



Start with the Easy Things

Last month I asked everyone in the congregation to make a resolution to strengthen our church community in 2019. I asked you all to develop your spiritual vision, seek God, and build up the body of Christ where we are.

This month I continue that conversation, first with a word of thanks. Thanks to everyone on the church council, our Administrators, staff, and all of you for a wonderful AGM. Thank you for celebrating our life together with food; pictures, videos, and music; conversation; and an eye for detail. A special thanks to Lisa Rude, Kate Bedi and Aga Rettie who are leaving the church council and a special welcome to Archie Wells, Sasha Craven, and Bill Ogilvie who begin their church council service. To everyone in our community: Please pray for, support and thank these people for their leadership and their willingness to serve.

The LEAD process will continue all year, first with the completion of the Listening Team's work. The Listening Team will spend the next few months engaging residents and leaders in the communities bounded by Fish Creek PP, MacLeod Trail, the Tsuu T'ina lands, and Glenmore Trail. This is a wide geographic area around the physical property of the church and the Listening Team has a lot of work to do to discover who lives and works here and what they care about.

Ultimately the Listening Team and the church council care that our congregation supports and equips every member, especially in their discipleship and daily ministry. It is not the work of council, the Listening Team, or the staff to determine your gifts or your

ministry, but to accompany you and equip you as you seek to make a difference in your life, relationships, and community in the ways God is calling you.

I recently attending a team building session for The Way of Christ weekend. One of the people with whom

gifts
spiritual

I was discussing a talk on the church made this comment: *"It seems to me that we are busying failing at the things to which we are not called, as we try to use the gifts we do not have."* It was a very simple reminder that God calls us to do the things that are already easy for us and not the things that seem impossible.

God is calling you to use the gifts you already have in simple ways that end up making a profound difference for others. The gifts and skills you already have develop as you use them. Eventually you are called to use those developed gifts and skills as well, but only when you are ready.

I encourage you to be at work in the church and the world in ways for which you are already equipped. And please use the Crossbeams, the small groups board, Thursday Thoughts, the Information Centre, and the announcement board to further connect yourself to the many things happening at church. These communication tools may help you identify your interests and skills and you are invited to enquire about anything you encounter. Almost everything we are doing has room for your participation and developing leadership and you will never be left to handle responsibility on your own. This is our life and we live it together!

Pastor Laura

A glance at February Ministry Happenings....



Feb. 2 - Funeral for Pastor Ted Becker - 1:30 pm

Feb. 3 - Congregational PHD - following worship - please bring a potluck dish to share.

Feb. 6 - Sandwich Making - 7:30 am

Feb. 9 - Men's Breakfast - 8 am

Feb. 9 - "Man Enough to Sing" rehearsal - 9 am - 6 pm

Feb. 13 - Council Meeting - 7 pm

Feb. 16 - Women's Ministry - 10 am

Feb. 18 - Family Day - Office Closed

Feb. 19 - MENTOR NIGHT at Confirmation

Feb. 22 - Youth Event - TBA

Feb. 23 - Cantare Workshop - 8:30 am - 5 pm

Feb. 26 - Social Ministry Mtg. - 7 pm



In this Month's Issue

Love the Lord your God with.....

Soul -	pg. 3
Mind -	pg. 4
Strength -	pg. 5
Heart -	pg. 7
Bishop's Message -	pg. 8
Calendar -	pg. 9

Lutheran Church of the Cross

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Mission

Gathered by God to worship and grow.
Empowered by Spirit to love and care for each other
Living Christ's love by witnessing to all.

Vision

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



CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Cause of the month for February

C.L.W.R.

Our annual Pancake Supper will be held on Shrove **Tuesday, March 5th at 6:00 p.m.** A free will offering will be received with all proceeds going to C.L.W.R. Join us for pancakes, desserts and fun games!

