

The background of the entire image is a dense layer of autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red. In the center, there is a rectangular area with a light beige, textured background, resembling aged paper or parchment. On this paper, the words "God is Good" are written in a large, flowing, red cursive script. The word "God" is on the top line, "is" is in the middle, and "Good" is on the bottom line. The script is elegant and somewhat stylized, with long, sweeping strokes.

The Vine
September 2026

*God
is
Good*

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!



Interim Pastor
Pastor Stan Helton



Parish Administrator
Judy McDonald
403-615-9317 cell/text
office2@oursaviourchurch.ca



Administrative Assistant
Marilee Manz
office1@oursaviourchurch.ca



Church Media Director
Mike Mihaichuk
lcos.yyc.media@gmail.com

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

Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 am Sunday School at 11:00 am



Bob



Kari

Church Board 2026

Bob Montgomery (Chair)

Nick Perchthaler (Co-Chair)

Kari Paul (Secretary)

Sophia Della Rosa

Carolyn Eng

Kathy Gibson

Isaria Kwayu

Adriana Mass

Brian Prunkle



Carolyn Eng



Kathy



Isaria



Brian



Sophia



Nick



Adriana

Instagram: lcos_youth

Website: www.oursaviourchurch.ca

Scan to donate



Pastor's Report - Transitions

Greetings, Lutheran Church of Our Saviour!

So we are going to do this!

I guess this is my first “official” pastoral act in service to our church. Yes, there will be an installation service soon, but this is the first time I can say I am your pastor. I'm looking forward to our time of serving our Lord together.

This moment might be a good place for us to reflect on the nature of transitions. William Bridges in his book on *Transitions* has discovered that every transition is characterized by three movements: the old, the new, and the dreaded middle zone, which he called the “neutral zone.” Always true of this middle space is that the old and the new are simultaneously experienced so that we are not quite out of the old but not fully planted in the new.

The biblical story is built around cycles of old, middle, and new. You are quite familiar with this in the Exodus story: slavery/wilderness/promised land; or how about the story of the life, death and burial, giving way to the resurrection of our Lord. This three-part transition is intrinsic to the story of scripture, and I would say to the way life works. We are constantly moving from old to new through the less comfortable middle. This is true whether we are dealing with a birth, baptism, confirmation, marriage, and death.

Scholar Walter Brueggemann has noticed this movement in the Psalms. He frames the three stages this way: orientation, disorientation, and reorientation. One can feel some of all three at the same time or separately. I'm drawn to these categories as I'm experiencing all of them as we set our course on our new path with you.

As Pat and I make the move toward you, we are also leaving behind over a decade of life and service in Christian education. As you may all know, I'm leaving that work and entering our life together at the same time. So, Pat and I are both excited, a bit concerned because new things are coming, and a bit sad as we let go of old things. We ask for your prayers during this season of transition.

This is an important time for our church. You have prayed for a new season; we are seeking a new season. Let's see what God has in store for us.

I'm ready; are you?

Pastor Stan

Board Report

As the leaves begin to turn and a new season begins... **a new season is also beginning at LCOS!** September 1st marks a special opportunity to welcome Pastor Stan Helton to full-time ministry as our interim Pastor. As you may have heard and read, this is an answer to many prayers and petitions to our Heavenly Father over many months. How should we respond to this gift from God? In my view it must include humbling ourselves in thanksgiving and ... perhaps re-assessing how we might assist our community by using our skills, gifts and treasure.

Please welcome Stan and Pat to our community!

