



A Hymn to the Power of Community

For a couple of weeks in May, I had the opportunity to travel with Pastor Laura along and around the Bay of Naples in Italy and the city of London. We did and saw lots of things: the top of Vesuvius, the city of Pompeii, the Amalfi coast, Isle of Capri, the Tower of London, the British Library and the British Museum. We also saw quite a few churches (*it's almost guaranteed that if we are going by a church when we're traveling, Pastor Laura will want to go in and take a look!*). We saw the graves and memorials in Westminster Abbey in London. We saw the tiles depicting the Garden of Eden on the floor of the Church of Saint Michael the Archangel in Capri. We even knelt and saw the relic of St. Andrew in the church in Amalfi. We also looked in on chapels on the top of the mountain in Castellammare and Sorrento.

To be accurate, however, we didn't really see any of the *churches* in these places. What we saw were some of the *church buildings* where the community of Christ in these places meet (or at least used to meet!). Most of these church *buildings* date back hundreds of years. They were beautiful and impressive. They were all clearly expressions of the people who used to live and worship there to create a place that evoked mystery, visually depicted stories from the Bible, and invited people into a posture of reverence.

On the Saturday night before I left London, I had a different experience at a very different place of *worship*. On May 18th, I had the opportunity to see *Come From Away* at the Phoenix Theatre in London. This is a musical about the day of 9-11 and the days following when 17 airliners were diverted to and grounded in Gander, NL. The plot is about what happened when some 7000 airline passengers descended on Gander.

The reason I mention this musical is because it was one of the most inspiring, uplifting experience I've had. Though this was not a "Christian" musical, the fingerprints of the Holy Spirit seemed to be all over it. *Come From Away* represents all the emotions of that time: fear, death, anxiety, and chaos... and also bravery, trust, love, understanding, and hope.



The picture included in this article is from the outside of the Phoenix Theatre and the name of this article was taken from that poster, *A Hymn to the Power of Community*. For me, it captured exactly my experience. I was inspired by the spirit of community that the people of Gander showed.

This *spirit of community* has been on the wane for a while. The folks that worked together during World War II knew it well but they are disappearing. Our society has lost some of its "community muscle" and gets sucked into a more individualistic outlook. I believe that many of the illnesses present in our society stem from the lack of a *spirit of community*. That is why I am so hopeful

when I experience the *spirit of community* here at Church of the Cross. It is a spirit that can transform fear into love, death into life, anxiety into trust, blame into forgiveness, and despair into hope.

It's not a bad goal to have people say about the people of the Church of the Cross, "*They are a hymn to the power of community!*"

Peace,

Pastor Paul

A glance at June Ministry Happenings....



- June 1 -** Remembrance Garden Planting - 9 am - Rain or Shine!!
Rhubarb Festival - Southwood Community - 11 am - 5 pm
- June 2 -** Choir Sunday
- June 5 -** Sandwich Making - 7:30 am
- June 11 -** Listening Team Mtg. - 7 pm
- June 17 -** Legacy Writing Class - 10 am - 2:30 pm - register at office
Listening Team Mtg. - 7 pm

- June 18 -** ForWord - 7 pm
- June 19 -** Council Mtg. - 7 pm
- June 22 -** Shoe Project - 5:30 - 8:30 pm
- June 23 -** Farewell picnic for Intern Kate - following worship
- June 30 -** Intern Kate's last Sunday with us.



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

The Age of Spirit

By Richard Rohr

*The following is the daily devotion for Monday, May 20, 2019 from the Center for Action and Contemplation .
cac.org/category/daily-meditations/*

The Holy Spirit is sent to the entire universe and since creation has been transforming [the universe], carrying it toward the final resurrection. . . . The same Spirit renews humanity. . . . This new humanity must move all nations, each in accordance with its diversity. The Spirit unites without imposing uniformity. —José Comblin [1]

From medieval times to the Great Awakening and other periods of religious revival, Christians have eagerly anticipated an age of the Spirit. But I believe all of history has been the age of the Spirit. Creation just keeps unfolding (see Romans 8:19-25). The evolution of stars, species, and consciousness has never stopped since the very beginning. In fact, we now know that the universe is still expanding. But our hierarchical, masculine-without-feminine, and static notion of God did not allow many to see this.

History keeps moving forward with ever-new creativity. Admittedly, this movement is accompanied by much push back. Just look at what's happened in the last century! The immense advances in consciousness, science, technology, and awareness are astounding, despite all the horrible wars and injustice, both personal and systemic. While I don't want to diminish how much we still have to do to create an equitable world, it's become almost impossible for privileged folks to deny the ongoing marginalization of people of color, gender diverse individuals, the poor, and those with disabilities.

