

HE IS NOT HERE, FOR HE HAS RISEN JUST AS HE SAID.

MATTHEW 28:6

Ministry Team

Pastor

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

Youth & Family Ministries Director

Mariette Jessup 403-560-2039 cell/text youth@oursaviourchurch.ca



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

Church Media Director

Mike Mihaichuk lcos.yyc.media@gmail.com









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

Jens



Doug



Alfred



Kathy



Church Board 2023-2024

Carolyn Anderson

Alfred Forbrich (Vice-Chair)

Doug Gerbrandt

Kathy Gibson

Jens Kaack

Beverly Marshall (Secretary)

Nick Perchthaler (Chair)

Brian Prunkle
Debra Starratt

Beverly



Debra



Brian



Nick



Carolyn



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

Board Report by Nick Perchthaler

Welcome to Spring everyone!

We are certainly looking forward to the warmer weather and getting out of the snow. Unfortunately, the start of spring has not been very kind to us at LCOS as Pastor Greg was admitted to hospital with health issues that are long Covid related. At this time, we do not know how long he will be off work. We anticipate it will be at least 1-2 months. He has been placed on Short Term Disability. The Board will continue to communicate with the congregation as updated information becomes available. This is obviously not good. On a positive note, the congregation continues to show its resilience during these difficult times. We have arranged coverage for our services and Holy Week through to the end of April and a communication was sent out to the congregation advising everyone of who will be filling in. This includes two members (Bob Montgomery and Bonnie Swan), who will lead services over the next month. Also, Pat and Jens Kaack will lead the Seder meal service on Maundy Thursday. A special Thank You goes out to them for stepping up to support us. And thanks to Mariette Jessup, we are truly blessed as Bishop Larry Kochendorfer has agreed to lead our Easter Sunday worship. Prayers were indeed answered to allow us to hold Communion on that day. This will be a very special service.

The 2023 Board held its first Board meeting in March. Some of the highlights included our discussion on Pastor Greg's situation, our Board Retreat (to establish our priority focal areas for this year), our Financial situation and the Board Easter Brunch. I think we will need to update our food requirements for the Easter Brunch based on Bishop Larry leading the service. A nice problem to have!

The Board Retreat will be held on April 29. Our initial thoughts are that we will focus on risk areas, such as Building capital requirements and Finances. But we also want to discuss Mission and how the Board can support that within the church. As always, we would love to get input from you as to where you think we need to focus our energies. All feedback is welcome. Please contact a Board member to discuss your comments.

As stated, Finances is an area of concern for this year. The Board will continue to report on our status every month. We have an approved budget for a deficit of about \$66,000. We obviously do not want to finish the year anywhere close to that. We actually had a pleasant surprise with our giving in January and February which allowed us to be in a little bit of a positive position. It is always so difficult to predict the giving amounts each month. Based on our March results so far, we do expect to be in the negative for the month with an anticipated year-to-date deficit of about \$5,000. As has been stated, our expenses have been quite consistent and they will not change significantly. It is a Revenue issue. The majority of this is through giving. But know, that we are also trying to find more opportunities to make use of our facility by renting it out. And we do have a few opportunities to help us in this area this year.

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 Easter everyone and God Bless us all. And we wish Pastor Greg a speedy recovery.

Nick Perchthaler

Board Chair

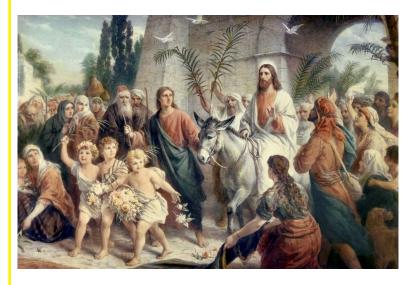
Youth and Family Ministries by Mariette Jessup

A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN A WEEK!



Palm Sunday - Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

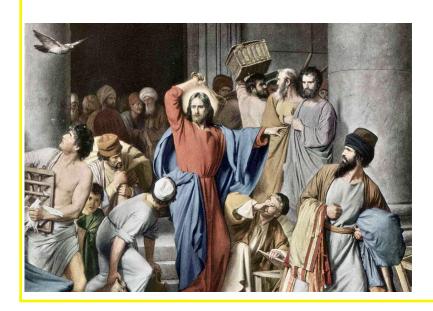
People wave palm branches as they cheered and hailed **Jesus as Saviour and King** when he rode into Jerusalem.



Monday – Jesus Turns over Tables

Matthew 21:4-5

'This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, "Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."



Mark 11:15-18

They came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves; and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, "Is it not written,



'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'?

But you have made it a den of robbers."

And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching.

