | 4-5%     | 5%       | 7%       | 9%         | 10%        | 11%        |
| \$10.70 | \$1,851.10  | \$22,213.20   | \$9.26  | \$18.51  | \$27.77  | \$37.02  | \$46.28  | \$55.53  | \$64.79  | \$74.04  | \$83.30  | \$92.56  | \$129.58 | \$166.60   | \$185.11   | \$203.62   |
| \$11.20 | \$1,937.60  | \$23,251.20   | \$9.69  | \$19.38  | \$29.06  | \$38.75  | \$48.44  | \$58.13  | \$67.82  | \$77.50  | \$87.19  | \$96.88  | \$135.63 | \$174.38   | \$193.76   | \$213.14   |
| \$12.00 | \$2,076.00  | \$24,912.00   | \$10.38 | \$20.76  | \$31.14  | \$41.52  | \$51.90  | \$62.28  | \$72.66  | \$83.04  | \$93.42  | \$103.80 | \$145.32 | \$186.84   | \$207.60   | \$228.36   |
| \$13.00 | \$2,249.00  | \$26,988.00   | \$11.25 | \$22.49  | \$33.74  | \$44.98  | \$56.23  | \$67.47  | \$78.72  | \$89.96  | \$101.21 | \$112.45 | \$157.43 | \$202.41   | \$224.90   | \$247.39   |
| \$14.00 | \$2,422.00  | \$29,064.00   | \$12.11 | \$24.22  | \$36.33  | \$48.44  | \$60.55  | \$72.66  | \$84.77  | \$96.88  | \$108.99 | \$121.10 | \$169.54 | \$217.98   | \$242.20   | \$266.42   |
| \$15.00 | \$2,595.00  | \$31,140.00   | \$12.98 | \$25.95  | \$38.93  | \$51.90  | \$64.88  | \$77.85  | \$90.83  | \$103.80 | \$116.78 | \$129.75 | \$181.65 | \$233.55   | \$259.50   | \$285.45   |
| \$17.00 | \$2,941.00  | \$35,292.00   | \$14.71 | \$29.41  | \$44.12  | \$58.82  | \$73.53  | \$88.23  | \$102.94 | \$117.64 | \$132.35 | \$147.05 | \$205.87 | \$264.69   | \$294.10   | \$323.51   |
| \$20.00 | \$3,460.00  | \$41,520.00   | \$17.30 | \$34.60  | \$51.90  | \$69.20  | \$86.50  | \$103.80 | \$121.10 | \$138.40 | \$155.70 | \$173.00 | \$242.20 | \$311.40   | \$346.00   | \$380.60   |
| \$22.00 | \$3,806.00  | \$45,672.00   | \$19.03 | \$38.06  | \$57.09  | \$76.12  | \$95.15  | \$114.18 | \$133.21 | \$152.24 | \$171.27 | \$190.30 | \$266.42 | \$342.54   | \$380.60   | \$418.66   |
| \$24.00 | \$4,152.00  | \$49,824.00   | \$20.76 | \$41.52  | \$62.28  | \$83.04  | \$103.80 | \$124.56 | \$145.32 | \$166.08 | \$186.84 | \$207.60 | \$290.64 | \$373.68   | \$415.20   | \$456.72   |
| \$26.00 | \$4,498.00  | \$53,976.00   | \$22.49 | \$44.98  | \$67.47  | \$89.96  | \$112.45 | \$134.94 | \$157.43 | \$179.92 | \$202.41 | \$224.90 | \$314.86 | \$404.82   | \$449.80   | \$494.78   |
| \$30.00 | \$5,190.00  | \$62,280.00   | \$25.95 | \$51.90  | \$77.85  | \$103.80 | \$129.75 | \$155.70 | \$181.65 | \$207.60 | \$233.55 | \$259.50 | \$363.30 | \$467.10   | \$519.00   | \$570.90   |
| \$32.00 | \$5,536.00  | \$66,432.00   | \$27.68 | \$55.36  | \$83.04  | \$110.72 | \$138.40 | \$166.08 | \$193.76 | \$221.44 | \$249.12 | \$276.80 | \$387.52 | \$498.24   | \$553.60   | \$608.96   |
| \$34.00 | \$5,882.00  | \$70,584.00   | \$29.41 | \$58.82  | \$88.23  | \$117.64 | \$147.05 | \$176.46 | \$205.87 | \$235.28 | \$264.69 | \$294.10 | \$411.74 | \$529.38   | \$588.20   | \$647.02   |
| \$36.00 | \$6,228.00  | \$74,736.00   | \$31.14 | \$62.28  | \$93.42  | \$124.56 | \$155.70 | \$186.84 | \$217.98 | \$249.12 | \$280.26 | \$311.40 | \$435.96 | \$560.52   | \$622.80   | \$685.08   |
| \$38.00 | \$6,574.00  | \$78,888.00   | \$32.87 | \$65.74  | \$98.61  | \$131.48 | \$164.35 | \$197.22 | \$230.09 | \$262.96 | \$295.83 | \$328.70 | \$460.18 | \$591.66   | \$657.40   | \$723.14   |
| \$40.00 | \$6,920.00  | \$83,040.00   | \$34.60 | \$69.20  | \$103.80 | \$138.40 | \$173.00 | \$207.60 | \$242.20 | \$276.80 | \$311.40 | \$346.00 | \$484.40 | \$622.80   | \$692.00   | \$761.20   |
| \$42.00 | \$7,266.00  | \$87,192.00   | \$36.33 | \$72.66  | \$108.99 | \$145.32 | \$181.65 | \$217.98 | \$254.31 | \$290.64 | \$326.97 | \$363.30 | \$508.62 | \$653.94   | \$726.60   | \$799.26   |
| \$44.00 | \$7,612.00  | \$91,344.00   | \$38.06 | \$76.12  | \$114.18 | \$152.24 | \$190.30 | \$228.36 | \$266.42 | \$304.48 | \$342.54 | \$380.60 | \$532.84 | \$685.08   | \$761.20   | \$837.32   |
| \$46.00 | \$7,958.00  | \$95,496.00   | \$39.79 | \$79.58  | \$119.37 | \$159.16 | \$198.95 | \$238.74 | \$278.53 | \$318.32 | \$358.11 | \$397.90 | \$557.06 | \$716.22   | \$795.80   | \$875.38   |
| \$48.00 | \$8,304.00  | \$99,648.00   | \$41.52 | \$83.04  | \$124.56 | \$166.08 | \$207.60 | \$249.12 | \$290.64 | \$332.16 | \$373.68 | \$415.20 | \$581.28 | \$747.36   | \$830.40   | \$913.44   |
| \$50.00 | \$8,650.00  | \$103,800.00  | \$43.25 | \$86.50  | \$129.75 | \$173.00 | \$216.25 | \$259.50 | \$302.75 | \$346.00 | \$389.25 | \$432.50 | \$605.72 | \$778.50   | \$865.00   | \$951.50   |
| \$52.00 | \$8,996.00  | \$107,952.00  | \$44.98 | \$89.96  | \$134.94 | \$179.92 | \$224.90 | \$269.88 | \$314.86 | \$359.84 | \$404.82 | \$449.80 | \$629.72 | \$809.64   | \$899.60   | \$989.56   |
| \$54.00 | \$9,342.00  | \$112,104.00  | \$46.71 | \$93.42  | \$140.13 | \$186.84 | \$233.55 | \$280.26 | \$326.97 | \$373.68 | \$420.39 | \$467.10 | \$653.94 | \$840.78   | \$934.20   | \$1,027.62 |
| \$56.00 | \$9,688.00  | \$116,256.00  | \$48.44 | \$96.88  | \$145.32 | \$193.76 | \$242.20 | \$290.64 | \$339.98 | \$387.52 | \$435.96 | \$484.40 | \$678.16 | \$871.92   | \$968.80   | \$1,065.68 |
| \$58.00 | \$10,034.00 | \$120,408.00  | \$50.17 | \$100.34 | \$150.51 | \$200.68 | \$250.85 | \$301.02 | \$351.19 | \$401.36 | \$451.53 | \$501.70 | \$702.38 | \$903.06   | \$1,003.40 | \$1,103.74 |
| \$60.00 | \$10,380.00 | \$124,560.00  | \$51.90 | \$103.80 | \$155.70 | \$207.60 | \$259.50 | \$311.40 | \$363.30 | \$415.20 | \$467.10 | \$519.00 | \$726.60 | \$934.20   | \$1,038.00 | \$1,141.80 |
| \$65.00 | \$11,245.00 | \$134,940.00  | \$56.23 | \$112.45 | \$168.68 | \$224.90 | \$281.13 | \$337.35 | \$393.58 | \$449.80 | \$506.03 | \$562.25 | \$787.15 | \$1,012.05 | \$1,124.50 | \$1,236.95 |
| \$70.00 | \$12,110.00 | \$145,320.00  | \$60.55 | \$121.10 | \$181.65 | \$242.20 | \$302.75 | \$363.30 | \$423.85 | \$484.40 | \$544.95 | \$605.50 | \$847.70 | \$1,089.90 | \$1,211.00 | \$1,332.10 |
| \$75.00 | \$12,975.00 | \$155,700.00  | \$64.88 | \$129.75 | \$194.63 | \$259.50 | \$324.38 | \$389.25 | \$454.13 | \$519.00 | \$583.88 | \$648.75 | \$908.25 | \$1,167.75 | \$1,297.50 | \$1,427.25 |

