



SEPTEMBER 2025

CROSSBEAMS

Lutheran Church of the Cross



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

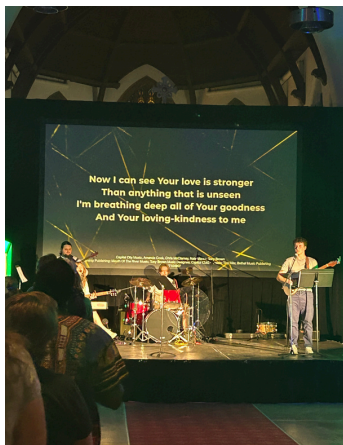
Dear Beloved of God,

I pray that this summer brought you time to refill your cup. Whether it was spending with those you love, getting out in God's creation, or taking the time to rest - we all deserve time to be refreshed and renewed. This summer, my spiritual cup was filled by so many wonderful moments within our community of faith and beyond. Whether it was our vibrant return to Vacation Bible Camp, the planting of our memory garden, our "feeding of the 5000" stampede breakfast, welcoming the Affirming Network to ELCOC by hosting the interfaith pride service, walking in the pose parade, or the bounty of our community garden - I have been so encouraged by our shared ministry this summer!

One of these moments in particular was the time I was able to spend with our youth at the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. While we all may carry some anxiety about the future of our Lutheran church - at gatherings like this I can't help but be filled with hope as I see young people living out their faith with hearts for matters of justice and hope for our world. I am so looking forward to the congregation hearing from our youth on September 28th as they bring their experience of CLAY to the congregation.

As we ease into a busy fall season at Church of the Cross, I invite you to consider how you will fill your spiritual cup this fall. I invite you to check out one of our small groups to connect and grow in faith. Share your gifts with one of our ministry teams, or share your time at an upcoming community event like our Annual Clothing drive. And if this summer was not what you had dreamed or hoped - and you find yourself heading into the fall on empty - know I would be glad to hold space for you and your family. In faith, in hope, and in love we are blessed to journey with one another as the body of Christ.

CLAY YOUTH GATHERING 2025



Co-Chair Report September, 2025

Funny how quickly the time goes. It seems like spring has just started and suddenly summer is almost over.

On the infrastructure side, we now have the west entrance window repaired. Thanks to Pastor Alfred Rampersaud and the Southwood Church of God for the excellent work they did repairing it.

We have taken down the whiteboard near the south doors to the Sanctuary, and are getting ready to mount the television so generously provided by Catherine Glaser-Climie. We'll be using it as a kind of electronic bulletin board to keep everyone in the Narthex informed of upcoming events.

(By the way - anyone good with those wall-mounting brackets for TV's?)

We did change some light bulbs in the Narthex and the Ladies' Washroom, but a couple more need attention.

The Furnace Replacement Fundraising campaign is going well, and with a little luck, we should be able to take action next summer. Many thanks to Nadine Sisk for her work on filling out the application for a matching grant from the province.

Over the summer, Council approved a mandate for a Long -Term Property Planning Committee. Thanks to Glenn Schultz and Barb Nickell for their work on the Terms of Reference, and a great deal of patient effort to get this initiative started.

And now it's autumn, and time to think of the future. This is when we traditionally start the budget for the upcoming year, And we are running a deficit this year, so the budget for 2026 will need to be done with special care. We're planning a Stewardship Campaign to avoid a second deficit.

All that is leading up to the Annual General Meeting at the end of January. Several members of the Council are now coming to the end of their two-year term, making it time once again to put out the Call. This is an important part of the Church's life, so if you feel you can add your talents to the Council, please step forward. We've all seen the damage done to the world by arrogant, self-important leaders acting out of a sense of egotism. Church Council, by contrast, shows the good that can be done by ordinary people acting in a spirit of generosity, and guided by calm, prayerful deliberation. You need no special talents: those will come as you join the work. Just a cheerful willingness to serve.

