



JANUARY 2026

THE VINE

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



Isaria

Church Board 2025

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



Carolynne



Kathy



Brian



Adriana

Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Website: www.oursaviourchurch.ca

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Board Report

Did you enjoy the holiday season? I hope you spent it with those you love... as life goes by so very fast.

Our advent season saw Pastor Stan light the first candle followed by Pastor Margaret and then Pastor Lee - for two Sundays...What a blessing having him back in our midst! Alex led the traditional Christmas Carol service and Pastor Bart led our two Christmas eve services. We are blessed and thankful to all of these folks for their assistance throughout the advent season. For those of you that were unable to attend or were away, I can tell you the sanctuary was packed for the early service (almost 300!) with a much smaller group present for the 6pm service.

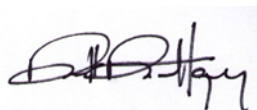
As we begin a new year, we are hopeful to know who our next Pastor for us will be. As you may know, there are no (ZERO) candidates available within our synod or western Canada. Accordingly, the Call Committee has requested Bishop Trish reach out to the respective Bishops of 21 potential candidates in Minnesota to inquire about a Call to move to Calgary to be our Pastor. We are eagerly awaiting a response from her. In the meantime, the Board has received an offer from Pastor Bart Eriksson for a term of 3-6 months. Although he is a graduate of LTS in Saskatoon and a former ELCIC Pastor, he is a rostered Pastor in CALC which is not part of the ELCIC. The Board is considering this offer. If you would like to offer your opinion or provide input, please contact any Board member at your earliest opportunity.

In previous issues of The Vine, I have asked you to continue praying for your Board and the Call Committee...for all of us to be prudent & wise, to follow the right path and be led to recommend you provide a Call to the right Pastor. As your Board Chair, it is my duty to advise that if our latest request to Bishop Trish does not turn up a potential candidate, we will have exhausted our realistic options and must consider an alternative to the status quo. Please think and pray about what that might look like.

January is the last month for your current Board to serve as your elected representatives (AGM - Sunday, Feb.1st after worship). This month we will finalize the 2026 budget and ensure all is prepared for the new Board that you will elect on Feb.1st. Also, in January, we welcome Janet Perchthaler as our new Financial Secretary and on Jan.4th, we will celebrate Cliff Blumhagen's 24 years at the helm of that important portfolio with a Board sponsored lunch after the worship service. Bring your appetite and well wishes for Cliff. There is a gigantic card for you to sign as well!

This year has held many challenges and many remain however it is important you know we would not have been able to accomplish anything without the dedication of each member of the current Board. On behalf of myself (and all of you) THANK YOU for all you have done! They rose to each occasion and provided counsel and support for me during 'the rough waters' over the past year. At the start of our term, I asked each one to step up and they all did. Please let them know you appreciate them!

On behalf of your Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Board Chair (again) and 'keep seeking God while He may be found' - Isaah 55:6.



Chair – LCOS Board of Directors

LCOS Annual General Meeting

Sunday, February 1 @ 11:00 am



Potluck Lunch to Follow

We ask that food be brought to the church 'table ready' so that everyone can participate in the AGM, rather than some preparing dishes in the kitchen.

A-M Sandwiches N-Z Salad or Dessert Thank you!

Thank You Cliff Blumhagen

All are welcome to join us for lunch on Sunday, January 4th following worship, as we thank Cliff for the past 24 years of dedicated service as LCOS Financial Secretary.

Please direct questions to Judy.



