



The Vine

November

2022

Ministry Team

Pastor

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



Youth & Family Ministries Director

Mariette Jessup
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Parish Administrator

Judy McDonald
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Church Media Director

Mike Mihaichuk
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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.

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am - noon

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



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Midwives in the Hospice Ward

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! -2 Corinthians 5:17

God pours life into death and death into life without spilling a single drop. -Anonymous

From the end springs new beginnings. -Pliny the Elder

Lou Dearborn longed for faraway places as a child. No ordinary life would do. And so he lived an adventurous life. As a youth he was an elephant handler with the circus. While working for the circus, he supplemented his income as a prize fighter in boxing matches. And when that chapter ended, a new one began.

As all loose things drift to the sea, so would Lou. He ended up on an African schooner, sailing to exotic places around the globe. And once again as that story ran its course, the page turned and Lou found himself in the mountains of China and Tibet. And then, it was back to the states, and back to boxing where he won 34 of 59 bouts as a light heavyweight.

Pastor's Message (continued)

And then came World War II.

Lou became a tank corpsman. And when the guns were quiet, Lou would share his stories of adventures from his past. Stories of circuses. Sailing through hurricanes off the coast of West Indies. Prize fights and marauders in the high Tibetan mountain sides. Stories that were all true. Stories of an illustrious past of this, still young man, from North Dakota. Stories that captivated his comrades who told him, You need to write these down and put them in a book.

And write, Lou would. But not about his exciting past. For this adventurer, his past stories would propel him to telling new stories. Places on the horizon. Places known as the frontier. Places *Down the Long Hill* and *Dark Canyons*.

Such were the new chapters and books written by the adventurous dreamer from North Dakota, Louis Dearborn L'Amour.

Like L'Amour's life story, the church's stories of the past propel us to write new ones. When the past dies, it doesn't fully end nor is it ever to be seen as failing. The past becomes the seeds of ideas for what might become of the future. We honor the past even as we welcome what new ventures God has for us on the horizon. And thus, death gives rise to new life.

In this way, the church is like a midwife in a hospice ward. Birthing new possibilities as we nurture and honor that which came before us.

Living the adventure with you!

Pastor Greg



The Longest
Night

A worship service of remembrance - Dec. 20



Coming Soon! “Grow as Stewards through Faith, Love and Hope!”

On Sunday November 6, we will begin a three-week sermon series titled “Grow as Stewards through Faith, Love and Hope!” Through the working of the Holy Spirit, God graciously gives us faith, love, and hope. As we grow in these virtues, we become God-pleasing stewards who manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. Each Sunday during our series, we will focus on one of the virtues. The series will culminate with our Pledge Sunday on November 20, followed by Hot Dog Sunday Fellowship.

Sermon Series

November 6	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Hebrews 12:1-2	FAITH Overcomers
November 13	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, 2 Corinthians 8:1-8	Excelling in LOVE
November 20	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Romans 15:1-6	HOPE Springs Eternal

Board Report by Nick Perchthaler

Well, we have now had our first snow fall of the season! With the changing weather we are seeing a few more people and especially families returning to the church in person. It is so nice to see a few more children in attendance. Let's pray that this trend continues.

The Board continues to work on its three priorities, which are **Youth and Family Ministry, Technology and Outreach**. Mariette has done a lot in her first two months as our Youth and Family Minister. She brings a lot of energy to her role and it is nice to see that she has started up Kids Church again. On the technology side, we are continuing to evaluate our options. Mike and Garry have provided some recommendations to the Board and we will be installing a couple of boom microphones before year end. Other upgrades, such as a second camera and a new soundboard will be put into the 2023 budget. What is also great to see is that some younger members of our congregation have been and continue to be trained on how to run our system. This is great backup that we need to have in place. Our Outreach continues with various activities. The Fall fair was one such example, which was attended by about 250 people. The Board feels very positive about the progress we have made in these three areas over the course of this year. A lot of this would not have been possible without the help of the many volunteers. Thank You to all of you who continue to help out when needed.

November is Stewardship month. The Board is taking a slightly different approach to Stewardship this year. We normally think of it only in terms of the financial aspect. And this is certainly a huge component, as it allows us to operate. And this year we have seen a significant deficit, as summarized in the financial update below. Therefore, giving and the ability for us to budget according to our giving commitments is critical for us. However, we want to look at Stewardship in terms of three areas going forward. They are Treasure (Financial Giving), Time and Talent. We have a lot of volunteers who help out on a regular basis. For others, maybe this is the time for you to start to think about how you can provide Stewardship by donating your time and talents to support our church. Please contact any member of the Board or the church staff to let us know how you would like to get involved to make best use of your time and talents.