Tuesday – Jesus goes to the Mount of Olives

Later that afternoon, Jesus left the city and went with his disciples to the Mount of Olives, which sits due east of the Temple and overlooks Jerusalem. Here Jesus gave an elaborate prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the age. He speaks, as usual, in parables, using symbolic language about the end times events, including His Second Coming and the final judgment.



Luke 20:17

'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'





Thursday – The Last Supper and Betrayal

That evening after sunset, **Jesus washed the feet of his disciples** as they prepared to share in the Passover. By performing this **humble act of service**, **Jesus**

demonstrated by example how believers should love one another. Today, many churches practice footwashing ceremonies as a part of their Maundy Thursday services.

Then, Jesus shared the feast of Passover with his disciples, saying:

"I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." (Luke 22:15-16, NLT)

As the Lamb of God, Jesus was about to fulfill the meaning of Passover by giving his body to be broken and his blood to be shed in sacrifice, freeing us from sin and death. During this Last Supper, Jesus established the Lord's Supper, or Communion, instructing his followers to continually remember his sacrifice by sharing in the elements of bread and wine (Luke 22:19-20).

Later, Jesus and the disciples left the Upper Room and went to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in agony to God the Father. Luke's Gospel says that "his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44, ESV).

Late that evening in Gethsemane, **Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by Judas Iscariot** and arrested by the Sanhedrin. He was taken to the home of Caiaphas, the High Priest, where the whole council had gathered to begin making their case against Jesus.

Meanwhile, in the early morning hours, as Jesus' trial was getting underway, **Peter denied knowing** his Master three times before the rooster crowed.

Good Friday – Crucifixion



According to Scripture, Judas Iscariot, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus, was overcome with remorse and hanged himself early Friday morning.

Meanwhile, before the third hour (9 a.m.), Jesus endured the shame of false accusations, condemnation, mockery, beatings, and abandonment. After multiple unlawful trials, he was sentenced to death by crucifixion, one of the most horrible and disgraceful methods of capital punishment known at the time.

Before Christ was led away, soldiers spit on him, tormented and mocked him, and pierced him with a crown of thorns. Then Jesus carried his own cross to Calvary where, again, he was mocked and insulted as Roman soldiers nailed him to the wooden cross.

Jesus spoke seven final statements from the cross. His first words were, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34, NIV). His last words were, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46, NIV)

Then, about the ninth hour (3 p.m.), Jesus breathed his last breath and died.

By 6 p.m. Friday evening, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body down from the cross and lay it in a tomb.

Saturday - The Tomb



Jesus' body lay in its tomb, where it was guarded by Roman soldiers throughout the day on Saturday, which was the Sabbath. When the Sabbath ended at 6 p.m., Christ's body was ceremonially treated for burial with spices purchased by Nicodemus:

"He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from <u>myrrh</u> and aloes. Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth." (John 19: 39-40, NLT)

Nicodemus, like Joseph of Arimathea, was a member of the Sanhedrin, the court that had condemned Jesus Christ to death. For a time, both men had lived as secret followers of Jesus, afraid to make a public profession of faith because of their prominent positions in the Jewish community.

Similarly, both were deeply affected by Christ's death. They boldly came out of hiding, risking their reputations and their lives because they had come to realize that Jesus was, indeed, the long-awaited Messiah. Together they cared for Jesus' body and prepared it for burial.

While his physical body lay in the tomb, Jesus Christ paid the penalty for sin by offering the perfect, spotless sacrifice. He conquered death, both spiritually and physically, securing our eternal salvation:

"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." (1 Peter 1:18-19, NLT)

Easter Sunday - He Is Risen!



Early Sunday morning, several women (Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Salome, and Mary the mother of James) went to the tomb and discovered that the large stone covering the entrance had been rolled away. An angel announced:

"Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen." (Matthew 28:5-6, NLT)

On the day of his resurrection, Jesus Christ made at least five appearances. Mark's Gospel says the first person to see him was Mary Magdalene. Jesus also appeared to Peter, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and later that day to all of the disciples except Thomas, while they were gathered in a house for prayer.

He Is Risen, Indeed!

The events of Holy Week remind me of a few things:

- ~ Circumstances change and people will let you down and fail you. This is just a plain fact. It's not people's fault ... we are weak sinners. One day you are getting the Royal treatment, the next, people are spitting in your face.
- \sim Even when things look absolutely hopeless ... if you are with God, nothing is impossible!!!
- \sim Even if God's plan seems hard, stick with it because it is the Best Plan!

So, a lot can change in a week; but one thing that doesn't change is OUR ALMIGHTY GOD AND SAVIOUR!

Stick with Him, and I guarantee you your story will have the happy ending of Eternal Paradise!

