



Building Community - Opportunities to Serve

We live in a society which tends to be very transactional. If someone wants or needs something, then one simply pays for it and receives it. We pay for food, housing, utilities, meals, cars, clothes, TV's, golf clubs (and tee times), concerts, music... the list goes on and on.

In one's own family, one can see, however, that a *transactional way of living* only goes so far. Something more is needed than food, lodging, transportation and clothes. Some of it is tangible and practical:

- Meals need to be prepared;
- Trash taken out;
- Dishes & laundry need to be washed;
- Pets need to be tended to.

There are also less "tangible" things that need to be done:

- Schedules made and communicated;
- Listening and talking;
- Spending time together;
- Playing games;
- Emotionally supporting one another.

The same goes for a congregation: a *transactional way of living* only goes so far...

On Friday, August 9th, your Church Council gathered to discern the particular values and goals we will focus on for the next several months. We began this time of discernment with this part of the letter that Paul wrote to the church in Philippi [Philippians 2:1-8]:

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

To live a Christian life is to live a life of service. I give thanks for all those who have chosen to serve Christ and the congregation by being on Council. I also give thanks for all those who usher, teach, prepare & serve communion, count money, clean, make sandwiches, quilt, manage the property, visit, lead groups, tell stories, assist with BLAST, sing in the choir, read the lessons, acolyte, manage the sound & powerpoint... and the list goes on.

As we begin another school year and year of programming, I invite you to find your place in the congregation to serve. It may be something you enjoy doing. It may be something you've already tried. It may be something that challenges and scares you that you want to overcome (that's what reading lessons in worship represented for me when I began). Whatever calls to you, I invite you to find your place of service and invest yourself in the health of our congregation. By doing so, you will be embodying the life of the servant that Christ calls us to. Along the way, you'll also find that one of the best ways to develop friendships is by working together on a common purpose and goal.

Peace,

Pastor Paul

A glance at September Ministry Happenings....



- Sept. 1 -** Worship at 9:30 am - this is to give you time to worship and attend the Pride Parade at 11 am.
- Sept. 2 -** **OFFICE CLOSED** - Labor Day
- Sept. 4 -** Sandwich Making - 7:30 am
- Sept. 5 -** Choir Begins again @ 7:15 pm
- Sept. 8 -** Worship with communion - 10 am
BLAST & YOUTH FAITH LENS BEGIN - following worship
- Sept. 10 -** **Faith Formation - 5 - 7 pm** - see special ad in the news letter
- Sept. 11 -** Wed. morning Bible Study 9:30 am
- Sept. 11 -** Council Meeting - 7 pm
- Sept. 14 -** Clothing Giveaway - 10 am - 1 pm
- Sept. 15 -** Worship, BLAST & YOUTH - 10 am
- Sept. 17 -** Faith Formation - 5 - 7 pm
- Sept. 19 -** Quilting - 9 am
- Sept. 21 -** Women's Ministry - 10 am
- Sept. 22 -** Worship, BLAST & YOUTH - 10 AM - communion
- Sept. 23 -** Social Ministry Meeting - 7 pm
- Sept. 24 -** Faith Formation - 5 - 7 pm
- Sept. 28 -** Storytelling Workshop led by Pastor Laura @ St. Gerard's - see ad in the newsletter
- Sept. 29 -** Worship, BLAST & YOUTH - 10 AM
New Member Orientation
BLAST SHOWCASE



In this Month's Issue

Love the Lord your God with.....

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Bishop's Message -	pg. 22-23
Calendar -	pg. 24

Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW Calgary, AB

www.churchofthecross.ca

churchofthecross@shaw.ca

Pastors Laura & Phil Holck

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

LEAD ... love God with all your heart

Foundation of Respect -By Richard Rohr

The following is the daily devotion for Sunday, August 4, 2019 from the Center for Action and Contemplation .It is part of that week's theme, "Interspiritual Mysticism." It seems particularly applicable as we seek to live in this increasingly diverse society. cac.org/category/daily-meditations/

At their most mature levels, religions have a common goal: union with all beings and with God. Unfortunately, many religions and Christian denominations have over-emphasized differences and claimed that their particular brand is superior to others. Jesus didn't come to start another religion but to reveal God's presence in all of us. The Christian name for the universal incarnation is Christ, but it is known by innumerable other names.

Leaders of the Catholic Church have acknowledged the perennial and pervasive nature of truth. For example, the Second Vatican Council teaches that all peoples comprise a single community and share the same origin, "for God made the whole human race to live over the face of the earth. One also is their final goal: God." [1] The declaration goes on to praise indigenous religions, Hinduism, and Buddhism as they "reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all [people]," and states "the Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these religions." [2]

Continuing our exploration of mystics, I want to share some insights from several Christians who have found deep wisdom in other faiths that affirms truth in Christian texts and tradition. Today's meditation is a bit longer than usual to lay some ground work.

