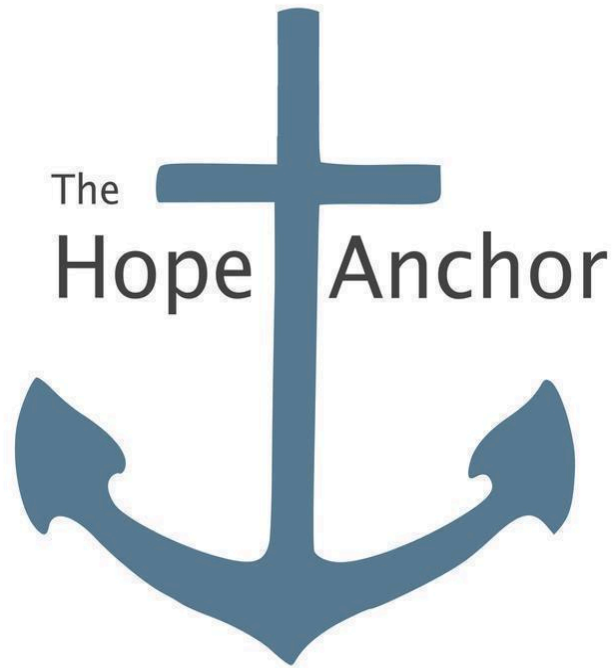


SEPTEMBER 2026



ONLINE SERVICE DETAILS

Connection Details for SUNDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00 a.m.

ALL SERVICES ARE LIVE-STREAMED THROUGH OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL which can be found through Hope Lutheran's website: <https://www.hopelutheran.ca/>

Connecting by phone:

1. Dial 587-328-1099
2. Then press 487-603-306 #
3. Press # again.

Zoom

To watch our service on Zoom, click the button on our home page (www.hopelutheran.ca).

ZOOM is ONLY active when the service is in progress.

MESSAGE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL AND STAFF

Dear Hope Family,

We want to share an important update with you. It is with heavy hearts that we share that Pastor Greg is on an unexpected medical leave of absence, effective immediately. As many of you know, his previous diagnosis of long Covid has left him predisposed to health challenges in periods of significant stress and overwhelm, and he is unfortunately feeling these effects at this time and will be taking time for a 'reset' over the next 3 months or so.

This coming Sunday, we will have the special honour of having Bishop Trish Schmermund preside at worship, and your Church Council and staff are working quickly to put an interim plan in place for the weeks and months ahead. Pastor Aaron Schnell of Advent Lutheran will provide coverage for hospital visits and crisis pastoral care during Pastor Greg's leave. Confirmation students will also join Advent's confirmands during this period, and we thank Pastor Aaron and Advent for their support during this time.

We know that unexpected changes like this can bring some uncertainty and confusion. Thank you for your patience, grace, and continued support as we work together through this transition. We are grateful for the many ways our congregation continues to care for one another and for the life of our church.

In the meantime, if you feel called to support the community through lay leadership, your help would be especially appreciated right now. Contact Zena to learn more about how you can be part of our budding Community Care Ministry, reach out to Anne to contribute to worship & music planning and Sunday services, and get in touch with Deborah to offer to lead a Bible study session or other exploration of the Word and our Faith. These simple acts of service helps to spread around the work of our shared ministry and make a meaningful difference as we navigate this time together.

For those who want to show support for Pastor Greg and his family during this time, your prayers are very much welcomed and appreciated. You are also welcome to send Pastor Greg an email with your well wishes, though please do not expect a response. Please do not call or text him during his leave, and direct any inquiries for him through Council Chair, Anne Harding (annekathleenharding@gmail.com, 403-869-8164).

Thank you for being a caring, faithful, compassionate, and supportive community. We will continue to keep you informed as plans develop.

With gratitude,

Your Church Council and Staff

OFFICE NEWS

Can you please provide the church office with a contact name of a family member or close friend to keep on file at the church? This will help us, especially in situations when we haven't seen or heard from a member in some time. This can be worrisome for church friends.