On the Financial side, our deficit has grown significantly. In September we added the expenses of the Youth and Family minister position and we also saw costs for VBS come through. For the month our deficit was \$13,300, putting our year-to-date deficit at \$21,844. In October, we are expecting a further deficit of about \$5,600. We budgeted for a large deficit for this year, but it is unfortunate to see it growing at this rate over the past two months. We do have a bit of a financial reserve, but a significant dent has been put into that reserve. As always, the Board will continue to monitor our financial situation on a monthly basis and we will continue to report our status each month.

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.

Happy Halloween everyone.

Nick Perchthaler

Board Chair

Youth and Family Ministries by Mariette Jessup

I want to tell you a story.

Erasmus of Rotterdam told the original version. Erasmus was a Renaissance scholar, Catholic priest and strong voice for religious tolerance. With apologies to Erasmus for my many embellishments, the story goes something like this:

Jesus goes to heaven after his time on earth. Everyone is simply overjoyed to see him. All the angels greet Jesus with huge smiles and warm hugs. Then they gather around Jesus. Everyone is eager to learn all about what happened during Jesus' days on earth.

Of course, Jesus tells them everything. He could never resist the opportunity to tell a story. Jesus talks about his parents and his family. He shares the journey of his life and even has pictures of his travels. Jesus talks about all the people he met, embraced and loved.

Jesus can hardly contain his excitement as he reminds all those who are listening that God's love has no bounds at all. Everyone is a beloved child of God. Everyone has worth and value. Everyone is our sister and brother. Everyone.

Jesus tears up as he talks about how he actually found a way to live a life that completely reflected God's love. Then Jesus tells story after story about the ways he had embraced the lonely, welcomed the outcast, healed the suffering, and lived out the truth of justice in the face of exploitation, violence and oppression.

Finally, Jesus tells about his execution and of Easter. Nothing, absolutely nothing including death itself can separate us from God's redemptive love. Jesus wondered if there could be any greater peace than that.

After a moment one of the angels raises her hand to ask a question.

"Yes," Jesus says.

"But what happens now?" the angel asks.

Jesus answers, "Well, I have left behind my eleven closest disciples and a number of women, men and children who have faithfully followed me. They will tell the same stories I told. More than that, they will live like I lived – both welcoming everyone and working to change those things that bring pain and suffering to our lives and to our world. My followers will open their hearts wide and go out into the world sharing the reality of God's presence and God's love."

"But," responded the angel. "What if these people fail? What then is your other plan?"

"I have no other plan," said Jesus.

Youth and Family Ministries (continued)

Look at these wonderful events happening over the next month at LCOS!

Sundays at 11 am – each Sunday after Service at 10 am, we gather for **Kids Church** ... bible teaching, crafts, games, snacks & fun .

Speaking of helping, I want to let you know about a few ways you can do that now at LCOS:

Bring in a donation for the **Veterans Food Bank** ... look for the collection box located in the Place of Welcome.

Operation Christmas Child – 3 ways to help!

1. Bring items to church to be included in Shoeboxes [What Goes in My Shoebox? - Samaritan's Purse Canada \(samaritanspurse.ca\)](http://www.samaritanspurse.ca)
2. Pack your own shoebox as a family and bring it to church as we count up to packing over **300 Shoeboxes!** Get an empty box from church.
3. Join in our Packing Bee on Sunday, November 6th! This is what we will be doing for Kids Church that Sunday, and refreshments will be provided as we all work together spreading joy!

Sunday, October 30th – Youth Group (grade 7 -12) are **leading the 10 am Service!** ... yes, even the sermon and special music! Afterwards, it's our **Halloween Hullabaloo** ... so wear your costume and be ready for fun!

Saturday, November 5th – 5:30 - 8pm – Pinball & Pizza! A favourite around here! Cool and generous member, Alfred Forbrich, opens his home to us and feeds us pizza & pop ... and let's us play his **9 pinball machines** with head-to-head play and single-player ... complete with a leader board! This is for all ages and parents, too! I'll provide more details as the event approaches.

Saturday, November 12 – 7pm – Family Movie Night! Back by popular demand! Bring your favourite blanky ... and we supply the popcorn. We'll be enjoying **The Great Gilly Hopkins** on the big screen in the Sanctuary. [Watch the trailer here](#)

Sunday, November 13th – 11 am - Our **Artist in Residence, Jocelyn Smith**, will be **leading the children and youth as we paint a beautiful scene on canvas!** Our work will be **displayed, gallery-style**, throughout the church during Advent leading up to Christmas!

Saturday, November 19 – 6:30- 8:30 pm - The Search **Youth Group** (grade 7 through 12) meets at the church.

We are truly blessed with all of these opportunities to build connections with each other and Jesus, to help others, have fun and learn and grow!