Dr. Beatrice Bruteau (1930–2014) was a pioneer in integrating science, mathematics, philosophy, and religions, especially Hinduism and Christianity. While she may not be a household name, her ideas have deeply influenced CAC faculty member Cynthia Bourgeault. Though Bruteau lived what some might consider a quiet life, her mind was busy expanding the world's ideas of consciousness and evolution. She believed that mysticism was foundational to transforming the world. I offer you this very clear and compelling passage from Bruteau:

A "better" world is one in which we recognize that all people possess an incomparable value that we are morally obliged to respect . . . in social, political, and economic terms. Honoring the humanity of your fellow beings means that if they are hungry, ill, or oppressed, you must exert yourself to help them. . . . But this . . . runs up against our inherited instincts of self-protection, greediness, and desire to dominate others. . . . If we could rearrange energy from within—if we more often nurtured our

companions and promoted their well-being, we would suffer much less. Rearranging energy from within is what mysticism does.

How does mysticism do this? Consider that domination, greed, cruelty, violence, and all our other ills arise from a sense of insufficient and insecure being. I need more power, more possessions, more respect and admiration. But it's never enough; the fear always remains. It comes from every side: from other people; from economic circumstances; from ideas, customs, and belief systems; from the natural environment; from our own bodies and minds. All these others intimidate us, threaten us, make us anxious. We can't control them. They are, to varying degrees, aliens. Our experience is: where I am "I," they are "not-I."

At least this is our experience insofar as we are not mystics. But, fortunately, everyone is a mystic. At some deep level, we know that we are not mutually alienated from each other and that we do have sufficient being. . . . The practice of raising this knowledge is the process of becoming a mystic in experience as well as in potentiality. . . .

There are exercises for cultivating this transition in every culture and tradition. We can learn from any or all of them. . . .

In talking with one another, sharing experiences, teaching and encouraging one another . . . we are helping each other know that we are deeply related, that we are all precious and deserving, that the universe is our home, that we can feel safe on the deepest level of our being. In this mutual support, the sense of oneness that is the hallmark of the mystic is increasing. . . .

Mutual respect is the only possible foundation for a free, just, equal, and responsible society, and mystical experience is the ultimate ground for that respect. With freedom from the need to promote oneself—or one's nation, tradition, or religion—by devaluing others comes a great release of energy. What had been invested in protection is now available for caring for and rejoicing in others. [3]

[1] Second Vatican Council, "Nostra Aetate (In Our Time): Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions," (October 28, 1965), 1. Full text at http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_nostra-aetate_en.html. [2] Ibid., 2. [3] Beatrice Bruteau in her preface to Wayne Teasdale, *The Mystic Heart: Discovering a Universal Spirituality in the*

LEAD ... love God with all your heart

Pray for a young person



Praying the Proverbs is a great opportunity to pray for a young person. This simple program encourages every adult at Church of the Cross to select a young person affiliated with the congregation and pray for their needs and their character development every day for an entire year. The supplied guide offers a virtue, Bible verse, and suggested short prayer to include in your daily devotional time as you consider the life, opportunities, and character development of a young person.

Pastor Laura reflects, *"The first time I saw this program, I thought it was great. I started praying for a young person, but what quickly developed were more inclusive and expansive prayers for my own children, myself, my friends and family, my civic leaders, and all the people of the world."*

This is a no-stress opportunity to pray! If you miss a day, or a week, simply begin again with the prayer focus that matches the day's date and you're on your way again. **Prayer opportunities will be available beginning September 9.**

Faith Experiments for Younger Adults

This fall, Pastor Laura is organizing fields trips to experience the spiritual practices of other faith communities. We will participate in a drumming circle (*Drum, Dine, and Discuss*) at U of C, an aboriginal sweat lodge, and other opportunities as they present themselves. **If you would like to participate, please let Pastor Laura know by texting 403-540-0053 or emailing lauraholck@gmail.com.** All field trips will be coordinated by doodle polling.



IMPORTANT NOTICE!



Worship Time for September 1: 9:30 am!!

**This is to accommodate those who wish to
attend the Pride Parade.**

Cause of the month for September

Campus Ministry

With Fall just around the corner, we will start **QUILTING** again on **Thursday, Sept. 19th at 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.** All interested ladies are welcome to come and join us. Any sewing experience is helpful but not a prerequisite.

C.L.W.R. Soccer Ball Drive – New and gently used soccer balls are urgently needed for children living in and near refugee camps. Please deflate the soccer balls and include a pump for every 10 balls. These soccer balls will go to countries such as Mauritania, Tanzania, Nicaragua, Liberia and Angola.

Next meeting: **Monday, September 23rd at 7:00 pm.**






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

From our gardens, these two harvests within a week and more to come. All of the produce has gone to the Food Bank.



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

AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM



CALGARY PRIDE

**Lutherans Walk (and Cheer)
with Pride!**

**Sunday, September 1st,
11:00am**

All Lutherans and their family and friends are invited to walk in this year's Calgary Pride Parade with *Affirming Congregations*, a United Church of Canada LGBTQ+ ministry

AND

This year, *Lutherans Supporting Pride* will also have a "sitting and cheering" group for those who want to share their support in a different way and watch the parade instead of being in it!

