



Integrity: A Foundation for the Body of Christ

Over and over again, the writers of the New Testament instruct the early church to "build up the body of Christ."

St. Paul's image? The human body: "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you!' " (1 Corinthians 12)

The author of Acts? a community of believers, pooling resources and holding all things in common, for the good of all, so there was no one in need of anything (Acts 4:32-35).

Each community in the early development of the church has a trademark characteristic, whether it is hospitality, generosity, or prayer, that lends its support for ministry. Although the characteristics and strengths of Christian communities may differ, they all have one thing in common: The community cannot stand if it doesn't have integrity.

Simply put, "integrity" means giving your word and keeping it. Integrity involves making promises, and then living up to the promises you have made.

How does integrity support and encourage members of the church today?

Nothing can happen unless you give your word. There is no church, just as in the beginning there was no light, until a word is spoken. And a word, once given, must be kept in order for promises to be fulfilled. For example, It is one thing to say, "I will be at church every Sunday;" and it is another thing entirely to keep that word. As life happens (births, sicknesses, parties, opportunities, athletic events, vacations, etc.), it becomes a challenge to make it to church each week.

When faced with a challenge, most of us give in to whichever choice poses less resistance or work. "I'm too tired," we say, "to go to church today." Yet, whenever we act against the word we have given, other people suffer, sometimes in minor ways, sometimes in major ways.

What would it be like for other people if we made big outlandish promises and then did everything in our power to keep them? (For one thing, the church would be full of people!)

What would it be like for you if: 1) other people kept their promises; and 2) you kept your promises?

THINGS YOU CAN DO:

Give your word freely. Practice making promises and keeping them. Start small and build up. Notice how your promise making and promise keeping makes a difference or other people.

Make promises that inspire you and others. Make promises that build up the community. Be someone to whom other people can make promises. Be risky and outrageous! Who might other people get to be, if only they made bigger promises? Be both giving and forgiving.

Consider to whom you are REALLY making promises....

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. 1 Corinthians 4:1-10

Pastor Laura



A glance at April Ministry Happenings....



- April 1 -** Easter Sunrise worship—7:12 am
- April 1 -** Easter Breakfast—8 am
- April 1 -** Easter worship—10 am
- April 4 -** Sandwich Making—7:30 am

- April 5 -** PHD—noon—potluck lunch (Potluck—Hymn—Devotion)
- April 6 -** “Coming Out in Faith” Monologues @ Hillhurst UC—7:30 pm. Meet at ELCOG at 6:30 pm
- April 7 -** Men’s Breakfast—8 am
- April 7 -** LEAD Listening Team training—1—5 pm
- April 8 -** LEAD Listening Team training—11:30 am—2:30 pm
- April 8 -** Youth Bottle Drive—please bring your bottles to the church that day.
- April 10 -** Prayer & Care—10:30 am—Potluck lunch
- April 11 -** Council Meeting—7 pm
- April 14 -** Way of Christ Training—9 am—3:30 pm
- April 14 -** LCBI Choir concert—7:30 pm
- April 17 -** World Day of Prayer Meeting—10 am
- April 21 -** Men’s Breakfast—8 am
- April 21 -** Women’s brunch with Turkish women—11:30 am—at Dianne’s home (31 DeerRidge Way SE)
- April 24 -** Mentor Night at Confirmation
- April 26 -** Caring Conversations—5 pm—potluck supper
- April 28 -** Women’s Ministry—10 am
- April 29 -** FOOD BANK SUNDAY
- April 30 -** Social Ministry Mtg.—7 pm



In this Month’s Issue
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with.....

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Lutheran Church of the Cross
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 www.churchofthecross.ca
churchofthecross@shaw.ca
 Pastors Laura & Phil Holck
 Intern Kate Zaiser
 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.

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Vision
 To be a vibrant and growing
 congregation unified in shar-
 ing the love of Christ through words and actions.



Easter Weekend Events

Family Easter Vigil worship

at 8:08 pm The Sabbath Day: The Word is silent. When the Sabbath ends, the community gathers to keep candle-light vigil, telling stories of God's saving acts and looking to God with hope for de-

liverance now. We celebrate with family friendly worship and sparkling drinks!

Easter Sunrise worship 7:12 am Mark 16:1-8 The women discover the empty tomb and we celebrate at dawn!

Easter Breakfast 8-9:30 am Sponsored by the Men's Breakfast.

Easter Day worship 10 am Mark 16:1-8 Traditional Easter worship with hymns, communion, and reverberating Alleluias!