Thanks as usual to the Council members for all their dedication and hard work

Bill & Paddy

Co-Chairs of ELCOC Council

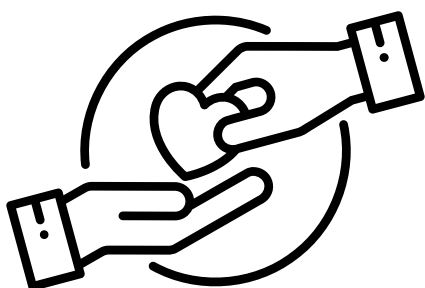
FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Church of the Cross Financials through July 31, 2025				
	2025 Budget	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	July
Income	\$299,700.00	\$174,825.00	\$177,695.62	\$18,133.21
Expenses	\$331,036.00	\$193,104.33	\$213,023.08	\$24,704.63
Balance	(\$31,336.00)	(\$18,279.33)	(\$35,327.46)	(\$6,571.42)
General Fund Balance			\$15,528.97	
Furnace Fund			\$32,479.00	
Building Maintenance Fund			\$67,348.33	
Other Designated/Passthrough Funds			\$48,363.98	



There are many ways to give your offering at Church:

- 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 envelopes in service, mailing in cheques, or by dropping your offering off in person: Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm



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

Furnace Fund Update

As of August 1, 2025

We've raised \$32,500 of our \$80,000 goal!

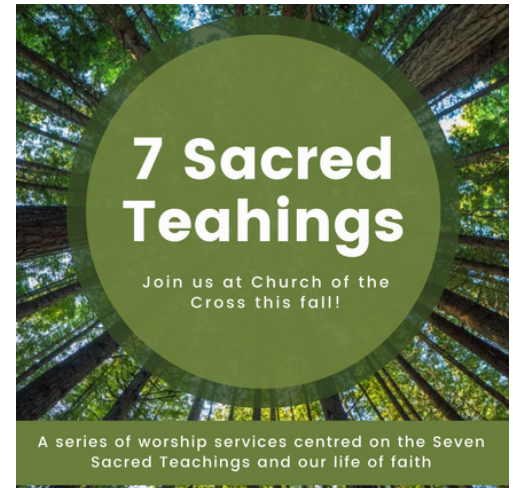
40%

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

Council invites 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"

Season of Creation: Seven Sacred Teachings

Christians around the world are invited to give particular attention to praying and caring for God's creation as part of the global Season of Creation, observed in September and October every year. This year we will celebrate this season through an exploration of the Seven Sacred Teachings. The teachings originate from the Seven Grandfather Teachings from the Anishinaabe people and have been adopted by many (but not all) First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples. The teachings focus on the relationships we have with all of creation and offer ways on how people should treat others. The seven teachings include love, respect, honesty, courage, bravery, truth, wisdom, and humility and each teaching is represented by an animal. Each week we will explore these themes and the many ways they align and come alongside Christ's teachings and our faith.



Interfaith Pride Service 2025



We were blessed to host the 7th Annual Citywide Pride Interfaith Service! Proudly presented by Affirming Connections and Calgary's Network of Affirming faith communities. This was the first time we hosted this service and what a gift it was to have over 200 people in our building sharing about their affirming ministries from diverse faith backgrounds. Our 2025 theme was *Stitched Together: A Patchwork of Pride*. This celebrated our individual and collective beauty, and the wonderful things that happen when we bring all of our own unique threads together. Special Guests included: Kait Hatch, Mizze Walker, and Mickey Wilson - alongside our first ever pop-up choir. A special word of thanks to Betty Jane, Catherine, Bill, Hillary, Sasha, Susan, Marion, Cathy, and Rob for all their aid with this service. We truly welcomed the community to church of the cross with our "Lutheran Hospitality". If you missed the service it can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@affirmingconnections>

The Rainbow Colours of Love

Jean and I took part in the Calgary Pride Parade on August 31, 2025. The sun shone gloriously without a cloud in sight. Pride is symbolized in the full spectrum of colors we call the rainbow. We were participants with the Calgary Affirming Faith network - with over 100 members joining. The crowds of many thousands were full of joy and enthusiasm as we danced our way along 9th Avenue! The Colors we wore were a sing of the all-embracing love of God, and we had a wonderful sense of participating in that love in public, in our community on a wonderful Sunday morning. Consider joining us next year! Submitted by Paddy & Jean



IN GRATITUDE

Our families would like to express our deep gratitude to Church of the Cross members, families, and friends for the heartfelt prayers, cards and support during our very difficult time. Pastor Lindsey was a wonderful pastoral guide through our journey. The service was so moving and a lot of that was due to Catherine and Oksana's involvement. Catherine's help in planning the service was another rewarding ministry to us. Thanks to Sasha Craven's organization of the reception and the many members who assisted with that. Our chef son in law was very impressed! We are blessed with our church family - The Wiegert / Cummine families



FROM THE OFFICE



This fall we will be shifting our office hours to 9am-1pm Monday - Thursday to better meet the needs of our community. If you would like to stop by the office outside of these hours call ahead to see if staff are available to assist you. As always, if you wish to meet with Pastor Lindsey or Catherine outside of these hours please connect with them to make an appointment. They would be glad to hold space for you at a time that work well for all.

