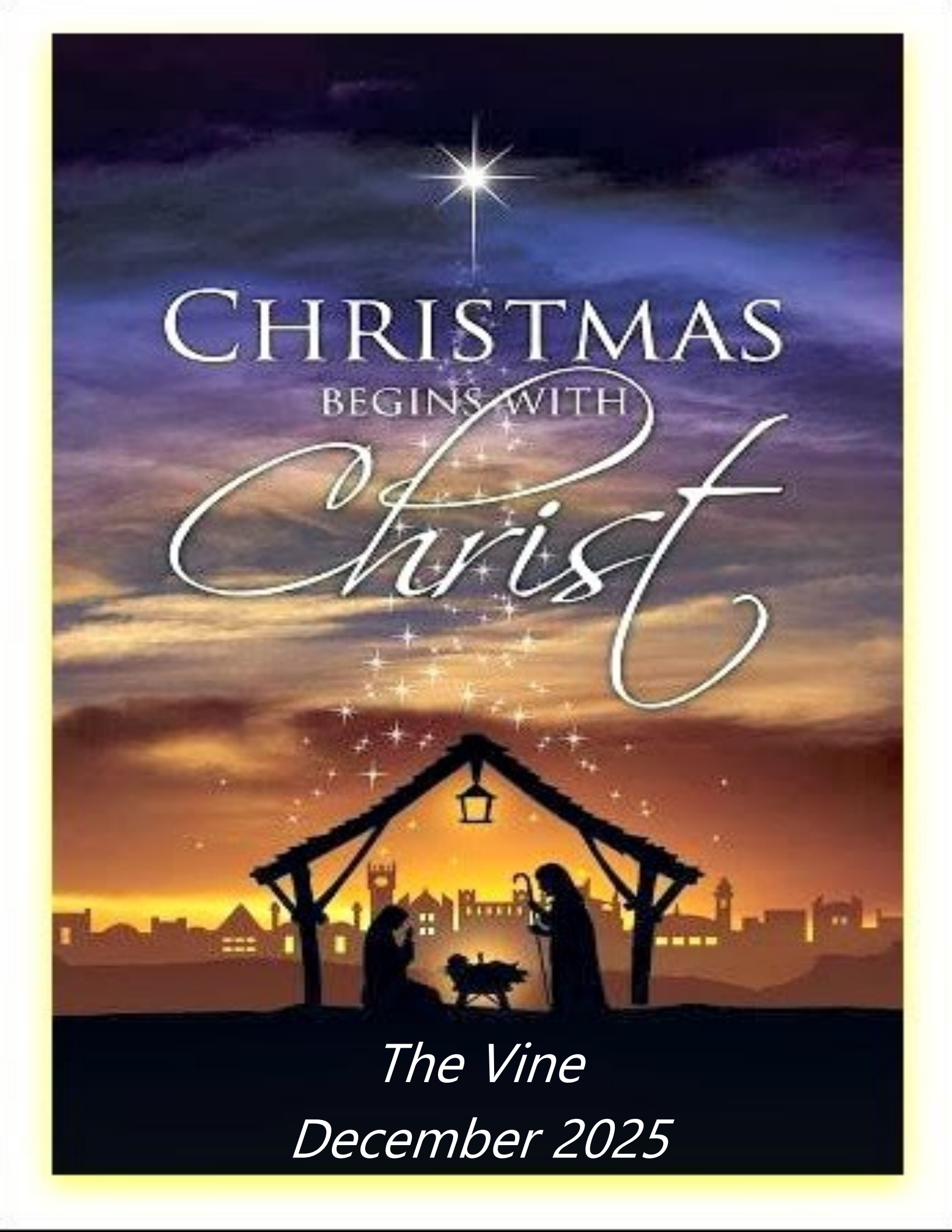




CHRISTMAS
BEGINS WITH

Christ



The Vine
December 2025

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2H 0Z4

We are an inviting and growing Christian presence, with a passion for living and sharing Jesus Christ!

Our vision is to be a Christ-centered Community that Equips Disciples to Make Disciples!