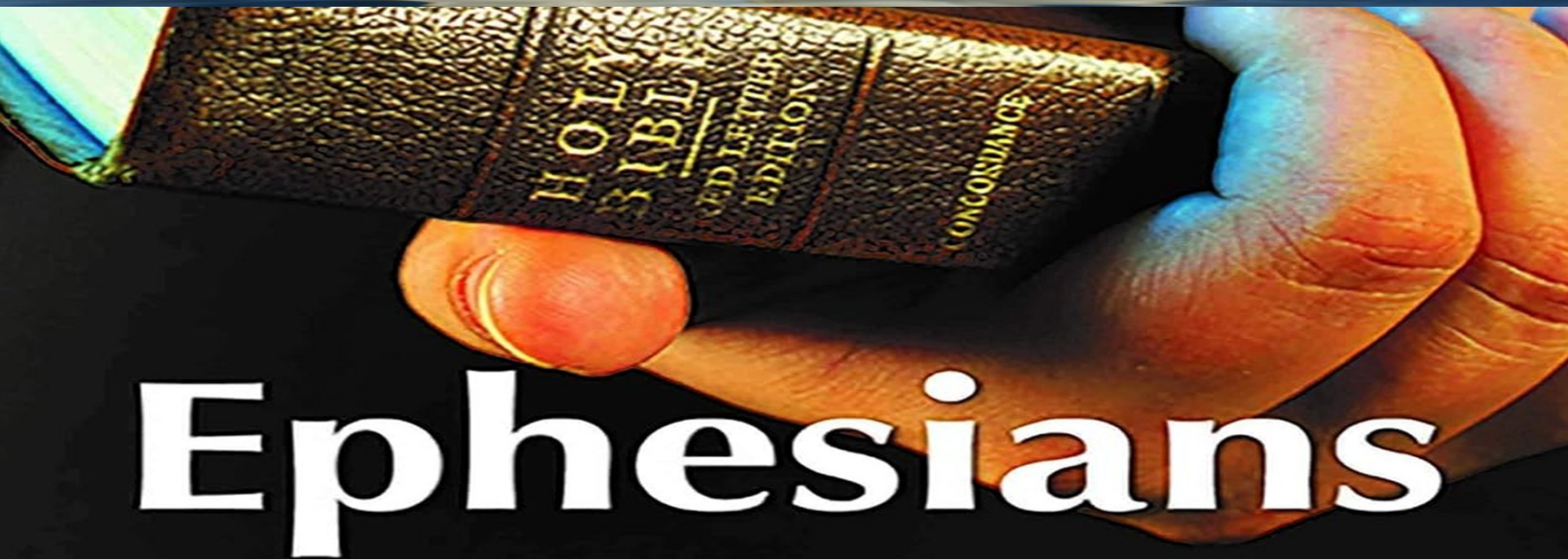
Cover to Cover Bible Study

Thursdays @ 7:00 pm
Fireside Room



Discovery Bible Study

Thursday Evenings 7:00 pm
Library



Bible Study with Pastor Lee

Tuesday, January 13 @ 7:00 pm



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.

January meetings - January 15 & 29

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 November, 2025 were:

Cash: 3.9% - 15 givers
Cheques: 38.5% - 20 givers
Direct Deposit: 20.5% - 2 givers
Interac E-transfer: 29.3% - 38 givers
Loose Cash: 0.8%
Online via Realm: 0.2% - 3 givers
Pre-Authorized Remittance Program: 6.8% - 16 givers



Year To Date Financial Status – November 30, 2025:

Revenue (offering, rentals): \$300,923.01

Expenses: \$310,294.31

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 January 01, your monthly donation would begin January 20. Please contact the Financial Secretary Janet Perchthaler (403-702-6671 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. **

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 Janet Perchthaler at 403-702-6671 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 has been reported regularly since 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 Janet Perchthaler at (403-702-6671) or financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca).

2026 offering envelopes were distributed in mid-December. If you have a set of offering envelopes for 2025 and gave during 2025 via the envelopes, you were 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 Janet Perchthaler (403-702-6671 or financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca). The 2026 envelopes can be found on the table outside of Judy's office.

Scan to donate





LILA KEITH

LEONA SMITH

MARGARET HEIMBIGNER



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



Dorothea



Alex



Doug & Joan



Terrylee



Mike

THANK YOU WORSHIP TEAM

Elizabeth



Bob



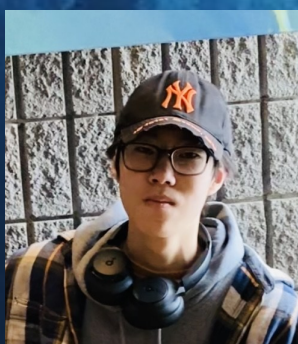
Yvonne



Reiko



Eric



Garry



Monika



Margaret



Beth



What's Been Happening at LCOS



What's Been Happening at LCOS



Thanks to Nick Perckthaler, who delivered a carload full of hand made items to the Pregnancy Centre, and Kathy Gibson, Donna Nielsen, Elizabeth Lietz, Bill & Avril LeBlanc and Judy McDonald, who spent Tuesday morning transporting and handing out donations to local families at the Acadia Food Pantry December distribution, we are pleased to announce that all Giving Tree donations have found homes. Thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas a little brighter for many in need in our community!



