

The background of the image is a vibrant, golden sunset or sunrise sky. The sun is partially obscured by clouds, creating a bright, glowing effect. Three dark wooden crosses are silhouetted against the sky, positioned in the foreground. The central cross is the tallest, flanked by two shorter crosses. The overall mood is solemn and spiritual.

The Vine

April 2022

Ministry Team

Pastor

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



Office Administrator

Judy McDonald
825-438-7632 cell/text
office2@oursaviourchurch.ca

Church Media Director

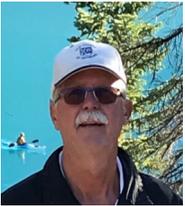
Mike Mihaichuk
lcos.yyc.media@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am—noon

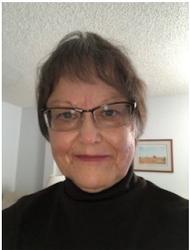
Our Mission: We are an inviting and growing Christian presence, with a passion for living and sharing Jesus Christ.

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

Brent



Lois



Alfred



Kathy



Beverly



Dale



Iain



Brian



Nick



Carolyn



Debra



Church Board 2022-2023

Brent Anderson (Secretary)
Carolyn Anderson
Lois Beuttenmiller
Alfred Forbrich (Vice-Chair)
Kathy Gibson
Beverly Marshall
Dale Mass
Iain McKay
Nick Perchthaler (Chair)
Brian Prunkle
Debra Starratt



8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary T2H 0Z4
Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Website: www.oursaviourchurch.ca Instagram: [lcos_youth](https://www.instagram.com/lcos_youth)



SPONTANEOUS RECOVERY

After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move. The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed. "Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message." -Matthew 28:1-7 (The Message)

In the hospital a parade of doctors, nurses and therapists has been in to see Jocelyn after her stroke in March of 2010. They had shaken their heads in amazement to see her walking and talking. The doctors had told us that with the magnitude of her stroke, she should be completely paralyzed on her left side. One doctor even left her room thinking he had the wrong patient.

During the week in the hospital a speech therapist came into Jocelyn's hospital room and took her through some tests and questions. Afterward, she said there was no need for future therapy because of her "Spontaneous Recovery." Jocelyn and I reflected on that phrase and said to each other, "I believe another word for it would be 'Miracle!'"

Pastor's Message (continued)

As doctors, nurses, therapists, and visitors stopped by they were all surprised by what they saw and heard. As I have reflected over the years upon this miracle in our life, I am drawn to **the miracle** of all time: the resurrection of our Lord. As these courageous women went to the tomb, they too were surprised by what they saw and heard. They were in a cemetery for goodness sake. The last thing they expected was to hear a message of hope. They were going to finish burial preparation but received a new charge. Go and preach that Jesus is not dead, but ALIVE!

It is by the wounds of our Lord that we are healed from all our sins. It is through the "Spontaneous Recovery" (i.e. - miraculous resurrection) of our Lord Jesus that we receive forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation. This new, eternal life in Jesus is the greatest miracle of all!

Over the years we have been so grateful to God for this "spontaneous recovery" in Jocelyn's life. We saw God's hand protecting her through the stroke and recovery process. God is alive and well. His "spontaneous recovery" paints the rest of our lives with eternal hope. Fear and disappointment do not conquer in our lives. Pain, sickness and even death does not define us or the trajectory of our lives. Because He lives, we can face tomorrow with whatever it brings. Life is truly worth the living, just because He lives!

Live in the joy of the Resurrection,
Pastor Greg

Holy Week Worship Schedule

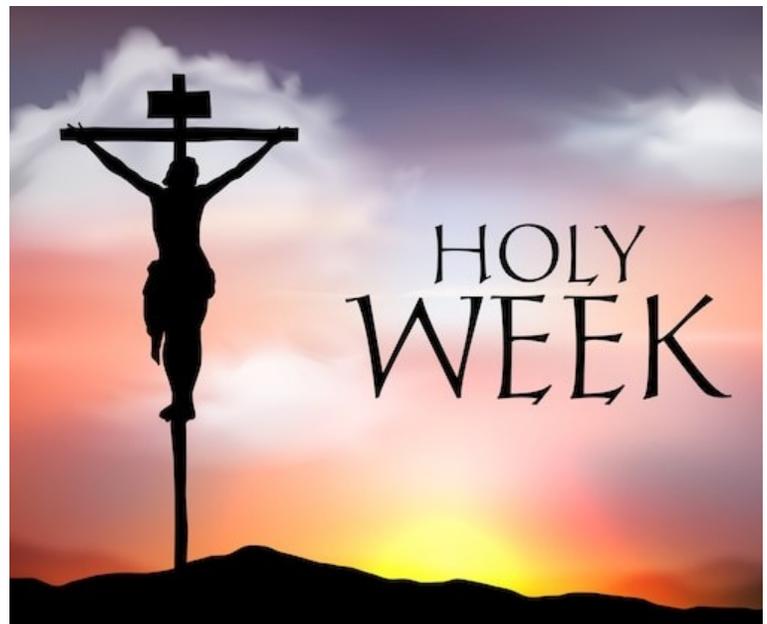
Palm Sunday - April 10, 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday - April 14, 7:00 pm

Good Friday - April 15, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday - April 17, 10:00 am

With Easter Brunch to follow



Please register with the church office for the Easter Brunch as we want to make sure we have enough food for everyone. Thank you.

