



In it for the long haul

There have been many times in human history where communities, even communities of faith, have needed to hunker down and work together over the long haul.

Imagine the church in Europe during WWII and the faith, responsibility, and commitment that was required to hold communities together.

Imagine the early church, as its members were being physically tortured for their faith.

Imagine people of faith in Germany during the Reformation as issues of faith were being disputed, people were revolting, and the official church was responding in backlash.

Of course these are but a few examples. But these examples remind us of the power and need for community.

In community we can weather any storm.

The strength and resolve of our community is needed NOW. Now is the time to stand with and for another. Now is the time for creative effort. Now is the time to reach out and support one another. Now is the time to remember that our community offers strength, resolve, and resilience to all of its members...for the sake of the world God loves. Now is the time to support people all around us, remembering that our faith points us to an unseen reality beyond the reality unfolding before us: God is gracious, powerful, loving, and big enough to handle all of our challenges and conquer all of our fears. COVID, though all-encompassing to us, is but a small thing to God; meaning God is BIGGER. God is CAPABLE. And God is TRUSTWORTHY.

COVID-19 will be with us for the foreseeable future. As we wait and pray for a game-changing vaccine or break in the power of the virus, we turn inward for strength, remembering that we are made in the image of the invisible, creative and all-powerful God. We turn inward so we might remember who and whose we are so we are able to turn outward with power and resolve.

In these days our actions and our words matter.

We are a light for the whole world, living in hope, joy, and even good humor amidst the present physical reality of masks, hand sanitizer, and distance. We may not be able to change our circumstances, but we can change the tenor and the experience of these circumstances. We can be encouraging, hopeful, funny, present, helpful. We can still be friends and support those around us.

If you are struggling, please call or set up a visit with one or both of the pastors. We are providing a safe space at church for pastoral visits, minimizing health risks so we may meet in person. We recognize that everyone has good and bad stretches of time. We're here to hear you and help you.

If you are having a good day, share that joy with someone else. Even small things make a big difference these days!

We have intentionally waited for schools to reopen and for people to get adjusted to the new rhythms of fall to announce in-person offerings at church, but we too are gearing up to network, learn, and support one another in person. We are thinking about your health and safety and offering opportunities to connect with one another that mitigate the risks.

Inside this Crossbeams you will find opportunities to participate in book discussions and bible studies, in-person worship, and volunteering opportunities. As always, I invite you to be prudent without panic. Calculate your own level of risk and participate online and in-person as you are comfortable. Remember that the virus is still active. Our primary calling is to care for one another. We are especially sensitive to people who are feeling left out or left behind because so many opportunities for in-person experiences are opening up. For that reason, we continue to offer online-only experiences and ask you all to be compassionate and continue to participate with people who experience vulnerability.

Love yourself and love your neighbour. Honour your choices and the choices of others.

We are moving forward together, in it for the long haul. And as always, let us know how we can help.

[Jesus said,] 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to [God]."

Pastor Laura

Marriage: 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.

7...Then God formed a human body from the dust of the ground and breathed into its nostrils the breath of life; and the body became a living being....¹⁸ Then God said, "It is not good that the human should be alone; I will make a helper as its partner."¹⁹ So out of the ground God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the human to see what they would be called; and whatever the human called every living creature, that was its name.²⁰ The human gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the human there was not found a helper as a partner.²¹ So God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the human, and God took one of the human's ribs and closed up its place with flesh.²² And the rib that God had taken from the human, God made into a another human.²³ Then the human who had named all the living creatures said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Human for out of Human this one was taken."

²⁴ Therefore one person leaves their parents and clings to their spouse, and they become one

flesh.²⁵ And the humans were both naked, and were not ashamed.

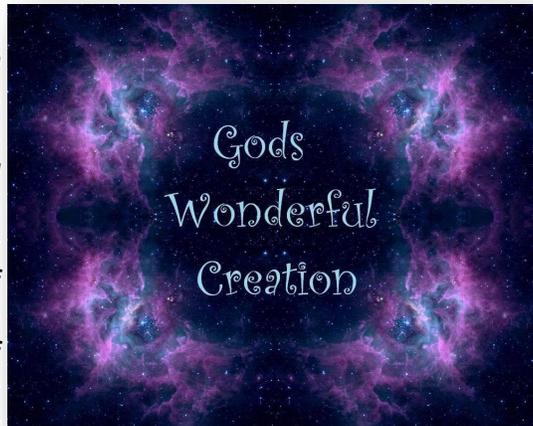
Genesis 2:7-25 NRSV, made inclusive

It is surprising how new and revelatory the scripture sounds when we replace gender-specific language with inclusive language. Here the first human being is unequalled and unmatched in partnership, help, and companionship until God uses a rib to create another human being. The new human being is completely equal to the first. There are no grounds for considering that one is stronger than the other, nor more capable, nor closer to God's heart.

