



CROSSBEAMS



OCTOBER 2026

Lutheran Church of the Cross

A compassionate community following the way of Jesus, embracing diversity, love, and service.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends of Lutheran Church of the Cross,

I am writing today with a heavy heart to share an update with the congregation with regard to a hate motivated cyber attack we sustained Sunday September 20, 2026.

Unfortunately, a group of homophobic and transphobic Christians on social media discovered our congregation and our affirming ministry of welcome to 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples over the weekend. This lead the group to create a post sharing defaming, denigrating, and spiritually abusive comments about our shared ministry at Lutheran Church of the Cross.

This took the form of the group making content on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and Instagram with our churches name, location, email, phone number, and social media accounts. In sharing this information, the group issued a call for their followers to comment, call, email, and connect with our congregation to share their disagreement with our ministry as an Affirming Church. These communications were extremely homophobic, transphobic, and defaming of our shared ministry together and my calling

as your Pastor.

These kinds of social media attacks are often referred to as hate bombing. They tend to simply rely on garnering as many damaging comments and ratings as the group can to try to enforce their own view of religion on churches and organizations.

In online attacks such as these, it is best to not engage with those leaving hateful or defaming communications. Usually, if they are not engaged with, they move on to the "next" group they see as problematic.

As such, I have been monitoring our congregations social media, email, and YouTube channel – documenting these communications while reporting, blocking, and deleting those messages which would harm of our shared ministry together.

As of Wednesday, September 23, 2026 the group has appeared to have moved on and have not been engaging with our social media, emails, or phone lines.

While the communications we received over the last few days were degrading and damaging they did not threaten violence, damage, or harm to our community, our building, or to our staff.

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Connect with us:

☎ 403-255-4792
✉ churchofthecross@shaw.ca

📍 10620 Elbow Drive SW
Calgary AB, T2W 1G4

🌐 churchofthecross.ca

PASTOR'S LETTER, cont. from P.1

As problematic as these communication were, they did not cross the threshold to warrant the involvement of the Calgary Police or the Hate Crimes Unit. If violence, damage, or harm had been threatened to our congregation, ministry, staff, or building we would have reported this to the police and asked for their support in keeping our community safe.

This is not the first time I have had such attacks happen within a context I serve and so please know that I am okay and that we will be okay as a congregation. Our best course of action is to continue as we always have - loving and serving our community with understanding, affirmation, and grace while ensuring those members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in our midst know they are loved, celebrated, and safe at Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Bishop Trish, alongside many pastors, deacons, and congregations from across the ELCIC and beyond have already reached out to share their care for us and the importance of our ministry. Sunday we will have a display of these messages up for the congregation to witness. It is my prayer that you would read these messages trusting and knowing that our shared ministry of welcome, love, and care for all is cherished by our friends in faith from across Canada and beyond.

If you have any questions or concerns I would be glad to hold space for them. Simply reach out via email or by phone. Please know, I'm thankful for your prayer, support, and encouragement in this shared ministry always and I feel blessed to be called as your pastor.

Peace,

Pastor Lindsey

**ALL YOU
NEED IS
LOVE**



Alison O'Dwyer, Rachel Schmidt

New Editorial Team

We are the new co-editors of Crossbeams. Alison will be collecting your submissions and Rachel will be working on collecting content from outside ELCOC and formatting.

We would like to receive submissions by the 3rd Sunday of each month in order to release Crossbeams on the 1st Sunday of the month. Please send your submissions and any suggestions or comments to the new communications email:

elcoc.communications@gmail.com

We would also like to introduce a new section called Blessings and Offerings for you to share news and offer volunteering to other members of our community.

Thank You

Update on Pastor Lindsey's Health Wednesday, Sept 30, 2026

To Members of the Congregation:

As we informed you via email, Pastor Lindsey was brought to hospital for surgery. We can now tell you that they had successful surgery for appendicitis. Pastor Lindsey has now let me know that they are returning home! All of this is wonderful news and we thank God!

Again of course we reiterate our support for Pastor Lindsey in their recovery, which they have informed me will take 1-2 weeks. Again, we encourage them to please take as much time as needed to allow for full healing to take its course!

If members or friends of the congregation would like to drop off a card, this can be left at the church.