## A Changing Religion

Monday, September 3, 2018

By Richard Rohr

Much of what Jesus taught seems to have been followed closely during the first several hundred years after his death and resurrection. As long as Jesus' followers were on the bottom and the edge of empire, as long as they shared the rejected and betrayed status of Jesus, they could grasp his teaching more readily. Values like nonparticipation in war, simple living, inclusivity, and love of enemies could be more easily understood when Christians were gathering secretly in the catacombs, when their faith was untouched by empire, rationalization, and compromise.

Several writings illustrate this early commitment to Jesus' teachings on simplicity and generosity. For example, the *Didache*, compiled around 90 CE, says: "Share all things with your brother, and do not say that they are your own. For if you are sharers in what is imperishable, how much more in things which perish!" [1]

The last great formal persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire ended in 311 CE. In 313, Constantine (c. 272-337) legalized Christianity. It became the official religion of the Roman Empire in 380. After this structural change, Christianity increasingly accepted, and even defended, the dominant social order, especially concerning money and war. Morality became individualized and largely focused on sexuality. The church slowly lost its free and alternative vantage point. Texts written in the hundred years preceding 313 show it was unthinkable that a Christian would fight in the army, as the army was killing Christians. By the year 400, the entire army had become Christian, and they were now killing the "pagans."

Before 313, the church was on the bottom of society, which is the privileged vantage point for understanding

the liberating power of Gospel for both the individual and for society. Within the space of a few decades, the church moved from the bottom to the top, literally from the catacombs to the basilicas. The Roman basilicas were large buildings for court and other public assembly, and they became Christian worship spaces.

