



The Vine
March 2019

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All members of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

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Shirley Moule
Nick Perchthaler
Darren Tenor
Les Walker

Please call ahead to access the building outside of regular office hours.

www.oursaviourchurch.ca

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Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour



Imagine if all churches could be strengthened across Canada, ours included. Our congregation has partnered with the Flourishing Congregations Institute to be part of this transformation, and we would like your help! **Please take 20 minutes to fill out an anonymous national online survey at www.oursavioursurvey.ca.** Paper copies of the survey are also available in the Fellowship Hall. We hope for 50% or more of our adult attenders to fill out the 20 minute survey. At time of printing, 36 completed surveys have been submitted. Our goal is over 85 surveys. With strong survey involvement, we will learn the unique attributes and possibilities for our congregation.

From Pastor Julianne

As the congregation continues to move toward understanding and articulating our identity and mission it is helpful to consider the influences of the church's history on the way we see our place in the world.

LCOS was built on the wave of "Lutheran" immigration from Europe which ended in the 1960's. The good old days were characterized by large Sunday School and Affirmation of Baptism classes as immigrant families had children. Once the stream of European immigrants declined and second and third generation young adults and their families no longer attended Sunday worship regularly, the attendance went down.

Christian congregations in North America, reacting to the uncertainty and fear of reduced Sunday worship attendance tried attractional fixes from the 1970's to present (young pastor, youth programs, contemporary music, relevant sermons) with no success.

What if we don't need to figure out a better way to do what we have always done, but instead we need to figure out a new way to be the people God is calling us to be?

Perhaps our task is to understand God's work in the world as Spirit-led and as an invitation to join in God's mission of redemption, restoration and reconciliation.

The way we have always done church	Growing into a new way of being church
Church is assumed to be an important part of people's lives and the world. Therefore, we expect people to want to be part of a congregation.	Church is a community gathered by the Spirit and is blessed to be a blessing. Church is less a noun and more a verb; less a place and more a way of life.
The congregation is an organization focussed on serving its members. Membership is how one belongs to the congregation and how it belongs to you.	The congregation is a mission outpost and is therefore focused on reciprocal relationships in the neighbourhood, city and world.

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD.

Jeremiah 29:11-14 NRSV

Let us pray regularly for insight into God's plans and for increasing hope as we move into an unknown future.

Let us seek wisdom, strength and courage as insight and transformation grows.

Let us trust in God's provision as we anticipate the new pastor God has already chosen for us.

Amen.

I had a wonderful conversation out of the blue during the first week of February that gave me a new word for the theme of 2019 for myself so far; development. We were actually talking about tasks, and how we are task-driven people. But at times, when we are focussed on merely completing things, we lose sight of the reason or purpose for the completion of those items. Especially within the church, but I would argue everywhere in life, the reason for getting things done is development.

Jesus called us to become more and more like Him in our lives, in the way that we approach our relationship with God, in the way that we pray, in the way we see the world around us, and in the way that we actually act! But, this doesn't just happen overnight. It's something, that each day, we have to work towards. It's something that we develop by ourselves, and with others, which is also the entire point of the church. Development is the entire purpose of small groups, of Sunday mornings, of youth ministry, and of children's ministry.

Benchmarks and goals are great (and I absolutely need them), but to complete a step to simply complete that step isn't enough. We have to move forward because we have our eyes set on the cross, and our steps parallel with God's love.



Youth & Children's Ministry

Saturday March 2nd at 7:00 pm – Tween – Mystery Night

In our faith, there are some questions that people are constantly trying to solve. The best part of those mysteries is that in the search, we actually draw closer to God. Join us for this Mystery night, dedicated towards discerning clues. We'll have our own escape room, a Bible scavenger hunt, and we'll try to solve our very own mystery case!



Saturday March 9th at 10:00 am – Youth Band

Join us as we continue to practice our praise and worship songs. New members are always welcome!

Saturday March 9th at 1:00 pm – Youth – Sledding

Unfortunately, we weren't able to go sledding in January due to the lack of snow. But not to worry, we've rescheduled! Hopefully there'll be snow this time! Please sign up by Sunday February 24th. You will be required to bring your own sled, wear a helmet, and fill out a consent form.



