



Call things what they are

Enough is enough. For far too long hate and false superiority have been recruiting people to join their cause: To bolster membership and strength in order to eradicate diverse populations under the guise of returning to or establishing some perceived utopia.

Let us be clear: This is not free speech. It is hate and intolerance. It is ignorance and unwillingness to participate in the wide beauty of human community. It is abusive and counter to the most foundational ideal in western culture: Diversity is our strength.

The misuse of free speech to say horrific things about others and garner attention through public demonstration ought to reveal more about the intolerance, ignorance, and isolation of the speakers than any characteristic at all about the ones who are the object of the speech.

When we shelter hate groups with the notion that everyone has the right to free speech, we undermine the very basis of our society: Free society is for all people.

Yes, free society and free speech are inalienable rights in democratic society, but so are safety and freedom; so are religious, ethnic, and gender diversity; so are civility and public decency.

There is an undeniable link between the slander of a whole group of people and violent action against those same people. The atrocity of Christchurch, New Zealand, where 50 people were murdered in attacks on two mosques, is not

random or isolated incident, but the seemingly inevitable result of false superiority masquerading as righteousness and free speech. Talk is not just talk and we cannot expect speech to be devoid of action.

But how do we stop this madness?

We start by calling things what they are. It is time we name racism, xenophobia, homophobia and violence-inducing rhetoric as harmful and unacceptable. We start by speaking differently about others. It is time we speak about others with dignity and respect. We start by forming friendships, cultivating understanding, and risking the security of personal comfort zones. It is time to meet our neighbours.

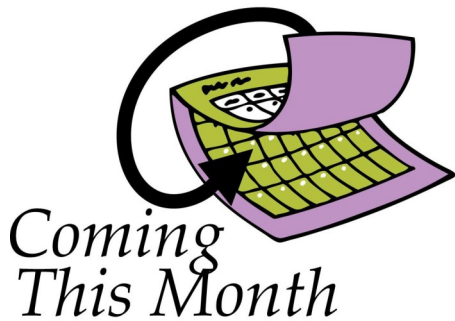
World peace can only be caused through friendship and by calling things by their proper names. No longer allow anyone around you to get away with hateful remarks, speeches,

even jokes. Stand where you are for the dignity of the human family by risking to stand for those who are being slandered, belittled, attacked, or made the brunt of someone else's humor. In particular, stand shoulder to shoulder with your Muslim neighbours. Make a friend. Stand shoulder to shoulder with someone in the LGBTQ2S+ community. Make a friend.

Discover that no human being is superior to another. And call things what they are.

Pastor Laura





A glance at April Ministry Happenings....

- April 3** - Sandwich Making - 7:30 am
- April 4** - Lenten Service - 7 pm
- April 6** - Men's Breakfast - 8 am
- April 7** - Soupapalooza - 12 - 3 (*for Way of Christ Weekend*)
- April 10** - Council Meeting - 7 pm
- April 11** - Lenten Service - 7 pm
- April 12** - Tennebrae Service at St. Gerard's - 7:30 pm
- April 13** - Way of Christ Team Building - 8 am - 4 pm

- April 14** - BLAST Showcase - following worship
- April 14** - Cooking with the Turkish Women - @ Intern Kate's home - sign up sheet
- April 15** - Holy Week Worship - 9 am
- April 16** - Holy Week Worship - 9 am
- April 17** - Holy Week Worship - 9 am
- April 18** - Maundy Thursday Worship - 7:30 pm
- April 19** - Good Friday worship - 10 am
- April 20** - Easter Vigil - 8:40 am
- April 21** - Sunrise worship - 6:29 am; Breakfast - 8 am; Worship - 10 am
- April 23** - Confirmation MENTOR Night - 7 pm
- April 26** - Youth Event - 7 pm
- April 27** - Women's Ministry - 10 am
Lutheran Hospital Ministry "*Walk for Love*"
- April 25 - 28** - WAY OF CHRIST WEEKEND



In this Month's Issue

Love the Lord your God with.....

Soul -	pg. 3 - 7
Mind -	pg. 8 - 15
Strength -	pg. 16 - 19
Heart -	pg. 20 - 22
Bishop's Message -	pg. 23
Calendar -	pg. 24

Lutheran Church of the Cross

10620 Elbow Drive SW Calgary, AB

www.churchofthecross.ca

churchofthecross@shaw.ca

Pastors Laura & Phil Holck

Intern Kate Zaiser

Minister of Music—Catherine Glaser-Climie

Office Administrator—Dianne Fortier

403-255-4792

Mission

Gathered by God to worship and grow.
Empowered by Spirit to love and care for each other
Living Christ's love by witnessing to all.

Vision

To be a vibrant and growing congregation unified in sharing
the love of Christ through words and actions.



CHURCH OF THE CROSS

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



HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER LENTEN MID-WEEK SERVICES

Thursdays, 7 pm through April 11

Holy Week at the Cross: Live the story!

Here at Church of the Cross, the scriptures are our guide as we live the story of the last week of Jesus' life. Palm Sunday is a full-bore sensory experience of the celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Monday and Tuesday we hear Jesus' teaching to his disciples and those gathered in the Temple. Wednesday, we hear about the plot to betray him. On Thursday, we gather with Jesus and his disciples in the upper room and share the Passover. Then we move to the garden where he is betrayed. On Friday we look on with horror as Jesus is falsely tried, convicted, and executed on the cross.