YOUTH FUNDRAISING FOR CLAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH

threads



BOTTLE DRIVE

FUNDRAISING



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 Lise Wilson, the pastors, or check in with the church office. We will find someone for you!

The Way of Christ
7 pm Thursday May 3 - 5 pm Sunday May 6
Kuriakos (Sylvan Lake)

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

Ladies!

Would you like to cook and eat with the women of the Turkish community?



We are gathering at Dianne's house
31 Deer Ridge Way SE

Saturday, April 21st

11:30 am—1:30 pm

Please RSVP to Dianne—403-255-4792 or
churchofthecross@shaw.ca

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

SUNDAY COFFEE SET-UP

April—Social Ministry

May—Church Council



Acolytes for April

April 1—Leo Rettie & Jamie Risse

April 8—Max Thomson & Leo Rettie

April 15—Jamie Risse & Kim Reath

April 22—Max Thomson & Kim Reath

April 29—Isak Larsen, Leo Rettie & Jamie Risse



Morning Prayer—9 am—Monday—Thursday

**Fellowship & Coffee at
Tim Hortons—every Tuesday morning at 10 am.
11472 Braeside Dr. SW.**



April 5th

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

We would like to welcome you to Church of the Cross for
the PHD program.

PHD means – POTLUCK/HYMN/DEVOTION

There will be a potluck lunch, a presentation regarding the contemplation and reflections of the composer of a hymn (*chosen by the presenter*), then a devotion followed by a short hymn sing.

Please join us for:

GOOD FOOD/ GOOD COMPANY/ FUN/ KNOWLEDGE

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Cause of the month for April

In Mission with El Salvador—Pastor Brian Rude—(see letter below)

Saturday, April 28th will be the annual Walk or Run for Love to raise funds for **Lutheran Hospital Ministries**. See the Information Centre for registration forms, pledge sheets and waivers.

We were able to send to Canadian Lutheran World Relief **\$532.06** raised from our annual Shrove Tuesday Supper. Thank you to all who participated!

Our next meeting will be **Monday, April 30th** at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

March 13, 2018

Church of the Cross
16520 Elbow Drive
Calgary, AB T2W 1G4

Dear friends,

On behalf of Pastor Brian Rude and our Synod's Global Missions Ministry Team, thank you for your generous contribution during 2017 to – *"En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador"*.

Pastor Brian will be advised of your gift which will enable this ministry to continue and will be sending a personal letter of appreciation to you.

Included with this correspondence is a 2017 Report from Pastor Brian and a 2017 Financial Report. Funds received in 2017 are used for ministry expenses in 2018.

Pastor Brian will be with us for the Synod of Alberta and the Territories Synod Convention, June 14-16, 2018 at the UofA – Augustana Campus, Camrose and is available for speaking engagements following the Convention through to the end of June. If you or your congregation would like to arrange for Pastor Brian to be with you, please contact the Synod Office via email at: Darla@albertasynod.ca

May God bless our ongoing partnership in ministry for the sake of the Gospel!

"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,



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



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

ITEMS NEEDED FOR BLAST

Do you have any of these items laying around?



- 4-litre jars
- 1-gallon plastic ice cream tubs with lids
- colored cellophane

We can use them! Please bring your contributions by **Sunday, April 8.**

The donation box is under the table near the mail-boxes. Thank you!!

Women's Ministry



Women's Bible Study Group would like to invite you to join us on **Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** for a study from "*Gather Magazine*" on the topic: *Multiple meanings: Learning from other interpretations ...* by Mark Allan Powell

April: Session four – The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-20)



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

Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute is sending their concert choir on tour! They are scheduled to perform at **Lutheran Church of the Cross at 7:30 pm on Saturday, April 14**. One of our own youth, Hannah Rude, is attending LCBI and will be singing with the concert choir that night. The tour organizers are looking to **billet the 37 people (high school students and their chaperones)** in groups of 2 or more that Saturday night. Hosts would pick up their billets at the concert on Saturday evening and return them to ELCOC on Sunday morning. Please check your calendar and let me, **Lisa Rude** (rudel@telus.net, 403-686-7311), know ASAP if you can help us out.

The evening features a broad range of musical selections, as well as a number of small vocal and instrumental ensembles, and some dramatic presentations. This exceptional evening of entertainment is provided free of charge. A free-will offering taken during the service to support the school and the choir on their tour.



