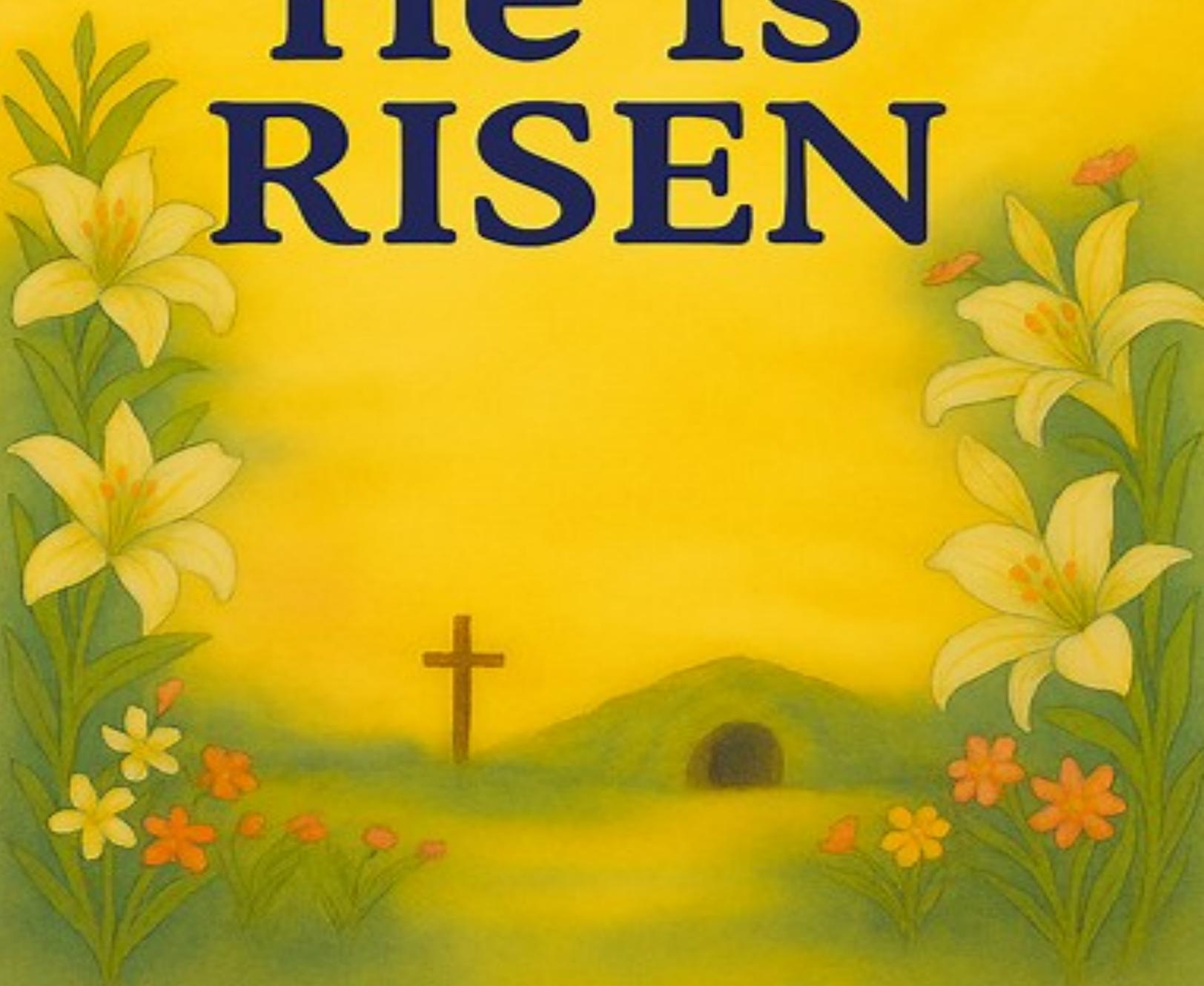


THE VINE

APRIL 2026

He Is RISEN



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 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 am Kids Church at 11:00 am



Bob



Kari



Isaria



Brian



Nick



Adriana



Carolyne



Kathy

Church Board 2025

Bob Montgomery (Chair)

Nick Perchthaler (Co-Chair)

Kari Paul (Secretary)

Kathy Gibson

Isaria Kwayu

Adriana Mass

Brian Prunkle

Carolyne Walker

Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Website: www.oursaviourchurch.ca

Scan to donate



Board Report

April means Spring and...Easter! Hallelujah! Jesus has Risen!

Our risen Saviour has given us hope! Jesus said...

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door

will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds;

and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Matthew 7:7-8

If you read that carefully, Jesus is asking each of us ... ‘Do you seek Him? Are you knocking? Has the door been opened for you?’ Easter is a time for us to celebrate that Jesus died but didn’t stay that way. He reigns in heaven with the Father and ‘all that knock’ will join Him one day. As we seek to know God and show others the endless love He has for us, be confident we are doing what He has commanded us to do. You may remember Bob Dylan’s classic song - ‘Knocking on heaven’s door’? It’s one of the first songs I learned to play on guitar and holds great memories of me seeking God and my purpose so many years ago. This Easter, I encourage you to find some quiet time with God and, in that stillness...