Happy Easter!

Your Sister in Christ,

Mariette

Youth Surge 2023



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.

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 03, your monthly donation would begin April 20. Please contact the Financial Secretary Cliff Blumhagen (403-936-0419 or financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca) 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.

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. **

Giving via online and text will go to General giving.

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

Shares from Investments:

Shares from investments are made by transferring them from your investment account to the church investment account.

Legacy Giving:

Donations are made from your estate by gifting to the church by remembering the church in your will.

If you participate in the PAR program <u>and</u> have made a change to your monthly giving amount via a pledge, you'll need to complete a 'PAR Amount Change' form and submit to the

Financial Secretary. You can get a form in church mailbox # 91 or by contacting Cliff Blumhagen at: financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca or 403-936-0419.

2022 tax receipts were distributed in early February. If you have an email address you'll have received your receipt via an auto-generated email with a link to your tax receipt document. If you do not have an email address you'll have received your receipt via mail.

Please contact Cliff if you have not received your tax receipt or have trouble accessing it.





Larry Friis

John Claussen



You are invited to join Jens Kaack on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room as he leads a study of the Book of James, Living in Faith, beginning April 11.

A big Thank You to the Volunteer Worship Team that brings the Joy and Comfort of The Lord to the folks at Southwood Care Centre each month!

Alex Mckay
Reiko Formella
Jean Krieger
Peter & Cheryl Adria







Bonnie Swan, BA, MA

Author of "Collision of Faith with Abuse and Obesity"

Retired counsellor and abuse survivor & thriver

Speaks on Abuse

from bullying to sexual & physical abuse

Please note: Presentation is for teenagers & adults – not children

April 1st - 6:00 pm

at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

8831 Fairmount Dr. S.E. Calgary

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 2 Worship Service at 10:00 am (Communion)

Tuesday, April 4 Interactive Stations of the Cross from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Maundy Thursday, April 6 Seder Meal at 6:00 pm (registration required)

Good Friday, April 7 Interactive Stations of the Cross from 3:00 to 6:30 pm

Good Friday, April 7 Worship Service at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 9 Worship Service at 10:00 am

(Communion with Bishop Larry followed by Easter Brunch)

Come experience Jesus through Interactive Stations of the Cross

Journey to the cross





IWHAYGMSTE

(pronounced: I-wah-gim-stee)

I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT

Matthew 25:35

Feeding the hungry on the third Friday of every month.

Speak with Mariette to become involved.



From the Staff of LCOS

Flock Care



In its 18th year The Flock Care Ministry continues to carry out visits with congregational members from Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, in senior residences, care homes, homebound, those grieving loss or facing other difficult life situations. Small groups within the congregation are always the first choice for caring support, but when that is not possible, we try to keep connections and caring relationships with LCOS.

The mission statement is "to facilitate, encourage and ensure caring connections within the church family of LCOS and within the wider community as the need arises." There are currently 8 members in this ministry. This year there have still been ongoing concerns regarding Covid. Each member is guided to visit, make phone calls, or meet some other need, as they are willing and able. In 2022 outreach has included 20 individuals. In the last 10 years we have distributed 98 prayer shawls (made by LCOS members and friends) to those experiencing health concerns, or grieving.

Ultimately, we hope to create a culture within the church body as a whole, that will stir each member into noticing, caring, and reaching out to others as we go through those difficult life transitions. I see this happening every day.

We meet once a month (4th Tuesday at 11:15 AM) for study, prayer and an update of needs. If anyone feels that this is a ministry that you would like to be involved with, please contact Janice Hawkings.

Prayer shawl donations are always welcome.

Please contact Janice or Judy for details.



SWARM (Southwest Area Refugee Mission)



SWARM-Southwest Area Refugee Mission "To support refugees in Calgary as they become independent, self-sufficient Canadians."

SWARM supports refugees in our city in many ways.

This work is for everyone. Many people from various Lutheran congregations continue to be involved in this way, there is always work to do, volunteers are always welcome.

Highlights of 2022:

SWARM now has Charitable Status with the CRA.