I can't wait to see you! Please reach out if you have any questions, or just to chat.

Mariette Jessup

*Director, Youth & Family Ministry,
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour.*

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What's Been Happening at LCOS??



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.

There is no service charge to the church for this giving method and generally there is no service charge to the giver.

PAR Program Giving:

The Pre-Authorized Remittance program (PAR) gives the option to give monthly directly from a bank or credit union account.

There is a service charge of \$0.50 per transaction to the church for this giving method and generally there is no additional service charge to the giver.

If you sign up by November 01, your monthly donation would begin November 21. 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, bring to a church service, or drop off a cheque at the church.

There is no service charge to the church for this giving method and the usual service charge for writing a cheque will apply to the giver.

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

Donations are made via the following secure link: <https://onrealm.org/LutheranChurchofOurSaviour/give/now>.

There is a service charge of \$0.50 per transaction plus 2.3% of the amount given to the church for this giving method and generally there is no service charge to the giver. When giving there is an opportunity to give an additional amount to help defray the transaction fees to the church.

**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.

There is a service charge of \$0.50 per transaction plus 2.3% of the amount given to the church for this giving method and generally there is no service charge to the giver. When giving there is an opportunity to give an additional amount to help defray the transaction fees to the church. In addition, standard text message and data rates may apply to the giver.

**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. **

NOTE:

Giving via online and text will go to General giving.

General giving and Designated giving can be done via Interac E-transfer and cheque.



Submitted by Cliff Blumhagen, Financial Secretary

The Stewardship program for this year is 'Grow as Stewards through Faith, Love, and Hope'.

This program is based on Paul's letter to the people in Thessalonica, he wrote, "We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 1:3).

God graciously gives us faith, love, and hope – virtues essential for our lives as Christians and as God's stewards.

Each week during this three-week program, we will be focusing on one of the topics of faith, love, and hope.

This will be a three week program running from November 6 – 20 and will culminate on Stewardship Sunday, November 20. Pledges will be accepted on that Sunday.

The church looks forward to your participation!



Spiritual Director, Kathy Katrick, will be offering Spiritual Direction in a group setting on the 1st Tuesday of the month beginning October 4th at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room, as well as individual sessions.

Please advise Judy at office2@oursaviourchurch.ca or 825-438-7632 if you are interested in either the group or individual setting.

Recognizing Some of Our Wonderful Volunteers



Pat & Ken



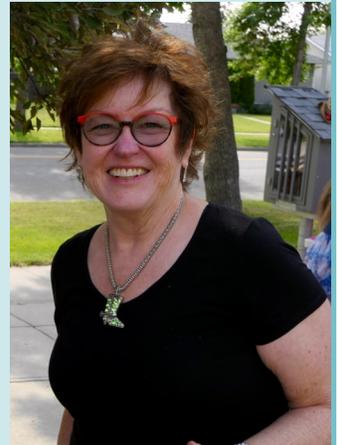
Erica, Lori & Marg



Karen & Donna



Janice



Jaqui



Adriana



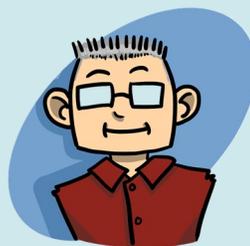
Annabel



Wendy



Kari & Alan



Doug G.



Pat & Jens

Special Birthdays We'd Like to Celebrate



Ricki Zubiak

Ray Wilson

Erika Gleisner

Tudor Manor celebrates 10 years with Royal Ascot party



Residents of Okotoks' Tudor Manor had cake, wine and took in a performance by an electric violinist while wearing their best hats in celebration of the facility's 10th birthday last week.

Bonnie and Bill Swan's Library Picks for November



Non-perishable food donations will be accepted over the next few weeks for The Veterans Food Bank of Calgary.



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Let's We Forget

It's that wonderful giving time of the year again! Time when we get to share the love of Jesus through **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox gifts for needy children around the world.



Donations for this year's shoeboxes will be accepted at church prior to **Sunday, November 6** when all are welcome to join us after worship in the fellowship hall as we pack these shoeboxes.

Small balls, stickers, pencil crayons, children's toys and hair accessories are just some of the items that are always needed.



Ladies Potluck Dinner is back!

Plans are underway for our annual Ladies Potluck Dinner on **Monday, December 12**. If you are interested in helping to make this another fantastic LCOS event please contact Judy at office2@oursaviourchurch.ca. There's organizing needed, decorating to be done, entertainment to arrange, and much more.

Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry Kochendorfer



November 2022 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God -

I have been thinking a lot about the church lately. I know that many others in our post-pandemic world are also thinking about the church.

A major shift is taking place. A major shift institutionally which will re-shape us, re-form us, and re-make us in ways as yet not imagined or fully known.

