



When will we be worshipping in person again?

That is the question, isn't it?

As you are well aware, we are about 5 months into this pandemic time and dealing with the reality of the COVID-19 virus living amongst us. The last time we had regular in-person worship was on Sunday, March 15th. With congregational worship being such a central activity to our life together, we all desire a time when we can gather together again.

Since March, we have been providing audio worship online (www.churchofthecross.ca) and gathering via Zoom at 11am on Sundays for communion, Narthex time, and sermon conversation. For the last couple of weeks, we have begun providing pre-recorded video worship (in addition to the pre-recorded audio and Zoom time).

By October, we are planning on providing live-streamed worship. The main difference is that instead of splicing together pre-recorded video clips of different individuals doing components of the worship, we will be gathering the worship leaders in the sanctuary and broadcasting the worship live via the internet. We anticipate that each Sunday there will be a small RSVP'd congregation (10-15 people?) that gather to be the in-person congregation for that worship. More particulars about this will be provided as we get closer to October.

What guides all of our decisions and plans are two primary priorities:

- 1) What provides for the health and safety of our members?
2) What provides and promotes meaningful worship?

In the next couple of weeks, the Phone Tree will be checking in with members and to identify people who might be interested in being part of a monthly, worshipping cohort.

Peace,

Pastor Fred

Worship Plan Timeline

March, 2020

Prerecorded audio worship online

August, 2020

Prerecorded video and audio worship online

October, 2020

Livestreamed worship with restricted attendance

2021

(or when Stage 3 is declared)

In-person worship within capacity guidelines

In-person worship during the time of COVID -19

When we do begin in-person worship, it will be quite different than what we were experiencing before the pandemic. Until there is a widely disseminated vaccine (or some other game-changing development), you can expect the following to be part of our in-person worship:

- Everyone wearing masks.
Social distancing.
Registration of name and contact information for everyone attending.
No physical contact.
No congregational singing.
No (or "very different") communion
Cleaning of facility before and after.

# Creation: An Inclusive Understanding

*This church confesses the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, through which God still speaks, and as the only source of the church's doctrine and the authoritative standard for the faith and life of the church.*

ELCIC Constitution, Article 2 Section 3

God still speaks an inspired Word through the Bible made real in our hearing. We do well to acknowledge that the scriptures are ancient documents and that modern ears are capable of hearing things in the scripture that are shaped by our context and influenced by our language. Our inclusive understanding of all human beings created and beloved by God often challenges our hearing and understanding of these ancient words. This continuing column addresses new hearings of familiar passages in scripture for today's hearers.

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth...

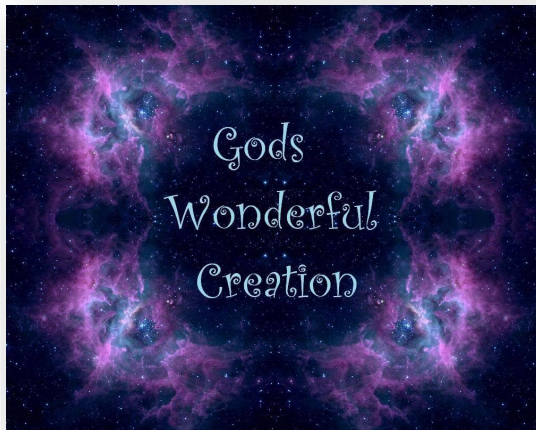
*...God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."*

*So God created humankind in God's image; in the image of God they were created; every gender God created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth..."*

**Genesis 1:1, 1:26-28a NRSV, made inclusive**

A new world and a new possibility for understanding both God and humanity open up for us when we replace gender-specific language with inclusive language in the creation story.

**First**, we see that God is not patriarchal. God according to the scripture exists in relationship with Godself, gender unspecified. We hear God talking amongst Godself, as if we ourselves are present in the mind and internal conversation as God consults God's own selves about how, what, and who is to be created next. Traditionally, we are taught to think of this moment as the creative dance of the Trinity, where God, Jesus and Holy Spirit converse amongst themselves as they speak the universe into being. Historically, we know Jesus to be male, but God and the Holy Spirit here have unspecified gender and God exists as the creative force behind all that is...with human beings created in God's unspecified gender image.