When the Christian church became the established religion of the empire, it started reading the Gospel from the position of maintaining power and social order instead of experiencing the profound power of powerlessness that Jesus revealed. In a sense, Christianity almost became a different religion!

The failing Roman Empire needed an emperor, and Jesus was used to fill the power gap. In effect, we Christians took Jesus out of the Trinity and made him into God on a throne. An imperial system needs law and order and clear belonging systems more than it wants mercy, meekness, or transformation. Much of Jesus' teaching about simple living, nonviolence, inclusivity, and love of enemies became incomprehensible. Relationship—the shape of God as Trinity—was no longer as important. Christianity's view of God changed: the Father became angry and distant, Jesus was reduced to an organizing principle, and for all practical and dynamic purposes, the Holy Spirit was forgotten.

### Gateway to Presence:

If you want to go deeper with today's meditation, take note of what word or phrase stands out to you. Come back to that word or phrase throughout the day, being present to its impact and invitation.

[1] *Didache* 4:8. See Tony Jones, *The Teaching of the Twelve: Believing and Practicing the Primitive Christianity of the Ancient Didache Community* (Paraclete Press: 2009), 23. More about the *Didache* is available at <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/didache.html>. Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Dancing Standing Still: Healing the World from a Place of Prayer* (Paulist Press: 2014), 48-51; and *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality* (Franciscan Media: 2008), 100.

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

The Annual Budget Meeting of **LUTHERAN HOSPITAL MINISTRIES – SOUTHERN ALBERTA** will be held on **Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** in the basement of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 66 – 7 Street N. E., Calgary, Alberta.



The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2019 Budget of the Society. If you have supported us since last year's Budget Meeting through a direct donation, by providing us with facilities, or by members of your congregation involved with the Annual Walk/Run for Love, you are a supporting member and should send someone to provide us with input and report back to your congregation. If your congregation has not supported us, but would like to be a part of this important budget process, you may do so by providing us with a donation at the Budget Meeting. All donations enable our visitors to spread God's love to others through hospital and care centre visitations.

### Mortgage Burning Update – Excellent Progress, AND THANKS!



With great thanks to all who contributed, we managed to pay down **\$59 000** towards our mortgage!

We now have an outstanding mortgage balance of around \$64 000 and a one-year term...so we will have another opportunity to torch this thing next year!

Our interest rate is 4.96 percent, which gives us monthly payment of \$1715.58, which is slightly less than our previous monthly payment.

The original mortgage in 2012 was for \$350 000, so with your generosity we are making remarkable progress in freeing our congregation of this burden.



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**MARY & MARTHA GROUP BIBLE STUDY**  
**All are Welcome!**



**Saturday, November 24 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Church  
(North meeting room)



**Turning points:** Turning as the church to the world  
Please join us for study and discussion.

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Save the date: **Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Women's Advent Celebration with Southwood  
United**  
**to be held at Southwood United Church**

Lutheran Church of the Cross is responsible for entertainment  
following the worship as well as bringing baking.



## Sound Booth Training

**Sunday, Nov. 25th after worship**

Have you always wanted to be one of the "cool" people in the Sound Booth who make sure that the pastors can be heard and that the right words are up on the Screen? Well then, have we got an opportunity for you!

On **Sunday, Nov. 25th**, we will be holding a training for people who are currently assisting with worship in the Sound Booth and those who are interested in doing it. The training will cover the basics of:

- Sound board set up and operation
- Computer and Powerpoint set up and operation

If you are interested, talk to Nyajuok Kulang, Don Kozlowski, Gates Fortier or Pastor Phil.





You are invited to attend an

**Open council Meeting on**

**Sunday, Nov. 18** following worship

to review our preliminary budget for

2019

*Seeing, hearing, feeling, are miracles, and each part and tag of me is a miracle." -  
Walt Whitman  
(American poet)*

I would like to offer an apology to anyone that was misled by the phrase printed in the summer Crossbeams.

*"...but if we pull together we can put a huge dent in our monthly mortgage, if not be free of it completely"*

It was never the intent of council to reduce the monthly amount. It was to remove it completely. In fact our hope, is that with your enthusiastic support, we will be able to celebrate a mortgage burning by this time next year.

Council is tasked with the responsibility of managing our finances as efficiently as possible. Paying out interest to the bank when we don't really have to is not an efficient use of our resources.

I would also like to apologize for my confusion at the open council meeting. I was at the time unaware of the phrasing the in the Crossbeam article and could not understand why anyone would want to incur more interest charges, when the intent of the exercise was to eliminate them.

Don Kozlowski – Council Chair



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

## What does it Cost to operate Lutheran Church of the Cross?

### I know you know.....

...that there is a cost to maintain and operate the church facility. The utility bills, phone bills, insurance bills and yes the mortgage all arrive at the church just as often as they do at your home. It is easy to walk through the church and overlook these costs, along with paying our staff, doing the work of ministry and honouring our commitment to benevolence.

At the October 14<sup>th</sup> open council meeting we were asked to give a clearer picture of what the operating costs look like.

