



## Pray always. Do not lose heart.

The above words are a gift to us from the Gospel of Luke in his preface to Jesus' story about the persistence widow and the unjust judge in Luke 18: "Then Jesus told [the disciples] a parable about their need to pray always and to not lose heart..."

Pray Always. When we think of praying, what often comes to mind first is the prayer we say together each Sunday, The Lord's Prayer. Since we say it every Sunday, it is easy to pass over the significance of each of the petitions in it. In particular, there is a real depth to the petition, Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. This prayer is an expression of our desire to have God's will done on earth. Even more personally, it is the prayer that our will may be aligned with God's will.

This is a major part of prayer. Prayer is not only a series of requests that we make to God, it is also an openness to God's communication with us and an ongoing attempt to align our thoughts, desires and will with God's. When we are called to "pray always," I don't think it means we should constantly be reciting the Lord's Prayer. I think it is more about the intention and practice of trying to discern God's will in the thousands of decisions we are making every day. It is developing the practice of asking in each moment, What is God's will in this time and place with these people and how might I act and speak aligned with that?

Do not lose heart. The word heart in Latin is cour. It is the root of the word courage which literally translates as heart action. To not lose heart then means to not be discouraged but to be courageous... to take heart action. This is no small order these days. There are lots of things that seem out of control and headed in the wrong direction: the economy, jobs, addictions, violence, wars, social isolation, racism, bigotry, climate change, uncivility, abuse, mental health... I wish the list stopped there but it doesn't. What more evidence do we need to be discouraged and to give up hope?

Yet, we believe in a God who brings hope out of despair and life out of death. We know a God whose very essence is love and who desire for the world is shalom, a life-giving peace and well-being for all. In the midst of this seemingly out of control world, we are called to believe in and trust God and God's de

sire for the world. We are called pray always (align our hearts and minds with God's) and to not lose heart (be courageous and take heart action).

Some crazy promises. On Sunday, Oct. 27th, **Kim Reath and Jamie Risse** are being confirmed. They are going to stand in front of the congregation and make some crazy promises. They will be asked,

- Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy Baptism:
- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and
- to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

And they will answer, *I will and I ask God to help and guide me.*

They are crazy to make these promises. But in doing so, they join the rest of us gathered who have made those same crazy promises. The promise to live as people of hope, service and love. The promise to live as people who resist all the enticements to put our faith in something else and to be focused on God.

The promise to live as people who pray always and do not lose heart.

The parable of the persistent widow and unjust judge ends with Jesus asking the question, When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?

The answer is YES thanks to people like Kim and Jamie and you and me who make promises to be people of faith and then back it up with our actions.

Pray always. Do not lose heart.



# A glance at November Ministry Happenings....



**November 1** - “First Contact” Screening & Conversation - 7 pm

**November 2** - Men’s Breakfast - 8 am

**November 3** - Women’s Advent Tea Planning Meeting - following worship - for all who would like to be part of the planning committee.

**November 4** - Jon Pahl Event - 1 pm @ St. Mary’s University - see larger advertisement - page 19

**November 5 - 5 pm - *Growing Up Digital*** - a speaker Series presented by the Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre - this is for parents, grandparents,, aunts, uncles - every adult!!! And teens 12 and over! See larger ad page 11.

**November 6** - Sandwich Making for the Drop In Centre - 7:30 am

**November 9** - Youth Sleep over - 7 pm

**November 12** - Mentor Night at Confirmation - 5 pm

**November 13** - Council Meeting - 7 pm

**November 14** - Endowment Fund Meeting - 7 pm

**November 17** - ForWord - 6:30 pm @ Hope Lutheran Church

**November 19** - Introduction to the work of Brene Brown Series - 7 pm. Tickets available through Eventbrite - see larger ad - page 19

**November 23** - Women’s Ministry - 10 am

**November 29** - “First Contact” screening and conversation - 7 pm



## In this Month’s Issue

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

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## Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW Calgary, AB

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

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

Pastors Laura & Phil Holck

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.

# LEAD ... love God with all your heart

## Coexistence: Beliefs and Experience

By Richard Rohr

*The following is the daily devotion for Monday, October 14, 2019 from the Center for Action and Contemplation .It is part of that week's theme, "Ways of Knowing." Around Reformation Sunday (10/27), we are reminded of some of the paradoxes of Lutheran theology. In particular, simul justus et peccator—simultaneously saint and sinner— emblematic of the both/and-ness of our beliefs. This devotion embraces this both/and around the idea of faith be both head and heart.*

[cac.org/category/daily-meditations/](http://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/)

*We cannot know God only by thinking thoughts. Unfortunately, for much of Christianity, faith largely became believing statements to be true or false (intellectual assent) instead of giving people concrete practices so they could themselves know how to open up (faith), hold on (hope), and allow an infilling from another source (love). Contemplation opens our heads, hearts, and bodies to God's living presence.*

*Over the last couple weeks, I shared about my own Franciscan order. Benedictines, who follow the Rule of St. Benedict (c. 480–547), are another Catholic order that often emphasizes practical, experiential spirituality. During one homily, Brother Michael, a member of the Benedictine monastic community of Weston Priory in Vermont, reflected on the day's Scripture readings (1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Luke 4:38-44):*

What I heard Paul saying, basically, was that although he has preached, there was something more for the Corinthians than simply listening to preaching. It was their actual experience of believing. And I think Paul was trying to ask them really the question: what do you believe?