Theologian Jürgen Moltmann (b. 1926) writes: In the experience of the Spirit a new community of rich and poor, the educated and the uneducated comes into being. The Spirit of God is no respecter of social distinc-

tions; it puts an end to them. All Spirit-impelled revival movements in the history of Christianity have taken note of these social revolutionary elements in the experience of the Spirit and have spread them. They became a danger to the patriarchy, the men's church and the slave-owners. [2]

The Holy Spirit never gives up on us. Scripture's arc reveals the salvation of history and all creation, and not merely of individuals. Divine covenants are with the people collectively—the "house" and the future. Individuals like Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Moses, David, and Esther are only the instruments and the mediators. Each individual is caught up in the salvific sweep of history, almost in spite of herself or himself, as YHWH shows mercy to Israel and their descendants forever (see, for example, Genesis 13:15; Exodus 32:13).



The Spirit is like a homing device put inside of us, and all creation, too. For all of our ignorance and mistakes, *there is in everything this deep, internal*

dignity convinced of its own value. This divine indwelling keeps insisting, "I am what I am seeking!" This is surely what Jesus means when he says that all true prayers are already assured of their answer (see Matthew 7:7-8 and 1 John 5:14-15).

It's God in you that loves God; it's God through you that recognizes God elsewhere; it's God for you that assures you that you are finally and forever okay. This is Trinitarian spirituality, which buttresses you on every side. This is what it means to live inside the Trinitarian flow. And it is all now, and not just later. You are already home free!

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] José Comblin, *The Holy Spirit and Liberation* (Wipf & Stock Publishers: 1989), 75.

[2] Jürgen Moltmann, *The Source of Life* (Fortress Press: 1997), 23. Adapted from Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell, *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* (Whitaker House: 2016), 146-147, 150-151.

Image credit: *The Miraculous Haul of Fishes* (detail), Henry Ossawa Tanner, between 1913 and 1914, National Academy of Design, New York, NY.

LEAD ... love God with all your heart

San Salvador, El Salvador
17 May 2019

Dear friends and supporters:

Greetings from El Salvador.

I recently received the list of 2018 donors to "In Mission with El Salvador" / "*En Misión con El Salvador*" from the ABT Synod office. I am not given the amounts, so can't confirm those, but whether it was the widow's mite, or a *Notre Dame*-reconstruction-level corporate gift (well, it seems that one got diverted), I am most grateful, both personally, and on behalf of numerous Salvadoran sisters and brothers who are beneficiaries of your generous gifts, often in urgent need of assistance to cover life's basic needs.



Life in El Salvador and beyond is undergoing some significant transitions, at personal and national levels:

- i) I completed my ten-year term serving on the Board of Directors for *CRISPAZ*--crispaz.org (Nov., 2018--the maximum term was nine years, supposedly, but the Board requested that I stay on for a year as executive secretary);
- ii) I completed my 5-year DMin challenge (graduation May 8, 2019--it took 10 years . . . due to factors beyond my control);
- iii) The *FMLN* was decisively booted out of the presidency in the Feb. 3 elections, for which I was again an observer, after ten years of leading the executive branch of the nation (June 1 will be the transition to a very new and different party--we're not yet sure what to expect);
- iv) I recently began serving the Salvadoran Lutheran Church in its ministry to migrants / forcibly displaced persons / deportees / asylum-seekers / refugees, which involves a lot of networking and meetings for drafting legislation, educating the public and politicians, awareness-raising, and promotion of solidarity, nationally and internationally (my home continues to fill with displaced persons);
- v) Canada is going through significant political shifts, seeming to follow USAn models, requiring an even more prophetic voice and even more pastoral care, in what, to me, is still my primary "mission field."

Some of my e-newsletters have been posted on the ABT Synod website: <http://albertasynod.ca/ministries/global-missions/el-Salvador/> . I receive and appreciate a considerable amount of direct communication, especially in response to these newsletters. I try to respond to all who write. Thanks to all who do.

All God's best to you this Easter / spring / new life season. I just planted a roof-top garden yesterday (more sunlight up there), so I shall be watching for new life and anticipating a veggie harvest, a childhood passion long neglected.