As we return to our fall programming we have seen an increase in scams and phishing attempts. While emails may seem like they are coming from a member of our staff or the congregation please check the email address to ensure the it is from ELCOC. Please know that our staff and council will never ask you to purchase gift cards, send on money, or provide personal details via text or email. If you are ever concerned about an email or text you receive from ELCOC please call the office as soon as possible.

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

This fall Church of the Cross will be undertaking a review of our membership. A membership review is a healthy part of any congregations life. It ensures we can accurately report to our Synod and national body at the ELCIC. It also helps us to budget for expenses based on our membership for conventions and gatherings. While membership is one way we designate a level of commitment to the congregation (attending one service with communion a year) we continue to be a community of faith who welcome all in Christ.name. Each member will receive a letter with information about the process. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Pastor Lindsey or our Council Co-chairs Bill O. & Paddy C.



Council Retreat

September 12th – 13th 2025

Under the leadership and guidance of Hillary G. council will undertake a review of ELCOC's LEAD Roadmap for 2025.

As we discern together we ask the congregation for your prayers.

We look forward to sharing fall updates with you all in a coffee with council following worship on Sept 21, 2025.



Lunch and Learn



Sunday September 14,
Join us for potluck lunch following worship!

Bishop Trish will be leading a short session on our synod with time for a Q&A to follow.

All are welcome!



COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

Sunday September 21, 2025
11:30 am in the sanctuary

Fall updates:

- Furnace project & grant application
- Return of stewardship committee
- Road map update
- open time for questions

all are welcome



CLOTHING GIVEAWAY

**DONATE CLOTHES,
CHANGE LIVES!**

**SATURDAY
20 SEPT.
9AM-2PM**

- FREE CLOTHING FOR ALL IN NEED OF EXTRA SUPPORT
- FREE COFFEE AND JUICE
- VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER

DROP OFF DONATIONS STARTS ON
SEPTEMBER 02 - 19, 9AM-3PM

 Thou Art Room,
Lutheran Church of the Cross
10620 Elbow Drive, SW

PLEASE NOTE:

- Articles of gently-used clothing to be washed please
- Bags/boxes of donation to be marked of contents
- No household items



CANADIAN LUTHERAN ANGLICAN
YOUTH GATHERING



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
SEPT 28, 2025 - 10:00AM



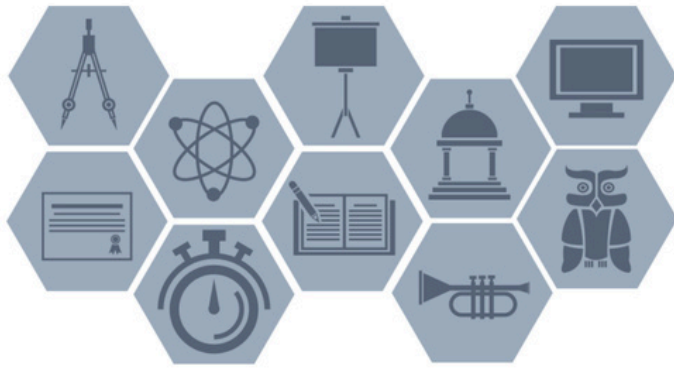
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Learning Gathering



September 30, 2025
10:00 am - Noon
Church of the Cross

We invite all to join us for this free event, as we take the time to honour and remember both the children who were lost and the survivors of residential schools. We will hold space through learning, songs, and teachings. If you would like to save your spot at this event please email us at: churchofthecross@shaw.ca or sign-up in-person at the church.






BACK TO UNIVERSITY

Do you have a student in your life heading to post secondary this fall? Whether it's their first year or last we would love to support them in their studies with some encouragement from Church of the cross.

