

# **CROSSBEAMS**

### Lutheran Church of the Cross 📖 🔀









### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Beloved of God.

October is an important month for the Lutheran church as we join in celebrating the reformation. The reformation officially started on October 31st 1517, when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of All Saint's Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther felt inspired to do so, as he was deeply troubled by the practices of the Church, one of them being the sale of indulgences. Luther believed in the freedom found in God's Word and grace, sharing that we are justified not by our works, but by God's grace through faith.

May of you have shared with me this fall that you, like Luther have been deeply troubled – perhaps not by the church but by our words pains, sorrows, and grief. There is so much that simply doesn't make sense in our lives today: the continued genocide in Gaza, the rise of missing Indigenous children from our communities, and the difficulty of so many within our community to simply get by.

Yet as people of faith we know we are not without hope. Christ is with us and calls to us to respond when we can and as we are able to our worlds greatest pains. The Reformation is still alive today. Every Sunday we have the opportunity to come together, to hear God's Word, to be challenged, changed, and created new - birthed from the love given to us in Christ, through the mysterious workings of the Holy Spirit.

May this season of fall and this season of reformation stir the Spirit's presence in our midst. May we continue to come together discerning where we are being challenged, where we are being called into reformation, and where we are being called into grace. Grace as we continue to be people of faith send out into a world in need.

In Christ, Paston Lindsey

### COUNCIL UPDATE



Did you miss coffee with Council on September 21? Here's what you missed!

The meeting kicked off with a budget update delivered by council co-chair, Paddy Colfer, who shared that in light of our needs exceeding our income, council has decided to form a stewardship committee.

At first glance, it would appear that income is on par with previous years, but that is in large part thanks to a generous, one-time gift the church received earlier this year.

On average, our expenses are running at about \$25,000 each month, but our income is about \$20,000 in a good month and as low as \$15,000 in other months.

While council had anticipated there would be a shortfall this year, there have been some unexpected additional challenges (such as unforeseen repairs) and some of our plans to generate additional revenue are slower to take root than we had hoped.

This means we need to work to address our budget before it becomes too big a challenge.

The stewardship committee will be organized in the next month or two. If you are interested in helping with this important work, please contact Paddy or Bill.

In the meantime, members are asked to consider increasing their contributions if they haven't done so for some time.

Another pressing topic for council is our aging infrastructure. Council co-chair Bill Ogilvie shared that the sanctuary furnace as a particularly urgent area of need. As many will know, this furnace has required repair several times in the last few years. This isn't surprising given that the furnace is more than 30 years old and well past its expected lifespan, however the last time it was looked at we were advised that there are specific components that – if they were to go – could not be repaired.

Recognizing that we will eventually have no choice but to replace this furnace, a request for proposals was sent to four companies earlier this year. Only one replied, but we have been very pleased with the thoroughness of the quote and the attentiveness of their staff. Their quote to replace this furnace is approximately \$139,000 and does not include asbestos remediation work that will be required.

A campaign to raise \$80,000 toward this project was launched this summer and already we are over halfway toward our goal. Thank you to everyone who has donated! If you would like to support this initiative, please clearly mark your donation as going toward the furnace fund. In hopes of offsetting the expense of the furnace, a grant application to the Government of Alberta's Community Facility Enhancement Program was submitted last month. We won't find out until March whether we were selected.

### **COUNCIL UPDATE**



The final report, delivered by Lisa Rude, highlighted the work council has done to achieve the goals identified in the annual roadmap. Highlights include successful outreach to youth through support of CLAY Youth Gathering and the Vacation Bible School; the community clothing drive and movie nights; and our hosting of the city-wide pride service (which saw 230+ join us in person, along with 100 who joined online).

The roadmap was created during a meeting facilitated by Hilary Gray in the spring and work toward achieving the goals will continue through to the end of the year. If you'd like to know more about the annual roadmap, there is a poster-sized version available at the church on the library bulletin board.

In Christ, ELCOC Council

### MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

This fall Church of the Cross will be undertaking a review of our membership. A membership review is a heathy 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's name. Each member will receive a letter with information about the process. Please grab your letter from your church mailbox when you are able to help us with postage costs. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Pastor Lindsey or our Council Co-chairs Bill O. & Paddy C.