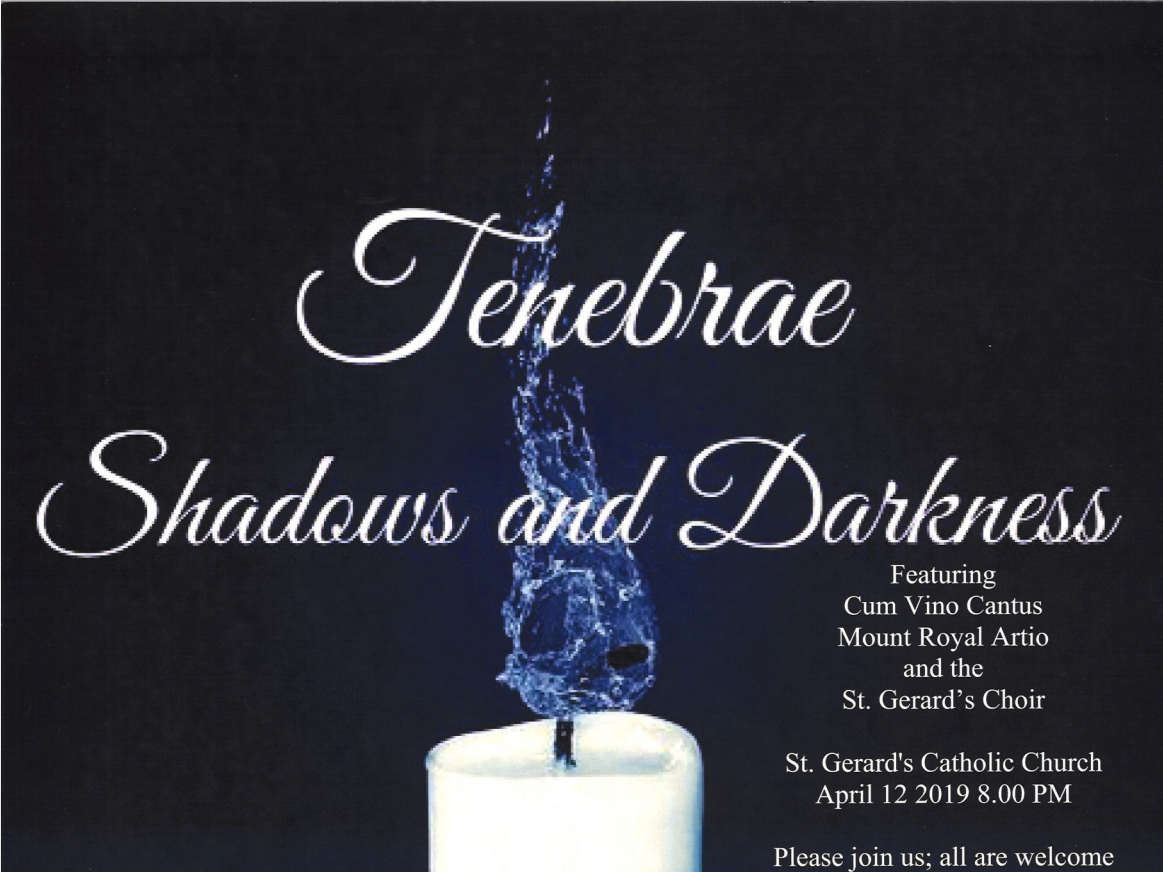


On Saturday, we gather near the tomb at a new fire at sunset, but the Word of God in the gospels is silent. We mourn in darkness and turn to one another to recall God's saving acts for people throughout history. We tell our stories of our faithful ancestors in story, song, and drama; with good humor we remind ourselves that our God is a saving God who will not leave us to face our troubles alone. Then we hear a word from the place of death...and sparkling drinks begin to flow!

At sunrise on Easter morning, we find the tomb empty as the first word from the place of death is confirmed: He is risen...and all the vault of heaven resounds!

There are lots of opportunities to live the story in Holy Week! If you cannot make it to worship, be sure to live the story at home:

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



Tenebrae
Shadows and Darkness

Featuring
Cum Vino Cantus
Mount Royal Artio
and the
St. Gerard's Choir

St. Gerard's Catholic Church
April 12 2019 8.00 PM

Please join us; all are welcome

Pastor Laura is participating in this Tenebrae Service

Lent, and what it means to us:

What is Lent?

Lent is a time of self-examination and reflection. In Lent, many Christians commit to certain sacrifices in order to replicate Jesus Christ's journey into the desert for 40 days. Each Christian has their own ideal as to how they wish to honor this reverent time of the year.

When we were young, we were taught that we were to sacrifice something during Lent. After many years of practicing this, Greg and I talked about what else we could do differently to add to our Lenten experience. We both came to the same conclusion that there was little more that we would give up that would make the Lenten season more meaningful for us. After deeper discussions we thought that **adding** something for Lent would have more of an impact for us than taking away something. Therefore, given that March is our month to usher, we have committed these past two years to attending the Thursday Lenten services in addition to the Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday and Easter week services. Attending these services and listening to the scriptures heightened our awareness of the sacrifices Jesus made and better prepared us for the Easter Season.