**Next meeting: Tuesday, February 26th,
7:00 p.m.**



"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 signs, and like all signs, they are never about themselves; they're about whatever they are pointing toward. Miracles point to something beyond themselves. But to what? [To the very essence of God.] That's the point of miracles - to point us beyond our world to another world." - Eric Metaxas (American author, speaker, and radio host)



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

*Women's
Ministry*

Women's Bible Study (a.k.a. Mary and Martha Group)
will meet **Saturday, February 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.**
Please join us!

The Gospel of John: Meetings with Jesus



Session 2: By night and day: Coming to faith in Jesus

In this session, we meet Nicodemus, who comes to Jesus at night with questions of faith. We meet the Samaritan woman who talks with Jesus in the middle of the day about religious practice. We meet a royal official who seeks healing for his dying son and a paralyzed man who has waited 38 years for healing. We sit with the crowd that is fed by Jesus and struggles to understand his teaching, chewing on Jesus' words, "I am the bread of life."

Save the Date: Friday, March 1, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

World Day of Prayer Service at Lutheran Church of the Cross

Theme: "Come – Everything is Ready" -Written by the people of Slovenia

Lutheran Church of the Cross has an exciting opportunity to host this ecumenical service in our area of Calgary for World Day of Prayer, with coffee/fellowship time to follow.

You can participate by volunteering your time: as a reader, an usher or greeter, set up, bring baking or fruit, clean up, or by helping count the offering (done immediately after the service)

Please contact me (Marilyn at 403-968-2049) directly if you are able to take part, as Dianne will be away on vacation in Feb. (For Everyone: men, women and children)



This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other Christians in our area of Calgary and be united in worship together!

The WDP service sponsored by The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC), the only national ecumenical council with representatives from 10 church partners, focusing on four main concerns of social justice, women's issues, ecumenism, and the growth of women's spirituality. The annual World Day of Prayer is coordinated by WICC. Through World Day of Prayer grants, WICC supports grassroots work to help women and children both in developing countries and here at home escape the cycle of poverty and violence



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

AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM



Affirming PIE Day!



www.pieday.ca

PIE = Public. Intentional. Explicit. These are the standards developed by Affirming Communities for congregation when they become Affirming, Welcoming, or Inclusive communities.

PIE = Public. Intentional. Explicit. These standards help us become a safe space for people who face discrimination, oppression, or exclusion because they belong to the LGBTQ2SIA+ community.

We're proud to announce that the first annual **National Affirming Day** will be held March 14, 2019, *International Pi(e) Day* (3.14- get it?)

This is a great time for us to host a **Public, Intentional, and Explicit** affirming event...and have fun with it too.

This is a chance for us to celebrate and honour the full inclusion of *LGBTQ2SIA+ people in faith communities and beyond, with everyone across Canada!

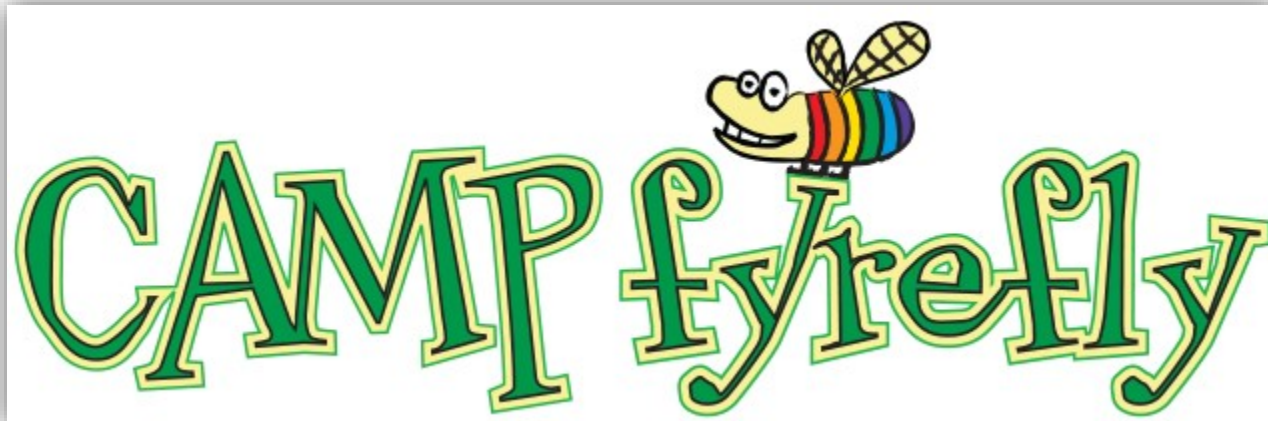
In association with PIE Day, we will host a speaker from an LGBTQ2SIA+ organization and serve pie following worship.