### Annual Expenses

**Utilities:** \$20,000 – gas, electric and water

**Office Supply/Equip** - \$10, 500

**Janitorial Labor Payment** - \$10,500

**Janitorial Supply** - \$900

**Church Grounds** - \$8000 – lawn care and snow removal

**Church Property Insurance** \$8400 – including liability and accident insurance for our staff and members

**Waste** –\$2000 – unfortunately this is currently coming in at about \$150/month, and that is by

managing our own recycling and organic composting

**Telephone/Internet** - \$1800

**Church Security** - \$1450

**Postage & Delivery** - \$425

**Church Maintenance** - \$10,000 - this is everything else that comes up, such as repairs and upkeep that we can't manage on our own (we have eight furnaces), carpet cleaning,

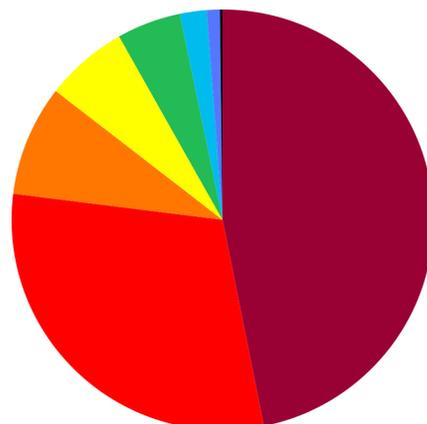
**Major Maintenance Fund** - \$6000 - \$500/month– this is money we set aside to cover any major expenses. Northern Flickers damage and Accessible Door replacement were relatively minor costs we have incurred. Potential major costs could include carpets, flat roof, and the furnace, (did I mention that we have eight of these).

**Mortgage Payment** - \$20,587

God has entrusted all this into our care but he also provides us with an amazing **opportunity** that affords us a place to worship, gather, study, pray, give, encourage and invite.

Tammy Kozlowski

Co-administrator





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## The Calgary Alliance Action Assembly

*by Pastor Phil*

The Calgary Alliance Action Assembly was on Oct. 16 at Temple B'nai Tikveh. Lutheran Church of the Cross is an Exploratory Member of CACG. There were about 200 people in attendance from over 20 community organizations. (The Alliance itself represents about 25,000 Calgarians.)

### **Special Guests included:**

- Chief Crowchild of the Tsuu T'ina Nation
- Anna Kazim, representing the provincial Minister for Senior Affairs, Lori Sigurdson

### **City Councillors:**

- Jyoti Gondek,
- Sean Chu,
- George Chahal, and
- Evan Wooley.

(Mayor Nenshi though not present sent a video message. )

The minister and councillors were asked to commit to the Alliance's action items:

asking the city to coordinate non-medical support services for seniors so that they are able to stay in their homes and communities, and working toward an indigenous gathering place in Calgary

The senior support program is based on a pilot program which has begun in Edmonton. The city of Calgary already has an *Aging in Place* strategy of which this could be a significant part.

Though work on these will continue, in January the Alliance will begin a new Listening Campaign to identify the issues and pressures facing Calgarians and begin the discernment of which issues it will work on together next.

### **Some quotes from ELCOC members who attended:**

“For me the information and discussion around seniors staying in their homes was rather relevant as one of our members had called me just days prior with these very concerns regarding her own situation. Hearing from the Indigenous community regarding Truth and Reconciliation is helpful, and Chief Crowchild helped to add some clarity to the process and the need to hear the truth of the history. “ Tammy

“It was moving, uplifting and encouraging to hear the stories from both the Support for Seniors and Truth and Reconciliation committees and the positive response and commitment from municipal and provincial representatives who attended the forum. Is this not the best way of all to work toward the common good --- an alliance of labour, city service, and other secular groups and faith based communities?” Betty Jane

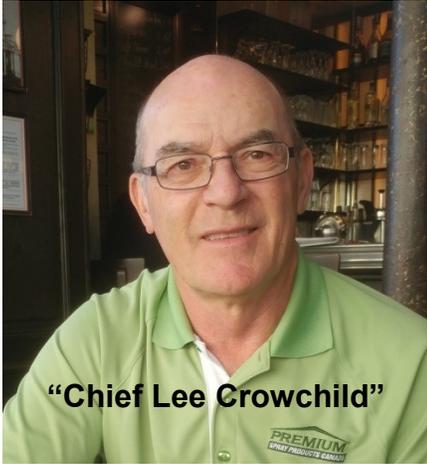
“The stories told by the Seniors Team and the First Nations Team...Personal Stories are powerful. Stories woven together coherently offer a compelling message and challenge. And the Alliance did a tremendous job in summarizing need and impact into challenge for our political leaders to ensure engagement, support, and need.” Scott

# LEAD

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Introducing...

**Chief Lee Crowchild of the  
T'suu T'ina Nation!**



**"Chief Lee Crowchild"**

If it seems like Chief Lee Crowchild looks a lot like Gates Fortier... you are right!

At the Calgary Alliance Action Assembly, Chief Crowchild led us through a simple exercise to illustrate how colonization

had impacted the indigenous peoples. We all started off standing but by choosing heads or tails, sat down depending on our choice. The coin flips represented such things as: small pox, tuberculosis, residential schools, the 60's Scoop and other such events in our shared history with indigenous people. With each coin flip, the ones left standing were the "survivors."

At the end of the exercise, Gates was the last one left standing! Chief Crowchild declared, "You are Chief Crowchild!" The Chief then shared how he bears the responsibility of giving voice or speaking on behalf of all those who did not survive.



## Advent Festival November 25



**BLAST** will host a special Advent Festival following worship on November 25. This festival is for everyone

and will feature light refreshments and a chance to make an Advent calendar. We will teach the meaning and purpose of Advent and send you home prepared for the season. This is a great day to bring your friends, children, and grandchildren! See you then!



