

CROSSBEAMS

Lutheran Church of the Cross



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Beloved of God,

As March unfolds, we continue our journey through Lent and prepare our hearts and minds for Holy week. One way we do this is by continuing to seek and share about God's goodness. In some ways it may feel almost out of place to in a season that asks us to tuck away our Alleluias and instead invites us towards reflection, repentance, and honesty about our need for God. And yet, perhaps, Goodness it is exactly what we need.

Lent does not ignore the wilderness. It walks straight into it. But even in the wilderness, God is at work. Even in the waiting, even in the dry places, even in the questions — there is good news unfolding beneath the surface. Each week in worship we listen for that good news — sometimes small and seed-like, sometimes surprising and abundant. We practicing the holy art of paying attention. Where is grace showing up? Where is hope breaking through? Where is Christ meeting us in ordinary, everyday life?

As we move toward Holy Week at the end of March, the story deepens. We will walk with Jesus into the upper room, to the garden, to the cross, and finally to the empty tomb. It is a story that holds sorrow and beauty together. It is a story that reminds us that God's "something good" is not shallow optimism, but resurrection life that breaks forth even after death.

If Lent feels heavy for you this year, know that you are not alone. If you are in a season of waiting, or wondering, or simply holding on — the good news is that God is already at work.

May this month be a time for us to dig deeper into community. May this month be a time when you hear — perhaps in an unexpected way — something good.

Peace, *Pastor Lindsey*

COUNCIL UPDATE



Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters of Lutheran Church of the Cross,

Church council for the 2026-27 year met for the first time in February. Reflecting on the Annual General Meeting, we are grateful for the participation and optimistic about our ability to manage the challenges of the year ahead, with the congregation's support. This year's council consists of Paddy Colfer (chair), Kathy Bishop (vice-chair), Trudy Hooge (treasurer), Nadine Sisk (secretary), Isobel Currie, Hanna Janzen, and Lisa Rude.

Several new committees will be forming in the coming months, and we will be inviting the rest of the congregation to participate where their talents, interests, and availability allows. Watch for more details on the following committees: Stewardship, Worship and arts, Community connections, Lifelong learning, communications. Please reach out to Pastor Lindsey or any member of council to learn more.

During council's February meeting, Pastor Lindsey walked the group through the ELCIC's policy for protecting children, youth, and other vulnerable people. Each member of council has signed an acknowledgement of the policy and will uphold best practices for Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Finally, council will be spending time together on March 6 and 7, doing the road mapping exercise that has served us so well in previous years. If there are topics you would like council to consider, please reach out to anyone on council to share your ideas. Thank you for your continued prayers, care, and support of our congregation and its ministry.

In Christ, Lutheran Church of the Cross Council

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Church of the Cross Financials through January 31, 2026				
	2026 Budget	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	January
Income	\$273,600.00	\$22,800.00	\$20,489.89	\$20,489.89
Expenses	\$296,201.00	\$24,683.42	\$32,335.51	\$32,335.51
Balance	(\$22,601.00)	(\$1,883.42)	(\$11,845.62)	(\$11,845.62)
General Fund Balance			\$32,654.78	
Furnace Fund			\$58,684.18	
Building Maintenance Fund			\$47,908.33	
Other Designated/Passthrough Funds			\$10,058.68	

thanks
for your
support

There are many ways to give your offering at Church of the Cross:

- Safely donate online with your credit card or via E-Transfer using our church website: www.churchofthecross.ca
- 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 sharing it during service.

UPCOMING EVENTS



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

Thursdays WORSHIP

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF REFLECTION, SONG, AND PRAYER

7:15 PM – 8:00 PM

FEBRUARY 26 – MARCH 26

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS



Discipleship Next Door

Lenten Lutheran Devotional on Zoom
noon-1pm, Thursdays during Lent

Take a break from work on Thursdays at noon during Lent. Join other Lutherans from around Calgary for a devotion time led by one of our Area:

- February 26 - Rev. Phil Holck - First, Calgary
- March 5 - Rev. Laura Holck - Emmanuel & All Saints, Calgary
- March 12 - Rev. Tim Wray - Church of the Master, Airdrie
- March 19 - Rev. Aaron Schnell - Advent, Calgary
- March 26 - Rev. Mike Wellman - Highwood, Calgary

The Zoom gatherings start at noon and we will wind up by 1pm.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86806995043?pwd=lvv7vfKbAFHijhSycRkSERQOMVJm3.1#success>

What Does the Bible Say About Inclusion? And how do I talk to my friends about it?