Randa and Greg Nemish

LEAD ... love God with all your soul



The 4th Annual

Kuriakos Gathers Together

Saturday, April 27, 2019
4:30 pm (doors open 4 pm)
Blindman Valley Ag Centre
Bentley, AB

\$60/plate
\$450/table of 8

Fabulous Food
Live & Silent Auction
Great Entertainment


tickets online at kuriakos.ab.ca



KURIAKOS

RENEW WOMEN'S RETREAT

April 5-7, 2019 \$150/person

INVITATION TO TRANSFORMATION

With Terrie Coombs

“Don't ask what the world needs, ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive”.
~Howard Thurston

I belong at camp. WWW.KURIAKOS.AB.CA 

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



Cooking and Studying with the Turkish Muslim Community

A monthly gathering for women of all ages

If you are interested in developing friendships with women in the Turkish Muslim community this gathering might be for you! Once a month we meet in someone's home, alternating between women in the Turkish community and women in our congregation. We cook together and share a meal, learn a simple lesson from the Bible or the Quran, and share about our lives. Our gathering is for all women

Next meeting: Sunday April 14, 2-5 pm

In the home of Intern Kate Zaiser

228 Auburn Springs Close SE

Sign up on the sheet near the church mailboxes, or contact the church office: (403) 255-4792.

Cause of the month for APRIL

"In Mission with El Salvador" with **Pastor Brian Rude**



The proceeds from our annual **Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday** were **\$432.41** which was designated to Canadian Lutheran World Relief. A big **'thank you'** to all who attended the supper and to the youth who participated in the contests with much excitement.



With the coming of summer, now is the time to consider **CAMP KURIAKOS** during the July and August holidays. **Some funds to help with the cost of fees are available for Church of the Cross members.** For more information, contact **Georgina at 403-281-1796** or church office.

Women's Bible Study We invite you to join us for study and conversation on **Saturday April 27 at 10:00 a.m.** as we complete this four-session Bible Study:

*Women's
Ministry*



Session four: Seeing the risen Christ

In this final session, we encounter the Risen Christ through his appearances to Mary Magdalene, Peter, the Beloved Disciple, and Thomas.

We reflect on how the risen Christ remains present among us, blessing us and inviting us to come and see and to live in his name.

Introduction to the Gospel of Luke

Approaching Luke Historically, Literarily, Devotionally, and Theologically

A four-week study beginning April 2nd

Tuesdays 7:00-8:30 pm

Week 1: The Background of Luke (*Historical Reading*)

Week 2: Luke as Story (*Literary Reading*)

Week 3: Dwelling in Luke's Word (*Devotional Reading*)

Week 4: Who Christ is for Luke (*Theological Reading*)



Calling all artists!

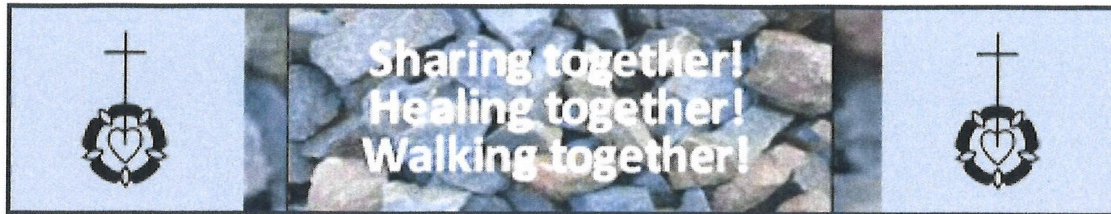
Church of the Cross is hosting an art show for all students and all children.

Give your art a title and bring it to **Pastor Laura's office by April 7.**

The art show will be held on **Palm Sunday, April 14** following worship.

Invite your friends!





CONGREGATIONAL LIFE EVENT

Saturday April 6, 2019

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Red Deer, Alberta



Keynote Speaker: **Archdeacon Travis Enright**
Blanket Exercise: **Anne Harding and friends**

Schedule for April 6

8:30 am Registration

9:00 am Worship (outdoors weather permitting)

9:25 am Bishop's Greeting

9:30 am Keynote: Rev. Travis Enright

10:45 am Break

11:00 am Keynote Continued

12:00 Lunch

1:00 pm Blanket Exercise and Discussion

3:00 pm Break

3:15 pm Standing Stones Sacred Gathering and Worship

Registration Information:

Fees: \$30.00 per person, up to 3 participants from one congregation/parish then \$25.00 per person if more than 4 people attend from one congregation/parish. Fees include lunch and refreshments during the day. Please note that those preparing food are not able to accommodate specific dietary needs. In order to meet specific dietary requirements, you may need to supplement your lunch and refreshments.

Presented in collaboration with the Congregational Life Ministry Team of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories

To register please call Dianne or register on the AB Synod website.



The Way of Christ

God is in the process of reconciling all people.

This reconciling act of God is first experienced as FORGIVENESS and GRACE and moves very quickly into a real experience of RELIEF, FREEDOM and JOY. That's real salvation while we live! These are God's gifts to give, and God gives them to everyone.

Sometimes we don't experience ourselves as deserving or included. We can actually believe God loves some people more than others and simply settle for worshipping God on the edges of love and grace.

The Way of Christ is a 3-day experience of lived grace, in which every person who attends experiences God's forgiveness, grace, and love for them.

The experiences of RELIEF, FREEDOM, and JOY are predictable here and they are yours for the taking. If you want a deeper connection to God, yourself, and the church; if you want to deepen your joy; if you want time away to having a renewing and transformative weekend, this is the place for you.