I think that's such an open question for ourselves right now, when there's a lot of information, a lot of preaching, a lot of answers given to us. But the same basic question remains: what is our experience of our beliefs?

For myself that was the real window into the Gospel today that talks about the miracle stories of Jesus. These stories are not about the suspension of natural laws. The Gospel writers are trying to tell us that something new was happening. I think that Jesus was somehow able to wake people up, to cure them and heal them of their dis-ease. I think that there was something in his message; the reign of God is close at hand. What does that mean? What does that experience signify for us? I think it brings it right into our own time, into our life together. Trying to move into our experience of believing, of living, of loving, and finding within it, within the many challenges, that that's where our hearts are fully engaged.

*Maria Guarino reflects on Brother Michael's message:*

It may seem radical for a man in a Christian vocation to call the literal truth of the miracle stories into question, but this is exactly the kind of grounding . . . spoke[n] to in [his] reflections. Just as [another] admonished his monks to take the Rule of Benedict very seriously but not to take it literally, so the brothers took matters of spirituality, scripture, and faith very seriously but with an open-mindedness grounded in the immediate reality of experience. . . . As in all aspects of the Benedictine life, there is a balance to be struck. . . . The brothers were open to mystery and the ineffable, but . . . the mysterious did not require suspension of the rational or the intellectual. For them, the rational mind and the spiritual heart coexist. Head and heart, rational and spiritual, need not stifle or silence one another. Both are necessary as the brothers position themselves toward an experience of God that is immediate yet distant, familiar yet ineffable, immanent yet transcendent, and as rational as it is unknowable.

### 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.*

Maria S. Guarino, *Listen with the Ear of the Heart: Music and Monastery Life at Weston Priory* (University of Rochester Press: 2018), 148, 149, 150-151.

# LEAD ... love God with all your heart

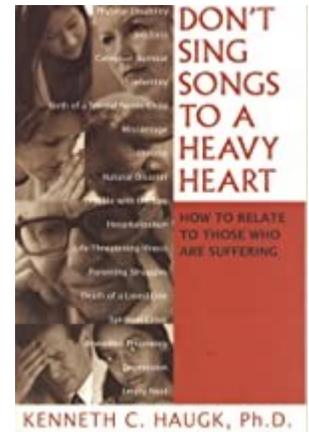


**Caring Conversations** will meet for four Tuesdays beginning in January. We will be part of **Faith Foundations**. 5-7pm. Super is provided! Everyone is welcome.

We will be discussing the book **“Don’t Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart”** by Kenneth Haugk. This book will help us learn how to relate to those who are suffering, from the ups and downs of life.

Please pre register in the office or call me at # 403-208-6747.

Prayer and Care  
Wendy McCulloch



## *Guest preacher, Sunday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>* **The Very Rev. Dr. Bill Phipps**



The Very Rev. Dr. Bill Phipps is an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada and is a former Moderator of the United Church of Canada. He is passionate about social justice, right relations with our indigenous brothers and sisters, and action to address climate change.

In 2005, Bill received the *Alberta Centennial Medal*. This medal is awarded to outstanding Albertans who have made a significant contribution to society and to celebrate their contributions.

He has been a presenter at the recent Climate Hub Community Conversations talking about “The Ethical and Spiritual Dimension of the Climate Crisis.” The next Climate Hub Community Conversation will be Nov. 18 at Unitarian Universalist Community

# LEAD ... love God with all your soul

## Cause of the month for November Families In Need

Funds will be used to supply gift cards for families who struggle to meet their needs during the winter and holiday season. Your continued support is much appreciated.

The 'stuff a pair of socks' for the **Mustard Seed** box will be placed in the narthex for collection of socks and stuffing items.

**LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED:** personal hygiene (i.e. soap, tooth paste and brushes, deodorant, lip balm, skin cream, shampoo, comb, tissues) chocolate bars, candy treats, pen and writing pad, bus tickets, gift card.

## SANDWICH MAKERS TRIBUTE

**Did you know** - that **this November** will be 30 years since the start of the SANDWICH PROJECT.

In **1988**, **Else Svendsen** proposed to the Social Ministry Committee that we make Sandwiches for the hungry people living in downtown Calgary. In the next few months, Else contacted the Calgary Drop-In Center to determine the need, arranged for the purchase of bread and fillings, secured volunteers and funds to pay for the costs.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> WEDNESDAY OF NOVEMBER 1989, 12 loaves of sandwiches were made by the volunteers of the Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group. **That was 30 years ago.**

The Social Ministry Committee would like to recognize and thank Else for her years of devotion and work which has resulted in the continuous making of sandwiches for the Drop-In Center.