Email us the name of your student and their written address and Pastor Lindsey would love to connect with them this fall.

ELCOC Confirmation



Parent & Youth Information Session

September 18 , 2025


7pm

Social Ministry Team



Families in Need

The Social Ministry team is looking for your help to support our 'Families In Need' budget line item.

Our mission statement: To provide assistance and/or awareness and/or support in areas of concern that arise in social issues within the congregation or community (local or global) guides us in our actions. 

The Families In Need budget line item are funds in which we can offer some small support to those in need through gift cards, hampers, adopt-a-family and other endeavours throughout the year.

Right now, we are looking towards Thanksgiving and Christmas and would appreciate any support you can offer.

The Social Ministry Committee 

403. 701.7147 - Sasha
867.332.0644 - Jean



Lutheran Church of the Cross

UPDATE **DRY GOODS** **PANTRY**



The Food Pantry at LCOC has been working beautifully! The 'Take What You Need, Leave What You Can' is successfully self-managed. As we head into the fall, this could a time of renewal and reminder to help support those most vulnerable in our community. We are always in need of:

- ▶ Canned Protein
- ▶ Instant or regular coffee
- ▶ Cheez whiz
- ▶ Cereals
- ▶ Canned milk
- ▶ Canned fruit or vegetables



DROP-OFF LOCATION
Lutheran Church of the Cross
10620 Elbow Drive, SW, Calgary, Alberta



JOIN A SMALL GROUP



Bible
STUDY
All are Welcome!

First & Third Wednesday
Starting September 17
10:00 am - 11:30 am

CHURCH OF THE CROSS



UKULELE GROUP

The group will resume
on Sunday, 07th September 2025
following worship

If you need further details, please contact
Jean at jeandacko7@gmail.com

EVERY CHILD **BLACK LIVES MATTER**



QUILTING GROUP

The Quilting Group is ready to begin meeting on **Thursday, September 11th**. We get together **every Thursday at 9 AM** and usually end around 11:30 - 12:00.

Anyone is welcome to join us, even if you are not an expert sewer! The quilts are given to various charity groups in Calgary, including the Mustard Seed, Women's Shelters, and refugees.

Please note that we will not meet on September 18th, due to the Clothing Giveaway that takes place in the Fellowship Hall.

CHURCH OF THE CROSS



Mens Breakfast

ALL ARE WELCOME

SEPTEMBER 13 & 27
LCOC - North Meeting Room

CONNECTION COMMUNITY & BIBLE STUDY

8:00AM - 10:00AM

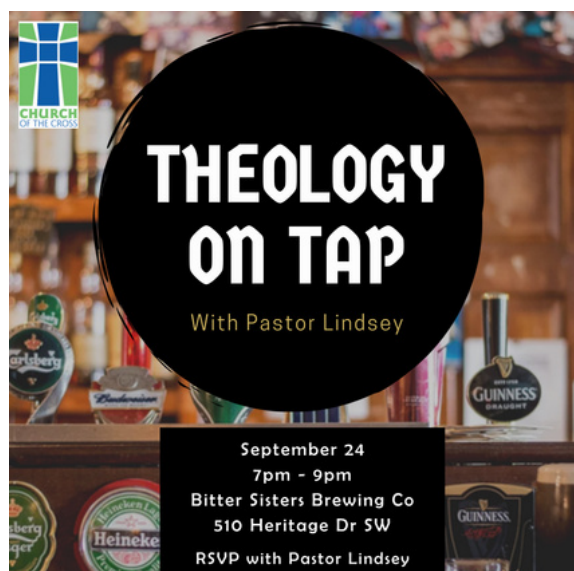
CHURCH OF THE CROSS



Caring Connections

CAREGIVER PEER SUPPORT GROUP
Third Tuesday of the Month
Church of the Cross at 1pm
Connect with Pastor Lindsey to RSVP

CHURCH OF THE CROSS



THEOLOGY ON TAP

With Pastor Lindsey

September 24
7pm - 9pm
Bitter Sisters Brewing Co
510 Heritage Dr SW
RSVP with Pastor Lindsey

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

RETREATS

LOFT Retreat is an opportunity to gather in creation, while taking time to reflect, laugh, worship and live in community.