Attendance at The Way of Christ requires the support of someone who has already attended a 3-day weekend experience. If you don't know anyone who can sponsor you, please speak with Hilary Gray, the pastors, or check in with the church office. We will find someone for you!

The Way of Christ

7 pm Thursday April 25 - 5 pm Sunday April 28

Kuriakos (Sylvan Lake)

Registration forms and information brochures are available at the Information Center.

"I knew Jesus loved me, but I never thought he would send all these people to show me. What a weekend!"

"It is SO much more than a retreat"



The Gospel of Luke A Society with Mercy

Readings from the Gospel of Luke (roughly one chapter/week), biblical commentary on the Gospel, and discussion of its relevance for daily life. *You could say we are interested in the intersection of the Bible and Life!* Drop in anytime. No previous experience with Bible study is required. We welcome everyone and are particularly glad to greet people new to studying the Bible. You are welcome here.

Wednesday Mornings 9:30-11:30 North Meeting Room

We are currently worshipping using Year C of the Revised Common Lectionary, featuring readings from the Gospel of Mark December 2018 - November 2019, so this study also helps deepen your Sunday worship experience.

**This study features coffee and tea and begins with informal conversation and prayer.
Led by Pastor Phil and Intern Kate**



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

Earthkeeping is a term being used by many people of faith to describe the nature of our responsibility to care for creation. It springs from our wonder, awe, and gratitude for God’s wisdom, creativity, and blessings that fill the natural world. It also grows out of our dismay and concern for the degradations and “groaning” of God’s good creation. Faithful earthkeeping involves extending the justice, peace, reconciliation, hope, and love of Christ to all creation. In caring for the Earth, we also deepen our relationship with God and with one another, making our faith more alive and relevant, in and to a broken world.

“Earth Ball” by Olaf Skarsholt

If the earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk around it marvelling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between the pools. People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and in the water. The people would declare it precious because it was the only one, And they would protect it, so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come to behold it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, and to know beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would love it, and defend it with their lives, because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it. If the earth were only a few feet in diameter.

Let us pray: Everlasting God, you made the universe with all its order and beauty, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures. You are the artist of creation and the bearer of life; give us understanding and wisdom to care for the Earth. Grant that as we see and experience the blessings and mysteries of creation, we may come to know you more fully and claim our role as earth keepers. Amen.

God is wholly present in all creation, in every corner, behind you and before you. Do you think that God is [just] sleeping on a pillow in heaven?
— Martin Luther (1483-1546)

The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw—and knew—all things in God and God in all things.
— Mechtild of Magdeberg (1210-1279)

All creation is a symphony of praise to God.
— Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)

God is in all creatures, even in the smallest flowers!
— Martin Luther (1483-1546)

The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God.
— St. John of Damacus (675-749)

12 Earthkeeping practices

1. Plant a tree or donate a tree
2. Use environmentally-friendly, non-toxic cleaning products.
3. Buy locally grown foods and support local food suppliers
4. Grow your own organic garden, or join a farm-share group.
5. Carpool, ride your bike, use public transportation or drive an electric or hybrid car. Reduce your carbon footprint by one pound for every mile you do not drive.
6. Keep your tires properly inflated and get better gas mileage. Reduce your carbon footprint 20 pounds for each gallon of gas saved.
7. Use cloth towels instead of paper ones.
8. Read documents online instead of printing them.
9. Bring reusable bags when you shop.
10. Turn off lights when you leave a room.
11. Lower the temperature on your water heater.
12. Turn off and unplug electronics you’re not using. This includes turning off your computer at night.

Earthkeeping - A 4 week study
April 7, 14, May 5 & 12 - 9 am - South Meeting Room

Earthkeeping worship Sunday April 28

LEAD ... love God with all your mind

The Halo Effect

What your contribution to Church of the Cross provides for Calgary



How do you measure a city's Social Infrastructure?

Any city's social infrastructure includes several factors. Key among them would be local religious congregations. It has long been known in Canada that churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples have social, spiritual, and communal value. But what if we could measure the value of what they contribute to the common good in their neighborhoods and communities? That is the jumping off point for *The Halo Project*.

Inspired by similar research in the United States, the Halo Project began to examine and measure how religious congregations fare as economic catalysts. The first phase of this research examined 10 local congregations in Toronto. What we found was that those congregations all make significant common good contributions that have remarkable economic value when measured by traditional economic development tools.

But just how much economic good do those congregations do?

The 10 congregations we looked at in Toronto spend a little more than \$9.5 million per year in their direct budgets. But that is just the tip of the iceberg. The actual common good value those congregations produce, their "halo effect", through weddings, artistic performances, suicide prevention, ending substance abuse, housing initiatives, job training – and a whole host of other areas that make cities so much more livable – is estimated to be more than \$45 million per year.

Every dollar a congregation spends could create \$4.77 worth of service a city does not have to provide.

Applying that ratio just to the 220 parishes of the Roman Catholic archdiocese in Toronto yields a potential annual contribution of \$990 million in common good services, and this represents only one religious tradition. The full impact of all religious congregations in Toronto would be staggering.

How did we come to our conclusions?