‘Ask and you will receive, ‘seek and you will find’, ‘knock and the door will be opened’.

Our LCOS community continues to be blessed in many ways. Small groups continue to meet; the gardening group are gearing up for another season, opportunities for Bible study continue, our members in hospital and care homes are being visited and the Games group continue to enjoy a time of relaxation. We are thankful for the presence of Pastor Lee, Pastor Stan and Pastor Margaret who continue to bless us as they deliver God’s Word each week. The Board continues to hear how wonderful it is to have them in our midst. Our Call committee continues to faithfully continue on their mission- please keep them in your prayers. If you wish a pastoral visit, please be in contact with Judy. She will arrange a visit with Pastor Lee or Pastor Stan who have agreed to assist with pastoral support.

Your Board has been busy. We met on March 21st to set priorities for this year. We are in the process of hiring a second Administrative Assistant to assist Judy in the office. If you know of someone looking for a part time opportunity, check out the posted job description. In addition, we are working on filling a part time Youth leader position to grow and nurture our younger folks. Please pray for us as we work to find the right ones to fill these important roles.

Board Report, continued

We agreed we need to strive toward being more visible in the communities of Acadia and Fairview. Many new families have moved in. We need to show them how wonderful our community is and how they can become a part of it. On **April 26th** (last Sunday in April), we will host a **“Bring a Friend to Church & hot dog lunch!”** This is an opportunity for each of us to ask a neighbor, friend or acquaintance to join them at Church. Why not share the benefit you receive? Invite someone ...Some are doing this already. As March ends and we welcome in another spring season, snow turns to slush and our parking lot has drainage challenges. Please be patient as we are working to fix that over the summer months. Finally, we have many activities each month and there are many opportunities for you to volunteer. We encourage you to get involved. Don't hesitate to approach any member of the Board or Judy in the office to inquire about where you might serve. Who knows, you may meet new people and begin new friendships...

In His Service,

Bob Montgomery – Board Chair



Invite a Friend

The Board had its Retreat on March 21. The key theme was Community and making LCOS more visible in our Community. We have developed a few things that we want to accomplish this year. One of them is the idea of members bringing friends to church. The concept we came up with was to **“Invite a Friend”** to church. We will tie this in with our Hot Dog Sunday on **April 26**.

So please consider doing your part and inviting a friend to join you in attending our service on April 26. Afterwards, we can all gather for fellowship and enjoy our Hot Dog lunch.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Sponsored by the Board of Directors



Hot Cross Buns



Fruit



Potato Casserole



Sliced Ham

April 5 • 11:00 AM

Call Committee Report

The Call Committee had an update from Bishop Trish as follows:

Recently, the Conference of Bishops met, as did the National Church Council. We talked about the shortage of pastors quite a bit as this problem affects us across Canada!

What are we working on?

- 1. The Conference of Bishops is actively working to inquire with US Bishops as to people who may wish to come to Canada.*
- 2. We are also working to simplify the process for interested pastors from African countries as we have had several inquiries from there. (Presently, it is a long and complicated process to get "approved" here.)*
- 3. We are working on a sort of "apprenticeship" type training for new pastors. and finally,*
- 4. We are hoping to have an experiment wherein lay people preside at Holy Communion, but this has not been approved yet.*

None of these are immediate solutions, but they are movement in the right direction.

This is encouraging but does not provide any short-term solution to LCOS's Call process to find a full-time pastor.

The Call Committee is always interested in hearing from the congregation and answering your questions either by email at gmihaichuk@me.com or by contacting any of the Call Committee members directly: Carolyn Anderson; Brent Anderson; Kathy Gibson; Dale Mass; Terry Lee McKay; Garry Mihaichuk; Bob Montgomery and Keith Rude.

Thanks to all of the congregation for your prayers and support for the Call Committee and this very important work.

Yours in Christ

Garry Mihaichuk

Palm Sunday Sermon by Pastor Margaret Koizumi

Palm and Passion Sunday

Matthew 26:14—27:66

Rev. Margaret Koizumi

As a child, I hated swimming.

I don't know if any of you may know, but I am not really a swimmer. I am someone who can manage to stay afloat long enough to get to the side, to find an edge, to grab hold of something secure. I can float a little on my back, but only if I relax. That has always seemed so backward to me. When you feel unsafe, your instinct is to tense up, to work harder, to kick more, to fight the water. But that only makes things worse. To float, you have to do the very thing that feels least natural. You have to release. You have to trust.

And that is hard.

Because when you feel like you are going under, every part of you wants to clench. Your jaw clenches. Your shoulders tighten. Your breathing gets shallow. Your whole body says, "Do something. Fix it. Control it. Get yourself out."