Some of you are aware of the sacrifice and sustained work commitment completed by your leaders. Perhaps the greatest testament to this is that you would never hear about this from them, so... I have the pleasure of letting you know a bit about what they have been up to. First of all, members of the Call Committee and Board of Directors have all displayed diligence but... I want you to know and to honour the hard work of **Garry Mihaichuk** and **Nick Perchthaler**. In the last few years, as most of you know, my summer takes me to our family cabin in northern Saskatchewan and this summer has included extensive construction and renovation lasting all summer! While I have been otherwise occupied, Garry and Nick have been working tirelessly to complete the many elements required for Stan to begin his role with us. Regular correspondence with the Bishop and members of both Call committee and the Board, meetings with Stan and countless hours of writing, re-writing and prayerful thought have occupied a significant part of their summer activities. The result? The official start of Stan's full-time employment with LCOS. Those of you who have served on the Board are aware of the work that is involved. Try to imagine how much extra work is involved in facilitating work for someone from outside the ELCIC being accepted by the ELCIC, becoming a rostered member of the ELCIC and... finally becoming our Pastor. This has been a herculean effort led by Garry (He would say...led by God!). I hope you will extend your thanks personally to both of these servants of God and let them know you appreciate their selflessness on our behalf.

Pastor Stan's arrival begins a new chapter in the life of 'Our Saviour' church. It means each of us should consider renewing our commitment to the role we play in fulfilling our mission and vision; that means prayerfully considering our time and talents and how we might best participate in the life of the church and... it means taking a 'second look' at pledging and our offering to the ministry of our church. During this new season at LCOS, all should be considered by each of us.

Elsewhere, the church has been buzzing! VBS this year concluded another successful year. As the pictures attest, both participants and volunteers found this to be a valuable experience. We are grateful for the assistance offered by Pastor Margaret and the Synod for their assistance with supplying funding and staff for the event.

As activities begin for the fall and winter season, please take a second look at your current contribution to our community. I encourage you to find areas or ministries where you feel comfortable to serve and 'dive in'. Your experience, skills and gifts are needed. Prayerfully ask where and how you might participate in the life of our community...you will be blessed...and you might make some new friends...

In His Service

Bob Montgomery, Chair – LCOS Board of Directors

Call Committee Report

We will start the report with the announcement that was made on July 26th.

The Call Committee spent May and June evaluating two candidates. This resulted in a unanimous Committee member recommendation to the Board on July 21st to accept the Call Committee preferred candidate. This recommendation was unanimously accepted by the Board.

Due to the Preferred Call Candidate (Reverend Stan Helton) not being a Rostered Lutheran Pastor this required approval and assistance from Bishop Trish to complete the necessary call requirements. Bishop Trish was very impressed with the Preferred Call Candidate (Reverend Stan Helton) and assisted in having the foundational Lutheran education requirements set at 3 courses and getting approval from the Candidacy Committee on July 29th.

The other complication with our Preferred Call Candidate (Reverend Stan Helton) is that he was employed and required a one month notice period. He was also at the end of his contract and needed to determine whether he would renew the contract.

The Board also wanted to get the Preferred Call Candidate (Reverend Stan Helton) to start on September 1st to enable all of the fall programs to be kicked off. Therefore, Bishop Trish offered to install Reverend Stan Helton as an Interim Pastor to LCOS starting September 1st.

This allowed the Board to make an offer to the Reverend Stan for the position of Interim Pastor on July 31st which he accepted.

Reverend Stan will be on a prior planned vacation until September 7th so the official installation will be completed in September but Reverend Stan will be able to serve the congregation starting September 1st.

There are a couple items that will be required before Reverend Stan will be eligible for an ELCIC sanctioned call. This includes a mandatory psychological analysis and the completion of the three foundational Lutheran courses. The timing and the details for these are still being worked on. The good news is that it doesn't matter since Reverend Stan will be our full-time pastor starting September 1st.

We will still need to have an official LCOS Call and a successful congregational vote for Reverend Stan to be our full-time pastor. Remember that only the congregation can approve the Call of a Pastor.

The Call Committee is extremely excited by the hiring of Reverend Stan and the co-operation and leadership that we have received from Bishop Trish in making this happen. We feel confident that Reverend Stan is our full-time shepherd.

