

The Vine

August 2021



Ministry Team

Pastor

Pastor Greg Smith
403-464-8254 cell/text
pastorgreg@oursaviourchurch.ca



Office Administrator

Judy McDonald
office2@oursaviourchurch.ca

Church Media Director

Mike Mihaichuk
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Office Hours:

Beginning July 6 the office will be staffed Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, until further notice.

Our Mission:

We are an inviting and growing Christian presence, with a passion for living and sharing Jesus Christ.

Our Vision:

To be a Christ-centered community that Equips Disciples to Make Disciples.

Brent



Lois



Alfred



Kathy



Beverly



Dale



Iain



Garry



Brian



Nick



Shirley



Bob



Church Board 2021-2022

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To Die is Gain

"When Christ calls a [person], he bids [them to] come and die." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. -Philippians 1:21

Death is a part of life. In fact, we wouldn't be alive without it. Cells are dying all the time in our bodies. And these are not random deaths — they are programmed deaths for our own good. Look at your hand. It has five fingers because the cells that used to live between them died way back when you were an embryo. Embryos as small as eight to 16 cells in size depend on cell death — if it did not occur, our human development would go off course. You might say that if it were not for death, we would not even be born. Cell death is what keeps us from being overrun with cancer. Natural surveillance systems detect almost all cancerous mutations and direct the affected cells to die.

These cancer cells die so that we might live.

In addition, programmed cell death causes a constant turnover of cells in the gut lining, and it generates our skin's protective outer layer of dead cells.

The human body stays alive, in large part, because of death. Certain cells die because of the benefit this brings to the greater whole.

Jesus knows that there is an upside to death, which is why he says to his disciples that "the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed" (Mark 8:31). He says this quite openly, like a biology teacher giving a lecture. But Peter has never heard such outrageous talk, so he takes Jesus aside and tries to silence him. Jesus then turns the tables on Peter and rebukes him, saying, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (Mark 8:33).

Pastor's Message (continued)

Jesus dies to pay the price for our sins. Jesus dies to reconcile us to God. Jesus dies to show us how much God loves us. Jesus dies to call us to follow him in suffering service. Jesus dies to achieve victory over death. Jesus dies so that we might live.

Like programmed cell death, the death of Jesus brings benefit to the greater whole. It may look like foolishness to the world, “but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18). The challenge for us is to see how we can find the upside of death in the lives we live each day. It means that we find a way to respond to the call of Jesus when he says, “*If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me*” (Mark 8:34). To become a follower of Jesus means to be willing to sacrifice ourselves for the good of all.

So how do we do this?

Let's look again at the cells in our body, and notice that the upside of death involves **seeing the big picture, fighting the good fight, and knowing when to get out of the way**. Put these activities together, and you can discover what it means to deny yourself and follow Jesus. You can also see how those who lose their lives for the right reasons will actually save their lives.

See the big picture. Back when you were an embryo, the cells that held your fingers together did not have the luxury of being obsessed with their own survival. They had to die, so that the five-fingered human hand could emerge. Jesus knew that his own death on the cross was at the very heart of God's plan of salvation. Now it's true that this plan didn't make sense to everyone around Jesus. Peter thought it was insane, because his mind was set on human things. But the cross was something that Jesus was prepared to face, because he saw it as part of the divine plan, God's big picture.

Where is it that we need to expand our vision of God's plan for us? It may be that we need to “die” to the idea of being the brightest star in the galaxy. We see the big picture, and we'd like to be a big part of that picture. It takes a “death” of self and pride to be willing to work on the big plan, or to be a part of God's great work around the world, by working in our little corner of that world without the world paying particular notice.

Fight the good fight. It's helpful, of course, to distinguish between the good fight and the bad fight. Lots of energy can be expended on fights that — at the end of the day — don't really matter. Our bodies are healthy when their cells are fighting the good fight, and our bodies are not healthy when our cells are not fighting that fight, but fighting against each other. Jesus challenges us to take a stand for him (fight the good fight). This can be a struggle. Who wants to fight? Let's face it: we'd rather not fight. We'd rather not be in the game, but watching the game. We'd rather not be in training, but admire those who are. It takes a “death” of self to be willing to fight for the causes of the Gospel and not for ourselves. Jesus calls us to fight HIS good fight.