Join us for a morning with biblical scholar **Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls**, Professor of Hebrew Bible, Emerita, Vancouver School of Theology.

Learn what the Bible says about inclusion and how we can talk with others about our commitment to be Public, Intentional and Explicit (PIE) in fully embracing queer folk in the life of the church.



PIE Day
Saturday, March 14
9:00 am - 11:30 am
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Trinity Hall (lower level; east entrance)

RSVP: rainbowteam@standrewscalgary.ca




Celebrate National Affirming PIE Day with us on Sunday March 15, 2026!

Why PIE? PIE = Public. Intentional. Explicit. Those are the standards we hold ourselves and our welcome to when we seek to live into being fully Affirming, Welcoming, and Inclusive people as a community of faith.

This year we join over 30 Calgary area congregations in marking this day with joy, celebration, inclusion, and so much pie!

Sign up to share a pie with us this Sunday!



Friday, March 20, 2026
at 6pm

Lutheran Church of the Cross
Fellowship Hall
10620 Elbow Drive SW

All are welcome
Those under 13 must be accompanied by an adult
Popcorn and refreshments will be provided
This is a free community event

Community MOVIE NIGHT

FREE

Family Friendly Film




HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



March 29 - Palm Sunday	10:00 am
April 2 - Maundy Thursday	6:00 pm
April 3 - Good Friday	10:00 am
April 5 - Easter Sunday	10:00 am



Let us take this Holy Week as a time for reflection, prayer, and gratitude for God's love and grace.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

What is a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members with 50 hours of training to provide high quality, distinctively Christian one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. Since 1975, more than 600,000 people from more than 14,000 congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers. Below are two stories of Stephen Leaders who have found deep meaning and spiritual growth through their calling to this ministry.



STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING

Becoming a Stephen Minister was the best training I've ever experienced. It did a great job of building my confidence and equipping me to better care for others.

The biggest lesson I learned was the importance of listening—and it's helped me not only with my care receiver, but also with my husband and three kids. All the distractions we have today can get in the way of really having meaningful conversations, but Stephen Minister training has helped me to stop, listen, ask follow-up questions, and be more emotionally available.

Above all, I learned that God is the one who brings healing. I'm there to walk with my care receiver, listen, and be on the journey with her.



Abby

STAY-AT-HOME MOM
Ankeny, Iowa

"Whoever you are or whatever experiences you bring, you can learn valuable caring skills through Stephen Minister training."

STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION AND GROWTH



Brad

MACHINIST
Fort Smith, Arkansas



"If someone asked me to go fishing a couple hours every week, I'd be there. So I figured I could make that kind of time to serve Christ."

At first, when people at church told me I'd make a great Stephen Minister, I thought they had the wrong guy. I couldn't see myself as a caregiver. But I thought about how much I've received from others, and I decided it was time for me to give something back.

The training experience was great—in fact, after it was done, I wanted to go through it again—and the results have been incredible. I interact better with my coworkers, and I've made a 180-degree turn in how I relate to family and friends. People have even told me, "Brad, you've really changed." I'm following Christ in a new way now; it's been a real blessing.

Looking Back : **ELCOC AGM**

On February 8, 2026, we gathered as a community of faith for our Annual General Meeting. ELCOC council were so grateful for the over 50 members and friends who were able to stay to take part in the meeting. We heard about our congregation's plans to address our budgeted needs through a year of financial freezes and cuts to our budget to address our growing deficits. With this year of breathing room ahead of us it is council's hope to focus on the ways we can tangibly support our ministry here and now by increasing our rental capabilities as well as, our partnerships with other organizations, churches, and community groups. We appreciate everyone's presence, questions, and care as we joined in celebrating our ministry and carried out the work of passing our ELCOC 2206 budget.

