

And now these three remain:

faith, hope and love.

But the greatest
of these is

Love.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13 (NIV)

The Vine

February 2025

The monthly Publication of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Ministry Team

Interim Pastor

Pastor Daranne Harris
403-464-8254 cell/text
pastordaranne@oursaviourchurch.ca



Youth & Family Ministries Director

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

Parish Administrator

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



Alfred



Isaria



Kari



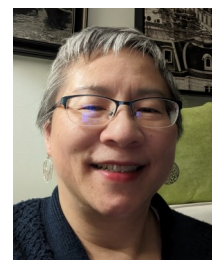
Brian



Kathy



Bob



Carolyn

Church Board 2024

- Alfred Forbrich (Chair)
- Bob Montgomery (Assistant Chair)
- Brian Prunkle (Secretary)
- Carolyn Walker
- Isaria Kwayu
- Kari Paul
- Kathy Gibson

8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary T2H 0Z4

Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Website: www.oursaviourchurch.ca Instagram: lcos_youth

Scan to donate





February Worship Services

***Sunday, February 2 10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
(Followed by AGM & Potluck Lunch)***

Sunday, February 9 10:00 am Worship Service

Sunday, February 16 10:00 am Worship Service

Sunday, February 23 10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

Live Stream Available

Kids Church 11:00 am

Pastor's Message

Tariffs! It seems to change day to day, but there has been no shortage of conversation about tariffs in the last month. Some are panicking; some are stockpiling, some are moving manufacturing south, and some are preparing to retaliate. Tariffs are meant to control trade, protect national interests, and sometimes punish. While I have little control over economic tariffs, the idea came to me about spiritual tariffs that attempt to control or diminish our experience of the grace of God. If you are in need of some different talk on tariffs, consider what our Christian story tells us about how God responds to the spiritual tariffs we impose in our lives.

Tariffs as Barriers: The Human Tendency to Restrict Grace

The Pharisees in Jesus' time imposed legalistic barriers or "tariffs" on faith, making it harder for people to encounter God's love (Matthew 23:4). We do the same, just as economic tariffs create barriers to free trade, we impose spiritual "tariffs" in our lives—barriers that prevent the free movement of grace, love, and forgiveness. Pride, resentment, fear, and self-righteousness directed toward both self and others act as blockades between us and the abundant grace God offers.

The Cost of Spiritual Tariffs: The Burden of Sin and Legalism

Tariffs raise costs and create strain. Likewise, the spiritual tariffs we impose—whether through unforgiveness, guilt, or a performance-based faith—place unnecessary burdens on our souls. Jesus came to remove these burdens, saying, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28-30). Instead of a faith mired in spiritual taxation, Jesus invites us into a relationship of grace.

The Tariff of Self-Sufficiency: Blocking Dependence on God

Nations use tariffs to control economic dependency, just as we sometimes rely on our own strength rather than God's provision. We think we must earn God's favour, forgetting that grace is free. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 2:8-9 that salvation is not something we achieve, but something freely given. No spiritual tariff is required; Christ has paid the cost.

God as the Ultimate Trade Partner: Grace as Free Exchange

While world leaders negotiate trade deals, God operates differently. He offers full and open access to His love, tearing down every barrier. The moment Jesus died, the temple curtain was torn in two (Mark 15:38), symbolizing the end of all spiritual tariffs. God's grace is now an open economy, with no restrictions, no conditions—only an invitation to receive.

Pastor's Message

Reconciliation Over Retaliation: Jesus' Model of Grace

When one nation imposes tariffs, another often retaliates, escalating conflict. But Jesus calls us to break cycles of retaliation. Instead of exacting justice, he chose grace (Romans 5:8). In our own lives, when we feel wronged, do we respond with more barriers, or do we reflect the heart of Christ by choosing forgiveness and reconciliation?

Living in the Freedom of Grace

As we navigate a world filled with divisions, both political and personal, may we be mindful of the spiritual tariffs we impose. Are we withholding forgiveness? Placing conditions on our own worthiness? Resisting the grace freely given? We remember Jesus has already torn down every barrier so that we need not live under the burden of tariffs but in the freedom of God's unending grace.