Also, there is no indication (as there is in Genesis 1) that either of these beings are created in God's image; the first is made from the dust of the ground and the second from the rib of the one who is made from the dust of the ground. They are both creations of God. Verses 24 and 25 clarify the reason for the inclusion of this passage in scripture: Human beings are created to be in intimate relationships. Intimate relationships cause people to leave their parents and their homes and cling to one another, creating new homes. In these new and intimate relationships, human beings can be completely vulnerable ("naked") with one another without shame.

Without gender-specific language, we see that human beings are free to choose their partners. The things that matter in intimate relationships are intimacy, vulnerability, partnership, helping one another, equity and equality, and clinging to one another.

Pastor Laura



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Weekly offerings may be mailed into the church, or go on our website www.churchofthecross.ca

and click the **DONATE** button, **OR**
e-transfer to churchofthecross@shaw.ca

OR mail to: 10620 Elbow Dr. SW

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

NOVEMBER 1st IS ALL SAINTS DAY



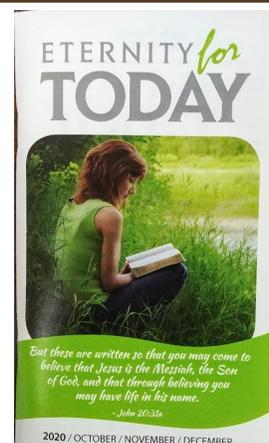
Please send into the office, the names of your loved ones that have passed away in the last year so that we can light a candle and honor them at the All Saints worship service. **Please have the names into Dianne by October 28.**

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!



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From the Church of the Cross Library

Learning to learn: Who should I trust?

To develop your own critical thinking skills, learn about events without being influenced by a third party's opinion. 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 understand 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 subjectivity 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, non-fiction writing, 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?

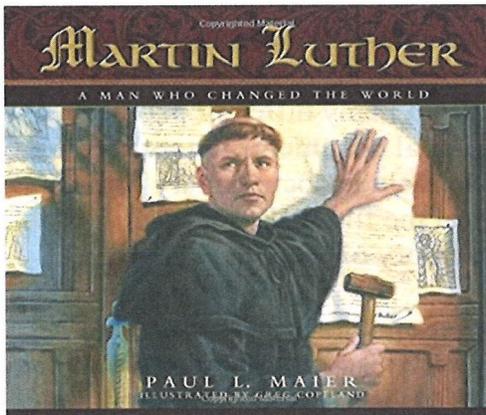
- Ask yourself, "Is the author telling their own story?" If so, it's a primary source.
- If not, ask yourself, "Did the author get this information directly from the person whose story it is?" If so, it's a secondary source.
- If not, it's a tertiary (third-hand) source.

Church Library



On our library shelves

October is the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, Reformation, and Confirmation (Affirmation of Faith)

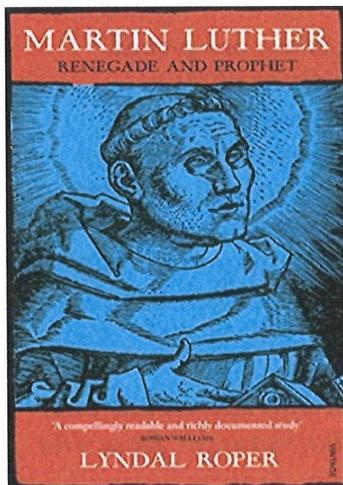


***Martin Luther: A Man Who Changed the World*, by Paul L. Maier. Concordia Publishing House, 2004.**

More than anything, Martin Luther wanted peace with God. His search led into the Bible, where he learned about salvation through faith. This discovery cost Luther to challenge the church to return to the roots of the Christian faith.

The church leaders like things the way they were, however, and tried to stop Martin Luther. But he stood his ground, and his tireless work led to the

reformation of the church and to far-reaching changes in society. Here is a story of adventure, courage, and – most of all – faith. Here is the story of a man who changed the world.