Sunday March 10th at 10:00 am – Family Lent Craft

To mark the beginning of Lent, we invite all families of all ages to join us in the Fellowship Hall for a special Inter-generational craft! We'll be looking at some special posters regarding Psalms and the idea of rest.

Youth & Children's Ministry

Friday March 15th at 6:30 pm – Family – Craft Night

All families are invited to participate in this special craft night! We'll have tons of crafts for you to do, from coloring to cutting to gluing to building. There's truly something for everyone!

Family Craft Night **Friday, March 15th at 6:30**



Applied Theory

Saturday, March 16th at 7:00 pm

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A Jesus-Shaped Life

Saturday March 16th at 7:00 pm – Applied Theory – Study Night

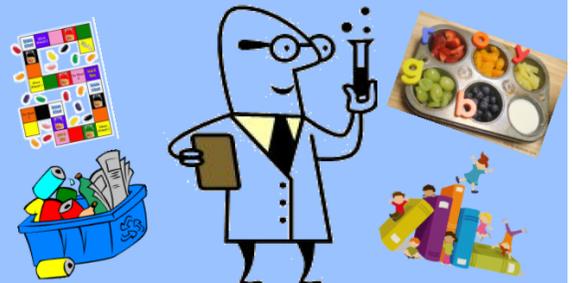
Each year we participate in a special Study Night. Young adults are invited to join us as we take an in-depth look into the idea of *A Jesus-Shaped Life*. This is a challenging book that asks you to take a deep look at your life, and compare it to Jesus'. It's a radical way of approaching discipleship.

Sunday March 24th at 10:00 am – Family Spring Break Class

As it is March Break, Young Explorers is cancelled, and instead we'll have a super fun Spring class! There'll be stories, games, science experiments, crafts, and snacks! Join us in Classroom A/B!

Family Spring Break

Sunday, March 24th at 10:00

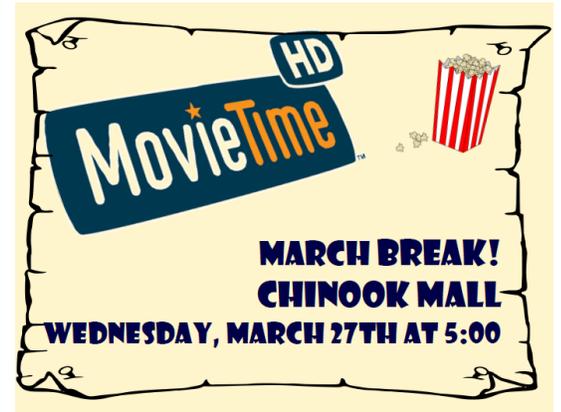


Super Fun for All Our Young Explorers!

Youth & Children's Ministry

Wednesday March 27th at 5:00 pm – Youth – Mall Hangout

It's March Break! That means it's time for our annual hangout event. This year, we'll be going to Chinook Mall, to watch a movie, grab some snacks, and of course, walk around the mall!



Coming Up: Youth Surge!!! – April 5th to 7th

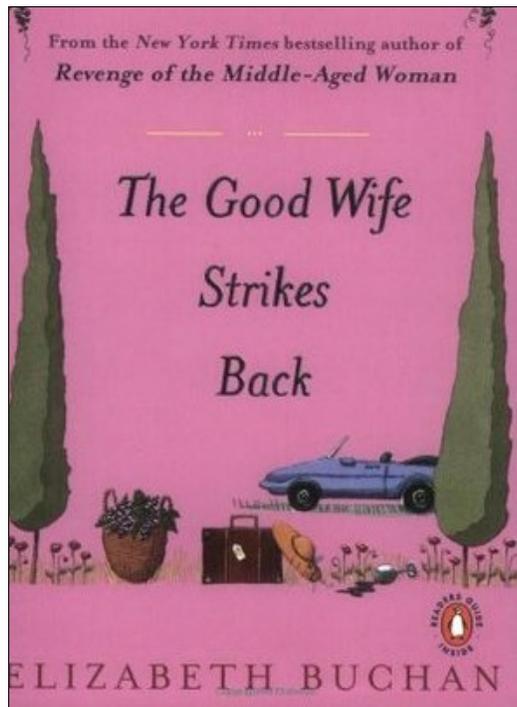
Once again the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute is hosting the Youth Surge Retreat Weekend. This is a fantastic weekend led by the current CLBI students. Youth and young adults 15 and older are invited to stay on campus, with meals provided. There'll be games, sports, worship, small groups, and much more! For more information, please check out clbi.edu/surge. Please contact Jesse if you are interested in attending (cost is \$65 if you register by March 22).