Warmly,

--Pastor Daranne



UNITED NATIONS WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

SPOKEN WORD AND CONCERT

COURAGE TO CONNECT

SUNDAY, FEB. 9
2-3:30 PM
SCARBORO UNITED CHURCH
134 SCARBORO AVE SW

REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW



With support from
Alberta

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

SCARBORO UNITED CHURCH

Canada

Board Report

As always, I'm amazed at how quickly time flies. Here we are heading into February 2025 and on February 2nd after Service we have the AGM.

The Board and Call Committee continue to work with Bishop Trish and the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) to get our best candidate, Jesse Ramson, into the seminary so that he can begin his internship leading to his eventual ordination and assuming the role of Pastor at LCOS.

Thank you to Pastor Daranne for leading us for two services of Communion, and Mariette Jessup and Jesse Ramson who led us with a service each. It's wonderful to continue to have services every Sunday without fail. We really can thank Judy for always working ahead to ensure we have a worship leader.

Unfortunately, the work to fix up the carpet in the Fellowship Hall has stalled as the root cause is being investigated. It appears to potentially be an issue with ground water seeping under the slab in the Fellowship Hall. More work has to be done to confirm the root cause and it doesn't make sense to replace the carpet until we understand what's going on. One thing that we are trying to understand is if there is weeping tile around the old portion of the building or even around the addition. If anyone has any knowledge related to the construction, please contact Carolyn Walker as she is looking through the plans to figure out what exists.

The Board had its January meeting on January 21. This meeting ran much longer than other recent meetings due to the number of items to discuss. The big item was the discussion of the 2025 Budget which Doug Drennan will present at the AGM on February 2nd, 2025.

The Board continues to monitor the budget monthly, and I believe it is important continue to comment on our financial situation. Our overall giving remains a concern going forward. *Thank you to some incredibly generous giving by foundations and members*; the deficit at the end of December was **\$1050.79**. The deficit for the end of January is projected to be **\$2,000.00**. The Board believe that LCOS will continue to respond and show the resiliency that will be required to grow our congregation in 2025 and beyond.

The Board **works 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".

This is my last Board Vine report as I end my time on the Board having served for my three, two-year terms. I thank all of you, congregation and members of the Board past and present, for the patience, support, understanding and teaching I have received during my time on the Board, and especially this last year as Board Chair. I couldn't have done it without each and every one of you. The new Board executive will be selected by the Board right after the AGM on February 2.

Please remember to come out on February 2 for the AGM and of course the Pot-Luck lunch after the AGM.

God Bless!!!
Alfred Forbrich

2025 Stewardship



The stewardship focus for this year is 'Journey to Generosity – The Way of Jesus'.

Beginning October 20 and in the weeks following, we explored Jesus' call to stewardship through embodying the realm of God, using our resources in a generative way, and how stewardship is primarily about loving one's neighbour.

Stewardship Sunday, November 17, was an opportunity to formally gather our collective resources of time, talent and financial pledges, a reflection of how we each have discerned our call to generosity. This allowed us to responsibly shape our congregation's ministry in 2025 out of what we have to offer.

Just as Jesus faithfully served his Father by serving us, we are to use our lives and gifts in faithful service to him by serving others. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

To date there have been 44 pledges made for 2025 General giving for an amount of \$154,860.

For 2024 there were 53 pledges for General giving for an amount of \$166,520.

Thanks to everyone who has submitted a pledge!

If you would like to pledge to the 2025 Stewardship program you may get a pledge card from Judy at office2@oursaviourchurch.ca or from Cliff at financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca or at the church. You may submit at anytime

If you have submitted a pledge and are on the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program and your monthly donation amount has changed you can get a PAR Amount Change form and submit to the Financial Secretary at financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca. If received by February 01 the change will become effective for the February 20 donation.

Offering envelopes for 2025 are now available for pick up at the church. A set has been issued to you if you have a set for 2024 and have donated via the envelopes in 2024. If you are not assigned a set and would like one, please contact Cliff at 403-936-0419 or at financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca.

Financial Secretary Report



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 February 01, your monthly donation would begin February 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.

The following methods and percentages of giving for December, 2024 were:

- Cash: 4.8%
- Cheques: 10.0%
- Direct Deposit : 25.7%
- Interac E-transfer: 42.7%
- Loose Cash: 2.9%
- Online via Realm: 7.9%
- Pre-Authorized Remittance Program: 6.0%

The methods and percentages for giving for all of 2024 are given in the Financial Secretary Report in the 2024 Annual Report.