Board Report by Nick Perchthaler

Welcome to Spring! We have so much to be thankful for. Pastor Greg is back and we will be back to our new normal, effective April 1. Yeaahhh! The Board sent out a Communication on March 17, outlining what we will be doing in April. All restrictions will be eliminated. However, we do encourage the continued use of masks. It is incredible that it has been over two years now since we have operated in a normal way. April 3 will be Pastor Greg's first "normal" service with us. We are starting to get geared up with ushers ushering again the way we used to and with Communion assistance as well. And this is all new to Pastor Greg. These are exciting times though as we do get back to normal. The Games group will be starting up again in April as well, but we did decide to wait until May to start up with Hot Dog Sundays again.

Holy week will be packed with services leading up to Easter Sunday. And after not holding our Easter Brunch for the past two years, the Board will once again prepare a meal of ham, potato casserole, fruit and hot cross buns. As per the recent Board communication, we are asking that people register for this event. This is purely to allow us to establish how much food we need to prepare. We hope that members who have not attended any services over the past two years will decide to come back in person. Over the past month, we have seen a core group of 45-50 people attending the weekly services. And we have about 130-140 people who watch the services on line. But wouldn't it be great if we could get over 100 people attending the Easter service.

What has been nice to see in March is that we started up again with meeting for coffee in the Fellowship Hall after the services. This was one item that members had indicated they were looking forward to starting up again. I listed some of the feedback in the March Vine. Please note that the Board will have a one-day Board retreat on April 23 to review the feedback we have received and to set our priorities for the remainder of this year. We know that we have lost some members due to a variety of reasons over the past two years. Hopefully some of them will come back. The positive news is that we have also gained a few new members and we look forward to formally welcoming them in April. The Board will be looking at how we can grow. We also need to discuss how we engage the youth again. We have lost two years of doing that. Please advise any Board member of any ideas and suggestions that you may have that you want us to consider.

And as always, we continue to advise of our financial situation. Our first quarter does not look good. It is always so difficult to predict how we are doing as we do not know the giving patterns of our members. Based on our current information we expect to finish Q1 in a deficit of about \$10,000. As we open up again, there will be some cost increases, but overall the costs have been in line with our budget. It is on the giving side where we are falling behind.

And as always, thank you to all the volunteers who help out, especially now as we start to open up again.

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 healthy everyone and we hope to see many more of you in person in April.

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.

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 April 01, your monthly donation would begin April 20. Please contact the Financial Secretary Cliff Blumhagen (403-936-0419 or blumhagencg@gmail.com) to get a PAR sign up form and with any questions.

Cheque:

You can mail or drop off a cheque to the church – in the mailbox or in the offering plate / basket.

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). **

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). **

2021 tax receipts were generated in late January and distributed via email to givers with an email address on file and via Canada Post mail to givers without an email address. Please contact Cliff if you were expecting a receipt and have not received one.

Together For Joy

The annual stewardship program for 2022 is 'Together For Joy'.

This program encourages us to share our treasure and invest in our mission as a church as a community of new songs, new ways of singing and new ways of being God's church in God's world.

Thank you for all who give generously financially to the church and to those who have submitted a pledge for 2022.



Welcome Back Pastor Greg & Family





The Brenda Strafford Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence has a mandate to contribute to the creation of a safe community for abused women and their children through quality services and in collaboration with community resources.

The Brenda Strafford Centre provides:

- **34 self-contained second stage shelter apartments**
- **51 self-contained affordable housing units**
- **Individual and group counseling for women and children**
- **Weekly support groups for women and children**
- **Basic Needs Support**
- **Scheduled and Respite Childcare**
- **Follow-up and outreach**
- **Housing referrals**
- **Child & Youth Programs**

Again this spring LCOS is asking for donations of new pillows, as well as large diapers, baby wipes and laundry detergent (liquid and pods).



Games Group

GAMES

We are thrilled to announce that the Games Group plans to meet again beginning April 5. The group gets together in the fellowship hall on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 1:00 – 3:00 pm to enjoy playing a variety of games, while enjoying great fellowship and yummy refreshments. Questions can be directed to Ruth Peterson and Eleanor Wilson or office2@oursaviourchurch.ca.



