



The Vine
December 2016

Ministry Team

All are members of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Pastor

Lee Woolery
403-253-1453 ext 11
403-301-0011(home)
403-809-3487(cell/text)
pastor@oursaviourchurch.ca

Pastor Lee's Office hours:
Monday to Thursday
9:00 am to Noon

Administration

Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor
403-253-1453
403-540-1765 (cell/text)
admin@oursaviourchurch.ca

Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Jesse Ramson
403-253-1453 ext 14
403-200-1740 (cell/text)
youth@oursaviourchurch.ca

Jesse's Office Hours:
Tuesday to Friday
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Office Assistant

Shauna Gross
403-253-1453
office@oursaviourchurch.ca

Church Board 2016-2017

Jaqui Anderson
Elaine Barnes
Rachelle Ellis
Doug Gebrandt
Phyllis Gale
Jens Kaack
Jennifer May
Garry Mihaichuk
Bob Montgomery
Darren Tenor

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm



www.oursaviourchurch.ca
8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary, T2H 0Z4
Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour



As of November 16, 2016.

THE ISAIAH CONNECTION



“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” Isaiah 9:2

It was a strange way to begin one’s calling into ministry. But it was the way that God chose to let Isaiah know that he was entering his life as a prophet. He sees the Lord on a throne and “winged creatures shouting back and forth the way excited children shout to each other when dusk calls them home, and the whole vast, reeking place started to shake beneath his feet like a wagon going over cobbles, and he cried out, ‘O God, I am done for! I am foul of mouth and the member of a foul-mouthed race. With my own two eyes I have seen him. I’m a goner and sunk’” (from [Peculiar Treasures](#), by Frederick Buechner). One of the flying critters then touches Isaiah’s mouth with a live coal. Yeow! And that was only the beginning! If that had been me, I would’ve been high-tailing it out of there.

But fortunately, Isaiah hung in there and became a bold prophetic link to Jesus, our light and salvation. Especially during the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we “see” Isaiah’s words come to life. His book in the Hebrew Scriptures is one of the longest in length and during the time of Jesus, 800 years later, was a prominent feature in the places of worship. In fact when Jesus began his ministry, he read a passage from Isaiah (“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...”) and ended up by saying, “Today these words have been fulfilled in your hearing.”

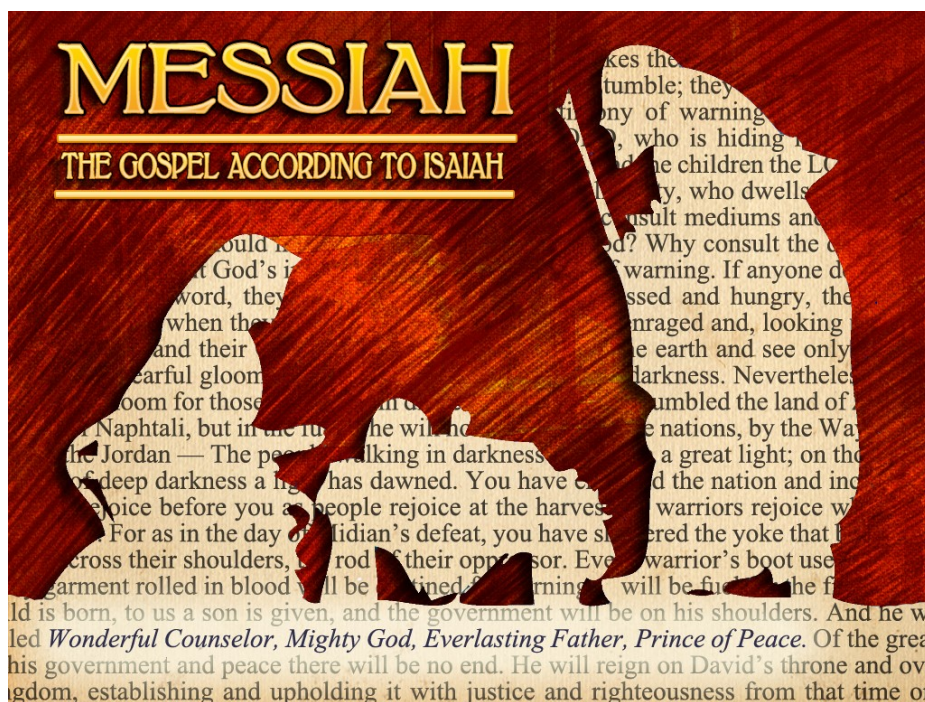
Isaiah spoke God’s message during a critical time in the history of the Jewish people. The once united country of Israel had been split in two: Judah in the south and Israel in the north. Each had their own king and there was a constant struggle between the two (much deeper than Calgary versus Edmonton)! Isaiah’s voice was one of hope and new beginnings, compassion, peace and justice. Isaiah proclaimed the entrance of a new King, one who would be a “Wonderful Counselor” and a “Prince of Peace.” Today, again, these words are fulfilled with the celebration of Jesus’ birth and his coming again.