Paz,
Brian
The Rev. Brian Rude, DD, DMin,
"In Mission with El Salvador" / "*En Misión con El Salvador*"
Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCICanada



LEAD ... love God with all your soul

Cause of the month for June

Sandwiches for the Drop In Centre

please make donations to Lutheran Church of the Cross and 'ear-mark' it
Cause of the Month

The 1st Wednesday of every month, we make approximately 60 loaves of bread (or buns) into SANDWICHES for the Drop-In Center. The cost of fillings averages over \$200 per month. With the help of our dedicated drivers, we have access to free bread or buns from the Okotoks Costco store. Your continued support for our Sandwich Project is much appreciated.



QUILTING GROUP – This year we presented 78 quilts and 19 afghans for blessing on **May 12th**, to be shipped to C.L.W.R. warehouse in Winnipeg. Cardboard boxes were provided by Darren Exner (X-Treme Packaging Services) – friend of Brian Anderson. The boxed quilts and We Care Kits were delivered by Dennis Kozak, with some help from Doug Normandin, to Arnold Bros. Transport who provide free transport to Winnipeg.

When checking our supply cupboard, we find a need for gently used sheets and duvet covers (cotton or flannel) for next season of making quilts. **THANK YOU** to everyone who has so generously donated fabric, sheets, etc. year after year. Is anyone Spring Cleaning?? Now is the time to repurpose items you no longer use.

DID YOU KNOW?

For many years Church of the Cross has had an ongoing year round food drive for the **CALGARY FOOD BANK**. Non-perishable donations may be left in the box by the church office and east entrance any time. The food is delivered at month end to the Food Bank and your donations to date for the first 4 months of 2019 (**Jan-Apr**) amounted to **151 pounds of assorted food**. Let's be more aware this month of helping those who suffer from food insecurity. **Please see the Wish List.**



Food donations for June will be forwarded to the Food Bank during their "*Put the Boots to Hunger*" campaign. Let's put our best boot forward and work to create a hunger-free community.

CALGARY FOOD BANK

OUR WISH LIST

Help make each emergency food hamper meet Canada's Food Guidelines by donating our most needed items.



3 WAYS TO DONATE

- 1 Drop off your non-perishable food in the donation bins at any major grocery store.
- 2 Drop off non-perishable or fresh donations directly to the food bank at our warehouse, door #3.
- 3 Hold a food drive and have your non-perishable food picked up by our drivers.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can donate while you grocery shop. There are non-perishable donation bins at most major grocery stores in Calgary.

LEAD ... love God with all your soul

CALGARY FOOD BANK

FAST FACTS

Numbers reflect the Calgary Food Bank's fiscal year, September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018.



180,666
LIVES AFFECTED

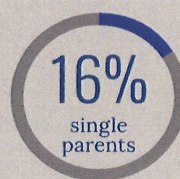
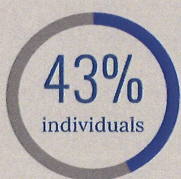
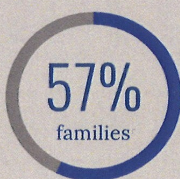
61,834
REQUEST CALLS
FOR HAMPERS



66,204
EMERGENCY
FOOD HAMPERS

12,997
SPECIALTY
HAMPERS

celiac, renal, prenatal, pantry, infant



24,209

REFERRALS FROM
300+ AGENCIES

13,317

REFERRALS TO
AGENCIES




11
DEPOTS

food LINK



239
AGENCY
PROGRAMS


2.5 MILLION
POUNDS OF FOOD
DISTRIBUTED



14,080
HAMPERS FOR
THE HOMELESS

8,621
WEEKENDS AND
MORE HAMPERS

The Calgary Food Bank is the first line of emergency food support for families and individuals facing crisis. Once the food emergency is addressed, we refer clients to our partner agencies. We are not a government or United Way agency. We rely solely on the generous support of the community. **Together, we can create a hunger-free community.**

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



The Shoe Project

Come listen to immigrant women tell the stories of their arrival in Canada - *through a pair of shoes*. You will hear from women from Tibet/India, Sudan/Eritrea, Iraq, Peru, Iran, Korea and Syria.

I'm blown away. Those women are amazing, their stories bold and brave and filled with humour, love, and all the travails of making their journeys here. I loved the various shoes, the boots, the "slippers". What an outstanding project!
Catherine Mitchell, publisher

Saturday, June 22nd

5:30 – 8:30 pm

Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW www.churchofthecross.ca

FREE WILL
OFFERING IN LIEU
OF TICKET SALES



Shoes accompany us on all our journeys. They say who we are, where we came from and where we are going. Writing their shoe memoirs gives members a voice and helps them be heard in the Canadian mainstream. Now in its sixth year, The Shoe Project was created by novelist Katherine Govier and incubated at the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto. We are so fortunate to be able to host some of the women that have been involved.




The Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre

This year's Baby Bottle Campaign began on Mother's Day (May 12) and will run until Father's Day (June 16).

Giving to the baby bottle campaign helps provide support through baby's early years. Please keep filling your bottle so that free services like parenting classes will be available for young families. On Father's Day, return your filled bottles to the church. The bottles collected will be returned to the Centre. Your gifts enhance the lives of women and babies in our community.



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

The Way of Christ

Weekends and community experiences that make a difference

ForWord

Tuesday June 18, 2019

6:30-8 pm

at Church

of the Cross

10620 Elbow Dr. SW

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

All Are Welcome

For more information, contact Hilary Gray: hgray64@icloud.com

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

Rediscover, Reconnect, Renew your life in 72 hours

LEAD... love God with all your soul

All Good Things Come to an End

Time flies! I have been intern pastor here for nearly two years, and I am nearing the end of my time here as intern pastor. My last day is Sunday, June 30, but since that is a long weekend, the Lay Internship Committee is hosting a farewell barbecue on Sunday, June 23. Do come and say good bye sometime this month!



Now what?

The internship committee, Pastor Phil and I are working on our final internship reports. Based on those reports, the faculty at Lutheran Theological Seminary will decide if I “pass” internship. This summer and fall I will be writing and preparing to defend my master’s thesis and pending that I will graduate from Lutheran Theological Seminary in May 2020. I will also have my Colloquy Examination, a written and oral examination, sometime next winter. Following Colloquy the synod examining committee will recommend me (or not) to synod council for ordination and first call.

Other than those hoops to jump through, I will be enjoying spending time with Alliott. I will be around Calgary, and I don’t plan on being a stranger.

What about here? Can we have another intern?

That’s up to you! A couple of things need to be in place for an internship:

- A supervising pastor who has been in the parish for a few years
- A supportive site with people to serve on the internship committee
- An intern
- Funding

There are two great supervisors here, and ELCOC has been a great site. Thanks to Glenn Schultz for chairing the internship committee this time around. With classes of 1 to 8 students from across the western synods, seminarians can be few and far between, but they will come. Finally, it is expensive to host an intern, however, I have seen that this congregation can do whatever it sets its mind to do financially. If any congregation in Calgary can afford to have an intern, ELCOC can.

Intern Pastor Kate



Farewell to Intern Kate Sunday June 23 following worship An Old-Fashioned Church Picnic



Please stay after worship on June 23 as we say goodbye and pray for blessings on our Pastor Kate Zaiser as she continues on her journey.

Kate has not only served in all areas of ministry at ELCOC to fulfil the requirements of her pastoral education at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, but has become part of our church family.

Though we will miss her (and Alliott!) we will rejoice with her at an old-fashioned church picnic.

There will be hot dogs and ice cream and picnic games.

How long has it been since you ran a three legged race or played horseshoes? Come!

LEAD... love God with all your mind

Studying what we believe

How many times have you recited the creed on Sunday morning and not really thought about what we are saying? Or said it and wondered “why do we say that”? In May the confirmation class and the Wednesday morning bible study studied the Apostle’s Creed and Martin Luther’s explanation of the creed. At the end of each class, we made a group painting capturing what we discussed.

Confirmation:

Father – We started by asking the question “Does God still create stuff today?” The splatter art is an example of how God is active in creation and in us. We hold the paint brush and aim at the canvas, but we have no idea what the result will be. That is in God’s hand.



Son – We asked “Why did Jesus go to hell?” The elevator and cross show Jesus going down into hell, proving that there is nowhere – not even hell – that God isn’t. When we experience hell on earth we know that God is with us.

Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit is sometimes described as fire, sometimes wind, sometimes God’s breath. The third article also talks about the resurrection of the body, so we asked “Do cremated people go to heaven?” Cremated or not, our bodies eventually turn into dust after we die, as we are reminded on Ash Wednesday. In the resurrection, Jesus voice will raise us up, no matter what state our bodies are in (John 5:28-29).



Wednesday Morning:



Father – The small catechism teaches that “God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil.” We explored why we still experience evil if that is the case. We also talked about how we are created and called to care for all creation. The Remembrance Garden is a symbol of how we trust that God is at work in the dark places and in the presence of evil, the peace polls are a sign of restoring creation following destruction, and all of the gardens are a way that we care for the earth.