- We continue to assist new Canadian families from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria and many other places to feel supported and embraced in their new city and through these difficult times
- We sponsored a young Honduran mother and her three sons and we continue to assist them as they learn English, seek employment and navigate their way in their new country
- We collect and deliver furniture, household items and clothing for new families. We have assisted upwards of 75 families throughout this year.
- We coordinate with other agencies in the city (CCIS, Centre for Newcomers, CIWA, etc) in assisting the many refugee arrivals
- We continue personal visits to new families to encourage them and help them know that they are welcome and that there are Canadians who care
- We assist other groups who are interested in sponsorship and have helped various congregations throughout Alberta accept Ukrainian families

How Can You Help:

We need vehicles and muscles to help deliver furniture and household items - once or twice or regularly. Email calgaryswarm@gmail.com

Donations of furniture and household items are welcome

Visits with new families - it helps them practice english and feel welcome in our city

Join us! Our Core Committee meets through Zoom monthly and anyone is welcome anytime! Our key contact is Marla Mulloy 403-617-6494

Please donate to support the work of SWARM in 2023:

- Cheques may be written to your local congregation and designated to "Southwest Area Refugee Mission" or "SWARM"
- Cheques may be made directly to "SWARM" and sent to Southwest Area Refugee Mission, 8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary, AB, T2H 0Z4.

Donations may be made via e-transfer: calgaryswarm@gmail.com

SWARM continued

The Centre for Newcomers is in need of host homes for Ukrainian evacuees in Calgary for temporary accommodation. As the war in Ukraine continues, the pressure for housing also continues. A huge wave of arrivals has started this month.

If you can host a Ukrainian family (temporarily up to 1 month) at your home, please register your home at https://refugeeshousedhere.ca/

Or, contact Nataliia Shen: n.shen@centrefornewcomers.ca

We need 1 month accommodation in a homestay.

CFN will match the host home with a guest family depending on availability/preferences:

Such as the number of people you can accommodate, with or without kids, with or without pets, with or without vaccinations, and other preferences.

To make sure it is safe for host homes, CFN will do the following:

Set up a video meeting with a
Ukrainian family to find out about their compliance with your requirements.

The guest's family will sign an agreement, which specifies the terms and conditions of the temporary stay.

There is a need for host homes with separate rooms for sleeping and furniture for sleeping, access to a bathroom, and a kitchen. Host homes are not obliged to provide rent, food, and other things, however, additional utility costs could be covered by Ukrainian evacuees.

CFN will take care of all settlement questions for Ukrainian families, so host homes do not need to worry about this.





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.



"I baptize you with water" Luke 3:16



March 2023



Praise God:

A back translation of Doku Genesis has been checked, and now this book can go to a consultant—the last checking stage before public distribution!

[A 'back translation' is a fairly literal rendering of the Doku translation back into English to enable a consultant—who doesn't know Doku—to make sense of the text and comment on it.]

Please pray:

- for God to sustain us in the work He has called us to do each day
- for stamina and wisdom for Jimmy (Doku translator) as he faces many challenges in daily life and work
- for a consultant to have time to check the book of Genesis soon



Unger Update

We've been reading this winter, and thought we'd share some of it with you!

I (Cathy) have been reading some autobiographies recently. One, written in 1979 called <u>The Bushman and the Spirits</u>, does not use current "politically correct" language, but in it Barney Lacendre tells his very powerful story as a man from the Cree Nation of northern Saskatchewan. It was a fantastic book in which I saw parallels to Solomon life and culture on almost every page. Below are some quotes from Barney's life story which, I believe, confirm the need for the Doku people to have a Bible in their own heart language.

"Witchcraft had been a part of my life since I was a child of five or six... I made up my mind to become a witch doctor when I saw what a certain man could do with the spirits."

"When you're under a curse you'll do anything to get free. Only an Indian would know what I mean."

"Some kind of power crowded in on me a bit when I listened to M's strong words [prayer]."

"I didn't think it would be possible to serve M's God and the spirits of witchcraft at the same time. Something seemed to tell me that it wouldn't work "

"Finally, one night as I lay on my cot, the thoughts of the Great God of heaven came over me. My mind was made up. M's God was a Good Spirit. He was powerful. He could break a witchcraft curse just by a man asking Him to. He didn't need to mix up dope, burn sweet grass, take a steam bath or be offered a gift of tobacco or print cloth. Nothing! It was free! I got off my bed and knelt down beside it. Lifting my right hand toward heaven I said, 'Lord, take my hand. I surrender my heart and life and soul to you, Lord. I promise to live for You.' Something happened in my life. I don't know how to put it, but the empty place was filled. It was like I had company in the cabin."

"You see, when you speak to an Indian in English, you may think he's getting every word, but he's not... This is why I love to speak to my own Cree people. They understand every word... Everybody should have a chance to hear the Gospel in his own language."

"For fifty years I did it [work and survival] with an empty heart. I thought it was fame that I needed. But when my search was over, I found it was Christ. He filled my heart with peace and hope and lifted the heavy load of sin from my shoulders."

May God write His story in all of us, Cree, English, or Doku.