We would also like to recognize one of our driver, **Bill Ruecker**. Through Bill and Ruth's friendship with the owner and manager of the Douglasdale Tim Hortons, arrangements were made that on sandwich day, Bill would collect the left over DONUTS and BAKED GOODS from 3 or 4 Tim Hortons and deliver them to church for inclusion with the sandwiches delivery to the Drop-In Center. After approximately 20 years, Bill has retired. **Thank you Bill for your devoted pickups and delivery each month.**

Over the 30 years, we have had dozens and dozens of volunteer sandwich makers and drivers. Our project has expanded to **60 loaves of bread and/or buns** which are made each month. Many THANKS to all of you.

Coffee and TIM BITS, compliments of Douglasdale Tim Hortons, were enjoyed by all on Sunday Worship October 20, 2019.

**THANK YOU**

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

## *The Way of Christ*

Weekends and community experiences that make a difference

# ForWord

Sunday Nov 17, 2019

6:30-8 pm

Hope Lutheran  
Church

3527 Boulton Rd NW

- 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 Matthew Miller: [matt19miller@gmail.com](mailto:matt19miller@gmail.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

## AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM

### LCOC AFFIRMING FAITH LIBRARY IS OPEN FOR LENDING

Your Affirming Ministry team has put together a library of books that speak to affirmation and inclusiveness ---from story books, to young adult and adult fiction, to memoir and personal experience. Look for the book table in the narthex on Sunday. There will be a three week lending period.

We will enrich our library with additional books, and we have a wish list, <https://tinyurl.com/y48reony>

If you find a book you'd like to donate, you will be given the option of having it shipped directly to the church when you order.

Most important, though -please borrow and read. We're hoping some of you will feel inspired to write book reviews. We also hope there will be the opportunity for some book discussion groups.



### Volunteers Wanted



Our mission Assist LGBTQ + Refugees to Settle in Calgary

Calgary Rainbow Railroad Station needs hands to help these refugees succeed in their new home, Calgary. We need volunteers who can provide support, orientation, assistance with a variety of needs, and make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters who have fled from their countries - escaping violence and persecution-

Apply to

<https://endoftherainbow.ca/volunteer/>

Some needed clothing has been donated or purchased, for the Rainbow Railroad which includes winter jackets, toques, gloves, scarves, boots, socks as well as several hoodies and sweaters. Additional clothing items are welcome (new or gently used) in **Sizes M, L, XL. NEEDED: long sleeve tops, t-shirts, sweatpants, long johns, PJ's.** Please leave donations in the marked box/bin beneath the table by mailboxes and they will be delivered by the Affirming Ministry Team.

# Help Wanted

# LEAD ... love God with all your soul

## AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM

### LCOC Affirming Faith Library

For children of all ages:

***Heather Has Two Mommies***

Author Lesléa Newman illustrated by Laura Cornell  
Candlewick Press 2015

***Red, A Crayon's Story***

Author Michael Hall  
Greenwillow Books (Harper Collins) 2015

***Introducing Teddy, a gentle story about gender and friendship***

Author Jessica Walton illustrated by Dougal MacPherson  
Bloomsbury Books 2016

***A Church for All***

text by Gayle E. Pitman pictures by Laure Fournier  
Albert Whitman and Company 2018

***The Most Beautiful Place in the World***

Author Ann Cameron  
Yearling Press 1993

***Worm Loves Worm***

Author J.J. Austin  
Harper Collins 2016

For older children of all ages:

***When Everything Feels Like the Movies***

(winner of the GG award for children's literature 2015)  
Author Raziel Reid  
Arsenal Pulp Press 2015

***Queer Heroes: Meet 53 LGBTQ Heroes From Past and Present***

Author Arabel Sicardi  
Wide-Eyed Editions 2019

***Two Boys Kissing***

Author David Levithan  
Knopf Books for Young Readers 2015

***Be My Love***

Author Kit Pearson (also a GG winner for children's literature)  
Harper Trophy Canada, an imprint of Harper Collins 2019-10-12

***the love and lies of rukhsana ali***

Author Sabina Khan  
Scholastic Press 2019

***Dr. Edith Vance and the Hares of Crawley Hall***

Author Suzette Mayr  
Coach House Books 2017

Adults of all ages

***Transforming, The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians***

Author Austen Hartke  
Westminster John Knox Press 2018

***a family by any other name, Exploring Queer Relationships***

edited by Bruce Gillespie  
Touchwood Books 2014

***God and the Gay Christian***

Author Matthew Vines  
Convergent Books 2014

***Double Pregnant, Two Lesbians Make a Family***

by Natalie Meisner  
Roseway Publishing 2014

***This One Looks Like a Boy: My Gender Journey to Life as Man***

Author Lorimer Shenher  
Greystone Books 2019-10-07

***A Two-Spirit Journey: The Autobiography of a Lesbian Ojibwa- Cree Elder***

Author Ma-Nee Chacaby Marie Louisa Plummer  
University of Manitoba Press 2019

***Pride: The Unlikely Story of the True Heroes of the Miners' Strike***

Author Tim Tate  
John Blake Publishing 2018  
(there is a very fine film adapted from this title)

# LEAD ... love God with all your soul

## AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM

### UPCOMING SPEAKER: Sunday, November 10, 2019

The Affirming Ministry Team has invited **Mr. Kelly Ernst** to speak during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Kelly is Director, LBGTQ+ Programs at the Centre for Newcomers and is involved with the Calgary Rainbow Railroad Station.