During this Advent season, we will be looking forward to the “looking forward” prophetic words of Isaiah including:

“For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Have a blessed and meaningful Advent and Christmas!

Pastor Lee





Youth & Children's Ministry—Upcoming Activities



Merry Christmas to you and your family! I hope and pray that you enjoy this Advent season spending time together with those you love, and celebrate the reason for the season; God's greatest gift to us, the baby boy Jesus. Through all of the busyness, through all of the food, through all of the gifts, through all of the visiting, spend some time together with your family and read through the Christmas story, discussing exactly why the Nativity Story is so important to our faith. I encourage you all to focus on the meaning behind the holiday, and to help each other grasp the wonder and blessing of God's amazing love for us.

We have some exciting events for the whole church to take part in this month, providing a great opportunity to spend some time together in the holiday spirit, while also showing support for the children and youth of our congregation. Take a look below at some of the great events that will be happening this month, and see where you might get involved or just come out to see the talent and skills of the younger generation.

Sat, Dec 3rd – Tween Night Christmas Movie

Get in the holiday spirit as we watch and discuss the Nativity Story. Popcorn will be provided!



Fri, Dec 9th at 7pm – The Experiment – Christmas Café for the Church

The Experiment youth group would like to invite you and your family and friends to our first ever Christmas Café. Come on out and enjoy some hot beverages, delicious desserts, and amazing entertainment. Cost is free, but donations will be accepted. Youth must arrive at 6pm to help set up.



Sat, Dec 17th at 6pm – The Experiment – Christmas Party

We're having a party! There will be food, gifts, games, fellowship, and a ministry opportunity. Come dressed as snazzy as you can, and bring a warm coat as well! We will be doing a Secret Santa, so also bring a wrapped gift (max 10\$).

Family Christmas Pageant



December 18th + 11am

Sun, Dec 18th at 11am – Christmas Production for the Church

We're putting on a show for you! Come out to our 11am service, which will feature some amazing music with songs led by the children and youth, special performances by many skilled congregation members, and Christmas messages, again from children and youth. This is one special service you don't want to miss! Children and youth, please show up ready to practice at 10 am!

Sun, Dec 18th at noon – Christmas Potluck

Potluck following the Christmas Pageant. A-M brings a main, N-Z brings a salad or dessert. Everyone is invited.



Christmas Pot Luck

Ladies Annual Potluck December 5th at 6pm

Last year's secret prayer partner will be revealed and a new one chosen for those wishing to participate. COME JOIN US FOR A RELAXING EVENING WITH FRIENDS NEW AND OLD.

Last name: A-M brings a main dish, N-Z brings a salad or dessert

Veteran's Food Bank



Thank you to everyone that donated to the Veteran's Food Bank Collection.

We filled four large boxes representing several hundred pounds of food.



Sunday Mornings

We have several hearing assist devices that you may use on a Sunday morning. They are at the back beside the ushers. If it is the first time using them please ask for assistance. If you have your own headphones you can use them as long as they use a standard jack.