Garry Mihaichuk

September Worship Services

Sunday, September 6 10:00 am Worship Service (Communion)

Sunday, September 13 10:00 am Worship Service

Sunday, September 20 10:00 am Worship Service (Communion)

11:00 am FALL CARNIVAL

Sunday, September 27 10:00 am Worship Service

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

Sunday School 11:00 am

Congregational “What Do We Believe?” Sessions

Quod ubique, quod semper, quod ab omnibus creditum est
(“that which has been believed everywhere, always and by all”)

St. Vincent of Lérins (5th century)

Date: Friday, October 23 - Sunday, October 25

Friday:

Light Dinner 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Introductory session 7:00 - 9:00 pm: “*What do we believe and ... Why do we believe it?*”

Part 1: Historical orthodoxy and Lutheran distinctives

Saturday:

Morning Muffins & Coffee 9:00 - 10:00 am

Part 2: Christology & the Sacraments 10:00 am – Noon: “*Why We Do What We Do?*”

Sunday:

Sunday Service 10:00 am / Light lunch - 11:20 am - 12:30 pm

Part 3: Wrap up session 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Presenter: Pastor Stan Helton



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Beginning September 13

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

8831 Fairmount Drive SE

825-438-7632

Worship Service @ 10:00 am

Sunday School @ 11:00 am (ages 4—12)

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.

Fall session begins September 24.

Contact Kari Paul or Isaria Kwayu for details.



Financial Secretary Report

2nd Quarter Giving Statements

The 2nd quarter giving statements were issued on July 28, 2026. They were sent via an automated email message to all who have an email address on file. For those without an email address or who have requested a paper copy, it was mailed to your home address. Please contact Janet Perchthaler at financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca or 403-702-6671 with any questions.



Giving Methods – July 2026:

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

Cash:	1.4%	- 9 givers
Cheques:	18.1%	- 13 givers
Interac E-transfer:	34.2%	- 24 givers
Loose Cash:	2.3%	
Online via Realm:	2.9%	- 3 givers
Pre-Authorized Remittance Program:	13.3%	- 16 givers
Gift in Kind (shares):	27.8%	- 1 giver

Year-To- Date Financial Status – July 31, 2026:

Revenue (offering, rentals, investment income)	\$157,087
Expenses	<u>\$183,253</u>
Net income (loss)	<u>(\$26,166)</u>

The July 31, 2026 year-to-date net loss is due to May 2026 expenditures for the parking lot paving and replacement of the kitchen dishwasher.

Options For Giving

If you wish to contribute to the church, the following are the 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. **

Vacation Bible School

2026 VBS Team









Live Music!

Face Painting!

Prizes!

Hotdogs / Popcorn / Drinks

***Free Fall
Carnival***

***Sunday
September 20th
11:00 am—1:00 pm***

**Silent
Baking
Auction!**

**Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
8831 Fairmount Drive SE
Everyone Welcome!**

Games!

GAMES GROUP

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





TO OUR 80+ FRIENDS

Adriana Mass

Pat Halvorsen

Walli Haase

Eleanor Wilson

Ruth Peterson

Orville Biberdorf

Annabel Glanville



*In order for us to continue serving coffee
after worship on Sundays, volunteers are
needed to help in the kitchen.*

*A sign-up sheet is posted by the kitchen
window. Contact Judy or Marilee for details.*

Wanted...Inquisitive minds!

Have you had questions about the Bible or your faith?

The addition of Pastor Stan offers more opportunity for you but... there can be no substitute for searching scripture to determine how God may be speaking to you. What and how would you like to study? Please think about it.

Bible Study



Email me with your suggestions - Bob Montgomery

Cover to Cover Bible Study

Thursdays @ 7:00 pm

Beginning October 1

Fireside Room



Leader: Brad Hebenton

RECOVERY

POTLUCK!



When: Sunday September 27, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Followed by AA, Al-Anon, & Alateen meetings at 7 pm

Where: Room 1 (basement) of Unitarian Church,
1703 1 St NW, Calgary

Family, friends, and kids are welcome!

Bring a dish to share if you can

Questions? Contact firststreetrecovery@gmail.com

Did you know...

*The **Praise Team** has been leading the music at LCOS for 36 years.*

Over that time, they have lead the music every week. They have also participated in many community events including, yearly Christmas Concerts, Springtime Gospel music concerts, singing at a United Nations event at City Hall and Beth Tzedec Synagogue, attended weddings, funerals, anniversary events, care centre visits, Christmas Caroling, and conventions. During COVID, they sang every Sunday. Services were pretaped, allowing the Praise Team to be spaced out around the altar area to ensure we were keeping a safe distance from each other. We have had members come and go over the years and we are always so grateful to have new voices and instruments.