The Calgary Rainbow Railroad Station assists refugees, persecuted in their home countries due to being LGBTQ+, to settle in Calgary after they have been assisted by the Rainbow Railroad, UNHCR, or the Canadian Government to flee unsafe countries. They help create sponsorship groups, find housing, food, clothing, language training, career development, and other things needed to get established in Calgary. These supports are provided through their volunteers or referrals to the Centre for Newcomers.

Please help make a difference in the lives of four refugees from Tanzania who recently arrived through the work of the Calgary Rainbow Railroad. As an Affirming congregation in the Affirming Network, we have an opportunity to participate and find winter clothing for them.

Two of these men come from a Lutheran church background in Tanzania and one, named Ibrahim, was brought to visit Church of the Cross in recent weeks. These men live in NW Calgary (Mount Pleasant) and we are also looking for a group of volunteers who might pick them up from their home and drive them to church once per month. If you are able to be an occasional driver please contact Marilyn Jonasson, Betty Jane Hegerat, or email Dianne at the office.



Some needed clothing has been donated or purchased, which includes winter jackets, toques, gloves, scarves, boots, socks as well as several hoodies and sweaters. Additional clothing items are welcome (new or gently used) in **Sizes M, L, XL. NEEDED: long sleeve tops, t-shirts, sweatpants, long johns, PJ's.**

**Please leave donations in the marked box/bin beneath the table by mailboxes and they will be delivered by the Affirming Ministry Team.**



**You are Welcome Here!**



# LEAD ... love God with all your soul



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Youth Potluck lunch and laser Tag

Sunday, October 6 after worship/BLAST until 2:45



Bring a lunch dish to share and \$18/person for two games of laser tag.

Pickup will be at 2:45 at Laser Quest (9950 Macleod Trail South).

Please RSVP to Carolyn Larsen.

403-271-3059 (home), 403-370-3420 (cell) or dclarsen@telus.net

### Friday, October 25 - Halloween Party!

6:00-9:00 at the church

Wear a costume of your choice (No gore please!)



### Sleepover and Underground Church

Saturday, Nov. 9, 7:00 pm – Sunday, Nov. 10, after worship



### ST. NICHOLAS PARTY

Friday Dec. 6



You're  
invited  
to a  
St. Nicholas  
Day Party!

## SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH FAITH LENS

Following Worship

Youth meet together and talk about current events and relate these events to the gospel readings for the day.

All youth welcome!!

# LEAD ... love God with all your soul



## TEENS

*Navigating relationships, communication and boundaries*

This workshop talks about healthy relationships and sexual decision-making in the context of the digital world.

Topics discussed:

- Healthy relationships and communication
- Boundaries and consent
- Social media and sexting



TAKE  
CHARGE  
**GROWING  
UP DIGITAL**  
SPEAKER SERIES  
Lutheran Church of the Cross  
Tuesday, November 5  
Dinner at 5:00  
Presentation from 5:30 - 6:30  
RSVP to 403-255-4792  
churchofthecross@shaw.ca

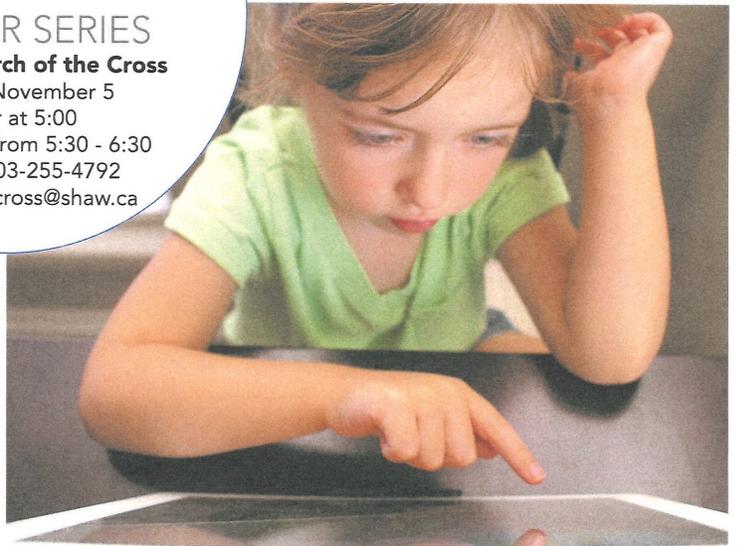
## PARENTS

*Equipping you to raise your kids in the digital age*

This workshop provides insight, resources, and tangible tips for raising kids in the digital age.

Topics discussed:

- Building healthy, trusting relationships with your kids
- Pornography and Internet safety
- Safe-proofing your home
- Healthy digital boundaries
- How to talk with your kids about all of the above!