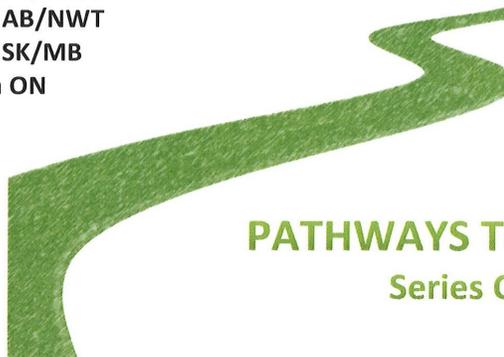
*"I know for certain that God does not make mistakes, but [God] does make miracles. I am one. You are, too."* -

Nick Vujicic (an Australian Christian evangelist and motivational speaker born with tetra-amelia syndrome, a rare disorder characterized by the absence of arms and legs)

## The LAY ACADEMY Presents

8:30 am - 11:00 am BC/Yukon  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm AB/NWT  
10:30 am - 1:00 pm SK/MB  
11:30 am - 2:00 pm ON

Nov. 17 & Nov. 24, 2018  
Registration Fees:  
\$25 for 1 session, \$45 for 2  
10% discount for home attendees



### PATHWAYS TO PRAYER Series One

**Prayer** is the foundational mystery and calling of our relationship with **God**. It is **God's** gift to us and our response to **God**. We long for it.

*We may wonder how should I pray?*

*How can I stay faithful to it?*

*What are its benefits?*

*How can I know God really has heard my prayers?*

Join **Dr. Faith Nostbakken** online and in-person for a guided tour to **PATHWAYS TO PRAYER**.

We'll look at what it means to meet **God in prayer**, how our personalities may influence the way we pray, what **Scripture** says about prayer, and above all, how we might spend time together in prayer itself.

We will also consider the treasure of the **Psalms** as the earliest prayer book of our tradition, one that can still be a rich guide and **source of prayer** for us today in its broad range of emotions from praise to lament.



Dr. Faith Nostbakken grew up in Saskatchewan and values her prairie roots. She has a Ph.D in English Literature from the University of Alberta and a Master of Theological Studies degree from Newman Theological College in Edmonton. She is an experienced spiritual director, a facilitator of retreats, and a member of the leadership team that trains spiritual directors at the Providence Renewal Centre in Edmonton. She is a diaconal minister of the ELCIC, an ecumenical officer for the ABT Synod, and member of Glory Lutheran Church in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

For further information see:  
<https://layacademy5.wixsite.com/elcicwla/prayer1>

This is taking place at Hope Lutheran on November 17 and 24. You need to register on-line.

See address above.

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**YES!** I want to **START** or **RENEW** my subscription to **Canada Lutheran** magazine!

Complete the information below and submit this form to your congregation's *Canada Lutheran* Representative.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(AREA CODE)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Canada Lutheran Representative: *Dianne Fortier*

Return by: *November 7th*

CL-BULLETIN/2019

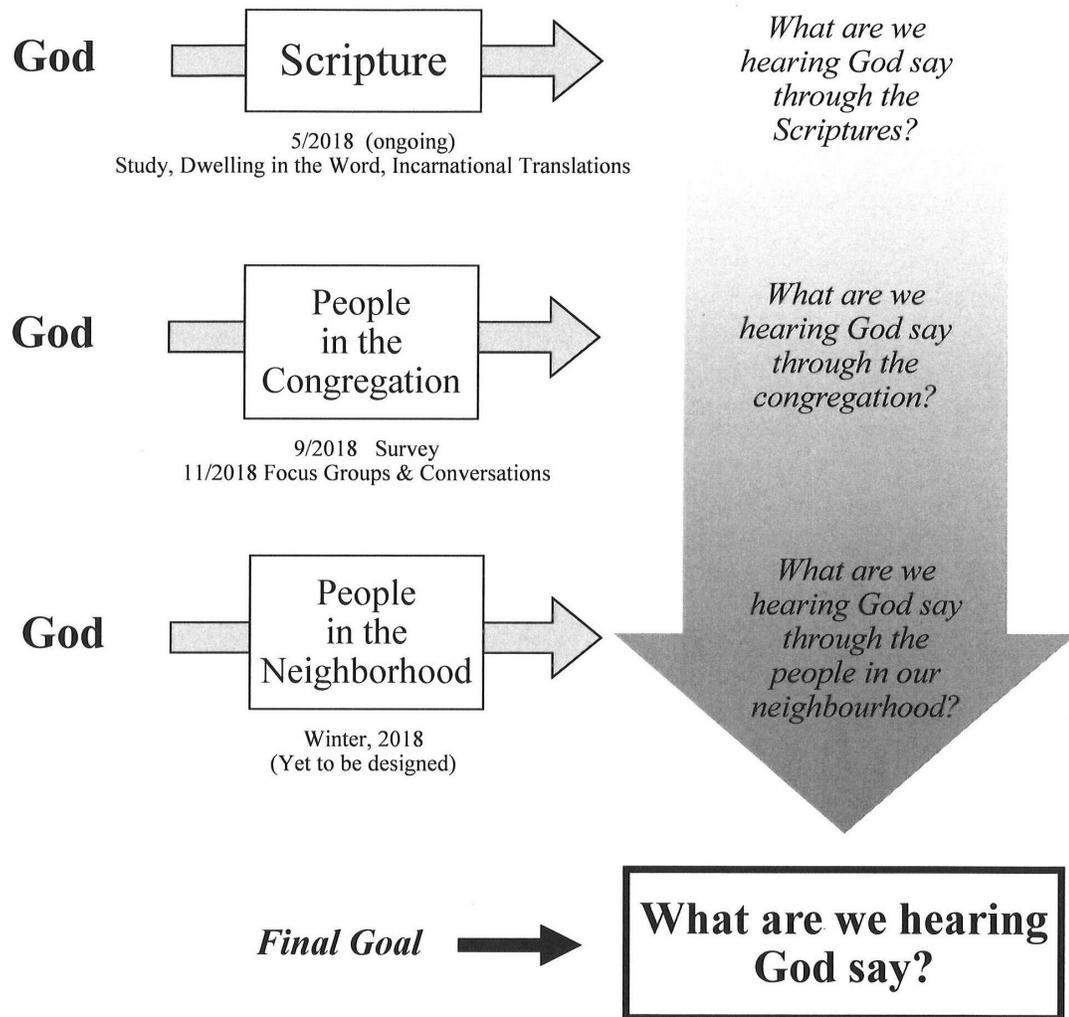
**Price for the yearly subscription is \$19.11 (including GST)**