ASSISTIVE
LISTENING
SYSTEMS
AVAILABLE





MOPS



MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) and MOMSnext (Mothers of School Age Children) is an international organization geared towards providing support for Moms. MOPS creates a time-out for Moms while their kids have fun in MOPPETS; the childcare program.

Come join us to celebrate Christmas at MOPS on Wednesday December 14th from 9:30 – 11:30. If you are new to MOPS, this would be an excellent time to join in a Christmas party!

Our first meetings in 2017 are January 11th and 25th.

You are welcome to join any time. We offer drop-in, 5-and 10-card passes and yearly membership.

More information, including registration forms and pricing, is available from the LCOS website
<http://www.oursaviourchurch.ca/connect/mops-mopsnext>



Update—MOPS Christmas Market and Fundraising Event

The MOPS fundraiser was a great success and we thank the whole congregation for your continued support of our ministry to mother of preschoolers. At last count, \$1864.17 was raised through the table fees, silent auction, and bake sale. Faith Life Financial will be matching the first \$500.00. The money raised goes towards off-setting the cost of our program such as childcare costs, speaker fees, materials, and scholarships for moms in need.

The Giving Tree

NOVEMBER 27th TO
DECEMBER 11th



Give the gift of warmth this holiday season

Stewardship

A total of 71 pledges have been received on Stewardship Sunday, November 20, 2016 committing a total of \$194,528 for 2017. This compares to last year where there were 78 pledges received committing a total of \$209,754. This is a 7.25% decrease in the amount pledged.

If you were not able to submit a pledge on Stewardship Sunday, you may still submit one.

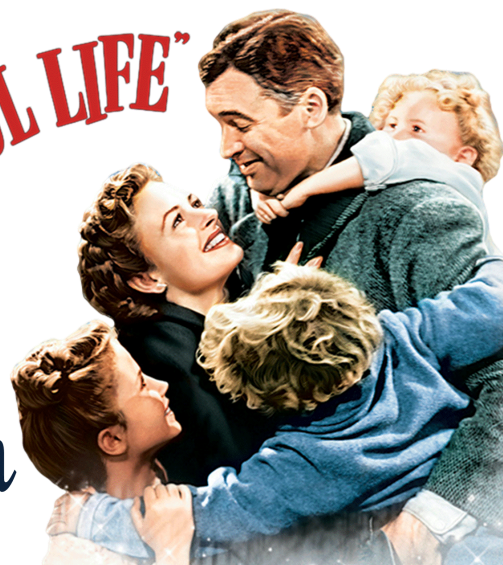
If you participate in the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program for your giving and you've changed the amount you've pledged, you'll need to submit a PAR Change Request form to the Financial Secretary by the end of December. You can find the forms on a table in the Place of Welcome.



Live Simply

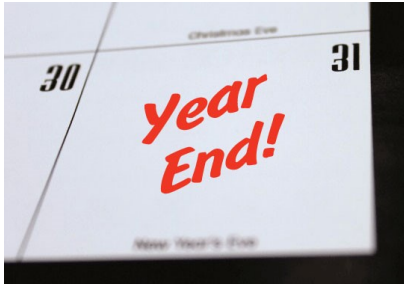
TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY IS LIFE
1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19

Movie Lovers
Potluck
&
a Movie
playing **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE**
December 16th 6pm





Year End



If you have any expenses that require reimbursement please submit them to the office by December 9th for year-end wind-up.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on January 29th.

AGM



College & Career

CHRISTMAS PARTY



December 16th 7pm





Acadia Community Update



Volunteers Needed to Help the Acadia Neighbourhood

Seven areas for social development emerged during the process of conducting a neighbourhood social strategy (community plan). These are: Social Isolation & Connectedness, Safety, Developing Financial Capacity, Inclusion & Diversity, Meeting basic needs/food security, Affordable/Accessible childcare, Affordable housing.

The following are some of proposed ideas to address these needs. We need your help in turning these ideas into action.