Currently the Praise Team consists of:

Eric Zhao — Drums - 9 months

Monika Adler — Soprano - 4 years

Doug Drennan — Bass - 18 years

Reiko Formella — Flute/ Sprano - 19 years

Yvonne Eberhardt Flute/Alto - 31 years

Joan Drennan — Soprano/Alto/ Tambourine - 35 years

Terrylee Mckay — Soprano - 36 years

Alex Mckay — Tenor/Keyboard - 36 years

In addition to Alex being part of the Praise Team he has been playing the Pipe Organ, piano, and synthesizer for 53 years.

We all love to sing and play instruments, and we really enjoy being able to sing together for the glory of God.



Help Shape Our Worship Experience



Join the Slide Team!
Volunteers Needed to Create Worship Slides!

Contact Judy for Details



Flock Care

***Next Meeting
Monday, September 28
at 10:30 am
New members welcome!***

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





**Lutheran Hospital
Ministries**
SOUTHERN ALBERTA SOCIETY

The **Lutheran Hospital Ministries** estimates that it has visited over 250,000 people since it was formed over 50 years ago. If there is someone in hospital or in long term care who you feel would appreciate a visit by one of their trained volunteers please let Judy know. Visitors give support through compassionate listening, prayer and Scripture.

Next training sessions are September 30, October 7 & October 14 from 6:00 - 9:30 pm at St. Matthew Lutheran Church upstairs in the Parish Hall.

If you feel this is a calling for you, please contact Pastor Rekken at (587) 228-2597 or the office to register.

LHM Vision

To envision & expand Lutheran Hospital Ministries-Southern Alberta Society as a serving, caring Christ centred ministry, which is integral to spiritual, emotional & physical healing.

THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF YOUR SUPPORT

How eye health care helps children learn,
adults earn and seniors retain independence



"At Operation Eyesight, we are strengthening eye health systems that do more than restore sight. They help children learn, parents provide and seniors live with independence, dignity and hope."

– Ivan Zenar, Interim President and CEO



I am honoured to step into the role of interim president and CEO of Operation Eyesight, with deep respect for our history, our global team and the leadership of Kashinath Bhoosnurmath, whose commitment helped advance this mission for many years. As a former board member, I have long admired the lasting impact of Operation Eyesight's work, and I am grateful for the opportunity to help carry it forward during this time of transition.

Most of all, I want to thank you. Because of your support, sight is being restored, barriers are being removed and lives are being changed in ways that reach far beyond one person. A child can return to school and learn with confidence. A parent can work, care for their family and contribute to their community. A senior can regain independence, dignity and the joy of seeing loved ones clearly again.

In 2025, your generosity helped Operation Eyesight complete 204 community eye health projects to date, building sustainable local eye care systems that now reach an estimated 8 to 10 million people.

Behind every number in this report is a person, a family and a future made brighter through access to eye health care.

Thank you for standing with us and helping more people see clearly, live fully and look to the future with hope.

Ivan Zenar
Interim President and CEO
Operation Eyesight Universal

Library News

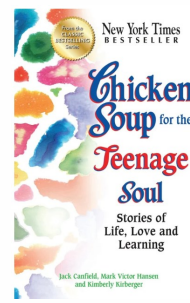
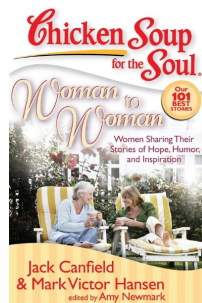
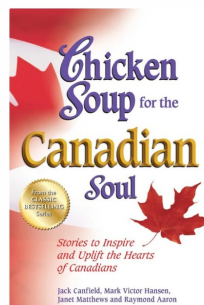
It's been many years since I was in school but September's arrival always makes me feel like Life's switch has been flicked to "reset". School is back in session, classes are starting up, summer sports activities are winding down as winter sports are gearing up. In my family the golf clubs will soon be switched out for hockey sticks.