Know when to get out of the way. White blood cells have an important job to do in wiping out infections in our bodies, but when they are done with their work they self-destruct in a very orderly fashion.

Pastor's Message (continued)

In the life of the church, people have a hard time getting out of the way. Pastors want their distinctive approaches to be remembered and repeated. Retired church members want the hymns of their childhood to be sung every week in worship. Baby boomers want their children to follow their examples, and Gen-Xers are perplexed by the approaches of the Millennials that follow them. At some point, each of us has to remember that the church of Jesus Christ does not belong to us. We are not the owners. God has called us to be stewards and managers. The church has been handed to us, and our job is to hand it to the people who follow us. To let go and get out of the way is a tremendous act of faith, showing the world that the church belongs to Christ, and not to us.

The harder part of knowing when to get out of the way involves the willingness for someone else to get the credit, or at the very least, not being concerned with credit issues in the first place. It takes a "death" of self in order to be utterly unconcerned about the glory, but radically concerned about the blessing for others.

Death is a part of the Christian faith. In fact, there would be no faith without it. We need a cross before an empty tomb, a Good Friday before an Easter morning, and the execution of the Son of Man before the resurrection of the Son of God.

To live is Christ. To die is gain!

Pastor Greg





Reimagining Confirmation

Coming in 2022 will be a new way of doing Confirmation. Stay tuned for details in the months to come! If you have any questions feel free to contact Pr. Greg.