Black History Month Celebrated

This February we joined in commemorating Black History Month – a time for people across Canada to participate in celebrating and honoring the heritage and legacy of Black people across their communities. This year we were blessed to hold space for Martha D and her families story. From her birth in Sudan, to her journey to Canada, raising her six kids as a single mother, and starting her own foundation “*Save the Orphans*” to aid those in need in South Sudan. If you missed this service please check our our youtube channel to hear Martha's powerful story and experince a wonderful service of worship.



Shared Shabat & Iftar

This month has seen the beginning of two important seasons of religious reflection: Ramadan and Lent. Within the Christian tradition, Lent is a time of reflection, discipline, and service—encouraging deeper compassion and care for others. Ramadan similarly is a season of fasting, service, and reflection. This year we were warmly invited to an evening of friendship, understanding, and shared celebration at a Shabbat Iftar. Last year, on March 28, this joint service lit a candle—a symbol that brought people together not only to share food but to share our humanity, our hopes for mutual understanding, and the deep sense of belonging that connects us all. We give thanks that several members of our communtiy were able to take part in this healing time of connection.



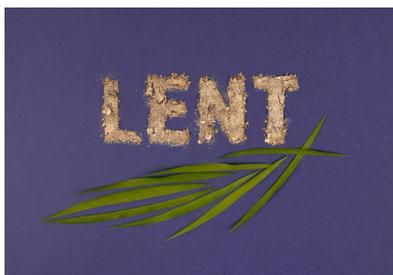
Stephen Leaders Commissioned

March first we celebrated as Pastor Lindsey and Hilary G. were commissioned into service as Stephen Leaders at Lutheran Church of the Cross. Hilary was also commissioned as a Stephen Minister to perform a special ministry of care and concern for others. This culminates a period of extensive training and preparation for caring ministry. As we commission them and send them forth to minister, let us thank God for the love and the generosity that inspired their response to God's call, and let us pray for the success of this caring ministry.



Connect with us:

Midweek Lenten Service



Thursday nights February 25 through March 26 7:15pm - 8pm

This year we will gather for a time of worship, reflection, and prayer. Each week we will share in a new practice of prayer together. Creatively exploring the ways we can share our lives and hopes with God. Join us each week as we journey together through Lent.

PIE DAY: Affirming Network



Sunday March 15, 2026 - 10:00 AM

Celebrate National Affirming/PIE Day with us this March! Why PIE? PIE = Public. Intentional. Explicit. Those are the standards we hold ourselves and our welcome to when we seek to live into being fully Affirming, Welcoming, and Inclusive ministry at Church of the Cross. Join us as we celebrate in worship and following by sharing in pie!

BLAST: Kids Bible Camp - March 21

KIDS BIBLE CAMP

Once a month we will gather our young people for a time of singing, learning, games, snacks, and crafts on a central bible story. Our next session will be March 21 from 2pm-4pm on Holy week and Easter. We look forward to welcoming kids from our congregation, neighborhood, and other church communities who wish to learn and grow with God in an inclusive, affirming, and encouraging environment. We look forward to welcoming kids in grade 1-6, and ages 5 and under with adult supervision. Thanks to the generous support of the ELCOC endowment committee there is no cost associated with this program but registration will be required to attend. To register contact our office at: churchofthecross@shaw.ca

Holy Week at ELCOC

Palm Sunday - March 29 10am - Worship with palm procession and Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday - April 2 6pm - Potluck with communion, foot washing, and the stripping of the Altar

Good Friday - April 3 10am - A Tennenbrae Service of scripture and Song

Easter Sunday - April 5 10am -Worship with Easter procession and Holy Communion

JOIN A SMALL GROUP



CHURCH OF THE CROSS

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

NEXT GATHERING:
MARCH 17, 2026



Bible STUDY
All are Welcome!