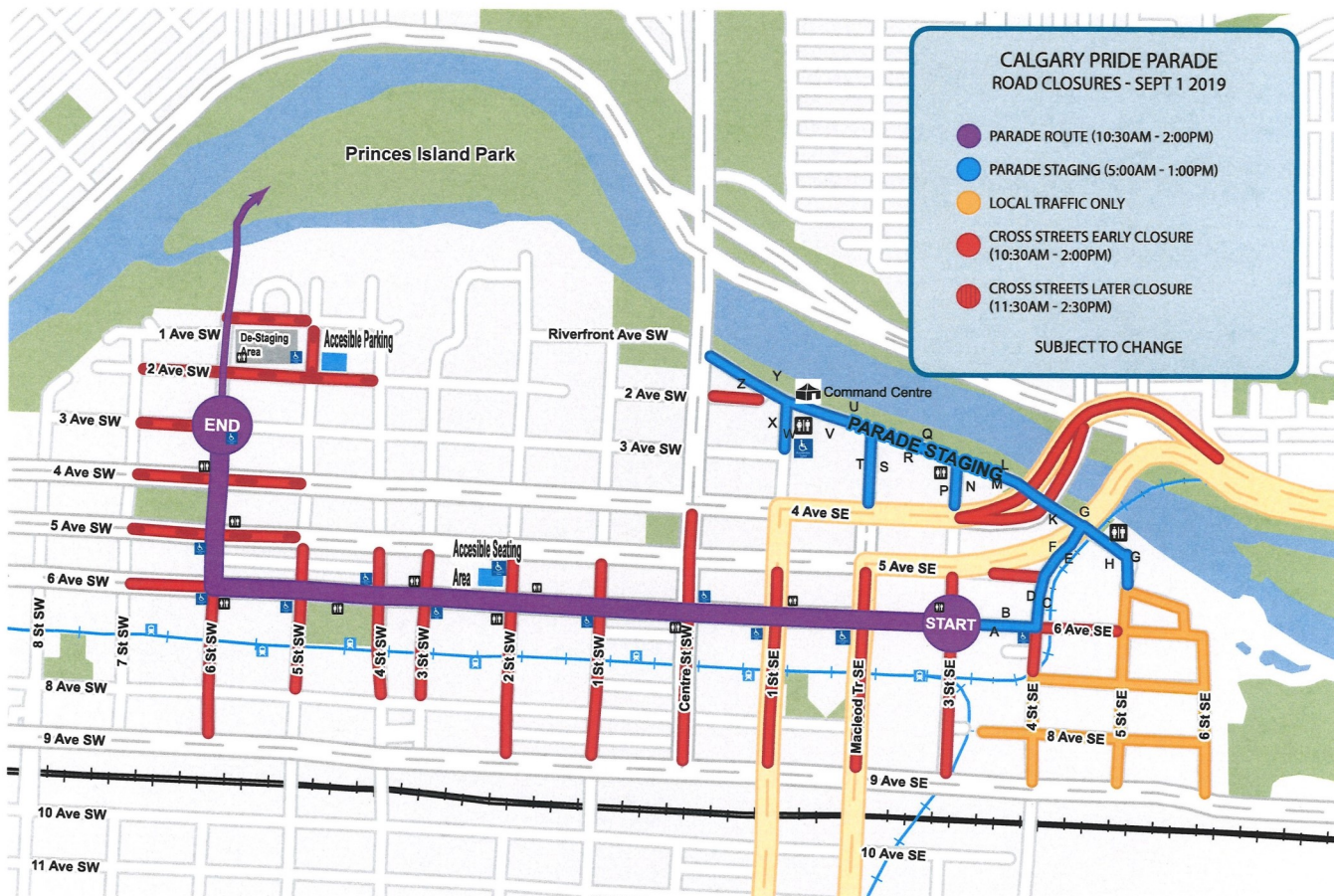
To walk, contact:
Betty Jane Hegerat
c/o Lutheran Church of the Cross
churchofthecross@shaw.ca

To "sit and cheer," contact:
Kayko Driedger Hesslein
kaykodh@gmail.com

The "*Sit and Cheer*" Group for Pride Parade will be sitting and cheering on the **SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF 6 AVE SW AND 4 ST SW** (*kitty corner from Knox United*). The parade will likely start passing us around noon, so come after church and show God's love!

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

AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM



BOOTH INFORMATION - Prince's Island Park

Event open 11:00 am to 6:00 pm:

The Calgary Affirming Ministries Group (*which we are apart of*) booth will be located in the Wellness Oasis section which is East of the Marketplace section and Southeast of the Family Zone section. The tent site is W26.

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

AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM

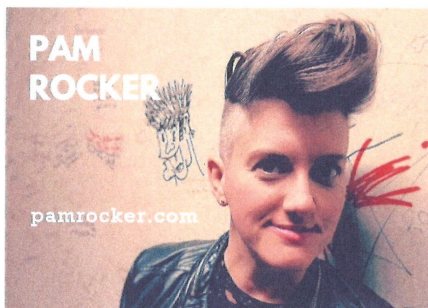


SEPTEMBER 1 2019 | 9:00 AM | KNOX UNITED CHURCH

CITY-WIDE PRIDE SERVICE

JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND MUFFINS BEFORE THE SERVICE

SPEAKERS



SOLO BY CHANTAL STORMSONG CHAGNON

Volunteers Required

We have a small group of dedicated volunteers who are serving this body of Christ through **communion preparation and subsequent clean-up.**

I am seeking additional volunteers to add to the volunteer roster. If you are willing to serve in this capacity, please contact **Archie Wells** (ajwells@shaw.ca or 403-282-1931) or Dianne in the church office.

Thanks in advance.

It's time again to collect for the CLWR

We Care School Kits

- unsharpened pencils with erasers
- metric ruler (*30 centimeters*), pencil sharpener and 1 eraser
- pack of crayons (*or pencil crayons*)
- small and simple toy (*new and not requiring batteries*)
- bar of soap and toothbrush (*new and wrapped*)
- tube of toothpaste



Box for collections will be at the church in Sept.