### **PASTOR LINDSEY AWAY**



Pastor Lindsey will be enjoying some time away with family this month from October 14 -19, 2025. If you are in need of pastoral care while they are away you call or email Richel the office. She will connect you with Pastor Aaron from Advent Lutheran Church as soon as possible.

### **SIGN IN BOARD**

We have a new system to keep track of who is in the building to ensure the alarm is set and the doors are locked on exit. If you are using the building during the week or after hours please move a magnet over to "in" upon entry at the east doors so that others know you are at the church. When you leave if you are the last one in the building please arm the system and ensure doors are locked.



### **FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

Church of the Cross Financials through August 31, 2025						
2025 Budge		Budget YTD	Actual YTD	) August		
Income	\$299,700.00	\$199,800.00	\$193,575.62	\$15,880.00		
Expenses	\$331,036.00	\$220,690.67	\$238,439.35	\$25,416.27		
Balance	(\$31,336.00)	(\$20,890.67)	(\$44,863.73)	(\$9,536.27)		
General Fund Balance		\$5,812.13				
Furnace Fund		\$40,894.00				
Building Maintenance Fund		\$68,408.33				
Other Designated/Passthrough Funds		\$45,885.38				





### BEWARE OF SCAM EMAILS!



Pastor Lindsey or our staff at Lutheran Church of the Cross will never email you to ask for etransfers, the purchase of online gift cards, or access to your finances etc. Please always check to see that the email you are reading is sent from our staff at either:

churchofthecross@shaw.ca elcocpastor@shaw.ca

### **Looking Back**

### **Bishop Trish & Ken visit us**

Dear Pr. Kindsey and friends of Leoc,

Thank you for your stunning hespitality to Ken and Dees we joined your worship Sept. 14.

There is much vibiancy + life among you be encouraged that your work is vitally important in your neighbourhood and keyond.

The prayer shawls already rest on our shours at the back door, where we watch Creation in our back yard.

> In Christ's love, Zishop Irish & Ken







### **Clothing Drive 2025**



Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, those who donated clothing, and those who helped organize our annual clothing drive! While we had an amazing response to the need for donations this year from our congregation, Cantare, and our neighbours - there was not as many people in attendance as in years past. The social ministry team will be looking at this years event to see how we can share more widely about this important event.

### **ELCOC Garden**



The children are on my mind. Most often we refer to tragedy/injustice collectively -- "victims of residential schools". For the past several years at LCOC, we've "planted" the names of individual children among the flowers in our remembering garden. We were honoured that Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeyes shared these names and dates of birth with us. Stop a moment if you can. Saying the names aloud, has taken my heart to a place it needs to be on this day - Betty Jane H.

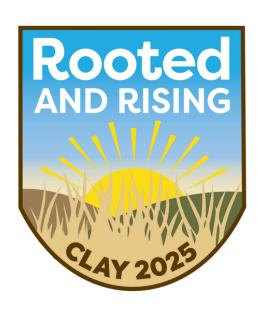
### **CLAY Reflections**

When the concept of going to CLAY was introduced to me, I initially had some doubts. "What do you mean I'll be driven out to the middle of Saskatchewan to play capture the flag for three days straight?" I told my dad when he brought the idea up. "Trust me" he exclaimed, CLAY was some of the highlights of my childhood." Me, being ever skeptical, took much more convincing than that, but in the end it was all so worth it.

Now, throughout my time in the church I haven't always had the opportunity to connect with likeminded youth my age. However, during my few days at CLAY, I was able to engage and talk with so many people from all across Canada who not only shared the same faith as me, but also some of the same doubts and questions as me. Through these connections and conversations, consisting of everything from our faith journeys to favorite Starbucks drink, I was able to create some incredible friendships with the people I met. Most of which I still talk to on a regular basis all these weeks later. Furthermore, I became much closer with Lindsey, Hannah, and Maddy. I guess spending 12 hours in a car with each other can do that. Whether it was sliding down sand dunes, taking us to see giant kangaroo rats or going to beautiful local bookshops and bakeries, all of the effort Lindsey and Hannah put into this trip is deeply appreciated, and made it all the more special.

