



JULY 2025

CROSSBEAMS

Lutheran Church of the Cross



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Beloved of God,

The summer months are anticipated as a time to slow the pace of work and find extra moments for recreation and rest. The buds of spring transform into gorgeous blossoms. They won't last long, so make sure you stop to admire the flowers while they are in bloom! Animals who had spring arrivals now tend to them, teaching their young how to survive, because in a blink they will be off on their own. The sun shines with increased warmth, drawing us out to the water, to the garden, to the patio, to naturally soak up extra vitamin D! Although these months are short, in the summertime we see the culmination of the seasons – mature growth in vegetation, the fruition of all the hard work represented in crops ready to harvest. The beauty of the world is fully expressed in a way that reminds us of God's awesomeness and abundance.

The church is quieter during the summer months. I encourage you to take time in your seasonal rituals for introspection, prayer, and spiritual growth. Summer can feed our spiritual side and ripen our faith. We have worked hard all year. We work hard during the summer, too. But breathe a bit deeper and see how God blesses and nurtures you. Let the breath of the Holy Spirit show you the gifts that come through seeds sown in faith.

Summer blesses our year-long patience with visible beauty and repeated natural examples of Creation's goodness and the value of human life. Reflect, bless, flourish! Love yourself and each other. Remember that all of this goodness is for you! Praise God.

Pastor Lindsey

www.churchofthecross.ca

Status of RTU 1 Sanctuary Furnace and Next Steps

Church of the Cross is an aging structure, going back to the early 1960s, with the subsequent addition of the current Sanctuary and Narthex. In addition to infrastructure aging and need for replacement, there are issues related to the changes in technology and standards over the intervening time. Church of the Cross

has managed its budget well over the past decades, and is in a relatively sound financial condition. Notably, we are without debt. But this has meant that the “time has never been right” to carry out infrastructure work that is expensive – especially replacement of furnaces. Our current reality is, there has been some decline in membership over the years, leading to a current deficit in income of about \$6,000 per month.

Key Points Concerning Sanctuary Furnace (RTU 1)

1RTU 1 (Furnace #1) heats the Sanctuary. It is a 33 years old mid efficient gas fired roof furnace, and is liable to failure. In December 2023 worship was moved to the Fellowship Hall, in the most recent such failure. On previous occasions, the furnace was restored to use over the course of 5-15 days. Note also that the furnace, which heats the Narthex and NE meeting room (RTU 5), was replaced in February 2025 at a cost of \$25,000.

Over the last 2 months, Council has been reviewing the situation with regard to the replacement of the Sanctuary Furnace. Only one contractor (Arctic Air) took up the Request for Quote recently sent out by Church Council. This quote is for \$137,000. As with these kinds of projects there are also additional complexities, including the presence of asbestos and the housing cover for the unit, that could raise the cost to as much as \$160,000. Our congregations budget resources do not enable us to install a new furnace from our own available bank balances at this time.

As a path forward, Church Council have been investigating an Alberta Government Community Development grant for non-profit organizations with up to 50% matching funding. This means, if we were successful in our application, that we have to match whatever amount of funding is provided through this grant. The next application deadline is September 15, 2025, with the response to the application in March 2026. Church Council has determined that we should make an application under this program for up to \$80,000. (Note that this figure will be determined when we know the cost additions relating to the installation of a new furnace.) The Secretary of Council will lead this process, with support from the Co-Chairs.

This means that the Sanctuary furnace cannot be replaced until June-September 2026 – in time for Winter 2026/27. In the meantime, in the course of Winter 2025/26, contingency plans will be developed for use of the Fellowship Hall for worship for whatever period of time is required in the course of that Winter. An early warning thermostat system will be installed to enable quick response to breakdown(s), in order to avoid having to vacate the Sanctuary. The Infrastructure Committee will work with the Building Co-Administrator(s) to develop these plans.

A fundraising drive will be carried out to support the replacement of the Sanctuary furnace. The proceeds will be combined with modest use of our currently available balances, including the Building Maintenance Fund, to find up to \$80,000 in matching funds from the congregation. A Stewardship/ Fundraising Committee will be renewed to lead this process.

There will be other infrastructural challenges as time goes on. These will be addressed over time by Council, and will be tasked to future Councils over a number of years. These include the need to address our buildings: water heater; carpets; asbestos remediation; sprinklers; bathrooms; paint; and our roof.

As is clear, fundraising is needed. We ask if anyone in the congregation would consider making an immediate contribution that would make a difference in this situation.

We look forward to hosting another coffee with council this September to update the congregation on this current project, the grant application, and our fundraising efforts. Church Council welcome your questions, concerns, thoughts, and prayers as we continue to navigate this time of building renewal together.

Working together, listening to God, in faith and hope for our future, we can and will solve these congregational challenges.

In faith and hope of the mission we continue to share,
ELCOC Church Council



FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Furnace Fund Update

As of July 1, 2025

We've raised \$20,000
of our \$80,000 goal!



We give thanks to one of our families who has generously stepped forward to kick off our giving campaign for the furnace.

Council invite you to consider a special gift towards this project this summer. Donations can be made by e-transfer, cheque, or cash with the line: "Building Maintenance - Furnace Fund"



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

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
- You can e-transfer through your online banking to 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 overlops in service, mailing in cheques, or by dropping your offering off in person: Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm



LOOKING AHEAD July



BREW CREW

July 9
10:30 AM
Free

Join us at Church of the Cross this summer for connection, conversation, and community with our Brew Crew! We will plan to meet outside in the north court yard as weather permits at 10:30am. We will have snacks, coffee, tea, and water on hand for those who gather.





Caring Connections

CAREGIVER PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Next gathering
Tuesday July 15th
Church of the Cross at 1pm

Stampede PANCAKE Breakfast



10620 Elbow Drive SW



July 13, 2025 • 11:30am - 1:00pm

We welcome all to attend our Annual Stampede Breakfast, Sunday July 13, 2025 from 11:30am - 1:00pm at Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Join us in the church hall - there will be enough pancakes, sausages, gluten-free options for all!



A compassionate community following the ways of Jesus, embracing diversity, love, and service.

Pet Blessing

July 26
1pm-2pm




We welcome the community to join us for a pet blessing with their furry, feathery, fluffy, spikey, or slithery friends! Each pet will receive a blessing from Pastor Lindsey and a treat bag to take home. Join us Saturday July 26 from 1pm - 2pm by the memorial garden. All animals must be safely secured or on leashes.



Church of the Cross Summer Sharing

We would love to hear from our friends and members this summer as you rest, relax, spend time in God's good creation! Send us a photo and an update of your summer experiences and we will share them on our narthex!



Altar Flowers

If you would like to share an arrangement of flowers from your garden or from a florist we would be honored to enliven our worship with them. Simply email or call office if you would like to share the gift of flowers on a given Sunday.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

SOUTHWOOD SUMMER CLUB



We're kicking off the Southwood Summer Club this Wednesday, July 2! Kids ages 12+ who live in Southwood are invited to Southwood Summer Club - a weekly youth drop-in, running on Wednesdays throughout July and August.

To launch the Summer Club, kids ages 12 and up can drop in between 1:30-4:30pm this Wednesday for snacks, board games, and to vote on the activities they want for the rest of Southwood's Summer Club!

Contact Sarah Thomas (Southwood Community Worker) for more information: sarah.thomas@calgary.ca or via phone at 368-880-5168



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Canada Day	2 Summer Club Youth Drop-In 1:30pm-4:30pm	3 Cooking Plan 10am-1pm	4	5
6	7	8 Makers Craft Night 7pm	9 Summer Club Youth Drop-In 1:30pm-4:30pm	10 Cook 10am-3pm	11	12
13	14 Morning Meet up 10am	15	16 Summer Club Youth Drop-In 1:30pm-4:30pm	17	18 Parent Hair Workshop 6:30pm-8pm	19
20	21	22	23 Summer Club Youth Drop-In 1:30pm-4:30pm	24	25 SCA Youth Night 5-9 pm	26
27	28 Morning Meet up 10am	29	30 Summer Club Youth Drop-In 1:30pm-4:30pm	31		

SCA= Southwood Community Association
SCG= Southwood Community Garden
For more info see www.southwoodcc.ca



FACING TODAY: DREAMING FOR THE FUTURE

Carter Brooks

What does it mean to be a church for today, and for the future? It's a question at the heart of an exciting new initiative within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), one that's calling the church to imagine bold possibilities while facing present-day realities.

A newly-formed steering committee, aptly titled Facing Today—Dreaming for the Future, will explore these questions and more as it embarks on a three-year project aimed at guiding positive transformation within the ELCIC's national and synodical structures. The initiative will consider current financial realities and the evolving landscapes of congregations across the country, while creating space for meaningful conversations about what it means to be church in the years ahead.

In January 2025, officers of the synods and national church gathered in Winnipeg for a consultation, also titled Facing Today—Dreaming for the Future. Together, these elected leaders worked collaboratively to explore the challenges of declining revenue and consider potential changes to the ELCIC's organizational structures. A full report from the consultation, along with eight motions, was presented to National Church Council in March 2025. Among these was a motion to establish a steering committee which would further explore these challenges and considerations of structural change through a process of broad consultation.

"A big part of this group is to get out there and connect," said steering committee member Reis Cooper, a lay member from the Synod of Alberta and the Territories. "We want to be the glue that is out there collecting all the information and bringing it back here for discussion. We want all voices to be heard, and that can be difficult, but we are up for the task. And we aim to supply consistent communication throughout this process."

Beginning with a with a year-long focus on listening and learning, the committee will utilize various engagement methods to connect with as many ELCIC members as possible. Through congregational visits, presentations, meetings, one-on-one conversations, online submissions, and more, they plan to gather feedback on the hopes and aspirations of church members for the future of the ELCIC.

"Serving at the congregational level, while being involved with many initiatives in my Synod and part of conversations at National Church Council, I am excited about the work the whole church is doing to discern together where the Holy Spirit is leading us," said steering committee member Rev. Katrina Vigen of Redeemer, Vancouver.

ELCIC UPDATES



“I am excited to be part of the church at this time, as it feels like an awesome privilege to be involved with this birth, just as we eagerly await new life,” Rev. Vigen continued. “And we want to hear from everyone. What are we facing today and what can we dream of together for our future? We have started a journey, and we don’t know where God is guiding us, but we know and we trust that God is leading us, that the Holy Spirit is ahead of us.”

Facing Today—Dreaming for the Future has two one-hour timeslots at the upcoming 2025 ELCIC National Convention. Delegates will take part in table group discussions to share their input on the future direction of the ELCIC, including structural change within the church at both synod and national expressions.

“A key concept is that we don’t want to do this in isolation,” Cooper added. “We want very much to have every congregation’s voice heard. There will be polls, surveys, chances for in-person information sessions and more.”

The steering committee, made up of 12 members, includes two representatives from each of the five synods (one lay, one rostered) as well as two members from the ELCIC’s National Church Council (one lay, one rostered). A consulting group has also been formally engaged in the process, which includes five individuals led by Canon Ian Alexander and Rev. Peter Elliott, both of whom have recently been involved in similar strategic planning processes through the Anglican Church of Canada.

“After Convention, we’re going to go to Synod councils, and we’re going to find ways, whether it’s through personal visits, whether it’s through online consultations, surveys, or all of the above, of reaching into every congregation and giving, hopefully, every member of the ELCIC an opportunity or more than one opportunity to express themselves,” Alexander said. “We want to hear what their sense of vision and purpose for the church is. What are their hopes, what are the concerns, even fears, maybe. What would you like to see as the potential future of the church?”

“This is more or less a church-wide consensus building project that starts with deep intentional listening,” Alexander continued. “Then in the second phase, the church can expect that we’ll be coming back and saying, ‘here’s some things people suggested, here’s some ideas we’ve heard.’ Then it becomes a reality of testing some options. So, by the 2028 National Convention, we will have some suggestions for how the whole ELCIC – nationally and regionally – might get transformed, restructured, reorganized.”



ABT SYNOD UPDATES



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=E8QPoEnvxSo>, gospel reading and sermon begin at 28:10

JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 CANADA DAY Office Closed	2	3	4	5	
Pentecost 4 Worship with Communion 10 AM	6	7	8	9 Brew Crew 10:30am	10	11	12
Pentecost 5 Worship with Communion 10:00am Stampede Breakfast 11:30 AM - 1 PM	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Pentecost 6 Worship with Communion 10 AM Lunch & Learn National Convention 11:30 AM	20	21 Vacation Bible Camp 9 AM - 12 Noon	22 Vacation Bible Camp 9 AM - 12 Noon	23 Vacation Bible Camp 9 AM - 12 Noon	24	25	26 Pet Blessing 1PM-2PM
Pentecost 7 Worship 10 AM	27	28	29	30	31		



“Summer nights – even
the stars are whispering
to each other.”

— KOBAYASHI ISSA



403-255-4792



churchofthecross@shaw.ca



10620 Elbow Drive SW, Calgary AB, T2W 1G4