

CROSSBEAMS

Lutheran Church of the Cross



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Beloved of God,





This month brings us well into summer and may we all find periods of delight in the days of sunshine, calm and cool evenings, and adventures which feed our spirits. Summer is usually the season where we may spend time barbequing and entertaining and welcoming friends and strangers alike. This gives us great opportunities of broadening our circle of relationships and strengthening our bonds with each other and opening doors to new connections. This also offers us occasions of caring for others and others caring for us.

My mind wanders back to some of the folks who I had thought truly exemplified what it means to be a caring in the midst of community. For members of the church who took me in when I was a seminary student in need of a meal in Saskatoon. For our first neighbors in Edmonton who made sure we felt safe and welcome as a queer couple moving into the neighborhood. For so many of you that go out of your way to welcome and get to know visitors to our congregation - I am so glad for the welcoming place you are helping build here at ELCOC. I'm sure that there are many folks which you could also name and when you think of them - and I'd invite you to share how important their kindness or care has been to you.

So, my thoughts for all of you as summer sets upon us is for all of us to go a little deeper into relationship building, into connecting with those who might need some care this season. The world will be a better place for these efforts and our hearts will beat to the rhythm of our caring creator who guides us on our way. Peace,

Pastor Lindsey

Connect with us:

-  403-255-4792
-  churchofthecross@shaw.ca
-  10620 Elbow Drive SW
Calgary AB, T2W 1G4
-  churchofthecross.ca

COUNCIL UPDATE



Council had the pleasure of approving a second round of projects recommended by the Mission Endowment Fund for this year. These projects reflect our calling to serve our neighbours in practical and creative ways:

- Purchase of a grill and other items to support the Stampede breakfast
- Support for a writing workshop in September
- A monthly family-friendly community campfire night in June, July, August and September in partnership with Southwood Community Association
- Repairing the Peace Pole and replacing the plaque vandalized last summer

It is a joy for council to support initiatives such as these, which illustrate the many ways our church community continues to live out its faith in service to those around us.

Pastor Lindsey will draft a letter reflecting the church's position on the situation in Palestine. This letter will be made available to individual members of the congregation to sign. Thank you to Glen S. for encouraging this faithful public witness.

Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids recently sent a letter indicating community kitchens like the one ELCOC has run for many years will cease to exist. Consultations will be held to explore what this means for those who have faithfully dedicated themselves to this form of volunteerism.

Council thanked Hanna J. for her contributions to Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross. Hanna's impact on our church has been felt in many ways, including her leadership in establishing the Property Administration Committee and the Rental Subcommittee. Her faithful service and presence at the council table will be missed.

Council's next meeting will be held on July 3, followed by a July 4 retreat dedicated to exploring faithful and practical ways to improve our financial situation. Members of the congregation are encouraged to share any ideas they have for this with a member of council.

In Christ, Nadine N.
Secretary of ELCOC Church Council

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Church of the Cross Financials through May 31, 2026				
	2026 Budget	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	May
Income	\$273,600.00	\$114,000.00	\$99,213.62	\$20,805.15
Offering Income			\$86,365.22	\$16,856.75
Rental Income			\$12,848.40	\$3,948.40
Expenses	\$296,201.00	\$123,417.08	\$135,371.31	\$21,079.73
Balance	(\$22,601.00)	(\$9,417.08)	(\$36,157.69)	(\$274.58)
General Fund Balance			\$10,391.88	
Furnace Fund			\$66,559.18	
Furnace Fund (Gov. Grant)			\$78,789.00	
Building Maintenance Fund			\$50,996.60	
Other Designated/Passthrough Funds			\$9,373.04	

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation through your donations!

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

- Safely donate online with your credit card using our church website: www.churchofthecross.ca
- You can e-transfer through your online banking to churchofthecross@shaw.ca at any time.
- 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 dropping your offering off in person: Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

Further Call for Applications 2026

The Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) is extending a call for applications this year. There is sufficient money carried over from previous years to consider further mission project submission until September 30th. Apply using the link from our website or by contacting the office for the form to be emailed to you. The objective of the ELCOC Endowment Fund program is to enlarge the mission of our Church by supporting current and future mission ministries in the areas of Social Ministry, Outreach, Education, Worship and Youth. For more information, please check the website or contact an MEF committee member: Stephen Maunula, Archie Wells, Jean Dacko, Betty Jane Hegerat or Nadine Sisk.