Some of the specific events at CLAY that resonated with me were the worship services, which had a full on band and hundreds of youth standing up, clapping, singing and swaying along, as well as the field trip visiting the Wanuskewin heritage park and learning about indigenous people's culture and history. Even things as simple as the late night activities, including board games, glow tag, trivia, a prayer walk, and a dance, were key in creating the joy, community, learning, and adventures that CLAY brought me. Lastly, thank you so much to the church, especially, the past youth, for all of the support and fundraising done so me and Maddie could have this amazing experience.

### Gabriella Andersen





This summer, I had the incredible opportunity to attend CLAY, which stands for Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth gathering. Held in Saskatoon this year, it brought together hundreds of Lutheran, Anglican, and even Moravian youth from across the country. CLAY happens every two years, and it has been in locations such as Thunder Bay and Camrose before, with the next one planned for Nanaimo. The theme of this year's gathering was Rooted and Rising. Throughout the four days, we reflected on how faith can be like a seed—something that begins small but, when nurtured, grows deep roots and rises into something strong, resilient, and life-giving.

There were so many activities to take part in. We had large group gatherings with drama skits, inspiring music from a live band, and powerful times of prayer. In the evenings there were "late night spots" where we could play board games, trivia, glow stick tag, sit around a campfire, and more. During the day, we could choose workshops with different themes, including art, Indigenous teachings, LGBTQ+ topics, walking reflections, and even service projects like cleaning up the river.

One of my favourite experiences was our field trip to Wanuskewin, an Indigenous heritage site. There we got to see tipis, learn about Indigenous history, and eat traditional food like three sisters chili and bannock. We even saw buffalo, tried traditional games, and watched a traditional dancer perform. It was exciting and also very meaningful to learn more about the land and the people who have been here long before us.

Some of the best moments were the simple ones too—like playing a massive game of Cheat with four decks of cards on the very first night! I honestly wasn't sure what to expect going into CLAY, but I ended up having such an incredible time. What stood out to me most was how unique it felt to be surrounded by so many other Lutheran and Anglican youth. That doesn't happen very often, and it made me feel connected to a much bigger church family. Meeting bishops from across Canada, learning from Indigenous leaders, worshipping together, and just spending time with new friends all helped me grow in my faith.

One of the biggest lessons I took away from CLAY was how powerful faith really is. Faith is a choice, but it is also a gift that unites people who might be very different from one another. It brings together generations, cultures, and communities, giving us strength when we feel small and hope when life feels uncertain. I began to recognize that faith could connect hundreds of young people from across Canada, reminding us that we are never alone on this journey.

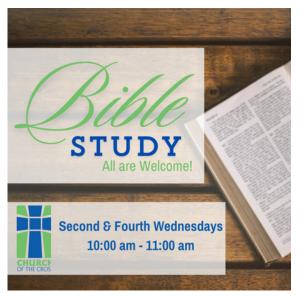
Overall, CLAY was an extraordinary experience. Through it all, I realized that faith isn't just mine—it belongs to all of us, and it connects us in ways nothing else can. Coming home, I began to recognize that faith isn't just something we talk about in church—it's something real that changes lives and brings us together. And that's something I'll carry with me, wherever I go.

### **Maddy Janzen**



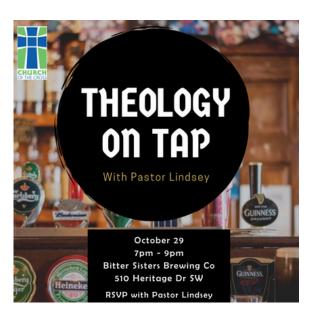
# Sundays following worship All skill levels are welcome to join us! If you need further details, please contact Jean at jeandacko7@gmail.com







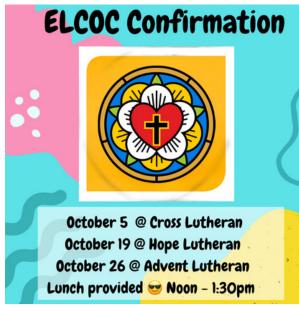




www.churchofthecross.ca 8

# JOIN A SMALL GROUP





PCOMING O

**EVENTS** 







### **ALL SAINTS**

November 2, 2025 - 10:00 AM

We invite you to join us in a time of rememberance and thanksgiving this All Saints. We will gather to honour the beloved saints in our lives who have blessed us in our journey of faith. We invite you to bring something to add to our displace of remembrance this year - whether it's is a picture, an item, or simply a name to share about your beloved saints. We look forward to marking this holy day together.