Financial Status – 2024:

- Revenue (offering, rentals): \$350,277.89
- Expenses: \$351,328.68
- For a deficit of \$1,050.79
- NOTE: The expenses include \$17,853.23 for the flooring project – carpet replacement – the funds for this project were raised in 2023
- Without the flooring cost, the year to date surplus is \$16,802.44



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

8831 FAIRMOUNT DRIVE SE

825-438-7632

WORSHIP SERVICE @ 10:00 AM

KIDS CHURCH @ 11:00 AM

(PRE-K - GRADE 7)

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!!




The Search

Asking the Big Questions

Youth Grade 8 -12

*Contact: Mariette Jessup
Youth Director,
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Cell: 403-560-2039
youth@oursaviourchurch.ca
8831 Fairmount Drive SE
Calgary, AB*





LCOS
Annual
11:00 am
General
Meeting
February 2, 2025

“

**For I was hungry
and you gave me
something to eat, ”**

Matthew 25:35

**Sign-up
to supply food
and/or serve on
the 3rd Friday of each month.**

Feed the Hungry

What's Been Happening at LCOS



What's Been Happening at LCOS



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Feed the Hungry



What's Been Happening at LCOS





Merle Allen

Janice Hawkings

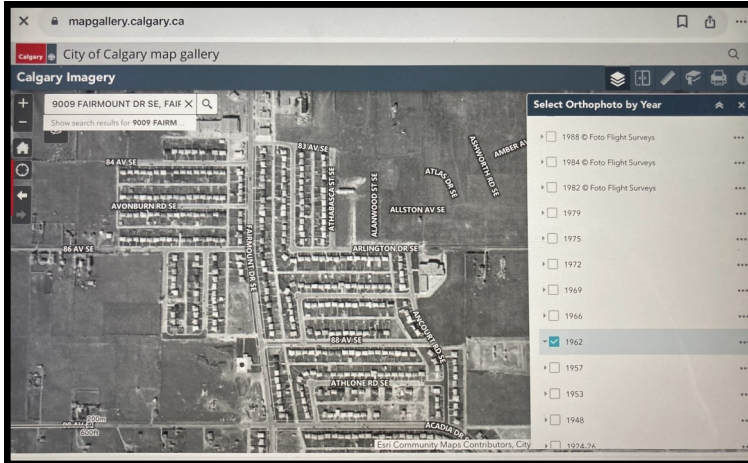
***Knit-Chat
Stitching Group***

*Join us each
Thursday morning from
10:00 am - 12:00 noon
in the Fireside Room.*

*All experience levels
are welcome!*



Time Capsule



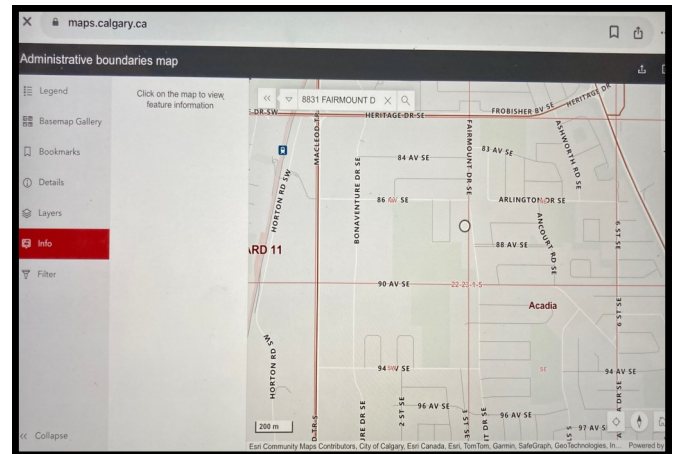
Greer moved to the claim in December 1885 and made a \$1000 payment to Rev. Smith. He applied for the NW quarter (corner of MacLeod Trail & Heritage Drive) as a pre-emption.

The north half of Section 22 is from Heritage Drive to 90 Ave and a mile east of MacLeod Trail to 6 Street East. Greer's sister was the wife of William Standish who farmed CPR land on the north side of Heritage Drive.