***Martin Luther: Renegade and Prophet*, by Lyndal Roper. Vintage, 2017**

The first historical biography, for many decades, of Martin Luther (1483-1546), the rebellious monk who ushered in the modern world.

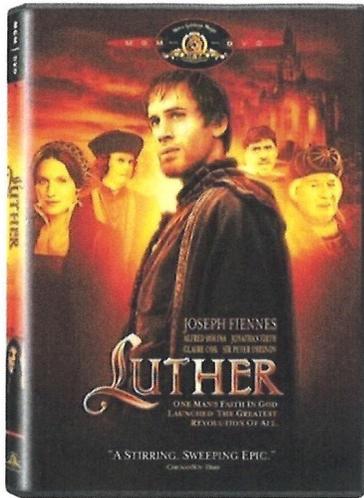
When on October 31, 1517 an unknown monk nailed a theological pamphlet to the church door in a small university town, he set in motion a process that helped usher in the modern world. Within a few years Luther's ideas had spread like wildfire. His attempts to reform Christianity by returning it to its biblical roots split the Western Church, divided Europe and polarised people's beliefs, leading to religious persecution, social unrest and war; and in the long run his ideas would help

break the grip of religion on every sphere of life.

Yet Luther was a deeply flawed human being: a fervent believer tormented by spiritual language yet whose attacks on his opponents were vicious and foul-mouthed; a married ex-monk who liberated human sexuality from the stigma of sin but who insisted that women should know their place; a religious fundamentalist, Jew-hater and political reactionary who called 'for the private and public murder of the peasants' who had risen against their lords in response to his teaching. And perhaps surprisingly, the man who helped create in the modern world was not modern himself: for him the devil was not a figure of speech but a real, physical presence.

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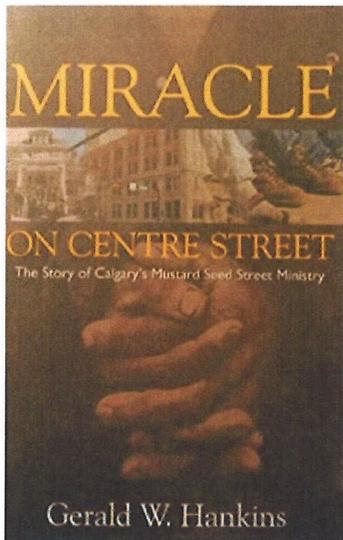
As an acclaimed historian, Lyndal Roper explains how Luther's impact can only be understood against the background of the times. As a brilliant biographer, she gives us the flesh-and-blood figure. She reveals the often contradictory psychological forces that drove Luther forward and the dynamics they unleashed, which turned a small act of protest into a battle against the power of the Church.



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Luther, starring Joseph Fiennes, MGM Studios, 2004. (DVD)

Luther is the story of a spiritual leader, German monk Martin Luther (Joseph Fiennes), in opposition to the religious orthodoxy of the time (in his case, the 1600s). His goal--to bring God to the people and to take money, fear, and shame out of the equation--made him a reformer to some, a heretic to others.



Miracle on Centre Street: The Story of Calgary's Mustard Seed Street Ministry, by Gerald W. Hankins. Essence Publishing, 2004.

You may find that reading this book changes you. During the course of researching for and writing the book the authored minutes he was changed. As a child he and his family new extreme poverty. During a total of 19 years living outside Canada, 12 of which she worked as a doctor in a mission hospital in Nepal, he saw far too many people struggling to keep alive. But only in the past two or three years while studying and writing about the work of the mustard seed has he been able to understand reasons for the burgeoning problem of homelessness in prosperous Canada.

Call it what you will, the homeless and street people of Calgary have been marginalized, ghettoized, victimized and rejected by our society. The reasons for their suffering or complex, and more often than not, the fault is not bears. Whoever they are and whatever their plight, the Mustard Seed opens its doors to them at offers food, a warm and safe place to stay and, if requested, a helping hand to make a fresh start.

The Mustard Seed cares for those that no one else seems to care about.

October Bible Book Club: The Book of Genesis



Genesis 1:3

GENESIS

Background File

Moses has traditionally been considered the author of Genesis, which is part of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. For about five hundred years, since the Reformation, the question of who wrote Genesis has been seen to be more complex. Genesis is now usually understood to have been written and compiled over the course of more than five centuries, being completed shortly after the Babylonian exile (587–538 B.C.E.), when many of the Jewish people returned to their homeland of Judah and rebuilt Jerusalem and the temple.