If anyone would like to prepare a meal for Pastor Lindsey and their family, you are welcome to email or text Pastor Lindsey to arrange that support. The email is elcospastor@shaw.ca, text at (403) 473-0686.

During Pastor Lindsey's absence, pastoral support will still be available to all of our members as needed. Please contact me (details below) and I will connect with the needed pastoral support right away.

Blessings in Christ,
Paddy Colfer
Chair of Council at ELCOC
Phone (Call or Text): (867) 334-4226
Email: pcolfer@northwestel.net

COUNCIL UPDATE



As the fall season begins, council continues to plan for the remainder of this year and the year ahead. Over the summer months, we met more often than we normally would as we continued to grapple with our financial shortfall. We remain optimistic that our rental strategy will eventually raise enough income to bridge the gap, but we know that won't happen in time to ease the burden we face this year or next. Because the general fund reserves are now nearly depleted, council must identify other ways to sustain the congregation's day-to-day operations.

Council's first choice was to seek a loan, either through a line of credit or a mortgage, but our bank has advised us that this will not be possible. As a result, council has begun weighing other options. Because our operating costs have already been carefully managed, we have limited alternatives for closing the gap.

At the September meeting council passed a motion to seek professional advice about the choices we have to consider. This input is critical for developing a fully thought-out plan that can be brought forward to the staff and congregation for discussion and is in addition to the legal support we have sought on a separate commercial matter.

Council thanks everyone who was able to support our drive for funds to replace the sanctuary furnace. With this major initiative so well supported, council is asking that future donations be directed to the general fund. This will give us the flexibility to use those funds where they are most needed to sustain the congregation's worship, ministry, and operations.

As the small groups resume their activities, council wishes you God's blessings in worship, learning, service, and fellowship. We give thanks that gathered by grace and sent in love, we can be a beacon of God's love to one another and the wider community around us.

In Christ,
Nadine S.
Council Secretary

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Church of the Cross Financials through August 31, 2026				
	2026 Budget	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	Actual - August
Income	\$273,600.00	\$182,400.00	\$173,282.13	\$32,336.15
Offering Income	\$243,600.00	\$162,400.00	\$147,589.13	\$24,415.55
Rental Income	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,150.00	\$2,377.60
Employment Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,543.00	\$5,543.00
Expenses	\$296,201.00	\$197,467.33	\$205,197.25	\$21,914.69
Balance	(\$22,601.00)	(\$15,067.33)	(\$31,915.12)	\$10,421.46
		Current Month Balance		
General Fund		\$13,724.11		
Furnace Fund		\$85,402.93		
Furnace Fund (Gov. Grant)		\$78,789.00		
Building Maintenance Fund		\$47,096.60		
Other Designated/Passthrough Funds		\$7,172.20		

Dear LCOC Members,

There is also good news about the Furnace Fund that has moved up to \$85,402.93 or 107% of our goal!

Regards,

Laverne Rude, Financial Secretary

*your
support
means
everything!*



SENIORS' LUNCH, TUES. NOV. 3, 11:30 AM

Enjoy a Dolly Parton sing-a-long led by the Holy Ukes, and come in your best Dolly outfit (if you so choose). If you need a ride, contact the church office at: 403-255-4792 or churchofthecross@shaw.ca

Save the future dates for coming seniors' lunches: **December 8, 2026, February 9, 2027, March 9 2027, May 11 2027.**

AND SPEAKING OF DOLLY...

Join the Ukulele group every Thursday at 11 am in the North Meeting Room at church to play Dolly Parton songs (and other music). All skill levels are welcome. For further information, contact Jean at jeandacko7@gmail.com.

New Member Class

Would you like to explore membership at Lutheran Church of the Cross? Pastor Lindsey invites you to join them this November for a time to connect with other newer community members to learn more about our church. Connect with Pastor Lindsey to ensure you can join in!



EVERYONE IS WELCOME! JOIN IN!

CHOIR IS BACK!

Starting on Thursday, Oct.1, choir will meet weekly from 6:15 to 7:30 pm. Come sing!

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 10 am at Cupps

Wear Red for Reformation & plan to join us for a Potluck!

Join us wearing red October 25 at 10am for a wonderful celebration of Reformation in worship. Following the service we will enjoy a community potluck. Bring a side dish or casserole to share if you're able. All are welcome to enjoy the morning and the meal!