Through the fall of 2015 and spring of 2016, The Halo Project performed an initial study of ten local congregations in Toronto. Data were collected through interviews and self-reporting made by senior clergy, lead administrators, and key lay leaders. The results of this phase of research suggest that economic valuation of local congregations is possible within the Canadian context. Subsequent study and further refinements in methodology are needed to offer further validation, and potentially lead to a more streamlined means of helping municipalities and congregations assess the "halo effect" in their particular settings. The ratio of budget spending to public good value may vary across congregational types, sizes, community types and sizes, or other variables that have not been captured in the initial pilot study.

[About Cardus - Cardus exists as an independent think tank located in the heart of Canada. Initially founded in 1974 as the "Work Research Foundation," Cardus emerged from a desire to translate the richness of the Christian faith tradition into the public square for the common good. You can find more information at their website, www.cardus.ca]

LEAD ... love God with all your mind

Polarity Mapping

a perspective that allows for understanding and respect

It is election time and I'm braced for the usual rhetoric that we hear:

"We're right. They're wrong."

There has been a lot of discussion about how *polarized* our politics and even our nation has become (or is becoming). What is meant by the term "polarized" is that people have taken sides on issues and aren't willing to entertain competing ideas or positions. At its extreme, it sounds like, "People who don't agree with me are idiots!"

I, too, fall into the trap of "being right" about things, but a few years ago at a retreat about "deepening spirituality," I was introduced to something called *Polarity Mapping*. It has given me a way to own where I stand on a particular topic but to respect and appreciate those who have "counterarguments."

Here's my attempt to explain *Polarity Mapping*...

A polarity is a pair of statements which are TRUE and in CONFLICT.

An example might be:

"People need to be accountable for what they do."

And

"We are called to be gracious and forgiving."

To map this polarity, one draws a simple graph on the page with the upper part being "positive" and the lower part being "negative." One statement is put on the left side of the graph. The other is put on the right. Then one goes through identifying the positive aspects of each statement (or position). Then, one takes each of the statements and identifies the negative effects if that position is carried to the extreme:

<p>+ People need to be accountable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It matters what people do.</i> • <i>Encourages people toward healthy behavior</i> • <i>Integrity</i> • <i>Provides civil order</i> 	<p>Called to be gracious & forgiving. +</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Judging & criticism destroy relationships</i> • <i>Everyone makes mistakes</i> • <i>Jesus tells us to!</i>
<p>People need to be accountable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No compassion.</i> • <i>Legalism over relationship</i> • <i>Fear-based society</i> <p>—</p>	<p>Called to be gracious & forgiving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It doesn't matter what a person does</i> • <i>No consequences for one's actions</i> • <i>No need for</i> • <i>Inadvertently encourage bad behavior</i> <p>—</p>

LEAD ... love God with all your mind

Polarity Mapping - continued

What Polarity Mapping provides is a way to visually chart and, hence, appreciate how much of what we refer to as *problems that have a solution* are really *polarities that need to be managed*. A polarity can never be resolved once and for all, the best we can do is try to “balance” or “manage” the polarity so that we are experiencing the benefits in the positive (or top half) of the polarity mapping.

By recognizing that most “problems” are really “polarities,” it provides a way to acknowledge and respect the commitments and positions of the “opposing side” instead of demonizing them or calling them names! When we can appreciate that we are all in this together to try to manage a polarity, then it is more a conversation about whether we’ve overemphasized or swung too far in one direction.

Polarities don’t just occur in politics. For example, Roy Oswald in his book, *Managing Polarities in Congregations: Eight Keys for Thriving Faith Communities*, points out that there are eight key polarities that congregations are constantly trying to manage (even though they are usually thought of as “problems”):

- *Tradition AND Innovation*: How do we stay rooted in our historic faith and heritage AND foster creativity in our life together?
- *Spiritual Health AND Institutional Health*: How do we nurture our mission and spiritual health AND maintain a healthy institution that sustains our corporate life?
- *Management AND Leadership*: How do we create or sustain a well-organized, stable congregation AND create or sustain a congregation that inspires members to embrace change?
- *Strong Clergy Leadership AND Strong Lay Leadership*: How do we support strong leadership by our clergy AND ensure broad, active participation by our laity?
- *Inreach AND Outreach*: How do we respond to members’ needs AND take care of those outside our membership?
- *Nurture AND Transformation*: How do we manifest God’s unconditional love for us AND challenge people to grow spiritually and to serve others with commitment?
- *Making Disciples—Easy Process AND Challenging Process*: How do we make it easy for people to become members AND ensure that membership has meaning and depth?
- *Call AND Duty*: How do we help members recognize their particular call from God to serve others AND ensure that the mundane tasks needed to sustain congregational life are accomplished?

My prayer for this election cycle is that we may all find a way to appreciate the wisdom in both sides of an issue and to discern, at this time, how we might manage to enjoy the positive aspects of each side without going too far the other way.

Sometimes I wonder if, instead of opinions, wise people have perspectives...

Peace,
Pastor Phil

LEAD ... love God with all your strength

Listening and Discerning

For the last couple of years, the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good (CACG) has been focusing its activity on a couple of issues:



- Senior Supports to allow seniors to stay in their homes;
- Indigenous/Non-indigenous Reconciliation.

In April, the member institutions of CACG (*of which Lutheran Church of the Cross is one*) will be gathering to discern what areas to focus on for the next couple of years that are of common concern to the members of our institutions. Beginning in January, they have invited the members to conduct “listening campaigns” to surface the issues that are pressuring citizens of Calgary now.