Son – Romans 8:38-39 says that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. The cross and heart at the bottom of the painting, under the dark clouds show that God’s love is present everywhere. We asked ourselves “How does God call us to be part of God’s kingdom in our family, work, church, and community?” The people passing hearts are a reminder that we can participate in God’s kingdom by sharing God’s love with others.



Holy Spirit – Martin Luther’s explanation of the third article of the apostle’s creed begins “I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe.” Our faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit. The Dove and the arrow remind us that God comes to us. The Holy Spirit “calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth.” The globe reminds us that the church is one. The bible reminds us that the Holy Spirit calls us through the gospel. The question mark reminds us that it is not our understanding that brings us to faith.



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

I remember when...



Do you have questions from the past that will never be answered, memories that you would like to record for readers in the future? **Legacy writing** is a way of documenting life experiences, significant events, values and opinions. Come and write little pieces of personal history in a safe, supportive atmosphere. Legacy writing can be a precious gift for loved ones and a healing experience for writers themselves. Sharing is encouraged but not mandatory. There will be laughter.

Monday, June 17 - 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM

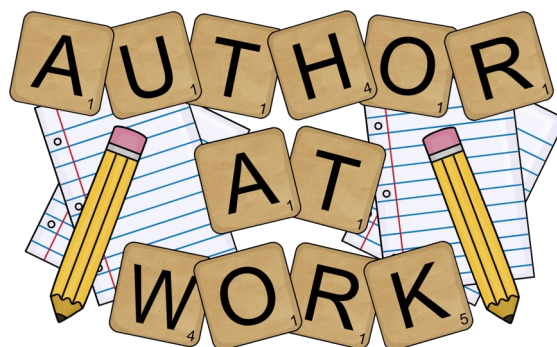
Church of the Cross

Lunch will be provided

Please register with Dianne in the church office.

This workshop will be led by Ellen Kelly. Ellen has had short fiction and creative nonfiction published in magazines and literary journals. Her personal essays have been shortlisted twice for the Jon Whyte Essay Prize. She teaches creative writing, short fiction, creative non-fiction, and various motivational creativity courses.

Recently she realized that her venture into creative writing more than 40 years ago began with Legacy writing and she looks forward to sharing her enthusiasm for exploring the “questions we ask and the answers we would like to leave behind” with interested participants. Ellen is also a freelance journalist, columnist, avid quilter and crazy dachshund lady. She lives and works in Airdrie and is thankful to be able to follow her passion on a daily basis.



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



REMEMBER!

Saturday June 1, 9:00 AM

Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW

It is time again to fill the heart-shaped Remembering Garden in front of our church sign with pink and purple petunias honouring the memory of women whose lives have been lost through acts of violence.

What began as a memorial to a beautiful young woman in our congregation has evolved into an expression of love and remembrance for all victims of violence. Those who knew Brittney feel the presence of her spirit both at the planting and in the stunning beauty of that garden throughout the summer.

For the past four years, we have planted in honour of our Indigenous sisters who are among the Murdered and Missing. Our garden is not big enough to hold one flower for each sister so instead we plant one for each one hundred and reflect on 1400 lives represented by fourteen precious flowers.

We have had visitors come to plant in memory of women in their own lives, and we rejoice in their presence and the honour they bestow on our Remembering Garden. We extend our invitation to all who will join us in making something beautiful out of lives senselessly lost.

We've been asked why, instead of planting petunias, we don't instead plant perennials for their strength and endurance. We choose the annual flower -- the ordinary but iridescently beautiful petunia— because it is symbolic of the lives that were too short. Each time we gather around that rich soil with our potted plants and trowels in hand we share songs and prayers of remembrance and forgiveness. This is a ministry and a plea for social justice.



If this ministry touches your heart, but you are unable to attend the formal planting, we welcome you to leave a plant of your own in the alcove at our north door during the week prior to June 1 and we will plant it with your blessing. We also invite you to come at any time after the Saturday gathering and plant a flower yourself, or simply sit on the bench with your own contemplations and prayers.

COME GROW WITH US

We Need Your Help!



Why do we grow vegetables and flowers on our ELCOC grounds? Because this is a ministry. The work is about faithful stewardship of the large property on which we're located. It's about doing the work and marvelling at the blessing of sun and rain. It's about showcasing a bit of creation and making our church a beautiful and welcoming place for people to visit, whether they come through the door or simply sit on a bench with their contemplations.