All Saints Remembrance

November 1, 2026 - 10:00 AM
We invite you to join us in a time of remembrance and thanksgiving for All Saints. We will gather to honour the beloved saints in our lives who have blessed us in our journey of faith. If you have lost a loved one this year please share their name with the office before October 27. We invite you to bring something to add to our displace of remembrance this year - whether it's is a picture, an item, or simply a name to share about your beloved saints. We look forward to marking this holy day together.

Join Us - All are Welcome



Quilting Group

Thursday mornings
9:00am to 11:30am

All abilities and skill levels are
welcome to join.

Bible Study

Join in Bible Study on Wednesday,
Oct. 21, from 10 am to 11 am in
the North Meeting Room. Coffee &
snacks provided.



Men's Breakfast

Please join us on Saturday, Oct.
17 and 31 in the North Room
from 8-10 am. RSVP with
Helmut to the office to save your
spot!



Scrabble Club

Scrabble Club starts again
on Weds, Oct. 7. Join us for a
time of fellowship and fun at
1:30pm.

Caregiver Support Group

The Caregiver Peer Support
Group meets next on Tuesday,
Oct. 20 at 1 pm in the North
Meeting Room. Please RSVP
with Pastor Lindsey.

Theology on Tap

Join Pastor Lindsey for a conversation
on Faith, God, and the church at Bitter
Sisters Brewery (510 Heritage Dr SW)
the last Wednesday of the month from
7pm-9pm. Next session Oct 28, 2026.
RSVP with Pastor Lindsey to save your
spot!

Reflections on uplifting Truth and Reconciliation

We were so honored to have Elder Mr. White Loon (He/Him/His) Alphonse Nepoose as a guest speaker.

At the start of the service he led a Smudging Ceremony which represents cleansing of our sins and sending prayers to our Creator.

At a question time between him and Pastor Lindsey he spoke of being a Residential School Survivor. He did not dwell on the abuse. He was invited several years ago to Kelowna where 215 graves of children were discovered. He sobbed uncontrollably that day and was very angry too.

I felt very moved by him speaking his truth with grace and empathy. In 2024 Mr. White Loon took action and initiated with Walk as We, a Reconciliation Walk around Glenmore Park which I hope to participate in next year.

I am so grateful for his short time with us on September 27.

In Christ, Judy S-I



Being the Light



A Celebration of Campus Ministry

Holden Evening Prayer • Auction • Simple Supper

Saturday, November 7, 2026

2:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Hope Lutheran Church

3527 Boulton Rd NW, Calgary,

rsvp and auction at <https://campusministry.ca>

Lutheran Campus Ministry–Calgary

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Calgary serves students at the University of Calgary, Mount Royal University, and SAIT through a variety of activities, including Simple Suppers, Holy Baking, Women's Circle, visits to local churches, retreats to Camp Kuriakos, visits to the Wray Farm, and interfaith faith hops. Check out the website above for information about their annual fundraiser as well as information about donating items to the fundraiser and donating to LCM-Calgary in general. The service is led by the students and the supper and fellowship and supper afterwards is always a treat.

Contact Pastor Lindsey to join our ELCOC table for the dinner this year!



STEPHEN MINISTRY

CELEBRATING OUR SHARED MINISTRY

What a beautiful gift it is to start Stephen Ministry training at ELCOC! One more person heard God's calling and joined our group of trainees, so we now are a total of 4 participants: Earl O., Lisa R., Wren O., and myself. Hilary G. is our fearless leader (facilitator as she prefers to be called) who is guiding us through this training process. This is a wonderfully open, transparent, vulnerable and safe group to be part of. We are hearing God through our thoughts, words, and time together. Every month we'll share what we are up to and will have one of the participants share their perspective. Please enjoy Earl's perspective:

"The Stephen Ministry Team has completed its fourth session. The program has been inspirational as it explains Caregiving from a Christian perspective. Prayer, scripture, listening and being present are integral parts of the ministry. The questions, discussions and role playing are so helpful and meaningful. On our learning journey the readings and instruction are excellent." --Earl

May we ask you to keep our group in your prayers, and if you have any questions or curiosities, please feel free to chat with anyone of us!

In His hands,
Sasha C (Stephen Ministry Facilitator and trainee)

If you would like more information about Stephen Ministry or the learning resources we have available to our members and friends don't hesitate to reach out to Sasha or Hilary!