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

The Way of Christ

Weekends and community experiences that make a difference

ForWord

Sunday Sept 29, 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 Laura Holck: lauraholck@gmail.com

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

Rediscover, Reconnect, Renew your life in 72 hours

Senate report gives Canadian Christian charities top marks

By Deborah Gyapong, *Canadian Catholic News*

OTTAWA -- Christian charities have praised a recent Senate report on the charities that affirmed religious organizations are an essential piece in serving charitable needs.

"They did far more than what we were hoping for," said John Pellowe, CEO of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC). "In the report itself they make reference to the great benefit of advancing religion."

Pellowe noted that Senators went even further in describing the positive role religion plays in Canada during a press conference June 20 after the publication of the report.

Responding to question from a reporter from *Le Devoir* on whether religion should be included since they seem to promote only themselves, Senator Terry Mercer, chair of the Special Senate Committee on the Charitable Sector, affirmed religion has a charitable purpose.

"Yes, they are promoting their own religion, but I think religion is a good thing," said Mercer. "It depends — and I'm not going to single out any particular religion — each person has a relationship with their god that is very personal and how they express that is important."

"Churches, synagogues, mosques have been the focal point in many communities; they have been the cement that's kept communities together," he said.

Senator Ratna Omidvar, deputy chair, added that religious institutions "do more than simply preserve their religious beliefs."

"They extend themselves in very significant ways, and we should appreciate and recognize that, as opposed to looking at whether they should qualify (for charitable status) or not," she said.

The committee retained the charity categories — "the relief of poverty, the advancement of education, the advancement of religion, and other purposes beneficial to the community in a way the law regards as charitable" — in its June report entitled *Roadmap to a Stronger Charitable Sector*.

Pellowe cited research that shows the benefit of religion goes far beyond the mere spiritual benefits, "which the general public doesn't value."



"What they have found is people who attend a place of worship once a week or more are very different from all other Canadians," he said. Those who attend less than weekly have different outcomes more similar to that of the general population, he added.

The weekly attenders or more have "have better mental health, better life outcomes because they are making choices more wisely," he said.

"People of Christian faith are other-centred, focused on being on a community of other people," he said. "The others may not be other Christians. They feel responsibility towards other. This makes them more generous and more likely to volunteer."

"Stats Canada data on giving and volunteering reveals that religious people support secular charities more than non-religious people do, greatly increasing the support that the non-religious have available to them," Pellowe said.

The Senate committee was struck in January 2108 to examine the charitable and non-profit sector that accounts for more than seven per cent of Canada's gross domestic product and employs more than two million people, according to the report, which estimated there are 86,000 registered charities and another 85,000 non-profit organizations providing public benefits.

LEAD ... love God with all your soul

"The charitable and non-profit sector has suffered from benign neglect for too long. Legal rules have been reformed in a piecemeal fashion; task force recommendations have gone unimplemented; and kind words have all too often served as a substitute for meaningful action. The time for real change has come.

The committee made 42 recommendations to shore up the sector, among them: ways to encourage volunteers, seeking diversity on boards, and study whether to increase the tax benefit of charitable donations.

According to a Cardus 2016 report on a charity roundtable, 18 per cent of Canadians give 80 per cent of common good resources. The Senate report shows most giving is done by those over age 55. As this cohort grows older, charitable giving is shrinking.

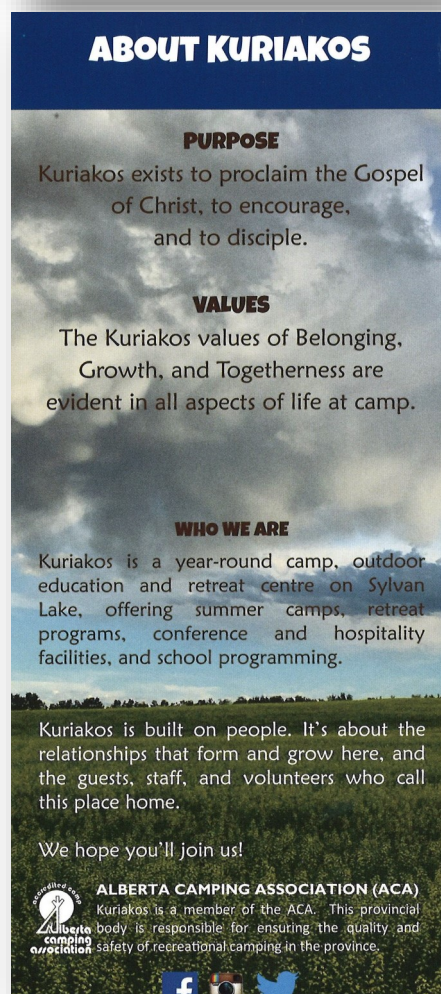
Milton Friesen, Cardus program director of social cities, said the Senate report signals the definition of charity and the role of religion is "a matter for ongoing debate."

"We need to understand what generates volunteering and donating much better than we do now," he said, noting that if it declines "you can't just put it back" by increasing tax dollars or having the government step in.

"If giving has a social dimension, we need to figure out what social dimension leads to giving," Friesen said. He also noted the needs of large, government-funded charities such as educational and health institutions are very different from small, local charities with little or no paid staff.