Gardening is a labour of love. For the past five years, our group of gardeners has tended our 40 ft x 40 ft vegetable patch from May through to September; turning the soil, planting a variety of vegetables, weeding, and harvesting. The produce—and we are amazed always at the abundance —will go to the Food Bank again this year. If we know of families who would enjoy the addition of fresh vegetables to their food supply, we offer samples of all that is ready.

We tend the flowers—Remembering Garden, rose garden, long perennial garden against the west wall, cedar planter at the front entrance, assorted pots and baskets that brighten other spaces. There too, we labour; choosing and buying plants, preparing the soil, planting, dead-heading, pruning, and weeding and weeding and weeding.

Some of us make a commitment each year to put in all of the time and energy we are able to tend these gardens. Our number and our energy levels have limits. We need help.

Will you let us contact you to ask if you have an hour on a particular day to help with a specific task? If you're not able to help on that day will you tell us what time might work for you so that one of us can be there to team up with you? Will you watch for the sign-up sheet for watering the planter and pots and sign up for a week?

You do not need gardening expertise. In fact, if you would like to enhance your own property with flowers, or grow your own vegetables, we are here to encourage and give advice and provide hands-on experience. We are happy to welcome any children you bring with you and find ways to put their small hands to work, and show them the wonders of where vegetables begin their trip to the produce aisle at the grocery store.

If you can give even a small offering of time to this ministry, please leave your contact information with Dianne in the office, or talk with :

Judy Shore-Isford 403 251 7742
or Betty Jane Hegerat. 403 278 9871

Labour, love, laughter and such excellent company,
your ELCOC Gardening team



An opportunity to expand our ministry!

The Mortgage Burning Project

You have probably seen this thermometer in the narthex (*narthex* is the fancy word for the room outside the sanctuary). A year ago (with our mortgage renewal coming up), the thermometer would have been down at the bottom indicating that we still owed \$119,000. From May through July, we raised enough money to pay off over half of that balance. Council decided to take out a one-year mortgage so that we could have the opportunity to pay off the rest this year.

What would the impact of paying off the mortgage be on our finances and ministry?

We are currently paying \$1,715 each month as our mortgage payment. If we were to pay off the mortgage when it comes due in August, that would free up \$1,715 each month for the rest of this year and for the years to come! With this diminished expense, we could consider using these funds to enhance or expand our current ministries... or even explore new ministries that enrich and equip our members or minister to people beyond our walls.



*The Men's Group has recommended to council to purchase equipment that will help people with hearing difficulties during church services. This also includes people with hearing aids. A few people have tested this equipment. **Please sign up if you are interested in using this, or need further information, so that we have an idea of how many units to order.** The funds for this ministry will come out of our Worship Enhancement Fund.*



Burn it... until its dead!

Last year around this time we were looking at a \$135 000 mortgage, BUT THANKS TO YOUR INCREDIBLE RESPONSE to a mortgage drive, we paid down **\$59 000** beyond our regular payments!!

We again have an opportunity on August 1, 2019 to pay down, or ideally pay off, our mortgage.

Thanks to ongoing payments our next challenge is a much reduced **\$48 000**.

Shedding this burden would ease our current operating expenses by almost \$20 600 per year.

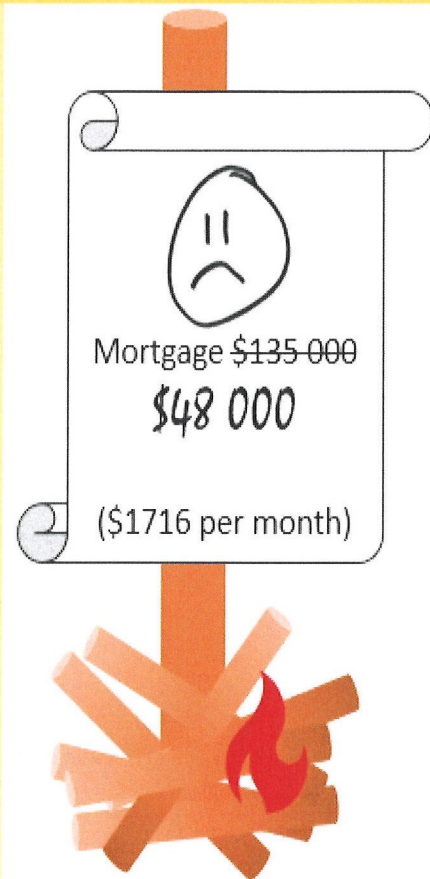
So, you have some stocks or other investments just laying around? Need more tax deductions? Found another couple of ounces of gold under the couch? Rusty ol' Bitcoin? Or maybe you've got just a few hard-earned bucks to share in addition to your regular offering...but if we pull together we can put a huge dent in our monthly mortgage, if not be free of it completely.