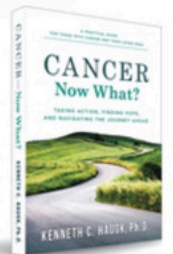
Christian Caregiving— a Way of Life

Christian Caregiving—a Way of Life is an insightful how-to guide for caring and relating in distinctively Christian ways. Readers learn how to rely on God as the Caregiver, open the door to spiritual care, make the best use of the tools of their faith, and more.



Cancer—Now What? Taking Action, Finding Hope, and Navigating the Journey Ahead

Cancer—Now What? is a book to give to those with cancer and their loved ones, helping them navigate the medical, emotional, relational, and spiritual challenges that cancer brings. This caring, how-to resource, written in a warm, conversational style, provides helpful information, practical ideas, and hope-filled encouragement.





October 2026

Grace and peace to you from Jesus!

The end of September Ken and I were in Switzerland where I was able to attend a new leaders conference hosted by the Lutheran World Federation.

As we were there the season of thanksgiving was just beginning with grapes being harvested, sunflowers with

loaded seedheads, and we heard of the Alpabfahrt (parades of cows decorated with flowers as they come down from mountain meadows.) At home, we too have our own traditions that we each know so well.

Throughout Scripture, people are often called to remember God's goodness and to give thanks together. Thanksgiving is not simply a celebration of harvest or abundance, but an opportunity to recognize God as the giver of every good gift and to rejoice in abundant provision, grace, and faithfulness.

As we gather this season, I want to give particular thanks for you, our congregations and ministries throughout this synod. We are grateful for the many ways you faithfully serve Christ and share the good news of the Gospel and for your generous support of the whole church. Through your prayers, generosity, encouragement, hospitality, teaching, service, and daily witness, you help make Christ known and strengthen this synod.

Increasingly, I note the ways you are caring for one another. We are learning to share resources, pray for one another and to give generously. Such acts are important in a time when so much in the world seeks to divide us. When we open conversations on difficult subjects, listen before we speak, act justly toward those who struggle, teach our children in the Way – we are changing the world as we ourselves are changed.

I am thankful for each of you and for the privilege of serving Christ together. May Jesus bless our homes, our families, and our ministries as we enter this season of thanksgiving.

In Christ,

Bishop Trish Schmermund
Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCIC



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**
Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

Conversations Across the Church

You are invited to join ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer for Conversations Across the Church – an hour-long online gathering bringing together members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) from coast to coast.

The last conversation, hosted by National Bishop Kochendorfer, was about the new Season of Creation, and included Pastor Tim Wray from Airdrie.

Go to the following link to sign up for the conversation on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2026 (topic yet to be announced), and to see recordings of past conversations:

<https://elcic.ca/partnerships/conversations-across-the-church>



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

Support for Earthquake Survivors in Colombia



Bishop John Henry Rojas,
Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Colombia.

Photo: LWF/Albin Hillert

On August 10 of this year, an earthquake of 7.4 magnitude struck western Colombia, killing over 180 people. Bishop John Henry Rojas of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, pictured above, has asked congregations and individuals to joining in a collective response to the disaster. "We make an urgent call for national unity and Christian solidarity in this moment, to set aside any differences and act as one body."

For more information, and if you would like to donate, see:

<https://lutheranworld.org/news/colombian-bishop-solidarity-people-affected-earthquake>



STATEMENT Campaign Launch:
Vote No: Vote For the Common Good

On June 3rd, the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good—along with its 29 member organizations and their roughly 100 000 individual members— is launched a campaign to call on all Albertans to vote “no” to the nine questions currently on the ballot in the October referendum.

As an Alliance, we believe that a commitment to the common good is a central Canadian and Albertan value. A belief in the common good means that we want to live in a province where every person— regardless of when or how they came to be here—is a human being worthy of dignity and support.

The provincial government is asking Albertans to reject this central value of the common good. This government is forcing Albertans to vote on a series of referendum questions that are both misleading and dehumanizing. These questions are a political act of scapegoating: blaming immigrants and the rest of Canada for the complex issues our communities and province face. As an Alliance, we believe that it is our collective responsibility as Albertans and as Canadians to address important social issues together, not to scapegoat each other.