Hospital Visits

If you find yourself in hospital and you would like a pastoral visit or a visit from Lutheran Hospital Ministries, please tell hospital staff to make note of that on your file. This makes it easier for visitors to connect with patients. If you are unwell or in hospital, please let Zena know (coordinator@hopelutheran.ca). Pastor Aaron Schnell, from Advent Lutheran is available for emergency pastoral support.

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL CHAIR

Dear siblings in Christ,

As the air turns crisp and the leaves begin to change, we enter a season naturally defined by harvest. At Hope, this autumn feels particularly meaningful because we are beginning to see the fruits of intense strategic work, prayer, and refocusing undertaken together over the past year.

When we look back on where we were a year ago, the sheer scope of transformation is inspiring. Together, we have laid a remarkably strong foundation by:

- Welcoming Leadership: Calling a Pastor with an explicit mandate of transformation, hiring a new Manager of Parish Operations, and creating two new part time coordinator positions to support evolving and renewing ministries for Community Care and Faith Formation (Children & Youth).
- Grounding Our Identity: Defining our core vision and values to guide our ministry into the future.
- Expanding Our Circle: Welcoming members of Unity Mission through our new Chinese ministry.
- Modernizing Our Governance: Completing an organizational review that birthed a new co-leadership model between our Pastor and Manager of Parish Operations, alongside a shift toward Ministry Teams and Governance Committees, including
- Setting Our Future Course: Identifying our 3–5 year strategic direction centered around an intentional multicultural lens.

As a tangible sign of God's grace and your faithful stewardship, Council recently updated our budget forecast. While we originally approved a modest deficit back in February, our updated numbers show that we are now on track to end the year in a strong financial position with a healthy surplus. We reflect on this with deep gratitude for your unwavering generosity and care for our church family.

Having spent the last year visioning, listening, and restructuring, we are now shifting our focus from visioning to implementation. We will move into this next phase with intention and care, slowly making adjustments to our activities and programs as we build upon the strong foundation beneath us.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your trust, patience, contributions, and abundant grace throughout this season of renewal and growth. May this fall bring you joy, peace, and rich fellowship as we walk together into this next chapter.

In gratitude for our collective abundance,

Anne Harding

Church office hours are Monday - Thursday from 9:00am - noon

MESSAGE FROM MANAGER OF PARISH OPERATIONS

Stepping into Fall with Purpose and Renewal

As we enter September, Hope is moving from summer's steady rhythm into a season of renewed energy, preparation, and community life. Much of our work in recent weeks has focused on strengthening our ministries, supporting transitions, and laying foundations for a vibrant fall.

Our **three care-focused initiatives are now fully launched** — Listening Lounge with Pr. Greg, Gather & Grow with Deborah, and Community Care with Zena — are now fully launched. These three streams of connection reflect Hope's commitment to nurturing spiritual, emotional, and relational well-being across our congregation. Each initiative offers a unique doorway for members to connect, receive support, and share insights that help strengthen our community life and operations.

Recruitment for our **Children & Youth Coordinator** has progressed well, and a successful candidate has now been identified. We are currently completing the final onboarding requirements, including reference and police checks. We anticipate welcoming the new coordinator in early September, supporting a smooth start to our fall Faith Formation Ministry (Formerly known as Children and Youth Ministry).

Hope continues to build meaningful partnerships through the **Calgary Lutheran Youth Ministry** collaboration. The first joint church youth activity will take place on August 29, marking an exciting step toward shared ministry across Lutheran congregations in Calgary.

Operationally, our **facility rental portfolio** has entered a new chapter. PreK will continue renting our community hall from September 2026 to June 2027, providing stable monthly income and supporting early childhood learning in our neighbourhood.

New Territories has concluded their rental agreement as of August 21. Beginning in September, we will be increasing our outreach to share information about our available rental spaces with community groups and organizations who may benefit from using our facilities.

Our **Chinese Ministry** continues to grow in depth and connection. The newly formed Chinese Ministry Team held its first meeting on August 4, and upcoming MidAutumn activities — including mooncake and fruit tasting after Sept 27 worship, and the HongKongers Sing & Belong Together gathering on September 26 — will offer opportunities for cultural celebration and community building.