Before you get too caught up in fall programming and marking your calendar for the Flames games, remember to set some time aside to "reset" your time with God's word. Gently ease your way into spending a little bit of "God time" into your daily routine. The library has several books in the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series, in the Inspiration section (Section 32). These collections of very short stories are perfect inspirational tidbits to start (or end) your day, like a God Sighting only in written form.

The Devotions sections (Section 24 for Adults & Section 3 for Kids) are other areas to browse, to find something that gives you a little dose of God's love. Although several of the books in this section are set up to use as a daily devotional you can always adapt to suit your own schedule.

Submitted with a happy heart and book-filled arms,

Carolyne Eng



ACADIA FOOD PANTRY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

About Us

- ✓ Serving Acadia and area residents since April 2019.
- ✓ Distributes food on 3rd Tuesday of each month (11:45 am to 12:45 pm), 8516 Athabasca St SE.
- ✓ Provides food for a monthly average of 50 families, 185 individuals.
- ✓ Maintained solely by donations.
- ✓ Recruiting volunteer drivers and those able to lift cases of food.

Recurring and one-time donations can be made at www.mcdunited.com/donate



Contact us:
acadiapantry@gmail.com



**ORGANIZED WITH
SUPPORT OF**
community
Lutheran,
Moravian and
United Churches,
Chinook Rotary,
City of Calgary
Neighbourhood
Strategies, and
Trellis.



Building Neighbourhood Connections

My name is Viviana Reinberg, and I am the community social worker for Acadia & Kingsland. I work with residents to bring neighbours together and create spaces for support, dialogue & sharing. The goal is to increase a sense of cohesion, inclusion and belonging. To register for the following activities, just get in touch with me at the contacts given at the bottom of this page.

Spanish Speaking Gathering

Convivencia Para Inmigrantes Latin@s

Una vez al mes

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 8831 Fairmount Dr SE

Un encuentro para compartir, conocer nuestros vecinos, crear espacios de apoyo, y convivencia.

Together We Thrive: Artists & Artisans Market

Sunday June 7th, 12 noon to 4 pm

Kingsland Community Center, 505 78th Ave SW

Designed to uplift and support local artisans, makers & creative individuals. Meet the creators behind the work.

Organized by The City of Calgary, Kingsland Community Association, Glenmore Temple, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

Do you like Singing? You Can Learn in a Community Choir!

Experience the joy of singing in a relaxed, no pressure, family environment. For ages 6 - 96

Build community through singing with the opportunity to perform at local events and bring joy to local spaces.

**If you can sing "Happy Birthday", you can join the choir!
Even people with limited English fluency can sing!**

Sessions will be once a week on a weekday evening when enough people express interest

Led by a volunteer resident with extensive experience teaching music and leading choirs.

Learn & Chat with a knowledge Keeper

A spring community building initiative!

A different thing each session for example, making a dream catcher, mini-moccasins, beading, or just having a land-based story.

- Learn something new while sipping a cup of tea, chatting and having some Bannock.
- Led by a knowledge keeper from Siksika experienced in leading groups and bringing teachings to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Probably a weekday, evening, once/week or every 2 weeks

This is a series of 4 – 6 sessions to start when enough people express interest.

Building Community Through Sports Family Day Sports Day: Try a New Sport!

Saturday May 30th, 1:45 – 4 pm

At the CKE community centre, 1015 – 73 Ave SW

For all ages

This is an opportunity to try a new sport!
So far, we have Zumba & Martial Arts. Let me know other sport you would like to try.

For beginners. Limited space, registration is required.

Led by coaches from Sport Calgary.

Volunteer Leading a Community Project.

Up to \$ 1,000 to organize an activity!

Examples:

A film & conversation, a book club, Indigenous storytelling, healing circles, making care packages for unhoused folks, Elder talks, a sewing group, canning vegetables, bicycle maintenance.

We can chat about your ideas, and I can support you in the process!

Viviana Reinberg, Community Social Worker, The City of Calgary
viviana.reinberg@calgary.ca, (403) 651-1629. (I prefer texting).