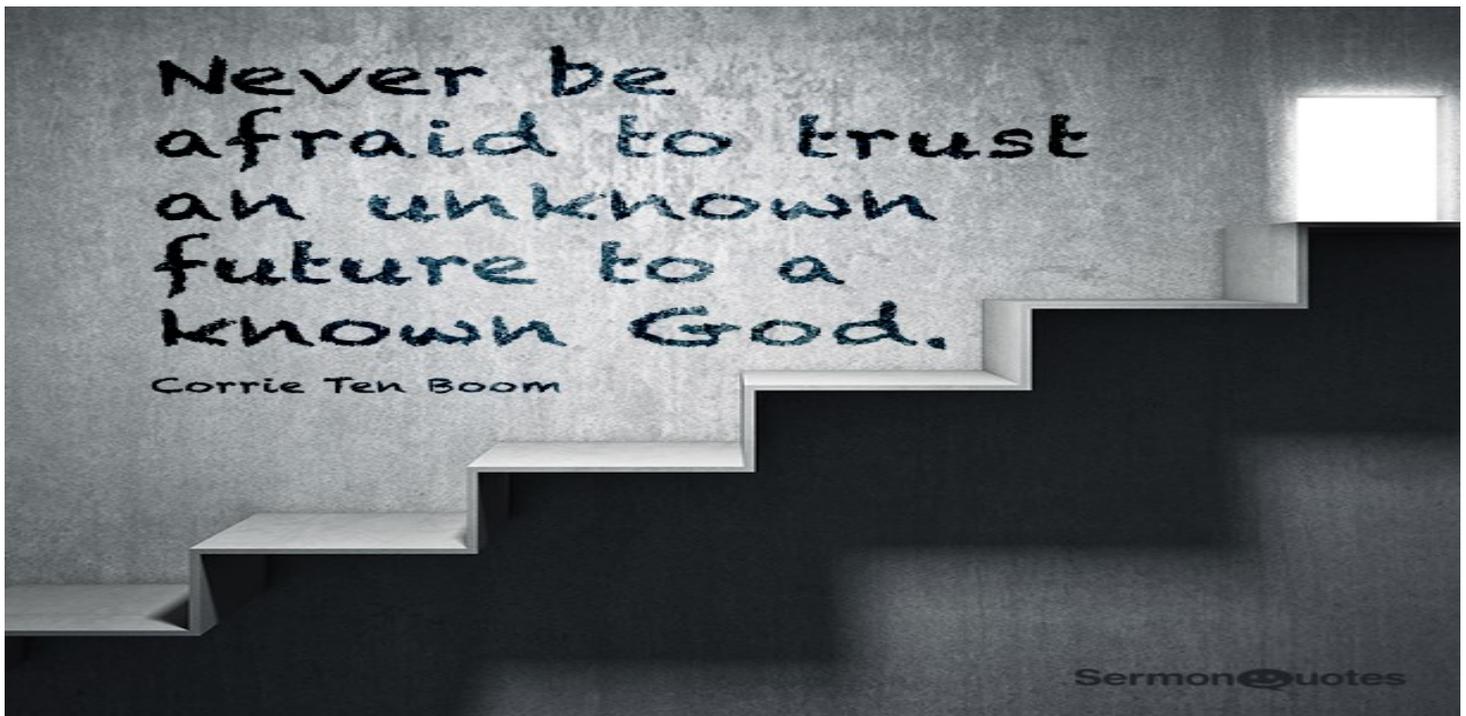


The 9:00 am Sunday Praise Team has decided to disband. We are grateful for their many years of service to LCOS in leading the church in worship. At this time we will, temporarily, extend our Summer worship time of 10:00 AM through September.

While we discern what the future holds for a second service time on Sunday mornings, we seek your input. Please let the board, the office or Pastor Greg know your thoughts about the 9:00 am service. Thank you!



We are focusing our efforts on our Fall WBS (Weekend Bible School) coming October 22-24. Many thanks to Jocelyn Smith who is writing, leading and coordinating this October program! We hope by the time WBS rolls around, we will have a Youth and Family Director and a clearer picture of what our in facility Kid's Ministry will look like in 2022. For the time being, we will offer online children ministry resources for parents to download and use at home. Stay tuned as we seek the Lord's guidance for this vital part of our Mission and Ministry.



I am grateful for the LCOS board that is working under difficult circumstances, seeking the Spirit's guidance into so many unknowns. We would like your help as we prayerfully look forward to the future. First, as already mentioned in the worship section of this month's Vine, we would like to know your thoughts about the future of the 9:00 AM worship service.

Pastor's Message (continued)

Also, below is a questionnaire regarding our ministry to Children, Youth and Families. Your responses will be a valuable and essential part of our discernment process. You can submit your responses through the month of August to the board, the office or Pastor Greg. Thank you for your responses!

Children's Ministry Questionnaire

As we begin to think about what 'in person' engagement might look like in a post-pandemic world, we need your help. Most of us are craving the opportunity to get together once again and 'catch up' on what life has been like for each other over this unprecedented period in our history. We want to ensure we do our best to meet your expectations and so, we ask that you consider completing this short survey.

Do you have children who would be participating in the Youth and Family Ministry?

Have you volunteered in the past to help teach Sunday School? If so, how?

What is most important to you regarding Youth and Family Ministry?

What things do you think should be included?

From your perspective, what is the optimal manner of delivering our Youth and Family Ministry?
(Do you have a preference for where, when, for how long, by whom etc.)

We are looking for the right person to Direct the Youth and Family Ministry. What do you think are the most important elements to consider in choosing this candidate?

Do you have other requests or suggestions?

We are **thrilled** to be offering
a **NEW** format of VBS:
**LCOS' Fall Fest WBS (WEEKEND
Bible School) for children ages 4-12.**
October 22nd-24th

In person Snacks & crafts
Worship & actions Inreach & Outreach
Stay tuned for more details...



We must all hang together, or
assuredly we shall all hang separately.

Benjamin Franklin

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We Are Not Alone!

LCOS belongs to a larger Church body. COVID has taught us and forced us into realizing the value of working together. We need each other. Part of this begins with communication. So, each month, we will be providing the links to the ELCIC (Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada) and The Synod of Alberta and Territories. I encourage you to check out these links regularly and see what your church is doing in the province, nation and throughout the world.