**LUTHERAN COLLEGIATE
BIBLE INSTITUTE**



Synod of Alberta and the Territories
2018 Congregational Life Event

NO ONE IS IMMUNE:
**Taking Action for Mental Health
in Congregations**

Saturday April 14, 2018
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,

8:30 am to 3:45 pm
40 Holmes Street, Red Deer

LEAD ... love God with all your heart



On **Friday April 6**, our Affirming Ministry Team will attend the *Coming Out in Faith Monologues* at Hillhurst United. We'll car-pool from the Church of the Cross parking lot at 6:30 pm. **If you're interested in joining us, contact the church office & RSVP so we can arrange enough rides.**

The Coming Out in Faith Monologues is an event celebrating our diverse personal stories of coming out from the LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) community. Our performers stories reveal how their spirituality connected and collided with their coming out journey. Different faith backgrounds and experiences are represented, which makes for a fun, diverse, and enlightening night!

This show is for everyone. This is a celebratory and resilience building event for the LGBTQ community and allies are welcome to attend the event and celebrate with us. Bring your friends, family, neighbours!

Tickets at the door: Cash only \$15

Affirming Ministry Team

Pastor Laura, Intern Kate, Judy Shore-Isford, Marilyn Jonasson, Dianne Fortier and Betty Jane Hegerat



Coming Out In Faith Monologues

True heartfelt stories from the LGBTQ+ community, on how faith and spirituality has connected or collided with their coming out journey! All are welcome for this poignant and uplifting experience.

Friday April 6, 2018 and Saturday April 7, 2018
Doors open at 7 pm; show time 7:30 pm

Hillhurst United Church 1227 Kensington Close NW
Tickets available through www.hillhurstunited.com and Eventbrite.
\$15 General | \$12 Student/Senior/Low Income



Questions? Contact
keith.murray@hillhurstunited.com
or pam.rockier@hillhurstunited.com





God Moments

When I started writing this “God Moments” column I

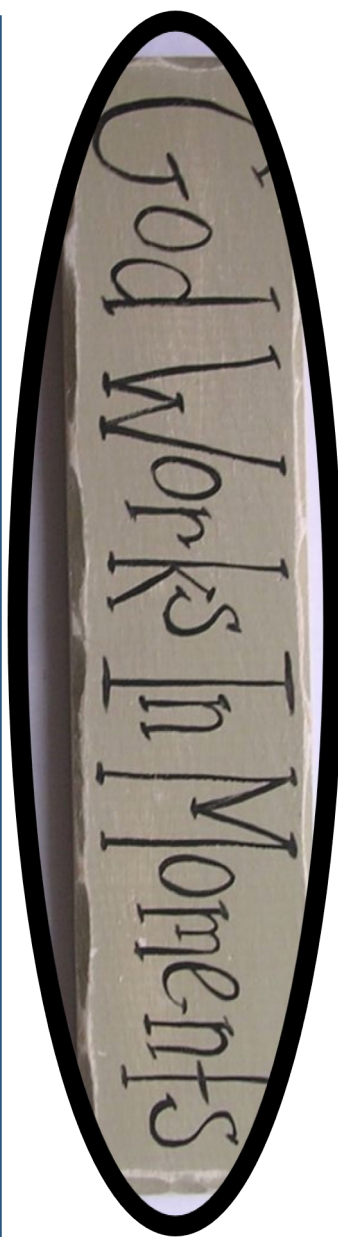
had just arrived and it was really easy to recognize where God was at work in this community because it was all new to me. Now I am six months in and instead of keeping my eyes peeled for how God is working, my attention is focused on everything I have to get done each week. What once amazed me as God’s work here, I now take for granted as what always happens here.

A few weeks ago as I dwelled in the Old Testament text for the fourth Sunday in Lent (Numbers 21:4-9), I thought about how the Israelites praised God for delivering them out from Egypt (Exodus 14-15) and were initially amazed by God’s provision of manna (*What is it?*, Exodus 16:15). However, as they spent more time in the wilderness they began to take the daily miracle of manna for granted. By Numbers 21 they complain “we detest this miserable food.’ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.” (21:5b-6). At God’s

command “Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.” (21:9). They had to look up at God’s to experience the life that God was offering them.

I realized that I’ve been looking down, taking what God is doing here for granted, when I need to look up in order to recognize what God is doing here all the time. When I look up, I begin to see how God is working here – in worship, in bible studies, in council meetings and in all the small groups – to reawaken and renew the life of this community. Lent is a great time to pause and look up to see what God is doing, and as we enter into the season of Easter I encourage you to look for how God is providing resurrection hope in your life and in the life of this community.