**Second**, we see that all human beings are created in the image of God. Today more than at any other time in human history, we recognize the human creation to be across an infinitely broad spectrum, spanning its arms to include every single human being, each with a unique God-given identity. More and more we are compelled to see and to say that it is sinful to create cate-

gories for human beings, even gender categories, for each human being is a unique expression of the infinite character, goodness, and identity of God. No two are alike. Everyone's self-expression, including their gender expression is unique. "Being fruitful and multiplying" also becomes broader. No longer simply about procreation, being fruitful and multiplying is now the act of participating in the work God has just finished. We too create and speak worlds into being. What we say and what we do takes on powerful, creative, world-building significance. And we are blessed by God to do it.

Pastor Laura



# Ordination of Senior Seminarian Kate Zaiser

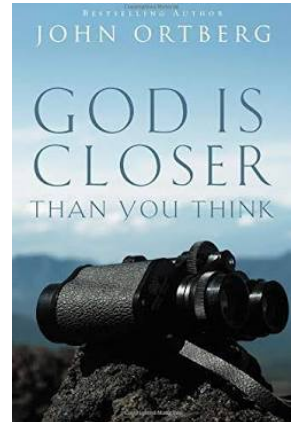
Sat Sept. 26th 11:00am - 12:00pm  
Link: <https://youtu.be/OP7y9sgVunk>

The ordination service for senior seminarian Kate Zaiser with Bishop Larry Kochendorfer presiding at All Saints Lutheran Church Calgary a member of the ELCIC. Offerings of thanksgiving to the Alberta and Northwest Territories Synod "SOS" (Support Our Students) fund may be made to the SOS Fund through the Canada Helps link on the Synod website or may be forwarded to the Synod office



We are forming small groups for online study and fellowship.

If you are interested in spending 90 minutes with friends from church both old & new, give the church office a call, or send an email to let us know you are interested.



We will be scheduling groups to meet during the morning, day, or evening as people prefer and we are planning on having the groups meet once or twice a month.

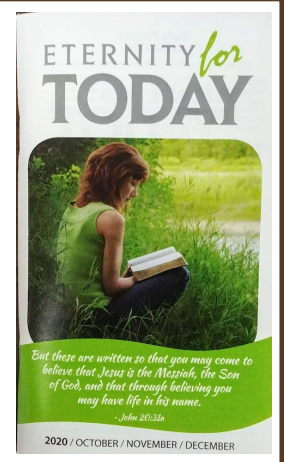
Our first study will be "God is closer than you think" by John Ortberg.

If you would like to be part of this study, please email the office. Thank you to all that have signed up - we will let you know ASAP when it will start.

Fall devotion books are available at the church at the east entrance.

Church office hours are back to regular hours -  
Monday to Thursday  
9 am - 4 pm

Drop by, but masks are required in the church!



# LEAD ... love God with all your heart

Weekly offerings may be mailed into the church, or go on our website [www.churchofthecross.ca](http://www.churchofthecross.ca)

and click the **DONATE** button, **OR**  
e-transfer to [churchofthecross@shaw.ca](mailto:churchofthecross@shaw.ca)

**OR** mail to: 10620 Elbow Dr. SW

Many thanks to those of you who have continued your weekly offerings.

## Let's Zoom!

Get in touch with the people in your small group!



We encourage your small group to meet online.

The Church has a Zoom meeting room available for your use. Contact **Sasha Craven** to schedule a meeting time. Her number is available in the member directory, or by phoning the church office.

Don't know how to use Zoom? No problem! Let Sasha know and we'll arrange to show you the ropes.

Would you like to read lessons for our Sunday morning on-line worship services? Go on our website - find '*online opportunities*' and click the link. Sign up where you'd like to read - It's easy! A video recording is best, but an audio recording app is offered there too. Record your reading and email to Pastor Laura.



# LEAD ... love God with all your mind

## From the Church of the Cross Library

### Learning to learn: What should I read?

To develop your own critical thinking skills, try to learn about events apart from a third party's influence. Stick as close as you can to the original source.

#### Primary sources

When people tell their own stories, we are as close as we can get to the events themselves. Of course every event has more than one story; to approach understanding an event in its fullness, one must hear many stories from many different people.

**What are primary sources?** Autobiographies, original documents, interviews, and in-person first-hand encounters. (These might also include documentary films, but documentary films are subject to the influence of the filmmakers and film sponsors, so they more commonly fall into the category of secondary sources.)