Canadian
Blood
Services

BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

Your donation matters

It matters to every patient across Canada.
Because it's something we can do today to help
others wake up healthier tomorrow.

Donate blood

Acadia Recreation Complex

240- 90th Ave SE
Rose Hall

Saturday, September 12
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Donor Event - Donors Needed

Join **Canada's Lifeline**
Visit **blood.ca** to learn more.

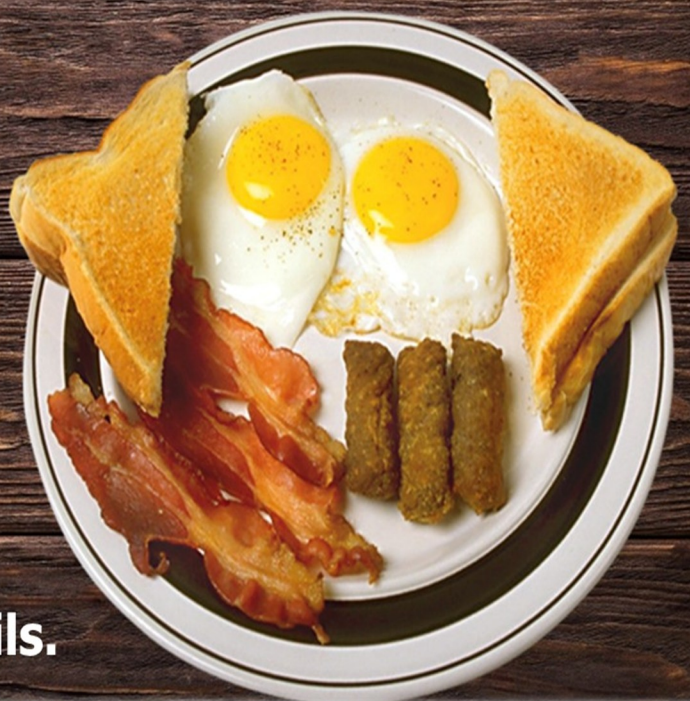


Contact Judy McDonald or Adriana Mass for details.



Men's Breakfast

Join us for
food, faith, and
fellowship



Contact Alfred Forbrich for details.

Time Capsule, submitted by Alice Rodier

FROM SWEDEN via Omaha to Alberta

Scandia is located on the Bow River, south of Brooks, Alberta, about 135 miles by road from Calgary. The EID Historical Park was established in 1976 to tell the story of the Eastern Irrigation District. YouTube Tour DanOCan EID Historical Park in Scandia (2018)



EID Historical Park in Scandia, Alberta



DanOCan
2.44K subscribers

Join

Subscribe

4



Share

Sa

The Canadian Pacific Railway encouraged groups of people to settle together in a block of land so they could support each other in the early years. C. E. Elving, pastor of Omaha's Salem Lutheran Church before 1914, was contacted by Al Hawkinson from the CPR land office in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Hawkinson and his Swenson brothers-in-law bought land in 1917 on the Bow Slope. New settlers were encouraged to write letters to their family and friends. C. J. Anderson was one of the recipients and Hawkinson promised to break land on the Anderson farm for the first seeding. C. J. later offered a season free use of half his land to his friend John Z. Anderson from Omaha.

C. J. sent CPR pamphlets to his son Carl who was working on a ranch in Nebraska. Good irrigable land in Alberta was priced at \$50 per acre. In small print, a settler was cautioned that at least \$3000 was needed for expenses.

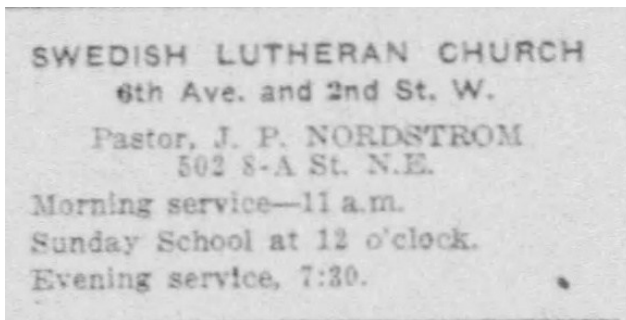
C. J. Anderson was born in Sweden in 1867. He moved to Iowa as a young man, then worked as a carpenter in Omaha. He married Maria in 1894 and spoke Swedish at home until she died in 1906 leaving three young children. C. J. married Bertha in 1907. They spoke English at home and had 5 children. He was a Sunday School teacher nearly 30 years and often substituted for the pastor in Omaha.