I think many communities of faith know something about that feeling.

There are seasons in the life of a congregation when it can feel less like walking confidently forward and more like trying to stay afloat. You are tired. You are uncertain. You are disappointed. You have been waiting. You have been praying. You have been trying to be faithful. There have been good people helping, caring, filling in, preaching, visiting, leading. There has been effort from leaders, effort from your bishop, effort from the wider church, effort from this congregation. And still, the pastor you hoped would come has not come.

And on top of the waiting, there is strain. Conflict. Frustration. A sense that perhaps the wider church no longer feels familiar. A sense of distance from decisions, language, and directions that feel unsettling or unrecognizable. Some of you may be asking not only, "Who will lead us?" but also, "Who are we now?" and even, "Do we still belong?"

That is a heavy place to be.

And so we come today to the Passion according to Matthew, and we discover that Holy Week is not neat, strong, or composed. It is full of clenching. Full of fear. Full of grief. Full of misunderstanding. Full of people reaching for control.

Judas reaches for control and betrays.

The disciples reach for certainty and ask, "Surely not I, Lord?"

Peter reaches for loyalty, but his brave words cannot carry the weight of what is coming. The crowds reach for outrage.

Pilate reaches for self-protection.

The religious leaders reach for order.

Even in Gethsemane, Jesus friends cannot keep watch. They cannot stay present. They cannot bear the weight of the moment.

Palm Sunday Sermon, continued

And Jesus himself is not distant from all this pain. Matthew does not give us a Christ untouched by anguish. Jesus is grieved. Troubled. Sorrowful. He falls to the ground in prayer. He does not move toward the cross with cold detachment, but with tears, with dread, with honesty, with trust.

That matters.

Because sometimes Christians imagine faithfulness means never being shaken. Never being angry. Never being weary. Never being disappointed. Never asking hard questions. Never feeling abandoned.

But that is not what this story tells us.

This story tells us that faith can exist right in the middle of anguish.

This story tells us that holiness does not always look triumphant. Sometimes it looks like staying. Sometimes it looks like praying when no easy answer comes. Sometimes it looks like refusing to return violence for violence. Sometimes it looks like entrusting yourself to God when everything around you feels fractured.

And that may be the word this congregation most needs to hear.

You are in a season where it would be very easy to define yourselves by frustration. Frustration with the call process. Frustration with church structures. Frustration with what feels too unfamiliar, too far from what once felt steady and clear. Frustration with one another. Frustration with how long this has all taken.

And some of that frustration is real. Some of it comes from grief. Some of it comes from love. Some of it comes from longing for faithfulness. Some of it comes from wanting the church to be trustworthy and grounded and true.

But the Passion story cautions us about what happens when fear and disappointment take over the center.

Because once fear sits on the throne, people stop listening.

Once fear sits on the throne, every difference feels like betrayal.

Once fear sits on the throne, we begin protecting ourselves more than loving one another. Once fear sits on the throne, we may still use religious language, but our hearts become smaller, harsher, more suspicious.

And that is not the way of Christ.

The Christ we meet in Matthew does not gather his frightened followers by increasing their fear. He does not secure their loyalty by humiliation. He does not preserve the truth through domination. He remains steadfast in love even as others fail him.

That does not mean beliefs do not matter. They do matter. Faithfulness matters. Truth matters. Discernment matters. The church should not be casual about the gospel. But neither can the church be the church without the character of Christ. And the character of Christ in this story is humility, mercy, endurance, truthfulness, and trust in the Father even when the path ahead is painful.

Palm Sunday Sermon, continued

So perhaps the question for this congregation is not only, "What kind of church body are we connected to?" but also, "What kind of people will we be while we wait?"

Will we be a people who only tighten our grip, or will we become a people who learn again how to trust?

Will we be a people who let disappointment harden us, or will we let suffering deepen us?

Will we be a people who demand certainty before we remain faithful, or will we discover that Christ is present even in the unresolved?

Because that is one of the great truths of this Passion story. Jesus is not absent from the place of confusion and heartbreak. He is in it. He is betrayed in it. He is abandoned in it. He is mocked in it. He suffers in it. He enters fully into the very places where human beings feel most let down, most divided, most powerless.

Which means this congregation does not wait alone.

Christ is here in the waiting.

Christ is here in the conflict.

Christ is here in the fatigue.

Christ is here in the conversations after council meetings, in the anxiety about the future, in the fear that things are changing too much, in the grief for what has been lost, in the longing for a shepherd, in the continued effort to remain a people gathered around Word and Sacrament.

And maybe that is where hope begins. Not in having everything resolved. Not in getting immediate clarity. Not in finally winning every argument. But in knowing that Christ has entered this very place and has not abandoned his church.

Not this congregation. Not now.

The cross reveals many things, but one of them is this: God does not save by avoiding suffering, but by entering it. God does not redeem by standing far off, but by drawing near. God does not hold the church together by giving it perfect leaders or easy circumstances, but by giving it Christ. And Christ, even now, is enough.