#### Secondary sources

First-hand accounts are not always available to us. Sometimes all we have are stories about other people's stories. At best these are close and true interpretations of someone else's experience, but they are subject to the intentions, opinions, and ideologies of the author and the author's sponsors. In other words, what the author thinks influences the way the story is told.

**What are secondary sources?** Biographies, news & opinion articles, non-fiction writing, and documentary movies.

#### Tertiary sources

Other sources exist for our learning about events. Usually, these are pieced together from original documents and stories and interpretations of those documents and stories,

in other words from primary and secondary sources. Tertiary sources often support a specific viewpoint or ideology, or simply list facts. For example, school textbooks teach history, but inclusion and exclusion from these sources are determined by school boards or other entities who determine the content for reasons determined by the government or community.

**What are tertiary sources?** Films, history books, textbooks, historical novels, encyclopedias, Wikipedia.

**Some sources, like websites, blogs, social media and non-fiction, fall into more than one category. How can I easily distinguish primary, secondary, and tertiary sources from one another?**

Ask yourself, "Is the author telling their own story?" If so, it's a primary source.

If not, ask yourself, "Did the author get this information directly from the person whose story it is?" If so, it's a secondary source.

If not, it's a tertiary (third-hand) source.

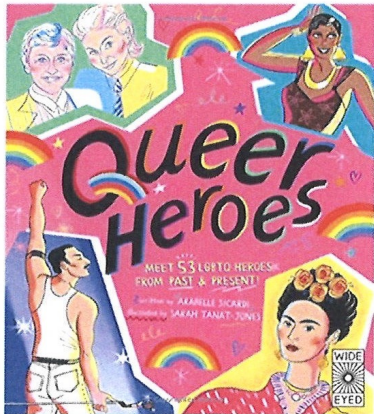
## Church Library



## On our library shelves

The first week of September is Pride Week in Calgary.

Here is a sample of the excellent books in our library relating to Pride:



**Queer Heroes: Meet 53 LGBTQ Heroes from Past & Present, by Arabelle Sicardi. Quarto Publishing, 2019.**

This beautiful, bold book celebrates the achievements of LGBTQ+ people through history and from around the world—featuring dynamic full-color portraits of a diverse selection of 53 inspirational role models accompanied by short biographies that focus on their incredible successes.

From Freddie Mercury’s contribution to music and Leonardo da Vinci’s *Mona Lisa* to James Baldwin’s best-selling essays and more, discover tales of courage, triumph, and determination. Published to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, this extraordinary book demonstrates that anything is possible.

Discover the inspiring stories of these LGBT artists, writers, innovators, athletes, and activists who have made great contributions to culture, from ancient times to present day. This is the perfect book for anyone who wants to learn more about a collection of inspiring figures in LGBTQ+ history. (Reading level: older children and up)





# LEAD ... love God with all your mind

## THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE A BOY



**My Gender  
Journey to Life  
as a Man**

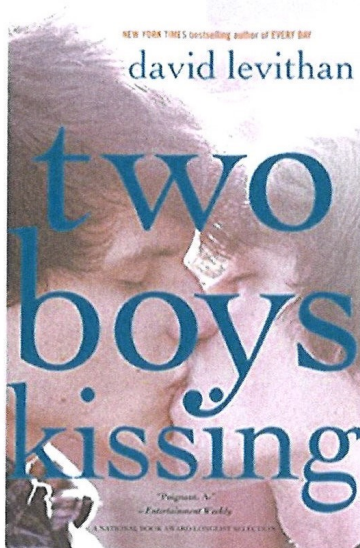
**LORIMER SHENHER**

### **This One Looks Like a Boy, by Lorimer Shenher. Greystone Books, 2019.**

Since he was a small child, Lorimer Shenher knew something for certain: he was a boy. The problem was, he was growing up in a girl's body.