**SYNOD OF
ALBERTA
+ AND THE +
TERRITORIES**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

www.albertasynod.ca



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**
In Mission for Others

www.elcic.ca

Board Report by Nick Perchthaler

Greetings to everyone and the Board continues to pray that all of you and your families are healthy.

The July Board meeting was held at the church for the first time since September of last year. So that was a positive small step in our re-opening process. Re-opening was also the main topic of discussion at our meeting. We continue to take a cautious approach. The situation is so dynamic that we will continue to monitor the pandemic situation and plan for things on a monthly basis. This is because there is so much that we just do not know. As a reminder, in church services will begin in a restricted fashion on August 8 and will continue through September 5. We are asking that only fully vaccinated people attend, but unvaccinated children under the age of 12 are more than welcome. Then, starting September 12, we will begin full services in our “new” normal world with no restrictions. On September 19, we will be having a reunion celebration after the service with details to follow. Note that we will continue with one service at 10am during September.

Things will look different in our “new” normal. We don’t know how many people will continue to enjoy our services virtually or who will want to return to in-person services. We will have to learn and adapt as things progress. One of the ideas we are talking about is starting a mid-week casual contemporary service. More details will become available over the next couple of months. To help us with what the “new normal” looks like, we are looking for your feedback. What would you like to see us do in the “new” normal world. Please give this some thought and contact any Board member so that we can review the input we receive at our August Board meeting. We thank you in advance for taking the time to help us out.

On another positive note, we have completed the job description for our Youth Minister position. Over the next couple of months, we will be interviewing potential candidates. We are looking to have this position filled by October. Again, we are looking for your feedback as per the questionnaire that is attached in this Vine edition.

On the Financial side, July has been a difficult month. We expect to finish in a deficit position of about \$4,000 for the month. We still have a surplus for the year, but July has taken a chunk out of that amount. As things are opening up again, some of our expenses are returning ie. Phone and Utilities and we need the revenues to cover them. The expenses for the Youth Minister will also start in the fall. The Board continues to monitor our Financial situation each month and we will keep you updated on our status.

We continue to Live stream the services from the Sanctuary and continue to Broadcast over FM 100.5 station at our 10 am service. If there are comments on the live stream or FM please contact Mike by email at lcoss.yc.media@gmail.com. We also continue to provide a YouTube recording of the services when completed on Sunday afternoon. Since we are live streaming, we will be able to conduct virtual communion, so please be prepared with your own elements (bread and wine/juice) for that part of the service on the first and third Sundays of the month.

And the Board continues to acknowledge all staff and volunteers at LCOS who continue to support the congregation and all church activities. That has allowed us to continue with weekly services, communicate with all congregational members and enjoy our music in a safe manner.

Thank You Volunteers! You are a blessing to the congregation.

Board Report (continued)

If you require any assistance with operational issues, please contact Pastor Greg at 403-464-8254.

The Board continues to work on behalf of the Congregation to ensure that LCOS is a safe place where we can grow according to our Mission “We are an inviting and growing Christian presence, with a passion for living and sharing Jesus Christ” and our Vision “To be a Christ-centered community that equips disciples to make disciples”. If you have any questions or comments regarding Board activities, please feel free to contact Nick Perchthaler at nperchthaler@shaw.ca or via phone at 587-437-8511.

Stay safe and enjoy your summer.

Nick Perchthaler
Board Chair



Submitted by Cliff Blumhagen, Financial Secretary

If you wish to contribute to the church, the following are options for giving:

Interac e-transfer:

Donations are made to email address: donate@oursaviourchurch.ca. This is set up to transfer automatically without a password.

PAR Program Giving:

The Pre-Authorized Remittance program (PAR) gives the option to give monthly directly from a bank or credit union account. If you sign up by August 01, your monthly donation would begin August 20. Please contact the Financial Secretary Cliff Blumhagen (403-936-0419 or blumhagencg@gmail.com) to get a PAR sign up form.

Cheque:

You can mail or bring a cheque to the church. However, bank trips are limited at this time and it may take several weeks until cheques are deposited at the bank.