Join Us - All are Welcome

Stampede
PANCAKE
Breakfast
 10620 Elbow Drive SW



July 12, 2026 • 11:30am - 1:00pm

We welcome all to attend our Annual Stampede Breakfast, Sunday July 12, 2026 from 11:30am - 1:00pm at Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Join us in the church hall - there will be enough pancakes (with gluten-free options) for all!

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS A compassionate community following the ways of Jesus embracing diversity, love, and service.



BREW CREW

Second & Fourth
 Wednesday
 10:30 AM

Join us at Church of the Cross this summer for connection, conversation, and community with our Brew Crew! We will plan to meet outside in the north court yard as weather permits at 10:30am. We will have snacks, coffee, tea, and water on hand for those who gather.



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Calgary  

SOUTHWOOD S'MORES & GAMES

Bring a friend and a lawn chair and join us for a fun summer evening of games, s'mores, and community! Everyone is welcome!

FRIDAY, JULY 10
7:00PM - 8:30PM

Lutheran Church of the Cross
 10630 Elbow Drive SW North Parking Lot

Kids under 12 must be supervised by an adult



COMMUNITY BELONGING ROCK PAINTING

ALL AGES WELCOME!
 KIDS UNDER 12 MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT

Come paint rocks with encouraging messages, symbols of belonging, cultural designs, or artwork that reflects what community means to you! The painted rocks will become part of a shared space at the Church and the Southwood Community Garden.

THURSDAY JULY 30
1:00PM - 3:00PM

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
10630 ELBOW DRIVE SW
EAST PARKING LOT

Please let us know if you plan on joining so we have enough supplies!
 sarah.thomas@calgary.ca or 368-889-5168

Church of the Cross Summer Sharing

We would love to hear from our friends and members this summer as you rest, relax, spend time in God's good creation! Send us a photo and an update of your summer experiences and we will share them on our narthex!




EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS



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: July 15, 2026

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS

SUMMER STUDENT UPDATE:

What have we been up to this summer?

Hi everyone! This is Wren and Claudia giving an update on this month at the church. It has been an eventful almost three weeks for us here, we have both loved getting to know the members of this community in new ways throughout these weeks. We've worked on baking snacks and hosting the Brew Crew on Wednesday's as well as getting ready for the VBC program in July! The Smore's and Games night was also a highlight for us thus far, as well as getting the art room ready for the kids. We have been working on prepping spaces for rental and sanding the peaceoiles for their renewal! We can't believe our time is almost up. We look forward to serving with you at the ELCOC pancake breakfast!

Blessings, Wren and Claudia

VBC: CREATION QUEST 2026

Canadian Lutheran World Relief

We had a wonderful week at VBC the start of July at ELCOC! We had ten youth and just as many helpers and workers to make it all possible. This year we used the Creation Quest materials sponsored by Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). Our wonderful summer students worked to plan and facilitate our four day morning camp with songs, games, crafts, snacks, and activities. we had a blast and wish to also thank the synod summer students for sharing their gifts with us!





STEPHEN MINISTRY

CELEBRATING OUR SHARED MINISTRY

This month we join in celebrating with Sasha C. as she is installed as a Stephen Leader at ELCOC and with the ten members of our congregation who completed the course: Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts. What a joy it has been to see the diversity of gifts that are so actively present within our congregation.

For more information about Stephen Ministry at Church of the Cross speak with: Hilary G. Sasha C. or Pastor Lindsey



REMEMBERING IN GREAT LOVE



"Lord, now let your servant go in peace for my eyes have seen your salvation."
Luke 2:29

In loving memory of

**BRIGITTE
CALKHOVEN**

JANUARY 14, 1936 - JUNE 18, 2026

Service of Remembrance
Friday July 3 at 2:00pm
Lutheran Church of the Cross





Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Will you stand with the people of the Lake Chad Basin?