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

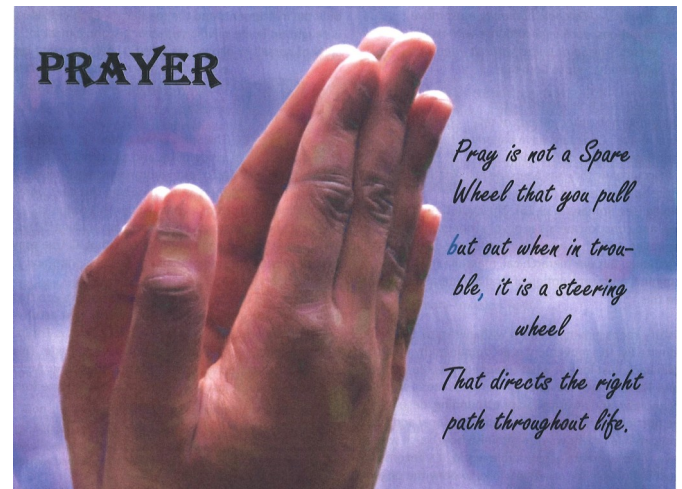
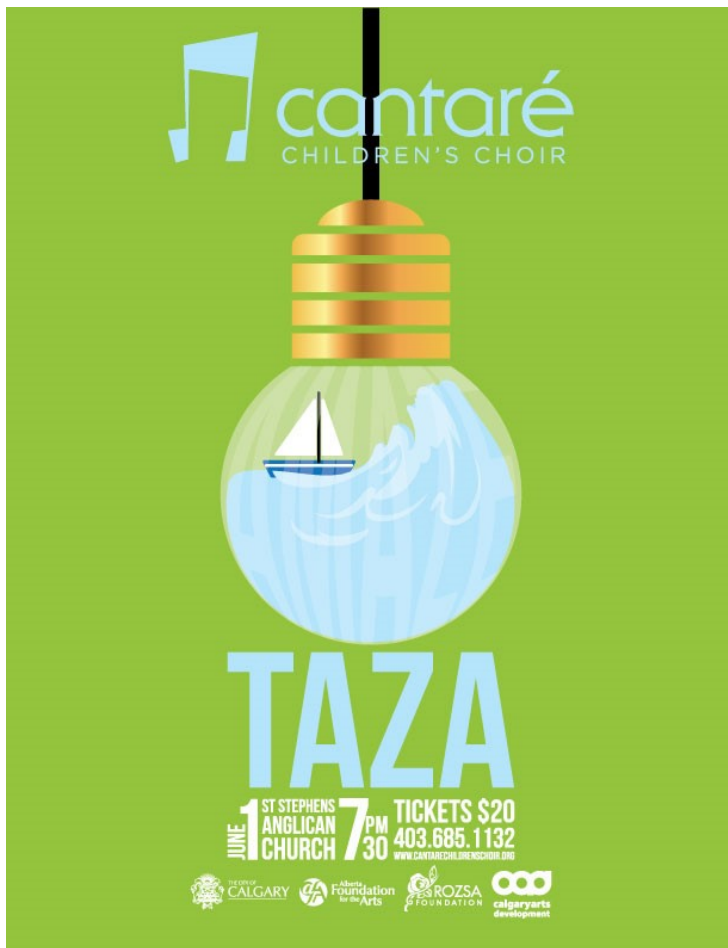
Please direct your contributions to the Building Fund in advance of July 15, 2019.

Thank you!

Dean Larsen, Council Secretary



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



ELCOC will have a booth at Southwood Community's Rhubarb Fest for the second year where we will have an "Ask the Pastor" table and a sneak peek of BLAST. Contact Intern Pastor Kate if you can help at our booth.





June 2019 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

We have gathered at the rural church. Many have journeyed for several hours to be present and to participate in the service of ordination and installation. Once the worship begins and the procession has landed me near the altar, I look out over those whom the Spirit has assembled: farmers, council and call committee members, several children and a handful of youth, family and friends, and seminary professors and staff and colleagues.

It seems as if even the sounds of the building are part of a sacred conversation between congregation, God and the one to be ordained and installed. A yellowed fluorescent light hums its way through the service. The microphone on the lectern squeals when the reader gets too close. The air from the furnace whooshes into the sanctuary causing the banners to wave.