Not because the questions are small. Not because the conflict is imagined. Not because transition is easy. But because Christ is faithful where we are not. Christ is patient where we are reactive.

Christ is merciful where we are wounded. Christ is steady where we are unsteady.

The church has always lived by that mercy.

Not by its own perfection. Not by flawless agreement. Not by securing a future through sheer force of will. But by the mercy of God.

So maybe this is a season not only of waiting for a pastor, but of being formed. Formed in patience. Formed in charity. Formed in humility. Formed in the deep recognition that the church belongs first not to us, but to Jesus Christ.

That does not erase your concerns. It does not make every institutional frustration disappear. It does not solve the call process today. But it does call us back to the heart of the gospel. And the heart of the gospel is not: "Hold everything together by your own strength."

Palm Sunday Sermon, continued

The heart of the gospel is: "Trust the One who held fast to you all the way to the cross."
So perhaps, in this season, the invitation is something like floating.

Not passivity. Not indifference. Not pretending things are fine when they are not.

But a holy unclenching.
A loosening of the jaw.
A releasing of the shoulders.
A deeper breath.

A remembering that the church has never been sustained by panic.

Only by grace.

And grace is here.

Grace is here in the pastors who have served you well in this interim season.
Grace is here in the bishop who continues to labor with you.

Grace is here in the leaders who keep showing up.

Grace is here in those who are frustrated and still remain.

Grace is here in your hymns, your prayers, your fellowship, your grief, your longing.

Grace is here because Christ is here.

And the One who was betrayed, denied, abandoned, crucified, and laid in a tomb is still the Lord of the church.

So dear friends, do not give your fear the final word. Do not let conflict become your identity. Do not let disappointment define the future more than the cross does.

Stay near to Christ.

Stay near to one another.

Speak truthfully, but speak charitably.

Hold convictions, but hold them with humility.

Grieve what is hard, but do not surrender hope.

Because the Passion is not the end of the story, but it is the place where we learn again who God is.

A God who does not let go.

A God who remains faithful.

A God who meets us in the darkest night and carries the church through even this.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Financial Secretary Report

Looking for your 2025 Tax Receipt??

Tax receipts for 2025 giving were issued on January 28, 2026. They were sent via an automated email message to all who have an email address on file. For ones without an email address or who do not have a printer, a paper copy was mailed to your home address. Please contact Janet Perchthaler at financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca or 403-702-6671 with any questions.



Why is it so important to make a donation pledge to LCOS each year?

Donation pledges allow the LCOS Church Board to forecast what funds will be available each year and to make informed decisions regarding running the church operations. Thank you to those that have already made a donation pledge for 2026. If you have not yet made a donation pledge for 2026, it's not too late. Please consider doing so by e-mailing Janet Perchthaler at financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca.

The following methods and percentages of giving for February 2026 were:

Cash:	2.8%	- 12 givers
Cheques:	26.6%	- 10 givers
Interac E-transfer:	52.6%	- 24 givers
Loose Cash:	1.4%	
Online via Realm:	0.4%	- 2 givers
Pre-Authorized Remittance Program:	16.2%	- 16 givers

Financial Status – February 2026 Year-to-Date:

Revenue (offering & rentals)	\$44,639
Expenses	<u>\$35,868</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 8,771</u>

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. 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. **



April Worship Services

Thursday, April 2 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service (Communion)

Friday, April 3 7:00 pm Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 5 10:00 am Easter Service (Communion)

Followed by Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 12 10:00 am Worship Service

Sunday, April 19 10:00 am Worship Service (Communion)

Sunday, April 26 10:00 am Worship Service

Kids Church 11:00 am

Office Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



NEW

OFFICE HOURS

Monday & Tuesday

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Contact Judy for access to church outside of regular office hours.