Time Capsule, continued

C. J. Anderson age 51 and his 18 year old son Carl moved to Alberta in April 1918. Bertha and the younger children ages one to eleven, followed in May 1919. Helen and Elvera stayed in the US to teach school. The Anderson farm was 30 miles from the railroad over poor roads. They planted flax and had a fair crop.

The Anderson house was used for the organizational meetings of the Salem Lutheran Church, Augustana Synod, in May 1919. C. J. organized a Sunday School that he led himself and also became a school trustee. Church services were all held in Swedish until 1924. Swedish was phased out in 1936. A church large enough for 200 people was built mostly with volunteer labour. The building was dedicated in 1940 and hosted the annual convention of the Luther League. C. J. Anderson died in 1954. His younger son Robert took over the farm.

J. A. Hawkinson purchased a half section of land in 1917 and the CPR agreed to install a ferry. Vauxall was 12 miles away and Hawkinson had to agree to operate the ferry. He helped organize the church and the school called 'Jenny Lind' because they had so many good singers. Pastor Nordstrom from Calgary conducted services once a month. Hawkinson rented his farm to Walde-mar Rasmussen from Denmark in 1924 and returned to the US.



Calgary Herald March 19, 1921 pg 14

"Scandia since seventeen" the community history book, was published in 1978 with family biographies taking up around half of the 340 pages and many interesting stories about community events. It is available to read online, Internet Archive. Calgary Public Library has a circulating copy and a reference copy 971.234 SCA.

Groundwork, Carl Anderson Farm Crusader by Renie Gross, was published in 1998. It can be read online at Internet Archive (archive.org). The Calgary Public Library has a circulating copy and a reference copy 971.2302 AND G. BROOKS Beautiful – Bountiful by Eva Delday published 1975. Calgary Public Library 971.234 DEL has stories of early ranchers in Alberta and the Eastern Irrigation District.

A 4 minute video was made to help raise money and can be viewed online. Welcome to Scandia, Alberta [Carl's Way.avi](#) The movie called Carl's Way produced in 2013 and based on the Groundwork book can be seen at the EID Historical Park in Scandia, Alberta. The actors were local people. Historic Calgary Week had a screening of the movie on August 2, 2026. It is on IMDb

Bishop's Message



A Pastoral Letter on the Alberta Referendum August 14, 2026

The Lutheran Church began in a time of political and religious upheaval. It was a movement that challenged oppression and the misuse of power, while calling people of faith to persevere in lives shaped by Scripture and the teachings of Christ.

Today, political ambition, greed, racism, and fear continue to shape the world around us. Recent movements, including the upcoming October referendum, point toward a vision of the future centred on economic expansion at all costs, hoarding of assets, fear of the other, division and exclusion.

Christian theology and all that we have been called to as people of faith give us a different standpoint from which to engage difficult questions. We do not need to be afraid of complexity or disagreement. In all things, we turn to the teachings of Christ to guide our way.

Many of us are concerned about the upcoming Alberta referendum. We may hesitate to speak with others about it because we feel uncertain, divided, or even unsafe raising difficult questions. But I encourage you not to retreat from the conversation. Pray. Listen. Discuss the questions, as challenging as they may be. We learn by listening to one another and by speaking honestly about what we believe and why.

What might God be thinking?

That is, of course, a difficult question to answer. But Scripture gives us some solid clues about what God asks of us and how we are called to live together.

Unity

Scripture speaks often about our unity. We are the family of God. Even with all our differences, we are one body¹. Jesus consistently sought to bring people together rather than divide them, welcoming even foreigners into the community of faith and extending the gospel beyond the boundaries people had established.

