July 2024 EDITION

The Hope Anchor

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1. ONLINE SERVICE DETAILS

Connection Details for SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00 a.m.

ALL SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED THROUGH OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
which can be found through Hope Lutheran's website: https://www.hopelutheran.ca/

Connecting by phone:
1. Dial 587-328-1099
2. Then press 487-603-306 #
3. Press # again.

Zoom

To watch our service on Zoom, click the button on our home page (www.hopelutheran.ca).
ZOOM is ONLY active when the service is in progress.

2. MESSAGE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Report on the ABT Synod Convention 2024

Submitted by Brenda Waller Lay Delegate for Hope Lutheran

The convention was held in Edmonton from June 22nd to June 24th with the theme: One Body, One Spirit, One Hope.

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called". Ephesians 4:4

The agenda was very full, beginning and ending each day with a worship service. A large part of the convention was the process of electing a new ABT Synod Bishop – which took 5 ballot voting sessions. Congratulations to our new Bishop Rev. Trish Schmermund. It was a bittersweet farewell as we celebrated and thanked Bishop Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer and his wife Cathy.

Some personal takeaways from the convention included:

- discussion points from a presentation
  - *Has there been a time when you felt the Spirit was blowing you or your faith community into new territory?*
  - *How do you discern what is the Spirit's movement?*
  - *What image of the Spirit do you find the most compelling?*

- A quote from Bishop Larry's keynote/Bible study "One Hope"
  "Hope is the ability to listen to the melody of the future and faith is the courage to dance to its rhythm now."

Minutes of the convention will be made available by the Synod. In the meantime, I encourage all of us to keep informed of all Synod news and events by visiting the website: https://albertasynod.ca/

Participating in a synod convention is something that I highly recommend. Please feel free to ask me any questions about my experience.

- Brenda

The full Nomination for Rev. Trish Schmermund is attached at the end of The Anchor.

3. OFFICE NEWS

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday, 9am – 3pm

Office will be closed on Monday, July 1st.
Happy Canada Day!

4. WORSHIP NEWS

SUNDAYS OF JULY

July 7 – Presiding: Rachel Schmidt – non-communion
July 14 – Stampede Sunday - Presiding: Cindy Robinson – non-communion
July 21 – Presiding: Shelly Mueller & Steve Medhurdst– non-communion
July 28 – Presiding: Pastor Kayko Driedger Hesslein - Communion

5. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Advent Lutheran Church's Vacation Bible School: July 15th to 19th

Not just for the kids! Advent is hosting children, youth, and adult programs. Join us as we celebrate our unique identities as beloved creations of God. Food, fellowship, and fun! Check it out at adventlutheran.ca/vbs, and find registration forms at that link. We hope to see you there!

Check out the full poster on the Nurturing Connection's Wall.

Calgary Lutheran Mission will be holding VBS from July 22 – 26

Check out the Nurturing Connection's Wall for more information when it comes available.

6. SPIRITUAL LIFE NEWS

DAILY BIBLE READINGS – July

Thursday, July 4, 2024: Psalm 123; Jeremiah 7:1-15; 1 Corinthians 4:8-13
Friday, July 5, 2024: Psalm 123; Jeremiah 7:16-26; 2 Corinthians 10:7-11
Saturday, July 6, 2024: Psalm 123; Jeremiah 7:27-34; Matthew 8:18-22
Sunday, July 7, 2024: Proper 9 (14)
Monday, July 8, 2024: Psalm 119:81-88; Ezekiel 2:8-3:11; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33
Tuesday, July 9, 2024: Psalm 119:81-88; Jeremiah 16:1-13; James 5:7-12
Wednesday, July 10, 2024: Psalm 119:81-88; Jeremiah 16:14-21; John 7:1-9

Thursday, July 11, 2024: Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 2:6-16; Colossians 2:1-5
Friday, July 12, 2024: Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 3:1-12; Colossians 4:2-18
Saturday, July 13, 2024: Psalm 85:8-13; Amos 4:6-13; Luke 1:57-80
Sunday, July 14, 2024: Proper 10 (15)
Monday, July 15, 2024: Psalm 142; Amos 5:1-9; Acts 21:27-39
Tuesday, July 16, 2024: Psalm 142; Amos 9:1-4; Acts 23:12-35
Wednesday, July 17, 2024: Psalm 142; Amos 9:11-15; Luke 7:31-35

Thursday, July 18, 2024: Psalm 23; Jeremiah 10:1-16; Colossians 1:15-23
Friday, July 19, 2024: Psalm 23; Jeremiah 10:17-25; Acts 17:16-31
Saturday, July 20, 2024: Psalm 23; Jeremiah 12:1-13; Luke 18:35-43