Intern Kate is in the office Monday to Wednesday. Please stop by and meet her if you haven’t already met her.



LEAD ... love God with all your heart

I have, just recently, become a much improved listener. This is because we have a new speaker in our family, my granddaughter: Melissa Teran Christensen. Granted, the majority of her speech could be best described as “gibberish”, but every once in awhile she comes out with a perfectly formed sentence like “This cookie is really good” or “I’m not to play with the remote” as she merrily changes Grandpa’s television station with a twinkle in her eye. But Melissa has my attention and I have learned that attentive listening whether she’s babbling merrily along or if she’s gone silent....I am in tune with her every word and action.

And here at Church of the Cross, we have a new group of listeners: **The LEAD**

Listening Team. Our Congregation is continuing our journey to grow and develop leaders with deep, bold and consequential faith. This journey is called LEAD which stands for **Living Every Day As Disciples**. If you recall, last summer we completed the LEAD Assessment which helped our Council assess where we are as a congregation. From that assessment we determined the vital behavior we need to develop within our congregation is listening. This listening behavior includes listening to God, listening to our congregation and listening to the community at large.

The Listening Team has been formed to help lead our congregation in developing its capacity to listen to God, to each other and to listen to our neighborhood. The team will begin training in April and we ask for your prayers and support for each member of this team: **Sasha**

Craven, Gates Fortier, Hilary Gray, Terry Kopperud, Barry Kopperud, Doug Normandin, Kate Zaiser, Grandpa Scott Christensen and, our spiritual leaders: Pastor Laura Holck and Pastor Phil Holck. Ryan Andersen will provide his community expertise during our training as well.

The Listening Team training will help us hone our deep listening skills, tuning in to God more clearly, with a firm belief that God is working in others just as surely as God

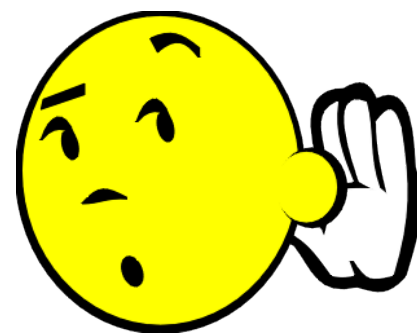
is working in our own lives. Our purpose is to lead our congregation into new partnerships and participating and supporting God’s mission in new ways.

I am excited about listening to every

word that Melissa speaks and I am equally excited about our Listening Team and our journey with you as we embark on our quest to **Lead Every Day As A Disciple...God’s Disciples in action.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you!

Scott Christensen



LEAD ... love God with all your heart

Splashed with Promise is currently looking for someone interested in taking pictures for baptisms within the church. If you are interested please contact Sandi 403-228-0463 for details.



JOIN US ON APRIL 28, 2018 FOR OUR "21TH ANNUAL WALK/RUN FOR LOVE"



Thank you to all walkers and donors for your unfailing generosity towards Lutheran Hospital Ministries – Southern Alberta in the past walks. We are again asking for your support.

Our annual fundraiser, a Walk/Run for Love, will take place on **April 28, 2018**.

Registration is at Faith Lutheran Church, 1903 – 19 Ave NW, at 8:30 am. Coffee, tea, water and muffins will be available. The walk, a 5 km course through Confederation Park, begins at 9:30 am. Finish with a light lunch. If you love to walk or run, come and join us.

This once-a-year fundraiser supports the Ministry in our training program for volunteer visitors, who visit patients in hospitals and care facilities. If you cannot walk or run, consider being a "virtual walker" by collecting pledges.

Our goal this year is to raise \$20,000.

There are registration and waiver forms on the Information Booth. If you can't walk, please sponsor someone who will be walking.

News from the SW Area Refugee Mission

our new name and acronym is S.W.A.R.M.—like God’s busy worker bees :-)

We are delighted to share the joyous news that Ehsan Aldayoub, one of our Christian refugee friends, was married February 16/2018. Ehsan’s wife Waad, is still caught in Syria and he cannot return to Syria after escaping the war 2 years ago. Their marriage in Lebanon was with travel permission from the Canadian and Lebanese governments. The bride and groom (both engineers) met in their Christian Orthodox church in Syria. We ask for prayers for this young couple, divided by war, red tape, and challenging finances. They trust that God will help them to be united in Canada.