Some Special Birthdays We'd Like to Celebrate



John Claussen

Larry Friis

Elaine Sissons

Making Palm Crosses

*You are invited to join us
on Saturday, April 9th at
9:30 am as we make palm
crosses for Palm Sunday.*

*Everyone is welcome to come and
enjoy coffee, snacks and fellowship.
Questions can be directed to
Karen Smith.*

April Worship Services

Sunday, April 3

Worship Service at 10:00 am (with Communion)

Palm Sunday, April 10

Worship Service at 10:00 am (with Communion)

Maundy Thursday, April 14

Worship Service at 7:00 pm (with Communion)

Good Friday, April 15

Worship Service at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 17

Worship Service at 10:00 am (with Communion)

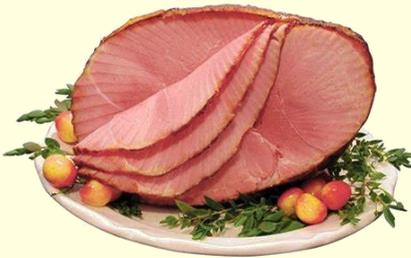
Followed by Easter Brunch

Please register at office2@oursaviourchurch.ca

Sunday, April 24

Worship Service at 10:00 am

Easter Brunch



We look forward to the Board of Directors' Annual Easter Brunch on April 17, following our 10:00 worship service. Although registration for worship services beginning April 3rd will not be necessary, we are asking that those wishing to attend our Easter service and brunch register at office2@oursaviourchurch.ca so that appropriate plans can be made for food.



RESURRECTION

I received this reflection on the Resurrection from my high school alumni. I discovered another way of contemplating the mystery of Resurrection in my life. I would like to share it with you as we rejoice and be glad, the Lord is Risen in our lives this Spring. Once again, we are renewed in God's spirit of New Life.

May we walk together after two years of "Interruption." We did grow immensely in these past two years in so many personal and community ways. God knows what is best for us individually and corporately.

Each time we **love** again after having our love rejected, we share in the power of the Resurrection.

Each time we **trust** again after having our trust betrayed, we share in the power of the Resurrection.

Each time we **fall** and try again, we share in the power of the Resurrection.

Each time we **hope** again, after having our hopes smashed into pieces, we share in the power of the Resurrection.

(How many times were our hopes smashed this past two years?????)

THE MESSAGE OF EASTER IS THAT NOTHING CAN DESTROY US ANYMORE NOT PAIN, NOT SIN, NOT REJECTION, NOT DEATH.

JESUS CHRIST HAS CONQUERED ALL.

Your servant for Jesus Patricia Kaack

SWARM (South West Area Refugee Mission)

Listed below is information from several organizations accepting donations of household items, clothing, kitchen appliances, toys, etc. for the many families that Calgary is welcoming to our area.

Afghan Families

Contact: Mansoor

324-111 Tarawood In NE

587-890-8829

Weekend pick up of donations by van can be arranged.

Calgary Immigrant Support Society

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/YYCSYR>

A Christian online support group, through an Orthodox Christian church, where you can post items you have or items you need.

Helping Others Network

<https://www.helpingothersnetwork.com/>

WINS (Women in Need Society)

WINS locations will take donations, specifically marked as Afghan donations, at their Donation Centre at #137 - 7007 54th St SE.

Furniture can be dropped off at any of the following locations:

Dover (3525-26 Ave SE)

MacLeod (#32, 180-94 Ave SE)

Donation Centre (#137 - 7007 54th St SE)

Other items can be dropped off at any of the following WINS location:

Bowness, Beltline, Fisher Park and Richmond

Centre for Newcomers

Below are the contacts to arrange drop off times at their temporary warehouse location at 495 - 36 Street NE, behind Northgate Village Mall.

Maryam 403-831-7527

Edgar Ayala 403-921-6081

Family Hygiene Kits and Bedding Packs will also be required for refugees arriving shortly from the Ukraine. If you are interested in volunteering to put these kits together, make a donation or help coordinate this activity, please email

office2@oursaviourchurch.ca

Acadia Food Pantry April Pledge Drive

Did you know that Acadia has a high number of residents living below the poverty line?

Every month since April 2019, the Acadia Food Pantry has provided free food to anyone experiencing food insecurity in our community. In 2021, the Pantry served an average of 110 people each month. With increasing inflation, more and more of our neighbours are finding it difficult to afford food for their families. In March of this year, the Pantry served 53 households for a total of 151 people.