Sunday, July 21, 2024: Proper 11 (16)
Monday, July 22, 2024: Psalm 100; Jeremiah 50:1-7; Hebrews 13:17-25
Tuesday, July 23, 2024: Psalm 100; Zechariah 9:14-10:2; Acts 20:17-38
Wednesday, July 24, 2024: Psalm 100; 2 Samuel 5:1-12; Luke 15:1-7

Thursday, July 25, 2024: Psalm 145:10-18; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Colossians 1:9-14
Friday, July 26, 2024: Psalm 145:10-18; 2 Kings 3:4-20; Colossians 3:12-17
Saturday, July 27, 2024: Psalm 145:10-18; 2 Kings 4:38-41; John 4:31-38
Sunday, July 28, 2024: Proper 12 (17)
Monday, July 29, 2024: Psalm 111; Genesis 18:1-15; Philippians 4:10-20
Tuesday, July 30, 2024: Psalm 111; Exodus 24:1-11; Romans 15:22-33
Wednesday, July 31, 2024: Psalm 111; Isaiah 25:6-10a; Mark 6:35-44

7. BIRTHDAYS

July 3 - Mark Kuziej
July 4 - Joyce McKenny
July 5 - Henry Bakx
July 5 - Kathryn Jamieson
July 6 - Louise Benson
July 7 - Debbie Krenz
July 11 - Debbie Watson
July 13 - Andrew Scholz
July 13 - Mark Scholz
July 14 - Annemarie Juravel
July 20 - Keith Muller
July 21 - Erika Kreutzenstein
July 21 - Maria Schroeder
July 22 - Rita Thurn
July 23 - Christine Svoboda
July 26 - Mark Kaminski
July 29 - Jordan Kropp
July 29 - Jutta Shaw
July 30 - Glenn Kirkaldy
July 30 - Carol Rudy

8. FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

Men's Breakfast Bistro

July 6th, 8:30 am at Cora Brentwood. Contact Robert for details.

This group meets the first Saturday of each month, so if you can't make this one, hope to see you next time! Please contact Robert: robert.hiebert@gmail.com for more details.

STAMPEDE BREAKFAST – SUNDAY, JULY 14

Yahoo! It's time again for our annual Stampede Breakfast.

We will start the morning off at 8am with music by The Range. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 – 9:30am. Worship to follow at 10am.

We could use a few more volunteers for set up, cooking, serving and clean up. Thank you to those who have already signed up. Please contact Zena.

A HIKING WE WILL GO …… SATURDAY JULY 20TH

Marcia Nerbas and Peter Massier would like to invite you to join them on a hike and picnic in Kananaskis, Saturday July 20th. Sign up on Nurturing Connections board – once we know who is interested, we can pick a hike. Carpooling is possible. This event is weather dependent.

UNDER 100 CLUB

BBQ PARTY!! - Thursday, July 25 at NOON

Thursday, July 25th at 12:00pm. Hamburgers, hotdogs and dessert will be provided. Please bring a potluck side dish.

SAVE THE DATE….. SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH FROM 2:00 – 4:00 PM AFTERNOON HIGH TEA

Peter Thurn and Christine Van Staden have graciously offered to host an Afternoon High Tea on Saturday, August 17th from 2 – 4pm. It's an event you won't want to miss so please mark it on your calendar.

9. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Giving… It's not just about the money.

I learned so much about giving from both my mom and gramma. We didn't have much but what we did have, we shared. They always told me that giving isn't just about the money. We should also give of our time and our talents.

One of my memories of my gramma was baking bread. YUMMM… I can still smell that fresh bread baking. Every week she baked bread and out of those loaves she always gave 1 or 2 away to someone in need. She always told me that God always provided her with the tools/supplies she needed to bake and as long as she was able, she would share in His goodness.

My mom was the same. Her motto was Matthew 25:40 and she lived by it.

Tithing and serving are both ways to give/worship, but they each have a unique purpose.

Tithing (money) is a form of worship because it shows God, that we trust in *Him* and not in money to provide for us. "You cannot serve God and money." *Matthew 6:24*
So tithing is a way to show that we prioritize God over money. It also helps to keep Hope's doors open – so to speak.

Serving (like volunteering at your church) is also worship because you're dedicating your time and talents to bless others, as God has called us to do. "Whatever we do to serve others in need, we do for Him." *Matthew 25:40*

Serving is an awesome form of generosity! God wants us to serve by giving our time because that also helps to keep Hope's doors open.

I have volunteered at many different places as well as churches over the years, so I know how hard it is to find volunteers. There is always that core group of volunteers that step up right away. Here at Hope, we have a very good core group. I would love to name them all but I am still learning who they all are. I call them our church mice. I know things are getting done but very seldom do I see them.