Summer also brought joyful moments of service and fellowship. The **Pickle Party** on August 6–7 produced 51 jars of dill pickles and 15 jars of bread and butter pickles—an impressive accomplishment thanks to Joanne's leadership and the dedication of her team. Planning for the **Hope & Holly Christmas Market** continues to move forward, and promotion for the event is now underway as we prepare for our November market.

As we prepare for the fall season, I am grateful for the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and ministry partners. Each initiative—whether pastoral, operational, or communityfocused—reflects Hope's mission to be a place of welcome, care, and shared purpose. May September bring renewed energy, meaningful connection, and continued growth for our congregation.

With gratitude,

Deborah Leung (Manager of Parish Operations and Administration)

Welcome Our New Children & Youth Coordinator — Markus Lee

Hope Lutheran Church is delighted to introduce Markus Lee as our new Part-time Children & Youth Coordinator, beginning his ministry with us this month.

Markus brings over four years of hands-on experience in Lutheran children's and youth ministry, including serving as a Volunteer Teacher for Confirmation classes at Holy Cross Church in Hong Kong from 2020–2023. Each week he planned and led interactive sessions for 12–13-year-olds, creating PowerPoint lessons, faith-centred activities, and a safe, supportive learning environment that helped young people grow in their understanding of God.

In Calgary, Markus volunteered at Vacation Bible School with Calgary Lutheran Unity Mission in Summer 2024, supporting children aged 5–14 through fun, age-appropriate faith activities and collaborating closely with church staff and volunteers.

Markus is currently a Teaching Assistant for a junior-level Japanese language class at the University of Calgary, where he supports students from diverse cultural backgrounds and fosters an inclusive classroom environment. His own Hong Kong roots, combined with his Canadian university experience, give him a unique ability to help children and families from different cultures feel welcomed and valued — an important gift as Hope continues to grow in multicultural ministry.

He is reliable, organized, and deeply committed to Lutheran Christian values of belonging, compassion, faithfulness, and grace. Markus will be leading Hope Kids on Sunday mornings and participating fully in our monthly collaborative youth events.

We warmly welcome Markus into our ministry team and look forward to the energy, creativity, and care he will bring to our children, youth, and families.

Please join us in praying for him as he begins this new chapter of service at Hope.

MULTICULTURAL MESSAGE

One Body, Many Stories: Widening Our Circle at Hope

Church Council has approved an exciting direction for the next 16 months: adopting a **multicultural lens** across all our ministries, inspired by the biblical truth that we are "one body" enriched by many unique stories.

This focus isn't a new committee or extra programs on a busy calendar. It is a lens for everything we already do: looking **inward** through deep cultural sharing with one another, and **outward** through accessible spaces, welcoming hospitality, and digital outreach.

Five Focus Areas For Learning & Relationship Building (Sept 2026 – Dec 2027)

- **Chinese (Cantonese Focus):** *Our Present.* Deepening connections with former Unity Mission members while also connecting with other Chinese communities, learning and celebrating Cantonese traditions as a broader community, and incorporating Traditional Chinese script in our communications and worship.
- **Scandinavian:** *Our Heritage.* Honouring the Nordic heritage and fellowship traditions rooted in the histories and lived experiences of many of Hope's current membership.
- **German:** *Our Roots.* Celebrating historic Lutheran music, practices, and cross-generational roots. Deepen our collective understanding of the origins of Lutheranism and the diversity of its expressions.

- **Youth (Gen Z & Gen Alpha):** *Our Future*. Learning about and embracing youth culture, e.g. ensuring youth perspectives shape our renewing Faith Formation Ministry by communicating in ways that resonate with them (like Discord channels instead of email).
- **LGBTQ+:** *Our Promise of Belonging*. Learning about lived identities and inclusive care so our new Community Care ministry and welcoming events offer authentic safety and belonging. Leverage partnerships with Campus Ministry, Lutheran Church of the Cross (Pastor Lindsey) and Kuriakos to support. Explore the *Reconciling in Christ* process to be able to make informed decisions in the future.