These immigration questions ask Albertans to consider kicking refugee children out of school and denying basic health care to newcomers—many of whom came to Canada to provide health care for Albertans in our hospitals and assisted living facilities. Access to education and healthcare must remain a universal right.

An important Canadian value is our commitment to welcoming and supporting refugees and immigrants. With the exception of Indigenous peoples, all Albertans were once immigrants and refugees. We need to remember how our families were once welcomed and given opportunities to build a life here. We have a moral obligation to welcome those who follow in our footsteps. These questions are another attempt at scapegoating—blaming the rest of Canada for complex problems we should work together as Canadians to resolve.

Our Call These referendum questions are not about government policy. They are questions about values. As the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good, we are asking all Albertans to vote no to these referendum questions to show that we value the common good. Vote no to stand up for each other.

Calgary Alliance for the Common Good
Lead Organizer - Ryan Andersen



Please contact our Community Social-worker Sarah if you have any questions about these upcoming events!

sarah.thomas@calgary.ca or via phone at 368-889-5168

Community MOVIE NIGHT

FREE NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Friday, October 16, 6:30-8:30 pm

Lutheran Church of the Cross Fellowship Hall
10620 Elbow Drive SW

All are welcome
Those under 16 must be accompanied by an adult
Popcorn and refreshments will be provided
This is a free community event
Drop ins welcome

Featured Movie:
TBD - Vote on the Facebook Poll

For more information and to register contact Sarah
sarah.thomas@calgary.ca or 368-889-5168

Calgary SOUTHWOOD COMMUNITY CONNECTORS LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

SOUTHWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Halloween HOWLER

Date: Saturday, October 24th, 2026
Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Location: Southwood Community Hall

Dance party, face painting, treats and more!

SOUTHWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Southwood Community
Calgary's Cooking

Cooking Group

Planning Meeting
First Thursday of the Month, 10 AM -1 PM

Cook
Second Thursday of the Month, 10 AM-3 PM

Lutheran Church of the Cross
10620 Elbow Dr. SW Calgary

For more information and to register contact Teresa:
info@southwoodcc.ca or apply at
www.ckpcalgaarv.ca/calaarvs-cooking



Ways to share your gifts



RENTAL SPACE AVAILABLE

Existing Facilities:

- Accessible building near transit
- Music & Performing Arts Facility
- Meeting Rooms
- Full Kitchen
- Hall for larger gatherings or receptions
- Parking on site

BOOK NOW

- (403) 255 - 4792
10620 Elbow Dr. SW
Churchofthecross@shaw.ca



October 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Quilting Group 9:00am - 12:00Noon	2	3
4 Pentecost 19 Lay led Worship 10:00 am	5	6	7 Ukulele Group 11:00am - 12:00pm Scrabble Group 1:30pm Stephen Ministry 5:45pm	8 Quilting Group 9:00am - 12:00Noon ELCOC Choir 6:15 pm	9	10
11 Thanksgiving Sunday Lay led Worship 10:00 am	12 Thanksgiving Long Weekend Office Closed	13 Endowment Fund Committee 3:30pm	14 Social Committee 10:00am @ Cupps Ukulele Group 11:00am - 12:00pm	15 Quilting Group 9:00am - 12:00Noon ELCOC Choir 6:15 pm	16 Southwood Movie Night 6:30pm-8:30pm	17 Mens Breakfast 8:00am - 11:00am
18 Pentecost 21 Worship with Communion 10 am	19	20 Caring Connections 1pm - 2pm	21 Bible Study 10:00am - 11:00am Ukulele Group 11:00am - 12:00pm ELCOC Council 7pm-9pm	22 Quilting Group 9:00am - 12:00Noon ELCOC Choir 6:15 pm	23	24
25 Reformation Worship with Communion 10 am Congregational potluck to follow - all are welcome	26	27	28 Ukulele Group 11:00am - 12:00pm Pub Theology 7pm-9pm	29 Quilting Group 9:00am - 12:00Noon ELCOC Choir 6:15 pm	30	31 Mens Breakfast 8:00am - 11:00am



*"I'm so glad I live in a world where
there are Octobers."
— L.M. Montgomery
Anne of Green Gables*



403-255-4792



churchofthecross@shaw.ca



10620 Elbow Drive SW, Calgary AB, T2W 1G4