



# CROSSBEAMS

Lutheran Church of the Cross



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Beloved of God,

On Holy Saturday my family enjoyed a walk in our neighborhood. As we were passing a parking lot, my daughter started yelling with excitement - she had seen her first wild flowers this spring. But they were in the least likely of places! In the far corner, of an old parking lot, there they were - perfectly beautiful clusters of purple and white pansies springing forth from the broken asphalt. They looked miraculous. These delicate flowers springing up from the harshest environments around them.

Seeing these flowers made me think about the empty tomb and the women who found the most miraculous scene. In a place where only death, grief and destruction were meant to be found - God gave the gift of new life, resurrection, and hope. What a gift it is to live in a part of the world where with Christ's resurrection - we also receive the gift of springs beauty breaking forth. Reminding us of the great promises of God that even in death nothing can keep us from the love and hope we have found in Christ.

I pray that in this Easter season, that you and your family continue to find the miraculous hope of Christ. Whether it is through sharing time together, joining in honoured family traditions, or attending church - May you find signs of Christ's life and resurrection in, with, and through the every day and the miraculous.



In Christ,

*Pastor Lindsey*

“Humans cannot comprehend very large or very small numbers” Daniel Kahneman

Every year brings its own challenges. Most recently, there were the Pandemic Years, the Search for an Administrator, the Search for a Pastor, and the Year of the Doors. This seems to be the Year of the Furnace. Having now replaced the #5 Furnace that keeps the Narthex warm, Council must turn its attention to Furnace #1 – the Roof Top Unit that heats the Sanctuary. We know that furnace is near the end of its life, and we need to replace it before the heat exchanger fails as it did for #5.

In one way, that recent failure was a blessing. Furnace #5 was a relatively small unit, and the cost of the project was modest – under \$30,000. To a small congregation like us, this may seem like a big number, but in more concrete terms, it’s about the cost of a Honda Civic. Most individual families can afford an expense like that. And replacing it taught us some valuable lessons about project scope, like electrical connections, control wiring, routing a cable through the roof, and subsequent roof repairs.

Furnace #1 is a bigger project: the unit itself will cost at least \$70,000, and the project includes roofing (and shingling), electrical connections, and carpentry. We haven’t got a formal estimate yet, but our best guess is on the order of \$100,000. Again, it sounds like a big number, but to extend the car metaphor: instead of a Honda Civic, this is a Jeep Wrangler. And we do have some money in the Major Building Maintenance for this exact purpose.

Even so, it’s a big expenditure, and we want to keep the congregation informed. We’ve struck an Infrastructure Committee (Hanna Janzen, Archie Wells, and Bill Ogilvie) to handle the project. So far, the Committee has had only one meeting, but we’ve drafted a request for quote (RFQ), and a list of five or six possible suppliers. Our plan is to finalize the RFQ and get formal quotes by the end of May, with the ultimate goal of having the new unit in place by winter. And we’re keeping an eye on the funds, to make sure we have enough to afford it.

There are, of course, lots of other things going on in the church, but this seemed to be the most important issue to address with the congregation. Otherwise, the general outlook is positive, and there seems to be a lot of optimism both on Council and within the congregation. It is, as always, a privilege to be able to serve the congregation and a Council that never fails to lend its support.

Council Co-Chairs,  
Bill Ogilvie & Paddy Colfer

# FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Church of the Cross Financials through March 31, 2025				
	2025 Budget	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	March
Income*	\$299,700.00	\$74,925.00	\$97,126.68	\$49,492.58
Expenses	\$331,036.00	\$82,759.00	\$103,755.57	\$33,229.35
Balance	(\$31,336.00)	(\$7,834.00)	(\$6,628.89)	\$16,263.23
<b>General Fund Balance*</b>				\$40,612.70
<b>Designated/Passthrough Funds*</b>				\$118,428.28

*Thank you for your continued care and support of our congregation through your donations!*



“Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give.”

— Steve Goodier

## There are many ways to give your offering at Church of the Cross:

- Safely donate online with your credit card using our church website: [www.churchofthecross.ca](http://www.churchofthecross.ca)
- You can e-transfer through your online banking to [churchofthecross@shaw.ca](mailto:churchofthecross@shaw.ca) at any time.
- Set up monthly recurring donations with a cheque or bank account through Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR).
- Give by offering envelopes in service, mailing in cheques, or by dropping your offering off in person: Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm



# LOOKING BACK: HOLY WEEK 2025

What a gift it was to journey through Holy Week together at Church of the Cross. Thank you to all those who shared their gifts, time, and presence to guide our time together. Christ is Risen - Christ has risen indeed - Alleluia!



# LOOKING AHEAD

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## QUILT BLESSING



**May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**

We give thanks for our quilting ministry at ELCOC with a blessing of the groups labors before they are shared in our community. We pray these quilts be a sign of hope, that they wrap our neighbors in unending love, and that they are signs of dignity and healing to those in need.

## CAMP SUNDAY



**May 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**

We look forward to welcoming Paul and Ruben from Camp Kuriokos who will be sharing about their ministry with us. Youth of all ages are invited to the hall following worship for a time of Sunday school with the camp staff.

## ROGATION SUNDAY



**May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**

Join us for Rogation Sunday - a blessing of seed and soil. We welcome you to bring seeds or soil from your garden to be blessed during the service. Following the service we will be planting our memory garden. If you would like to contribute to the garden this year we ask that you bring an annual of any color to plant.

## CHOIR SUNDAY



**May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**

We have all been thrilled to have our choir back leading us in worship. Join us for worship on May 25<sup>th</sup> when we will celebrate a service of praise featuring our choir. Come join your voices with us as we sing!

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



**June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at Church of the Cross**

Our first ELCOC Summer Concert Series of 2025 will begin with a piano Recital featuring Sandra Joy Friesen. All are welcome to attend this free event! Invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy a wonderful night of music. A free will offering will be taken with the proceeds going to our building maintenance fund.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ELCOC Youth Night

**May 16<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-9pm**

Come enjoy a night of fun as we enjoy easter crafts and play some games! Snacks and beverages provided! RSVP to Pastor Lindsey to save your spot! Your friends are always welcome.



## Seniors Lunch

**May 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am**

We can't wait to join our community partners at Southwood Connectors for another family friendly movie night! There will be free popcorn and juice available during the movie. Stay after the film to mingle with neighbours and enjoy some hot chocolate. Please register at [www.southwoodcc.ca](http://www.southwoodcc.ca) to save your spot!



## Memory Garden Planting and Blessing

**May 18<sup>th</sup> following the worship service at 11:30am**

Please join us on Sunday, May 18th, following worship as we plant and bless the heart-shaped flower bed on the north-west corner of our property. The garden was created in 2010, in memory of seventeen year-old Brittney McInnes who died in a shocking act of violence. The garden has become a place of remembrance for others who have died through violence, including the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. This year we would like to plant as a tribute to loved ones who we personally mourn.

We invite you to bring an annual flower in memory of someone you've lost and wish to honour. Traditionally, we've planted pink and mauve petunias, those colours being Brittney's favorites. This year we welcome your favourite annuals of any kind or colour. Help us to create a glorious rainbow. We will be happy to shop for you if you tell us your preference, and will also have a limited number of multi-coloured petunias for you to choose from if that is your wish.

This garden is a special place where our neighbours frequently pause, sometimes to sit on the bench a while with their thoughts and prayers.



# RETREATS & GATHERINGS

## Youth Retreat “Why?” - with Pastor Aaron Camp Kuriakos

May 30 - June 1, 2025 | \$130 +GST

Calling all Youth and recent LITs (Leaders In Training)! Can't wait for summer? Neither can we! Come on out for a weekend of fun, food, and faith. Bring your friends, or bring your youth group! Join Pastor Aaron Schnell (Advent Lutheran Church, Calgary) to explore our calling and the who, what, when, why, where and how of following God in today's world. Talk to Pastor Lindsey if you would like to attend!

## ABT Synod Worship and Music Symposium

Camrose, AB - Messiah Lutheran Church

June 5-7, 2025 | Cost \$300

A symposium is planned for anyone interested in exploring congregational worship and music leadership. Come and join on June 5-7 in Camrose, whether you are a music leader, worship planner, pastor, or worship committee member. The evenings of Thursday, June 5, and Friday, June 6, will include two very different hymn festivals which are open to the public. This is an event of our Synod's Worship and Arts Ministry Team. Find the schedule for the Symposium on the Synod website: [www.albertasynod.ca](http://www.albertasynod.ca)

## VBC: Vacation Bible Camp

Church of the Cross

July 21-23, 2025 from 9:00am - Noon


- Free -

We are excited to announce the return of Vacation Bible Camp to Church of the Cross this year! Thanks to our mission endowment fund we have partnered with Camp Kuriakos to offer a three day camp July 21-23 for youth twelve and under! The theme this year is Boundless: God Beyond Measure! If you would like more information about our VBC, to sign up your kids or Grandkids to attend, or you would like to offer your help in volunteering please email the office.