The ministry and ministry, our calling as baptized children in the body of Christ, has not changed. We are yet called "...to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8). But make no mistake we are in the midst of what is a seismic shift.

Authors such as Phyllis Tickle ("The Great Emergence") have written that every 500 years, the church goes through a rummage sale, and cleans out the old forms of spirituality and replaces it with new ones. This does not mean that previous forms become obsolete or invalid. It simply means they lose pride of place as the dominant form of Christianity. Constantine in the late 4th century, early 5th, the Great Schism of the 11th century, the Reformation in the 16th century, Postmodern era in the 21st century now shaped by a global pandemic have all been points of reference for these changes. This rummage sale is not only about the church, but about political systems, financial institutions, education, and the list goes on.

What is emerging is a new form of Christianity, what Tickle named many years ago, "The Great Emergence." One can only guess whether or not it is tribal form, an individualistic form, a social form, a combination of all of them, or something else entirely. But what we can say is that Protestantism in all its denominational forms is losing influence and is giving way to alternative forms of Christian expression.

Of course, the world-wide pandemic has greatly influenced and moved this shift forward, but it is a shift which had already begun.

As I think about church I've been wondering if our ELCIC global mission accompaniment model might be a guide for us as we journey forward together as the ELCIC, its synods, congregations, specialized ministries, synodically recognized ministries, and as full communion, ecumenical, interfaith, and global partners such as The Lutheran World Federation.

Our ELCIC global mission accompaniment model is one of walking together in solidarity, side by side, practicing interdependence and mutuality, in service to God's mission. The values of the accompaniment model are interconnected, and include mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment and sustainability.

Bishop's Message (continued)

The core purpose of these relationships, this accompaniment, is God's mission.

Might we consider journeying forward together as the ELCIC, in whatever institutional structure we are being transformed and lead into, including with local and global partners, as a church immersed and leaning into walking together in solidarity, side by side, in service to God's mission?

An accompaniment model of:

- **Mutuality:** All/each of us (national/synod, synods/congregations, corporately/personally, etc.) have gifts to support God's mission. There is no mission to, only mission with and among.
- **Inclusivity:** We seek to build relationships across boundaries that exclude and divide.
- **Vulnerability:** Just as Jesus became vulnerable to us, we open ourselves to others.
- **Empowerment:** We seek to identify and correct imbalances of power, which may mean recognizing and letting go of our own.
- **Sustainability.** To ensure the longevity of ministries, we seek to embed mission in ongoing relationships and communities.

Relationships and accompaniment are at the heart of our approach to global ministry. Might this also be at the heart of our ministry as the ELCIC, its synods, congregations, etc., including our ministry together with local and global partners? In service to God's mission?

In our posture in global ministry, we seek to actively listen to our partners and companions, share in their joys and sorrows, support them in their mission – as they support us in ours. Might this stance of active listening, sharing and support, including receiving support, be a model for our living and ministry as the ELCIC, its synods, congregations, etc., together with our local and global partners? Walking and working together in service to God's mission?

I've been thinking about the church lately. I realize that many others are too.

In Christ Jesus –
Shalom, +Larry



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

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



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

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>1:00 pm Games Group</p> <p>1:00 Spiritual Direction</p>	<p>2 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>10:00 am Lighthouse Church Prayer Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm Praise Team</p> <p>7:00 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>3 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice</p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>5:30 pm Pinball & Pizza!</p>
<p>6 Communion New Member Sunday</p> <p>9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am In-Church Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service 11:00 am Kids Church 11:00 am Packing Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes</p>	7	8 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	9 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	10 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	11	12
	7:00 pm The Master's Singers Practice		10:00 am Lighthouse Church Prayer Meeting	10:00 am Bible Study		7:00 pm Family Movie Night
		15 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	16 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	17 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	18	19
9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am In-Church Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service 11:00 am Kids & Youth Canvas Painting Event	7:00 pm The Master's Singers Practice	7:00 pm Board Mtg 1:00 pm Games Group	10:00 am Lighthouse Church Prayer Meeting 10:30 am Southwood Care Centre Worship 7:00 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm Al-Anon	10:00 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice 7:00 pm Flock Care		6:30 pm The Search Youth Group
20 Communion Stewardship Sunday	21	22 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	23 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	24 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	25	26
9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am In-Church Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service 11:00 am Hot Dog Sunday	7:00 pm The Master's Singers Practice		10:00 am Lighthouse Church Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm Al-Anon	10:00 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice	December Vine Submission Deadline	
27	28	29 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	30 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon			
9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am In-Church Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service Baptisms 11:00 am Kids Church 11:00 am Faith Formation	7:00 pm The Master's Singers Practice		10:00 am Lighthouse Church Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team 7:00 pm Al-Anon			