### CALGARY ALLIANCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD



# Foundations of Community Organizing

An introduction to the foundational leadership practices and principles of community organizing.

### When:

Saturday, November 1st 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM Sunday, November 2nd 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

### Where:

Scarboro United Church 134 Scarboro Ave Calgary, AB

### **Tickets:**

- \$25 for members and students (to cover the cost of food)
- \$100 for non-members

This training provides an introduction to the foundational teadership practices and principles of community organizing that have made it an effective means of bringing about social change. This training is based on the 70 years of experience of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) in uniting communities to take action that makes a difference on issues that matter. This training focuses on topics such as:

- The practices of relationships based leadership
- Power how to understand and exercise power with instead of power over
- How to listen to a community for action
   Breaking down complex social problems into actionable issues
- Power Analysis, Action and Negotiations for Social Change

This training is taught by the Calgary Alliance's organizers along with community leaders who bring their experience in winning on issues that will have approximately \$6 billion of social impact.



Register at www.CalgaryCommonGood.org/events



### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE EVENT

### May this Church be like a Tree

a congregational life event

October 25, 9:00 - 3:30 pm

Venue: The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Red Deer

Cost: \$50 per person / \$15 per additional person from the same congregation.

Lunch service included. Please register by Oct 19, 2025 (this helps us with meal planning)

albertasynod.ca 780-439-2636

Register here

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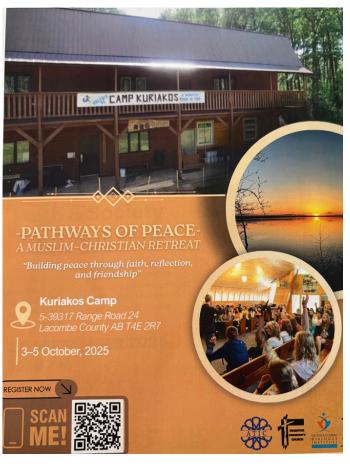
SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: KATJA BRITTAIN

HELPING US IMAGINE POSSIBILITITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP OF CHURCH BUILDINGS.

abtsynodoffice@elcic.d

"May This Church Be Like a Tree" You might recognize those words from the hymn of the same title by Pablo D Sosa. Every tree knows the rhythm of the seasons and our churches are living through these seasons too. It's new territory for us as we hold the gifts of buildings from our predecessors and step forward to learn - how bricks and mortar, wood and nails may creatively continue to serve God's mission. Our learning partner at this event will be Katja Brittain who has worked with many congregations to shape faithful discernment. She will guide us in all kinds of new understandings of our how we see our church properties. Come and be part of this hopeful movement. Let's grow into the church our communities need today—and the church God is calling us to be tomorrow.

### **RETREATS & EDUCATION**



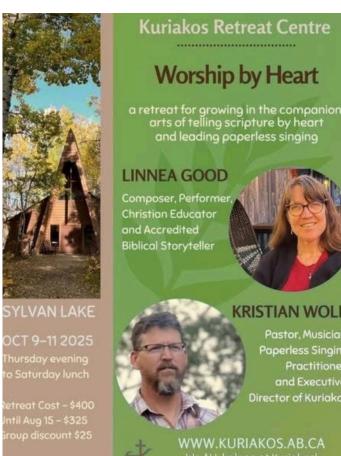
## An Anatomy of Accountable Communities



What comes after the callout? This lecture explores pitfalls and pillars for communities seeking to balance justice and accountability in ways that prevent future harm.