We welcome donations/wedding gifts to help with their many expenses as they work to bring Waad to Canada. If you would like to make a donation to assist with the significant expenses related to the process of Family Class Sponsorship/Immigration to Canada, please consider one of the following:

- Personal cheque or cash to Ehsan directly. His full name is Ehsan Aldayoub. The SWARM will ensure they are delivered to Ehsan. Please include your name and church so your gift can be acknowledged.
- Make a donation through your church offering envelope/process. **Mark your envelope/cheque SWARM Support. DO NOT MAKE IT OUT TO CHURCH OF THE CROSS**



**Please note that we appreciate the generous offers of household gifts but the newlyweds do not yet have a home or storage.

Thank you. If you have questions or need more information please contact Jaqui Anderson at [403-453-4071](tel:403-453-4071) or the key contact for the Refugee Mission at your church (Walter Driedger).

First Assembly invites you to our FIRST Ever Life Seasons Event.

Are you coming into your Refreshing Years where you are ready to engage at new level, doing new things, exploring new possibilities? You are done raising children, you’ve put in your 9 to 5 and you are in the life season that you have worked and dreamed about for years? If so this Event is for you. We are excited to have special guests, Pastor Ken and Joan Bombay join us. We also have other interesting Guests available to answer questions, stir ideas, generally, get you excited for your next Life Season.

When: April 28, 10:00am to 3:00pm

Where: First Assembly, 6031 Elbow Dr SW

Register: [Click Here](#) (light lunch provided)

Cost \$5.00per person

April 2018 SWCRC Programs

Residents living in south west communities have **FREE** access to all our programs and services .
Do you need information on community resources or need a referral to other agencies? Are you interested in registering for a program or booking a time with one of our resource workers, please contact the office at **403 238-9222** for details on the referral process and the dates of availability.

April Programs and Workshops

Chat 'N Play Drop by and meet other parents for coffee and play time.

Mondays 1:00—2:45

Tax Clinic free one-on-one tax consultation service for individuals , couples or families with low income

Monday 3:00-6:00pm April 16th

Computer Skills Workshop free 4-session beginner computer classes is provided in partnership with South Wood Public Library.

Tuesday 1:00-3:00pm April 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th

Family Literacy Program free program for immigrant families with children 3-5 years old to get their children ready for school

Wednesdays 12:30-2:30pm

Youth Tutoring For students in grade 7—12.

Wednesdays evenings from 6:00-7:30 starting January 10th

My Community, My Home This is a new **bi-weekly** program at the SWCRC that offers senior immigrant women (50+) a place to build friendship, develop community support and reduce isolation

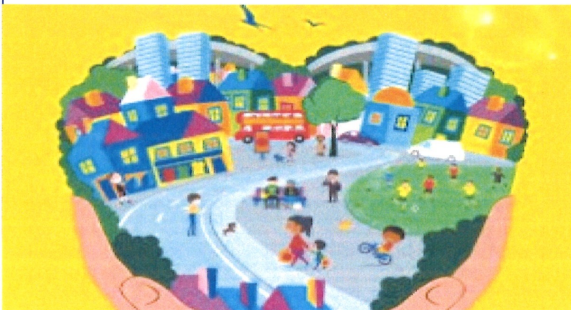
Thursdays 12:30-2:30 March 8th and March 22nd 2018

Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting an 8-week program for parents of children of all ages.

Thursdays Evenings 6:00-8:00pm Starting April 5th

Living Life to the Full a 6 Week program provided by Canadian Mental Health Association

Wednesdays 10:00– 12:00pm starting June 13 – July 18th



There are times in everyone's life when challenges arise and we need someone to help us work through our difficulties. Since 2003 the South-West Communities Resource Centre has provided resources, information, referral, counseling, education and prevention programs to help our neighbours to deal with challenges, develop a sense of belonging, learn new skills and build resilience to stress and adversity.

Community Partnerships

The SWCRC builds partnerships that provide a variety of services that are closer to those who live in the south west. Agencies that offer programs in our Resource Centre:

Aspen Family: tax clinic workshop providing assistance to prepare your 2017 tax

Calgary Immigrant Women Association: Offering individual and Family counselling

Homebridge: Homeless Prevention Program; Children's Cottage

Immigrant Service Calgary: Family Literacy Program

South-West Communities Resource Centre

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

For ticket purchases and auction
item donations please visit
www.kuriakos.ab.ca

Third Annual *Kuriakos*

Gathers Together

Blindman Valley Ag Centre - Bentley, Alberta

Live & Silent Auction
Fabulous Food
Great Entertainment

\$60/Plate or
\$450/Table of 8

Saturday
April 28

4:30 - 9:00 pm

Doors open
4:00 pm

Accommodations Available Upon Request



Dear Beloved of God –

I love the account of Jesus journeying on the road with two of his followers to Emmaus.