Parish Administrator

Judy McDonald
825-438-7632 cell/text
office2@oursaviourchurch.ca



Church Media Director

Mike Mihaichuk
lcos.yyc.media@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 am Kids Church at 11:00 am



Bob



Kari

Church Board 2025

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



Carolynne



Kathy



Isaria



Brian



Adriana

Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Website: www.oursaviourchurch.ca

Scan to donate



Board Report

This is always a special time of the year. The snow and Christmas lights remind me of so many Christmas celebrations we have experienced, together ... at our Church home. This year will be no exception. The Board hopes all of you will join in celebrating the birth of Our Saviour throughout the month by attending services and spending time enjoying each other, together... as one community committed to demonstrating the love of Jesus to each other and to the world around us. Pastor Lee commented not long ago "My prayer for LCOS is for you to stay together" and.... "You will not agree on everything, so when you agree on the main things, other areas aren't as important". These are wise words and worthy of our serious consideration. Being together is important. Whether during coffee after service or at one of the ongoing Bible studies on Thursday evenings or at the Games group on the first and third Tuesday of each month, this community welcomes you. Our prayer is for you to find a place where you belong, are comfortable and able to contribute your time and talents to the mission of our congregation. Today, perhaps more than ever, the world needs to experience God through the actions of those that love Him.

Once again, the advent season of 2025 has many opportunities filled with food and music. It begins with the Ladies Christmas dinner on December 8th and continues throughout December. For those of you that missed the WELCOME lunch for Pastor Lee and new members on Nov.16th, it was an awesome event. I have forgotten how many times I've been approached raving about the food and fun that we had. Stay tuned for another great community event in the new year!

This Christmas, our younger folks are planning something special but you will have to wait to hear more! Stay tuned!

Christmas Eve will have two opportunities to worship: our traditional 4pm service of music and carols and a 6pm service with communion. Pastor Bart Ericksson will be officiating at both services. Remember to get here early as both services usually fill up quickly.

The Call Committee continues to work hard on your behalf and are confident God will provide us with a new Pastor in 2026. Please continue praying for Garry and the Committee as they continue their work.

Pastor Lee will be with us for worship on Dec. 14th and 21st and available throughout that week for Pastoral support. Of course, the Ephesians Bible study facilitated by Pastor Lee will continue on Tuesday evening (Dec.16th) in the Fireside room at 7pm.

I am pleased to tell you that Pastor Stan Helton from the Alberta Bible College has agreed to assist us with Pastoral support during the weeks Pastor Lee is not here beginning after Lee's January week with us. Many of you know Stan. He has been a regular supply Pastor over the last few years and cares about our community. Please speak with Judy if you would like a visit from Lee when he is here or Stan, beginning in January.

Board Report , continued

Some of you have asked 'how the roof repair is doing'. I'm pleased to tell you the repair is complete (prior to arrival of the big snow!). Clearly God is at work in our midst. Not only was the work completed quickly ... it was donated. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Mr. Ed Stahl, Jeffrey and the crew from BMW Roofing & Siding 2000 Inc. for their professionalism and generosity. The interior area at the back of the sanctuary will be repaired during the month of December, with repairs coordinated to not interfere with existing activities. Please watch out for workers if you are in the building. .

Finally, the Board would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas with a sincere desire for you to partake in our Advent festivities throughout the month.



Bob Montgomery
Chair – Board of Directors

Ladies Annual Potluck Dinner

Monday, December 8

6:00 pm



Bring your favourite dish and enjoy...