In this candid and thoughtful memoir, Shenher shares the story of his gender journey, from childhood gender dysphoria to teenage sexual experimentation to early-adult denial of his identity—and finally the acceptance that he is trans, culminating in gender reassignment surgery in his fifties. Along the way, he details his childhood in booming Calgary, his struggles with alcohol, and his eventual move to Vancouver, where he became the first detective

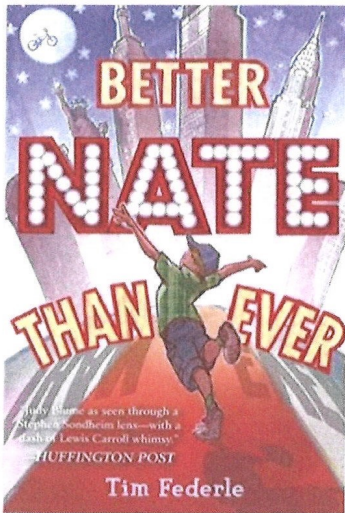
assigned to the case of serial killer Robert Pickton (the subject of his critically acclaimed book *That Lonely Section of Hell*). With warmth and openness, *This One Looks Like a Boy* takes us through one of the most important decisions Shenher will ever make, as he comes into his own and finally discovers acceptance and relief.



### ***two boys kissing*, by David Levithan. Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2013.**

Based on true events—and narrated by a Greek Chorus of the generation of gay men lost to AIDS—*Two Boys Kissing* follows Harry and Craig, two seventeen-year-olds who are about to take part in a 32-hour marathon of kissing to set a new Guinness World Record. While the two increasingly dehydrated and sleep-deprived boys are locking lips, they become a focal point in the lives of other teens dealing with universal questions of love, identity, and belonging.

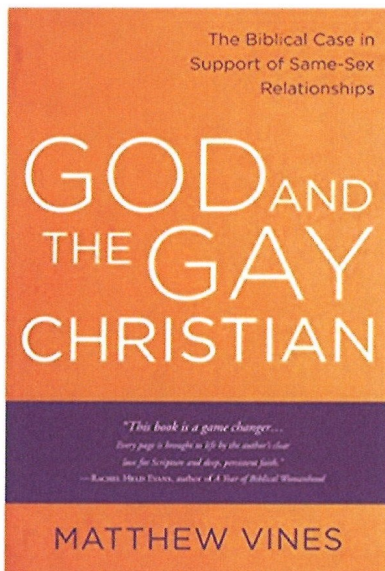
# LEAD ... love God with all your mind



## **Better Nate than Ever, by Tim Federle. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014.**

Nate Foster has big dreams. His whole life, he's wanted to star in a Broadway show. (Heck, he'd settle for *seeing* a Broadway show.) But how is Nate supposed to make his dreams come true when he's stuck in Jankburg, Pennsylvania, where no one (except his best pal Libby) appreciates a good show tune? With Libby's help, Nate plans a daring overnight escape to New York. There's an open casting call for *E.T.: The Musical*, and Nate knows this could be the difference between small-town blues and big-time stardom.

Tim Federle's "hilarious and heartwarming debut novel" (*Publishers Weekly*) is full of broken curfews, second chances, and the adventure of growing up—because sometimes you have to get four hundred miles from your backyard to finally feel at home.



## **God and the Gay Christian, by Matthew Vines. Convergent Books, 2015.**

As a young Christian man, Matthew Vines harbored the same basic hopes of most young people: to some-day share his life with someone, to build a family of his own, to give and receive love. But when he realized he was gay, those hopes were called into question. The Bible, he'd been taught, condemned gay relationships.

Feeling the tension between his understanding of the Bible and the reality of his same-sex orientation, Vines devoted years of intensive research into what the Bible says about homosexuality. With care and precision, Vines asked questions such as:

- Do biblical teachings on the marriage covenant preclude same-sex marriage or not?
- How should we apply the teachings of Jesus to the gay debate?
- Can celibacy be a calling when it is mandated, not chosen?
- What did Paul have in mind when he warned against same-sex relations?

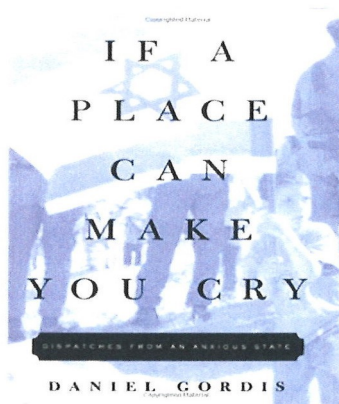
Unique in its affirmation of both an orthodox faith and sexual diversity, *God and the Gay Christian* has sparked heated debate, sincere soul searching, and widespread cultural change on the issue of what it means to be a faithful gay Christian.



# LEAD ... love God with all your mind

September 13-21 is the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. This year's theme is: "Creative Solidarity in Common Fragility." Chosen during an era of extreme fragility, this theme lifts up creative solidarity as a sign of hope that, through the power of prayer and common action, people across the world can make the restoration of peace and justice in the Holy Land both possible and a lived reality for all people in the region. September 21 is the International Day of Peace.