Under His grace,

Cathy and Paul (for Paul's readings, see over)

Paul & Cathy Unger, 780 33 St SE, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 2C5, Canada ph: (250) 515-6336; e-mail: paul-cathy_unger@sil.org

Wycliffe Bible Translators Canada, 4316 10 St NE, Calgary, AB T2E 6K3, Canada ph: (403) 250-5411; e-mail: Info@wycliffe.ca; website: www.wycliffe.ca

Wycliffe Bible Translators USA, PO Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200, USA website: www.wycliffe.org

While Cathy has been reading autobiographies, I (Paul) have been reading and thinking about the impact of technology on people, and specifically on people as they work on translation. In recent years, many others are starting to do so as well. In fact, there's hardly a week that goes by without an article on mainstream news outlets (e.g., BBC, CBC) about the effects of screen time, social media, data mining, and so on, on people like you and me. The world is taking notice! And at times they seem to be quite close to admitting that it's not just Canadian First Nations or Solomon Islands peoples who use magic and deal with curses—those things are also part of our daily lives.

There are two books I keep coming back to on the subject—one over 70 years old (Jacques Ellul's 1948 Presence in the Modern World. [translated in 1967 and 2016]) and one more recent (Craig Gay's Modern technology and the Human Future: a Christian appraisal, written in 2018). They both emphasise the importance of people over technique and technology. And with 'machine learning,' 'large language models,' and 'natural language processors' increasingly encroaching on domains such as 'creative writing' and translation, I have to ask, "What place does a person still have in translation?" There are those who think they still do, such as Zoey Cooper, brand and content director at Wordbank: 'Translation technology is undoubtedly a useful tool for certain content such as manuals. But if you want to create a relationship with the reader, you need a human translator to make it sound natural and capture the sentiment, which often involves restructuring a sentence completely' ('Can computer translators ever beat speaking a foreign tongue?' [Feb. 2020, https://www.bbc.com/news/business-50850239]). We believe that a relationship with both the translator and the reader is vital to the translation work that we do!

Ellul, writing about technology just after World War II, also emphasises the importance of relationships when he writes: "[Christians] must avoid flight... into the ideal, the future, the general, and the abstract. We must not think about 'human beings' but about my neighbor Mario. It is in real life, which I can easily come to know, about this particular person, that I see the true repercussions of [technique]... I refuse to believe that humanity is making progress, when from one year to the next, among men and women I know, whose lives I observe and among whom I live, I see debased the meaning of responsibilities, the dignity of labor, the recognition of true authority, and the concern to live honorably. When I see them weighed down... by the fear that oozes from our world, and by the hatred of a formidable phantom that they never succeed in putting a name to... when I see them involved in a desperate struggle from the depths of their hearts against what they do not understand" (Ellul 2016:78-79). In the midst of an increasingly abstracted and even 'virtual' life—at the same time magical and cursed—my neighbour, a person with a name, a story, a family, hopes and dreams, is the one to give attention to. For me, it's people in the Doku community—Bosa and Koni, Bele and Aghi, Sikua and Tuza. They're why we do what we do.

On a slightly different tack, Craig Gay's main point is that it is important to preserve "ordinary embodied human being" in what we do; that is, that we need to acknowledge and respect the limits that God put on us when He created us, while at the same time revelling in the abilities He has give us to honour Him with our bodies. Technology has always been bent towards reducing the role of people in processes and production—we have quirks that disrupt uniformity, we get tired and need to rest, and (gasp!) we introduce error. Automatic machine technology is designed to eliminate these things, often by removing us from the mix—and it only seems to be accelerating. In response, Craig Gay writes: "the only framework that is up to the task of constructively criticizing the disembodying / dehumanizing thrust of modern technology—indeed the only framework that can defend embodied human existence under modern conditions—is derived from the central tenets of the Christian religion, specifically from the orthodox Christian doctrines of creation, incamation, and resurrection" (Gay 2018:14; italics his).

This seems to me to be right. God created us in His image. His incarnation as Jesus, the Son of God, invests infinite significance in 'ordinary embodied human being.' And finally, the promise of the resurrection affirms that, as Gerard Manley Hopkins put it in the closing lines of his poem:

In a flash, at a trumpet crash,
I am all at once what Christ is,
since he was what I am, and
This Jack, joke, poor potsherd,
patch, matchwood, immortal diamond,
Is immortal diamond.
("That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire and of the comfort of the Resurrection")

To be "all at once what Christ is"—may this be your hope as we approach Easter!

Submitted by Bonnie Swan

A few years ago, four of us sat down together and ended up talking about children's hymns. So many of these glorious songs have long been forgotten, or were never known in the first place. Several of the generations that followed us have never heard them. I consider this a tragedy! The joy these songs brought to me as a child - a preschooler who was living with fear and rejection - has remained with me to this day. I often sit at the piano, close my eyes, and play one song after the other. I am filled with God's love for me, regardless of my circumstances.