One of the churches I worked and volunteered at, always wanted to give those who volunteered throughout the year, the summer off. For this to happen, others had to step up. Wouldn't that be wonderful for those who are here in the summer, step up and help? Just maybe, you will enjoy it so much that you might like to do it more often.

If you have never volunteered before or haven't in a long time, please consider it. Many hands do make light work.

Here are some of those opportunities:

- Ushering one or more Sunday mornings
- Coffee clean-up – even if it's by just putting your compostable cups, napkins and paper plates in the compost bin.
- Worship needs (serving on Sundays) such as Assisting Ministers, Readers, Ushers, Communion Assistants, Cantors.

If you have a nudge to help out and not sure what you can do, please contact Zena or myself and we will find a place for you to serve. 😊

THANK YOU to all those who serve on the Council, Worship, behind the scenes, and so many more. When you see someone serving – 'Thank Them' I know they will appreciate it.

Blessings,
Mary Snyder
(Office Administrator)

10. SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

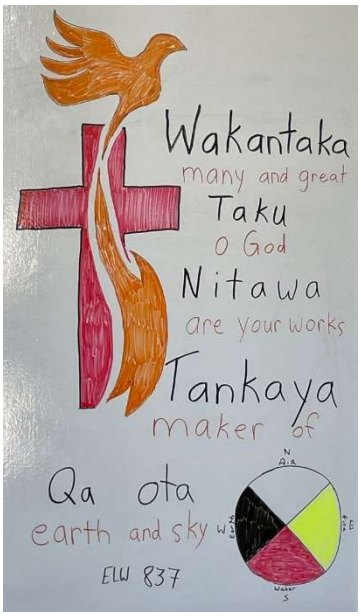
Stitching for Hope

Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am

A group of stitchers meet at 10 am every Tuesday morning at Hope to work on blankets while enjoying some great fellowship (and often coffee and treats). Can't stitch? No problem, come for the visit!

Reconciliation Journey Project

Exploring Reconciliation Through Unlearning, Learning, and Right Relations



Over the last year, Hope Lutheran Church has been on what we've called a "Reconciliation Journey". That is to say, we've been consciously exploring what reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples means for our faith community. The idea for this journey began as we were preparing to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day last year. Our worship leaders were thinking about how nice it would be to have some kind of celebration of Indigenous cultures displayed through art, whether that be through music, visual or another form of art. One of our members had connected with a young Cree artist, Darren Rea, through his work on staff with Campus Ministry. After approaching Darren for a meal and conversation with our Pastor to explore what a potential work of art might look like, things weren't feeling quite right.

We had been talking about having a work of art to remind members of Hope about the importance of reconciliation. However, as our planning team talked about this idea, we reflected on what our congregation's commitment to reconciliation looks like, and realized that we didn't really have one. While we had celebrated Indigenous Peoples' Sunday in the past and had participated in a few talks and learning opportunities here and there, such as the Blanket Exercise, we couldn't really say what our reconciliation commitment was, and how the concept of reconciliation related specifically to the faith community of Hope.

So we paused the idea of commissioning a work of visual art and our church Council instead decided to make a commitment to go on a journey; a commitment to unlearn, learn, and build right relations with Indigenous people among many members of Hope, not just a select few. Led by four women from Hope's congregation, who, through their professional lives, have had the privilege of working more closely than the average Canadian with Indigenous peoples, they offered to bring their diverse experiences, perspectives, relationships, and skills to the effort of this journey.

And so, we began in September 2023 with a circle, led by our relation, Darren Rea. Each month, through the church year from September to June, we would have a learning activity with an invitation to all those in and connected to our faith community to participate in the reconciliation journey. Our learning activities included the following:

Talking Circles

- Field Trip to Nose Hill Medicine Wheel
- Workshop on Economic Reconciliation
- Visit to Authentically Indigenous Market
- History of Residential Schools Lecture
- KAIROS Blanket Exercise
- Book Study: Braiding Sweetgrass
- Movie Screening: Muffins with Granny

While some activities had a much higher turnout than expected, with 30 or 40 people showing up and others had only a handful of folks, there were many opportunities for members of Hope to share, unlearn, learn, and explore right relations with humility, respect, and grace. One of the highlights of this series was the invitation to Hope's community members to personally reflect on their kinship and community relationships that are connected to Indigenous communities, whether that's through experiences they've had as children growing up, or experiences they're having now.

Toward the end of the reconciliation journey series, we invited Darren Rea back to sit in circle with members of Hope and hear reflections of what had been unlearned, learned, and relationships that had been built throughout the journey that could inspire a work of art that was unique to Hope's reconciliation journey. We heard from members of the congregation how much the teachings of the three sisters, the corn, beans, and squash, resonated as a way of valuing God's creation without a need to try to control, as we learned from a book study of Braiding Sweetgrass. We heard of the deep respect and resilience of residential school survivors and the new or different understanding about the oppressive and intentional assimilationist policies and practices of the Canadian government and churches through the eyes and work of a historian. We heard about the connection to Indigenous values of respect, reverence, and reciprocity with the natural world and a desire to weave more of these values into our own lives.