A promotional poster for the CLBI Youth Surge 2019. The background is dark blue with a world map. At the top, a white banner reads "CLBI YOUTH SURGE 2019". Below it, the words "FAKE NEWS" are written in large, bold, white letters on a red, tilted rectangular background. Underneath, the dates "APRIL 5-7, 2019" are written in white. At the bottom, a red banner contains the quote "SPEAK THE TRUTH to each other, and render TRUE & SOUND JUDGMENT" in white, with "ZECHARIAH 8:16-17" below it. The quote is enclosed in large white quotation marks.

Youth and young adults 15 and older are invited to stay on campus, with meals provided.
For more information: clbi.edu/surge
Please contact Jesse if you are interested in attending.
Cost: \$65 if registered by March 22

Please speak to Jesse regarding the potential of sponsorship opportunities.

Small Groups



The Book Club meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Fireside room. New members are always welcome. Bring a friend!

For further information please contact the church office.

As a Lenten-spiritual practice Pastor Julianne will lead a Wednesday night conversation group about the **Marks of the Christian** beginning March 6. The Book of Faith study includes 40 days of devotions based on Romans 12. Kindly let the office know if you wish to join this group.



Redemptive Gifts Session

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

March 2nd

Questions? Call the office

Redemptive Gifts

DISCOVER YOUR DESIGN & PURPOSE

Bring a bag lunch. Please RSVP.

Location: Classroom A/B

The Brenda Strafford Centre

Pile of New Pillows



**100 new pillows needed
for the Brenda Strafford Centre**

Bring your brand new pillow to LCOS
by Easter Sunday, April 21st

What is the Brenda Strafford Centre?
A safe place in Calgary for abused
women & children.

For sanitary reasons, every family at the
Brenda Strafford Centre receives new
pillows when they arrive.
When they leave they take those pillows
with them.

Contact the Church Office
for more details.

The Brenda Strafford Centre (continued)

The Brenda Strafford Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is a second-stage shelter for women and their children who have fled domestic violence. The Centre offers a safe and secure environment. During their six-month stay at the Centre, both women and children are provided with programs and services in a supportive yet independent environment.

Programs and Services include:
Adult, Child & Youth Counselling Programs
Women's Support Group
Progressive Housing
Food Program
Child Care Programs
Multi-cultural Family Support



In past years we have made and filled Lenten bags. This year we have been asked to send the following items to be distributed to families at no cost.

Combs & Hair Brushes
Shampoo & Cream Rinse
Hairspray
Tooth Brushes & Toothpaste
Hand & Body Lotion
Deodorant
Wash Cloths & Hand Towels
Baby Wipes
Dish Soap
Mr. Clean

Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

March 2019 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

On the western slope of the Mount of Olives, just across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem, sits a small chapel, *Dominus Flevit*, from the Latin: *Dominus* – “the Lord”; *Flevit* – “wept.” The name of the chapel comes from Luke’s Gospel, which contains not one but two accounts (13:31f; 19:41f) of Jesus weeping over Jerusalem. According to tradition, it was here, that Jesus wept over the city.

Inside the chapel, the altar is centered before a high arched window that looks out over the city of Jerusalem. Iron grillwork divides the view into sections, so that on a sunny day the effect is that of a stained-glass window except that what you see through the window is not colored glass, not an artist’s rendering of the holy city, but the city itself, with the Dome of the Rock in the bottom left corner and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the center (www.seetheholyland.net/church-of-dominus-flevit/).