The Canadian religious landscape is changing and religious diversity is increasing, he said. Religion has been traditionally a source of giving, and there is "some sense of decline," so the question is whether the "government going to pick up the slack" even if in some things "government is not well positioned to take over."

Under Friesen, Cardus initiated the ongoing Halo project in 2016 that examined the impact of program spending by religious communities. It revealed for every dollar a congregation spends, the wider community receives a benefit worth \$4.77.



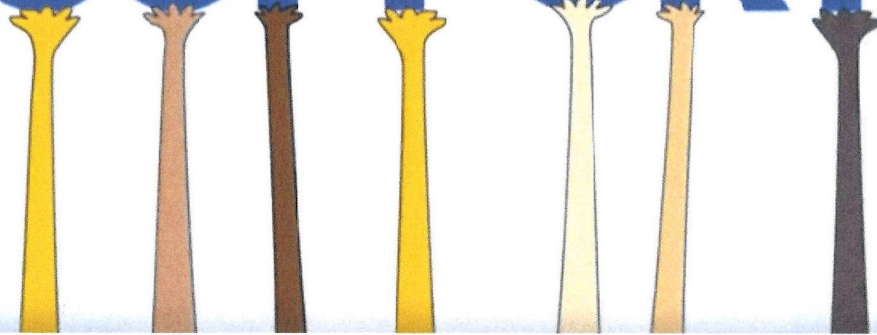
**CHECK
OUT
THE
WEB-
SITE TO
SEE ALL
THE
FALL
AND
WINTER
PROGRAMS
OFFERED
AT CAMP
KURIAKOS!**



**WWW.
KURIAKOS.
AB.CA**

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

SUPPORT



You've done something remarkable!



While there are still a few baby bottles yet to arrive at the Centre, we are thrilled to report that this year's campaign raised **over \$144,000 - an increase of more than 10% from 2018!**

We could not have done this without you:

Lutheran Church of the Cross contributed by raising \$786.75!

Thank you!

Your church is helping to reduce the **challenges** women and families face

during an unexpected pregnancy.

Today alone, **your support impacted someone's life for the better.**





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

**MARY & MARTHA GROUP -
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY All are Welcome!
Saturday, September 21 at 10:00 a.m.
in the north meeting room at Church**



Please join us to embark on a new 3-session Bible Study this fall.
Topics of study for the year will be discussed at the first meeting as
we catch up on everyone's summer activities.

You're Invited! Save the date!

ST. GERARD'S PARISH PRESENTS TWO

Lector Enrichment Workshops



With **Laura Holck**, co-Pastor of the
Lutheran Church of the Cross and
an outstanding proclaimer and storyteller.

All Proclaimers are encouraged to attend
one of these inspiring workshops.
Two dates are available:

Saturday, September 28

9:00 am – noon

OR Saturday, October 5

9:00 am – noon

RSVP

with your date choice to
Jacqueline Guerin
jacqui.guerin@gmail.com

For additional information visit stgerards.ca



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

Tuesdays Are Faith Formation Nights FOR EVERYONE!

What? Dinner and programming

When? Four Tuesdays 5-7 pm, beginning **September 10**

Who? Everyone, ages 0-105

Where? Church of the Cross!

Why? Because it's good for you, your family, and all of us



How much does it cost? Your free will offering for dinner helps us cover the cost of our ingredients. Everything else is free.

Tell me more! Our meals will be things like pasta bars, taco bars, and salad bars where you build your own meal from prepared ingredients. These allow us to serve a wide-range of needs and satisfy all appetites.

You don't need to rush on Tuesdays. Come straight from work, school, or home. Let us do the cooking and cleaning while you study, learn, worship, and grow!

Here are our program offerings:



Messy Church with Kathy Bishop: Anyone who wants to come, ages 2-105

Bible lessons with interactive activities

The Action Bible Devotions - grades 3-6

Comic book Bible study for kids

Confirmation with Pastor Phil - grades 7-8

Affirmation of Faith preparation including teaching on the Sacraments, Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments, Martin Luther and Christian ethics

Youth Dimension - grades 9-12

Conversations about scripture, faith and everyday life

The Way of Christ Life Group - Adults aged 18+

Conversations about scripture, faith and everyday life

Starting Point with Pastor Laura: Adults 18+

Conversations about faith using materials by Andy Stanley

Saturday, September 14, 2019

COMMUNITY CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

at Lutheran Church of the Cross

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

10620 Elbow Drive SW

Donations of clean, gently used clothing will
be gratefully accepted at church **Sept. 11 to 13**
For an exciting opportunity to make a difference in the
community follow this link to volunteer :
volunteersignup.org/KBWY7



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

Council Activities Update: Council Retreat in Canmore

Summertime is often a period when church activities slow down with people off on travelling, camping, picnicking and other adventures. Council activities often slow down as well, but less so than you might think!

Council continues to leverage the set of processes outlined by LEAD (waytolead.org) and are one quarter of the way done this three to four-year program. We are currently wrapping up the “Tune In” process, which focusing on listening, a shift from inward to outward, and experimentation. We are currently preparing to engage in the “Wake up” process (establishing purpose and values, mission, identity). Future processes are the Work out” process (hospitality, diversity, understanding, comfort zones) and the “Dig Down” process (deepen theology, streamline systems, stewardship).