Section numbers can be found by looking at the map called Calgary Administrative Boundaries and selecting the section layers. Enter the desired address and zoom in.

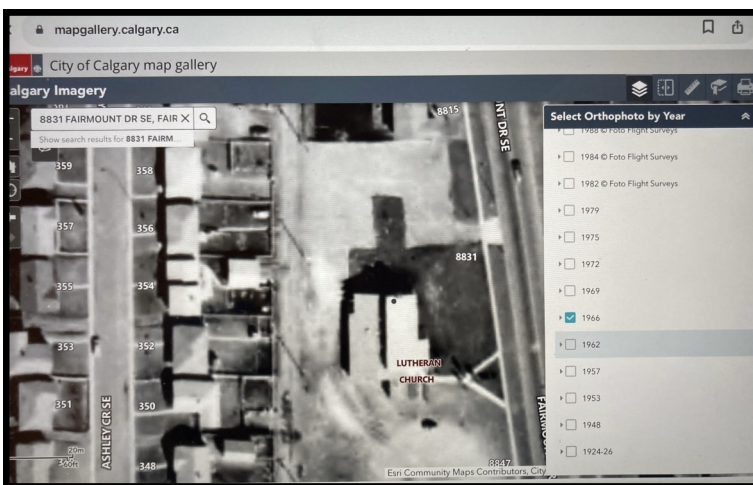
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour is located on land homesteaded by Christopher Greer, the North East quarter of Section 22, Township 23, Range 1 West of the 5th Meridian.

The earlier resident Rev. E. Paske Smith tried to sell his improvements to Henry Stuart but Mr. Stuart left for the United States. Greer moved to the claim in De-



Calgary Imagery has aerial photos starting from 1924-26. The photos help to narrow down the years when changes were made to buildings.

Blocks of 5 acres along Heritage Drive and along MacLeod Trail to Southland Drive were advertised for sale around 1912. Only two families with small dairy farms were counted in the 1931 census and no one lived in Section 23.



CPR received most of the odd numbered sections for building the railway. There is a database of land sales with the buyer's name, date and cost per acre.

Chinese New Year CELEBRATION



Celebrate the Year of the Snake with your neighbours!

Enjoy an afternoon of cultural treats, performances and games.

Featuring a lion dance performance from Diversecities Lion Dance Club, Tai Chi performance, piano playing, hip hop dance, flute playing, Chinese knotting craft table and more.



FAMILIES, SINGLES, EVERYONE FROM ACADIA & KINGSLAND WELCOME!

- **LION DANCE SHOW (12:15PM)**
- **CULTURAL PERFORMANCES**
- **CHINESE FOOD SNACKING (WHILE QUANTITIES LAST)**
- **PARKING AVAILABLE**

 **FREE EVENT** 

For more information:
danni.zhao@calgary.ca/587-223-2864

**SUNDAY
FEB 9
12-3pm**

**TRICO LIVINGWELL
7670 – 4A ST. SW**



English Practice for Immigrant Women

New Friends and Neighbourhood Groups

FREE weekly groups for immigrant women. Join any time in-person from September to June or online

- Practice speaking English
- Make new friends
- Learn about life in Calgary
- Free childminding for children (6 months-6 years) of registered participants (limited spots)

Meetings begin on March 27, 2024.

The meeting is inside the Co-op supermarket, in the Community Meeting Room. Ask any Co-op employee to direct you.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



FUNDED BY:



LOCATION:

Macleod Trail Calgary Co-op
8818 Macleod Trail SE



DATES:

Wednesdays 1pm - 3 pm



CONTACTS:

Tafadzwa Bamhare

(403) 263-4414 ext. 156

Tafadzwab@ciwa-online.com

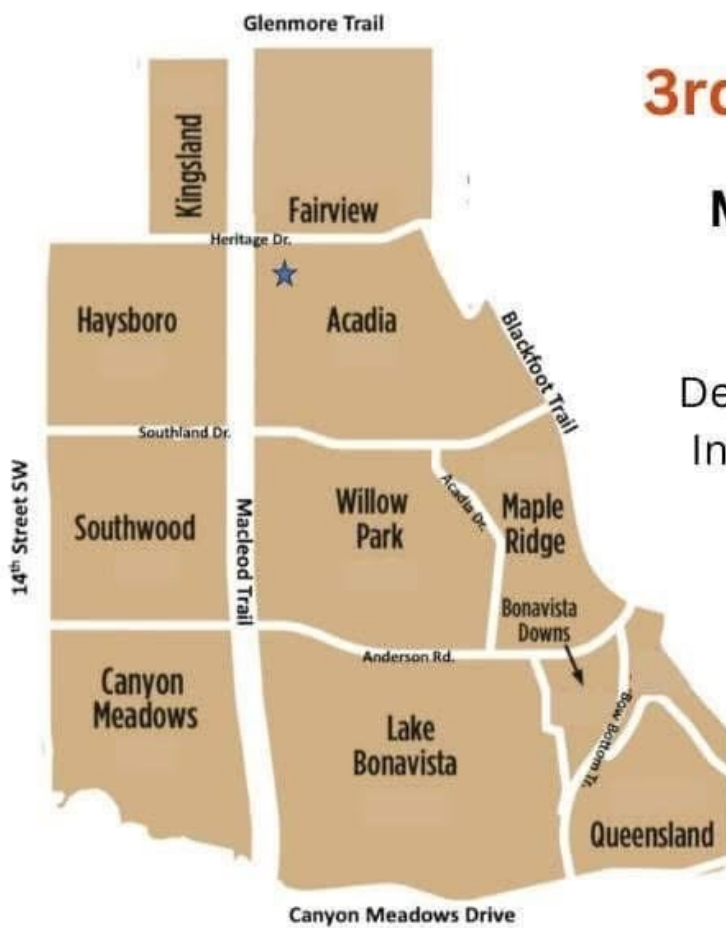


FOLLOW US:



* Available locations may change without notice

Serving residents of these communities:



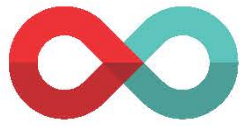
Emergency Food
Noon to 1 pm
3rd Tuesday each month

McDougall United Church
8516 Athabasca St. S.E.

Delivery for shut-ins may be available.
Inquire at AcadiaPantry@gmail.com.



Sponsored by local Lutheran, Moravian and United Churches, Chinook Rotary, City of Calgary & Trellis.



**Canadian
Blood
Services**

BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

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

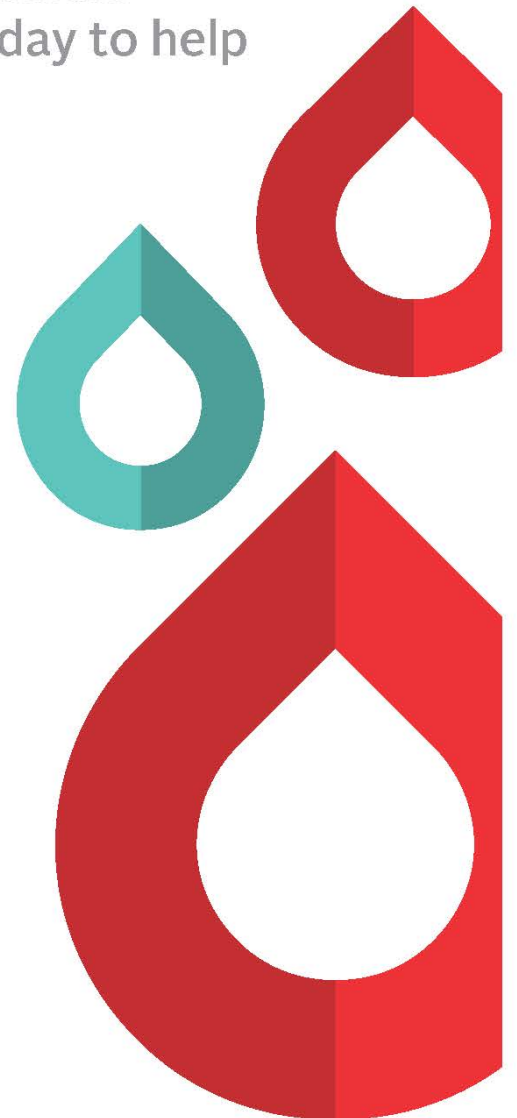
Acadia Recreation Complex

240- 90th Ave SE
Rose Hall

Saturday, February 1
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Saturday, February 22
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Donor Event - 138 Donors Needed Each Day



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



Bishop's Message

February 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

Know the love of God is with you.