The journey culminated on June 16, 2024 when we celebrated Indigenous Peoples Sunday, beginning the service with a smudge and hearing songs offered from Blackfoot knowledge holder Skip Wolfleg who spoke of his experience growing up both through the Anglican tradition from his grandma and traditional Blackfoot teachings from other members of his family. We celebrated after the service with bannock and jam that was homemade by members of our community, and participated in a cultural celebration of dancing and drumming, including a round dance (or 'friendship dance') with everyone in attendance. **We also celebrated the unveiling of the painting of artist Darren Rea** *(see below)*, reflecting Hope's reconciliation journey that shows both a physical building of a church as a place of welcome, spirituality and learning, as well as natural environments and mountains showing the place of spirituality for Indigenous people, connected through rivers and by a bridge, learning from one another through the Spirit.

As a planning group, we are grateful to have walked on this journey with members of our faith community. We acknowledge that not everyone in Hope's community felt comfortable with or supportive of these activities, and recognize that the harms and pain of colonization and oppression run deep and wide. We are so proud of the nearly 100 members of Hope's community who participated in the journey, whether that was attending an event in person, joining an event online, reading a reflection from others or engaging in their own independent unlearning, learning, and exploration of right relations with Indigenous peoples. While our formal reconciliation journey series has come to a close, we look forward to opportunities to weave in practices and teachings of right relations within our faith community as we continue on our reconciliation journey together as Hope Lutheran Church and individually as people of God.

CHARITY OF CHOICE

Thank you for your contributions to our Charity of Choice for May and June – The Children's Cottage. We collected $1199.75 for them – thank you for your generosity.

Our Charity of Choice for July and August is Lutheran Hospital Ministries

Lutheran Hospital Ministries of Calgary's Vision:
To envision and expand Lutheran Hospital Ministries-Southern Alberta Society as a serving, caring Christ centred ministry, which is integral to spiritual, emotional and physical healing.
Trained Visitors give support through compassionate listening, prayer and Scripture. Currently serving all Lutheran patients in Calgary Hospitals and Care Centres regardless of their home address.

If...

- ...you are lonely,
- ...you would like to get in touch with your own pastor,
- ...you have doubts about your faith,
- ...you have some deep concern about your health,
- ...you are fearful about your life's journey,
- ...you would like us to pray for you or someone you know

Contact Lutheran Hospital Ministries (403) 264-4045 or email us at lhmsac@gmail.com.

11. MINISTRY PARTNERS

Upcoming Kuriakos events:

For more information about these events, visit their website - kuriakos.ab.ca

Summer is on its way and we can't run our summer programming without a great team!
We are looking for young adults to apply to be part of our summer staff team (kuriakos.ab.ca/about/apply)

- **Prime Time -** June 30 – July 3
- **Family Camps** – July 14-19 & August 11-16

Did you know you can attend camp for just one day?! Head out to Kuriakos for an afternoon or stay a night! If you are interested, contact Zena. She's planning to go out for a day or two during Family Camp II and would love to have some Hope family members join in on the camp fun!

The Blackfoot Tipi Event July 18-29

The Blackfoot tipi will be at Blakiston Park (2625 Blakiston Dr. N.W.) with opportunities for the public to visit from July 18 to 29.

Please note: Several private camps and sessions not open to the public will occur in the tipi at various times. Please observe signage stating when not to enter the tipi during these events.

You are welcome to go inside the tipi and Métis Trapper's Tent while they are open. Please follow these very important guidelines:

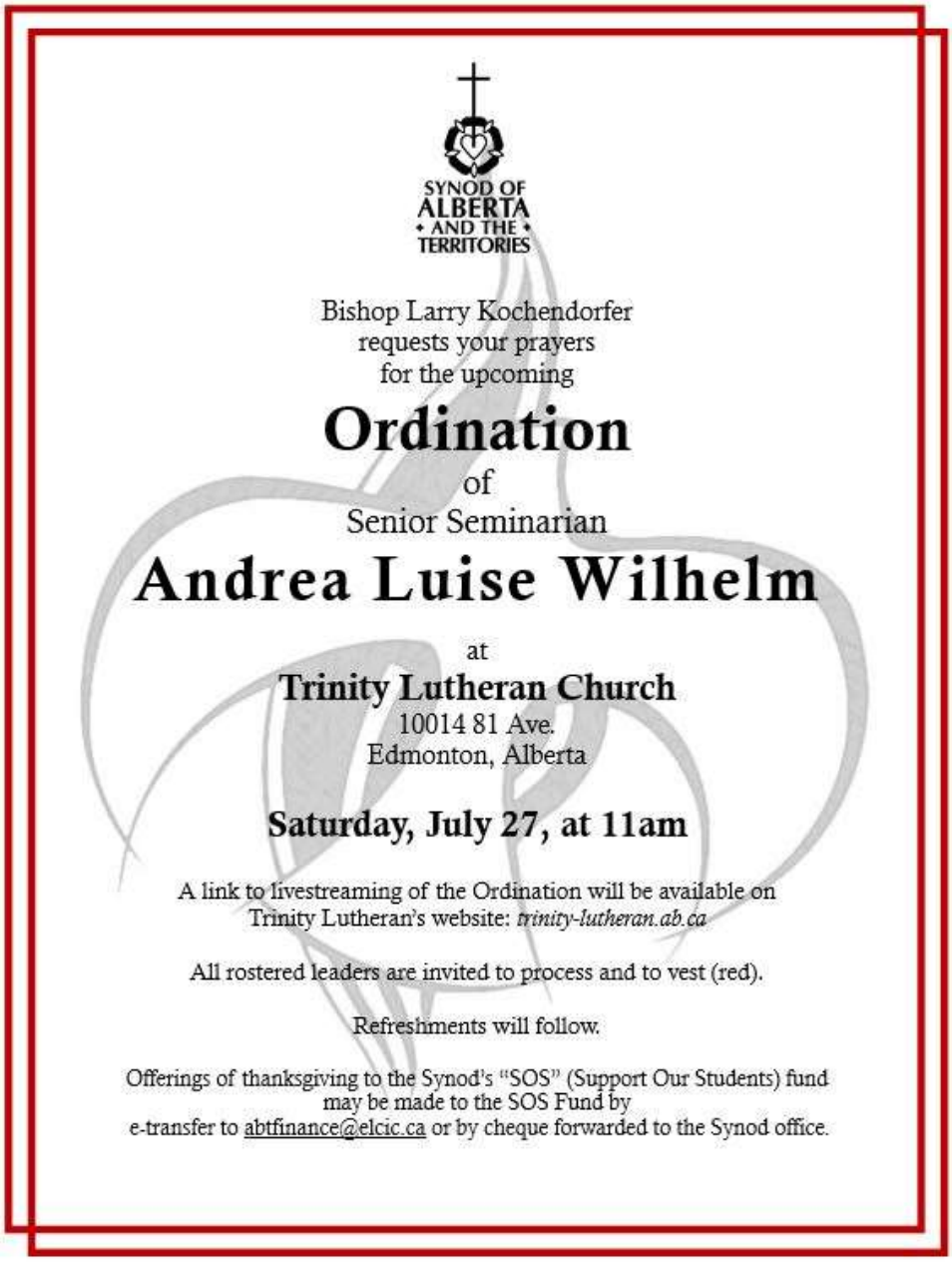
1. Tipi and Métis Trapper's Tent are best used for quiet passive activities like reflection, reading, or conversations.
2. Children are welcome to join but active play such as running, jumping, and rough play are inappropriate.
3. Do not bang or hit the poles, walls or beams.
4. Alcohol, smoking, and marijuana are strictly prohibited.
5. Please refrain from bringing outside food and beverages into the tipi or Métis Trapper's Tent (unless you have been invited to do so by the owners).
6. It is never appropriate to litter in or around the perimeter.
7. If you have any questions, please don't be shy to ask the staff who are standing by.

Blackfoot Confederacy Tipi

- This tipi represents Kainai Nation, Piikani Nation and Siksika Nation.
- To the Blackfoot people, the tipis (nitoyiss) were used as their homes (also called lodges) since Time Immemorial.
- The canvas was cut through a public workshop and painted with a Blackfoot design.
- The design was gifted to the Director of Parks & Open Spaces, Kyle Ripley, and Indigenous Landscape Strategist, Crystal Many Fingers, through a Tipi Transfer ceremony held on June 21, 2023.

12. FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

Bishop Larry requests your prayers for the upcoming Ordination…



WHAT IS MAID? What is the Lutheran Church's Position on MAID?

MAID is a process that allows an eligible person to receive an assessment and assistance from a doctor or nurse practitioner in ending their life.

(Maid legislation became effective in 2017 in our Country). Alberta uses this method: Only a doctor or nurse practitioner can administer the (3) injections). They are administered through I.V. The first one is Midazolam. This is a sedative that causes a drowsy, sleepy feeling and decreases anxiety. The second one is Propofol, this is an anaesthetic. Rocuronium is the third one is Rocuronium. This is a Neuro-muscular blocker. It relaxes the muscles in the body, calming the process of going to sleep indefinitely, with no struggle whatsoever.