VBC registrations will open in June on the Kuriokos website:

<https://kuriakos.ab.ca/programs/kids-youth>


**YOUTH RETREAT**  
MAY 30-JUNE 1, 2025 AGES 13-18  
AT KURIAKOS ON SYLVAN LAKE



**\$130 includes:**  
MEALS  
(FRIDAY SNACK-SUNDAY BRUNCH)  
SESSIONS  
ACTIVITIES  
WORSHIP  
ACCOMMODATIONS



PASTOR  
AARON SCHNELL



**WORSHIP AND MUSIC SYMPOSIUM**



June 5-7, 2025  
(THURS through SAT.)

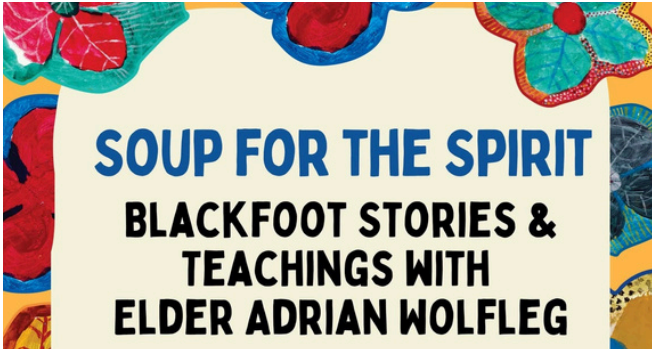


KURIAKOS 2025  
**boundless**  
EPHESIANS 3:18-19  
GOD BEYOND MEASURE

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



## SOUP FOR THE SPIRIT



Friday May 2, 2025 from 4:30pm-6:30pm  
Southwood Community Hall, Pioneer Room  
11 Sackville Dr. SW

Enjoy some warm soup and bannock while Elder Adrian Wolfleg shares some Blackfoot stories and teachings. Free community event. Email or text Sarah to register Sarah.Thomas@calgary.ca 368-889-5168

## MAKERS NIGHT



Tuesday May 6th from 7-9pm  
Southwood Community Hall, Chateau/Upper Hall  
11 Sackville Drive Sw

Join us once a month for Makers Night - a relaxed, social evening where you can work on your projects, share supplies, and connect with others. All crafts and skill levels welcome! We supply the snacks, basic supplies, you bring your projects! No registration needed—just drop in! For more info text or email Sarah +368-889-5168 or sarah.thomas@calgary.ca

## RHUBARBFEST



Saturday June 21, 2025 from 11:00am-4:00pm -  
Southwood Community Hall - 11 Sackville Dr. SW  
Admission: Free for all attendees & Parking: Available on-site

We're excited to invite you to our much-anticipated Annual Rhubarbfest! This year's event promises to be even more spectacular, with something for everyone to enjoy. Whether you're a longtime rhubarb enthusiast or just curious to see what all the fuss is about, Rhubarbfest is the place to be!

Join us for a FREE family event featuring: live music, vendor market, kids' activities, food and drinks, rhubarb-themed contests: who will have the "longest stalk", best baking, or best drink? Feel free to invite your friends and family—everyone is welcome! Don't miss out on this fun-filled day celebrating our favorite tangy treat. Whether rain or shine, we guarantee a fantastic time for all! For more information, reach out to us through the event page or email us at [info@southwoodconnects.ca](mailto:info@southwoodconnects.ca).

# ELCIC UPDATES

April 9, 2025



Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. – John 12:24

The rhythms of the earth connect us to Easter. Easter connects us to the rhythms of the earth. Life and death and life. Dying and bearing fruit. The calling of disciples to love the earth and to address the climate crisis is rooted in God's intimate act of creating a beautiful, diverse, life-giving, life-sustaining world—a world that is full of the breath of God. It is also rooted in the Easter story. Jesus is buried in the earth and rises from the ground. Jesus is buried for the sake of love and rises to renew all our relationships.

Earth Day falls conspicuously close to Easter Sunday this year. The theme for Earth Day 2025 is biodiversity. The goal is to encourage as many citizens, municipalities, and organizations as possible to reconnect with nature and better understand the importance of preserving biodiversity for ecosystem balance, food security and resilience to climate change.

This Earth Day, we invite you to see God's beloved world with Easter eyes, to hear the calls of Earth Day with Easter ears, to regard the work of climate justice as Easter work, and to celebrate Easter by renewing your commitment to love the earth.

We give thanks for work and witness that is ongoing:

- The [Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples](#) and [Indigenous Ministries](#) offering witness and teaching to recognize that the purity of the land base provides for all our needs.
- The [Pilgrimage for the Planet!](#), an ecumenical initiative, spearheaded by the [Climate Justice Committee](#) of the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC, that is organizing a bike journey and rally May 10-12, 2025.
- The ecumenical [For the Love of Creation](#), coming together as people of faith in the hopes of making a meaningful contribution in the next decade towards a sustainable future for all life on the planet. This includes posting events and resources for Earth week – April 20 to 27.
- [Creation Matters](#), encouraging Anglicans to engage in climate justice, including providing worship resources.
- The [Parish Engagement Resource for Social and Ecological Justice](#), developed by ACC and ELCIC to help congregations with discernment and engagement around joint priorities.
- [Task Force on Carbon Neutrality](#) encouraging Lutherans to engage in climate justice, including posting monthly reflections.
- [Zero Emission Churches](#), dedicated to taking action to reduce the greenhouse gases church buildings emit.
- [Jubilee: Turn Debt into Hope](#), a global ecumenical initiative that calls for debt cancellation and systemic financial reform to address the debt crisis faced by the Global South and Indigenous communities.



We need each other as we work for climate justice—in all our diversity, creativity, humility and faith. We need the hope and energy of Easter as we make this long journey. Thanks be to God that we do not walk alone and that transformation is possible. Thanks be to God who calls us to bear fruit.

*God of new life, we give you thanks for the Earth. Renew our hearts, minds, bodies, and spirits, that we may deeply know your love for all that is. Guide us as we strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. Bless us with grace to hear your call to be a diverse, inclusive community that celebrates all and upholds life-giving relationships. Bless us with faith to follow you and help us to bear much fruit. Amen.*

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Susan Johnson - National Bishop - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

The Most Rev. Chris Harper - National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop - Anglican Church of Canada

The Most Rev. Anne Germond - Acting Primate - Anglican Church of Canada

## **Rev. Pamela McGee, first Canadian Lutheran ordained female, dies**

On February 25, Rev. Pamela McGee, the first woman to be ordained in the Lutheran church in Canada, passed away surrounded by friends and staff at Good Samaritan Christenson Village in Gibsons, BC. Rev. McGee attended Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and served as a pioneer for women in ministry throughout the ELCIC. Due to the significance and interest in the unique event of her ordination by the former Eastern Canada Synod, the ceremony was moved to Morrisburg, Ontario's local arena to accommodate the sheer volume of guests. The ordination took place on May 6, 1976 and she was installed as the parish pastor at St. Paul's, Morrisburg-Riverside shortly thereafter. Since her groundbreaking ordination, numerous other women have been ordained within the ELCIC, following in Rev. McGee's path. This



includes those serving in roles such as synod bishops and, more recently, as the national bishop. "It was with some trepidation that I entered seminary, mostly because I had grown up with male models for pastors," said current ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson. "That's why pioneers like Pam McGee were so important to me. She proved that I could do this too."



Easter 2025

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Mt Pleasant Cemetery in Edmonton is one of my favorite places. It a beautiful old cemetery – as you can see with old trees standing in witness and as protective guards over the sleeping saints. I find it peaceful. A little pocket of quiet in a busy city.

We've heard once again the story of Jesus' death. It's heart wrenching every time I hear it. The good in us finds it unthinkable that humanity could stoop to such actions, but the worldly side of us knows it to be too true. And so we relive Good Friday in stories of our own of bullying, violence, shaming, swarming, anger, war, apathy, and more. The pain of the world is real and hits us hard, at times seemingly unrelenting, and we ask, God where are you? We feel the ache of emptiness.

Perhaps one of the gifts of Good Friday is that it gives us space to acknowledge such pain. Acknowledgement leads us to seek change – who would want that our lives would stay the same? That we would relive tragedy after tragedy? The gospel, and in particular Jesus' resurrection, reminds us of our goodness, of our potential to bring hope, love, and grace into one another's lives. Death and violence never hold the last word! Life does!

When I was a seminary intern, my supervisor, Pr Marty Tuer, taught me that when the funeral procession arrives at the cemetery, the pastor is to begin reading passages of scripture out loud as the people move from their cars to the graveside. She said, "with death literally surrounding us, the words of scripture are tossed out like flower petals in the face of it all – death does not have the last word – Christ does! And Christ's word to us is one of hope and abundant life."