A Neighbourhood Welcoming Program

Creating handouts with list of what's in the neighbourhood; list of resources for people on low income, for immigrants, Indigenous people. Volunteers needed to help a resident organize this. Also translators needed in Spanish & Tagalog

Multicultural Cooking at Francis Klein

For isolated immigrant seniors living in a seniors complex. Seniors will be the "teaching" others how to cook food from their country of origin. Need volunteers to organize the sessions (3-4).

Community Indigenous Family Event

Event is for the whole community, celebrating indigenous traditions. Volunteers needed to help plan the event. Indigenous residents from Acadia Place will be organizing.

Employment Networking Fair Event

To support people needing to improve skills, get jobs. Volunteers needed to organize this.

A Clothing Exchange Event at Acadia Place

Volunteers needed to organize this, along with Acadia Place residents.

Adopt a Grandparent Program

Volunteers needed to create, organize a program to support isolated seniors in the community. Would be working with already established programs.

If you are able to help in any aspect of these activities, please contact Viviana Reinberg, community social worker, Acadia Strong Neighbourhood Initiative, The City of Calgary, at 403 476-7280 or viviana.reinberg@calgary.ca



Evening of Caroling

December 11th at 7pm

Bring a dessert to share afterwards



Our Refugee Family

The Al-Dakkak family is continuing to adapt to their new homes. Zuheir is taking English classes and practicing his driving skills with the intent of obtaining a car down the road for the family. Maram has been participating in our English Conversation Classes. The boys are quickly adapting and learning. Think warm thoughts for the family with the coming cold snap. The predicated -22 degree weather coming next week will be a challenge for our new family.

The family continues to expand their network of friends in the community including the Lutheran congregations supporting them. In October we celebrated Hamaz's first birthday after the 11 am Service. In November the family joined Lutheran Church of the Cross during one Sunday Service and had the great joy of finding a choir member there that spoke Arabic.

Later in the month the family joined Advent Lutheran for their Stewardship Sunday. The Al-dakkak's and another Syrian family (Fadya) from Advent provided lunch for 125 people after church. This was a monumental affair - particularly in the preparation. Zuheir and Fadya each cooked and contributed a number of authentic Syrian dishes to the meal. Both are accomplished cooks, Zuheir being a trained and professional chef. The event went off without a hitch.

Zuheir and Fadya (the Syrian woman who also provided food for Advent) and Bassel (a volunteer translator) are working on plans for a catering business. A member at LCOS has already asked if Zuheir might provide food for a small gathering she is having in December. If you are aware of any other events that might be available, let us know!







A simple gift.

Thank you to everyone that helped with our work bee on November 19th.

Between the work bee and individual families the congregation donated a total of 609 boxes.





English Conversation

We are happy to announce that our English Conversation classes will continue with another 10 week session from January 11th to March 15th. Spread the word!

Let's walk together with newcomers to Canada!



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Regional Action Team—Seniors Issues



The Metro Alliance for the Common Good has formed two action teams to take focused action on issues identified as important within the City of Calgary. One team will be focusing on issues related to Seniors. Initially we will be conducting interviews to gather information on the wide range of challenges seniors face. After the initial information gathering stage a plan of action on one of the issues identified will be selected. If you are aware of individuals or organizations that work directly with seniors and their challenges please contact Pastor Lee or Katharine to help us connect and interview them.

The other regional action team is addressing reconciliation between the Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Community. If you would like to participate in this topic contact Katharine to be put in touch with the other action team.



**Metro Alliance for the Common Good -
MACG**

Service of Remembrance & Healing

Sunday, Dec. 18th 7pm





Guiding Mission—Supporting Our Youth

"As the sunflower turns to the sun, we should turn towards the Son"



This January the Mission Group will be organizing a set of conversation events about one of the most important areas of our church – Youth. Whether you're a current member of the youth, some who's moved on to a college and/or career path, a parent, or just an interested member of the congregation, we've got questions about what we can do to make LCOS a stronger environment for youth and their families. We did similar conversation groups back in August of 2015.