In addition to the Reconciliation work between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples (which will be an on-going focus), there are 7 general problem areas which surfaced:

- Mental Health
- Seniors
- Environment
- Early Learning/Care
- Immigration/Refugees
- Good Jobs/Income
- Social Isolation/Building Community/Overcoming Divisions

On April 1st, CACG will have a *Discernment Assembly* to identify the priorities for CACG’s work for the next couple of years. If you have particular passion for or interest in any of the above problem areas, please talk to Pastor Phil so that can be part of the discernment!

A message from SWARM

(Southwest Area Refugee Mission)

Exciting News From The South West Area Refugee Mission!



A new refugee family is arriving on May 15! The Sharif family are 2 parents, 6 children and a grandparent, initially from Afghanistan but recently refugees in Turkey. This sponsorship is a partnership with one of our committee members who made the initial application. It is the intention of the committee to provide assistance with settlement in Calgary - first locating and setting up a home, then with other settlement details like education, health care, etc. In addition, we plan to do fundraising to contribute to their rent for the first year the family are in Canada, allowing them to focus on learning English and finding work. Watch for more information soon! **If you can help with house hunting and set up or in any other way, please let us know.** Financial donations are welcome at any time. Your key contact or church administrator can give you contact information. Or contact Marla Mulloy 403-617-6494. marlajmulloy@gmail.com

Financial contributions are always welcome. Just 'ear-mark' your donation to SWARM.

AFFIRMING MINISTRY TEAM

PIE Day at Lutheran Church of the Cross Calgary

The celebration of International PI Day on March 14 (3.14 on the calendar) dates back to 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium where a physicist, Dr. Larry Shaw, led staff and public in a celebratory march around its circular spaces that culminated in the eating of pie.

National Affirming PIE Day, an initiative of United Affirming Ministry (United Church of Canada), was launched this year, 2019. On **Sunday, March 17**, our congregation, an affirming ministry since 2012, celebrated in typical Lutheran style. We ate! Pie! Plenty of pie! Savoury meat pies, pizza pies, cream pies, fruit pies—our amazing bakers supplied us with a generous array.

We were serenaded during the pie feast by the **BarberEllas**.

The free will offering for the event has been donated to **Camp fyrefly Southern Alberta**, a retreat for

queer and trans youth held at Camp Chief Hector. The acronym stands for: fostering, Youth, resiliency, energy, fun, leadership, yeah!

Your affirming ministry team embraced this celebration as a time to strengthen our commitment to being inclusive and affirming to individuals and allies in the LGBTQ Community. Our mission is to uphold values of genuine hospitality and advocacy for justice, and provide a safe place for all— to follow the lessons Jesus taught us about love and welcoming everyone.

Affirming National PIE Day defines the work of affirming faith communities in its acronym:

P: PUBLIC

I: INTENTIONAL

E: EXPLICIT

Your Affirming Ministry Team:

Pastor Laura
Dianne Fortier
Marilyn Jonassen

Judy Shore-Isford
Betty Jane Hegerat



LEAD ... love God with all your strength



WALK, RUN or ROLL FOR LOVE Saturday, April 27, 2019

Support Lutheran Hospital Ministries – Southern Alberta’s Visitors
Who bring Jesus’ Healing to Patients in Hospitals and Care Centres

Join the Fun  Raise the Funds 

Walk or Run 5 km through Confederation Park
Sponsor a Walker or Runner / Support by Donations

8:30 am Registration and coffee, tea, muffins

Faith Lutheran Church

1903 – 19 Avenue NW, Calgary

9:30 am Walk & Run Begin

Finish with a light lunch at Faith Lutheran Church

Tax Receipts will be issued for sponsorship donations of \$20 or more.

Pledge forms are available from our web page or
Lutheran Hospital Ministries – Southern Alberta

66 – 7 Street NE, Calgary, AB T2E 4B7

Phone: (403) 264-4045

email: lhmsac@gmail.com

Website: www.lhmsa.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Lutheran-Hospital-Ministries-Southern-Alberta

THE WALK WILL TAKE PLACE COME RAIN OR SHINE, OR SNOW



Walk for Love 2018 Participants

Pledge forms are
available at the
Information
Centre.

LEAD ... love God with all your heart



God Moments

Until we started planning for lent worship, I had not really paid attention to rocks, not since I was a child. As a child I remember walking along the

river looking for rocks – stones that would be good for skipping, and pebbles to add to my rock collection. At some point I stopped paying attention to them. Now, rocks are just something I step on, something that I trained my dog to go to the bathroom on.