Their hearts are heavy with grief. As they walk they are talking with each other about all that had taken place, and while they were walking and talking, Jesus comes to them and walks with them.

“What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” Jesus asks. *“Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”* *“What things?”* And the conversation continues. And then Jesus, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, interprets to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

Invited to stay with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him...and they returned that hour to Jerusalem to the eleven and their companions. Then they shared what had happened on the road, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

In our increasingly polarized world, amidst fears both known and unknown, Jesus our risen Lord continues to walk with us and to make His presence known in the breaking of the bread.

Eugene Peterson in his book, *Practicing Resurrection*, writes: *“The practice of resurrection is not a do-it-yourself self-help project. It is God’s project and God is engaged full time in carrying it out. Grace is everywhere. God is Christ is actively doing for and in us everything involved in the practice of resurrection. So, what is there left for us to do? Receive. Receive the gift.”*

May we, this Easter, once again recognize our Risen Lord, Jesus, walking with us – opening our hearts and minds to God’s living Word – and filling us with the hope and peace that surpasses our human understanding.

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 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Cause of the Month In Mission with El Salvador</p> </div>						
1 Sunrise service-7:12 am Breakfast—8 am Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG—1—3 pm	2 OFFICE CLOSED Kodaly—9:15 am Cantare—6—10	3 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Faith Formation—7 pm	4 Sandwich Making—7:30 Morning Prayer—9 Bible Study—9:30 am AHS Caregivers—1 pm SWCG—7 pm	5 Morning Prayer—9 am PHD—12—1:15 pm Kodaly—1:15 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	6 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm <i>Coming Out Monologues—meet @ church at 6:30</i>	7 Men's Breakfast- 8 am Listening Team Training—1—5 pm
8 Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG—1—3 pm Listening Team Training-11:30-2:30 YOUTH BOTTLE DRIVE	9 Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare—6—10	10 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Prayer & Care—10:30 am Faith Formation—7 pm	11 Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am Cantare—6—10 SWCG—7 pm Council Mtg.—7 pm	12 Morning Prayer—9 am Quilting—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	13 Office Closed Cantare—6—10 pm SWCG—7 pm	14 Way of Christ Training—9—3:30 pm LCBI Choir concert—7:30 pm
15 Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship Youth Faith Lens Soup Making—noon SWCG—1—3 pm	16 Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare—6—10	17 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am World Day of Prayer Mtg.—10 am Faith Formation—7 pm	18 Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am Cantare—6—10 SWCG—7 pm	19 Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:30 pm	20 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	21 Men's Breakfast—8 am Women's brunch with Turkish women—11:30 am—1:30 pm (Dianne's)
22 Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am— BLAST—following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG—1—3 pm EARTH DAY	23 Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare—6—10	24 Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Faith Formation—7 pm Mentor Night @ Confirmation	25 Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am Cantare—6—10 SWCG—7 pm	26 Morning Prayer—9 Kodaly—1:15 pm Caring Conversations—5 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm	27 Office Closed SWCG—7 pm	28 Women's Ministry—10 am
29 Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG—1—4 pm FOOD BANK SUN	30 Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare—6—10 Social Ministry Mtg.—7 pm		<p>Communion Sundays April 1, 15 & 29</p>			

A HOME LITURGY FOR HOLY WEEK

Each day during Holy Week, the youngest person present at the evening meal asks a question.

Items needed: A Bible; six candles (one of them red); a palm cross; a copy of the Lord's prayer; a bottle of perfume; a small purse with coins; a bowl of water and a hand towel; a wooden cross; the makings of an Easter garden and a special Easter candle (see the activities for Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday for details).

Palm Sunday

Place six candles on the family table and arrange them in the shape of a circle. Light the six candles. Place a palm cross in the center of the circle.

Reading: Mark 11:1-11

*When they were nearing Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany on Mount Olives, he sent off two of the disciples with instructions: "Go to the village across from you. As soon as you enter, you'll find a colt tethered, one that has never yet been ridden. Untie it and bring it. If anyone asks, 'What are you doing?' say, 'The Master needs him, and will return him right away.'" ⁴⁻⁷ They went and found a colt tied to a door at the street corner and untied it. Some of those standing there said, "What are you doing untying that colt?" The disciples replied exactly as Jesus had instructed them, and the people let them alone. They brought the colt to Jesus, spread their coats on it, and he mounted. ⁸⁻
¹⁰ The people gave him a wonderful welcome, some throwing their coats on the street, others spreading out rushes they had cut in the fields. Running ahead and following after, they were calling out,*

Hosanna!