Other Provinces in Canada use a second method: A doctor or nurse practitioner provides a drug that the individual will take themself to bring about their own death. These two guidelines vary with the Provinces and the College of Physicians and Surgeons since they regulate the administration of this practice. Canada's MAID Law is a deeply personal consideration on the part of the individual in question.

Eligibility: a patient must qualify. He/or she must be at least 18 years of age and mentally competent. There must be a terminal medical condition. Make a request for MAID. This request cannot be made under the influence of others. Give an educated consent to receive MAID. There is a minimum period of residency in the province in which you reside. Please note that there is no eligibility for someone who is visiting Canada.

Someone seeking MAID must have a serious, terminal illness, etc. in which they are in the condition of irreversibility. The patient must have excruciating pain both physically and mentally. There is no eligibility for Mental Illness (only) for MAID. This eligibility will come effective in 2027. An individual must meet all these criteria to become eligible. At this point a request must be made in writing and witnessed. Informed consent must be ratified with your family physician. Safeguards are put in place so you can revoke this process at any time. Please note that medical practitioners can refuse to administer MAID. It is their choice.

The Lutheran Church's position on MAID was discussed on June 1st, 2024, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Calgary Ab. Gary Engler was invited by LHMSAS (Lutheran Hospital Ministries of Southern Alberta Society) to present a Topic study on MAID.

The questions Gary presented to us were as follows:

- What is happening in Canada?
- What should we do about it as followers of Jesus Christ?
- How should we Live?
- What is legal is not necessarily Biblical.
- Should believing Christians ask for MAID?
- Remember we need FAITH in Jesus to stay strong.
- Sanctity of Life
- In the sight of God there is no life that is not valued; that is not worth living. Life itself is valued by God.
- We must question ourselves:
  Where did I come from? Meaning why am I here.
- Morality: Who decides what is right or wrong? Origin – Universe created. Morality is absolute from God. Humans are made in God's image – Life comes from God.

Daniel purposed in his heart, prayerfully considering personal boundaries, the care and value of life. We do need to brush up on the Theory of suffering and consider the impact of the world view on end of Life. Human-caused rules regard humans as a byproduct. No life has an objective value.

Gary Engler mentioned a few suggestions that we could consider but he did not necessarily agree on every suggestion.

- Intensive Life Support
- Palliative care – Sedation
- Natural Death
- Assisted Suicide – decision made by family
- Voluntary Euthanasia – Humans decide

WE ARE BELIEVERS IN CHRIST.
Gary mentioned Biblical passages for us to read carefully and ponder exactly what has been said.
Genesis 1:26-27 John 10:10 Psalm 31:15 Psalm 139: 13-16 Mark 14: 32-26
1 Corinthians 15:25-26 Deuteronomy 30: 14-22 Ecclesiastics 3: 1-10

"A TIME FOR EVERYTHING."

- An Interview with a Christian nurse with 22 years in Palliative care*
  "We are here on Earth to Learn, Love, experience life and Believe" we are learning to become more spiritual and more connected to God. It is more of a challenge to interact spiritually with God when you are here on earth because we are being bombarded with experiences on earth. Trials, tribulations, negativity as well as positive wonderful learning, loving and interaction with other human beings, God's creatures, and experiencing life's path. How powerful is your Faith? This is our sole purpose on earth. Life as we know it has been accepted and is nearing its end for some of us.

  The elderly might quit eating, want to die, they know when their body is done. They are only alive because of decisions made by others to extend their life. Some are afraid to die because of the pain. There is a sense of calm when it occurs. The soul wants to go to God our Creator. It is the soul's journey to Heaven. The root of the soul is Love. It is a beautiful thing to die. God is the Universe. Love is infinite, Love cannot be a sin no matter how you look at it. It is beautiful to be infinite with God. Love is never wrong in God's eyes. This Nurse was holding a 105-year lady in her arms one evening. Kerry said to her "I think God has forgotten me." The nurse replied, God will not forget you, He loves you, He will take you home in His time."

  All decisions pertaining to end of life must be made in Love.

  "You have to let go and Let God..."

Respectively submitted by
G. Rita Thurn
Director LHMSAS

13. REFLECTION & FUN

A REFLECTION

Recently I pulled out a CD that I had not listened to in quite awhile: *Ancient Echoes. The* liner notes state: *The glories of Russian church music…the mystery and beauty of the liturgy (are in) this recording by the Chorovaya Akademia under the direction of Alexander Sedov.* This is an unaccompanied male choir, using only the human voice as instruments. Their dynamic range is incredible.