It will invite all of us to take stock of our community-based skills in addressing harm in ways that better foster transformation. Featuring Jae Lin, Founder and Executive Director of ReSpec, an accountability support project guiding people who have caused harm towards responsibility, clarity, and change.

Fri, October 3, 7pm Alexandra Centre Concert Hall 922 - 9 Ave SE, Calgary Tickets: Pay What You Want





### **ABT SYNOD UPDATES**



October 2025

"If another member of the church sins against you..." Matthew 18

Matthew 18 feels like Jesus is sitting us down and saying, "Let's talk about what it really means to live together." This whole chapter is about community, and at the center of it is reconciliation—how we deal with hurt, conflict, and forgiveness when things go wrong.

And let's be honest: in any community, things do go wrong.

Right in the middle of the chapter is the parable of the lost sheep. This is one of those stories we never get tired of hearing: a shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep to search for the one that wandered off. Why? Because every single person matters. God doesn't write people off, and that's the same spirit we're supposed to carry into reconciliation.

Jesus then gets super practical: "If someone sins against you, go talk to them directly." (He probably shouldn't have said "if" but "when!") No gossip. No threats. No social media. No letters. Just you and them, face to face. If that doesn't work, bring a couple of others. If that still doesn't work, bring it before the community. It takes a lot of trust when we feel vulnerable or hurt. It's a slow, thoughtful process, and the goal is both accountability and restoration—not shaming, not punishing, not winning an argument.

Reconciliation, according to Matthew 18, isn't optional. It's the heartbeat of Christian community. It means starting with humility, pursuing one another like God pursues the lost, having honest conversations, and practicing forgiveness over and over again.

When Peter asked the question everyone was thinking, "Okay, but how many times do I have to forgive? Seven times?" (He probably thought that was generous.) Jesus replies, "Not seven—seventy times seven." In other words, stop counting. Forgiveness isn't a math problem; it's a way of life.

Our world is quick to cancel, quick to divide, quick to walk away. Jesus calls us to be different. He calls us to do the hard work of mending, forgiving, and restoring. That's what reconciliation looks like, and it's the way God's kin-dom comes alive right here among us.

Thanksgiving blessings to you all,

Bishop Irish

### **ELCIC UPDATES**



Dear Beloved Members of God's Family in the ELCIC,

I write to you today deeply troubled by the news coming from Palestine and Israel. Israeli military operations in Gaza City are escalating and now include a ground assault. It is devastating to witness hundreds of thousands of people forced out of Gaza City with nowhere to shelter and no access to bare necessities.

Despite repeated warnings from the United Nations and other international organizations, the government of Israel continues to disregard appeals to protect civilians. On Tuesday, a United Nations Commission of Inquiry in Geneva concluded that Israel has committed genocide in Gaza.

I am reminded of the words shared by Bishop-elect Imad Haddad of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land at our 2025 ELCIC National Convention: "Our reality in Palestine, is an ongoing genocide. People are dying. People are losing their homes. A loss of generations, a loss of human dignity, a loss of faith in humanity and human rights..."

In a statement released September 17, The Lutheran World Federation condemned the ongoing suffering of civilians in Gaza and called for urgent global action. We join the LWF in this call. We fear for the lives, dignity and future of the Palestinian people who continue to endure immense suffering, displacement and destruction.

As a global communion of churches, rooted in Christ's call for justice, peace, and the protection of human life, we once again raise our voice in the face of this devastation. I encourage you to write to your Member of Parliament to express your concerns, advocate for an end to violence and share your hope for peace. In addition to urging the Canadian Government to end all arms transfers to the State of Israel, ask them to call on the State of Israel to: immediately end indiscriminate attacks, guarantee humanitarian access, work tirelessly for a ceasefire and peace with justice and accountability.

Our partner, KAIROS Canada, also provides an online pathway to send a letter to the Prime Minister calling for action to end human suffering in Palestine.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza and the West Bank who are paying the heaviest price for this war. Our prayers remain with our Palestinian siblings, and our commitment is to continue walking with them in their struggle for justice, dignity and peace.