Delicious Food

Wonderful Fellowship

Lots of Laughs

And...sign up for your 2026 Prayer Sister

Sign up sheets are available in the Place of Welcome or RSVP to Judy

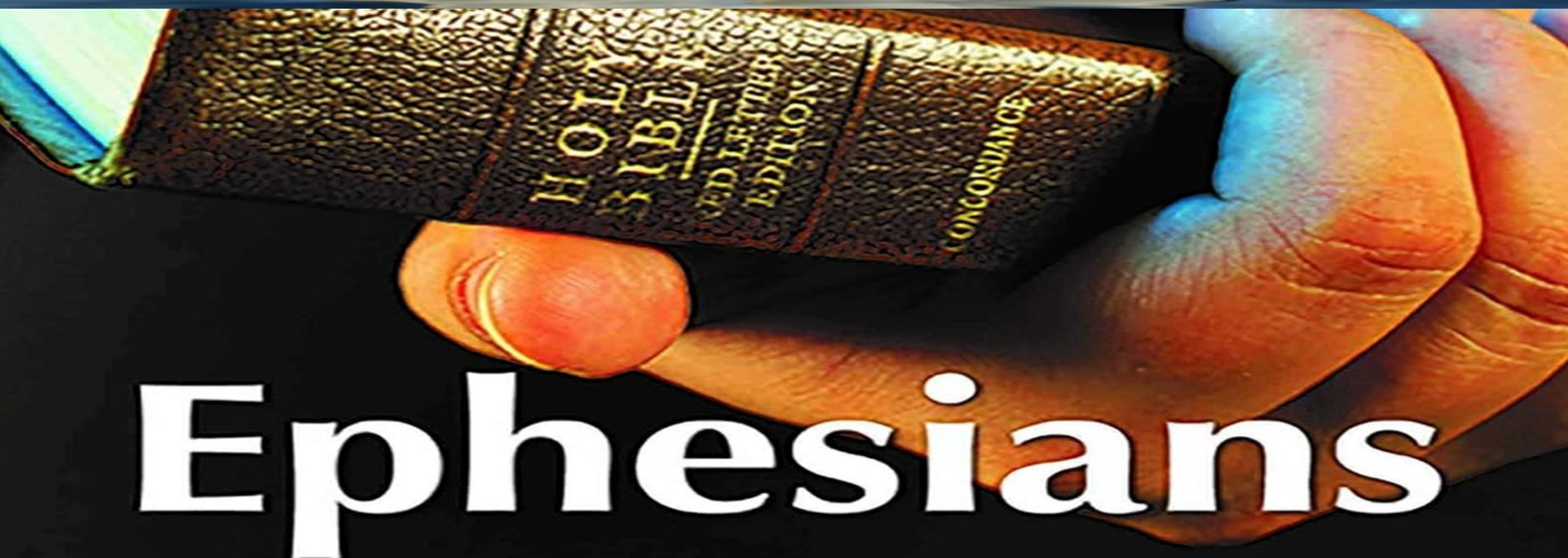
Cover to Cover Bible Study

*Thursdays @ 7:00 pm
Fireside Room*



Discovery Bible Study

**Thursday Evenings 7:00 pm
Library**



**BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR LEE
Tuesdays, November 11 & December 16 @ 7:00 pm**

Call Committee Report

The Call Committee continued our work on the evaluation of the 980 congregations in Minnesota that we commented on the last couple months. The committee was able to short list the candidates to those best suited to our congregation to 23 candidates.

We have decided to put forth a letter to the Minnesota Bishops and the candidates which provides more information on LCOS's faith and beliefs so that the candidates that apply are fully aligned with our beliefs. This letter will be signed by the Call Committee and the Board to ensure that this letter has full support of the congregation.

Once we send the list of names to Bishop Trish, she must contact the appropriate Bishop in Minnesota (there are 5 Bishops) to determine whether any of the candidates have an interest in being part of our call process. The Call Committee will receive the names of those that are interested in being a candidate from Bishop Trish. The Call Committee then will conduct interviews and discussions with the candidates. Through prayer and discernment, the committee will finally identify which candidate has been sent by God to be our shepherd at LCOS.

Please remember to continue to pray for the congregation and for the Call Committee and our deliberations for our pastor. We are convinced that God will provide an excellent candidate for LCOS if we all listen to His will.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at church or by phone at 403-975-0081 or email at gmihaichuk@me.com or any of the Call Committee members.

Thanks for all of your prayers and support.

Yours in Christ
Garry Mihaichuk

December Worship Services

<i>Sunday, December 7</i>	<i>10:00 am Worship Service</i>
<i>Sunday, December 14</i>	<i>10:00 am Worship Service with Communion</i>
<i>Sunday, December 21</i>	<i>10:00 am Worship Service</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 24</i>	<i>4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 24</i>	<i>6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service with Communion</i>
<i>Sunday, December 28</i>	<i>10:00 am Lessons & Carols</i>



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

8831 FAIRMOUNT DRIVE SE
WORSHIP SERVICE @ 10:00 AM
KIDS CHURCH @ 11:00 AM
(PRE-K - GRADE 7)

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!!