Many people talk about lost works of art from some of the greatest artists in the world. But I think about the lost hymns for children that have been sung for centuries. Some that come to mind are:

- * When He Cometh * Fairest Lord Jesus. * All Things Bright and Beautiful
- * God Sees the Little Sparrows Fall. * Jesus Loves Me * Jesus Bids Us Shine
- * When Mothers of Salem * Tell Me the Stories of Jesus
- * Praise Him. Praise Him. Jesus Our Blessed Redeemer
- * This Is My Father's World * Do No Sinful Action, Speak No Angry Word
- * I Love to Hear the Story * For the Beauty of the Earth
- * What a Friend We Have in Jesus *Can a Little Child Like Me

Even in the old Roy Rogers cowboy series, who can forget the song by Dale Evans "- have faith, hope and charity, that's the way to live successfully. How do I know? The Bible tells me so."

In 1856, William Cushing wrote "When He Cometh" based on Malachi 3:17 for his Sunday School Class. Some think that "Fairest Lord Jesus" was written as early as the 12th century.

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature O thou of God and man the Son Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honour Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands Robed in the blooming garb of spring Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight And all the twinkling starry host Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Beautiful Saviour! Lord of all the nations Son of God and Son of Man Glory and honour, praise, adoration Now and forevermore be thine.

Can a Little Child Like Me

Can a little child like me thank the Father fittingly?
Yes, oh yes! be good and true, faithful, kind, in all you do;
love the Lord, and do your part; learn to say with all your heart,
Refrain:

Father, we thank thee, Father, we thank thee, Father in heaven, we thank thee.

For the fruit upon the tree, for the birds that sing of thee, for the earth in beauty dressed, father, mother, and the rest, for thy precious, loving care, for thy bounty everywhere Refrain

For the sunshine warm and bright, for the day and for the night, for the lessons of our youth—honour, gratitude and truth, for the love that met us here, for the home and for the cheer, Refrain

For our comrades and our plays, and our happy holidays, for the joyful work and true that a little child might do, for our lives but just begun, for the great gift of thy Son, Refrain

ELDER FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES ACADIA AND AREA

Elder Friendly Communities believes that our senior years are a time to learn, discover, share and connect with others. We host FREE weekly programming, monthly events, volunteer opportunities and other FUN activities for older adults in the Acadia and surrounding communities.

April

MONDAY

Book Club

1pm - 2pm
 Acadia
 Recreation
 Complex
 (ARC)

Find us on Facebook: Elder Friendly Communities

TUESDAY

Craft and
Chat

11am - 12pm
Acadia
Recreation
Complex

POP UP

Your Health -

Pharmacist
Presentation
Wednesday
April 19
10 am - 11 am
Acadia
Recreation

Complex

THURSDAY

Taste and Try April 13 12pm - 2pm McDougall Church

Kindness
Club
April 20
12pm - 2pm
McDougall
Church

THURSDAY

Monthly
Meal
April 27
12:30pm 2:30pm
Acadia
Recreation
Complex

Dates and time can change please call to confirm.

No Book Club April 10 No Craft and Chat April 12

To register or ask questions:

colinh@caryacalgary.ca 403-651-5868

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY-CALGARY IS HIRING!

Lutheran Campus Ministry is excited to announce that we are hiring Student leaders for the 2023-2024 academic year, starting May.

Lutheran Campus Ministry provide a brave spiritual space, oriented towards building community on campus and in Calgary. We are seeking curious, innovative, and open-minded young adults to serve as student leaders in our Campus Ministry at the University of Calgary, Mount Royal University and SAIT.

Student Leaders will work 25-30 hours per week.

7 positions are available.

- May 1-August 31 (Hong Kong Student Ministry)
- July 1-August 31 (Hong Kong Student Ministry) 2 positions
- May 1- June 26
- July 1-August 31
- July 2- Aug 27, (full time) August 28- April 15 (part-time) 2 positions

(some positions require knowledge and understanding of Mandarin or Cantonese).

Position pays \$15-20.00 per hour. Successful candidates will take leadership roles in Campus Ministry whose values include community building, ministry affirming of 2SLGBTQiAP+ people, bold spirituality and outward facing justice. Student leaders will lead from their lived experiences as young adults and inform the direction of the community. The Campus Ministry will provide opportunities for retreat and leadership development during their employment.

Candidates attending post-secondary institutions in Calgary and fulfilling the requirements of the Canada <u>Federal</u> Summer Jobs Grant criteria are invited to apply.