Blessed is the One who comes in God's name!

Blessed the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in highest heaven!

¹¹ *[Jesus] entered Jerusalem, then entered the Temple. He looked around, taking it all in. But by now it was late, so he went back to Bethany with the Twelve.*

Question: "Why do we have six candles and this palm cross on the table today?"

Answer: "Because this is Holy Week. In six days, it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember how all the people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem by waving palm branches."

(You might discuss the ways your family welcomes Jesus into your home.)

Holy Monday

Light five of the candles in the circle. Place a copy of the Lord's prayer in the center of the circle.

Reading: Mark 11:15-19

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ *[Jesus and his disciples] arrived at Jerusalem. Immediately on entering the Temple Jesus started throwing out everyone who had set up shop there, buying and selling. He kicked over the tables of the bankers and the stalls of the pigeon merchants. He didn't let anyone even carry a basket through the Temple. And then he taught them, quoting this text:*

*My house was designated a house of prayer for the nations;
You've turned it into a hangout for thieves.*

¹⁸ *The high priests and religion scholars heard what was going on and plotted how they might get rid of him. They panicked, for the entire crowd was carried away by his teaching.*

¹⁹ *At evening, Jesus and his disciples left the city.*

Question: "Why do we have five candles and the Lord's Prayer on the table today?"

Answer: "Because this is Holy Week. In five days, it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember that Jesus threw the money-changers out of the temple. 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' he told them. His special prayer is for us all."

(You might discuss the ways your family prays together.)

Holy Tuesday

Light four of the candles in the circle. Place a bottle of perfume in the center of the circle.

Reading: Mark 14:3-9

³⁻⁵ *Jesus was at Bethany, a guest of Simon the Leper. While he was eating dinner, a woman came up carrying a bottle of very expensive perfume. Opening the bottle, she poured it on his head. Some of the guests became furious among themselves. "That's criminal! A sheer waste! This perfume could have been sold for well over a year's wages and handed out to the poor." They swelled up in anger, nearly bursting with indignation over her. ⁶⁻⁹ But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why are you giving her a hard time? She has just done something wonderfully significant for me. You will have the poor with you every day for the rest of your lives. Whenever you feel like it, you can do something for them. Not so with me. She did what she could when she could—she pre-anointed my body for burial. And you can be sure that wherever in the whole world the Message is preached, what she just did is going to be talked about admiringly."*

Question: "Why do we have four candles and some perfume on the table today?"

Answer: "Because this is Holy Week. In four days, it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember the woman from Bethany who anointed Jesus' head, who recognized that he was the King of all kings and would soon die."

(You might discuss the ways your family honors or praises Jesus.)

Holy Wednesday

Light three of the candles in the circle. Place a small purse with coins in it in the center of the circle.

Reading: Mark 14:10-11

¹⁰⁻¹¹ *Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the cabal of high priests, determined to betray him. They couldn't believe their ears, and promised to pay him well. He started looking for just the right moment to hand him over.*

Question: "Why do we have three candles and this purse full of money on the table today?"

Answer: "Because this is Holy Week. In three days, it's Good Friday, and Easter is coming. Today we remember that Jesus was betrayed for money, and that Jesus wants us to give what we can to help those in the world who are poor."

(You might discuss the ways your family uses money in light of today's and yesterday's readings.)

Maundy Thursday

Light two of the candles in the circle. Place a bowl of water and a hand towel in the center of the circle.

Readings: Mark 14:22-25; John 13:4-5, 12-15

^{Mark 14:22} *In the course of their meal, having taken and blessed the bread, he broke it and gave it to them. Then he said, "Take, this is my body."²³⁻²⁴ Taking the chalice, he gave it to them, thanking God, and they all drank from it. He said, "This is my blood, God's new covenant, poured out for many people."²⁵ *I'll not be drinking wine again until the new day when I drink it in the kingdom of God."**

^{John 13:4} *[Jesus] got up from the supper table, set aside his robe, and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with his apron.... After he had finished washing their feet, he took his robe, put it back on, and went back to his place at the table.¹²⁻¹⁷ Then he said, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Master,' and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've laid down a pattern for you. What I've done, you do.*

Question: "Why do we have two candles and this towel and water on the table today?"