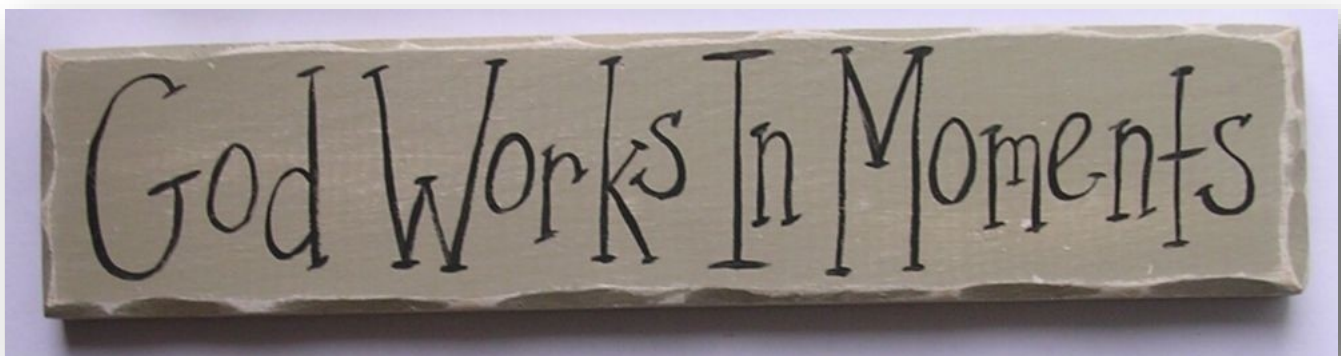
The bible talks about rocks in all sorts of ways. Try reading 1 Peter 2:4-8 to get a sense of the variety of rock and stone metaphors in the bible. Stones can be stumbling blocks – things that get in our way. They were even used as a form of capital punishment – stoning people. They can also be a place of safety and they can point us to God. The psalms speak of God as our rock nineteen times. On Good Friday a rock sealed Jesus' body from the living world. At Easter that same rock had been moved – the first sign of the resurrection!

On Ash Wednesday I picked up a rock to carry with

me through Lent. Studying it more closely than I had since I was a child, I decided that it looked like a person with a hood and long robes. My conversation last Sunday got me thinking “*Who is my rock?*” *Who are the people who cause me to stumble? Who makes me slow down and points me to God?*

Who is God except the LORD?

And who is a rock besides our God? – Psalm 18:31



LEAD ... love God with all your heart

What we're hearing from the Neighborhood...

The Church of the Cross Listening Team has begun listening to people and leaders in the surrounding neighborhood. Already we are hearing concerns about how our neighborhoods are transitioning and concerns about how seniors are coping in these changing times.

**LISTENING
TEAM**



We are also hearing:

- that our neighbors are probably more culturally diverse than we think,
- there are many lower income families nearby,
- social isolation and mental health
- people are just disconnected

This is just a sampling from the very beginning of our listening. We are beginning to line up conversations with other people and leaders in the community: police, fire, library, school, community organizations, social workers, churches, recreation centers, and others.

Please pray for the Listening Team so that our hearts, minds and ears are clear to hear what God is doing and needs us to be a part of!

Pastor Phil

Aboriginal Awareness Event

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is cohosting with the Aboriginal Friendship Centre an **“Aboriginal Awareness” event on the afternoon of 25 May 2019**. Our broad objective is to extend and expand mutual understanding and acceptance within our respective communities. Our immediate objective on that day is to offer Calgary citizens an opportunity to join us for an afternoon of education, experience, and fun for all ages. You're all invited!



The opening ceremony will take place at St. Andrew's @ 1:30 PM in front of two tipis, and with the flags of Canada, local First Nations and Metis flying. Educational activities by volunteers from First Nations will include art classes, bead work, and native dancing, sometimes with audience participation. Local aboriginal vendors will be on site, drumming and dancing will take place throughout the event, and a bison feast will conclude the day. There is no charge for your attendance!

Islam: Holy, Nonviolent Struggle

This is Richard Rohr's daily devotion for Tuesday, September 25, 2018

www.cac.org

Karen Armstrong continues exploring the origins of Islam:

In [the] early days, Muslims did not see Islam as a new, exclusive religion but as a continuation of the primordial faith of the “People of the Book,” the Jews and Christians. In one remarkable passage, God insists that Muslims must accept indiscriminately the revelations of every single one of God’s messengers: Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob, Moses, Jesus, and all the other prophets. [1] The Qur’an is simply a “confirmation” of the previous scriptures. [2] Nobody must be forced to accept Islam, because . . . God was not the exclusive property of any one tradition: the divine light could not be confined to a single lamp, belonged neither to the East nor to the West, but enlightened all human beings. [3] Muslims must speak courteously to the People of the Book, debate with them only in “the most kindly manner,” remember that they worshipped the same God, and not engage in pointless, aggressive disputes. [4]

All of this would require a ceaseless jihad (which did not mean “holy war” but “effort,” “struggle”), because it was extremely difficult to implement the will of God in a tragically flawed world. Muslims must make a determined endeavor on all fronts—intellectual, social, economic, moral, spiritual, and political. Sometimes they might have to fight, as Muhammad did when the Meccan kafirun vowed to exterminate the Muslim community. But aggressive warfare was outlawed, and the only justification for war was self-defense. [5] . . . An important and oft-quoted tradition (hadith) has Muhammad say on his way home after a battle: “We are returning from the Lesser Jihad [the battle] and going to the Greater Jihad,” the far more important and difficult struggle to reform one’s own society and one’s own heart. Eventually, when the war with Mecca was turning in his favor, Muhammad adopted a policy of nonviolence. . . .

Like any religious tradition, Islam would change and evolve. Muslims acquired a large empire, stretching from the Pyrenees to the Himalayas, but true to Qur’anic principles, nobody was forced to become Muslim. Indeed, for the first hundred years after the Prophet’s death, conversion to Islam was actually discouraged, because Islam was a din [way of life] for the Arabs, the descendants of Abraham’s elder son, Ishmael, just as Judaism was for the sons of Isaac, and Christianity for the followers of the gospel.

Faith, therefore, was a matter of practical insight and active commitment; it had little to do with abstract belief or theological conjecture.