For more information on our work, please visit Lutheran Campus Ministry websites:

www.lcmcalgary.com www.elciccareministry.com (Chinese ministry) Applicants are invited to submit a Cover Letter and CV to mpropp@ucalgary.ca ykpchau8@icloud.com (Chinese ministry)





Acadia Food Pantry – April 2023 Fund Drive

In 2022, Albertans experienced:



Inflation increased twice as fast as wages over the last 7 years in Alberta.

In 2022, Acadia Food Pantry averaged 167 people per month, up 65% from 2021.



Since April 2019, the Acadia Food Pantry has provided free food to anyone experiencing food insecurity. Most are residents of Acadia and surrounding communities. It operates on the third Tuesday of every month from noon to 12:45 pm. For those living in our delivery zone who are unable to attend in person or have someone pick up for them, delivery may be available (Glenmore Trail to Canyon Meadows Drive and 14th Street SW to Blackfoot Trail).

As a community-driven service operated fully by volunteers and supported by community organizations, agencies and three local churches, the Pantry depends fully on donations. During COVID, the pantry was able to obtain a grant for the purchase of food, but these grants are no longer available.

During the month of April, the Pantry is asking for your financial help to continue offering essential food support to families in need.

Please consider donating to help the Acadia Food Pantry continue its valuable work.

Sustainers are needed! Will you pledge to be one of our monthly donors?

100% of your donation will be used for the purchase of food, and donations are eligible for charitable tax receipts.

To make a one-time or recurring donation, go to www.mcdunited.com/donate.

You have four options to donate: cheque, automatic debit from your bank account, e-Transfer or secure credit card payment. Please be sure to mark your donation "Acadia Food Pantry."

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

WALK, RUN or ROLL FOR LOVE Saturday, April 29, 2023

Support Lutheran Hospital Ministries – Southern Alberta Society We bring Jesus' Healing to Patients in Hospitals and Care Centres

Join the Fun



Raise the Funds



Walk or Run or Roll 5 km through Confederation Park Sponsor a Walker or Runner / Support by Donations

8:30 am Registration
Faith Lutheran Church
1903 – 19 Avenue NW, Calgary
9:30 am Walk & Run Begin
Drinks and snacks will be provided

Tax Receipts will be issued for sponsorship donations of \$20 or more.

Pledge forms are available from our web page or Lutheran Hospital Ministries – Southern Alberta 66 – 7 Street NE, Calgary, AB T2E 4B7 Phone: (403) 264-4045

email: lhmsac@gmail.com
Website: www.lhmsa.ca

THE WALK WILL TAKE PLACE COME RAIN OR SHINE, OR SNOW SO DRESS FOR THE WEATHER



Walk, April 30 2022

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 8007 Bowness Road N.W.



Spring Tea, Bake Sale & White Elephant Table

Saturday, April 29, 2023

12:00 to 2:00 pm

Cost - \$7.00 (suggested)

We will be serving sandwiches, fruit bread, pickles, cheese, desserts, tea and coffee.

> Bake Table: Homemade Pies Cakes Cookies Squares

Crafts & White Elephant Table: Books, ornaments, jewelry, toys and collectibles

> Come and visit with your friends at Shepherd of the Hills

We Can All Use a Chuckle Now and Then, submitted by Don Smith





Your donation matters

It matters to every patient across Canada. Because it's something we can do today to help others wake up healthier tomorrow.

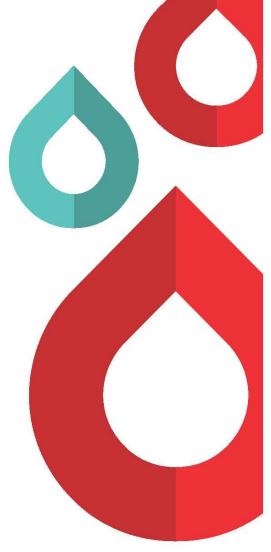
Donate blood

Acadia Recreation Complex

240- 90th Ave SE Rose Hall

Saturday, April 8 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Donor Event - 100 Donors NeededAppointments are required during Covid-19



Join Canada's Lifeline Visit blood.ca to learn more.

Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry Kochendorfer



April 2023 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God -

Sometimes the demand to see is more than doubt. Sometimes it is love.

In my childhood Sunday school classes, the disciple Thomas was always portrayed as "the bad guy." When the other disciples told him that Jesus was alive after his crucifixion and burial, Thomas refused to believe it and demanded to see Christ for himself. The moral of the story was clear for us children – Don't be like Thomas! Don't question! Believe! Don't doubt!