An Example of What This Looks Like in Action

As we plan major events like the Hope & Holly Christmas Market, we will extend intentional invitations to relevant cultural groups such as the Scandinavian Centre, the Danish Canadian Club, Campus Ministry, Camp Kuriakos, and the Calgary Hongkongers Lions Club, inviting them into relationship and celebration with us.

Focusing Energy with Grace

Doing this well means doing things with greater intention, not doing *more*. Leaders will use a simple decision filter: saying "yes" to opportunities that foster connection and joy, while using Lutheran grace to say "no" or "not right now" to activities that drain our energy or are better done by other churches or organizations.

Together, let's step into this season with open hearts and open doors!

MESSAGE FROM HOPE FINANCE COMMITTEE

PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)

You can set up an automatic withdrawal from your bank account in the amount of your choosing, so you can ensure that your financial gift makes it to the church even if you aren't there every Sunday. Contact the office (church@hopelutheran.ca) to receive the form to set this up.

Charitable Donations of Marketable Securities

Hope Lutheran Church has the ability to accept donations in the form of marketable securities. The direct donation of securities has favourable tax implications for the donor and is also in Hope Lutheran Church's (HLC) interest to be able to accept these kinds of donations with relative ease. Charitable donations of securities in publicly traded companies would be exempt from capital gains but please refer to CRA guidelines for a full explanation.

HLC policy is that a gift of this type is not considered complete until the securities are fully assigned and held by HLC. For marketable securities such as stocks and bonds, the value of the receipt is determined by using the market value of the security at the close of business on the day the security is received. Hope's authorized trading officer is Dale Ham. You may contact him (403-333-4868 or daleham@shaw.ca) to find out more about the process. He will work with you and your financial advisor or broker to prepare the transfer forms and coordinate with the banking representatives for the efficient transfer and acceptance of the securities into Hope's trading account. He will also coordinate with the HLC Recording Secretary and the donor as to the valuation of the donation for the annual donations tax form preparation.

Estate Planning

Consider naming Hope Lutheran Church as a charitable beneficiary in your will, leaving a legacy contribution to the ministry of our shared faith community.

E-Transfer

Hope can receive e-transfers through your bank, to the email address church@hopelutheran.ca. Please make sure to add your name in the 'message' portion of the e-transfer so your gift can be recorded.

Envelopes in the Offering Plate

As the offering plate is collected on Sunday, we welcome financial gifts in the form of cash or cheques. There is also a box on the ushers' table to receive these gifts. Please note that in 2026 we are moving to envelopes that are not pre-printed with a unique number, so you will need to write your name or number on the envelope to have your gift recorded. Council made this decision to reduce waste from many envelopes that go unused, and save on the cost of printing envelopes that are not used.

END OF JULY 2026 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Monthly offerings for July were unfavourable to budget by \$1188 and July 2025 actual by \$198. However, when we add in other revenue streams for the month, we find ourselves favourable to both budget and July 2025 actual by approximately \$1400 in both cases. Our monthly expenses for July were favourable to budget forecast and July 2025 actual. So when we compare our July revenues to expenses, we find ourselves in a favourable position at \$24,471. We may have some unpaid expenses for the month that show up in August that could affect our numbers going forward.

Hi Level Operations Summary for Month of July 2026

		2026			2025		2026 v 2025
		Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenues	Offerings	26,511	27,699	-1,188	26,709	27,600	-198
	Committee & Activities	100	100	0	-359	116	459
	Administration & Property	27,785	25,194	2,591	26,606	25,517	1,179
	Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revenues Total		54,396	52,993	1,403	52,956	53,233	1,440
Expenses	Wages & Benefits	20,366	23,400	3,034	20,186	20,089	-180
	Committee & Activities	1,849	1,650	-199	2,703	2,852	853
	Administration & Property	6,042	9,693	3,650	36,050	42,029	30,008
	Synod & Ministry	1,667	1,666	(1)	1,500	1,500	(167)
Expenses Total		29,925	36,409	6,485	60,439	66,471	30,514
Extended MiniSynod & Ministry		0	0	0	0	0	0
Extended Ministry Total		0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus / (Deficit)		24,471	16,584	7,888	(7,482)	(13,238)	31,954

Comparing year to date numbers for both revenues and expenses we find ourselves in a relatively strong position. Offerings are favorable to budget by \$11,948 and July 2025 actual by \$18,816. Total revenues are also favourable when compared to budget and 2025 actual. Expenses are also favourable when compared to budget by \$24,067 and 2025 actual by \$44,331. The 2025 actual expense would include last year's roof repair cost.