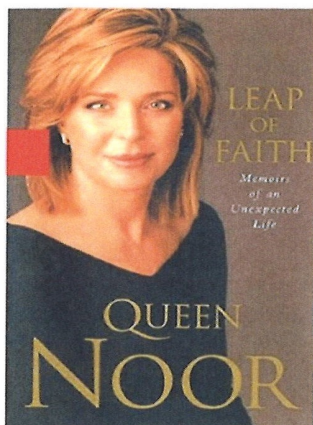
Here are two excellent Middle Eastern autobiographical books in our library:



***If a Place Can Make You Cry: Dispatches from an Anxious State*, by Daniel Gordis. Crown Books, 2002.**

In the summer of 1998, Daniel Gordis and his family moved to Israel from Los Angeles. They planned to be there for a year, during which time Daniel would be a Fellow at the Mandel Institute in Jerusalem. This was a euphoric time in Israel. The economy was booming, and peace seemed virtually guaranteed. A few months into their stay, Gordis and his wife decided to remain in Israel permanently, confident that their children would be among the first generation of Israelis to grow up in peace.

Immediately after arriving in Israel, Daniel had started sending out e-mails about his and his family's life to friends and family abroad. These missives—passionate, thoughtful, beautifully written, and informative—began reaching a much broader readership than he'd ever envisioned, eventually being excerpted in *The New York Times Magazine* to much acclaim. An edited and finely crafted collection of his original e-mails, *If a Place Can Make You Cry* is a first-person, immediate account of Israel's post-Oslo meltdown that cuts through the rhetoric and stridency of most dispatches from that country or from the international media.



***A Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life*, by Queen Noor. Miramax Books, 2003.**

Born in 1951 to a distinguished Arab-American family, Lisa Najeeb Halaby became the fourth wife of King Hussein at age 27. With her husband being not only Jordan's monarch but the spiritual leader of all Muslims, Lisa was unsure what her role would be. This moving memoir provides a timely look at one woman's story against a backdrop of 30 turbulent years: the displacement of over 1 million Palestinians by the creation of Israel, King Hussein's frustrated efforts for peace, and the effect of Saddam Hussein and the Gulf War on Jordan and the royal family. Queen Noor offers intimate new glimpses of King Hussein, Saddam Hussein, Queen Elizabeth, Arafat, and many other world leaders.

# LEAD ... love God with all your soul

## City-wide Pride Worship September 6

On September 6, we worship with affirming Christians and churches across Calgary in livestreamed worship, hosted by Affirming Connections.

This is a big change for us, as worship will be live video at 10 am, Sunday September 6. Find the link to worship in the usual place, on our website at [www.churchofthecross.ca](http://www.churchofthecross.ca)

**Don't miss worship! And remember, it's live at 10 am!**

We will have interfaith reflections from some of our Affirming faith communities, music, candle lighting, special guests, and more! And our fantastic guest speaker is The Rev. Dr. Megan Rohrer.

Rev. Rohrer is the first openly transgender pastor ordained in the Lutheran church and is the pastor of Grace Lutheran in San Francisco, CA. Pastor Megan received a Doctorate in Ministry from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, researching LGBTQ issues, homeless youth and pastoral organizing in San Francisco during the 60's and 70's.

An award winning filmmaker, musician and historian, Megan was a finalist for the Lambda Literary award, received an honourable mention as an Unsung Hero of Compassion by Wisdom in Action, with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and has been featured on Queer Eye, Cosmo and in Wittenberg, Germany for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.



Check out [www.Calgarypride.ca](http://www.Calgarypride.ca) for the online Pride celebration ending Sunday September 6! Speakers, panels, facilitated conversations, musicians, dance parties, drag shows....there's lots to see and do!

**Celebrate Pride!**



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



BROWN BAGGING FOR  
**Calgary's Kids**

BB4CK has been feeding kids for over 30 years and as of March 2020, has fed 5000 kids per day in over 230 schools in Calgary! Their mission is to connect and inspire people to take meaningful action to feed and care for kids and their vision is a fu-

ture where communities ensure no kids go hungry.