What's the Story?

The book of Genesis is divided into two primary sections: Genesis 1–11 portrays the beginnings of the world, including creation, the fall into sin, and the flood and its aftermath. Genesis 12–50 tells the story of Israel's ancestors and is especially concerned to speak of God's promises to this family. The book may be outlined as follows:

The Primeval Story (Gen 1:1–11:26). God, with the help of various agents, creates the world. Human sin intrudes on the creation, with social and cosmic effects. God promises a new world order.

The Story of Abraham and Sarah (Gen 11:27–25:18). God calls Abraham and makes promises to him and his descendants through both Hagar and Sarah, though it is only through his son Isaac that the covenant is established.

The Story of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel (Gen 25:19–36:43). God renews the promises to Jacob/Israel, whose twelve sons become the tribes of Israel.

The Story of Jacob's Sons, Especially Joseph (Gen 37:1–50:26). The development of Jacob's family is seen mainly through the prism of the story of Joseph.

The scholarly effort to reconstruct the history that lies behind the book of Genesis has had mixed results, because the materials have been edited over many centuries and because these chapters are more story than historical account. Especially regarding Genesis 1–11, we cannot determine its

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specific historical background with any confidence. As for Genesis 12–50, it is reasonable to claim that the stories carry authentic memories of Israel’s ancient history prior to the Exodus from Egypt (about 2000–1500 B.C.E.). Yet, because these stories come from so long ago, it is difficult to verify the extent to which the stories of the women and men of Genesis reflect actual historical figures and events.

What’s the Message?

Genesis is the first “chapter” of the Bible. Like the first chapter of any book, the placement of Genesis at the beginning is important for understanding both Genesis and the Bible as a whole.

The Bible begins, not with the chosen people (Israel), but with the entire creation. It provides the reader with a universal frame of reference. Through it we can interpret everything that follows. God’s purposes—at work among the people of Israel and in Jesus Christ—have to do with all of God’s good creation. “For God so loved the world...” (see John 3:16).

Genesis continues with a sad story that has tragic effects. God created a good world with no sin and evil. Human beings did not trust God, and this sin disrupted the life of God’s good world. Relationships at every level fell apart: between human beings and God, among human beings, and between human beings and other creatures, including land and animals. Sin and evil are now powerful forces at work in the life of the world. Even so, God continues to shower blessings at every turn.

Genesis continues with a divine strategy to save a world broken by sin and evil. To this end, God chooses the family of Abraham and Sarah. Their task is stated clearly in Genesis 12:3: “in you all the families of the earth [listed in Gen 10] shall be blessed.” God chooses one family as a means to save all families. Initially, God makes an exclusive move (choosing one family) to achieve an inclusive end: salvation of the entire creation, both human and nonhuman.

Genesis focuses on God’s promises. After the flood God promises never to judge the world like this again. This promise is the foundation for God’s later promises to the chosen family: blessing, descendants, a great name and nation, and a land to call their own. These promises, repeated throughout Genesis, begin to be fulfilled in this family’s growth.

Genesis focuses on families. This interest in family life begins with Cain and Abel but centers on the families of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah/Rachel, and their children. But these stories do not present families in ideal terms. The chosen family is dysfunctional! Yet God chooses to work in and through them, with all their flaws and weaknesses, on behalf of God’s purposes for the world. Readers from every generation can recognize themselves in these families.

Genesis has an interest in the outsider, on families not chosen. Genesis often portrays the chosen family in relationships with outsiders (Egyptians, Canaanites, Philistines, Aramaeans), especially in view of its call to be a blessing to all families. Sometimes the chosen fulfill their responsibilities in exceptional ways; at other times they alienate the outsider and frustrate God’s purposes. These stories help readers think carefully about how they are relating to the outsiders in our communities.