Down below, on the front of the altar, is a picture, a mosaic medallion of a white hen with a golden halo around her head. Her red comb resembles a crown, and her wings are spread wide to shelter the pale, yellow chicks that crowd around her feet. There are seven of them, with black dots for eyes and orange dots for beaks. They look happy to be there. The hen looks ready to spit fire if anyone comes near her babies.

And around the edge of the medallion is a Latin text written in red: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”

The last phrase of this text is set outside of the circle, in a pool of red underneath the chicks’ feet: *you were not willing*. Jesus’ words of lament: “Jerusalem, Jerusalem...;” of yearning: “How often have I desired to gather your children...;” of rejection: “And you were not willing.”

Lament, yearning, rejection – for the city of Jerusalem, which Jesus sees across the valley, is a city like a chicken coop filled with pale, yellow chicks and at least one fox – Herod.

Jesus weeps over the city seeing that some of the chicks have taken to following the fox around. Others are huddled out in the open where anything with claws can get to them: helpless, unsafe, unprotected.

Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry Kochendorfer (continued)

And Jesus, standing on the hillside, looking across the valley weeping, is like a white hen with a golden halo around her head who is clucking for all she is worth. Most of the chicks cannot hear her, and the ones that do make no response or ignore her clucking call.

Raised on the farm in the days when chickens often roamed freely around the chicken coop I have seen how a mother hen gathers her brood in protection if it began to rain or if the rooster was let loose or if it was dusk and time to settle down for the night or if the dog came to close. The hen's wings were large and seemed to expand to cover a surprisingly large number of chicks. The hen would simply cluck and somehow the chicks would know to gather under her wings. And not once did I see a chick ignore the hen.

But here, Jesus laments because the brood is unwilling to be gathered. This hen clucks and raises her wings but they do not come, they do not gather. And Jesus weeps.

The depth of his love, his lament, is profound – beyond words. Wings spread, breast exposed, he stands open in the most vulnerable posture in the world. Vulnerable to the dangerous, fearful, deathly work of this fox in the chicken coop, for if the fox wants them the fox will have to kill the hen first.

Which the fox does, as it turns out. He slides up on her one night in the yard while all the babies are asleep. When her cry wakens them, they scatter. She dies the next day where both fox and chicks can see her – wings spread, breast exposed.

In a few short days, in Jerusalem, this lament, this weeping will echo throughout the city and throughout all time. The compassion of God will be exposed for the entire world to see. For in Jerusalem, Jesus, like a mother hen spreading her wings to gather and protect her chicks, will spread his arms on the cross, spread them wide enough to embrace the world, spread them wide enough to embrace us for all time.

May you be sustained in your Lenten journey knowing this expansive, loving embrace.

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)

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 6:30 Breakfast at The Seed 8:30 50+ Exercise 9:00 Redemptive Gifts 7:00 Tween Mystery Night
3 Communion 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult, Children and Youth 11:00 Worship Service	4 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Al-anon	5 1:00 Games Group	6 9:30 Experiencing God 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 11AM Praise Team	7	8	9 8:30 50+ Exercise 10:00 Youth Band 1:00 Youth Sledding
10 Sandwich Sunday 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Study 10:00 Family Lent Craft 11:00 Worship Service	11 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Fireside	12 10:00 Book Club 7:00 Transitional Ministry Team 7:00 Today's Pilgrims	13 9:30 Experiencing God 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Marks of a Christian 7:30 11AM Praise Team	14	15 6:30 Family Craft Night	16 8:30 50+ Exercise 7:00 Applied Theory Study Night
17 Communion 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult, Children and Youth 11:00 Worship Service	18	19 1:00 Games Group 7:00 Board Meeting	20 9:00 Experiencing God 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Marks of a Christian 7:30 11AM Praise Team	21 7:15 Flock Care	22 7:00 Movie Lovers	23 8:30 50+ Exercise
24 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Study 10:00 Family Spring Break Class 11:00 Worship Service	25 1:00 Memory Plus	26 7:00 Today's Pilgrims	27 9:00 Experiencing God 5:00 Youth Mall Hangout 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Marks of a Christian 7:30 11AM Praise Team 8:30 Al-anon Book Club	28	Coming Up April 5-7 CLBI Youth Surge April 18 Maundy Thursday April 19 Good Friday April 21 Easter Sunday	