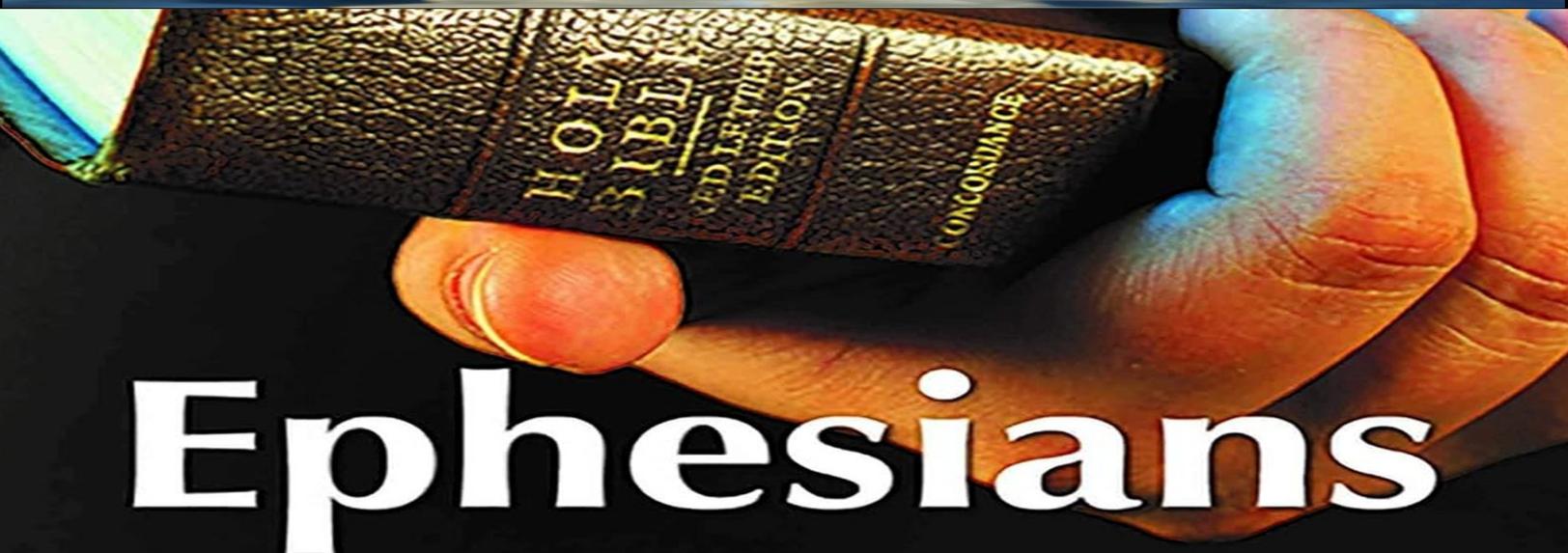
Cover to Cover Bible Study

*Thursdays @ 7:00 pm
Fireside Room*



Discovery Bible Study

Thursday Evenings 7:00 pm
Library



BIBLE STUDY WITH PASTOR LEE
Tuesday, April 14 @ 7:00 pm

Kids CHURCH

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!!



We continue to accept food donations for the Acadia Food Pantry at LCOS 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!

Calgary

Neighbour Day!

Saturday, June 20

*Join Us at 9:00 AM for
Community Fun & Connection!*

Plant Giveaway & More!



Help Shape Our Worship Experience

Here I am to worship,
Here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that
You're my God.



Join the Slide Team!

Volunteers Needed to Create Worship Slides!

Contact Judy for Details

Did you know...

Ladies' Monthly Breakfast

In February a group of ladies from LCOS gathered at the Carriage House on the final Friday of the month for our first Ladies' Breakfast of 2026. Despite the weather not cooperating there were 9 of us who enjoyed 2 hours of conversation and laughter. Many expressed an interest in joining the group following our February breakfast and, we are happy to announce, that 14 ladies took part in our March breakfast

We have decided to make this a monthly activity. A sign-up sheet is available in the Place of Welcome for anyone who wishes to join this group.

Questions can be directed to Adriana Mass or Judy McDonald.

We look forward to seeing you on April 24th !



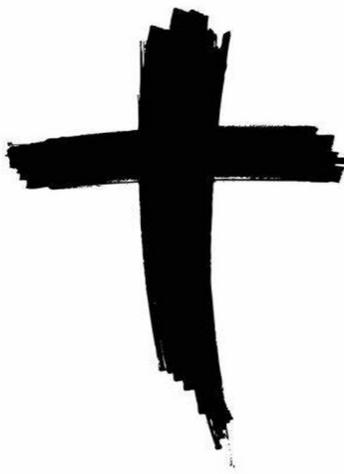
All ladies are invited to join us for breakfast.

What's Been Happening at LCOS



What's Been Happening at LCOS





The Search

Asking the Big Questions

Youth Grade 8 -12

Meetings every second Thursday at 5:30 pm.

April meetings - April 9 & 23

Currently studying the book of Hebrews.

Contact Kari Paul, Isaria Kwayu or

office2@oursaviourchurch.ca for details.



**Fundraiser to support our youth attending
Synod Youth Gathering in May at Kuriakos**

SILENT BAKE AUCTION

Speak to Kari, Isaria or Judy for details



Sunday, April 12 @ 11:00 am

“

**For I was hungry
and you gave me
something to eat, ”**

Matthew 25:35

**Sign-up
to supply food
and/or serve on
the 3rd Friday of each month.**

Feed the Hungry

Feed the Hungry

On the third Friday of each month a group of LCOS volunteers serves food to those in need at the Chinook Transit Station.

Volunteers should meet at the church by 3:30 to load food into vehicles to take to the station.

We ask that hot food (stews, soups, casseroles) be packaged in advance in individual sealed containers. A supply of containers is available at the church.

Cold food items (fruit, snack bars, cookies, muffins) and drinks can be dropped off at the church during office hours and should be individually packaged.

A monthly sign up sheet for those wishing to volunteer is located in the Place of Welcome.