The Search

Asking the Big Questions
Youth Grade 8 -12

Meetings every second Thursday at 5:30 pm.

Next meeting - December 4

Currently studying the book of Hebrews.

Contact Kari Paul, Isaria Kwayu or

office2@oursaviourchurch.ca for details.



Financial Secretary Report

Did you know??

If you are wondering why there is little offering in the offering plate at each service, a small percentage of total offering is given via the offering plate. Loose cash, cash, and some cheques are given via the offering plate.

The following methods and percentages of giving for October, 2025 were:

Cash: 5.9% - 15 givers
Cheques: 13.8% - 7 givers
Interac E-transfer: 53.6% - 27 givers
Loose Cash: 2.8%
Online via Realm: 9.0% - 3 givers



Year To Date Financial Status – October 31, 2025:

Revenue (offering, rentals): \$250,575.94
Expenses: \$277,385.95
For a deficit of \$26,810.01

If you wish to contribute to the church, the following are options for giving:

Interac e-transfer:

Donations are made to email address: donate@oursaviourchurch.ca.

PAR Program Giving:

The Pre-Authorized Remittance program (PAR) gives the option to give monthly directly from a bank or credit union account.

If you sign up by December 01, your monthly donation would begin December 22. Please contact the Financial Secretary Cliff Blumhagen (403-936-0419 or financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca) to get a PAR sign up form and with any questions.

Cheque:

You can mail, bring to a church service, or drop off a cheque at the church.

Online Giving (via credit or debit card **):

Donations are made via the following secure link: <https://onrealm.org/LutheranChurchofOurSaviour/give/now>.

**NOTE: to give via debit card, the card must have a CVV code (on the back of the card). This is like the code on the back of a credit card. **

Text Giving (via credit or debit card **):

Donations are made by texting LCOSGive to 73256 followed by the donation amount.

**NOTE: to give via debit card, the card must have a CVV code (on the back of the card). This is like the code on the back of a credit card. **

Giving via online and text will go to General giving.

General giving and Designated giving can be done via Interac E-transfer, cheque, and cash.

Financial Secretary Report, continued

Shares from Investments:

Shares from investments are made by transferring them from your investment account to the church investment account.

Legacy Giving:

Donations are made from your estate by gifting to the church by remembering the church in your will.



The annual stewardship program for 2026 at LCOS is 'Devoted to Generosity' and is focused on God given gifts, creation, and sharing the gospel.

The program is based on 2 Corinthians 9:7.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work"

The program kicked off on Sunday, November 2 and led up to Stewardship Sunday on Christ the King Sunday, November 23, 2025.

Everyone on the LCOS email mailing list received a pledge card via email. Hardcopy pledge cards were available at the November 23 church service as well.

If you did not receive a pledge card and wish to submit a pledge, please contact Judy at the church or Financial Secretary Cliff Blumhagen at 403-936-0419 or financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca for one.

Thanks to everyone who submitted a pledge for 2026 to the church. This is truly appreciated!

Stewardship Sunday was on November 23. Many pledges have been received so far. The pledge progress will be reported regularly starting in December.

As pledges are recorded in the church database, an email will be generated and sent to the pledge givers' email address. The amount reported will be the annual pledge amount for 2026. Please be sure to check the email content for accuracy. Report any errors to Financial Secretary Cliff Blumhagen at (403-936-0419 or financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca).

2026 offering envelopes will be distributed in mid-December. If you have a set of offering envelopes for 2025, you will be assigned a set for 2026. If you don't have a set of envelopes now and would like a set for 2026, please contact Financial Secretary Cliff Blumhagen (403-936-0419 or financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca).



CHRISTA SCHAPER

JUNE LOGAN



Games Group

Meets the First and Third Tuesday
of each month - 1 pm to 3 pm

Good Fun ! Good Food !