The Lake Chad catchment area is the largest inland water basin in Africa, but today, the ecosystem is fragile and degrading quickly as it faces a web of related challenges. Warming temperatures are hurting agricultural production of crops like plantains, and the World Bank projects that temperatures in the region will increase 1.5 times faster than the global average.

Lake Chad has shrunk by 90% since 1963 and continues shrinking, due to both local human activity—like deforestation and unsustainable water use—and global climate effects, like shorter rainy seasons. Meanwhile, overgrazing and pollution have contributed to the disappearance of valuable species. Farmers say they can no longer predict rainfall. With less rain and hotter temperatures, hunger and disease are both on the rise, while livelihoods disappear. Reduced income for farmers means pulling children from school, which disproportionately affects girls.

At a household level, families are experiencing hunger, a loss of income, real safety concerns, and kids who aren't going to school. But for these families to move past crisis and into sustainable futures, these symptoms can't be addressed in isolation. The issues faced by the people living around Lake Chad are complex—because the system that supported life in the area for so many centuries is rapidly unravelling. So, to move toward sustainable futures, we have to work with communities and think about the system that supports life in the area as a whole.

Can a failing ecosystem be restored?

Together with thousands of local farmers and community leaders, we want to tip the balance back toward natural environments that can flourish, protect life, and support healthy communities—and in the process, make a dent in the global fight to limit climate change. We're doing that through an initiative called Nature-Based Solutions, together with our partners in Lutheran World Federation. Nature-based solutions take a big, ambitious, multi-faceted approach that boils down to a simple premise: if we take care of creation, it can take care of us. We're so grateful to be part of an exciting new partnership with funding from Global Affairs Canada, focused on regions where ecosystems are showing the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

The Project

We designed this project through consultation with hundreds of families in Cameroon and Chad, and it'll be carried out alongside thousands of local farmers as we restore land, reforest, push adoption of sustainable farming and water management practices, and include voices that have been left out.





Canadian Lutheran World Relief

We expect that after two-and-a-half years of this project, over 128,000 people will benefit directly from an improved ecosystem—with better nutrition, water access, crop yields, and sustainable futures—and an additional 640,000 people will be able to live and work in ecosystems that will have been restored. As we restore and transform ecosystems where life is at threat, we can put food on tables, prevent disease, limit disaster, support sustainable, growing economies, and help limit how much our world warms. Our thanks to Global Affairs Canada and to all our Lutheran partners and friends across Canada who are making this work possible. Make a gift now to support this work, or find out now how your church can get involved!

How your family can help!

You can partner with farmers around Lake Chad as they fight back against climate change by making a donation to CLWR Lake Chad this July! We will be accepting donations through offerings or envelopes for the project. Donations are tax recitable. A donation of \$50.00 can rejuvenate an entire acre of land around Lake Chad, restoring entire ecosystems, reviving soil, reforesting land and bringing water back to where it belongs. The best news of all is that every \$50 we raise will be matched by the Canadian Government to further our reach.

VBC raised \$50 to support this project and the kids would like to challenge the congregation to add to this total!

If you wish to make a donation via credit card you can do so via CLWR website:

<https://donate.clwr.org/product/GFTH25/transform-an-acre>

Thank you for your support of this endeavor and Canadian Lutheran World Relief's ministry.

We look forward to sharing the results of this project with you in August!

In Christ, Pastor Lindsey





Summer 2026

Grace and peace to you in this summer season.

Summer arrives and with it a change of pace! In a culture that often measures our worth by productivity, summer can remind us that God also calls us to rest, delight, and attention. Creation itself teaches this rhythm. Seeds grow without hurry. Rivers keep their steady course. Birds sing without agendas or schedules. Even Jesus stepped away to rest, pray, and be renewed.

Be encouraged this summer to live into a gentler pace. Make room for sabbath moments. Sit on a deck with your morning coffee and notice the breeze moving through the trees. Walk beside a lake or river and pray. Watch children play. Share meals slowly. Read Scripture outdoors. Let wonder interrupt your routines.

As you rest and travel, I also encourage you to remain connected to your faith community in creative ways. Summer schedules can scatter us, but community continues to matter deeply. Our congregations are relationships that sustain us, pray for us, and help shape our life together in Christ.