Along with food, clothing is accepted throughout the month, and can be dropped off in the Feed the Hungry boxes located by the east entrance of the church. These boxes are specifically labelled and we ask that items be placed in the appropriate box for ease of distribution. Items accepted includes hats, socks, footwear, mittens, blankets, coats, pants and sweaters.



THE Brenda Strafford CENTRE

The Brenda Strafford Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence has a mandate to contribute to the creation of a safe community for abused women and their children through quality services and in collaboration with community resources.

The Brenda Strafford Centre provides:

- * 34 self-contained second stage shelter apartments
- * 51 self-contained affordable housing units
- * Individual and group counseling for women and children
- * Weekly support groups for women and children
- * Basic Needs Support
- * Scheduled and Respite Childcare
- * Follow-up and outreach
- * Housing referrals
- * Child & Youth Programs

The centre depends on the generous donations from LCOS to supply their need for new pillows throughout the year. Again this spring LCOS will be accepting donations of new pillows for the Brenda Strafford Centre, as well as new towels, bedding and blankets.



GAMES GROUP

Join us the first and third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 for fellowship, snacks & fun!



The Greatest Story Ever

In the Bible, the Easter season starts out like a prize-winning novel. There are so many foreshadowing events that draw us into the plot, reeling us in as events unfold, drawing us closer and closer to what we expect will be a fantastic climax. But that anticipated dramatic ending, that “Ah-hah!” moment, accompanied by drumrolls and crashing cymbals, doesn’t materialize. God doesn’t come down from heaven in a cloud to rescue his son, Jesus, in a deus ex machina moment. It’s not an impressive finish; instead, it seems rather flat and anticlimactic. It leaves us wondering “Wait, is that it? It can’t be! What’s going to happen next?”

“He is not here.” (Mark 16:6)

If this were a movie, this point would mark the end of the show: a cliffhanger finish to leave you with the feeling that you absolutely must be there on opening night when the sequel is released. If it were a novel, it would be the first book in a series, enticing you to spend the bucks to buy the next book, and the next, and the next.

But this is not a movie or a novel; it’s our lives as Christians: the plot begins with Genesis; the Easter story is centered in the main body of the work. But there is no ending to the tale because we are the living, breathing, walking, talking examples of God’s word in the world today. Our lives are now the Current Events of the “Jesus Story” and how we write the next chapters depends on what we do with our awareness of God’s presence in our lives.

But how do we know what to do? Where do we find that information? Who do we ask?

Within the walls of the library are a multitude of books, sources of information, guidebooks and examples by others who have experienced these same questions and decided to dig deeper to find the answers. Browse the shelves of Discipleship (Section 37), Christian Living (Section 22), Evangelism & Stewardship (Section 36) or Global Justice (Section 35).

Go make a difference in the world. Start with a good book. In fact, start with the greatest story ever, the Bible (Section 28) and follow up with studying that book with Bible Studies (Section 30). Don’t sit back and wait for the answers to come to you.

With a happy heart & book-filled arms,

Carolyn Walker



Annual Walk, Run or Roll for Love



**Walk or Run or Roll 5 km through
Confederation Park on April 25, 2026
Sponsor a Walker or Runner / Support by
Donations**

**8:30 am Registration
Faith Lutheran Church
1903 – 19 Avenue NW, Calgary
9:30 am Walk & Run Begin
Drinks and snacks will be provided**

Tax Receipts will be issued for sponsorship donations of \$20 or more for physically mailed receipts or \$5 or more if you provide an email.

**Pledge forms are available from our web page or
Lutheran Hospital Ministries – Southern Alberta
66 – 7 Street NE, Calgary, AB T2E 4B7
Phone: (403) 264-4045
email: lhmsac@gmail.com
Website: www.lhmsa.ca**

**THE WALK WILL TAKE PLACE COME RAIN OR SHINE, OR
SNOW SO DRESS FOR THE WEATHER**

Lutheran Hospital Ministries Suicide Prevention and Intervention is Possible

Learn How: June 6, 2026, 11:30 am in the basement of St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Please join us for a BBQ luncheon (hamburgers, hot dogs and salads) followed by the talk.

Please RSVP by May 29, 2026 at lhmsac@gmail.com or call the office at 403-264-4045 and tell me about any allergies so we can accommodate.