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Contact Ruth Peterson or Eleanor Wilson



*Carols by
Candlelight
An evening of Christmas
carols and their stories*

*Sunday, December 21
7:00 pm*

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm Candlelight Service (also live streamed)

6:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Everyone is Welcome

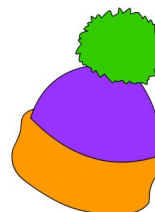
***Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
8831 Fairmount Drive SE
403-615-9317***





THE Giving Tree

***Be part of the LCOS
tradition of trimming
our Giving Tree during
Advent .***

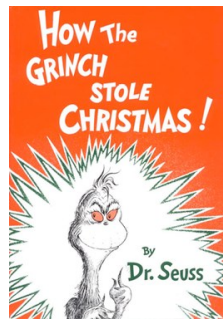


New clothing such as mittens, scarves, hats, pajamas, socks, children's footwear, as well blankets, children's toys, stocking stuffers and new Christmas decorations may be dropped off at church on Sunday mornings or during office hours. This year we will again be working with McDougall United Church and Christ Moravian Church to help ensure families in our local community are able to enjoy a wonderful Christmas. If you prefer to have your donations directed to a specific charity, such as The Calgary Pregnancy Centre, The Brenda Strafford Centre, The Children's Cottage, or another worthwhile organization in Calgary, or if you would like to volunteer some of your time, contact Judy McDonald at office2@oursaviourchurch.ca or call 403-615-9317.

Library Report, submitted by Carolyn Walker

Ask anyone who's ever worked in retail and they will tell you that the Christmas Shopping "frenzy" doesn't start in December or on Black Friday; it starts before October. When I worked in a book store we had a lot of British ex-patriots do their Christmas shopping early in the fall. They had to send their gifts "across the pond" before mid-October. Anything sent later would "miss the boat" and wouldn't arrive until after the new year.

In recent years Canadian retailers have adopted America's "Black Friday" in an effort to boost their sales. Canadian shoppers seem to have embraced this event, albeit without the panicked shopping frenzy we see so often in the American news. After all, we are Canadian (oh so polite). The shopping malls are busier, the parking lots are fuller, there are more people rushing in and out of shops. Folks are busy with decorating and baking, shopping and wrapping, planning and parties. It's like a scene from a book I once read, something about a Grinch stealing something. Maybe you've heard of it?



In the hustle and bustle of the holiday season remember to take a little time for yourself. It's not selfish, it's an opportunity to recharge your mental batteries. Spending 15 minutes reading something you enjoy will allow your brain to escape the mental busyness and gain perspective. The Library has several books with Christmas themes. Browse amongst the shelves and enjoy some holiday treasures (Hint: Numbers 11, 23, 24, 32). And I can promise that you won't find an Elf anywhere on a shelf.



What's Been Happening at LCOS



What's Been Happening at LCOS





***A SINCERE THANK YOU TO CLIFF BLUMHAGEN AS HE
RETIRES FROM HIS POSITION OF 24 YEARS AS LCOS
FINANCIAL SECRETARY!***

The Board of Directors invites you to a luncheon following worship on
Sunday, January 4 as we thank Cliff for his years of dedicated service to our community.

RSVP to Judy at office2@oursaviourchurch.ca or call 403-615-9317





Flock Care
Next Meeting
Monday, January 26th
at 10:30 am
New members welcome!

Feed My Lambs ...
Shepherd My Sheep ...
Feed My Sheep ...



Scandinavian Centre Christmas Concert

739 20 Ave NW

Friday December 5, 7:00 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**Songs for the season
by the Adult and Youth choirs
Nordic Folkdances**

Refreshments

Entry \$10 cash at the door

Free for ages 16 and under

Prospective singers, musicians, and dancers for the January-May term are asked to e-mail scanctr@telus.net for more info

Time Capsule



1876 drawing by R. B. Nevitt, Surgeon, NWMP 1874-1878

Details about Christmas 1875 events in the Calgary area are described in a book by William McLennan "Where the Elbow Meets the Bow." It is available to read on Internet Archive with a Calgary Public library card. McLennan was Jay Westman's Grade 8 social studies teacher. Jay of Jayman Built homes sponsored the book about Calgary history and another book about McLennan growing up in the Eau Claire district for Alberta's 2005 Centennial.