An outcome of the LEAD program is the development of a three-year strategic plan. While we are working through the steps towards defining this plan, we are taking steps to ensure forward movement.

To that end, a Council retreat was held in Canmore on the weekend of August 10 (with thanks to Faye Larsen for providing the location!). The retreat was a spiritual journey focused on our congregation using the LEAD Annual Roadmap to clarify values, identify stakeholders, name strengths, identify opportunities, articulate aspirations, articulate results, and develop related communication plans. Note that “stakeholders” in this context refers to a person who has an interest in, or is affected by, an action. This definition is intended to move us toward an outward call, remembering all those who have a stake in sharing and receiving the Gospel.

A working set of values to guide are focus was developed, specifically:

- Worship nurtures people’s faith
- Address social concerns (help people in need)
- Build strong, healthy relationships
- Help our members live out their faith in their daily lives

These values were explored in addressing the needs of the following stakeholders along with results to pursue associated with each stakeholder, as follows:

People who are vulnerable

- **Community Kitchen** – to provide training to families regarding practical food preparation instruction and hands-on experience in making meals. Leadership for this includes Sasha Craven and will be in collaboration with, and clientele from, the Calgary South-west Communities Resource Centre (swcrc.ca)

Congregational members and groups

- **Relationship Building Every-member Visitation** – to ensure congregational contact, conversation and engagement with all of our members. Leadership for this is from Dean Larsen, Council and the Wake-Up Process Team.

Turkish community and other faiths

- Interfaith classes and spiritual field trips – to continue our efforts to work with faith groups and explore how God is working through us and others. Leadership for this is from the Pastors and Tammy Kozlowski

Young people and children

- Youth in Ministry – Leadership for this if from Pastor Phil and our youth leaders

Partner organizations

- Extend support for Calgary Alliance for the Common Good – continue fostering awareness of, and extend participation in, community initiatives through CACG (calgarycommongood.org). Leadership for this will be from Pastor Phil, Ryan Andersen, Gates Fortier and Archie Wells.

Further information on these desired results and how they will be achieved will be forthcoming in the fall. In the meantime, please feel free to address any questions you might have to Council or the people identified above.

Save the date of September 22, 2019, for an after-worship LEAD update and celebration!

We look forward to working together as a congregation as we move forward!

Dean Larsen

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

CACG Founding Assembly

7pm, Thursday October 17, 2019

Knox United Church



The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good is a non-partisan and non-profit alliance of congregations, unions, school and community groups in Calgary representing more than 30,000 people. These organizations came together to form the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good in order to organize the power of our communities to shape a just and compassionate city.

The mission of the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good is:

- ***To create a broad-based shared organization that is as diverse as Calgary, building relationships among organizations and people from the various community, ethnic, non-profit, labour, and religious groups.***
- ***To strengthen our member organizations and their leaders to develop a healthy and effective civic life. To use the principles and techniques of community organizing to effectively address the real issues facing Calgarians and our member organizations.***

Even though the alliance changed its name from the **Metro Alliance for the Common Good** to the **Calgary Alliance for the Common Good** two years ago, the alliance itself has been around for over 10 years. About four years ago, the Calgary Alliance made the decision to hire a community organizer, Ryan Andersen, in order to grow and develop its capacity to fulfil on its mission. Since then, it has grown from a handful of institutions to almost 30 institutions now. Lutheran Church of the Cross is one of them.

The **Founding Assembly** on October 17 is an opportunity to claim and celebrate the strides CACG has made and to publicly establish itself as a voice working for the good of all Calgarians. Members of Lutheran Church of the Cross are invited to come and be part of this event. For further information, talk to the pastors, Ryan Andersen, or anyone on Council. Their website is: www.calgarycommongood.org.

Notes from the website:

When the City of Calgary announced \$60 million - \$120 million over a year - in cuts to services, The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good launched the #KeepCalgaryStrong campaign and invited others to join in. Together we got a reaction that preserved many essential services for Calgarians, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Thank you to everyone involved in the [#KeepCalgaryStrong](#) Campaign. We saw results! The Seniors Program was saved. The Mental Health Strategy will go forward, The Low Income Transit pass is funded by the city. Great work by everyone who was involved.

Thanks for the Help!

If



you dropped by the office sometime the summer, you probably saw some different people working and answering the phone. This summer we were excited to have three of our young people helping out.

Isak Larsen and Nyachang Reath were there to answer the phones and prepare the worship materials for Sunday mornings. In addition to those tasks, they were also helping enter data, organize *Word for Children* and helping get supplies ready for another year of BLAST.

Mikaela Rude spent the summer documenting and pulling together the activities of BLAST for the last FIVE YEARS. The BLAST curriculum is a five-year program to cover all of the main stories of the Bible. Since we are about to begin our sixth year of BLAST, it was time to gather all of the activities and plans we have created and get them into one database. Mikaela (thanks to funding from a Canada Summer Jobs grant) was able to spend the summer doing this work.

A BIG THANK YOU

To Panda Flowers Country Hills for donating flower arrangements for the altar each week. This is a huge contribution to our worship life. Following worship, the flowers are available to people who could use a little lift in their week. If you know someone who could benefit from this floral ministry, please contact the office during the week to make sure the flowers are still available.