**This workshop is for adults of all ages and for teenagers. It's not recommended for children under the age of 13. Please RSVP to the church office so we can plan for the 5 pm meal! Bring friends, relatives - anyone you want!!!**

# LEAD ... love God with all your soul

## Take a Step in Discipleship

How do we align ourselves with God's dreams for us? How do we get on board with God's vision? One way is to work on our discipleship and move closer to the places and ways God is at work.

Personally, I (Pastor Laura) invest myself in the church. I invest my money, my career, my volunteering, my character and personality, my thoughts and dreams. I strive to invest my all. Such investment may seem overwhelming from the outside looking in, but I'd like to remind you of one simple thing: A journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step. I am invested this way because I have been taking single steps for a long time. I have come to understand that I would rather have a healthy, vibrant, funny, relevant, deep, serving church than almost anything else in my life.

What kind of church do you want? Dream of God's realm, not of your personal ideas of what would make a church great. Dream of the church of the "New Jerusalem" with streams of living water and the Tree of Life, whose leaves are for the healing of all the nations at its center. Dream of what's possible for your family, friends, and neighbors and for our city, province, country, and world if such a church were here.

Where do you need to take a step in your discipleship to make that happen? All of us are standing still somewhere in our life of discipleship and could take the next step. Do you need to get involved with a study? Develop your leadership? Increase your giving (or start to give)? Encourage others? Invite your friends? Risk sharing your faith? Make no mistake, God's church is growing. God is growing the church deep and wide and inviting all of us to take a step. God is calling us to believe, to belong, to become, and to trust the community that is being built.

Check out the discipleship resources on our website at [www.churchofthecross.ca/take-a-step-in-discipleship](http://www.churchofthecross.ca/take-a-step-in-discipleship) ...and take the next step!

## All Saints Sunday - November 3rd

Our tradition continues this year with the celebrating and remembering the names of those who have gone before us. Please submit the names of your loved ones that have passed away in the last year (*from November 2018 - now*) to **Dianne by October 28th this year.**



**Canada Lutheran**  
Connecting faith to everyday life.

Learn practical, no-nonsense strategies for personal spiritual growth. Find information and inspiration to live life *In Mission for Others.*

Through the **CONGREGATIONAL SUBSCRIPTION PLAN**, *Canada Lutheran* is available at a significantly reduced rate to the members of the ELCIC.

**For only \$18.56 (plus tax)—just over \$2 per issue—you can receive *Canada Lutheran* eight times a year** (Jan/Feb, March, April/May, June, July/Aug, Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec), **as well as access to a full digital copy.**



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

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

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Canada Lutheran* Representative: Dianne Fortier  
Return by: Nov. 12

# LEAD ... love God with all your soul



**Spirituality and Expressions of Art: Women in the New Testament**  
with Rev. Deb Kerr of Calgary and Rev. Bonnie Arends of Camrose

Learn, laugh, and be renewed. Join Deb and Bonnie as they share reflections and discussions on one of their favourite topics. And, try your hand at a leatherwork art project under Deb's experienced instruction.



# LEAD ... love God with all your mind

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning Study (9:30-11:30am, Wednesday mornings) is working through a study called, *Walking Jesus' Path of Peace*. Pastor Laura was one of the co-authors of this study. It focuses on what it might look like to live out our commitment to *strive for justice and peace* in all the world.

On the last page, there is an invitation to make the following *Pledge for Peace* that was part of the United Nations initiative to declare the first decade of the new millennium the decade of peace. Though that initiative is over, the pledge is still worth considering and making... for the sake of the world.

### *Peace Is in Our Hands*

I pledge  
in my daily life,  
in my family,  
my work,  
my community,  
my country and  
my region, to:

- ✦ *listen to understand*
- ✦ *share with others*
- ✦ *preserve the planet*
- ✦ *rediscover solidarity*
- ✦ *reject violence*
- ✦ *respect all life*

"Peace Is in Our Hands," © United Nations. Used by permission. For more information about the United Nations' pledge for peace and the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence, visit this Web site: [www.unesco.org/manifesto2000](http://www.unesco.org/manifesto2000).

## About “First Contact,” a video project of the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN)

*Canadians’ opinions about the Indigenous people of this country are formed without any knowledge of the culture’s true history or firsthand experience of the present-day communities. This may explain the prevalence of racist, unsympathetic and generally prejudicial attitudes that are often directed towards Indigenous peoples.*

*First Contact takes six Canadians on a 28-day journey intended to challenge these attitudes and shed a light on the true Indigenous experience. The travelers, all with ignorant views about Indigenous People, have been invited to leave their everyday lives behind and embark on a unique journey, travelling deep into the Indigenous communities throughout Canada including the nation’s capital, Algonquin Anishanabek Territory, Labrador, Saskatchewan and the Yukon. It is a journey that will challenge their perceptions and confront their prejudices about a world they never imagined they would see. This exploration of the true Indigenous experience in Canada will change the participants’ lives forever.*

-from the APTN website, [www.firstcontactcanada.ca](http://www.firstcontactcanada.ca)

Come to Church of the Cross on three Friday evenings and experience “First Contact.” Take “a journey that will challenge [your] perceptions and confront [your] prejudices about a world [you] never imagined [you] would see.” It might change your life forever.