Sources vary in the names of F Troop members, but there is a list of 42 names as of August 1875 in John Herron's personnel file. Some of the early NWMP personnel files were lost in an Ottawa fire in 1897.

Harry "Kamoose" Taylor, former whiskey trader, held a community dance at his billiard hall south of the fort on Christmas Eve, a Friday night. He sold cider, made from raisins, at 25 cents a glass. Local people including North West Mounted Policemen from the new fort beside the Bow River danced to jigs and reels. A few of the men went to Morley to visit the McDougall family for Christmas holidays.

Some of the policemen had purchased nuts, candy, raisins and currents at Ed McPherson's trading post at Sheep Creek. The menu for Christmas dinner included oyster soup, trout, venison, buffalo, prairie chicken, mince pie, plum pudding and coffee. It was a big change from pemmican and meat. One person called it a "sumptuous repast."

For comparison, the 1874 Christmas dinner at Fort Macleod included buffalo, venison, antelope, plum pudding, cake, canned fruit, tea and coffee. "The officers had turkey, a delicacy brought in from Fort Benton by Inspector Walsh" according to page 22 of Fort Macleod – Our Colourful Past. Fort Macleod was built in 1874 after the March West. It was the headquarters of the NWMP from 1876-1878 and Fort Calgary was an outpost.

Every special occasion in the early days of Western Canada had recitations, speeches, and songs with a big meal served late at night and dancing that continued for hours.

Time Capsule, continued

A New Year's dance was held in the largest room at the barracks where evergreen branches decorated the walls and a Union Jack flag was at one end of the room. Three large candle chandeliers provided light. Two violins, a flute and banjo provided the music. A toast to "Fort Brisebois" was given. In early 1876, Fort Calgary became the official name. The cost of the fort was \$3476.00 paid to the I. G. Baker Company a year after construction.

An unsigned letter from Fort McLeod dated Sept 20, 1875 was published in The Benton Weekly Record of Saturday, October 2 about construction of buildings in British America north of Montana. Fort Benton merchants supplied the forts and trading posts to the north until the railway reached Calgary in 1883.

Father Doucet was the first priest ordained in Alberta. He was assigned to Our Lady of Peace mission (west of Calgary) in May 1875 and then lived briefly in a hut at the site chosen for the fort. Doucet met the mounted police when they first arrived at the Bow River. They used his hut while building the fort. Doucet lived in a tent until November 1875 while Alexis Cardinal built a third mission on the site of the former Holy Cross Hospital in the Mission district.

Rev. John McDougall and his second wife Elizabeth opened the Morley Mission School in 1873. His brother David McDougall and wife Annie opened a trading post. Rev. John held a church service at the new Police fort in the fall of 1875 before it was called Fort Calgary. Some Sunday services were held in the I. G. Baker store used as a meeting place. George King worked in the store after leaving the NWMP and later started his own business.

The first Methodist Church was built in 1877, a little west of the NWMP barracks. Rev. Kerby of Mount Royal College wrote a booklet in 1925 "Milestones of Methodism in Calgary" that lists the locations of the early Methodist church buildings.

The first Anglican missionary Rev. George McKay was at Fort Macleod in 1878. Rev. Tims from the Blackfoot mission conducted a service at Fort Calgary in October 1883. Rev. Paske Smith came to Calgary in 1884 and squatted on land south of Heritage Drive that became part of Acadia. He was too busy to be a homesteader because he conducted services at Fish Creek, in private homes and in central Calgary. There are many newspaper articles about his activities before he returned to England in 1877.

The first Lutheran Church in Calgary was established in 1899 as Eau Claire Scandinavian Lutheran Congregation. It has been called Trinity Lutheran since 1941.

Alice Rodier

Calgary Women's Chorus

15th Anniversary

CHRISTMAS GALA

Cody Obst, Artistic Director Antonina Cox, Pianist



Celebrating the beautiful voices of the
Calgary Women's Chorus

with
Foothills Brass
Lily String Quartet
Krista de Silva, soprano

and many more of our favourite
guest artists over the last 15 years!