Hi Level Operations Summary for Year-to-Date July 2026

		2026			2025		2026 v 2025
		Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenues	Offerings	198,501	186,553	11,948	179,685	193,200	18,816
	Committee & Activities	1,650	700	950	-746	812	2,396
	Administration & Property	74,306	73,652	654	69,545	58,617	4,761
	Transfers	(10,300)	0	(10,300)	0	0	(10,300)
Revenues Total		264,157	260,905	3,252	248,484	252,629	15,673
Expenses	Wages & Benefits	128,236	149,837	21,601	140,678	140,624	12,442
	Committee & Activities	10,501	10,655	154	17,396	22,667	6,895
	Administration & Property	70,714	73,179	2,466	97,023	106,354	26,310
	Synod & Ministry	11,816	11,662	(154)	10,500	10,500	(1,316)
Expenses Total		221,266	245,333	24,067	265,598	280,145	44,331
Extended Mini Synod & Ministry		0	0	0	0	0	0
Extended Ministry Total		0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus / (Deficit)		42,891	15,572	27,319	(17,114)	(27,516)	60,004

To date our Synod benevolence totals \$11,667 and funds directed to Lutheran Campus Ministry amount to \$2555.

Thank you all for your continued support to Hope Lutheran Church.

Steve Medhurst, Financial Liaison-Hope Lutheran Council

WORSHIP NEWS

The worship band will lead service on the 2nd Sunday of each month, beginning September 13.

Our communion schedule for the next few months will depend on when we have a Lutheran pastor presiding - thank you for your understanding.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY - Kim Harding

Welcome back, Hope Lutheran families! As we settle back into routines, schedules, and school days, we're excited to kick off another season of regular Sunday children's programming at Hope Lutheran.

There's lots to look forward to this fall! We're starting up "Hope Kids" which will be regular programming, offered three Sunday mornings each month. We will continue our successful Camp Sundays in partnership with Advent Lutheran Church, and we will be launching a new Faith Formation group for confirmation-aged youth.



CAMP SUNDAY Highlights July and August 2026
Held at Advent Lutheran Church, coordinated by Sorena Cook



CAMP SUNDAY

Mid-Autumn Festival Fun!

September 27 at Hope Lutheran Church

9:30am - 1:00pm

We will be learning from our Chinese members about traditional stories, food and crafts.
Lunch will be provided!

Signup here: [Camp Sunday — Advent Lutheran Church](#)



CONFIRMATION

If you have a child in grades 6-9 who has not yet been Confirmed and would like to join Confirmation this year, please share their name and your family's contact information with the church office. Pastor Aaron will be leading confirmation this fall (joint class with Advent, Hope and Church of the Cross)

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study resumes on Wednesday, September 16 at 10:00am. Kathy Lee will guide us through conversation on **I & II Peter: Encouragement and Hope**.