Those to be ordained and installed will spend their years baptizing babies, helping to deliver calves in the middle of the night, burying husbands who died too soon, negotiating debates about how to pay for the new church roof...and then every Sunday, they will stand in the pulpit and try to make holy sense of it all.

Mid-March I prepared this article, originally for the June *Canada Lutheran*, while basking in the glow of participating in the final evaluation of candidates for rostered ministry. It is my favorite time of year, spent reviewing written examination materials and candidate dossiers and participating in the colloquy (the examination interview).

The final evaluation is a time to review and inquire in depth into the candidate's readiness for rostered ministry, and to determine that the candidate meets the requirements established by the National Church.

The examining committee, comprised of capable, insightful, experienced and compassionate members, considers the following determinants of readiness: theological and academic competence, spirituality and faith commitment, personal integrity and leadership abilities, and call to ministry and ministry gifts.

It is my favorite time of year, for I have walked with the candidates together with the synod candidacy committee, and the seminary, and the internship placement supervisor and congregation, and family and friends and seminary classmates to this point of final evaluation.

And truly, marvellously, wonderfully I have seen God at work in the life of each candidate.

And now, the procession has landed me near the altar where I preside at the service of ordination and the area dean presides over the installation.

The plan of the newly ordained and installed is no strategic plan for “turning this church around.” No, their only ambition—their call—is to be next in a long line of faithful pastors serving with and among this congregation seeking to join God in God’s mission of reconciliation and restoration.

With the service over and the obligatory pictures taken, we make our way to the community hall for a potluck dinner. Everyone plops into metal folding chairs and eats, laughs and gossips. Tables are filled with casseroles, salads and a multitude of homemade desserts. Children squeal as they chase each other around the room and out the doors of the hall.

I overhear a story about snow tires. They could be discussing their anxieties about the future of family farms, the economy or “just where is this country heading?” But there is none of that on this day. Even the small talk has a lilt to it.

I understand why, when their new pastor enters the room, many are simply there to extend a warm welcome. One after another they get up from the tables, wipe their hands and approach the pastor for a handshake or a hug. Many have tears in their eyes.

This is a eucharistic feast. A new pastor has come. To the congregation it is a sign that God knows how to find them. The holiness of the room is so apparent that I almost take off my shoes. No one wants to leave—certainly not me, and certainly not the new pastor.

This is my glimpse into a mystery about our church that is hidden from the statistics and anxiety about its decline.

I have no idea what hardships lie ahead for this congregation, or how long it will even exist. But I know that its people are filled with expectancy. In their midst is another highly capable pastor who is prepared to bring thousands of years of theological hope to bear on their community — a pastor who finds holiness by sitting in a community hall swapping stories about snow tires, and who every Sunday will stand in the pulpit and try to make holy sense of all of it.

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)



June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<div>Cause of the Month</div> <div>Sandwiches for the Drop In Centre</div>					1 Remembrance Garden Planting - 9 am SWCG - 10 am Rhubarb Festival - 11 am
2 Worship—10 am - Choir Sunday BLAST - following worship Youth - following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	3 Staff Mtg.—10:am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm	4 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons - 10 am Private recital - 7 pm	5 Sandwich Making - 7:30 am Bible Study - 9:30 am AA - noon -1 Caregivers - 1:30 pm Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	6	7 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	8 SWCG - 10 am
9 Worship—10 am BLAST - following worship Youth - following worship SWCG—1—3 pm	10 Staff Mtg.—10:am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm	11 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons - 10 am Listening Team Mtg. - 7 pm	12 Bible Study - 9:30 am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	13	14 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 11 pm	15 Cantare Children's Choir - 9:30 am - 4 pm SWCG - 10 am
16 Father's Day Worship—10 am BLAST - following worship Youth - following SWCG—1—3 pm	17 Staff Mtg.—10:am Legacy Writing Class - 10 am - 2:30 pm AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm Listening Team - 7 pm	18 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons - 10 am ForWord - 6:30 - 8 pm	19 AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	20	21 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	22 SWCG - 10 am Shoe Project - 5:30 - 8:30 pm
23 Worship—10 am Farewell Picnic for Intern Kate SWCG—1—3 pm	24 Staff Mtg.—10 am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm	25 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons - 10 am	26 AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	27	28 Office Closed	29 SWCG - 10 am
30 Worship—10 am BLAST - following worship Youth - following worship SWCG—1—4 pm			<div>Communion Sundays:</div> <div>June 9, 16 & 30</div>			