BELLA CONCERT HALL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 AT 2:30 PM

MOUNT ROYAL UNIVERSITY, 4825 MT ROYAL GATE SW, CALGARY, AB

GET TICKETS AT CALGARYWOMENSCHORUS.CA

ADULTS & SENIORS \$35, STUDENTS & CHILDREN \$17

Come join in a musical extravaganza recognizing the artistic impact of the Calgary Women's Chorus over 15 wonderful seasons! This Christmas concert will feature choir selections, special music from our guest artists, and sing-a-long carols played on the organ! You won't want to miss this milestone event in one of the most decorated concert halls in Calgary. Artistic Director, Cody Obst, has put together a selection of choir favourites including music by Kim André Arnesen, JS Bach/Gounod, Dan Forrest, Ola Gjeilo, Sarah Quartel, Mark Sirett, and more.

calgarywomenschorus.ca



Bishop's Message



December 2025

Dear siblings in Christ,

You know Advent is a season of waiting — but it's not a passive or idle kind of waiting! We are preparing for something world-changing! As candles are lit and prayers rise, we remember that Christ's coming is not only a story from long ago but a promise that continues to unfold right here and now — in our communities, our homes, and our hearts.

In these Advent days, I find myself thinking about all those for whom waiting is not a choice but a reality — those who wait for justice, for safety, for shelter, for dignity, for healing. The poor, the oppressed, the displaced, and the forgotten are close to God's heart. The winter's dark is challenging at times for mental health. The cold bites those without shelter. Weather can isolate us and intensify loneliness. Jesus' birth among the poor was not an accident of history, but the deliberate sign of a God who demonstrated how important it is to be present in our care for one another. On the world stage this gives us something to stand for that is different than a corporate or political perspective. We are called to invest our funds, hearts, and attention to turning the world around by refusing to stand by idly one-moreday.

We do not need, nor ought we, to wait for business and government to fix and heal this life. From the ground up we can rise to expand food support, nurture the environment, and free ourselves from capital captivity; people of faith have done it before and we have more resources and education that at any other time in history.

Advent reminds us of the essential nature of our active response. Every turning year, we are reminded that following Jesus means not only believing but living as Christ calls us: to lift the lowly, to speak for the voiceless, to serve with compassion, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. We prepare the way of God each time we act with justice, mercy, and generosity.

This Advent, I invite you to take hope and turn it into movement. Let your prayers become courage. Let your worship become witness. Let your faith become the kind of love that makes a difference — for all people in need and for all creation.

No more waiting, rise up, Advent calls!

With Advent hope and peace,

Bishop Trish Schmermund

Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCIC

December

	1 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 6:30 pm TMS Rehearsal	2 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 1:00 pm Games Group Christmas Party 6:00 pm Esso Event	3 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Mtg 6:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Acadia Girl Guides Group 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg	4 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Discovery Bible Study 7:00 pm Cover to Cover Bible Study	5 8:00 am WW	6 7:00 am WW 9:00 am Private Ladies Book Study
7 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Margaret) 11:00 am Kids Church	8 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 7:00 pm Ladies Potluck Dinner	9 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	10 6:30 pm Fitness Class 6:30 pm Acadia Girl Guides Group 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg	11 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 7:00 pm Discovery Bible Study 7:00 pm Cover to Cover Bible Study	12 8:00 am WW	13 7:00 am WW 9:00 am Men's Group Breakfast
14 Holy Communion Baptism of Quinn Warren 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Lee) 11:00 am Kids Church	15 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	16 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 7:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor Lee 7:00 pm Board Meeting	17 6:30 pm Acadia Girl Guides Group 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg	18 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Discovery Bible Study 7:00 pm Cover to Cover Bible Study	19 8:00 am WW 3:30 pm Feed The Hungry	20 7:00 am WW
21 10:00 am Worship & Children's Pageant (Pastor Lee) 11:00 am Kids Church 7:00 pm Carols by Candlelight	22 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	23 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	24 4:00 pm Candlelight Service 6:00 pm Candlelight Service with Communion 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg	25	26	27 7:00 am WW
28 10:00 am Service Lessons & Carols with Alex Mackay	29	30	31 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg	DATES TO REMEMBER Sunday, January 4 - Cliff's Thank You Lunch Sunday, February 1 - Annual General Meeting		