Mark your calendar! **Our PIE celebration will be held Sunday March 17, following worship.**

Can you bring pie to share? Be creative! Bake, cook, or buy apple pie, pizza pie, quiche...all types of pie will be served following worship. And we need your pie to make PIE Day a community celebration. **Please let either Dianne or Betty Jane know if you can bring a pie!**

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

AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM



[Camp fyrefly](#) is Canada's only national leadership retreat for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, asexual, intersex, queer, questioning, and allied youth. The camp provides a space for youth to explore their identity, build resilience and enhance self-esteem, all while having an awesome camp experience. Participants return home with a support network of positive friendships, trusted adult mentors, and an empowered sense of self.

Youth ages 14 to 24 can attend the camp for only \$25. Youth Leaders are between the ages of 18 and 24, while Adult Volunteers are individuals aged 25 and over who help support the camp through a variety of roles.

[Applications](#) for Campers, Youth Leaders and Adult Volunteers typically open in early March and close in late April. If you are interested in presenting a workshop at camp, these applications open in early March and close in late May. For those looking to support

camp through helping out in our kitchen, and/or donating a meal or snack, check out the Meal Support application.

More information? <https://www.ualberta.ca/camp-fyrefly/about-fyrefly>



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

Agape Café: March 16



St. Valentine was a real person...the bishop of Umbria, Italy. He was an evangelist in the early church and had his faith tested quite regularly. He is said to have restored sight to the blind and converted many to Christianity. He was jailed more than once for sharing his faith and continuing to marry people when the government declared a moratorium on marriage. When he attempted to convert the prefect of Rome, the Emperor Claudius II sentenced him to death. He was executed in Rome on February 14 in the year 269.

“Valentine’s Day” is the feast day of the martyrdom of this amazing witness for Christ, but like other Christian celebrations, it has morphed into something else. Now a day to give gifts of love and send cards, Valentine’s Day is an opportunity for us to share in open expressions of God’s love for us and our love for God and one another. It is a day to remember those who have laid down their lives for love’s sake. The Agape Café was created with this image in mind.

You are invited to an elegant dinner, held in your honor and to celebrate Christian love, on **Saturday March 16 at 5 pm**. Hosted by our young people, the “Agape Café” will feature a four-course dinner, entertainment, and a silent auction featuring the artwork of people in the youth group.

The youth will collect a free-will offering and all proceeds will sponsor CLAY (Canada Lutheran Anglican Youth) Gathering attendance in Calgary in 2020.

Prepare to be impressed and to feast of God’s unconditional agape love for all of us. Child care is available and reservations are required. Sign-up in the narthex or by phoning the church office. The Agape Café provides allergen-free meals.



February 2019 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

Over the past several months I have participated in three continuing education opportunities which were each very good learning experiences.

- “Shared Stories: Promising Practices in Canadian Churches” through Ambrose University, Calgary and its *flourishing Congregations Institute*.
- A leadership development event for Bishops from across North America and representing several denominations.
- The ELCA/ELCIC Bishop’s Academy which focused on: Caring for Our Common Home with keynote presenters: Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda and Dr. Larry Rasmussen

Continuing education is an important piece for all rostered and lay leaders, including bishops. As a way to remain diligent to learning goals, ELCIC rostered ministers are expected to engage in at least ninety hours of continuing education over each three-year period. Rostered Ministers have you reported all your 2018 continuing education hours to ELCIC Group Services Inc.? Members are encouraged to submit continuing education hours, even when no funds were used. You can report your continuing education hours to GSI, using the CEP Expense Reimbursement Form: <https://www.elcicgsi.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/CEP-Short-Term-Expense-reimbursement-request-form-revised-Jan-2019.pdf>