If you would like to provide flowers for worship to mark a special occasion, please contact the office so we can tell Panda Flowers they don't need to provide flowers for the upcoming Sunday.

To those of you who clean up the sanctuary and kitchen: The flower vases are the property of Panda Flowers. Please return them to the recycling area at the east entrance. Panda Flowers picks them up from that spot!



Are you interested in Church of the Cross membership?

Membership at Church of the Cross is open to anyone confirmed in the Christian faith and committed to the vision and direction of the community that gathers here. Not confirmed? Not sure of our vision and direction? A little rusty on Christian doctrine? Don't worry! People with varying degrees of church involvement and history fill the pews here. Our goal is to welcome you, be your companions on your faith journey, equip you for your spiritual development and ministry, and grow together in faith.

If you are at all interested on any level, please attend:

New Members' Orientation

Sunday, September 29 in the sanctuary following worship

This day is also a BLAST showcase day, so grab something to eat & drink & come to the sanctuary about 15 minutes after worship. See you there! We will have a short presentation about the congregation & some opportunities available to you and answer any questions you may have.



Mortgage Burning Update Excellent Progress, AND THANKS!

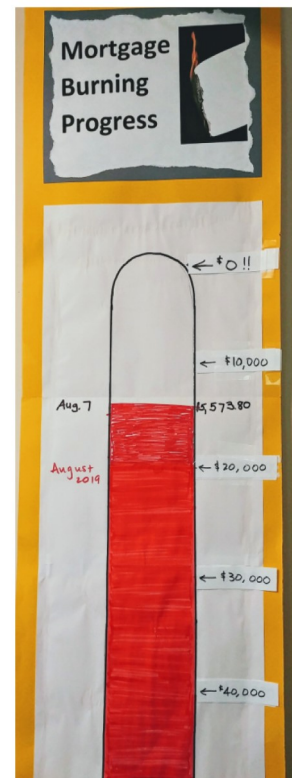
With great thanks to all who contributed, we managed to pay down **\$31 341.32** towards our mortgage!

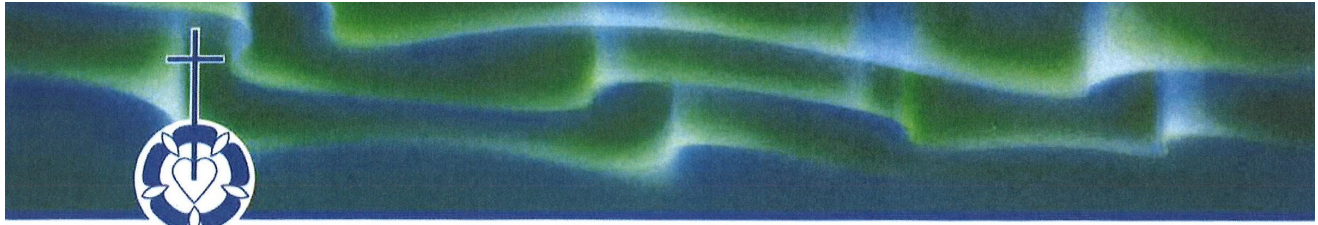
With our monthly payment continuing at **\$1715**, the remaining balance of **\$15,573.80** will be paid off within the next year.

No further fundraising for the mortgage will be done at this point. Any further donations towards mortgage paydown or the Building Fund at this time will be used for monthly payments.

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

Again, thank you!





**SYNOD OF
ALBERTA
AND THE
TERRITORIES**
Incorporated as Alberta Synod

The Office of the Bishop

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***Hope-Filled
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***Innovative
Tradition***

***Collaborative
Partnerships***

August 9, 2019

Pastor Phil Holck
Lutheran Church of the Cross
10620 Elbow Dr SW
Calgary, AB T2W 1G4

Dear Church Councils at Ascension Lutheran, Highwood Lutheran, Lutheran Church of the Cross and Trinity Lutheran and Pastors Barbara Groote, Michael Wellman, Phil Holck and Ingrid Doerschel:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

It has now been over three years since four Pastors from Alberta began journeying to Whitehorse to provide ministry with and among the people of faith at Trinity Lutheran, Whitehorse.

In this time much pastoral care, visitation, counsel, worship, Eucharist, prayer, teaching, study, youth...ministry has taken place.

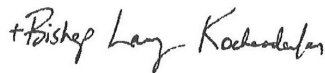
Thank you Pastors for your participation in this partnership of the Synod, your calling congregation and the Trinity, Whitehorse congregation; and thank you to Ascension Lutheran, Highwood Lutheran, Lutheran Church of the Cross and Trinity Lutheran congregations for your support and encouragement of this collaborative participation by sharing your Pastor with Trinity, Whitehorse.

With the summer upon us we now begin the fourth year of this partnered ministry. I will be journeying to be with the congregation later this month to participate in the installation of the Yukon's newly elected Anglican Bishop. I look forward to connecting with the Trinity faith community and the wider community while in Whitehorse.

With thanks!

"The God of all 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).

In Christ Jesus –
Shalom,



The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

cc.: Jean Dacko, Council Chair; Trinity Lutheran Church, Whitehorse

E V A N G E L I C A L L U T H E R A N C H U R C H I N C A N A D A

Dear Beloved of God –

I have been in a reflective mood as of late. Perhaps it is because I am preparing this article at the beginning of August with some holiday time behind me and fall just over the horizon of my computer screen. Perhaps it is because on July 9 I celebrated thirty years of ordained ministry.