As I listened, Vladimir Putin came to mind. Most of us would consider him to be an enemy. That led me to reflect on a prayer we often heard during Evensong at Christ Church (Anglican)*:*

Remember, Lord, your people bowed before you, and those who are absent through age, sickness, or any other cause. Care for the infants, guide the young, support the aged, inspire the faint-hearted, and bring the wandering to your fold. Journey with the travellers, encourage the oppressed, defend the widows, deliver the captives, heal the sick. Strengthen all who are in tribulation, necessity, or distress.

Remember for good those who love us, ***and those who hate us****, and those who have asked us, unworthy as we are, to pray for them. Remember especially, Lord, those whom we have forgotten. For you are the helper of the helpless, the saviour of the lost, the refuge of the wanderer, the healer of the sick. You know the need of all and have heard each prayer: save us in your merciful loving-kindness and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

I've been thinking. Do I have the courage to pray for the good of those who hate us? Have I ever prayed for Putin? What might happen if I and the people of God did just that?

Kathy Lee

JULY FUNNIES

Name the two seasons of Canada.
Winter, and July.

Did you know that Canada has a real hard water problem?
Most of the time, it's frozen. (too soon???)

How do you get 50 Canadians out of a swimming pool?
Say: Please get out the swimming pool.

What constitutes fifty percent of Canada?
The letter A.

Canada Day

N Y D W T L S H K C Q J Z C S G Y
G O F O A S O C A Z L R S E K M U
C J I U M L R N I F B E R L R B E
C O N N I I A I Z N U F Y E O F Z
N N N D I D N T F C C A D B W E A
A R A C A M B I E Y D I N R E D D
U Y Z D E Q O B O L L L P A R E A
K K A X J R R D A N W U O T I R N
A Y M E V A T N E W D C J E F A A
B I H O B Z O S X L P A O S J L C
T C A R N I V A L S G N Y T Z S U
I Y R O T U T A T S H N R P A Y D
S E D A R A P D L X S B I I D M E
A N N I V E R S A R Y E G S A H T
N E V E S X I S T H G I E E N O Ê
F A I R S D B F N J V P P T A A F
M T A F B C C Z E O O L N Q C C P

ANNIVERSARY
ANNUAL
BARBECUES
CANADA
CANADA DAY
CARNIVALS
CELEBRATES
CONCERTS
DOMINION DAY
FAIRS
FEDERAL
FIREWORKS
FÊTE DU CANADA
HOLIDAY
JULY FIRST
NATIONAL DAY
ONE EIGHT SIX SEVEN
PARADES
PICNICS
SINGLE DOMINION
STATUTORY

Nomination for: Rev. Trish Schmermund

My nominators provided many past and present experiences with me as demonstrating leadership gifts our Synod needs. They pointed out how past roles I have held in the Synod and National church will provide much needed experience necessary for this office. I'm very thankful for the support and encouragement of my nominators. This work is never done alone - and that is what excites me about the potential call of bishop - being able to minister with the family of God in a new capacity.

Describe your leadership style: Mutual trust is essential and is developed through intentional relationships and care. I have a shared leadership style that brings skills of collaboration, engagement and inspires creativity. You might call me a democratic leader, as I believe there are a lot of gifted people in our communities. At times however, a leader needs the confidence and trust to take risks and make choices without a lot of time or ability for other's input. This means mutual trust is essential and is developed through intentional relationships. My leadership is an intersection of hope and challenge, where we are inspired to try our best with the great news we have been given.

Share your concerns and hopes for our Synod: We can likely all name a litany of problems we face. Yet, my greatest concerns are not in any one of a long list of such problems. I wonder, are we ready and able to engage faith in new ways? Are we asking, "where is God in this?" Are some of our present practices inhibiting ministry at the grassroots level? For example, many rural congregations remain under served, youth and young adult ministries are under supported. And what of our desire to welcome, trust and support new faces to our churches and leadership? Are we inviting and welcoming newcomers to Canada? How will we expand our image and welcome of what a "Lutheran" is, to include people of colour, different gender identities, abilities, or even potentially a woman as bishop? I have great hope that together we can rethink and find faithful solutions in being the church today. Thankfully, we have wonderful theologians to guide us to new ways of understanding scripture. We are exploring new means to engage one another in the big questions we have. We are turning to prayer.

What does our Synod bring to the work of our national church? The ABT Synod is actively present in our national ministry bringing attributes of our identity to the "table" as we engage in ministry together. We bring a wealth of perspective that reflects both the diversity of the people and the diversity of Creation here. From farmers working the land to corporate executives,

ABT Synodical Bishop

ROSTERED

Education and degrees earned: Facilitation Skills Training, Edmonton (2024) ; Inhabit Conference, Seattle School of Theology (2020, 2021, 2022) ; Ethics in Psychotherapy and Spiritual Care, St Stephen's College (2019) ; Reconciling Works Convention, Minneapolis (2015) ; International Church Conference, Denmark (2012) ; Leadership in Anxious Times, Edmonton (2008) ; Suicide Intervention, Edmonton (2005) ; Master of Divinity, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon (2002) ; Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Specialization Horticulture, University of Alberta (1985)

Describe Synod or churchwide experiences that would inform your service as bishop of this Synod. National Church Council (2005 - 2013). This was a formative time of learning. I gained insight and understanding about our church, here in Canada, and internationally. This learning includes governance, ecumenism, finance and teamwork.