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Bible BOOK CLUB

September 2020 - Genesis

OPENING PRAYER

Creator of all, as we gather to start our Bible Book Club, be with us. Open your scripture to us. Open our hearts and our ears to listen to you and each other. May these stories of our ancestors of faith remind us that even though we are saints and sinners that you call us to follow you. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

- Genesis is made up of a lot of stories. Which story did you like best? Why?
- Which story did you like least? Why?
- What surprised you in reading this book, and why did it surprise you?
- What questions might you have after reading Genesis?
- What other books did this remind you of? (Doesn't have to be a book from the Bible)
- Which character in the book did you like best? Why?
- Which character did you like least? Why?
- Share a favorite quote from the book. Why did this quote stand out?
What does it mean for your faith?
- What feelings did this book evoke for you? Why?
- If you got the chance to ask God one question related to this book, what would it be?
Why?

CLOSING PRAYER

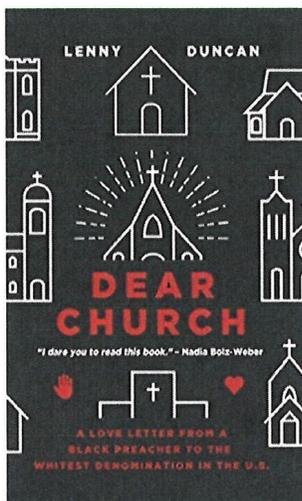
God of Abraham and Sarah, we give you thanks for the witness of your faithful actions throughout history. We thank you that you continue to speak to us and invite us to serve you. We thank you for this time of conversation that it may bless us in the days ahead. See us safely home and watch over us until we meet again. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

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ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson invites you to engage in a year of reading the Bible! Find out more on the ELCiC website: www.elcic.ca/livingourfaith/biblebookclub.cfm



October Book Club Pick



Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US, by Lenny

Duncan. Fortress Press, 2019. Lenny Duncan is the unlikeliest of pastors. Formerly incarcerated, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make all the headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work--drawing a direct line between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. The problems the Lutheran Church faces are theological, not sociological. But so are the answers. Part

manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, *Dear Church* offers a bold new vision for the future of Duncan's denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. *Dear Church* rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone--leaders and laity alike--to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice. It is time for the church to rise up, dust itself off, and take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, homophobia, and economic injustice. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus. A limited number of copies are available in the church office.

**Attend a book club discussion by RSVPing to the church office
(403) 355-4792 or churchofthecross@shaw.ca**

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In-person gathering opportunities

...and what we're doing to keep you safe

AT CHURCH:

Worship in-person Sundays 10 am beginning October 11. (This is our start goal.)

Tuesday morning Bible study: 9:30-11:30 am (Morning prayer will take place in this study from 10-10:30 am)

Group study: God Is Closer than You Think: Thursdays at 7pm, beginning October 22

Bible Book Club: Genesis (Read chapters 1-51 before coming!): Tuesday October 20, 7 pm

Book of the Month Club: *Dear Church by Lenny Duncan*: Tuesday October 27, 7 pm

**Attend an in-person event by RSVPing to the church office
(403) 355-4792 or churchofthecross@shaw.ca**

Protecting your health and the health of our community

Every person who enters the church building must:

- *enter through the east entrance*
- *sign-in*
- *sanitize hands upon entry*
- *wear a mask while in the building*
- *maintain social distancing*

The church is

- *providing hand sanitizer and masks at east & north entrances*
- *cleaning meeting spaces immediately before and after meeting*
- *setting up meeting spaces and limiting the size of in-person gatherings to support social distancing*
- *regularly cleaning and sanitizing commonly touched surfaces*
- *reducing risk of transmission by removing shared resources like hymn books*

Zoom gathering opportunities

IN THE ZOOM PRAYER ROOM (Access from the church website):

Bible Book Club: Genesis (Read chapters 1-51 before coming!): Sunday, October 18, 12pm

Book of the Month Club: *Dear Church by Lenny Duncan*: Sunday, October 25, 12pm

**Live-streamed Confirmation Worship
Sunday, October 25 10 am**

**Confirmands: Jonah Janzen, Lukas
Thomson, Natalie Allison & Trey Dresser**

Please make a special effort to stop by the church to sign the
Confirmands' stoles from October 14-22

The stoles will be set up near the member mailboxes

Please observe COVID-19 building protocols upon entry

There will also be a basket present to collect cards/gifts for the
Confirmands to be presented to them on October 25

In-person worship and live streaming

We are inching our way toward in-person worship, meaning we will be able to hold live in-person worship while live-streaming the service online. This will enable us to accommodate worshippers in-person while still providing online worship.