We will show all three episodes of “First Contact,” Season 2, each followed by small group discussion, according to the schedule below.

This event is sponsored by Conversation Circles. Bring a friend!



### **First Contact at Church of the Cross**

**November 1, 7-8:30 pm**

Episode 1: “You Don’t Know Me Until You’ve Met Me”

**November 29, 7-8:30 pm**

Episode 2: “Changing the Lens”

**January 10, 7-8:30 pm**

Episode 3: “Bridging the Divide”

**Are you interested in why we host such events?** We are committed to relationships and processes that guide us in paths of truth, reconciliation, and mutually beneficial relations with our Indigenous neighbours in alignment with our national church body (ELCiC), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and the United Nations.

For more information:

ELCiC Response To Truth And Reconciliation Commission Call

<http://elcic.ca/news.cfm?article=436>

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action 48 and 49

[http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Article 15

[https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS\\_en.pdf](https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf)

## MARY & MARTHA GROUP

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY All are Welcome!**  
**Saturday, November 23rd at 10:00 a.m.**  
**in the north meeting room at Church**



**Theme: For such a time as this: Remembering Esther: Using our voices**

In session three, we'll examine the last chapters of the book of Esther, which are full of hope for the future for the Jews. As women of faith, full of love for God and others, we will consider ways to find and use our voices in our present circumstances—"for such a time as this."

Please join us for study and discussion.

**Save the date! Tuesday, December 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**



(First Tuesday in Advent)

**Annual Women's Advent Celebration with  
Southwood United  
At Lutheran Church of the Cross**

Lutheran Church of the Cross is responsible  
for the Worship service and for providing  
sandwiches and appetizers.

*(Please bring a plate for sharing)*

## 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.

# LEAD ... love God with all your strength

## Volunteer/Service Time & Activity Log

*An invitation to register the time and energy you give to the Church in November*

We work hard keeping track of how we spend our congregation's financial resources but we don't always keep track of how we are spending our congregation's people resources. In order to diagnose, recognize, and celebrate our people resources, we are inviting everyone who gives of their time supporting and leading ministry activities of the church to log their hours. Our goal is to get an accurate picture of the time that people are giving and the time that is needed to have our congregational community work. You may log your time (or your group's/team's/committee's time) by signing in on this Log kept in the Office or by emailing hours given with the appropriate description to Dianne at [churchofthecross@shaw.ca](mailto:churchofthecross@shaw.ca).



"Once again our congregation is AMAZING!!! On behalf of the Listening Team and Church Council, I would like to send out a **huge thank you** for the 50+ kitchen items donated to our future Community Kitchen! Your eager participation and generous spirit is encouraging to lift this project off the ground. We received everything we needed days after announcing the request."

Sasha Craven



## 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.

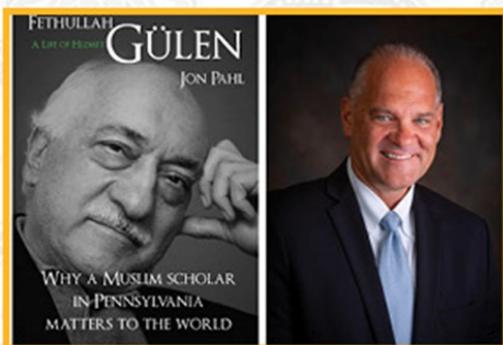
If you would like to provide flowers for worship to mark a special occasion, please contact the office so we can tell Panda Flowers they don't need to provide flowers for the upcoming Sunday.

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!

# LEAD ... love God with all your strength

## HOPE, RESPONSIBILITY, AND INTER RELIGIOUS PEACE:

*Fethullah Gulen and the Global Hizmet (Service) Movement in Perspective*



**WHEN:**

MONDAY, NOV 4TH, 2019

**TIME:**

1 PM - 3 PM

**WHERE:**

MCGVINEY HALL, ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Dr. Jon Pahl captures the inspiring story of a modern saint in the first full biography of Fethullah Gulen. It recounts the tireless work of one Muslim trying to change history by leading a global movement of service to all humankind. Dr. Pahl will reflect on the life of this relatively unknown figure in the West, and Gulen's rise to infamy and eventual exile from Turkey, his homeland. Dr. Michael Duggan, professor emeritus of Religious Studies from St. Mary's University, will speak to the urgency of interreligious dialogue in our time. Questions will be moderated by Dr. Wes Thiessen, currently president of LUNIS (Learning to Understand Islam).

**TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT:**

[www.stmu.ca/movement-in-perspective](http://www.stmu.ca/movement-in-perspective)



# LEAD ... love God with all your strength

WHERE IN YOUR LIFE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MORE BRAVE?

**GRACE** means that all of your mistakes now serve a **PURPOSE** instead of serving shame.

- Brene Brown

Put November 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00-9:00 in your calendar!

Join Dr. Carolyn Anderson (Certified Daring Way Facilitator) for an Introduction to the work of Brene Brown and our upcoming Series of 5 transformative workshops. Question and Answer period will be offered after the lecture.