When I take a closer look at the biblical story, I see Thomas as a very practical, concrete kind of guy. We also learn about Thomas from two other accounts in the gospel according to John. Earlier, he insists that the disciples accompany Jesus when he goes to Bethany, a place he'd had to leave under threat of being stoned, "Let us also go that we may die with him." This is Thomas.

And then, in the midst of Jesus' long farewell discourse to the disciples on the night of his betrayal and arrest, Thomas speaks up again, cutting right through Jesus' words. "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places," Jesus says, "... And you know the way to the place where I am going." To which Thomas replies, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" This is Thomas.

Thomas is plainspoken and gutsy, honest and direct. He wants to understand what's going on and be able to face the situation at hand.

He isn't there with the other disciples on Easter evening. Mary Magdalene told the group she had seen Jesus. They were huddled together in fear in the upper room, behind locked doors – but not Thomas.

So where is he that first Easter evening? Maybe Thomas can't imagine being locked in a room and he is out trying to discover the truth. Or maybe he just wanted to be alone in his grief. Perhaps he was just trying to move on and get back to work. Or maybe he was the only disciple with enough sense to realize that being in that room could take a long time and they would need some wine, cheese, and bread.

When the disciples tell Thomas that they have seen Jesus, he responds, "Unless I see the mark of the nails – in fact, until I touch those marks and put my hand in the wound in his side, I'm not going to believe."

Thomas is practical, concrete, realistic. He simply has to see for himself.

And when Jesus appears again to his disciples a full week later – not the next day or two – but one week later, Thomas is there. And Jesus, far from rebuking Thomas, offers to meet his

Bishop's Message (continued)

request. "Put your fingers in my hands, touch my side." And Thomas responds, "My Lord and my God." What a statement of faith!

In fact, Thomas' response, "My Lord and my God!" is the high point of John's gospel. When Thomas gets it, he gets it.

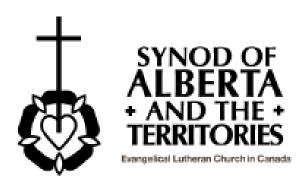
There is something vulnerable and beautiful about this story. We see what Thomas needs – and perhaps our own needs – and even more, we see what Jesus is willing to give. We see that Jesus meets Thomas' need by giving of himself. Jesus comes to him, speaks a word of peace, invites him to see and touch, invites him to believe.

And Jesus comes to us in the water and the word of baptism, through the scriptures, in the simple meal of bread and wine, and through one another until we too believe, until we also profess our faith: "My Lord and my God."

Several years ago, my paternal grandmother was rushed from the hospital in Grande Prairie to one in Edmonton. We were living in Lethbridge at the time – five hours away. My life was busy, but no phone call could reassure me. You see, I had to see her with my own eyes and touch her with my own hands.

Sometimes the demand to see is more than doubt. Sometimes it is love.

In Christ Jesus – Shalom, +Larry





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:30 am Making Palm Crosses 9:30 am Ladies Book Club 6:00 pm Bonnie Swan Speaks on Abuse
2 Communion	3	4 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	5 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	6 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	7 Good Friday	8
9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service 11:00 am Kids Church	7:00 pm The Master's Singers Practice	1:00 pm Games Group 5:30—7:30 pm Interactive Stations of the Cross	10:00 am Lighthouse Church Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm Praise Team	1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Seder Supper	3:00—6:30 pm Interactive Stations of the Cross 7:00 pm Worship	
9 Easter Sunday Communion 10:00 am Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service 11:00 am Easter Brunch	7:00 pm The Master's Singers Practice	11 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Bible Study	12 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Lighthouse Church Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm Praise Team	13 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice	14	15
16 Communion	17	18 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	19 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	20 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	21	22
9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service 11:00 am Kids Church	7:00 pm The Master's Singers Practice	10:00 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Games Group 7:00 pm Board Mtg	10:00 am Lighthouse Church Prayer Meeting 10:30 am Southwood Care Centre Worship 7:00 pm Al-Anon	1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice	4:30 pm lwhaygmste	Youth 'Just For Fun" Event!
			7.00 pili Al-Alloli			

7:00 pm Praise Team

27 Office Hours

9:00 am - 12 noon

1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice 28

29

Board Retreat

26 Office Hours

9:00 am - 12 noon

7:00 pm Al-Anon

7:00 pm Praise Team

10:00 am Lighthouse

Church Prayer Meeting

23

30

9:00 am Bible Study

10:00 am Worship

Drive-In Worship

Live Stream Service

11:00 am Kids Church

9:00 am Bible Study

10:00 am Worship Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service

11:00 am Hotdog Lunch

24

7:00 pm The

Practice

Master's Singers

25 Office Hours

9:00 am - 12 noon

10:00 am Bible Study

11:15 am Flock Care