January Worship Services

Sunday, January 4 10:00 am Worship Service with Communion

Sunday, January 11 10:00 am Worship Service

Sunday, January 18 10:00 am Worship Service with Communion

Sunday, January 25 10:00 am Worship Service

Kids Church 11:00 am

Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 - 2:00 pm

Did you know...

Ushers by Kathy Gibson

Happy New Year to everyone at LCOS... I would like to thank all the people that helped out with ushering in 2025. It was wonderful to see some new faces. For those that may be interested in serving as an usher in 2026 but aren't really sure what is expected, I will be having a small table set up on Hot Dog Sunday to promote, teach and sign up anyone feeling the call to be one of the friendly faces welcoming everyone on Sundays. I look forward to seeing many faces there.

Operation Eyesight Universal

Gift of Sight: Cataract surgery spares Benjamin from a life of avoidable blindness

Every day, 10-year-old Benjamin in Kenya proudly leads his family's goats out to graze, a chore that once seemed unthinkable, because from a young age, Benjamin was blind.

Benjamin lives with his parents and six siblings in the village of Olookitaretu in Kajiado County. The family struggles financially; Benjamin's father Joshua has a chronic illness, while his mother, who lives with a disability, does her best to manage their livestock herds while also caring for the children.

In 2023, a local disability advocacy group referred Benjamin to a special needs boarding school, where he learned to read braille. His parents were grateful that he would receive an education, but they still worried about his future.

The following year, a community health worker identified cataracts in Joshua's eyes during a door-to-door screening and referred him to our surgical camp. He took Benjamin along, hoping for a diagnosis for the child as well.

At the camp, Benjamin was also diagnosed with cataracts and referred to our pediatric cataract camp happening at another facility. But on the day of the camp, he didn't show up. The outreach team made calls to the family to track him down, but their calls went unanswered. Finally, our community health promoter located Benjamin at his school. She later discovered that the family had lost their phone.

Recognizing the urgency of Benjamin's condition, our outreach team contacted the family's close friend, Pastor Titus, who accompanied Benjamin to the surgical camp with the family's blessing.

Thanks to the support of our partners and donors like you, Benjamin successfully underwent surgery and had his vision restored. Joshua also underwent surgery and can now see clearly.

Now, Benjamin attends a regular primary school, confidently tackling Grade I. He reads and writes with ease and loves to join soccer games with the other children in the village.

His parents are grateful that Benjamin can now live up to his full potential.

This holiday season, consider giving the [Gift of Sight](#) to transform lives for more children like Benjamin!