Cost is \$10.00

Tickets available through Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/76235216585>

Hosted and sponsored by The Lutheran Church of the Cross  
10620 Elbow Dr SW, Calgary, AB [www.churchofthecross.ca](http://www.churchofthecross.ca)

Unfamiliar with Brene Brown? See her Sermon at Washington National Cathedral <https://youtu.be/ndP1XDskXHY>  
and Interview with Bishop Mariann Budde <https://youtu.be/vzwcwNDi4Wo>

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

The Annual Budget Meeting of LUTHERAN HOSPITAL MINISTRIES – SOUTHERN ALBERTA will be held on **Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** in the basement of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 66 – 7 Street N. E., Calgary, Alberta.

The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2020 Budget of the Society.



**BO**  **LE**  
**DR**  **IVE**

The youth group are holding a Bottle Drive on **Sunday, November 10th.**

Please bring your bottles to the church



**COMING ALIVE THROUGH...**  
**CONNECTING • REFLECTING • SERVING**  
DEER PARK UNITED CHURCH

**25TH ANNUAL TURKEY SUPPER  
AND SILENT AUCTION**

Sittings: 5:00pm and 7:00pm  
Adults: 25.00 Seniors/Students: 20.00 Children (6-12): 13.00 Children (5 and under): free  
Saturday, November 16 77 Deerpoint Rd SE Calgary AB  
Reservations: 403-278-8263 or office@dpuc.ca (full gluten free servings available)  
Silent Auction donations: joelyn.denotter@gmail.com



**HOLY SPIRIT  
CWL  
CRAFT SALE**

**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>  
10 am to 3 pm**

**40+ Tables of  
Handcrafted Gifts**

**HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH  
10827 – 24<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.**

**Admission**  
General: \$2.00 Seniors: \$1.00  
Entry Fee includes a free door prize ticket  
Children 12 and under FREE

## Community Climate Conversation

7-10 pm, Nov. 18, 2019

Everything starts with a conversation, or, as esteemed Canadian climate scientist Katherine Hayhoe says: "*The most important thing each of us can do about climate change? Talk about it!*"

On November 18th the Calgary Alliance and The Calgary Climate Hub launches the next instalment of our popular 'Community Climate Conversations' (CCCs), a city spanning initiative that brings a host of bonafide climate experts to Calgary communities so citizens can engage with them and each other about the climate topics that resonate with them the most, from Climate Science to Renewable Energy to Eco-Anxiety to you-name-it!

Please join us. Come be a part of the conversation. Come if you are wondering how we can have a helpful conversation.

**WHEN:** November 18, 2019 at 7pm - 10pm

**WHERE:** Unitarian Universalist Community, 1703 1 St NW, Calgary



November 2019 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

Our Synod seeks to live out of four Mission Priorities reviewed and approved at our 2019 Synod Convention. One of these Mission Priorities is Collaborative Partnerships. Here, we say in part that, *“Listening to the Spirit’s leadership we are intentional in developing deeper relationships, sharing of resources, and partnership ministries within Areas of the Synod.”*

Together, in the Synod of Alberta and the Territories and across the ELCIC, we are experiencing several common realities: increased congregational vacancies, decreased congregational finances and participation, fewer pastoral graduates, to name a few. In the mist of these realities we continue to journey together seeking to discern God’s work in our communities and to join God in God’s mission.

With our Collaborative Partnerships Mission Priority in mind, as well as our current context, I invited 28 congregations, and lay and rostered leaders, to gather in three regions of the West and East Central Areas of our Synod in early October for a Collaborative Partnership Gathering. 23 out of 28 congregations were represented at the three regional gatherings.

October 1 – Bethel Lutheran, Camrose – over 60 participants representing 12 congregations

October 2 – Peace Lutheran, Leduc – over 30 participants representing 6 congregations

October 7 – Peace Lutheran, Innisfail – 53 participants representing 5 congregations

I am grateful for the presence of God’s Spirit among us and guiding us as we gathered. And, I am grateful for the participation of so many.

The goal of the evening was to kindle conversation and extend a call to further conversations and collaboration. The goal was to frame and reframe how we see ourselves: where are we at? what is our current reality? The goal of the evening was to engage in conversation sharing where God is at work, and where God is calling us to. The goal was to spark conversation about what journeying forward together might look like. The goal was to begin conversation and to continue these conversations at the upcoming Area Gatherings.

During each Gathering time was spent in prayer and in Dwelling in the Word considering John 21:1-14. What stands out for you in the text? a word? a phrase? What questions do you have of the text? Considering the gathering and current realities what might the Spirit of God be saying to us tonight?

Following the Collaborative Partnership Gathering at Peace Lutheran, Innisfail, Vivian Holtby, a member at Grace Lutheran, Wetaskiwin and a member of the West Central Area Leadership

Team forwarded this reflection on John 21:1-14 to me, as well as a picture. I share Vivian's reflection with her permission.



Photo Credit: Vivian Holtby  
January 2018 Off-shore from Tiberius on the Sea of Galilee. Casting the net.