Each Conversation Group will take about one hour of time, will have a group leader to keep the flow of conversation organized, and the ideas will be recorded so that your thoughts aren't lost in the moment. There will also be food and refreshments provided as a thank you for your participation. If you'd like more information about these events or if you'd like to volunteer to help set up, please contact Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor, Joe Schultz, or Darren Tenor.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR CHRISTMAS EVE *Candlelight Services*

December 24th 4pm • 6pm • 8pm



Reformation Readings



REFORMATION READINGS

There were many factors leading up to the protestant reformation, a big factor, though, was quite simple: a young monk, Martin Luther, read the Bible. In commemoration of the reformation's 500th anniversary, just imagine what could happen if we simply read our Bibles! What could happen if we commit to reading a chapter a day (from Reformation Sunday 2016 – Reformation Sunday 2017)?

I want to encourage our congregations to take up the LWF's reformation challenge and add some simple devotions, based on the Daily Lectionary (as published in our ELW hymnals). This is something we can do wherever we are, and yet still do together.

What might happen today, with that kind of devotion and unity in God's word?

- Pastor Jason Anderson, Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton

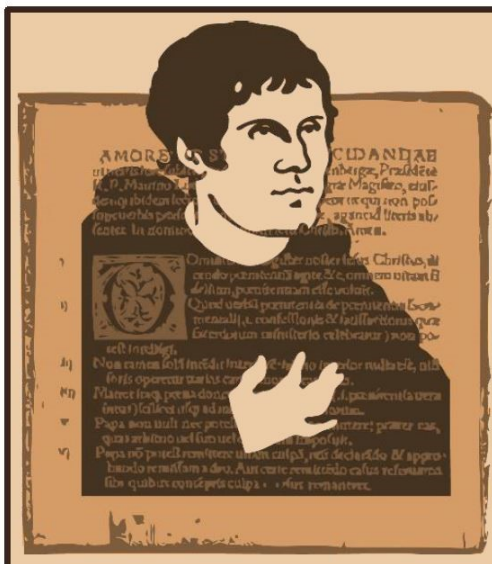
December readings:

Isaiah 4: 2 – 6, Psalm 72
Isaiah 30: 19 – 26, Psalm 72
Isaiah 40: 1 – 11, Psalm 72
Matthew 3: 1 – 12, Psalm 72
Isaiah 24: 1 – 16a, Psalm 21
Isaiah 41: 14 – 20, Psalm 21
Matthew 12: 33 – 37, Psalm 21
Ruth 1: 6 – 18, Psalm 146: 5 - 10
Ruth 4: 13 – 17, Psalm 146: 5 - 10
Luke 3: 1 – 18, Psalm 146: 5 - 10
Matthew 11: 2 – 11, Psalm 146: 5 - 10
Isaiah 29: 17 – 24, Psalm 42
Ezekiel 47: 1 – 12, Psalm 42
Matthew 8: 14-17, 28-34, Psalm 42
Galatians 3: 23-29, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Galatians 4:1-7, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
John 3:31-36, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Matthew 1: 18 – 25, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Galatians 4: 8 – 21, 1 Samuel 2: 1 - 10
Galatians 4:21 - 5:1, 1 Samuel 2: 1 - 10
Matthew 1:1-17, 1 Samuel 2: 1 – 10
Isaiah 33:17-22, Luke 1: 46b-55
Galatians 3:6-14, Luke 1: 46b-55
Luke 2: 1-14, Psalm 96
John 1:1-14, Psalm 98
Acts 7:59 – 8:8, Psalm 148
1 John 5:1-12, Psalm 148
Matthew 18: 1-14, Psalm 148
Luke 19:41-44, Psalm 20
2 Corinthians 4: 16-18, Psalm 20
John 8:12-19, Psalm 20

Synod Study Convention

<http://albertasynod.ca/education/study-conference/>



Synod Study Conference, February 6 - 9, 2017

REFORMATION 500

Coast Canmore Hotel and Conference Centre

511 Bow Valley Trail, Canmore

(403) 678-3625



The ELCIC REFORMATION CHALLENGE



As of November 17th Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) members and congregations have come together to sponsor over 500 refugees!