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

March 11 & 25
10:00 am - 11:00 am



SENIORS LUNCH

MARCH 10 @ 11:30 AM

Join us for Young at Heart Seniors Lunch this March 10th - all are welcome to attend!

The meal will include shepherds pie and a performance from our very own "Holy Ukes"

Email or call the church office to request a ride.

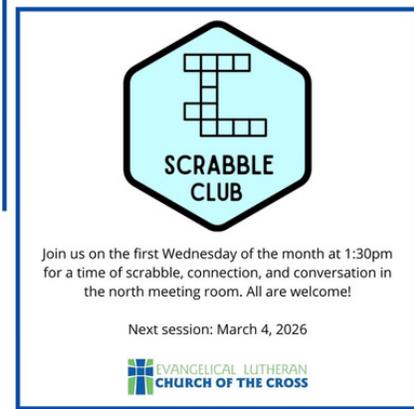


UKULELE GROUP

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Wednesdays from 11:30am-1pm
All skill levels are welcome to join us!

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

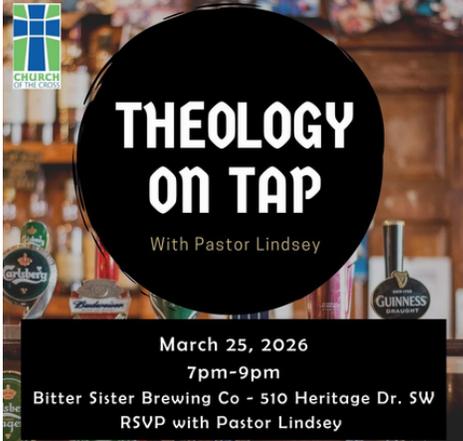


SCRABBLE CLUB

Join us on the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm for a time of scrabble, connection, and conversation in the north meeting room. All are welcome!

Next session: March 4, 2026

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS



THEOLOGY ON TAP

With Pastor Lindsey

March 25, 2026
7pm-9pm

Bitter Sister Brewing Co - 510 Heritage Dr. SW
RSVP with Pastor Lindsey



CHURCH OF THE CROSS

QUILTING GROUP

All are welcome to come join us as we make quilts for those in need. We meet each Thursday from 9:30 am-11:30 am and always share in a coffee break and connection.



CHURCH OF THE CROSS

PETROF ELQC Choir

THURSDAYS 6PM - 7:15 PM.

ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO COME AND SING.

CONTACT CATHERINE FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Mens Breakfast

ALL ARE WELCOME

March 7 & 21
LCOC - North Meeting Room

CHURCH OF THE CROSS CONNECTION COMMUNITY & BIBLE STUDY

8:00AM - 10:00AM

It is time to stop Scapegoating Immigrants and Govern Responsibly

When the French philosopher René Girard wrote about scapegoating, he helped us understand how communities avoid taking responsibility for their own internal issues by picking an innocent victim to attack and blame. He called this process scapegoating, based on the ritual sacrifices that once characterized many religions.

What we saw our premier doing in her speech on immigration is using immigrants as a scapegoat instead of taking responsibility for the economic challenges our province faces.

Jobs - Many Albertans are struggling because good jobs in the oil industry are now hard to find. This is because of automation in the oil industry, not immigration.

Housing – Housing has become unaffordable for many over the last few decades. The reality is that this has been caused by decades of governments failing to fund affordable housing, restrictive zoning in cities, and low interest rates driving the financialization of housing, not just by a recent increase in immigration.

Budgets – Our governments have chosen the politically easy path of cutting taxes, like corporate taxes, that grow as our population and economy grow. Because of this, as our economy and population grow and require more services, we do not have the corresponding increase in revenues to support the services Albertans value when oil prices drop.

Rapid Population Growth – It is very telling that our premier spoke about the rapid population growth Alberta has experienced and did not once mention the “Alberta is Calling” campaign her government launched, which helped drive this growth. Our premier dodged taking responsibility for the consequences of her government’s own actions and instead blamed immigrants and Ottawa. Taking responsibility for the consequences of one’s actions is a baseline of maturity we must expect from any leader, not scapegoating.