LOFT
LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Guest speaker
REV. ERIK PARKER



Rev. Erik is a Doctor of Ministry student studying the Lutheran Office of Ministry according to Martin Luther and its application today. He is also the pastor Sherwood Park Lutheran Church in Winnipeg.

LISTEN - GOD IS CALLING
Martin Luther on our shared Baptismal Call

SEPT 12-14

2025

Register at LoftRetreat.ca or call 403.746.2702

A THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION RETREAT for lay and rostered learners


formerly Retreat of our own

Kuriakos Retreat Centre

Worship by Heart

a retreat for growing in the companion arts of telling scripture by heart and leading paperless singing

LINNEA GOOD
Composer, Performer, Christian Educator and Accredited Biblical Storyteller




SYLVAN LAKE

OCT 9-11 2025
Thursday evening to Saturday lunch

Retreat Cost - \$400
Until Aug 15 - \$325
Group discount \$25

KRISTIAN WOLD
Pastor, Musician, Paperless Singing Practitioner and Executive Director of Kuriakos



WWW.KURIAKOS.AB.CA
We ALL belong at Kuriakos!

SOUTHWOOD COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

September



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labour Day	2	3	4 Cooking Plan 10am-1pm Hair Workshop 6:30pm-8pm	5	6 The City of Calgary's Curbside Treasure Hunt
7 The City of Calgary's Curbside Treasure Hunt	8 Morning Meet up 10am	9 Makers Craft Night 7pm	10	11 Cook 10am-3pm	12	13
14 Southwood Apple Harvest 2-4pm	15	16	17	18 SCA Board Meeting 7pm	19	20
21	22 Morning Meet up 10am	23	24	25	26 SCA Youth Night 5pm	27
28 Southwood Community Clean Up 9am-2pm	29	30 National Truth & Reconciliation Day	SCA= Southwood Community Association SCG= Southwood Community Garden For more info see www.southwoodcc.ca			



ABT SYNOD UPDATES



September 2025

Dear church,

Just a few days ago I returned, tired, from the CLAY Gathering in Saskatoon, where youth from across Canada, from both Lutheran and Anglican congregations, gathered for play and worship.



I say, "tired," because it's a challenge to keep up with the energy and passion of our young people! They were up early and still at play until midnight each day. The CLAY Planning Team did an excellent job of coordinating a wide diversity of activities and faith-filled worship.

More important than being kept busy – our young people are keenly interested in faith. They ask great questions and are yearning for their place in our ministries. Quite honestly, we simply get in the way too often. Sometimes "youth" are the last thing on a budget or on a council's agenda. With the decline in our churches - and the noticeable absence of young people in many cases – we need to prioritize young people. It's time for our communities to work intentionally to support ministry of camps, universities and youth/young adults in our churches; it's time to experiment with varied worship in style and day or time.

At the National Convention this summer in Winnipeg, young adult delegates put forward a motion to form their own council across Canada. This work has already begun. I will be proposing the same idea to our own Synod Council in October. The idea is to be intentional about affirmation and inclusion in this new way that we might all be encouraged.

What could you do differently? Try a good old Google search for ideas! It's ok for young people to experiment, make mistakes and learn along the way. Young people also have excellent skills and ideas on their own – we just need to ask them – and then let them try, even if it's not perfect.

I challenge you to make space for them. Councils and worship committees, quilting groups and property committees. I challenge you to start your September in a new way with open eyes and hearts. I believe in you – that you love these young hearts and want to see them flourish.

September blessings in these acts of faith!

Keep singing,

Bishop Trish

Bishop Trish

ELCIC UPDATES

Written by Carter Brooks - ELCIC



Gifts, presentations, speeches, food, singing, dancing and tears were all present as the church honoured its longest-serving National Bishop in “a night of thanksgiving, storytelling and celebration.” Taking office in 2007, Johnson became the first female national bishop in the ELCIC, and carried the role through three further elections (2011, 2015, 2019) until the announcement that she will be retiring this fall.

The University of Manitoba stage was decorated with imagery of key moments from her time as bishop, while various friends and colleagues gave speeches, shared memories and presented her with personal gifts.

Over her 18 years as National Bishop, Johnson has had to have various difficult conversations within the church, while providing vast direction and guidance in topics such as the ELCIC’s work with its Indigenous neighbours and communities, its work with partners overseas, working towards full communion partnerships with the Anglican and Moravian churches, fighting for rights within the LGBTQSIA+ communities and exploring more ways to diversify the church.