IN SUPPORT OF



HOMETOGETHER

A NIGHT OF WORSHIP

WITH **PAUL BALOCHE & MACK BROCK**

May 8th 2026
CALGARY
Southview Church

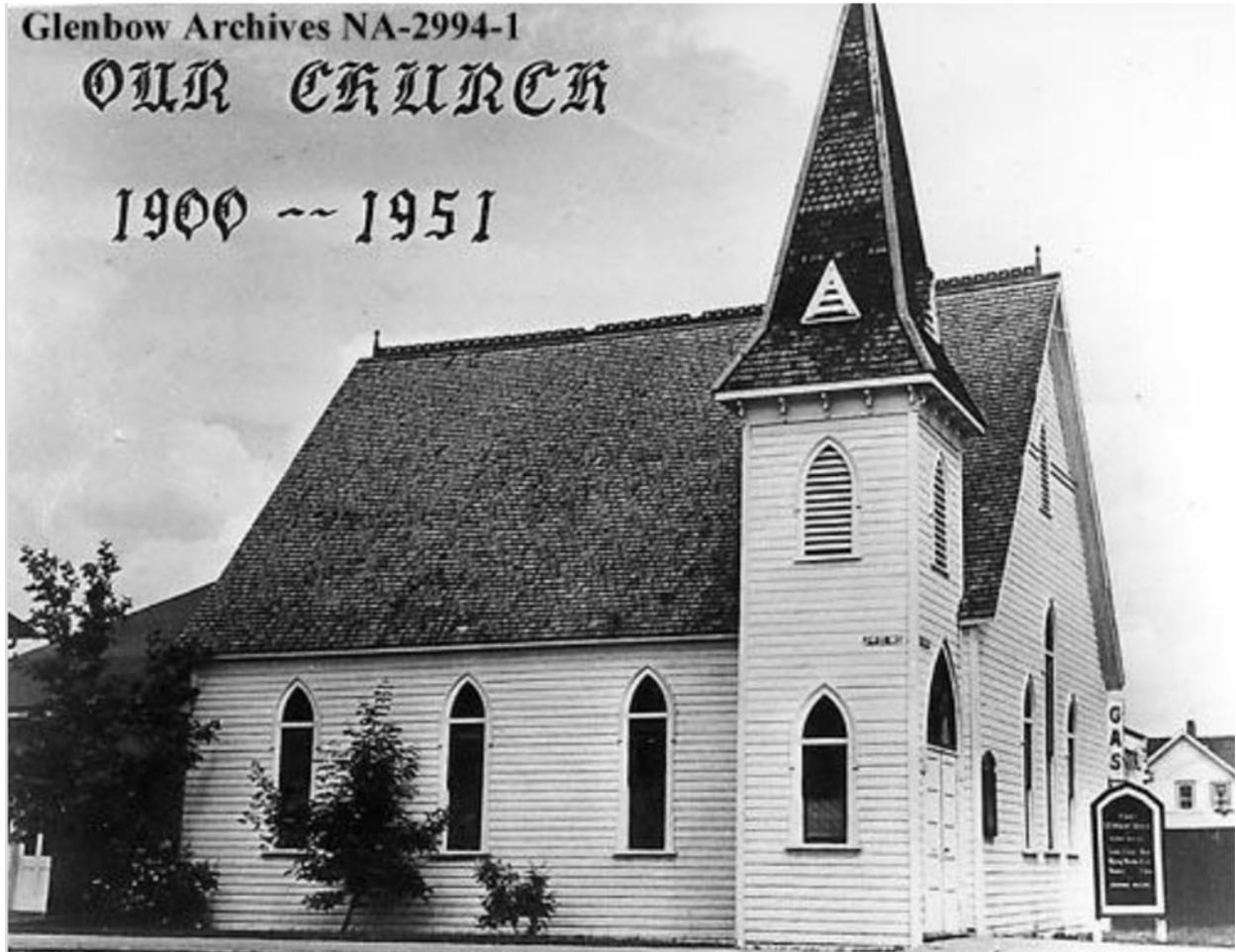
TheSeed.ca/hometogether-cgy



SCAN ME



Time Capsule



The first Calgary Lutheran church building (not just a basement) was purchased for \$1000 in October 1900 from First Baptist, 6 Ave 2 St SW Address 240-6 Ave West and called Swedish Lutheran in the city directories. The first resident pastor came in 1905 and a parsonage was built on the church property in 1906.

Calgary went through land speculation and a building boom in 1913, then stock market speculation when the Dingman well struck oil on May 14, 1914 at Turner Valley. Many family savings accounts were invested in worthless stocks.

By 1914, the membership registered 67 adults and 39 children. There was no resident minister for the next five years. Men who worked in construction during the boom were unemployed and volunteered to fight in World War 1.

The Danish Lutheran Congregation was listed at the same location in the 1920's directories with a different pastor. The name changed to First Swedish in 1925. Dedicated small groups – Sunday School, Women's Missionary Society, Ladies' Aid, Luther League and Brotherhood have regular meetings and helped with financial commitments during the depression years of the 1930's. A new minister arrived in 1940.

Time Capsule, continued

In the 1943 directory, the name was First Evangelical Lutheran. Employment conditions in Calgary improved after the end of WWII. By the end of 1949, membership was 142 communicants and average attendance at morning worship was 89. Wood and coal were used for heating. The church building had no running water. Water was carried from the parsonage or a garage on the west side of the church. The site was sold to the garage owner and work began on a new building in January 1951.

In the 1952 directory, First Evangelical was listed at 7 Ave & 9 Street West. By the 1964 directory, the listing was First Lutheran 1001-7 Ave SW. In 1955, the congregation became self-sustaining for the first time. 2300 young people from Canada, the USA and more distant places attended the Youth Conference.