The reality is that immigrants bring amazing gifts to our province. Immigrants are often some of the best and brightest from their home countries and come to Alberta because they are eager to share their skills, talents and ambition. The dynamism that immigrants bring is a critical factor in building the economy and culture of our province. We must also remember that unless you are Indigenous, we are all immigrants or the descendants of people who immigrated and were given opportunities and support as we built a life here. Trying to turn immigrants against those who immigrate after them is an old technique of political manipulation, not responsible government.

When Girard wrote about scapegoating, he wrote about it as a destructive force. South of our border, we are witnessing the repeated pattern in history of the horrors that unfold when people in power avoid responsibility and instead scapegoat communities with less power. As a pastor, I can speak with clear authority to say that the Judeo-Christian tradition has at its very core a rejection of scapegoating. Instead, this tradition calls us to remember that our ancestors were once migrants and slaves in need of a land of safety. As Christians enter Lent and move towards Easter, the message of the cross is clear: when we scapegoat what we crucify is the gift of God’s presence amongst us.

Rev. Ryan Andersen
Lead Organizer - Calgary Alliance for the Common Good



March 2026 - Why do we exist? (part 2)

Dear family of God,

Recent events in Minneapolis have provided affirmation of Christian vocation in times of crisis. We are called to always be ready to stand up against unjust practices and to proclaim God's love--sometimes even at great personal risk.

January 23, clergy of multiple denominations gathered in Minneapolis to embody resistance to the presence of ICE officers. The Rt Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld, Presbyterian Bishop of New Hampshire, advised his clergy to get their affairs in order and have their wills written. Why? Because when we stand up against malevolent forces in the world, things happen.

As we approach the season of Lent, we are reminded that faith calls for personal sacrifice. We willingly give of our finances, our abilities and our time. As Jesus did, we seek to live our lives not for our own sake, but for the benefit of all. When one has more than others, it is shared. When someone needs extra care, we give it. We tithe a portion, recognizing that all we have has been graciously provided by God. These practices are what make our neighbourhoods safer, more equitable and able to thrive as the gaps between us close.

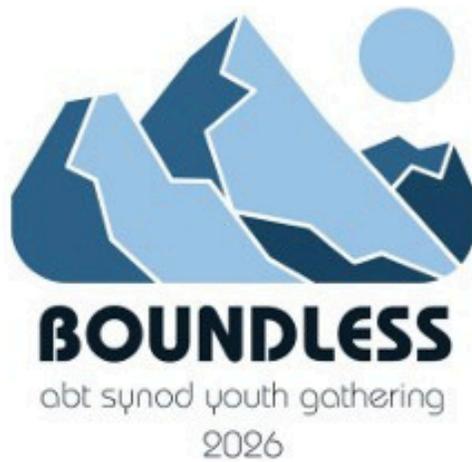
In times like today we are not only asked but are truly being tested to trust in this biblical call. Strategies that undermine universal healthcare or education, politics that hoard resources for one province or country, policies that undermine people because they are different--these are not reflective of Jesus' love for all.

Let's enter into Lent intentionally this year. Let's be mindful of the many who are suffering and in danger, those whose lives are complicated just because of the colour of their skin or where they were born. Let's genuinely seek to learn about those who are different. Let's be generous, active in justice, and let's tell others about Jesus. Let's go to church, rekindle fellowship, pray and sing! Bake cookies for the school in your neighbourhood. Turn off the tv and invite the neighbours for coffee. Use our imaginations and see where the Holy Spirit sparks a new thing!

In gratitude as we minister together,

Bishop Trish Schmermund

Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCIC



Early Registration: \$240.00 per person
Late Registration: \$260.00 per person(after March 1, 2026)
Registrations must be in to ABT Synod Office by 2:00 pm, April 17, 2026

Attention: Youth Leaders/Pastors/Congregation Chairs/Youth

From: ABT Synod 2026 Youth Planning Committee

The next ABT Synod Youth Gathering will be held at Camp Kuriakos, May 1-3, 2026 where Pastor Elly McHan will be our Keynote Speaker. Our theme is "BOUNDLESS" where we will explore God's Boundless Love: the abundance that the earth provides us along with how God brings us together in Love, Faith and Word.