This transition is essential as we deal with the realities of COVID. There is a deep need to experience worship in person. That goes for all of us. We are doing what we can to move in the direction, but the threats and risks of in-person gatherings are still present and we know that indoor gatherings, including worship, are still high-risk activities.

Please weigh your own risks, responsibilities and comfort levels and make choices that are appropriate for you, knowing that we at church affirm your choices.

In-person worship remains a high risk. To mitigate the risk, we have several protocols in place for worship. Everyone will be required to sanitize their hands, wear a mask, and socially distance from other cohorts. We will enter the building only through the north entrance and exit only either through the east or west entrances. Likewise, entrance to the sanctuary is one-way: in through the main entrance and out by the sound booth. Frequently touched services are regularly cleaned, including the washrooms. The kitchen, meeting rooms, office and fellowship hall are off limits to worshippers. No gatherings will be taking place in the narthex.

Worship itself will be shortened to allow for air filtration of the entire space. There will be no congregational singing or communion.

We are asking everyone who wishes to worship in-person to RSVP to the church office by phone. Your reservations will be followed up by a waiver that must be filled out electronically or by phone before attending worship. We are maintaining a registration list of everyone who attends worship to assist with contact tracing should a positive COVID case occur in our midst.

**In-person worship is scheduled to begin October 11.
Please contact the church office if you are interested.
You will not be admitted to worship without a
reservation and a completed waiver.**

We thank Gates Fortier for his full-time work in acquiring, installing, testing, and operating the equipment that allows us to make this move. We would be lost without him.

Please contact the church office if you are interested in becoming an operator/technician of our live-streaming equipment, or if you can assist with ushering during live worship.

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BROWN BAGGING FOR CALGARY'S KIDS

We officially began using our amazing kitchen on September 8th for BB4CK with a kick off of 126 lunches! The lunches we make are beyond just a sandwich. It includes 2-3 servings of fruit or vegetables, 2 servings of whole grains, ½-1 serving of meats and alternatives and 1 serving of milk and alternatives, plus a nutritional snack. Most often, this is the only meal the child will get in a day. Imagine that!

Twice a week, we have 4 volunteers who make the lunches and another volunteer who makes the delivery to 4 schools so the students will have something to eat by noon. We are having a lot of fun visiting while we are cleaning and chopping fruit and veggies, cutting bread/buns and assembling the sandwiches. Occasionally we lose count but that is the hazard of giggles and chatting. If you want to come join us, please sign-up online using this link: <https://signup.com/go/FBCEYXi> or email/call me. No experience necessary!!

I am so grateful to a few men in our congregation who make a Costco trip to Okotoks to receive bakery donations. They keep an eye out for buns for us and deliver them to the church, which in turn get made into sandwiches the next day or are frozen.

Since September 8th, we have made **734** lunches!! Imagine how many lunches our little kitchen will make by the end of June. God is so good! Thank you to those who have made snack or financial donations; every bit counts and we are working hard.

Sasha Craven

ms4craven@shaw.ca

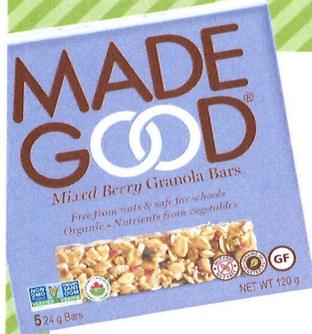
403-203-1473



Check out their website to learn more about Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids!

<https://bb4ck.org/>

BB4CK will be our **October Cause of the Month** so if you would like to donate through the church, please 'ear-mark' it **October Cause of the Month** and your donation will be forwarded to Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids.



BROWN BAGGING FOR
Calgary's Kids
bb4ck.org

SNACK WISH LIST

GRANOLA BARS

NUT FREE

NO CHOCOLATE DIPPED OR CHOCOLATE COVERED

- Natures Valley Lunchbox Bars
- Made Good Granola Bars / Granola Minis
- Nutri Grain Bars
- Quaker Nut-Free Granola Bars
- Chocolate Chip Granola Bars (Nut Free)



FRUIT ALTERNATIVES

- SunRype Fruit Source / Fruit To Go bars
- GoGo Squeez Fruit Sauce ****not fruit in plastic cups or apple sauce in cups**
- Sun-Maid Raisins

CRACKERS, COOKIES & OTHER



- Gold Fish Crackers Snack Packs
- Ritz Bitz Snack Pack - Cheese Flavoured ****no peanut flavoured**
- Bearpaw Soft Cookies
- Dare Brand individually packed cookies
- Beef Jerky

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This bulletin board appears at the east entrance directly across from the church office. It is full of various groups that are active in the church. If you are interested in one of these groups, please don't hesitate to ask any of the current members what happens in these ministries and how you can be part of.