By 1957, membership was 276 and average attendance 188. During the 1960's new congregations were being organized in residential areas of the city and high-rise buildings were replacing downtown homes. "The Lutheran Legacy, Growth of Calgary's Lutheran Churches" was written by C. M. Cherland for a series of Century Calgary Publication in 1975.

1982, the address was 8 Ave and 69 Street. The current address (March 2026) of First Lutheran is 7102-14 Ave SW. Lutherans celebrated the 500th anniversary of Luther's birth on Sunday Oct 9, 1983. Herald newspaper Oct 8, 1983 pg 116.

At 11 a.m. Sunday, Calgary Lutherans from 23 churches and three synods will gather at the Jubilee Auditorium for a joint service of thanksgiving to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Luther's birth in 1483.

Pastor Val Hennig of the Lutheran Triune Congregation says Luther would never have wanted a church named after him.

He saw himself as a reformer in the Roman Catholic Church, not the founder of a new church, says Hennig.

The Calgary service will mark the first time Lutheran congregations in the city have got together and cancelled regular services in favor of a joint gathering.

Submitted by Alice Rodier

Bishop's Message



April 2026

Dear beloved in Christ,

Easter begins in darkness and cold, behind a seemingly immovable stone. Before anyone expects it, God is already at work long before dawn, while guards stand watch against the very possibility of renewal.

This is no polished or pretty day. A tomb is still a tomb. Even a small stone is very heavy. So let us not pretend that Easter is merely a “feel-good” moment. It is a day of grief, shock, and confusion. Women run with impossible, breathless news. Others hesitate, unable to receive it. All of this belongs to Easter. All of it is part of how God realigns the human heart.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

We now live in an unfolding season of resurrection. We know that Good Friday did not have the final word. Life does. Freedom does. Love does.

And yet, we still feel the pull of forces that draw us back into oppression, rigidity, and captivity shaped by shame, exclusion, and isolation. There are voices that would wrap the cross in the banners of nation and power, shrinking the boundless love of Christ into something guarded and small. But the risen Christ refuses containment. Jesus crosses thresholds, breathes peace into fearful rooms, and gathers people from every language and land.

There are distortions as well. The Gospel reduced to moral advice. The cross softened into sentiment. The resurrection treated as metaphor rather than miracle. But Easter resists being tamed. It is not about improvement. It is about new creation. Not a gentle adjustment, but a holy upheaval in which even death is undone.

This is God's wide-open invitation into a different way of being. The Gospel does not belong to any nation, political group, or even the Church itself. It is for all creation. It declares that life is not accidental, love is not optional, and hope is not naïve. The resurrection calls us awake.

Let us not become people who speak of faith without being shaped by it. This Easter, may we encounter the living Christ who still meets, teaches, and transforms.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Bishop Trish Schermund

Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCIC



1 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Girl Guides 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	2 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 7:00 pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	3 7:00 pm GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE	4 7:00 am WW
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5 EASTER Holy Communion 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Margaret Koizumi) 11:00 am Easter Breakfast 	6 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 10:00 am Ladies Small Group 6:30 pm TMS Rehearsal	7 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 1:00 pm Games Group 6:00 pm Esso Banquet	8 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Girl Guides 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	9 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 5:30 pm Youth Bible Study 7:00 pm Discovery Bible Study 7:00 pm Cover to Cover Bible Study	10 8:00 am WW	11 7:00 am WW 9:00 am Private Book Study
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12 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Lee Woolery) New Members Sunday 11:00 am Kids Church 11:00 am Silent Bake Auction	13 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 10:00 am Ladies Small Group 6:30 pm TMS Rehearsal	14 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Bonavista Estates AGM 7:00 pm Bible Study with Pastor Lee	15 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Girl Guides 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	16 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 7:00 pm Discovery Bible Study 7:00 pm Cover to Cover Bible Study	17 8:00 am WW 3:00 pm Feed The Hungry	18 7:00 am WW 9:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:30 am Board Meeting
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19 Holy Communion 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Lee Woolery) 11:00 am Kids Church	20 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 10:00 am Ladies Small Group 6:30 pm TMS Rehearsal	21 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 1:00 pm Games Group	22 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Girl Guides 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	23 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 5:30 pm Youth Bible Study 7:00 pm Discovery Bible Study 7:00 pm Cover to Cover Bible Study	24 8:00 am WW 10:00 am Ladies' Breakfast	25 7:00 am WW
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26 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Stan Helton) 11:00 am Hotdog Lunch Invite a Friend Sunday	27 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 10:00 am Ladies Small Group 10:30 am Flock Care Meeting 6:30 pm TMS Rehearsal	28 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	29 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Meeting 6:30 pm Girl Guides 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Meeting 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	30 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 7:00 pm Discovery Bible Study 7:00 pm Cover to Cover Bible Study		
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