Describe Community activities that would inform your service as bishop of this Synod: Collaborative youth experiment - I have been part of a collaborative youth experiment facilitated by the Youth Unlimited organization. Together with local Anglican, Mennonite and Baptist congregations we are planning joint youth events. This has provided me with rich points of reflection and learning in my leadership journey, such as the importance of working together.

Community Engagement - My spouse and I have attended community league meetings and participated in community workshops related to infrastructure projects, such as the LRT and First Place Housing. Being engaged at the ground level has helped us to broaden our understanding of the issues and concerns people face and to see God at work!

Camps - I share time as a resource person at our camps, which has always been a meaningful experience for me. I believe camps provide a primary ministry in our Synod by nurturing young people and encouraging us all to be in and appreciate Creation.

Why are you interested in serving in this position? Being open to the Holy Spirit is key. After being approached for consideration as a nominee, I couldn't respond right away. I took a week of prayerful reflection with my family, mentors, and supportive communities. At the end of this process, I realized I was able to say, "Yes!" to this nomination, as I was open to the Holy Spirit.

Northern peoples to treaty lands, prairie winds to oil drilling, we may have one of the most diverse synods in this church. What we do here matters. Our current and past bishops have been determined to share their voice and experience of ministry in the ABT context knowing that what we do here matters not just to our synod, but to the whole church.

Our lived experience lends us a willingness to experiment and seek new collaborations and partnerships. Recently sharing a Study Conference with the BC Synod, and conversations hosted by the Synod regarding collaborative partnerships in Alberta are examples of this.

What is your vision for our Synod during the next 6 years? Hope Filled Discipleship. As God's people we have been liberated from all that weighs us down and are called to equip one another toward our full potential to love. To live into discipleship, we will need to remove barriers, practices and even attitudes or traditions that get in the way. God is ever doing a new thing among us. Paying attention to God, strengthening our foundations (people and ministries) will strengthen our Synod.

Innovative Tradition. We have an incredible history that is a firm foundation. Yet, the pandemic taught us just how innovative we could be! In today's time of great change, I would hope we could encourage experimentation so that we might continue to be awed by (and join with) God's presence in the world.

Identify one strength and one weakness which you recognize in yourself; illustrate each with a brief example.

Communication - clear communication is fundamental to me. This means saying what you mean, rather than communicating in a roundabout way. I like to work collaboratively, and am conscious that there can be times where I need to invite others into what I am thinking. I'm open to feedback, and strive to improve on sharing my own feedback with others in close working relationships. This is a point of growth for me.

Governance - I have strengths in understanding governance and its use as an administrative and relationship tool. I am able to see patterns in the way we function as a church and can frame them into a gospel context. As an example, during a recent staff reduction our council was naturally encouraged to consider legalities, but I also emphasized our call to justice and care.

How do you feel the responses to "Discerning the Call of a Bishop" (as summarized in the report - March 2024) correspond to your call and the gifts you would bring to this role? The synod expects its next bishop to have a broad cross-section of skills. Members want a bishop that can move the Synod “forward” towards an inclusive, hope-filled future. Relatability is also important, as all congregations and ministries want to be able to relate to our bishop.

I resonate with many of these responses - even as the summary is a tall order! The core groupings (Leadership and Vision, Spiritual and Theological Grounding, Relationality, Community Builder and Personal Attributes) describe attributes I have been blessed to gain through many years in ministry at the congregational, synodical and national levels. I trust God will equip the person elected and our synod as we work together.

How do you see your gifts being used in response to the ELCIC call to build a more missional, diaconal, and prophetic church (Reimagining Our Church: Public Ministry in the ELCIC – 2019), in your present role, and in your call if elected synodical bishop? This document aptly names that we are a church in transition - and I am comfortable in times of transition. In that sense, this document is an important call to reimagine not just the roles of professional ministers, but the lives of the whole people of God. The specific ways ordained, diaconal and lay people serve the church ought to be valued with deep appreciation and equity. Similarly, the LWF uses the word “conviviality” to describe our life together, a life where we are freed to appreciate our diversity as we serve in community.

How has God been preparing you for this call? This new nomination process has enabled those nominated to think and pray about this potential call alongside the membership of our churches. We are all preparing for this call.