Online Giving (via credit or debit card **):

Donations are made via the following secure link: <https://onrealm.org/LutheranChurchofOurSaviour/give/now>.
**NOTE: to give via debit card, the card must have a CVV code (on the back of the card). This is like the code on the back of a credit card. **

Text Giving (via credit or debit card):**

Donations are made by texting LCOSGive to 73256 followed by the donation amount.

**NOTE: to give via debit card, the card must have a CVV code (on the back of the card). This is like the code on the back of a credit card. **

church Expenses...

... continue during the summer while you may be away on vacation.

If you go on vacation, please remember the church before you leave.



Cliff Blumhagen
Financial Secretary



Financial Secretary Report (continued)



Romans 12 does not offer a unicorn-esque view of transformation as stewardship. Before we can care for people and their existential reality, we must examine the world and who we are in this world. The product of such examination ought to be a desire to enhance and improve our personal state so that how we live in this world and how we perceive this world changes.

Transformation as stewardship is not complacency with the world's current offering. We march for justice. We protest with our feet and with our prayers. We hope with our actions against anything that is inhumane and non-life giving or life affirming.

What hope for the world is there if the church community genuinely cares for the needs of others, but lacks its own hope?



through

God's love

we have

hope

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Games Group



Ruth Peterson and Eleanor Wilson are very much looking forward to the start up of the LCOS Games Group on September 7, providing the Covid situation remains under control. The Games Group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 1:00pm. We invite you to watch for further details.



The Train submitted by Pat Kaack

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e., our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our lives. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, thank God for the journey.

Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train.

(This was sent to me several years ago from a dear friend. I came across it the other day, so I thought I could share it with you).

A week ago, Jens and myself attended a funeral in Killam, Alberta. Robert was 87 years old. He spent most of his life on his farm in Dickson, Alberta. He was buried in a beautiful country cemetery in the Sedgewick area. The Bethsaida cemetery was built by the early pioneers in 1911, and the Lutheran Church was built in 1916. Unfortunately in 1976 it was destroyed by fire. I watched some of the people checking out the tombstones of their forefathers. They stepped off the train years ago. Robert, who is Jens' relative, stepped off the train on June 26th, 2021. We actually met him on the train of life in 1970. Robert and Barb attended our wedding here at Sacred Heart Church Aug. 14th, 1971. His parents immigrated here from Denmark in the early 1920's. They stepped off the train to begin their journey in Canada. Little did they know what they were to encounter so far away from home, but they also met many people on that train of life over their years.

The more you reread this beautiful reflection on life, you will see yourself on this train. If you have time, write some of your reflections and see where you got on the train and who you met along the way.

The young pastor read from Romans 12: 1-21. He gave a beautiful synopsis of Robert's life. This reading tells how we are to live as a Faith Family and definitely a high calling. Hopefully, this last month of summer you can find a quiet time to read this reading. It fits so well with "The Train".

God's Servant in Jesus Name

Patricia Kaack



Operation Eyesight Universal submitted by Pat Farn

This year was proof that the impact we have made over the years has set us up to create real, lasting change in the world, even in the midst of a global pandemic.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Keeping Eye Health a Priority
and Continuing Our Impact



Your compassion and generosity allowed us to respond urgently to COVID-19 while also continuing to transform the lives of so many people, including Elina in Zambia. Thanks to donors like you, her vision has been restored and she is smiling again. Thank you for your continued belief in our mission to prevent blindness and restore sight.

Continuing our COVID-19 response in South Asia

We continue to support our partner hospitals in India, Nepal and Bangladesh in the face of the pandemic. They urgently need PPE and medical supplies. Visit our website to learn how you can help save sight and save lives.



Remembering founder Art Jenkyns

Last month marked 58 years since the founding of Operation Eyesight by Calgarian, Art Jenkyns. We connected with the Jenkyns family to reflect on our organization's history and the incredible man who started it all.

Eye surgery saved a little girl's life

When Blessing was four years old, an accident caused her to lose her eye. Because of donors like you, she got the life-saving care she needed.