WOW!!! Look at all the blankets and scarves that one of our members has knit at home!!! There are 53 blankets and 9 scarves that will be taken to 2 local agencies:

1. Calgary Women's Shelter
2. The Brenda Strafford Centre



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Overview: Taking Part in a City-Wide Conversation

Calgary Lutheran Church of the Cross is proud to be one of over 30 organizations that belong to the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good.

The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good is a non-partisan and non-profit organization of congregations, unions, schools and community groups representing more than 30,000 people. These organizations came together to form the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good in order to organize the power of our communities to shape a just and compassionate city. The Calgary Alliance is involved in campaigns addressing mental health and addictions, social isolation, truth and reconciliation, and the environment. In response to COVID-19, it is fostering action related to community volunteering, awareness of support resources, and investing in mental health in schools. For more information about the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good, please visit their website at www.calgarycommongood.org



What Kind of City Do We Want?

As everyone is aware, we are all in the midst of a daunting struggle locally, nationally, and globally, with the impacts of COVID-19. This raises special challenges in relation to employment, resources, mental health and especially the unequal impacts of the pandemic. The homeless, the unemployed, and those who are isolated or struggling with mental health issues, all suffer more extensively than others from the effects of the virus.

At a time like this, having a local voice is more important than ever. Through the Calgary Alliance, each of us as congregants of the Church of the Cross has an opportunity to listen and learn – but even more importantly, to speak, and to make our voices heard.

In this time of major budget challenges at all government levels, it is important to ask: what kind of Calgary do we want to live in? How can we co-create the Calgary we want to exist? This is the focus for the conversation the Calgary Alliance is inviting us to participate in.

October 29th, 2020: Virtual Delegates Assembly

There will be a virtual Delegates Assembly on October 29th, 2020. We are extending the invitation from the Calgary Alliance to take part in this conversation by encouraging as many of our congregation as possible to take part in this Assembly.

Help to give Calgary Lutheran Church of the Cross a voice and a presence at the October 29th Delegates Assembly!

If you are interested in participating, please contact Paddy Colfer at pcolfer@northwestel.net or phone me at (867) 334-4226, or contact Pastor Phil at philholck@gmail.com or call him at (403) 255-4792.

Paddy Colfer

ELCOC Liaison with Calgary Alliance for the Common Good

A Note from your Treasurer

On behalf of your Church Council, I wish to thank you for your ongoing financial support during this difficult time. As of August 31, our year to date income covers our year to date expenses and we have a comfortable balance in our chequing account. We did receive a wage subsidy from the federal government of \$13,214 for March and April; however even without this subsidy our income to date in 2020 was only some 2% less than 2019 year to date. Our expenses to date are some 8% lower than 2019 largely as a result of reductions in ministry expenses, Dianne's furlough and reductions in contract cleaning and landscaping services. If we continue with this level of stewardship we should end calendar year 2020 in a sound financial position.

Yours in Christ

Archie Wells

Hospital Visitor Training

Would you like to learn about becoming a Trained Visitor in a hospital or care facility setting? Join in an initial Visitor Training Session, sponsored by Lutheran Hospital Ministries-Southern Alberta. The class will be held on Saturday, October 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the basement of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 66-7th St. NE Calgary. Bring a bag lunch. Social distancing and have a mask. This will be Pastor Mark Lobitz's final time at presenting the Visitor Training. There is no charge. Please contact Pastor Lobitz at 403-637-2650 or mclobitz@gmail.com for more information.

Thanks and blessings!

Pastor Mark Lobitz

We need help with worship! We are looking for:

Assisting Ministers to lead the Introduction to worship, Prayer of the Day, Creed, Prayers of the People, Lord's Prayer and Dismissal

Lectors/Readers to read the scriptural lessons

Ushers to help us observe COVID-19 building protocols on Sundays, including helping maintain social distancing, monitoring hand sanitizing and masking, ushering people in and out of the sanctuary, and helping with cleaning routines

COVID Protocol Partners to team with the pastors in evaluating health advisories and guidelines, our next steps, and our COVID-19 worship protocols

Sign up online on the "Volunteer" tab of our website or phone the church office.