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# LEAD ... love God with all your heart

## Listening Team Work

*The Listening Team is the first step in the LEAD Process toward becoming a growing congregation. The starting point is the assurance that God is still speaking and is at work in the world. The Listening Team is tasked with facilitating our ability to hear what God is saying to us and seeing how God is at work among, through and around us. Here is a sketch of what our work looks like:*



*In November, the Listening Team is visiting the various groups, teams and ministries within the congregation to share the survey results and hear your responses to the questions:*

- *What do you love about your church?*
- *When you think about Church of the Cross, what do you hope for its future?*
- *How do you hope your church will connect to the surrounding neighbourhood?*
- *What do you hear God saying about who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do?*

# LEAD ... love God with all your heart

## KURIAKOS SHOUT OUT team

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### **“SACRED JOURNEYS” WOMEN’S RETREAT - November 2-4 at Kuriakos with Rev. Fran Schmidt and Rev. Deb Kerr**

Our guest speaker is Rev. Fran Schmidt, the Director of Communication and Development at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon. Rev. Deb Kerr of Calgary will lead us in making beautiful leather prayer or travel journals for your journeys. Crosses and coasters also available. This is an optional craft (\$20-\$50, with limited availability).

In addition to all the included activities, food, and laughter, massages will be available on Saturday (\$30-\$50 cash).

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### **FAMILY ADVENT RETREAT - November 9-11 at Kuriakos with Rev. Daranne Harris, Calgary**

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

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

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

#### **Note for worship planners:**

Please consider inclusion of this possibility in your planning for your worship in the Advent season. The participants will develop a weekly litany for use in your congregational Advent worship. i.e. a litany to utilize during the lighting of Advent wreath, or a short skit presentation of an advent theme.

The theme we will explore is: **Why Wait? What's Advent all about?**

#### **Retreat goals**

- How to share Advent with the rest of the congregation
- How to live out Advent as a family

#### **Your congregation will**

- Prepare an aspect of weekly advent worship
- Receive resources for congregation and family devotions



# LEAD ... love God with all your heart

## Your family will

- Enjoy an enriching advent experience
  - Make a plan for celebration of advent and an expression of your preparation
- 

## **YOUTH RETREAT - November 9-11 at Kuriakos with Rev. Margaret Propp, Calgary**

Hosted with the Family Advent Retreat - so youth can attend the weekend with or without their family!

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## **SHIFT RETREAT (ages 18-35) - Nov 30-Dec 2 at Kuriakos**

Commit to SHIFT! Come be challenged and equipped, while joining in a great community! Saturday morning, we'll head outside for a snowball fight and snow forts, with hot chocolate and cookies to follow.

On Saturday evening, we'll have our annual re-gift exchange.

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If you're interested in attending a retreat this fall, please visit the camp website or contact the office.

Want to join our community? Contact our office at 403.746.2702 or [www.kuriakos.ab.ca](http://www.kuriakos.ab.ca).  
Because you belong at camp!



**LEAD** 

... love God with all your heart



**cantaré**  
CHILDREN'S CHOIR



# FOR THE FALLEN

NOVEMBER **10** KNOX UNITED CHURCH **3:00** PM ADMISSION BY DONATION  
[WWW.CANTARECHILDRENSCHOIR.ORG](http://WWW.CANTARECHILDRENSCHOIR.ORG)



THE CITY OF  
**CALGARY**



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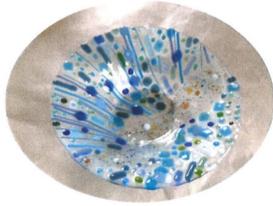


**ROZSA**  
FOUNDATION  
calgaryarts  
development

# LEAD ... love God with all your heart

## Creative Workshop

### Glass Bowl Making



Genesis 1 reveals that God is tremendously creative. Genesis 1 also tells us that we are created in the image of God; we are creative too! Lots of people think they don't have a creative bone in their bodies, but it's quite simply not true. Everyone is creative, even if that creativity has been dormant!



On **Saturday, November 10**, discover some of your own creativity, the joy of creating something lovely, and how you and God make a creative team. Pastor Laura and Lise Wilson will lead you in this creative process from **9 am to noon**.



Our creative medium is fused glass bowls. RSVP in the narthex on Sundays. A \$65 fee covers the cost of materials.