To learn more about this amazing organization please visit <https://www2.operationeyesight.com/>.

Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry Kochendorfer



July - August 2021 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

CLWR was there. You were there.

When I think of the ministry of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) over its 75 years, my mind often journeys to the international relief and development work taking place alongside many partners. At this moment, when I hear “CLWR,” my thoughts go to their local collaboration and partnerships, such as the response in Alberta to flooding in High River in 2013 and to the wildfires in Fort McMurray in 2016.

Never will I forget the overwhelming, immediate support, nor the outpouring of compassion and generosity the moment word of these disasters hit the news. In my first journey to Fort McMurray following the fires, it looked like a battle zone, with entire neighbourhoods completely destroyed and laid waste; vinyl siding melted and twisted; families and neighbours arm in arm, staring silently, slowly shaking their heads in disbelief and despair.

But I visited again Fort McMurray approximately one year later, together with CLWR staff and Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer, then-president of the Alberta-British Columbia District of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC). We heard story after story of relief, support, and gratitude amid the devastation and ongoing effects of trauma.

CLWR was there, you were there, partnering with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and LCC to help meet the physical and psychosocial (emotional and mental) needs of community members.

CLWR partnered to provide new homes for those who had lost everything in the fire. Energy-efficient homes were built in Hague, SK, by teams of Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS) volunteers and transported to Fort McMurray where other volunteers had poured foundations and basements. CLWR had previously partnered with MDS, experts in domestic disaster assistance, to respond to the flooding in High River.

“I just can’t believe it,” one individual shared with us, standing in their new home. “I’m sure nobody realizes how all those little bits of love add up to something meaningful. It took a lot of people to get this together. This house will remind me of that every single day. It seems that thank you is not enough, but thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

CLWR also partnered with a Fort McMurray organization to help alleviate the physical and psychosocial pain of those affected by the fires. Funds were provided to enhance the reach of the organization’s outreach services in Fort McMurray and the surrounding communities. With

Bishop's Message (continued)

increased staffing, expanded and more frequent visits to the rural communities were made possible, enabling greater access for children and adults to counseling and support, especially for those people who could not always travel to Fort McMurray. In addition, domestic violence services included an emergency women and children's shelter, second stage housing, and community outreach, which included support groups, risk assessments, education, and training.

Yes, I think of international efforts, but I also think of collaboration and partnerships to meet national needs.

CLWR was there, you were there.

I have seen CLWR's strategic compass designed to be visionary and dynamic, emphasizing innovation and collaboration, sustainability, and transformation. CLWR maintains a commitment to building resilience, using rights-based and adaptive approaches.

When God lays the needs of people facing natural disaster and dislocation on the hearts of God's people, the response is immediate, filled with compassion and generosity.

CLWR is there. You are there.

Blessings to you, CLWR, in these next 75 years as you seek to faithfully live your mission: *Inspired by God's love for the world, CLWR challenges and responds to the injustice which causes human suffering and poverty. We are committed to working alongside our partners to build resilience through a continual shared learning approach.*

As an international relief and development agency of the Lutheran communities, CLWR provides opportunities for Canadians to respond to national and international needs.

Our National Church Council approved the designation of September 26, 2021 as CLWR Sunday to celebrate their 75th anniversary. Watch for further information and resources.

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)

Synod of Alberta and the Territories

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August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 YouTube Service (Pastor Dave Saude)	2	3 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	4	5 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	6	7
8 Communion 10:00 am In-Church Worship (registration required) Drive-In Worship Service Live Stream Service YouTube Service	9	10 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	11	12 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	13	14
15 Communion 10:00 am In-Church Worship (registration required) Drive-In Worship Service Live Stream Service YouTube Service	16	17 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm 7:00 pm Board Meeting	18	19 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	20	21
22 10:00 am In-Church Worship (registration required) Drive-In Worship Service Live Stream Service YouTube Service	23	24 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	25	26 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	27	28
29 10:00 am In-Church Worship (registration required) Drive-In Worship Service Live Stream Service YouTube Service	30	31 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm				