

CROSSBEAMS

Lutheran Church of the Cross



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Beloved of God,

What a blessing it has been to share the last year of ministry with you all! In some ways, it is hard to believe we have just been here a year - as my family already feel such a depth of connection, care, and community with you all.

What a gift it has been to discover the many wonderful gifts, callings, and passions held within this congregation. Your care for those in need through our annual clothing drive, BB4CK & the Pantry. Your supportive gathering of our community at bible studies, choir practices, youth nights, and pet blessings. The liturgical and exploratory themes of our rich time of worship. The ways our community gathers and cares for one another each week - welcoming young and old, those who are new and those who have been with us for years, those who marginalized and those who are often centered. These are all signs that point to the great vitality, health, and faith held within this congregation.

In the midst of this all, we also know that we join other congregations in our area in wondering about our future. How we can sustainably continue the ministry we have been entrusted with? What might the Holy Spirit be calling us to in this time of uncertainty within the church locally, Synodically, and Nationally? What new thing might we be led to?

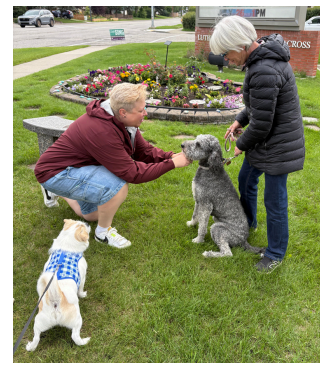
In the midst of these questions I give thanks that our leadership, council, members, and community who care deeply for our people, our calling to ministry together, and what ever our future might hold. I am excited to continue to listen to the movement of the Spirit in our midst and journey with you all in faith, hope, and love in the years to come.

In Christ,

Pastor Lindsey

Growing in Faith, Hope, & Love

Snapshots of Pastor Lindsey's first year of ministry with us!



Summer is a time when many of us enjoy time away for rest, renewal, and connection. This means our summer months often look and feel a little different at Church of the Cross then throughout the rest of the year. Our programming slows down, we take on other ways of sharing God's love with our community - VBC, Pet blessings, and visiting over coffee.

In the midst of this slower summer season, a few things have taken place that are worth mentioning.

In June, Richel found that the office PC was running out of disk space, and it was hard to get anything done on time. Trudy was also finding it awkward to get anything done on the Power Church PC - an antique clunker that was limping along well past its normal life. Trudy generously offered to fund two new PC's for the office, and we now have those in place. Many thanks to Trudy for her generosity!

While installing these new PCs, we found that the desk with most of the Financial records has only three functioning legs. It started to topple over, and the monitor fell and was damaged. Luckily, we were able to replace the monitor within the upgrade project. But we should either repair that desk or get a new one!

Following up on the outside sprinklers, we found that circuits 6, 7 and 8 are currently not working, and we should have them looked at. In the meantime, we've turned the system back on, and are attempting to address the asbestos problem so we can contain a slow leak in the pipes.

Finally, we've started gathering funds for the furnace replacement, begun the grant application with the Government of Alberta, and hope to start charting our progress soon.

Thanks to our congregation, council, and wider community for all your help and support this summer.

In Christ,

Bill & Paddy
Co-Chairs of ELCOC 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





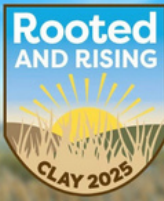
Celebrating
**OUR FIRST
YEAR OF
MINISTRY**
Together!

Join us this Sunday
as we bless Pastor
Lindsey & their
family in their
ministry among us
with cake to follow!



Caring Connections


CAREGIVER PEER SUPPORT GROUP
Next gathering
Tuesday Aug 12
Church of the Cross at 1pm



**Rooted
AND RISING**
CLAY 2025

Join us in worship Sunday August 17th as we bless our ELCOC hometeam for the CLAY gathering in Saskatoon. Our team will be guided by Pastor Lindsey, Hanna J. Our young people as looking forward to meeting their peers, growing in faith, and sharing this amazing adventure together.

Pray for us and all those who gather in Saskatoon from Aug 21-24 for the gathering - we can't wait to tell you all about it!

 **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE CROSS**



BREW CREW

Aug 13th
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.

  **EVERY BODY
BLACK LIVES
MATTER**




JOIN THE PRIDE PARADE!

Aug 31 @ 10:00AM
**Sign-up on Sunday to
reserve your spot!**




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.



STAMPEDE BREAKFAST 2025



—”
**THANK
YOU**
—”



Thank you is too small a word to share our great appreciation for everyone's help and support in our 2025 Stampede Breakfast! We had our best turn out yet! While we lost track of the numbers along the way - we think over 400 people came to our church for stampede hospitality, a wonderful meal, and community connections. It truly felt like the feeding of the 5000 - with even a few pancakes and sausages left at the end to prove God's provision for us all. A word of thanks to all those who helped plan, cook, welcome, clean, and do extra grocery runs to ensure this event was a success! What a wonderful witness to our community and beyond.



Boundless Vacation Bible Camp

Thank you to our amazing community for making VBC's return to Church of the Cross possible this summer! We partnered with Camp Kuriokos with the support of the Endowment Grant to offer a three morning camp for our community. It was such a gift to gather with our young people, volunteers, and staff each day to learn about God's boundless goodness, love, and forgiveness. We had 13 young people from the age of 4 to eleven - most of whom were from outside our congregation.

A word of thanks to our planning team Hanna and Lisa, Camp Kuriokos, and all those who shared the gift of their time from our drivers to snack providers! We can't wait to share more about our week with the congregation this Sunday.



Pet Blessing

2025

We had a wonderful time sharing in a blessing for pets with our neighbors! if you missed out on a blessing for your pet this year speak with pastor Lindsey to arrange a time for a blessing.



Feet Under Faith **Update**

On June 14th, 20-25 people from various South WestArea ELCIC congregations gathered at LCOC to talk and share. Pastor Lindsey had volunteered LCOC to host the inaugural meeting, and they had created a gentle agenda that encouraged voices, dreams, concerns, hopes, and ideas to be shared.

What I took away from this gathering was that we are not alone! Change is happening with 'The Church'. We all have budgetary concerns, buildings that are aging as well as its members, and a few who have no clergy. One statement: "we have the right amount of Clergy for the people, but not for the number of church buildings." There was a sense of hope and creative thinking! Collaboration felt like the common denominator that was spoken throughout the meeting which perhaps 5 years ago, would not have been a welcomed topic. A sense of Reformation is upon us. Continuation of future conversations and the need to be come together was undeniable. We all agreed to meet again in September.

It feels so right and true to dream dreams together. We do know God is good, He is with us. So, let's not be afraid of the future because if He is for us, who (what) can be against us.

Much love, Sasha Craven



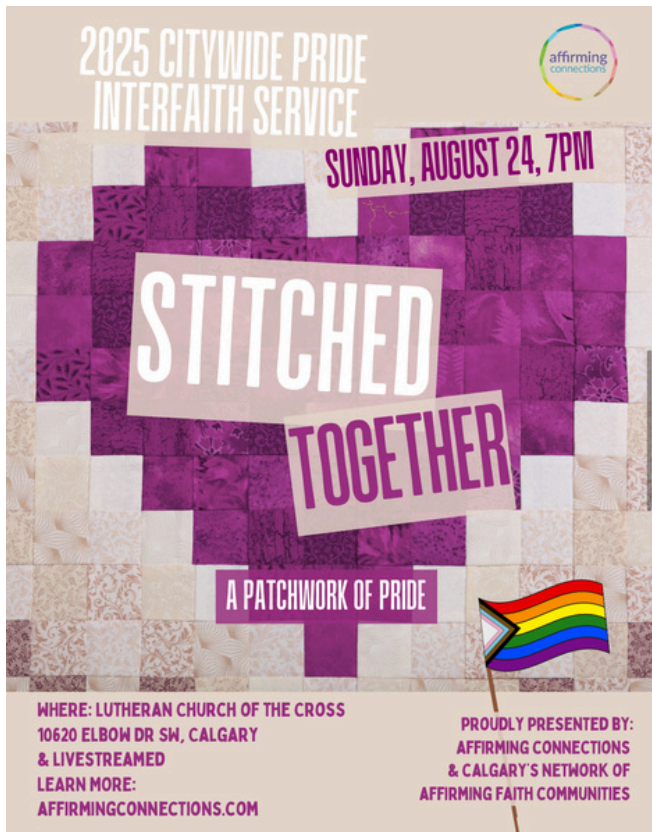
Church of the Cross Summer Sharing

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!



Calgary Pride 2025

Interfaith Pride Service & Pop up Choir



Join our pop-up choir for the Citywide Pride Service on August 24! We're putting together a fabulous pop-up choir to help lead our 7th annual interfaith celebration on Sunday, August 24, and you're invited to sing with us!

What's involved? Two 90-minute rehearsals at Lutheran Church of the Cross (10620 Elbow Dr SW): Saturday, August 23, 6pm-9pm & Sunday, August 24, 1pm-3pm As well as the service itself at 7pm on Sunday, August 24.

We'll sing 2-3 songs, and you'll get the music ahead of time. No experience required—just bring your voice and your spark! Queer identified folks and allies are all welcome.

Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/cGqcb9KoeevFK5WJ9>

New banner honoring Affirming Ministry



We would like to thank the Mission Endowment Fund for providing funding for the materials to create worship banners for our church.

Our first banner was created for the city wide pride service taking place at our church on August 24th 2025. It was designed to welcome all sexual orientations and gender identities to Lutheran Church of the Cross and took over 100 hours to complete.

The rainbow of colours are wrapped around the cross. Two-Spirit Pride emblem was placed on the right side. The two feathers represent masculine and feminine identities. The circle symbolizes the unification of masculine and feminine identities into a separate gender and the rainbow of colours represents modern LGBTQ identities. The emblem on the left side denotes: Kindness, Peace, Equality, Inclusion, Hope, and Diversity.

Submitted by Lillian Kozak and Hilary Gray

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

August



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Heritage Day | 5 | 6 Summer Club Youth Drop-In 1:30pm-4:30pm | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 Morning Meet up 10am | 12 Makers Craft Night 7pm | 13 Summer Club Youth Drop-In 1:30pm-4:30pm | 14 | 15 | 16 SCA Beats, Beer & BBQ 5-9pm |
| 17 | 18 Mobile Adventure Playground 10am-3pm | 19 Mobile Adventure Playground 10am-3pm | 20 Summer Club Youth Drop-In 1:30pm-4:30pm Mobile Adventure Playground 10am-3pm | 21 Mobile Adventure Playground 10am-3pm | 22 Mobile Adventure Playground 10am-3pm | 23 |
| 24 Repair Exchange 2-6pm | 25 Morning Meet up 10am | 26 | 27 Summer Club Youth Drop-In 1:30pm-4:30pm | 28 SCA Special General Meeting 7pm | 29 SCA Youth Night 5pm | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |



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



SOUTHWOOD REPAIR EXCHANGE

AUGUST 24
2 PM - 6 PM

SOUTHWOOD COMMUNITY HALL
11 SACKVILLE DRIVE SW

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Repair Exchange
Bring your broken or damaged household items and volunteer fixers will do their best to repair them on the spot for free!

DIY Fixing Table
Need a quick fix but don't have the supplies? We will have duct tape, super glue, wood glue, glass glue, WD-40 and more to repair small items yourself!

Back-To-School Clothing and Supply Swap
Alongside the repair exchange, there will be a back-to-school clothing and supply swap. Bring your extra new or gently used clothing and school/office supplies to share with others and pick up what you might need.

Contact us to learn more! Sarah Thomas  sarah.thomas@calgary.ca  368-889-5168



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=E8QP0EnvxSo>, gospel reading and sermon begin at 28:10



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**

Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

July 22, 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

We are writing to you today with heavy hearts. For nearly two years, the people in Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem have been suffering under devastating violence, a deepening humanitarian crisis, and uncertainty.

Recently we received an update from Bishop Dr. Sani Ibrahim Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, our Global Mission and Companion Synod partner. Bishop Azar shared that while the church continues to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, as we all do, he fears, "that peace is increasingly hidden from our eyes."

"There is an atmosphere of deep fear and uncertainty across our land," he continued. "No one knows what the next day will bring. The prospect of a regional war weighs heavily on a population already exhausted by suffering."

Yet, despite everything, the ELCJHL remains steadfast in its mission.

- Congregations continue to gather in prayer and fellowship.
- The schools of the ELCJHL have successfully completed their 2024-25 academic year.
- Diaconal ministry is providing food, rent assistance, medical care and school tuition support to hundreds of families across the West Bank.
- Gender justice and environmental ministries are still working towards a more just and sustainable future.

"For years," Bishop Azar writes, "we have worked to sustain the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Today, we are struggling to preserve our very existence."

As partners in mission, we are called to respond.

Together, the National Office and Eastern Synod are launching an appeal to support the ministries of the ELCJHL. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to assist in supporting this vital work that embodies faith, resilience and hope of a just peace.

At our recent ELCIC National Convention, we welcomed Bishop-Elect, Rev. Dr. Imad Haddad, of the ELCJHL. Speaking on the theme Rejoicing in Hope, he shared these powerful words, "I will really cling to hope, but it is a hope that is not alienated from reality, a hope that understands the challenges. A hope that is great enough to choose life, a hope faithful enough to pose a question, 'my Lord, why have you forsaken me?', yet without losing faith in the justice of God. God is just. That is our hope."

Dear members of the ELCIC, our church's long-standing relationship with the ELCJHL is a vital expression of our shared faith and commitment to justice and peace.

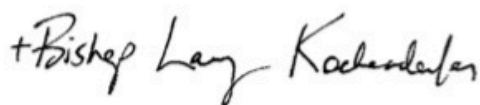
Together, we invite you to:

- Pray for peace.
- Learn more about the work of the ELCJHL.
- Give generously to the ELCJHL Appeal.

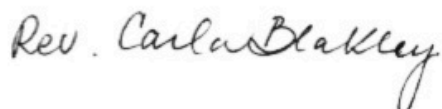
Yours in Christ,



Rev. Susan C. Johnson, Bishop, ELCIC



Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop-elect, ELCIC



Rev. Carla Blakley, Bishop, Eastern Synod

400-185 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J1

PHONE: 204-984-9150 / 888-786-6707 WEB: info@elcic.ca

The ELCIC acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

The One Pager

2025 ELCIC National Convention

THAT TAKES TWO PAGES



150 Delegates
from across Canada



Record Amount of Youth



Winnipeg, Manitoba



“

Dear Siblings, you have committed through your baptism into Christ to a journey together. Based on this commitment, I am pleased and honoured to serve you as your National Bishop.

”

National Bishop-elect
Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer



Presentation from the
Moravian Church



Presentation from ELCA
Bishop Eaton
(U.S.A)



Presentation from LWF



Farewell to National
Bishop Susan



Presentation from the
ELCJHL (Jordan and The
Holy Land)



Presentation from
the Episcopal Church



Presentation
from CLWR



Rev. Vincent Solomon
on Rejoicing in Hope



Ben Johnston-Urey receives
ELCIC Leadership Award



Presentation from
The Anglican
Church in Canada



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**
Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love



**SYNOD OF
ALBERTA
+ AND THE
TERRITORIES**



Facing Today – Dreaming for the Future Task Force

Work began at convention for a three-year project to look into a viable church structure. Sessions were held to gather information from youth/young adults and delegates. A consultancy team and committee has been formed, and will continue outreach to synods and congregations as we look to make changes for our future.

Motions

+2 youth members to be added to National Church Council

REFERRED

Emancipation Sunday (Last Sunday of July)

PASSED

2 Term limit (12 years) for National Bishop

REFERRED

Bishops to have voting privileges in National Church Council

REFERRED

Creation of a National Youth and Young Adult Council

PASSED

Solidarity with Palestine

PASSED

Solar panels and renewable energy sources program

REFERRED

Eucharistic Practices and Presiding with Lay Leaders

REFERRED



Elections

National Church Council

Ben Lukenchuk
Rev. Aneeta Saroop
Tammy Kirkwood
Rev. Kate Zaiser
Jeff Barber
Rev. Victoria Mwamasika
Sarah Harrington
Rev. Chris Bishopp
Cath Wilke
Heidi Van Schaik
Rev. Dr. Kimber McNabb

Vice Chair

Bruce Cook

Court of Appeal

Brent Latimer
Kristi Burns
Boston Laferte
Rev. Karen Stepko
Rev. Prema Samuel

National Bishop

Bishop Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer



@ABTSynod



Synod of Alberta and the Territories



ELCIC: Convention Info



SYNOD OF
ALBERTA
AND THE
TERRITORIES

AUGUST 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Pentecost 8 Worship with Communion 10 AM | 3 HERITAGE DAY Office Closed | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Pentecost 9 Worship with Communion 10:00am | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| | | Caring Connections 1pm | Brew Crew 10:30am | | | 16 |
| Pentecost 10 Worship with Communion 10 AM | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| | Cantare Get in the Groove | Cantare Get in the Groove | Cantare Get in the Groove | Cantare Get in the Groove | Cantare Get in the Groove | Cantare Get in the Groove |
| | | | CLAY Saskatoon | CLAY Saskatoon | CLAY Saskatoon | CLAY Saskatoon |
| Pentecost 11 Worship 10 AM City Wide Pride Service 7pm | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| Pentecost 12 Worship 10 AM Pride Parade 10am | 31 | | | | | 30 |



“The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning.” – Natalie Babbitt



403-255-4792



churchofthecross@shaw.ca



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