**YOU CAN DO THIS!**

**PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN NARTHEX. Lise will need to know numbers for supplies.**

**SAVE THE DATE  
SATURDAY, DEC. 15**

**9:30 AM - 4 PM**

**WEAVING WORKSHOP**

# LEAD



... love God with all your heart

## AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM

**#ChurchToo**

Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Theatre OF THE BEAT

Mennonite Central Committee

**Show Info**

Artfully depicted through a variety of scenes and relationships, *#ChurchToo* explores the struggle of wading into the realities of sexual assault and examines the difficulties of speaking out in a community where the topic of sex is often considered taboo.

Follow an array of characters through seven vignettes, each bringing to life stories about hidden trends within our church communities. From the hidden relationship of a young woman and her pastor, to discriminatory church policies, all the way to bringing forth allegations against people in power, *#ChurchToo* illuminates the messy dynamics that accompany the complicated truths of power and sexual abuse.

For show details please contact [info@theatreofthebeat.ca](mailto:info@theatreofthebeat.ca). [@theatreofthebeat](#) [theatrebeat](#) [totb](#)

**Show Details**

This Theatre Production will be held at **First Mennonite Church** (2600 Richmond Rd SW) on **Friday November 2 at 7:00 pm**. Jonathan Brower (*Third Street Theatre, Oblivion*) wrote one of the seven short plays.

Artfully depicted through a variety of scenes and relationships, *#ChurchToo* explores the struggle of wading into the realities of sexual assault and examines the difficulties of speaking out in a community where the topic of sex is often considered taboo. Follow an array of characters through seven vignettes, each bringing to life stories about hidden trends within our church communities. From the secret relationship of a young woman and her pastor, to discriminatory church policies, all the way to bringing forth allegations against persons in power, *#ChurchToo* illuminates the messy dynamics that accompany the complicated truths of power and sexual abuse.

# LEAD ... love God with all your heart



## Shepherd King Lutheran Church Ladies Annual Bazaar and Bake Sale

**When:** Saturday, November 17, 2018—10 am to 1 pm

**Where:** 804—75 Ave. S.W.

**What:** Crafts, Baking, Quilts, Jams, Jellies, Lefse

**ALL WELCOME!**

*\$2 gets you coffee/tea and a muffin.  
AND a ticket on a door prize!*



## Annual Christmas Craft and Bake Sale

Saturday November 17, 2018  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm



Prince of Faith Lutheran Church  
2523 - 56 St. N.E.  
Calgary

Check out our local handcrafted items: sewing, crochet, knitting and homemade butter tarts, shortbread and cookies

Enjoy a complimentary hot cider or coffee while you shop  
Cube credit card payment available - MasterCard & Visa

Free admission and parking



**OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS  
TEA & BAZAAR  
SOUTHWOOD UNITED CHURCH  
SATURDAY NOV. 3  
1 PM**

# FOR THE JOURNEY



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

RETREAT WITH  
**STEVE BELL**

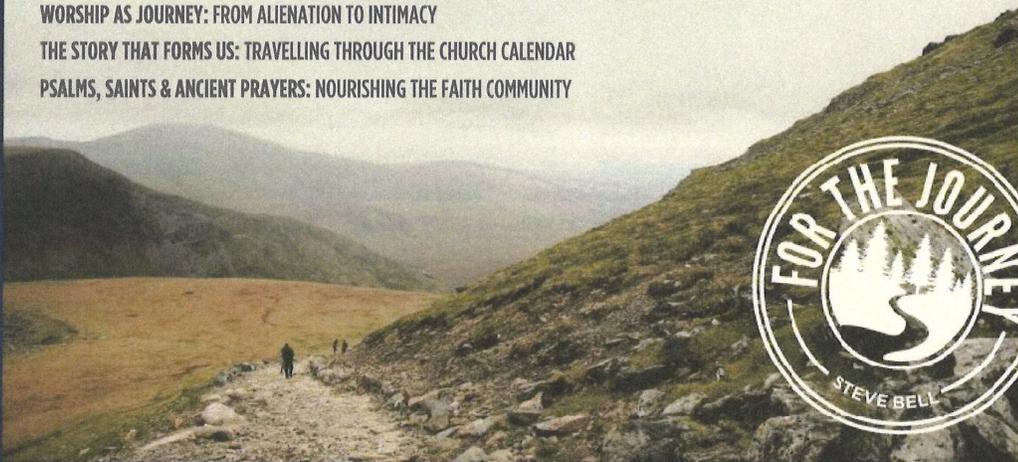
**SESSIONS:**

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**  
10620 ELBOW DR. SW | CALGARY

**COST: \$129 | EARLYBIRD: \$99 (BEFORE OCT. 19TH)**  
Special rate for church members (limited number).  
Contact the church office for coupon code.

**REGISTRATION & INFO: [STEVEBELL.COM](http://STEVEBELL.COM) or 1-800-854-3499**

Contact  
Dianne (or  
office) to  
get the  
coupon  
code to  
get the  
special  
rate of  
\$39 for  
LCOC  
members.

Deadline  
for special  
price is  
Oct. 19



November 2018 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

We have just concluded the season of Area Gatherings: Northern (Sept. 28-29 at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Stony Plain in collaboration with St. John Lutheran of Golden Spike, Spruce Grove and St. Matthew, Spruce Grove), Southwestern (Oct. 13 at First Lutheran, Calgary), Southern (Oct. 13 at Spirit of Grace Lutheran, Brooks via video report and telephone Q&A) and East and West Central (Oct 20 at Zion Lutheran, Bashaw).

Thank you to the Area Leadership Teams for your preparation for and planning of the Area Gatherings. I value these times when we have the opportunity to gather together as God's people for worship, learning, conversation and feasting.