Exciting news starting September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, LCOC is partnering with Brown Bagging For Calgary's Kids (BB4CK) to help provide lunches for hungry kids in our area! BB4CK provides financial support to purchase food like bread/buns, sandwich meat, fruit, vegetables and snacks and **we provide the kitchen space and VOLUNTEERS**. Volunteers shop for groceries, assemble the lunches and deliver (*contact free*) the lunches to local schools. A typical week for volunteers (3-4 people) is to meet twice, Monday and Wednesday and make 2 days worth of lunches. Lunches are then delivered to the respective school before 11 am.

If you are interested in volunteering to make &/or deliver the lunches, please let Sasha Craven know! Her contact information is 403-203-1473 or email: [ms4craven@shaw.ca](mailto:ms4craven@shaw.ca)

**Please know COVID precautions are enabled while in the kitchen.**

One other way of helping with this endeavor is to help purchase packaged snacks while you're grocery shopping. Please look at the detailed wish list to see which snacks are safe and healthy. There will be a box outside the church office for drop off labeled *BB4CK snacks*.



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



**Due to a serious house fire, a member of our church family is urgently seeking a 2 bedroom rental accommodation, preferably in the SE/SW (Midnapore, Canyon Meadows, Queensland, Chaparral, Walden etc) for up to a year, starting as soon as possible. Please contact your network of friends and family to see if they know of any possibilities, and if so email [info@dpuc.ca](mailto:info@dpuc.ca) or phone the office 403.278.8263**



# LEAD ... love God with all your strength

## Dianne Fortier Retiring

It might be said that the Office Administrator is the one who really runs the Church. He or she answers the phone, runs the computers, keeps the files, hires the tradespeople, schedules the various meetings, collects rents, and pays the bills. Want to get into the church after hours? Call the Administrator. Want to find out who's on Council? Call the Administrator. Need to know what the budget is for the Youth Ministry? The Church Administrator knows without even looking it up. And Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross has one of the very best.

So it's with considerable regret that I announce that Dianne Fortier, the Office Administrator for ELCOC, will be retiring at the end of this year. I've only been a member of this church for a few years, but during all that time Dianne has been the one I go to when I need to know how things work. When there's a leak in the roof, she knows who to call. If we need a change to the Web Site, she can make it happen. If we need blueprints, or phone numbers or people's names, Dianne has it all at her fingertips. She answers questions, runs Power Church, handles all correspondence, attends staff meetings, and somehow seems to have everything we need to know to know at the tips of her fingers. When strangers come to call, she greets them and puts them in touch with the Pastors or the necessary committees. And she does all this with a smile and a warm human touch that makes everyone feel comfortable and at home.

But like all of us, she deserves a chance to relax and enjoy life. And so, while it's a blow to lose such a capable and friendly Administrator, we rejoice with her that she now has time to spend with Gates and her family, and to enjoy some time to herself.

Thank you Dianne, for all your years of dedicated service to Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross. Here's hoping you find retirement richly rewarding: a time to do the things you've always wanted to do, to travel, spend time at the cottage, or just take a breather and let the world go by.

We owe you a debt we can never repay.

Bill Ogilvie  
Council Chair



# LEAD ... love God with all your strength

## Anti-Racism 101 A



2020

Looking to educate yourself on Anti-Racism but don't know where to start? This two part interactive online workshop (A&B) is a basic education and self awareness course aimed at the general public.

This will be a Safe Space to learn capacity and ask questions.



For more information and to register  
403.238.9222 ext 225  
Lissette.arevalo@swcrc.c

**When:**  
Thursdays 1pm-3pm  
**Date:**  
Sept 24 & Oct 1 2020  
**Where:**  
Via Zoom Link

### SWCRC CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us: 403.238.9222  
Email us: info@swcrc.ca  
Visit us: #42 2580 Southland Drive SW Oakridge Co-Op Shopping Centre  
Browse us: www.swcrc.ca



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## Positive Discipline



2020

This five week parenting program will focus on long term solutions that will develop your child's self-discipline and learn lifelong skills. Understand how your child thinks and feels at different ages and enjoy a stronger relationship while achieving your parenting goals. For children of all ages, from infancy through adolescence!