Library News

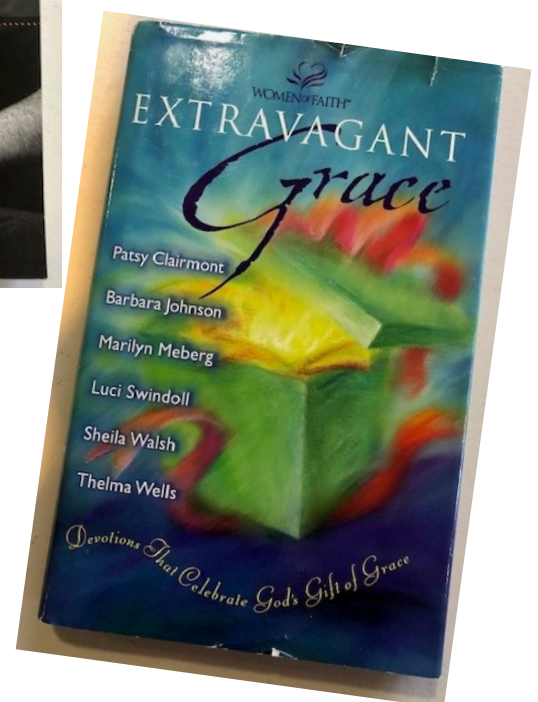
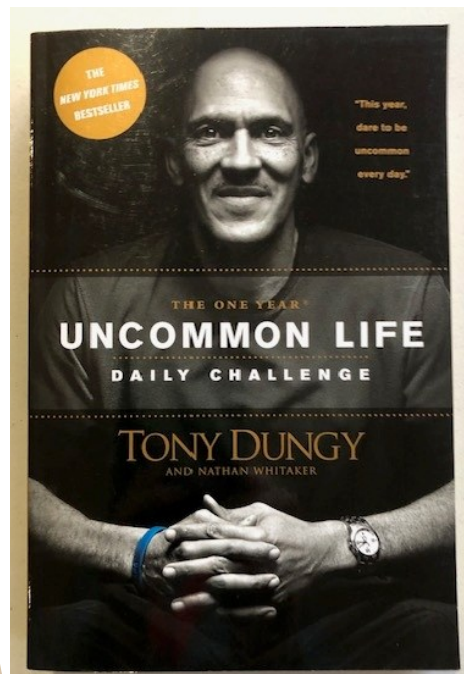
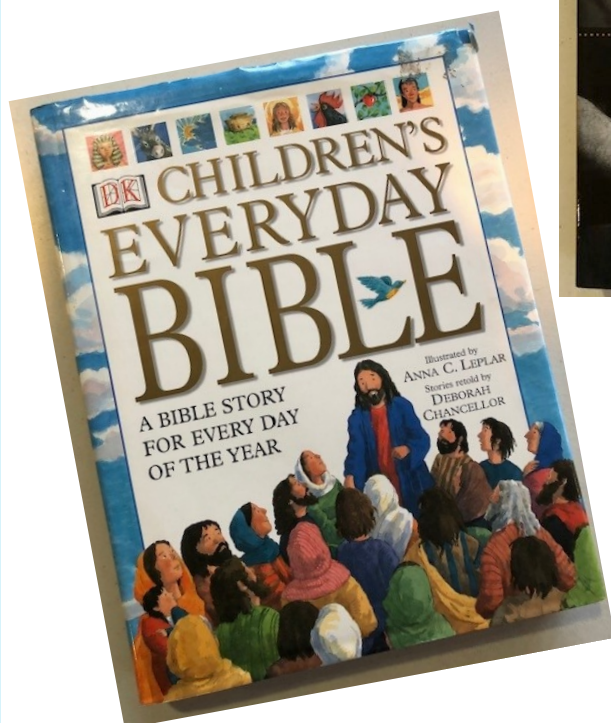
Happy New Year! May you and your family be blessed in 2026.

Many people see the start of a new year as a time to make a New Year's Resolution: "I'm going to go to the gym 3 times a week" or "I'm going to go on a diet and lose 50 pounds." or "No more fast food for me! This year I'm going to eat healthy every day".

Lifestyle experts advise that if you're going to make a resolution that you make one that's realistic and achievable. They warn against setting goals that are unreasonable and unattainable, as that can lead to failure and disappointment.

Consider an achievable goal such as including a short devotion to your daily routine. Carve out 10 or 15 minutes at the start (or the end) of your day to spend some time with God's Word. The Library has an entire section devoted to Devotions for adults (Section 24), as well as a small section of Devotions for Kids (Section 3).

With a happy heart & book-filled arms,
Carolyne Walker





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

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



*We continue to accept food donations
for the Acadia Food Pantry at LEOS
throughout each month. On the third*

*Tuesday of the month food is distributed at McDougall United
Church to families in need in our local community. Any questions
can be directed to Judy. Thank you!*

Time Capsule



McDougall Cairn Park is the location where Rev. George McDougall was lost after a buffalo hunt in January 1876. (Panora Way, Instant Google image 2023.) SW 33-25-1 W5, Crown land 1905.

Calgary Herald

Sat, Sep 10, 1960 -Page 20

SITE OF CAIRN

The cairn site is located on the farm of Fred T. Pole, 3½ miles north of the city limits on 4th St. and two miles to the northwest at that point.

Mr. McDougall was born in Kingston, Ont., and came west to Norway House in 1860 and to Alberta three years later.

He helped to establish Victoria Mission near Pakan and constructed the first Protestant church at Fort Edmonton.

He started his work at Morley, west of Calgary, in 1873. There he worked with the Stony Indians.

He suffered a heart attack while returning to Morley from a buffalo hunt. It is believed he missed his camp in the dark and wandered alone on the prairie for a considerable time.

His body was discovered several days later and the place where he died was marked by a friend.



Reverend George McDougall.
See also PA-2826-57.

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Time Capsule, continued

^ McDougall Cairn Park on Panora Way NW

In 2025, the University of Calgary map department created an interactive map showing CPR land sales by location, name of first purchaser and payment per acre. Previously, an Excel file had the information but locations of interest had to be found separately. Land purchasers were often investors or ranchers rather than farmers.