For over a year, ELCIC members have been engaged in the ELCIC Reformation Challenge as one of the ways to mark the 2015-17 emphasis the church has been lifting up around the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

"I am delighted we have met the first of our Reformation Challenge goals," said ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson.

Bishop Johnson noted that when the challenge was first adopted by the ELCIC's National Church Council the goals were considered to be 'stretch goals.' "Council members thought we would be better off to try to reach more challenging goals and come short, than to set our goals too low and stop before we reached our full potential," said Bishop Johnson. "To be just over one year into the challenge and to have reached the goal of sponsoring 500 refugees is inspiring. This truly is a sign of our church growing *In Mission for Others*. I'm humbled, joyful and proud of our church!"

As Lutherans around the world prepare to commemorate the Reformation anniversary in 2017, the ELCIC is lifting up themes from The Lutheran World Federation (LWF): ***Liberated by God's Grace, Creation - Not for Sale, Human Beings - Not for Sale, Salvation - Not for Sale.*** The ELCIC Reformation Challenge draws from the themes and provides a way for ELCIC members and congregations to bring Reformation activities close to home and make it possible for congregations and synods of any size to participate.

Through the ELCIC Reformation Challenge, members and congregations are invited to help sponsor 500 refugees, support 500 scholarships for students in schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), plant 500,000 trees in Canada, Palestine and Ethiopia, and contribute \$500,000 to the LWF Endowment Fund.

To date, ELCIC members have sponsored 504 refugees, provided 49 scholarships for ELCJHL schools, planted 44,981 trees and raised \$125,931 for the LWF Endowment Fund.

There are many creative and innovative ways to engage in one or more areas of the initiative. A Sunday School class in Winnipeg recently shared how they have connected with the goal to provide scholarships to students in ELCJHL schools. Over the past year, 20 children from the congregation have been involved in the challenge and are currently working towards raising funds for their second scholarship (<http://www.elcic.ca/news.cfm?article=450>).

Further information on the ELCIC Reformation Challenge is available online: elcic.ca/ReformationChallenge



**December 25th -
NO WORSHIP SERVICE**

**January 1st -
1 SERVICE ONLY-11am**

Finance

submitted by Cliff Blumhagen, Financial Secretary

Get on PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) at LCOS

Did you know that you may give to LCOS via pre-authorized remittance one time per month from your bank or credit union chequing account? This program is like any other pre-authorized debit program and is called the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) program. Debits will be drawn from accounts on the 20th of each month. Whenever the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday, the debits will be drawn on the first business day following the 20th. Donations via the PAR program will be recorded on quarterly statements and year-end tax receipts along with all other giving.

Amounts from PAR can be directed to:

- 1) The LCOS general budget
- 2) Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)
- 3) Capital Maintenance

You can give additional amounts and to other purposes via your regular donation envelopes.

The minimum amount to give via this program is a total of \$50.00 per month.

You can sign up, make banking or donation amount changes, or withdraw from the program at any time. These changes will be effective the month following the submission of the change. Forms are available to process these changes. The program is administered by the Financial Secretary. Authorization forms are available in the Place of Welcome.

Internet e-transfers & PayPal are also available!

To make a one time or recurring email transfer simply send donations to donate@oursaviourchurch.ca. Please include either your envelope number or your name and address in the email so that we can give you a proper receipt at the year's end.