With the desire to build community within ABT youth groups our Synod is providing a fun and worshipful Youth Gathering this spring. This weekend will be a very exciting event. We hope that youth will have the opportunity to make new connections with those from around our ABT synod and renew those made over the last gatherings.

Along with their Home Team Leader all youth from grade 7 – 12 (12-18 years) are invited to register with their Home Team (Congregation). If you don't have a Home Team, please contact Tammy Kirkwood TammyStPauls@gmail.com and we will find a team for you to join.

Our weekend: arrive at Camp Kuriakos on Friday, May 1, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Over the weekend we will be providing a youth centered program, offering varied worship experiences that help youth connect word and sacrament to their daily Christian life. All while participating in camp activities both inside and out (please pack proper clothing and footwear to have some fun outside.)

The total early bird cost per participant is \$240.00. Late registration is \$260.00 per participant. This cost covers 2 nights at Camp Kuriakos 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner plus snacks for the weekend. Each participant will be provided with a T-shirt to remember the weekend.

Speak with Pastor Lindsey if you have a youth between the ages of 12-18 who is interested in attending this event!



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

March 3, 2026

*If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member
is honored, all rejoice together with it. (1 Corinthians 12:26)*

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds. (Hebrews 10:24)

Dear Bishop Imad Haddad and siblings in Christ of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land,

With deep compassion and love, we write to express our solidarity with you, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), Palestinian Christians, and all the people of the Middle East. The attacks on Iran in recent days heighten our ongoing concerns for you and the people of the Holy Land as you faithfully live in the context of injustice, occupation, war, and violence.

We thank you for your recent letter of February 28, 2026, inviting us to pray and calling us to engage in courageous and concrete action. Your witness is clear and strong – that “the continued decision to resort to war is a failure of human responsibility before God” and that the Christian vocation is that of peace-making and working for a costly, just peace that transforms hearts and structures. We are moved by your words and inspired by the ongoing ministries of the ELCJHL.

We hear again of your anguish, fear, grief, and pressure. In 1 Corinthians 12:26 Paul reminds us that the suffering of one member of the body is the suffering of all. The anguish of one is a calling to all – a calling to support each other and to help each other carry burdens.

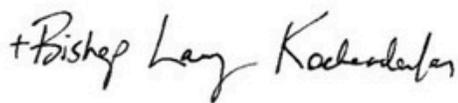
We hear the importance of this moment. We carry forward your message that “War is not the life God intends for humanity.” We carry forward your message to “Let your prayers be joined with courageous and concrete action. Stand publicly with those who are afflicted. Advocate persistently for a just peace that safeguards the dignity and security of all people. Challenge policy makers whose narratives make endless war appear inevitable.”

We call on the members of the ELCIC to pray, to provoke one another to love, to good deeds, and to costly action for peace.

Bishop Haddad, last July you spoke to our national convention about rejoicing in hope – a hope that is not alienated from reality and a hope that is brave enough to choose life. We give thanks that the ELC-JHL members and leaders embody this hope which also inspires our Christian witness.

We pray for peace and we ask the Holy Spirit to bless all of us with the courage to act for a just peace that transforms hearts and structures.

In Christ Jesus,



Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer
National Bishop, ELCIC



Rev. Dr. Ali Tote
Bishop of the Saskatchewan Synod



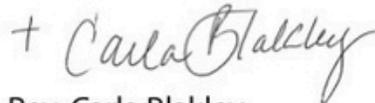
Rev. Kathy Martin
Bishop of the British Columbia Synod



Rev. Jason Zinko
Bishop of the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod



Rev. Patricia Schmermund
Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories



Rev. Carla Blakley
Bishop of the Eastern Synod

Closer to our neighbor - Rev. Dr Klaus Schäfer

"I recently came across a new book published in Germany about World War II. We have all wondered so many times, how could it all happen? While the book focuses on dark times in German history, disrespect, and hatred against the so-called "others" – it seems to me, such attitudes and messages of hate, of building up walls of segregation, are becoming prevalent again. People and nations are drifting apart from one another.