As a volunteer organization supported by residents of Acadia as well as Christ Moravian Church, Lutheran Church of Our Saviour and McDougall United Church, the Pantry depends fully on donations to operate. **100% of every donation is used to buy food and supplies and donations are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.**

***SUSTAINERS ARE NEEDED:* Will you be one of 50 donors willing to pledge \$20 per month to help the Acadia Food Pantry continue its valuable work?**

During the month of April, the Pantry is asking for your financial help to continue offering essential food support to families in need. To make a one-time donation or to give monthly, go to **www.mcdunited.com/donate**. Donations may be made by credit card, e-Transfer, or cheque. For credit card donations, look for the **Acadia Food Pantry** name under "To," and for cheques and e-Transfers write "**Acadia Food Pantry**" in the message/memo along with your name and address for tax receipt purposes.

For more information about the Acadia Food Pantry or how to donate, contact **acadiapantry@gmail.com**.

Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry Kochendorfer



April 2022 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God -

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Two years ago, almost to the day, I was preparing an article for the Canada Lutheran to be released in June of 2020.

So much was uncertain. The future was unknown. A future that was changing not month by month, nor week by week, but minute by minute, with the certainty that nothing would be the same again. "The church and world," I wrote, "would be very different for all on the other side of this wilderness."

During the ancient wilderness wanderings of our Hebrew forebears in faith, God did extraordinary things to lead and feed God's people. Water from a rock. Pillars of cloud and fire. Manna rising from the ground. Quail falling from the sky. In the wilderness, severed from the moorings that had held their lives, the people of God received extraordinary, unexpected, unanticipated, previously unimagined grace to keep them focused on God, God's presence, God's provision, God's promise, even though they, like us, often turned their attention elsewhere in their anxiety or fear.

God is present as God has promised. Of this I am assured, dear Church.

God's presence, God's provision, and God's promise have been demonstrated in countless ways over these past two years. Imaginative creativity, thoughtful ingenuity, collaboration, re-connection, care for neighbor, and through simple, and yet radical...love – love, as Jesus taught and embodied it.

The New Testament makes it abundantly clear that Jesus was about love first and foremost, in word and in deed. Jesus begins with love for God, but inseparably linked that love with love for neighbor, which includes the other – the outsider, the outcast, the last, the least, the lost, the disgraced, the enemy.

Bishop's Message (continued)

Dear Church, who are we becoming? We journey knowing God's presence, God's provision, God's promise. And our journey will deepen through love, in word and in deed, taught and embodied by Jesus.

Dear Church, we have learned a lot about what it means to be the Church these past two years. Learning, as we have journeyed, about the essential value of community, of how we need one another, and how we thrive when we feel we are connected.

Dear Church, I am continuing to wonder, reflect, pray.

Dear Church, I wonder, reflect, pray: rooted in God's mission, are we being called, driven to be a church, identified more as a movement than an institution? Drawn together not only by doctrine or liturgy, but by unity of way of life, mission, practices, and vision for the common good? A re-formation?

Dear Church, I wonder, reflect, pray: rooted in God's mission, are we being called into a more significant radical collaboration with others, working across and outside of denominational and inter-faith lines, to seek the common good? Trans-institutional?

Dear Church, I wonder, reflect, pray: rooted in God's mission, are we being called into deeper, and fuller love for the sake of the world? Love, in word and in deed of the neighbor that includes the other in ways never before fully lived out by us, by me?

Dear Church, I pray that we will be given eyes to see and ears to hear the Spirit of God at work. Guiding, encouraging, pushing, inviting into a future yet to be realized, all-the-while knowing that, "the Lord of hosts is with us" (Psalm 46).

In Christ Jesus –
Shalom, +Larry

"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**
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



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

APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion 10:00 am In-Church Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service YouTube Service 100th Birthday Party Afternoon	4 7:00 pm The Master's Singers Practice	5 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 1:00 pm Games Group	6 7:00 pm Al-Anon	7 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice	8	9 9:30 am Making Palm Crosses
10 Communion Palm Sunday 10:00 am  In-Church Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service YouTube Service	11	12 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	13 7:00 pm Al-Anon	14 Communion Maundy Thursday 1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice 7:00 pm In-Church Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service YouTube Service	15 Good Friday  7:00 pm In-Church Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service YouTube Service	16
17 Communion Easter Sunday 10:00 am  In-Church Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service YouTube Service Easter Brunch (Registration Required)	18 7:00 pm The Master's Singers Practice	19 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 1:00 pm Games Group 7:00 pm Board Meeting	20 10:30 am Southwood Care Centre 7:00 pm Al-Anon	21 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice	22	23 Board Retreat
24 10:00 am In-Church Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service YouTube Service	25 May Vine Submission Deadline	26 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	27 7:00 pm Al-Anon	28 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice	29	30