Financial Report - Ending October 2016



	YTD - 2016	YTD - 2015
Budgeted Giving	\$273,603.95	\$307,212.68
Designated Giving	\$49,593.95	\$25,613.34
Non-Receiptable / Credit	\$2,248.42	\$2,949.11
Other Income	\$9,565.16	\$10,117.16
TOTAL	\$335,011.48	\$345,892.29
Average Weekly Budget Offering	\$6,218.27	\$7,144.48
Average Weekly Budget Required	\$7,115.00	\$7,193.00
PAR Giving (included in above total)	\$47,936.00	\$52,840.00
Number of envelopes issued	178	168
Number of envelopes unused	20	11
Number of pledges (budget)	78	79
Number on or over pledge (budget)	46	40
Number under pledge (budget)	32	39
Average Weekly Attendance	173	172

Year to date budgeted giving for 2016 is 10.94% lower than 2015.

Designated Giving for 2016 includes:

- CLWR (\$3,940.00)
- CLWR:Ft. McMurray Fire (\$1,697.03)
- Urgent Care (\$3,260.00)
- Coldest Night of the Year (\$1,129.25)
- Grant:Alberta Synod:ESL Program (\$2,800.00)
- Watoto Concert (\$1,343.15)
- Capital Maintenance (includes Ark Mural) (\$6,475.35)
- Refugee Mission-LCOS (\$8,881.52)
- Refugee Mission-Advent (\$2,600.00)
- Refugee Mission-All Saints (\$2,202.00)
- Refugee Mission-Cross (\$3,125.00)
- Refugee Mission-Hope (\$4,085.00)
- Memorial Fund (\$2,860.00)
- VBS Fees (\$1,263.00)



Designated Giving for 2015 includes:

- CLWR (\$3,960.00)
- CLWR:Give Life Project (\$1,270.00)
- CLWR:Nepal (\$1,310.00)
- Urgent Care (\$3,000.00)
- Memorial Fund (\$7,723.86)
- Jack Beck Ticket Sales (\$1,190.00)
- VBS Fees (\$1,054.00)
- Capital Ministry-Ark Mural (\$1,690.00)

Cliff Blumhagen
Financial Secretary



December 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
Upcoming in January Jan 1—One Service at 11 am Jan 3—Office re-opens Jan 3—Games Group Jan 6—College & Careers Jan 8—Discipleship				Jan 13—The Experiment Jan 20—Movie Lovers Jan 21—Tween Night Jan 27—The Experiment Jan 29—Annual General Meeting		1 7:00 Revelation Study	2 7:00 College & Careers—Bible Study	3 6:00 ^{am} Breakfast at the Seed 4:00 Pageant Rehearsal 7:00 Tween Night
4 All Saints Sunday 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Young Explorers 10:00 The Experiment 10:00 Adult Bible Study 11:00 Worship Service 6:30 Discipleship 6:30 Hand chimes Food Bank Collection	5 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Al-anon	6 1:00 Games Group 7:00 Yoga	7 9:00 Experiencing God 11:00 Acadia Lunch 1:00 ESL Conversation 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Running Group 7:30 Choir	8 7:00 Revelation Study	9 7:00 Christmas Café for Everyone hosted by The Experiment	10		
11 Sandwich Sunday 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Young Explorers 10:00 The Experiment 10:00 Adult Bible Study 11:00 Worship Service 6:30 Discipleship 7:00 Evening of Caroling	12 1:00 Memory Plus 6:30 Fireside	13 7:00 Yoga	14 9:00 Experiencing God 9:30 MOPS 11:00 Acadia Lunch 1:00 ESL Conversation 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Running Group 7:30 Choir 8:30 Praise Team	15 7:00 Revelation Study	16 6:00 Movie Lovers Potluck & Movie 7:00 College & Careers Christmas Party	17 10:00 am Youth Band Practice 6:00 The Experiment—Christmas Party		
18 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 10:00 Adult Bible Study 11:00 Christmas Pageant Noon: Christmas Potluck 7:00 Service of Healing & Remembrance	19	20 7:00 Church Board	21 7:00 Al-anon	22	23	24 4:00 Candlelight Service 6:00 Candlelight Service 8:00 Candlelight Service with Holy Communion 		
25 No Service today 	26 Office closed	27 Office closed	28 Office closed 7:00 Al-anon	29 Office closed	30 Office closed	31		