Answer: "Because this is Holy Week. One candle is for Good Friday and one is for today, Maundy Thursday. Today we remember the last Passover meal that Jesus celebrated with his friends and that he washed their feet. Our communion service is based on this meal."

(You might discuss the ways your family meals bind you together and the way the communion meal binds you together with other people.)

Good Friday

Light the red candle in the circle. Place a wooden cross in the center of the circle. Blu-tack the palm cross to the inside of your front door and leave it in place until Pentecost Sunday.

Blow out the candle.

Question: "Why did we blow out the candle today?"

Answer: "Today is Good Friday. This is the day that we remember that Jesus died and went home to God."

Reading: Mark 15:21-39

²¹ *There was a man walking by, coming from work, Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. They made him carry Jesus' cross.* ²²⁻²⁴ *The soldiers brought Jesus to Golgotha, meaning "Skull Hill." They offered him a mild painkiller (wine mixed with myrrh), but he wouldn't take it. And they nailed him to the cross. They divided up his clothes and threw dice to see who would get them.* ²⁵⁻
³⁰ *They nailed him up at nine o'clock in the morning. The charge against him—the king of the Jews—was printed on a poster. Along with him, they crucified two criminals, one to his right, the other to his left. People passing along the road jeered, shaking their heads in mock lament: "You bragged that you could tear down the Temple and then rebuild it in three days—so show us your stuff! Save yourself! If you're really God's Son, come down from that cross!"* ³¹⁻³² *The high priests, along with the religion scholars, were right there mixing it up with the rest of them, having a great time poking fun at him: "He saved others—but he can't save himself! Messiah, is he? King of Israel? Then let him climb down from that cross. We'll all become believers then!" Even the men crucified alongside him joined in the mockery.* ³³⁻³⁴ *At noon the sky became extremely dark. The darkness lasted three hours. At three o'clock, Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"* ³⁵⁻³⁶ *Some of the bystanders who heard him said, "Listen, he's calling for Elijah." Someone ran off, soaked a sponge in sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down."* ³⁷⁻³⁹ *But Jesus, with a loud cry, gave his last breath. At that moment the Temple curtain ripped right down the middle. When the Roman captain standing guard in front of him saw that he had quit breathing, he said, "This has to be the Son of God!"*

(Everyone is quiet for a few minutes.)

Holy Saturday

Reading: Mark 15:42-47

⁴²⁻⁴⁵ Late in the afternoon, since it was the Day of Preparation (that is, Sabbath eve), Joseph of Arimathea, a highly respected member of the Jewish Council, came. He was one who lived expectantly, on the lookout for the kingdom of God. Working up his courage, he went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate questioned whether he could be dead that soon and called for the captain to verify that he was really dead. Assured by the captain, he gave Joseph the corpse. ⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷ Having already purchased a linen shroud, Joseph took him down, wrapped him in the shroud, placed him in a tomb that had been cut into the rock, and rolled a large stone across the opening. Mary Magdalene and Mary, mother of Joses, watched the burial.

Together make an Easter garden on a tray or a plate. An Easter garden includes a model of a cave, with a stone covering the entrance that can be rolled away on Easter Day. Spring flowers are traditionally included in the garden. use your imagination. Place your Easter garden in the center of the circle of candles.

Easter Sunday

Place a special Easter candle beside the model of the tomb/cave. Light all seven candles. Roll away the stone from the garden tomb/cave. Decorate the candle circle with flowers, Easter eggs, or anything else you would like that will make your Easter garden and candle circle festive.

Reading: Mark 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could embalm him. Very early on Sunday morning, as the sun rose, they went to the tomb. They worried out loud to each other, "Who will roll back the stone from the tomb for us?" ⁴⁻
⁵ Then they looked up, saw that it had been rolled back—it was a huge stone—and walked right in. They saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed all in white. They were completely taken aback, astonished. ⁶⁻⁷ He said, "Don't be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the One they nailed on the cross. He's been raised up; he's here no longer. You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now—on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You'll see him there, exactly as he said." ⁸ They got out as fast as they could, beside themselves, their heads swimming. Stunned, they said nothing to anyone.

Question: "Why do we have Easter eggs and all these flowers and candles today?"

Answer: "Because today is Easter, the last day of Holy Week. Today we remember that Jesus rose from the dead and showed us the new life God offers to everyone, not just after we die, but through all our moments and our days now."

(Cheer or shout "Alleluia!")