There is strength in community. “Two are better than one,” Ecclesiastes² reminds us, because we can support one another, share one another’s burdens, and accomplish more together than we can alone.

Our faith does not call us to build walls between ourselves and others. It calls us to seek the bonds that make us one.

Bishop's Message continued

Sharing

Scripture also reminds us of our responsibility to work together for the good of all. When we have been gifted with much, we are given an opportunity for generosity and sharing³. We are encouraged to look beyond our own interests and to consider the needs and well-being of others⁴. Christian faith asks us to consider not only What is good for me? but What is good for all of us? The common good matters. The well-being of our neighbours matters. The measure of a faithful community is not simply how well it protects what it has, but how generously it shares what it has received.

The Stranger

Hospitality to the stranger is another strong and consistent theme throughout Scripture. God commands the people of Israel to treat foreigners living among them as native-born citizens and to love them as themselves⁵. Jesus takes this teaching even further. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us that when we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and care for those in need, we are doing these things directly for Christ⁶. The stranger, then, is not simply someone who is other. The stranger is someone through whom we encounter Christ.

A Faithful Response

I encourage you to vote in the upcoming referendum. But before you vote, take time to pray. Consider carefully the implications of the questions before us. What would it mean to reduce immigration? What would it mean for people who live among us to have limited or no access to healthcare, education, or other essential services? Who would benefit from these changes? Who might bear the greatest burden? And how do our answers reflect the Christian values we proclaim? These are not simple questions. They deserve more than slogans or political talking points. They deserve prayerful reflection, honest conversation, and a willingness to consider how our decisions affect our neighbours.

Albertans have before us an opportunity to stand for the justice we have studied, proclaimed, sung, prayed, and embodied in every baptism and every holy meal.

Our faith tells us that we belong to one another. All are welcome. All are family. All are one. All are God's.

In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus expresses the heart of our calling:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Dec. Karen Wedman (ABT Synod Chair) notes that “Do not be afraid” is used many times in the Bible and although we acknowledge it [we are] really [experiencing] it.” When the world around us is shaped by fear, division, competition, and exclusion, Christians are called to a different way.

That is the standpoint from which we enter this difficult conversation. Not fear. Not hostility. Not certainty that we alone have all the answers.

May faith, love and courage bless us as we listen, speak, pray, and act as people who belong to one another and to the wider human community.

In peace,

Bishop Trish

Bishop Trish Schmermund



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**
In Mission for Others

SEPTEMBER

		1 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 1:00 pm Games Group	2 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg 7:00 pm Praise Team	3 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat	4 8:00 am WW	5 7:00 am WW
6 Holy Communion 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Stan Helton)	7 Office Closed	8 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	9 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Mtg 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg 7:00 pm Praise Team	10 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat	11 8:00 am WW	12 7:00 am WW
13 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Stan Helton) 11:00 am Sunday School	14 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 6:30 pm TMS Rehearsal	15 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 1:00 pm Games Group 7:00 pnm Board Meeting	16 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Mtg 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg 7:00 pm Praise Team	17 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat	18 8:00 am WW 3:30 pm Feed the Hungry	19 7:00 am WW
20 Holy Communion 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Stan Helton) FALL CARNIVAL 	21 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 6:30 pm TMS Rehearsal	22 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 9:30 am Esso Board Meeting	23 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Mtg 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg 7:00 pm Praise Team	24 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 8:45 am WW 10:00 am Knit-Chat 5:30 pm Youth Bible Study	25 8:00 am WW 9:00 am Ladies" Breakfast	26 7:00 am WW 9:00 am Men"s Breakfast
27 10:00 am Worship (Pastor Stan Helton) 11:00 am Sunday School	28 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm 10:30 am Flock Care Mtg 6:30 pm TMS Rehearsal	29 Office Hours 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	30 10:00 am Lighthouse Prayer Mtg 6:30 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg 7:00 pm Praise Team	Important Dates to Remember.. <i>Cover to Cover Bible Study begins Thursday, October 1</i> <i>Congregational "What Do We Believe?" Sessions</i> <i>Friday, October 23 - Sunday, October 25</i>		