This year we gathered under the theme: "Faith, Hope and Love" which was an extension of our Synod Convention theme and conversation from I Cor. 13. For our Dwelling in the Word we spent time together considering the text of I Thess. 1:2-3: *We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Participants shared in part of the need to see ourselves as "we", as community together; conversation centered around how a spirit of gratefulness might impact our faith community and neighborhood; and of the work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope which they see.

Then most gatherings viewed a brief video (The Synod Convention Interview - All Questions) prepared during the Synod Convention around faith, hope and love. These videos and a summary (all questions) video are available on our synod website for your use: <http://albertasynod.ca/convention/area-gatherings/area-gathering-videos/>

Much of the rest of our time was spent in conversation around how we might work collaboratively within our Areas and across our Synod in faith, hope and love.

I look forward in the next couple of months to meet with each Area Leadership Team for further conversation, listening and discernment together as we move forward *always giving thanks...constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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)*



**Synod of Alberta and the Territories**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

# November 2018

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Communion Sundays</b><br>November 4 & 18   |   |   |   | <b>Cause of the Month</b><br><b>Families in Need</b>   |  |   |
|   |   |   |   | <b>1</b>   | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
|   |   |   |   | Quilting - 9 am<br>Kodaly - 9:15 am<br>Ph.D. - noon<br>E.A.—7 pm<br>Choir - 7:15 pm                          | <b>Office Closed</b><br>SWCG—7 pm  | Cantare Workshop -<br>9 am - 5 pm<br><br><b>TURN CLOCKS BACK</b><br><b>1 HOUR</b> |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>   |
| Meditation - 8:30 am<br>Worship—10 am<br>BLAST—following<br>worship<br>SWCG—1—3 pm<br>Baby Shower - 2-4   | Kodaly - 9:15 am<br>Staff Mtg.—1 pm<br>Cantare Children’s<br>Choir - 5 - 9 pm     | Coffee @ Tim Hor-<br>tons’ - 10 am<br><br>Faith Formation - 7<br>pm<br>Confirmation - 7 pm  | Sandwich Making -<br>7:30 am<br>Bible Study - 9:30 am<br>AHS Caregivers - 1 pm<br>SWCG—7 pm         | Quilting - 9 am<br>Kodaly - 9:15 am<br>E.A.—7 pm<br>Choir - 7:15 pm  | <b>Office Closed</b><br>SWCG—7 pm  | Men’s Breakfast - 8<br>am<br>Glass Bowl Making<br>Workshop - 9 am -<br>noon       |
| <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b>   | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b>   | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b>  | <b>17</b>   |
| Meditation - 8:30 am<br>Adult Study - 9 am<br>Worship—10 am<br>BLAST - following<br>worship<br>SWCG—1—3 pm  | Kodaly - 9:15 am<br>Staff Mtg.—10:15 am<br>Cantare Children’s<br>Choir - 5 - 9 pm | Coffee @ Tim Hor-<br>tons’ - 10 am<br><br>Faith Formation - 7<br>pm<br>Confirmation - 7 pm  | Bible Study - 9:30 am<br><br>Cantare Children’s<br>Choir - 5 - 9 pm<br>SWCG—7 pm                    | Quilting - 9 am<br>Kodaly - 9:15 am<br>E.A.—7 pm<br>Choir - 7:15 pm  | <b>Office Closed</b><br>Steve Bell Retreat -<br>7:30 - 9 pm<br>SWCG—7 pm | Steve Bell Retreat<br>- 9 am - 3:30 pm  |
| <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b>   | <b>20</b>   | <b>21</b>   | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>   |
| Meditation - 8:30 am<br>Adult Study - 9<br>Worship—10 am<br>BLAST - following<br>worship<br>Cong. Mtg. - following<br>worship                               | Kodaly - 9:15 am<br>Staff Mtg.—10:15 am<br>Cantare Children’s<br>Choir - 5 - 9 pm | Coffee @ Tim Hor-<br>tons’ - 10 am<br>Confirmation - 7 pm   | Bible Study - 9:30 am<br>Cantare Children’s<br>Choir - 5 - 9 pm<br>Council Mtg. - 7 pm<br>SWCG—7 pm | Quilting - 9 am<br>Kodaly - 9:15 am<br><b>Caring Conversations</b><br>- 5 pm<br>E.A.—7 pm<br>Choir - 7:15 pm | <b>Office Closed</b><br>SWCG—7 pm  | Men’s Breakfast - 8<br>am<br>Women’s Ministry -<br>10 am                          |
| <b>25</b>   | <b>26</b>   | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b>   | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>  |   |
| Meditation - 8:30 am.<br>Adult Study - 9 am<br>Worship—10 am<br><b>Conversation Café -</b><br><b>11:30 am</b><br><b>Sound Booth Training</b><br>SWCG—1—4 pm | Kodaly - 9:15 am<br>Staff Mtg.—10:15 am<br>Cantare Children’s<br>Choir - 5 - 9 pm | Coffee @ Tim Hortons’ -<br>10 am<br>World Day of Prayer Mtg<br>- 11 am<br>Confirmation - 7 pm -<br><b>MENTOR NIGHT</b><br>Faith Formation | Bible Study - 9:30 am<br>Cantare Children’s<br>Choir - 5 - 9 pm<br>SWCG—7 pm                        | Quilting - 9 am<br>Kodaly - 9:15 am<br>E.A.—7 pm<br>Choir - 7:15 pm  | <b>Office Closed</b><br>SWCG—7 pm  |   |