Jesus has another message for us: "Love your neighbor as yourself!" And even if my neighbor is hostile to me, whether he or she speaks a different language, is of a different origin, has a different skin color, embraces different religious convictions: they are my neighbor, we are members of one family of human beings, all created in the image of God. In Philippians 2:3-4 and 1 John 4:7-12 St. Paul makes the provocative statement that the Christians in Philippi should exercise "humility" and "regard others as better than yourselves." Christians, he points out, should not "look to your own interests, but to the interests of others (Phil. 2:3f.)." And he adds that Jesus Christ himself has set such a model that focuses on love, compassion, mindfulness and care for our neighbors.

While people drift apart today, and cynical contempt of "others" is on the rise in societies around the world, and wars are waged, and societies struggle to maintain and further develop unity and build up trust among people, we should remember the teaching of Jesus. Christ wants us to look at our neighbors, to appreciate their presence, to embrace them and build fellowship with them.

Christian obligation and commitment

May the Lenten season invite us to think afresh about our Christian obligation and commitment in respect to our neighbors. Our calling is not to distance ourselves from others; in fact, the opposite is true: Christian life is not lived in splendid isolation, locked up behind church doors, or by distancing ourselves from the lives of others, our neighbors.

To cherish Christian community, then celebrate the liturgy and pray in church is fine and it nourishes our Christian life. However, when we open the church door, we see people out there, neighbors, fellow human beings who need our attention, not seldom our support, our solidarity, and our compassion. One cannot be close to God, if one does not at the same time seek to get close to one's neighbor. Closer to our neighbor, is part of our calling as Christians. In the New Testament, it is not an option whether we would like to move closer to our neighbors, seeking to build up fellowship or not. Disregard of our neighbor is disregard of God: it is moving away from God. "Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love (1. John 4:8)." Love, therefore, is not only our calling, but also our being, it is the essence of our Christian existence in the world.

And I should remember that anybody can become my neighbor, and that I am a neighbor to those who need me most: who need my attention, help, support, and solidarity. Moreover, loving my neighbor is not simply an emotion, a sentimental feeling. In the Bible, love is very practical. In biblical teaching love relates to action, it leads to very concrete solidarity, to very concrete help on behalf of others. The season of Lent, a time when we meditate on repentance and renewal, will draw us closer to God. And God, who is love, will draw us closer to our neighbor. When we open our eyes from prayer, we see people out there. So let us seek fellowship with them.



MARCH 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Lent 2 Worship with Communion 10 AM	1	2	3	4 Ukulele Group 11:30AM-1PM Scrabble Club 1:30PM	5 Quilting 9:30 AM Choir 6:00 PM Midweek Lent Service 7:15 PM	6	7 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
Lent 3 Worship with Communion 10 AM	8	9 Social Ministry 10:30 AM	10 Seniors Lunch 11:30AM	11 Bible Study 10AM-11AM Ukulele Group 11:30AM-1PM	12 Quilting 9:30 AM Choir 6:00 PM Midweek Lent Service 7:15 PM	13	14
Lent 4 Worship with Communion 10 AM	15	16 Staff Meeting 10:30-11:30	17 Caring Connections 1 PM - 2PM	18 ELCOC Council 7PM-9PM	19 Quilting 9:30 AM Choir 6:00 PM Midweek Lent Service 7:15 PM	20 Community Movie Night 6pm-8pm	21 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM Kids Bible Camp 2PM - 4PM
Lent 5 Worship with Communion 10 AM	22	23 Staff Meeting 10:30-11:30	24	25 Bible Study 10AM-11AM Theology on Tap 7pm-9pm Bitter Sister Pub	26 Quilting 9:30 AM Choir 6:00 PM Midweek Lent Service 7:15 PM	27	28
Palm Sunday Worship with Communion 10 AM	29	30 Staff Meeting 10:30-11:30	31				



“Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store.

— N.T. Wright



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