There are many simple ways to stay connected:

- Attend worship when you are in town, even if your summer routines are different.
- Remember your offerings through the summer,
- When travelling, visit another congregation to experience something new.
- Send a postcard to your congregation.
- Congregations could give space on a bulletin board to share summer experiences.
- Check in on social media
- Join an outdoor worship service, Bible study, or campfire gathering
- Share dog walking or pet sitting.
- Share favourite summer recipes,
- Connect by offering child care, yard care, home maintenance,
- Spend time at one of our church camps.

Summer does not ask us to abandon our faith practices. It invites us to carry them differently. A little more barefoot. A little more attentive. A little more alive to grace unfolding around us. May the steadfast love of God accompany you wherever these summer days lead. In Christ,

In Christ,
Bishop Trish Schermund
Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCIC



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**

Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love

ELCIC joins in prayer following Venezuela earthquakes

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada joins with partners around the world in prayer and support following two powerful earthquakes that struck Venezuela.

On Wednesday, June 24, back-to-back earthquakes impacted communities in Venezuela, leaving many families facing uncertainty and in need of urgent support. Through its partnership with Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), the ELCIC is encouraging members to accompany those affected through prayer and support.

CLWR is responding to the earthquakes through its partnership with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), which has a presence in the region and is working alongside communities impacted by the disaster. "Our partners are already on the ground, assessing needs and preparing to respond," said CLWR in its initial update. "Your support will help provide emergency assistance to families affected by this disaster." As the response continues to develop, CLWR will continue sharing updates from partners in the region.

ELCIC National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer shared a prayer for all those impacted by the earthquakes: "Loving God, strengthen and embrace all touched by the earthquakes in Venezuela. Accompany all who grieve, who suffer, who are in pain. Support all who seek to provide care, who sit with the grieving, who search for the living. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen."

The ELCIC invites members, congregations and communities to hold the people of Venezuela in prayer, as well as all those responding with care and support.

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



SOUTHWOOD CONNECTS:



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Canyon Meadows Seniors BBQ 11am - 2pm	4 Cooking Plan 10am-1pm	5	6
7	8 Morning Meet up 10am	9 Makers Craft Night 7pm	10	11 Cook 10am-3pm	12 Smores & Games 6:00pm	13
14	15	16 SCA Board Meeting 7pm	17	18	19	20 Rhubarb Fest 1-5pm
21	22 Morning Meet up 10am	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



SCA= Southwood Community Association
 SCG= Southwood Community Garden
 For more info see www.southwoodcc.ca

Southwood Community

Calgary's Cooking

Cooking Group

Planning Meeting
 First Thursday of the Month, 10 AM -1 PM

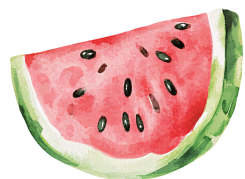
Cook
 Second Thursday of the Month, 10 AM-3 PM

Lutheran Church of the Cross
 10620 Elbow Dr. SW Calgary

For more information and to register contact Teresa:
nfo@southwoodcc.ca or apply at
www.ckpcalgary.ca/calgarys-cooking



Please contact our Community Social-worker Sarah if you have any questions about these upcoming events! sarah.thomas@calgary.ca or via phone at 368-889-5168



July 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1  Canada Day Church Office Closed	2	3 Funeral Calkhoven 2 pm ELCOC Council 7pm-9pm	4 Council Retreat 9am -3pm
5 Pentecost 6 Worship with Communion 10 AM	6 VBC 9:00am-12:00pm	7 VBC 9:00am-12:00pm	8 VBC 9:00am-12:00pm	9 VBC 9:00am-12:00pm VBC BBQ 12:00pm-1:pm	10 Southwood S'mores & Games 7:00pm-8:30pm	11
12 Stampede Sunday Worship 10 AM Pancake Breakfast 11:30am	12	13 Caring Connections 1pm - 2pm	14 Scrabble Club 1:30pm	15	16	17
18 Pentecost 8 Worship with Communion 10 AM	19	20	21 Brew Crew 10:30am-11:30am	22	23	24
25 Pentecost 9 Worship with Communion 10 AM	26	27	28	29	30 Southwood Rock Painting 1:00pm-3:00pm	31



“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken.”

– James Dent