Bishop Johnson has done significant work with international partners of the ELCIC throughout her tenure, forming and strengthening bonds while reinforcing the ELCIC’s vision for, and devotion to accompaniment and walking together with its global partners. She was the first bishop from the ELCIC to join the Coordination Committee for Co-Operation (COCOP) with the ELCJHL, and has served as the co-chair of COCOP several times. Johnson is also the longest standing member of Churches Beyond Borders, an ecumenical partnership on Turtle Island (North America) which includes the ELCIC, ELCA, the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC), and The Episcopal Church (TEC).

On behalf of the church, Johnson was presented with a piece of Inuit artwork from Joanasie Manning, a third-generation Inuk carver. Manning’s work focuses mainly on owls and in particular, his signature creations, known as pancake owls, feature protective, outstretched wings symbolizing the strong bonds of family and community.



LWF UPDATES

“As bishops, we sometimes feel like we are struggling alone, so there is a sense of relief to discover that we are in this together.” Bishop Ali Tote from Saskatchewan in Canada is one of thirteen recently elected leaders of Lutheran churches around the world attending a 31 August to 9 September retreat, organized by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the LWF Center in Wittenberg, Germany.

The annual Retreat of Newly Elected Leaders (RoNEL) offers bishops the opportunity to meet with their peers ministering in very diverse cultural and religious contexts. Together, they can share challenges, learn from each other’s experiences and explore the meaning of leadership within a global communion of churches. The meeting begins in Geneva and includes a visit to the LWF Communion Office, before moving on to Wittenberg where participants can follow in the footsteps of Martin Luther to discover more about the history of the Reformation.

“Our aim is to provide a space for these new leaders to reflect deeply on the values and vision that can guide them in their ministry,” explains Rev. Katariina Kiilunen, LWF’s Program Executive for Capacity Building and Leadership Development. “Together we explore our LWF strategic priorities, in particular the meaning of responsible theology and transformative leadership. We note how these are rooted in the Gospel and Lutheran theology, but also how different they can look in our diverse contexts,” she says.

As participants share details of the history and contemporary concerns of their churches, “they discover the rich diversity of identities and practice that has formed and continues to shape the Lutheran world,” Kiilunen says. We know that the strength of a church is not measured in numbers, but in the witness it offers to society today, notes Rev. Sonia Skupch, Regional Secretary for Latin America, the Caribbean and North America. “Our churches are not isolated but interrelated,” she insists. “We are all in the boat together, both in times of storms as well as sunny weather we are journeying together.”

On Friday, the church leaders journey on from Geneva to Wittenburg before returning to their home countries with new friendships forged and new tools to equip them for their leadership ministries. “Above all, RoNEL seeks to create a place for these newly elected bishops to engage in respectful dialogue and to form a peer support network that can help them survive and flourish amid the demanding daily expectations of their work,” Kiilunen says.



September

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOUR DAY Office Closed	2	3 Social Ministry Meeting 10:30AM	4	5	6
7 Pentecost 13 Worship with Communion 10 AM Ukulele Group 11:45am	8 Cantare Chaperone Training 6 PM - 9 PM	9	10	11 Quilting Group 9:30 AM Cantare Chaperone Training 6 PM - 9 PM	12 Council Retreat 5 PM - 10 PM	13 Men's Breakfast 8 AM - 10 AM Council Retreat 9 AM - 2:30 PM
14 Holy Cross Day Worship with Communion 10 AM Church Pot Luck with Bishop Trish	15	16 Caring Connections 1 PM - 2PM	17 Bible Study 10 AM - 11 AM	18	19	20 CLOTHING DRIVE 9 AM - 2 PM
21 Pentecost 15 Worship with Communion 10 AM Recognizing the Stranger 7pm	22	23	24 Theology on Tap 7- 9 PM	25 Quilting Group 9:30 AM	26	27 Men's Breakfast 8 AM - 10 AM
28 CLAY Youth Service Worship with Communion 10 AM	29	30 Office Closed National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Gathering 10:00am				

*"When you are reluctant
to change, think of the
beauty of autumn."*

– V V Brown



403-255-4792



churchofthecross@shaw.ca



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