For more information, or to register for this FREE program phone 403.238.9222

**When:**  
Thursdays: 10am-12pm  
**Date:**  
Starting Sept 24, 2020  
**Where:**  
SouthWest Communities Resource Center (Oakridge Co-op Shopping Center)



### CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us: 403.238.9222  
Email us: info@swcrc.ca  
Visit us: #42 2580 Southland Drive SW Oakridge Co-Op Shopping Centre  
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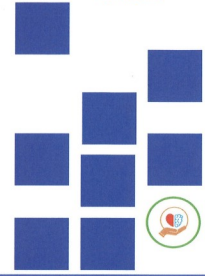


## CORE Coping & Resiliency Skills for Pandemic



2020

**C**oping & **R**esiliency Skills for Pandemic. This six week program aims to help you build the right tools and skills to develop strengths that protect and promote well being.



**When:**  
Wednesdays 10am-1130am  
**Date:**  
Sept 16-Oct 21  
**Where:**  
Via Zoom Link & Southwest Communities Resource Centre

For more information and to register  
403.238.9222 ext 225  
Lissette.arevalo@swcrc.c

### SWCRC CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us: 403.238.9222  
Email us: info@swcrc.ca  
Visit us: #42 2580 Southland Drive SW Oakridge Co-Op Shopping Centre  
Browse us: www.swcrc.ca



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## Youth Tutoring



2020



For more information, or to register for this FREE program phone 403.238.9222

**When:**  
Wednesdays 6pm-730pm  
**Date:**  
Starting Sept 23, 2020  
**Where:**  
Via Zoom Link and SouthWest Communities Resource Center (Oakridge Co-op Shopping Center)

SWCRC will offer students, free access to online and in person tutoring services. Tutors will help youth who may be adjusting to classes or the transition to online learning.

Tutoring sessions will be provided remotely (via Zoom) or in person by our experienced volunteers.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Call us: 403.238.9222  
Email us: info@swcrc.ca  
Visit us: #42 2580 Southland Drive SW Oakridge Co-Op Shopping Centre  
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Dear Beloved of God

There are written prayers which speak to me profoundly, and which I return to again and again. They have become part of me. My breath. My DNA.

*“Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest”, The Lord’s Prayer, “Now I lay me down to sleep”, the familiar prayer from the Morning and Evening Prayer services, “O God, you have called your servants...”, just to name a few.*

I recall hearing this latter prayer years ago now, in the mid-80’s as a college student, in the form of a choral anthem. The text, the prayer, had been set for four-part harmony. A beautiful melody. Each vocal part wondrously written. I still sing the bass line and the melody.

Over the years I have sung this hymn, prayed this text, over and over again. As a new parent. When I began my First Call at Bethany Lutheran, Dickson, Alberta, and beginning each subsequent call. At the death of my youngest sister. At times when I have wondered and questioned. And, at times when I have moved to thanksgiving and praise.

One of the reasons that I love this prayer is because it is realistic and yet encouraging, honest yet hopeful. It doesn’t deny difficult truths, but neither does it succumb to sterile pessimism. It was written in the first part of the twentieth century by a Church of England priest, Eric Milner-White, and like many good prayers from another time and place, it sounds like it was tailor made for us here and now.

Here and now, as the Spirit of God continues to lead us into a future that is unfamiliar, with the assurance that God is present, God’s hand leading, cradled in love.

I have sung this prayer and prayed this text many times over these past COVID-19 months. I am sure that I will sing and pray them over and over again in the months to come.

As I have sung and prayed in these days of unseen endings, of paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown, I have experienced with you and through you so many signs of hope, of faithfulness, trust, courage, and encouragement.

Congregational leaders, lay and rostered who: under extraordinary stress, pressure and restraints have poured themselves into the work of leadership; and though tired and weary and wondering, have reached out to one another, and to those in their midst, providing pastoral care, connection, compassion and care.

Creativity, ingenuity, openness, support, encouragement, trust, community.

And our church, working together in ways that witness to the Spirit of God among us. Joint correspondence from national and synod treasurers, and from national and synod bishops. Sharing of resources and experience. A Pentecost celebration with our Full Communion partners.

As we journey together join me in singing the hymn. Join me in prayer.

And as we journey, continue to be humble and gentle with one another. Honor each other. Make space for lament. Welcome moments of joy. Help each other live into hope. Learn from this journey in the coronavirus wilderness and let the learning lead us forward. Trust that God is at work in this time and look for the new things God is doing even now.

Thank you for your witness to patient trust in God and to sacrificial, cruciform love for your neighbors.

*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*

In Christ Jesus – Shalom,  
+Larry