The season of Epiphany continues – a season of inspiration, light and renewal as we absorb what it means that God is Emmanuel – with us. What difference does it make in our world, where so much is going on, that God is here?

Let me start by saying, it is no small matter. God came as one of us to bring change to a world that was conflicted and off track and I assure you that God remains with us in a world that may still be described in the same way. If you are like me, some days it seems like things are going off the rails. At every hour we are faced with threats to our livelihood personally and as a society – it's stressful. Where is the "Emmanuel God" for our lives in this moment?

You may have recently heard about the sermon at the Inaugural Prayer Service proclaimed by Episcopal Bishop Mariann Budde (just search for it and many hits will pop up.) In it she focused on four themes: dignity, honesty, humility and mercy. The last one she added after much prayerful thought. Mercy being a word, like grace, that covers the ground between our ideals and our imperfection.

These core values are worthy of anyone's attention. They make for better families, communities and nations. They draw us out of our self-centeredness. They call us into one another's lives. They invite us to fully live the gospel we hear every Sunday. Sometimes as people of faith we get stuck imagining and waiting for God to rescue us like the cavalry over the hillside, but these words actually call us to do something about the world where we live. Live with dignity, honesty, humility and mercy in all things! Those four words are a resistance movement each of us can enact today, in our neighbourhood and every interaction with others. Those values are tools that God has given us for ministry in our own time to stand against all that slyly tempts us away from godliness.

On The Presentation of Our Lord, February 2, we will hear Simeon say that Jesus is "a light for revelation" (Lk 2:32.) He saw it in Jesus. He lifted his voice and sang about it for all to hear! Let's tune our voices, in chorus with Simeon and Bishop Budde! May the light of Christ embolden us to shine!

Be Jesus where you are,

Bishop Irish

FEBRUARY

						<p>1</p> <p>7:00 am WW</p> <p>9:00 am Private Ladies Book Study</p>
<p>2 Communion</p> <p>10:00 am Worship (Pastor Daranne)</p> <p>Live Stream Service</p> <p>11:00 am Annual General Meeting (AGM <u>not</u> live streamed)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 pm Private Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>1:00 pm Games Group</p> <p>6:00 pm Private Banquet</p>	<p>5 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting</p> <p>6:30 pm Fitness Class</p> <p>7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting</p>	<p>6 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>8:45 am WW</p> <p>10:00 am Knit-Chat</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:00 am WW</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 am WW</p>
<p>9</p> <p>10:00 am Worship (Mariette Jessup)</p> <p>Live Stream Service</p> <p>11:00 an Kids Church</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 pm Private Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p>	<p>12 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting</p> <p>6:30 pm Fitness Class</p> <p>7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:45 am WW</p> <p>10:00 am Knit-Chat</p> <p>5:30 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:00 am WW</p> <div data-bbox="1234 1029 1396 1165" style="text-align: center;">  <p>Happy Valentine's Day</p> </div>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 am WW</p>
<p>16</p> <p>10:00 am Worship (Bob Dunn)</p> <p>Live Stream Service</p> <p>11:00 am Kids Church</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 pm Private Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>1:00 pm Games Group</p> <p>7:00 pm Board Mtg</p>	<p>19 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting</p> <p>10:00 am Worship at Southwood Care Centre</p> <p>2:00 pm Worship at Chinook Care Centre</p> <p>6:30 pm Fitness Class</p> <p>7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting</p>	<p>20 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>8:45 am WW</p> <p>10:00 am Knit-Chat</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00 am WW</p> <p>3:00 pm Feed the Hungry</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:00 am WW</p>
<p>23 Communion</p> <p>10:00 am Worship (Rev. Garnet Leach)</p> <p>Live Stream Service</p> <p>11:00 am Hot Dog Lunch</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 pm Private Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>11:00 am Flock Care Meeting</p>	<p>26 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon</p> <p>10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting</p> <p>6:30 pm Fitness Class</p> <p>7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:45 am WW</p> <p>10:00 am Knit-Chat</p> <p>5:30 pm Youth Group</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:00 am WW</p>	