I would add that mature Islam beautifully parallels the Franciscan and Christian contemplative emphasis on orthopraxy (right practice) and the importance of nondual consciousness. For our jihad to be nonviolent and transformative, our actions must be rooted in an inner experience of love and communion—what we call contemplation. Opening our hearts, minds, and bodies to union takes lifelong practice.

[1] Qur’an 3:48.

[2] Qur’an 12:11; 5:69.

[3] Qur’an 24:35.

[4] Qur’an 29:46.

[5] Qur’an 22:36-40; 2:190.

Dear Beloved of God –

Following the meeting of our National Church Council, March 8-10, 2019, the Western Synod's Examining Committee will also meet in Winnipeg. This meeting is one of the highlights of my year as your synod bishop.

The committee, comprised of one member from each of the four Western Synods, a faculty member from Lutheran Theological Seminary and the candidate's bishop, will meet this year with five candidates two of whom are from the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.

In the Lutheran tradition, a person's call from God to public ministry is understood as both internal and external or mediated:

- through an internal, personal sense of call that God is leading a person to public Christian ministry.
- through public affirmation that the person has the character, commitment, preparation and ability to serve in a specific public ministry, either ordained or diaconal.
- through the receipt and acceptance of a letter of call to serve in a particular ministry setting.

The responsibility for approval of candidates for rostered ministry in the ELCIC rests with the synods.

The final evaluation of candidates for rostered ministry is in two parts: the written examination (members of the committee are provided with the candidate's responses to a written examination, as well as all other pertinent material from the candidate's dossier) and the examination interview.

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

The areas of readiness reviewed during the interview are: theological and academic competence, spirituality and faith commitment, personal integrity and leadership abilities, and, call to ministry and ministry gifts.

By the time you read this April Message the Western Synod's Examining Committee will have met and I am hopeful that I will be in conversation regarding Calls to parish ministry and Services of Ordination.

Thank you for your continuing prayers for all candidates for rostered ministry across the ELCIC and for those prayerfully considering candidacy, for members of our ELCIC's Program Committee for Leadership for Ministry, for our seminaries, and for candidacy committees.

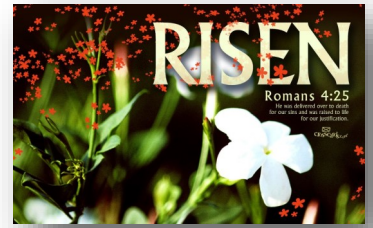
In Christ Jesus – Shalom,
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

"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)





April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Cause of the Month In Mission With El Salvador			Pastor Laura's Week off - April 7 - 13 Pastor Phil's Week off - April 1 - 7			
	1 Kodaly - 9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare Children's Choir - 5 - 9 pm	2 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Faith Formation - 7 pm Confirmation - 7	3 Sandwich making - 7:30 am Bible Study - 9:30 am AHS Caregivers - 1 pm Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	4 Quilting - 9 am Kodaly - 9:15 am - 2 pm E.A.—7 pm Lenten Service - 7 Choir - 7:30 pm	5 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	6 Men's Breakfast - 8 am Synod Congrega- tional Life in Red Deer
7 Adult Study - 9 am Worship—10 am BLAST - following worship Youth - following worship Soupapalooza - 12 - 3 SWCG—1—3 pm	8 Kodaly - 9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare Children's Choir - 5 - 9 pm	9 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Faith Formation - 7 pm Confirmation - 7 pm	10 Bible Study - 9:30 am Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm Council Mtg. - 7 pm	11 Quilting - 9 am Kodaly - 9:15 am - 2 pm E.A.—7 pm Lenten Service - 7 Choir - 7:30 pm	12 Office Closed Tenebrae Service @ St. Gerard's - 7:30 pm SWCG—7 pm	13 Way of Christ Team Building - 8 am - 4 pm
14  Adult Study - 9 am Worship—10 am BLAST SHOWCASE - following worship Youth - following Women cooking - 2-5 SWCG—1—3 pm	15 Holy Week Worship - 9 am Kodaly - 9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm	16 Holy Week Worship - 9 am Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am	17 Holy Week Worship - 9 am Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	18 Kodaly - 9:15 am - 2 pm E.A.—7 pm Maundy Thursday - 7:30 pm	19 Good Friday Worship - 10 am SWCG—7 pm <i>Easter Triduum</i> 	20 Easter Vigil - 8:40 pm
21 Sunrise Worship - 6:29 Breakfast - 8 am Worship - 10 am SWCG—1—3 pm	22 Office Closed Kodaly - 9:15 am Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 10 Listening Team Mtg. - 7 pm	23 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Faith Formation - 7 pm Confirmation - 7 pm - MENTOR NIGHT	24 Bible Study - 9:30 am Cantare Children's Choir - 6 - 9 pm SWCG—7 pm	25 Kodaly - 9:15 am - 2 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir - 7:15 pm	26 Office Closed Youth Event - 7 pm	27 Women's Ministry - 10 am LHM Walk for Love - 11:30 am
28 NO ADULT STUDY Worship—10 am BLAST - following worship Youth - following SWCG—1—4 pm	29 Kodaly - 9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare Children's Choir - 5 - 9 pm	30 Coffee @ Tim Hor- tons' - 10 am Faith Formation - 7 pm Confirmation - 7 pm		WAY OF CHRIST WEEKEND		