LEAD 

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

YOU'RE INVITED TO CELEBRATE
KURIAKOS IS TURNING 90!



SUNDAY OCTOBER 11

Watch our Thanksgiving Worship Service



Check out the Camp Kuriakos Website for various on-line opportunities of study:

Joy - October Bible Study - with Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen
October 8 - 29 - 9 am on Thursdays

Creation Care - November Bible Study - with Rev. Dave Saude
November 5 - 26 - 9 am on Thursdays
Register on-line at Camp Kuriakos

90  **KURIAKOS**



Run4Camp on November 1 and support our Capital projects

We've partnered with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM) to host a fun event in support of this fall's capital projects.

- Rebuilding the Lakefront Retaining Wall (pictured above with the 2008 Summer Team)
- Replacing the Walk-In Cooler in the main kitchen

Participants donate at least \$25 to Kuriakos, and commit to finding at least 5 other supporters (in any amount). Then, on or before November 1, move yourself 5km in whatever way you choose! Run, walk, swim, dance, roll, paddle, trick-or-treat... just remember to send a selfie of you doing it.

LOM is hosting a few information sessions when they will be happy to provide more details about the campaign.

Registration is online through LOM. (<https://lomnetwork.wufoo.com/forms/mi2zyf11iow6ol/>)

More information and updates will be available on the Kuriakos website.





October 2020 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

Please permit me a bit of grandparent boasting time. This is new – for me, for my spouse, Cathy, for our family, and for our granddaughter.

She arrived several weeks early. I predicted the date, early as it was. I just had a feeling. Teighan Rhylee Kochendorfer arrived Thursday, July 9th, the anniversary of my ordination 31 years ago.

Teighan was in the NICU for several days, then transferred to another hospital for monitoring – all in the midst of COVID-19 hospital restrictions. We finally saw her nearly two weeks after her birth.

Though I guessed her birthday, I was a bit off on the time, convinced she would be born in the wee hours of the night, and I was off by a few ounces. She was 4 pounds, 9 ounces at birth, lost weight after, and was a staggering 4 pounds 7 ounces when she was discharged and I was able to first cradle her in my arms.

I have been pondering these past weeks. Wondering what it might be for me to be a Papa, and Cathy a Nana. Reflecting on this remarkable, mysterious gestation, germination, quickening, and birth. It feels very much like the remarkable, mysterious gestation, germination, quickening, and birth of this coronavirus adventure. A journey, an opportunity that invites us to where we do not determine the route, the result, or the final outcome. Where we walk in the midst of disorientation and anxiety, frustration and uncertainty, and through resiliency, imagination, generosity, experimentation, and learning.

Gestation: a silent, mystifying coming together. Conception. Watching and waiting. Listening. Deep observation. Listening. A place of impulse and intuition. And, listening.

Germination: a hushed, still gathering. Sprouting and incubating. A place of dreams and possibility, aches and wonders. Where imagination and ideas are whispered, tried, and set aside. Where words are too inadequate for what one is trying to describe.

Ah, the **Quickening:** a magical moment. The first fluttering movement, like a butterfly, proving that life has drawn together. A poke from a limb. For months, the cells have been growing until it's clear: something new is here. Still unknown, nameless, and unfamiliar. A journey for months – perhaps years – moving toward a new season. Some clarity. An awareness of the opportunity. A coming into being. Something coming, but not yet arrived.

Birth: an effort of deep pain and instant love. A labor of shedding pain and turning to that which is alive, new. The wondrous becoming familiar. And new energy and gifts and passion, for what might be.

I am reflecting on this remarkable, mysterious gestation, germination, quickening, and birth of Teighan Rhylee Kochendorfer. And, this Papa's love that knows no bounds.

I am also continuing to ponder this parallel coronavirus adventure. And the grace and mercy of God's promised presence on the journey, and the love of God, which knows no bounds.

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



Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters - September 30



Orange Shirt Day is a time to remember the lives of Indigenous children who attended residential schools in Canada and to be proactive in promoting anti-racism and anti-bullying in schools and in the workplace. Please consider wearing orange on September 30th. For more information, please visit the following links:

<http://www.orangeshirtday.net/en/cad/content/phyllis-story.html>

<https://dreamcatcherpromotions.com/promotional-product/every-child-matters-orange-shirt-day/>