Time has flown by. I was ordained in my home congregation. Valhalla Lutheran Church, Valhalla Centre, Alberta. Yes, a Norwegian settlement with a handful of Germans sprinkled in this farming community.

Following ordination I have been blessed to serve, together with my wife, Cathy, with and among the people of Bethany Lutheran Church, Dickson (1989-1993), Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge (1993-2002), Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton (2002-2010), as Assistant to the Bishop (beginning August 2010), and as Bishop (since January 26, 2013).

Within my time as Bishop, and certainly over the thirty years, there has been significant change, however, I continue to live by three core values which I first named while at College: servant leadership, affirmation and involvement while seeking to engage, empower and equip the people of God.

Each year I seek to take time to reflect on this calling. Over these summer months I have been pondering, reflecting and writing about these thirty years, both the joys and the challenges.

Since 2013 I continue to return to a writing Cathy and I commissioned from Deacon Dr. Faith Nostbakken for my ordination as Bishop.

In shaping the poem, which Faith read during the Ordination, she considered the texts for the worship, the

hymns selected for congregational song and ensemble singing, as well as a handful of images, metaphors and pastoral themes which are deeply meaningful to me.

The poem is titled: **Ordination.**

Nobody asks for drowning, certainly not the infant gently tilted head towards the font, arms and legs splayed suddenly with fear, maybe a whimper or a shrill cry as the robed one sifts through the sparkling water and touches the tiny brow, barely downy with hair, the rhythm of "The Father. . . and of the Son . . . and of the Holy Spirit" incanted before a finely woven linen cloth dabs away the drops. Everyone so easily forgets that dying can begin like this, the cross fingered again on the forehead at the dawn of each new day.

Nobody asks to have her feet washed either, not on Maundy Thursday even, unless her shoes are polished, her stockings free of runs and easily removed, her toenails trimmed and filed that very morning. Maybe then she offers but can't quite face the eyes of the one who silently lifts her foot from the basin, wraps it awkwardly in a freshly laundered towel, drying the creases between each toe. Most would rather forget how almost embarrassing it is to be served this way by a neighbor or a friend much less the One incarnated in this sacred, tender act. Nobody asks to be called into paradox either when the people proclaim, "You lead!" and in the same voice add, "You serve!" our meanings translated into as many tongues as join in song and blessing on this day. Wash my feet, but don't embarrass me. Splash my head with the font's damp cross but don't let me stay in the drowning. As you shepherd, walk beside us; notice how cracked our feet really are, how chapped our hands, and whenever we meet eye-to-eye, (especially try to meet us there) call us brother, sister, as we are yours, and remind us, so we don't forget, of the wondrous ache and splendor of love made whole first by being broken, made new first by dying, made perfect by the One whose body here and now we are, heads, hands, feet, eyes, tongues and all.

Blessings as you enter the fall season...see you at Area Gatherings.

In Christ Jesus –

Shalom, +Bishop Larry Kochendorfer



September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<div>Cause of the Month Campus Ministry</div>					
1 Worship - 9:30 am Pride Parade - 11 SWCG - 1 - 3 pm	2 OFFICE CLOSED AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9	3 Coffee @ Tim Hortons - 10 am	4 Sandwich Making - 7:30 am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9 SWCG—7 pm	5 Kodaly - 9:15 am - 3:15 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	6 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	7 SWCG - 1 pm
8 Bible Study - 9 am Worship - 10 am BLAST Youth Faith Lens SWCG - 1 - 3 pm	9 Kodaly - 9:15 am AA - noon Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9	10 Coffee @ Tim Hortons - 10 am Faith Formation - 5 - 7 pm	11 Bible Study - 9:30 am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9 SWCG—7 pm Council Mtg. - 7 pm	12 Kodaly - 9:15 am - 3:15 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	13 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	14 Clothing Giveaway - 10 am - 1 pm SWCG - 1 pm
15 Bible Study - 9 am Worship - 10 am BLAST Youth Faith Lens SWCG - 1 - 3 pm	16 Kodaly - 9:15 am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9	17 Coffee @ Tim Hortons - 10 am Faith Formation - 5 - 7 pm	18 Bible Study - 9:30 am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9 SWCG—7 pm	19 Quilting - 9 am Kodaly - 9:15 am - 3:15 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	20 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	21 Women's Ministry - 10 am SW Area Gathering - Hope Luth SWCG - 1 pm
22 Bible Study - 9 am Worship - 10 am LEAD Update BLAST Youth Faith Lens SWCG - 1 - 3 pm	23 Kodaly - 9:15 am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9 Social Ministry Mtg. - 7 pm	24 Coffee @ Tim Hortons - 10 am Faith Formation - 5 - 7 pm	25 Bible Study - 9:30 am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9 SWCG—7 pm	26 Quilting - 9 am Kodaly - 9:15 am - 3:15 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	27 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	28 Storytelling Workshop - @ St. Gerard's- 8:30 am SWCG - 1 pm
29 Bible Study - 9 am Worship - 10 am New Member Orien. BLAST SHOWCASE Youth Faith Lens SWCG - 1 - 4 pm	30 Kodaly - 9:15 am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9	31 Coffee @ Tim Hortons - 10 am Faith Formation - 5 - 7 pm		<div>Communion Sept. 8 & 22</div>		