Lord, I'm so tired and I'm so weary, but I must go on you say.  
So much loneliness, so much toil, so little fruit (fish)(people)(believers), so little hope! I came to fish in this night, for that is when fishing is good. The moon shines on the water on the left side of the boat so I cast there. The fish make themselves known as the light sparkles on their scales. But

tonight, there is no moon, so I/we don't see them. The light is not with us, the Light is not in us, not in me, not in Peter! It's not in the fish, the people.

You're watching us, waiting, seeing, knowing. You say, how do I bring you back to me?

So, you greet, you speak. You offer us insight, an idea, a way in, a way out, a way forward, a way to success, hope.

What is that hope- to feed and to be fed? To have strength and hope? To have friends travel the road with you? To have a purpose? To have You!

Ah, try something different today, tomorrow, tonight! Look on the untrod path, look to the least likely, look to the unknown, look inward, look outward, ....., look on the other side of the boat!

I looked elsewhere Lord, right close by, on the other side of the boat, fence, road, street, city, world. In my neighbour's yard!

I found 153, more or less, and I thought- what do I do now?

So, I brought them to breakfast with me! You were there waiting with your few. We sat in that place, there in the beach and we- those already there and those brought by me/us- breakfasted together.

I'm no longer tired, weary, lonely as I found a fisherman's net full of believers, just on the other side of the boat! Thank you, Lord, for leading me where I needed to go- out there in untried water, so to speak, so that I might find you and your people where you wanted me to find You and them!

**Try the other side of the boat!**

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)*

# November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Cause of the Month</b> Families in Need				<b>Communion</b> November 3 and November 24		
 <b>LEST WE FORGET</b>				<b>1</b> <b>Office Closed</b> Cantare Children's Choir - 1 - 9 pm "First Contact" show- ing - 7 pm SWCG—7 pm	<b>2</b> Men's Breakfast - 8 am Cantare Workshop - 9am-5pm Turn clocks back!!	
<b>3</b> Bible Study - 9 am Worship - 10 am Advent Tea planning Mtg. - following wor- ship BLAST & Youth SWCG - 1 - 3 pm	<b>4</b> Kodaly - 9:15 am AA - noon "Jon Pahl Event" -1 pm @ St. Mary's Kodaly - 4 pm Cantare Children's	<b>5</b> Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons - 10 am "Raising Kids in a Digital Age" - 5 - 7 pm	<b>6</b> Sandwich Making - 7:30 am Bible Study - 9:30 am AA - noon -1 AHS Caregivers - 1:30 Cantare Children's Choir - 6- 9 SWCG—7 pm	<b>7</b> Quilting - 9 am- Kodaly - 10 am - 2:45 pm Kuriakos TimBit Event - 7 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	<b>8</b> <b>Office Closed</b> Cantare rehearsal - 6 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	<b>9</b> SWCG - 10:30 am Youth Sleep-over - 7 pm
<b>10</b> Bible Study - 9 am Worship - 10 am BLAST Youth Faith Lens SWCG - 1 - 3 pm Cantare Concert - 3:30	<b>11</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> AA - noon -1 Kodaly - 4 - 4:45 pm Cantare - 6 - 9 pm	<b>12</b> Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons - 10 am Confirmation - 5 - 7 pm - MENTOR NIGHT Faith Formation - 5 Cantare - 6 - 9 pm	<b>13</b> Kodaly - 9:15 - 10 Bible Study - 9:30 am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9 SWCG—7 pm Council Mtg. - 7 pm	<b>14</b> Quilting - 9 am Kodaly - 10 am - 2:45 pm Endowment Fund - 7 Choir - 7:15 pm	<b>15</b> <b>Office Closed</b> SWCG—7 pm	<b>16</b> SWCG - 10:30 am
<b>17</b> Bible Study - 9 am Worship - 10 am BLAST Youth Faith Lens SWCG - 1 - 3 pm ForWord - 6:30	<b>18</b> Kodaly - 9:15 am AA - noon -1 Staff Mtg. - 2 pm Kodaly - 4 pm Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9	<b>19</b> Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons - 10 am Confirmation - 5 - 7 Faith Formation - 5 Courage - 7 pm	<b>20</b> Bible Study - 9:30 am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9 SWCG—7 pm	<b>21</b> Quilting - 9 am Kodaly - 10 am - 2:45 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	<b>22</b> <b>Office Closed</b> SWCG—7 pm	<b>23</b> Women's Ministry - 10 am SWCG - 10:30 am
<b>24</b> Bible Study - 9 am Worship - 10 am <b>BLAST ADVENT            FESTIVAL</b> Youth Faith Lens SWCG - 1 - 4 pm	<b>25</b> Kodaly - 9:15 am AA - noon -1 Staff Mtg. - 2 pm Kodaly - 4 pm Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9	<b>26</b> Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons - 10 am Faith Formation - 5 Confirmation - 5 - 7 pm	<b>27</b> Bible Study - 9:30 am AA - noon -1 Cantare Children's Choir - 6-9 SWCG—7 pm	<b>28</b> Quilting - 9 am Kodaly - 9:15 am - 3:15 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	<b>29</b> <b>Office Closed</b> "First Contact" showing - 7 pm	<b>30</b> Cantare Work- shop - 8 am- 5 pm