

The Vines

A close-up photograph of a bleeding heart vine (Lamproloma alba) with vibrant magenta heart-shaped flowers and green foliage. The flowers are heart-shaped with a white, veined center and a small, drooping, bell-shaped structure at the bottom. The leaves are green and have a deeply lobed, fern-like appearance. The background is a soft-focus green.

July 2025

Image courtesy

Alex Mckay

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 from 9:00 am - noon



Brian



Isaria

Church Board 2025

Bob Montgomery (Chair)
Carolyn Walker (Assistant Chair)
Brian Prunkle (Secretary)
Kathy Gibson
Isaria Kwayu
Adriana Mass
Kari Paul



Bob



Carolyn



Kari



Kathy



Adriana

8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary T2H 0Z4

Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Website: www.oursaviourchurch.ca Instagram: lcos_youth

Scan to donate





July Worship Services

Sunday, July 6 10:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, July 13 8:00 - 10:30 am Stampede Breakfast

11:00 am Worship Service

Sunday, July 20 10:00 am Worship Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, July 27 10:00 am Worship Service

Live Stream Available

Pastor's Message

The time has come to say goodbye. Even if you were not in worship on June 22, you have probably heard from others that, after prayerful discernment, I will conclude my season as your interim pastor. Someone shared with me that they wondered if I was sick. Rest assured, my health and my family are fine. This discernment arises from continued friction about moving forward after the vote to leave the ELCIC did not pass. I do not wish to be a polarizing figure, and my resignation provides an opportunity for a fresh start, renewed dialogue, and a clearer understanding of the path ahead for Lutheran Church of Our Saviour.

Saying goodbye is hard. Warm wishes from many of you after worship or in emails and phone calls since have been an affirmation of my ministry among you. And I recognize this is hard not only for me but for many of you, too.

As a pastor and chaplain, I have witnessed a number of goodbyes – ends of jobs, severed relationships, send-offs to university, transitions to senior living facilities, and loved ones dying. I've seen goodbyes that have gone well and others that have not gone so well. What has emerged for me in that contrast is that if we do not say goodbye well, it is harder to embrace what is next. Goodbyes aren't just moments in time, they are also a spiritual practice. When we pause, acknowledge, bless and release, we honour what has been and what is coming next.

Ira Byock, a respected palliative care physician, proposes a four-fold framework for end-of-life conversations. I've used his four phrases in my work, and they can help people leave well in various circumstances of transition, not just at the end of life.

First, THANK YOU

Thank you for your warm welcome in August 2023. I remember those early days fondly. Thank you for inviting me into your lives to celebrate your joy and support you during challenges you faced. Sharing these authentic journeys is one of the most sacred aspects of being a pastor for me. Thank you for your interest in and encouragement of my PhD research, which often multiplied my energy for this work when I was not with you.

Second, PLEASE FORGIVE ME

Please forgive me for the times I have not shown up in ways that were helpful for healing, especially when we have had conflict. I did not always get it right. I have sometimes leaned in too strongly when gentleness was needed, and at other times I pulled away from those whose views differed from mine, when courage or closeness may have been the better path.

Next, I FORGIVE YOU

I forgive you for the lack of consultation and transparency that fractured the trust between us and thwarted collaboration between the Board, Pastor, and staff. I name that openly, not to blame, but because healing requires honesty, and I release that burden, trusting that God's grace is big enough to hold us all.

Finally, I LOVE YOU

As your pastor, my love for you is compassionate. It is a love that shows up in hospital rooms, at funerals, in sermons, and in silence. Though I could not be everything to everyone, I have sought to love you as faithfully as I could, and to hold your stories, struggles, and hopes with care. Now, may God's love continue to bubble up in your midst, enlivening the ministry to which you are called, and preparing you for another.

Warmly,

Pastor Daranne

Board Report

From my Desk...

July is always interesting. The summer holds the prospect of slowing down and enjoying the sunshine. Usually, folks are more relaxed. That is, except your Board of Directors and members of the LCOS Call Committee! Daranne's resignation was a surprise and of course we wish her well in all of her future endeavours. However, we took her at her word that she would stay until a new Pastor arrived. Now, we are looking for another interim Pastor AND a senior full time Pastor. To say we have an impossible task would not be wrong, however... I know God has a plan for us and because He does, He will continue to look after us. Your Call Committee is eager to review candidates that the Bishop has promised to send forward. Unfortunately, to this date, no referrals have been received.

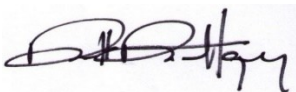
What does our faith have to say about 'impossible situations', well, your Bible holds many examples. I think part of the answer lies in what we believe our faith to be founded upon. IF you believe God is omnipotent, all powerful & loves you beyond what you could possibly imagine, then you KNOW He will provide. If you believe Moses parted the Red Sea to allow the Jewish nation to cross or that they lived 40 years in the wilderness with only God providing food, then your faith KNOWS God sees our need and will fill it. IF your faith includes Jesus feeding a multitude with only a few loaves and some fish or that He raised Lazarus (and others) from the dead or that He took pity on those at the wedding feast by turning water into wine, then you understand how God provides in the 'hour of need'.

However, if your faith is 'second guessing' what you have been taught like some of the rostered pastors of the ELCIC we have interviewed over the past 20 years, you may have a different feeling about the future. To be clear, these are not Pastors or Ministers from some other denomination or ideology, these are fully rostered Pastors of the ELCIC under the Synod Bishop. Some of these include that Jesus may NOT be divine OR He may not be the Son of God OR the Bible may not be the Word of God. If your faith is founded on any of these beliefs, you may be more than a little anxious about the future.

My wish for those of you who may be wondering about these things is to spend time this summer in quiet prayer and reflection. Do these things make sense? Is the Bible inspired by God? Maybe re-read the gospels about the 3 year ministry of Jesus and ask God to reveal Himself to you. The Bible tells us to 'seek the face of God while He may be found' (Isaiah 55:6 and Psalm 27:8). We are assured that if we seek Him, He will lead you to greater understanding of His amazing love and to His plan for you and for your life.

As Board Chair, my duty is to reflect the wishes of the congregation as I am able. I take that job seriously. You may not agree with my opinions or suggestions but my goal is to ensure our community stays true to the tenets of our Christian faith, as Martin Luther wrote about. He stated the only path to a purpose-filled and joyful life and... a path to heaven... is through faith in Jesus Christ – God's only Son, who died for your sins and mine. So, enjoy the summer and don't worry; if God is able to look after the littlest sparrow, how much more will He do for you?

Chair - LCOS Board of Directors



Call Committee Report

The Call Committee has had several requests for information regarding what are the next steps for the search for a pastor following the congregational vote on March 30th. There were many discussions happening between the Call Committee and the Board and the Board and the Bishop and so we decided to wait until now to provide a more thorough and accurate report.

We want to start this message with our sincere thanks to Pastor Daranne for all of her dedicated service to the congregation and her special gift of pastoral care. Pastor Daranne's true humanity was demonstrated throughout her time with LCOS and made her a special pastor. Although we knew that Pastor Daranne would leave at some time it was still a surprise when she announced this to the congregation last Sunday. We have all been blessed to have her serve as our interim pastor for the last two years and we will all miss her and wish her much success in her new career.

At the Congregational Meeting in March, the Call Committee re-iterated our position that our main goal was to recommend a pastor to the congregation that shared our: 1) Beliefs; 2) Values and 3) Worship Style.

The beliefs for LCOS started back in 1962 and follow the words of Martin Luther from his Small Catechism on the Apostles Creed which states, "I know and accept the Christ of the Bible as my personal Saviour and trust only in Him for my salvation". We have tended to state this as **Salvation is solely by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ**.

Unfortunately, the Call Committee have found over the years that a number of ELCIC candidates do not match LCOS's basic traditional Lutheran belief and this has been the largest single item which eliminates them for selection. Our question has been whether a move to more progressive teachings in the seminary have significantly reduced any "traditional" seminary pastors. This question was answered by Bishop Trish in a meeting with the LCOS Board in which she stated that the seminary had changed their teachings to be more progressive starting in 2011. Bishop Trish stated that "there are more traditional pastors still working in the Synod but in general they are older and not graduates from the Seminary past 2011". We have found this to be true from our discussions with other ELCIC Synods outside of Alberta as well.

During the Board's dialog with the Bishop, the topic of "The Non-Affirming Decision Letter" in which, Pastor Lee on behalf of the Board, was sent to Bishop Ron Mayan on January 2, 2012 was brought up. The Bishop advised that she "had 4 or 5 American Pastors wanting to come to Canada but that she did not feel she could recommend any of them to us because of the letter on file". Bishop Trish went on to advise "she did not want to dissuade us from what we believe nor encourage us to change but simply to say it will be difficult to find a rostered Pastor with the letter on file".

The Call Committee met on May 12, 2025 and had the following discussions:

The Call Committee Chair opened with a discussion of the current situation that faces the Call Committee.

- Some LCOS members are very concerned about the slide in ELCIC beliefs and want to ensure that LCOS retains its traditional Lutheran beliefs

- Some LCOS members are very concerned about the non-affirming letter of the 2011 and the potential restriction of the MAID program with CALC

- Some members are very concerned about the disruption to the family atmosphere of the congregation and don't care about theology

Comments from the committee members included that there was a concern if LCOS determined, as the ELCIC has, that the Bible is not perfect.

Call Committee Report continued

Further comments were that there were discussions from some of the members that voted No to the Board's vote that the reason was that once Jesse determined that he was not going to join that there was no need to leave the ELCIC. However, these same members commented that they wanted to have LCOS retain its "traditional" beliefs and to retain our position as being a non-affirming congregation.

There was a discussion on what the alternatives were for the Call Committee:

1. Review the candidates again that the Bishop has provided to determine if there are any that are worthy of second look. Is this worth doing? The committee determined that this was not worthwhile since the committee had already reviewed these candidates once and determined they were not suitable.
2. Wait for the Bishop to bring forth new candidates. The Bishop has told us that the "pool" of traditional pastors is not large and the "pool" of non-affirming pastors is even smaller. She has advised LCOS that any names from the US require affirming congregations and has intimated that it will be very hard to get candidates if we are non-affirming. Do we want the Board to consider if the 2011 Letter is still applicable due to the timeframe and if not have it removed leaving the decision of same sex marriage to the pastor and not the congregation.
3. Advertise for pastoral candidates to generate candidates for the Bishop. There is no written rule that a congregation cannot advertise to determine if there is interest in a pastoral position in LCOS. If there is interest then the candidate would need to go through the Bishop once we answered any questions they had on the opportunity. This is not without its risk, potential annoyance from our Synod, and the Ad would need to be very carefully constructed. There was discussion about who the Call Committee could advertise to and by what means. The Call Committee could only advertise to ELCIC, Anglican and Moravian pastors to stay within the ELCIC Call rules unless the Board approved going outside. The discussion on what medium that could be used provided some initial thoughts but with no conclusion.

The Board determined that it was in the best interest of the congregation that the 2011 Letter was not applicable due to the timeframe and to leaving the decision of same sex marriage to the pastor and not the congregation. This message was transmitted to Bishop Trish in late May. Therefore, the constraint that existed prior due to this determination has been removed.

Since this has been communicated to Bishop Trish, the Board Chair has had discussions and despite Bishop Trish stating that she had candidates, there has been no communication between the Bishop and the Call Committee and no candidates.

The Call Committee is required to have all ELCIC candidates go through the Alberta Bishop. We have been told that there are no pastors for us in Alberta. We have been told that there are few young pastors that share our beliefs. We have researched the entire ELCIC roster in Western Canada and after short listing the candidates to 14 found that none were available or interested. We had started looking in the US but stopped after a couple inquiries through the proper channels that went nowhere. We worried that If the congregation decided to stay with the ELCIC our experience with the last candidates is that there is a high potential that we will take a considerable period of time to find a candidate which matches our beliefs. This could easily be another 1-2 years.

The Call Committee does not believe that it is in the best interest of the congregation to take 1-2 years to find a pastor. With the departure of Pastor Daranne on July 20th we will no longer have an interim pastor.

It is therefore imperative that we find a pastor.

Garry Mihaichuk

Chair, Call Committee

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.

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 May 2025 were:

- Cash: 1.1%- 10 givers
- Cheques: 17.6% - 17 givers
- Direct Deposit : 0.0%
- Interac E-transfer: 55.0% - 27 givers
- Loose Cash: 1.0%
- Online via Realm: 13.0% - 2 givers
- Pre-Authorized Remittance Program: 12.3% - 17 givers

Financial Status – May 31, 2025:

- Revenue (offering, rentals): \$125,601.51
- Expenses: \$140,090.52
- For a deficit of \$14,489.01



The church operational costs are ongoing during the summer months.

Please consider an additional offering during the month of June prior to leaving on your summer vacation.

Financial Secretary

The role of the Financial Secretary (FS) is integral to church operations. The FS assists by forecasting, recording and analyzing the expected revenue of the Church each year and works closely with the Treasurer. In addition, this role oversees upkeep and maintenance of our “Realm” software and oversees deposit of all revenue into our bank account. The FS oversees all forms of deposit items to our bank and generates the annual CRA ‘tax receipt of giving’ to all donors. For all of these reasons, a major requirement is the need for strict confidentiality. Over the last 40 years the individual occupying this role has only changed once. This is testament to the integrity and acumen of both people that have filled this function. **Our current FS is Cliff Blumhagen and he is retiring after nearly 30 years of service to LCOS. We are looking for the right person to take over this important position.**

Is this for you? If you are considering it, please speak directly with Cliff at your earliest opportunity. We would like to begin the transfer as soon as possible. Cliff is willing to assist in training the ‘right’ candidate.

Thank you for considering this service for LCOS.

You can contact Cliff at: 403-936-0419 or at: financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca.

Bob Montgomery
Chair – LCOS Board of Directors

Beautiful Blooms & Gorgeous Gardens

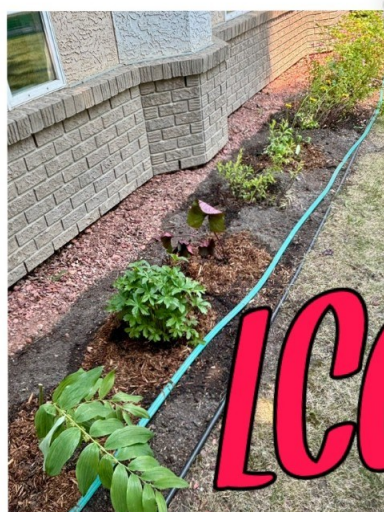
Alice



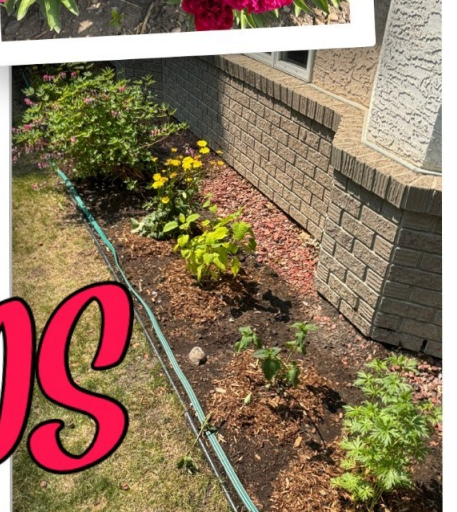
McKays



Farns



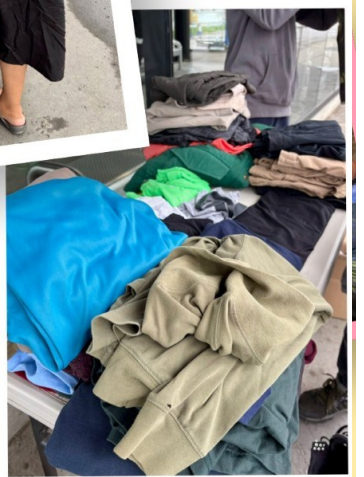
LCOS



Sundae Sunday



Feed the Hungry



What's Been Happening at LCOS



Y'All INVITED

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

8831 Fairmount Drive SE

Annual Stampede Breakfast

LIVE MUSIC



TASTY FOOD

Sunday, July 13th 8:00 am - 10:30 am

Worship Service 11:00 am

Donations for the Acadia Food Pantry gratefully accepted

Your LCOS Board invites you to

A HEALING SERVICE

**Thursday, July 17
7:00pm**



Through scripture, prayer, song, silence, and ritual, we look toward reorientation, a turning again toward Christ and toward one another. Wherever you find yourself on the journey, you are invited to participate, entrusting your healing to the Holy Spirit, who binds up the broken-hearted and makes all things new.

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour



FREE VBS Camp

August 18 - 22 → Ages 4 - 12

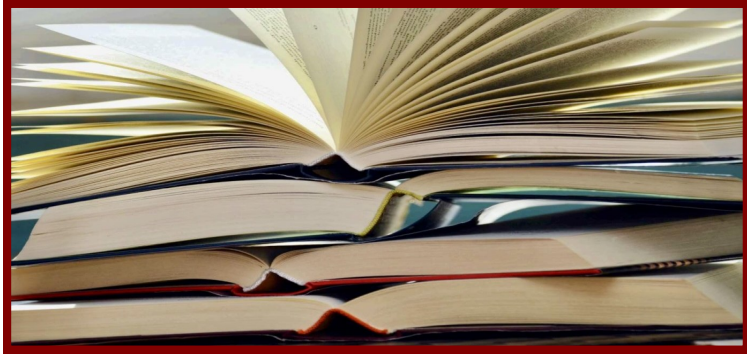
Science ♦ Games ♦ Music

<https://vbspro.events/p/lcosvbs2025>



**Scan QR Code or
Click Link to Register
& more information**

THE LIBRARY



The Browsing Library has been up and running for a few weeks now; things are starting to circulate (a little library humour there). People are wandering in to see what's going on, which is wonderful to see!

If you haven't had a chance to visit we encourage you to come in and take a peek. The Library has been reorganized to be more user-friendly and "browsable". Think of it as the collection of your bookworm friend (Carolyn's one of those people). You'll see something interesting and that friend says "Oh go ahead and borrow it! Just bring it back when you're done!" That's how the Browsing Library works. Wander through the sections, browse amongst the shelves and if you see something that catches your interest go ahead and borrow it. Bring it back when you're done; put it back where you found it. Can't remember where you got it? Check inside the back cover. That's it, you're done!

Now we'd like to hear from you:

- Which direction would you like the library to take? Do you want to see new releases & the latest titles? Or would you prefer to see "old favourites" such as C.S. Lewis's "The Screwtape Letters" or "The Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan?
 - ~ Keep in mind the original intent of Pastor Lee and Gretch Woolery, that the library "... provide access to faith-based topics, items from (our favourite) Christian bookstores, and hard-to-find items not found in typical stores like Chapters or Indigo."
- What media would you like to see offered (books, music CD's, DVD's)?
- What sections need more titles? Which ones need less?
- Is there a topic that we don't have a section for but that you'd like to see provided?
- How long should we keep items, or how old do they have to be before they are "retired" from circulation?
- How will the library be funded? Fundraising or donations?
- What other suggestions do you have?

Please use a comment card from the Library and place it in one of our church mailboxes: Carolyn Walker #67 or Karen Smith #280.

Due to limited shelf space, assorted bibles and group bible study materials have been relocated to the Fireside room. Individual bible studies can still be found in Section 30.

Do you have any other questions, comments or concerns? We would love to hear from you!

Did You Know

Submitted by Pat Farn

Gardening Engagement Group

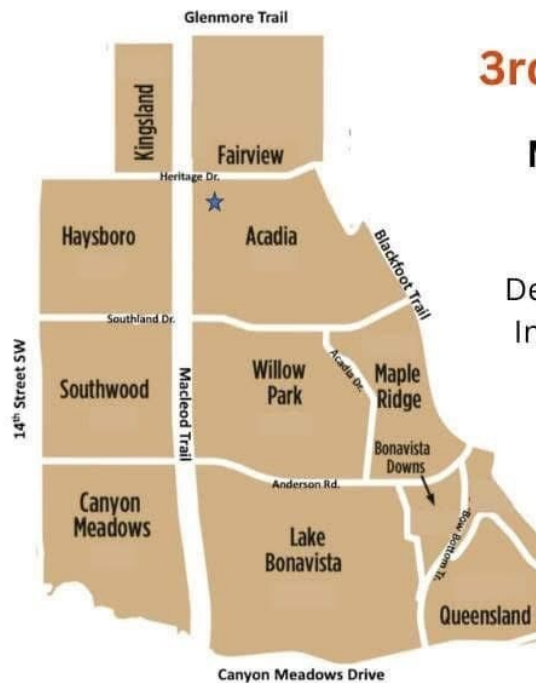
The Gardens "they are a changing"

An ambitious team of volunteers are tackling our landscaping at the church. Look around and see trees pruned, dead Junipers bushes removed, Robin's eggs discovered, new perennials planted, mulch added, dandelions and weeds pulled and bushes trimmed.



All this work filled a huge trailer load that went to the dump. Using their own garden tools, this dedicated group have put in a lot of work. Perennials have been donated by congregation members. The flower beds are being watered regularly. These gardeners all demonstrate the pride we have in our church building. There are more improvements that are going to be made. Take time to observe the changes over the summer.

Serving residents of these communities:



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

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.



“

**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

Encouragement Cards

Were there occasions in your life when a few uplifting words from a friend might have brightened your day?

Have you ever considered that someone at church would welcome a kind word during challenging times?

Do you remember seeing a sad face in your travels and wished you had let them know they were not alone?

Encouragement cards are available in a basket in the Place of Welcome for anyone who wishes to let someone know you are thinking of them.

Please help yourself.

Feel free to forward anonymously or write a personal note on the back of the card and drop it in a church mailbox.

Thessalonians 5:11

**"Therefore encourage one another
and build each other up, just as you
are already
doing."**



Thessalonians 5:11

**"Therefore encourage one another
and build each other up,
just as you are
already doing."**



This verse emphasizes the importance of mutual encouragement and support within our community of believers.



To our 80 + Friends!

Wilma Claussen

***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!*



Alice's Time Capsule

Rev. John McDougall 1842-1917, Methodist missionary at Morley, Alberta wrote about pancakes near the beginning of his second book published in 1895. As a young boy, he travelled with his father on trading voyages in Ontario. Sometimes George had a tame bear with him. One evening Isaiah was cooking pancakes and Mr. Bear was eating them off the plate. Isaiah chased the bear with a big spoon that he had been using to mix the batter. The bear climbed up the rigging.



Horace Inkster, cook at Morton's C-X Ranch Rosebud Creek Alberta, serving pancakes at a Stampede street breakfast July 1923.

Jack Morton, wearing a bright orange shirt, galloped the CX chuckwagon down 8th Avenue on Friday morning July 13, 1923, made the turn around Traffic Officer Dan Finlayson and pulled up between Centre and First Street west. Soon the cook offered pancakes to the crowd and Jack introduced the crowd to two tame badgers. **Calgary Herald, page 1.**

Jack supplied horses for Stampede events and also competed in the chuckwagon races in 1923. The 1924 Stampede started off with the parade on Monday July 7. On Tuesday, Jack lassoed a kerosene stove from the sidewalk in front of a second hand store and used it for cooking pancakes on the street the rest of the week. Jack crashed in his last chuckwagon race in 1938 and ended up in hospital.

Grant MacEwan published *Wildhorse Jack, the Legend of Jack Morton* in 1983. Sometimes it was hard to separate the facts from fiction. The real Jack Morton was born in Manitoba in 1879 according to the 1901 census and died in 1944 in Alberta. He was buried in Gleichen. Some of Jack's descendants lived in Acadia.

In 2023, Brenda Joyce Leahy wrote a book for children called ***Flip Flop Flapjack, Wildhorse Jack and the first Stampede Breakfast.***

STAMPEDE

Note the badger on the right side of the table! The book contains the Morton family recipe for pancakes. Brenda, former lawyer, is one of Jack's granddaughters. Real cowboys wouldn't agree, but a recipe for pancake batter with one egg can be baked in a 9x13 inch pan (lined with parchment paper) and cut in rectangles, then reheated in a microwave.

PANCAKES



"Flip Flop Flapjack" illustrator Melissa Bruglemans-LaBelle, left, and author Brenda Joyce Leahy were in Cochrane during Rodeo Week last year. The book has been shortlisted for two 2024 Alberta Book Publishing Awards. (file photo)

NEW!

Weight Watchers®

Why Wait?

Scan to sign up



I am employed by WeightWatchers,
and may receive a commission
if you sign-up through my link.



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:



United Way
Calgary and Area

** Available locations may change without notice*



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



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**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, July 19

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Saturday, July 26

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Donor Event - Donors Needed

Join **Canada's Lifeline**

Visit **blood.ca** to learn more.



Bishop's Message



July/August 2025

Dear beloved,

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?
My Life Flows on in Endless Song, EvLW #769, refrain

This was the sending song at the Biker Blessing held at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Olds on June 8. Those "bad" bikers in the church stomped their boots to the strong rhythm as a powerful affirmation of faith. Moments like this I am bolstered in my belief (yes, songs and music can have such an impact!) and I trust that all will be okay.

But will it? I write this mid-June coming out of a weekend with all kinds of grievous news. Israel and Iran are locked in a deadly conflict. The US National Guard has been deployed on home soil in California. Escalating tensions in US politics emboldened murderous attacks on public servants. And those are just the headlines. In the background, the oceans and forests are crumbling, people are literally starving, education and science are undermined, once hard-fought-for-rights are being stripped away. If you are unsure what this means to us in the church, then you are right in line with most people, especially Canadians who watch from a relatively safe distance.

But is it? I mean are we safe? Of course not. We ought to be paying close attention to the world's health these days, because the unease, violence, upheaval, and confusion that occurs (even in a far-off land) does affect us right here at home. And while we might not be sure how to respond, we can begin by remembering that people of faith are called to stand up for justice and equity - the welfare of all humanity (including Creation) not because someone else is a Christian or Lutheran, but because we are. When danger lurks, we light a light. When misinformation is spread, we share the truth. When hope is frail we sing from the bottom of our hearts. When we hunger for peace we nourish one another with bread, wine and encouragement.

I commend to you a sermon¹ I recently watched by Rev. Dr Lori Walke of *Mayflower Congregationalist Congregation* in Oklahoma, Texas (June 15, 2025.) She is calling her people to stand firm in the present storm, to remember who they are and what the good news is all about, to protect the vulnerable of every colour and shape. If there ever was a time to cling to the Rock of Christ, it is always today, this day.

Keep singing,

Bishop Trish

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8QP0EnvxSo>, gospel reading and sermon begin at 28:10

JULY

		1 CANADA DAY 	2 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	3 8:45 am WW 7:00 pm Cover to Cover Bible Study	4 8:00 am WW	5 7:00 am WW
6 Communion 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Daranne) Live Stream Service	7	8 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	9 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	10 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 7:00 pm Cover to Cover Bible Study	11 8:00 am WW	12 7:00 am WW
13 8:00 AM STAMPEDE BREAKFAST 10:00 am Worship (Mariette Jessup) Live Stream Service 	14	15 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 1:00 pm Games Group 7:00 pm Board Mtg	16 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	17 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 7:00 pm Healing Service	18 8:00 am WW 3:00 pm Feed the Hungry	19 7:00 am WW
20 Communion 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Daranne) Live Stream Service	21	22 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	23 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	24 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 7:00 pm Cover to Cover Bible Study	25 8:00 am WW	26 7:00 am WW
27 10:00 am Worship (Andrew Hubbard) Live Stream Service	28	29 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	30 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting	31 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 7:00 pm Cover to Cover Bible Study	FREE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AUGUST 18 - 22	