Calgary residents rarely pause to think about the history of the land that is now within city limits. The nearest newspaper was in Montana in 1875 when construction started on Fort Calgary. News took a long time to pass from one settlement to another, especially in the winter.

Homestead lands were mostly even numbered sections. LCOS -- Acadia community -- is in Section 22, Township 23, Range 1 W5 from Macleod Trail to 6 Street SE and the east side of Acadia is in Section 23. At the time of the 1931 census, only two families were counted in all of Section 22 and none in Section 23.

Blanket rezoning was a big topic during the Calgary civic election in 2025. Investors applied for several development permits on Fairmount Drive to replace single family homes with two tall buildings containing 5 units above ground and 5 basement suites with limited parking.

Calgary's population was less than 500 before the railway arrived in 1883. It is estimated at more than 1,600,000 in 2025. Will the population grow to two million in the next five years? Most new homes have eight inch high stairs. Basement suites usually have a view of the window well and a few inches of sky if there is no building next door.

Submitted by Alice Rodier

Bishop's Message



January 2026

Merry Christmas and New Year blessings!

Christmas is a story of new beginnings and every New Year we reflect on the past and the present. Many congregations sense that “change is in the air!” The ground beneath us feels different than it once did. Questions we once avoided now need to be asked. This moment is not a failure of faith. It is often how renewal begins!

God is always doing something new, even when we struggle to see it. The Spirit whispers through small signs of life, through unexpected joy and quiet faithfulness. We are invited to ask, together, where do we see grace already at work among us? Where does hope shine brightly (or perhaps in a gentle flicker)? What gives us energy? These sightings are not distractions from renewal. They are signs of God at work among us.

Why do we exist? A congregation is more than its history, its building, or its habits. We know we exist to bear witness to God's love revealed in Jesus Christ! That means churches have a vital role in our communities. Once again, we have the ability to reimagine our vocation as God's people. God has placed each of us and each congregation in a particular time and place for a reason.

Renewal naturally requires courage. There are losses to grieve and fears to name. It's not about doing more but about going deeper. How are we forming disciples who follow Jesus beyond Sunday worship? How are we nurturing prayer, generosity, hospitality, and service? These practices shape hearts and open us to transformation – it is the work that has been given to all!

Finally, renewal always turns us outward. God calls us not only to survive, but to be a gift – to give ourselves just as God became a gift in the Bethlehem babe. Who lives around us that we do not yet know? What joys and struggles shape our neighbours' lives? How might God be inviting us to walk with them, learning as much as serving?

Trust this: God is not finished with any of us. The future may not always be clear to us, but the promise is sure. May the blessing of Christmas renew our hearts and inspire us in faithful living once again.

May the New Year bring us together in proclamation and holy living that the world may know Christ.

Bishop Trish Schermund
Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCIC

January

				1	2 8:00 am WW	3 7:00 am WW 9:00 am Private Book Study
4 Holy Communion 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Margaret Koizumi) 11:00 am Potluck Lunch Honouring Cliff Blumhagen	5 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 6:30 pm TMS Rehearsal	6 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 1:00 pm Games Group	7 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Acadia Girl Guides Group 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	8 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	9 8:00 am WW	10 7:00 am WW
11 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Lee Woolery) 11:00 am Kids Church	12 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 6:30 pm TMS Rehearsal	13 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 7:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor Lee	14 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Acadia Girl Guides Group 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	15 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	16 8:00 am WW 3:00 pm Feed The Hungry	17 7:00 am WW 9:00 am Men's Breakfast
18 Holy Communion 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Lee Woolery) 11:00 am Kids Church	19 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 6:30 pm TMS Rehearsal	20 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 1:00 pm Games Group 7:00 pm Board Meeting	21 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Acadia Girl Guides Group 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	22 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	23 8:00 am WW	24 7:00 am WW
25 Holy Communion 10:00 am Worship (Stan Helton) 11:00 am Kids Church 11:00 am Hotdog Lunch	26 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 9:30 am Esso Mtg 10:30 am Flock Care Meeting 6:30 pm TMS Rehearsal 6:30 pm Fitness Class	27 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	28 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Acadia Girl Guides Group 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	29 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	30 8:00 am WW	31 7:00 am WW