As spring takes hold, and life begins again in grasses, crops, livestock, bees, birds and buds – may we remember the whole story. May we cast aside our grief and old ways and allow the Son's rays to soak into our bones once again, bringing resurrection right into our lives where we need it most. And may we, like the women, run to tell others – God is alive and on the loose!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Bishop Trish

# AFFIRMING FAITH NETWORK

**City Wide Pride Service - August 24, 2025**

## **Church of the Cross**

We're excited to invite you to the 7th Annual Citywide Pride Interfaith Gathering on Sunday, August 24 at 7pm, hosted at Lutheran Church of the Cross. This event celebrates the beautiful intersection of faith and 2SLGBTQIA+ identity, affirming that you can be both queer and faithful. Our 2025 theme is: *Stitched Together; A Patchwork of Pride*. This celebrates both individual and collective beauty, and the wonderful things that happen when we bring all of our own unique threads (or selves) together. Stories and music will be woven throughout the service, as we evoke a tactile, artistic image of Pride and community participation. We invite participation from all faith communities—last year over 30 groups were involved, and we hope to grow that number!



# Spring CLEAN-UP

Join us at the church between 9am and Noon May 17<sup>th</sup> for our annual spring clean up. We will have a list of tasks we would like to attend to by the mail boxes. If there is a particular job you would like so sign up for that is welcome! If not, we will be glad to put you to work that day with others cleaning up inside and outside of the building. We will share in a break time for snacks and refreshments at 10:30 am. Bring gloves and your favorite cleaning supplies!





# SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

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All are welcome to find community, care, and connection through our small group ministries. If you have a new idea for a small group you would like to see contact Pastor Lindsey.

## **Holy Ukes: Sundays from 11:30am - 12:30pm**

Join church of the Cross' Ukulele group! All ages and skill levels welcome! If you need a ukulele or would like to join in on the fun contact Jean or connect with us in the church office.

## **Bible Study: First and Third Wednesdays from 10:00am - 11:00am**

Join us for a time of socialization and fun as we discuss on the upcoming lectionary texts. All are welcome - snacks provided!

## **ELCOC Choir: Thursdays from 6:00pm - 7:30pm**

All are invited to join the ELCOC choir as they lead the congregation in worship and song. Speak with Catherine our Minister of Music if you would like more info.

## **Mens Breakfast: May 10 at 8:00am - 10:00am**

Join us for our final breakfast before our summer break. We share in a time of community, connection, and bible study - All are welcome!

## **Seniors Lunch: May 13 from 11:30am - 1:30pm**

We welcome all seniors and their friends to enjoy a wonderful meal together at the church. RSVP to Sandi S. at [saxleggs@telus.net](mailto:saxleggs@telus.net)

## **ELCOC Youth: May 16 from 7pm-9pm**

All youth are invited to join us Friday May 16 for a night of fun! We will play some basketball, enjoy some snacks, and plan for events upcoming this summer. Friends are always welcome! RSVP with Pastor Lindsey

## **Caring Connections: May 20 at 1:00pm - 2:00pm**

A monthly peer support group for those caring for parents, their spouse, children, or loved ones with needs. We hold space for one another's challenges and celebrate whenever we can. Contact Pastor Lindsey for more information.

## **Social Ministry Team Meeting: May 14 at 10:30am**

Join us as we meet the Second Wednesday of the month to share the needs of our community and neighborhood. All are welcome!

## **Theology on Tap: May 21 from 7pm-9pm**

Join us for a time of socialization and fun as we discuss themes of our faith over wings and beverages! Limericks - 3704 Mcleod Trail SW - RSVP with Pastor Lindsey to save your spot!



# MAY 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1 Choir 6:00pm-7:30pm	2	3
4 <b>Easter 3</b> Worship with Communion Quilt Blessing 10:00am	5	6	7 <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00am-11:30am  <b>Council Meeting</b> 7:00pm-9:00pm	8  Choir 6:00pm-7:30pm	9	10  <b>Men's Breakfast</b> 8:00am-10:00am
11 <b>Easter 4</b> Worship with Communion Camp Sunday 10:00am	12	13  <b>Seniors Lunch</b> 11:30am -1:30pm	14  <b>Social Ministry Meeting</b> 10:00am-11:30am	15  Choir 6:00pm-7:30pm  <b>New Member Class</b> 7pm - 8pm	16  <b>Youth night</b> 7:00pm-9:30pm	17  <b>Church of the Cross Spring Cleaning</b> 9am - 12pm
18 <b>Easter 5</b> Worship with Communion Rogation Sunday 10:00am	19	20  <b>Caring Connections</b> 1:00pm-2:00p	21 <b>Bible Study</b> 10:00am-11:30am  <b>Theology on Tap</b> Limericks on Mcleod Tr 7:00pm-9:30pm	22  Choir 6:00pm-7:30pm	23	24
25 <b>Easter 6</b> Worship with Communion Choir Sunday 10am	26	27	28	29	30	31



Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime — Martin Luther



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