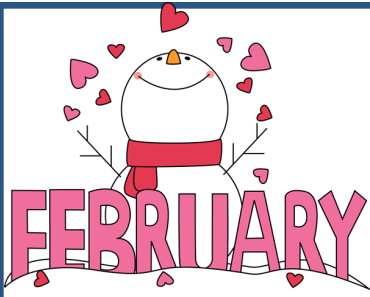
Continuing education is not just important and valuable for rostered ministers...and bishops...it is equally as important and valuable for lay leaders and for congregational members.

Have you considered participating in “Pathways to Prayer” offered through the Lay Academy at our Seminary? Join Deacon Dr. Faith Nostbakken from our Synod online or in person (Ascension, Edmonton and Hope, Calgary) as we look at the Lord’s Prayer and its invitation to intimacy with God. Feb. 2 and Feb. 9, 2019 from 9:30am – 12 Noon. For Registration and Payment see: <https://layacademy5.wixsite.com/elcicwla/prayer2> To learn more about the Lay Academy see: <http://www.usask.ca/stu/luther/programs-lay-academy.html>

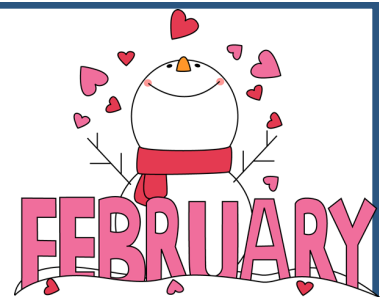
Happy learning lifelong learners!

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)



2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Cause of the Month CLWR</div>			<div> Pastor Laura's Vacation - Feb. 14 - 22 Pastor Phil's Vacation - Feb. 4 - 8 Feb. 14 - 22 Pastors teaching at Sem Feb. 25 - Mar. 1 </div>			
					1 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	2 Funeral Service for Pastor Ted Becker - 1:30 pm
3 Adult Study - 9 am Worship—10 am PHD - potluck BLAST - following worship Youth - following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	4 Kodaly - 9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare Children's Choir - 5 - 9 pm	5 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Faith Formation - 7 pm NO CONFIRMA- TION	6 Sandwich making - 7:30 am AHS Caregivers - 1 pm Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	7 Quilting - 9 am Kodaly - 9:15 am - 2 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	8 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	9 Men's Breakfast - 8 am Cantare "Man Enough to Sing" rehearsal - 9 am - 6 pm
10 Adult Study - 9 am Worship—10 am BLAST - following worship Youth - following SWCG—1—3 pm	11 Kodaly - 9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm	12 Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Kodaly - 9:15 am - 2 pm Faith Formation - 7 pm Confirmation - 7 pm	13 Bible Study - 9:30 am Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm Council Mtg. - 7 pm SWCG—7 pm	14 Quilting - 9 am E.A.—7 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	15 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	16 Women's Ministry - 10 am
17 Adult Study - 9 am Worship—10 am BLAST - following worship Youth - following SWCG—1—3 pm	18 OFFICE CLOSED FAMILY DAY	19 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Faith Formation - 7 pm Confirmation - 7 pm	20 Bible Study - 9:30 am Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	21 Quilting - 9 am Kodaly - 9:15 am - 2 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	22 Office Closed Rehearsal for World Day of Prayer - 1 pm SWCG—7 pm Youth Event	23 Cantare Workshop - 9 am - 5 pm
24 Adult Study - 9 am Worship—10 am BLAST - following worship Youth - following SWCG—1—3 pm	25 Kodaly - 9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare Children's Choir - 5 - 9 pm	26 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Social Min. Mtg. - 7 pm Faith Formation - 7 pm Confirmation - 7 pm	27 Bible Study - 9:30 am Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	28 Quilting - 9 am Kodaly - 9:15 am - 2 pm Caring Conversation - 5 pm E.A.—7 pm	<div>Communion Sunday - Feb. 3 & 24</div>	