In Christ Jesus, The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer National Bishop-elect, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

### **LWF UPDATES**



### Statement from the East Jerusalem Hospital Network: Welcoming International Support for Gaza Patients

We, the East Jerusalem Hospital Network, warmly welcome the joint statement released on September 22, 2025, by Global Affairs Canada and the foreign ministers of several countries. Their call to support medical treatment for patients from Gaza and to restore the humanitarian medical corridor to East Jerusalem comes at a crucial time.

The situation in Gaza is becoming more desperate each day. Hospitals are overwhelmed or no longer functioning, and thousands of patients, including many children, urgently need care that is simply not available inside Gaza.

East Jerusalem hospitals are ready to help. We are only 70 kilometers away from Gaza and have been caring for patients from the Strip for years, even before October 7. Our medical teams have the experience, facilities, and records needed to continue providing quality treatment.

But we're not only ready to receive patients, we are also ready to help bring them here. Our hospitals are willing to support the safe transportation of patients from Gaza to East Jerusalem so that they can access the care they need without further delay.

We strongly support the call to reopen the medical corridor and enable medical evacuations immediately. Every day of delay puts more lives at risk. We also echo the call to lift restrictions on medical supplies and to ensure the safety of healthcare workers and patients, in accordance with international humanitarian law and UN Security Council resolutions.

We remain committed to working with international and local partners to save lives. With urgent support and renewed access, East Jerusalem hospitals can continue to be a vital lifeline for Gaza's most vulnerable patients.

With hope and gratitude, The East Jerusalem Hospital Network (EJHN)



### **SOUTHWOOD UPDATES**

# SOUTHWOOD SANGE

### **Photo Voice Project**

We're starting a photovoice project in Southwood— neighbours will share photos and stories about life in Southwood, and we'll showcase them in a community art exhibit. We're looking for a few residents to join the planning committee. It's super flexible, and we'll just meet online to finalize the details. The committee will help shape the design and implementation of the project. If you'd like to be part of the committee (or are curious and want to learn more), please send Sarah an email or text message sarah.thomas@calgary.ca 368-889-5168

### Southwood Halloween Howler

Date: Saturday October 25th 2025 - Time: 2 pm - 4 pm - Location: Southwood Community Hall Get your costumes ready and join us for a spooktacular afternoon at the Southwood Community Hall! FREE ENTRY DJ Dance Party Face Painting Halloween-Themed Concession & More! This all ages event is the perfect way to celebrate Halloween with family, friends, and neighbours! Come for the candy, stay for the fun—if you dare!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Cooking Plan 10am-1pm	3	4
5	6 Morning Meet up 10am	7 Makers Craft Night 7pm	8	Cook 10am-3pm	10	11
12	13 Thanksgiving	14	15	16	17	18
19	2 0 Morning Meet up 10am	SCA Board Meeting 7pm	22	23	24	2 5 SCA Halloween Howler 2-4pm
26	27	28	29	30	3 1 Halloween	







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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	Quilting Group 2 9:30 AM Choir 6:00 PM	3	Common Good Mayoral Forum 6PM Knox United
Pentecost 17 Worship with Communion 10 AM Confirmation - Cross	6	7	Bible Study 10 AM - 11 AM	Quilting Group 9:30 AM  Choir 6:00 PM	10	11
Pentecost 18 Worship with Communion 10 AM	Thanksgiving Office Closed	14	Council Meeting 7PM - 9PM	Quilting Group 9:30 AM Choir 6:00 PM	17	Men's Breakfast 8 AM - 10 AM
Pentecost 19 Worship with Communion 10 AM Confirmation - Hope	Night at the Movies Landmark Cinema Time TBD	Caring Connections 1 PM - 2PM	Bible Study 10 AM - 11 AM	Quilting Group 23 9:30 AM Choir 6:00 PM New Members Class 7pm - 8pm	24	ABT Synod Congregational Life Event in Red Deer 9AM-3:30PM
Reformation Worship with Communion 10 AM  Confirmation - Advent		Recognizing the Stranger 7- 9 PM @ Emmanuel	Theology on Tap	Quilting Group 30 9:30 AM Choir 6:00 PM	31	

"To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything." - Thomas Merton





403-255-4792





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