SPIRITUAL LIFE NEWS

DAILY BIBLE READINGS – SEPTEMBER

Thursday, September 03, 2026: Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 24:1-14; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21;
Friday, September 04, 2026: Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 24:15-27; Romans 10:15b-21;
Saturday, September 05, 2026: Psalm 119:33-40; Ezekiel 33:1-6; Matthew 23:29-36;
Sunday, September 06, 2026: Proper 18 (23)
Monday, September 07, 2026: Psalm 119:65-72; Leviticus 4:27-31; 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:11-17;
Tuesday, September 08, 2026: Psalm 119:65-72; Deuteronomy 17:2-13; Romans 13:1-7;
Wednesday, September 09, 2026: Psalm 119:65-72; Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28; Matthew 21:18-22;
Thursday, September 10, 2026: Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 37:12-36; 1 John 3:11-16;
Friday, September 11, 2026: Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 41:53-42:17; Acts 7:9-16;
Saturday, September 12, 2026: Psalm 103:8-13; Genesis 45:1-20; Matthew 6:7-15;
Sunday, September 13, 2026: Proper 19 (24)
Monday, September 14, 2026: Psalm 133; Genesis 48:8-22; Hebrews 11:23-29;
Monday, September 14, 2026: Holy Cross
Tuesday, September 15, 2026: Psalm 133; Genesis 49:29-50:14; Romans 14:13-15:2;
Wednesday, September 16, 2026: Psalm 133; Genesis 50:22-26; Mark 11:20-25;
Thursday, September 17, 2026: Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 1:1, 14-2:2; 2 Corinthians 13:1-4;
Friday, September 18, 2026: Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 2:3-13; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10;
Saturday, September 19, 2026: Psalm 145:1-8; Zephaniah 2:13-15; Matthew 19:23-30;
Sunday, September 20, 2026: Proper 20 (25)
Monday, September 21, 2026: Psalm 106:1-12; Genesis 27:1-29; Romans 16:1-16;
Tuesday, September 22, 2026: Psalm 106:1-12; Genesis 28:10-17; Romans 16:17-20;
Wednesday, September 23, 2026: Psalm 106:1-12; Isaiah 41:1-13; Matthew 18:1-5;
Thursday, September 24, 2026: Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 12:17-28; James 4:11-16;
Friday, September 25, 2026: Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:5-18; Acts 13:32-41;
Saturday, September 26, 2026: Psalm 25:1-9; Ezekiel 18:19-24; Mark 11:27-33;
Sunday, September 27, 2026: Proper 21 (26)
Monday, September 28, 2026: Psalm 28; Judges 14:1-20; Philippians 1:3-14;
Tuesday, September 29, 2026: Psalm 28; Judges 16:1-22; Philippians 1:15-21;
Wednesday, September 30, 2026: Psalm 28; Judges 16:23-31; Matthew 9:2-8;

BIRTHDAYS

September 2 - Carmen Lehmann	September 12 - Warren Harding	September 17 - Brandon Mah
September 3 - Jana Sonntag	September 13 - Ron Braitenbach	September 24 - Rick Schroeder
September 4 - Heide Myrthu	September 15 - Haydn Waller	September 26 - Addy Drysdale
September 4 - Nangy Sonntag	September 16 - Gertrude Sorg	September 27 - Allie Harding

May your year turn like the leaves into something beautifully new!

Recognize these very special friends? Fred and Elke Maus were long-time members of Hope Lutheran Church but they now reside in Campbell River, BC. They joined us for worship on July 19th and Fred eagerly shared that he built our beautiful altar, pulpit, baptismal font and photo boards (near the sanctuary doors). We are so blessed to have these carefully handcrafted items. Fred, we promise to continue to love and appreciate your work!



FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

MEN'S BREAKFAST

This group meets the first Saturday of each month, so if you can't make this one, hope to see you next time! The next breakfast meet up is October 3. Please contact Robert: robert.hiebert@gmail.com for more details.

CITY-WIDE LUTHERAN YOUTH ESCAPE ROOM

At the Youth Escape Room afternoon on August 29, everyone had a great time solving puzzles, working together, and tackling their rooms. It was wonderful to have such a great group of youth come out! Three out of our four groups successfully escaped their rooms. The fourth group had an extremely hard room - we gave it our best shot!

Committee Volunteers Needed - We are looking for a few people to help form a committee that will choose and organize activities for the coming year. If you are interested, please contact Marianne Astle after church on Sunday or leave a note in church mailbox #67.

Upcoming Under 100 Club Event

Lunch at the Austrian Canadian Club Wednesday, September 23 at 12:00pm. Everyone will be responsible for their own bill. Please sign up on the Nurturing Connections board. Carpooling from the church can be arranged.

Hope went to the theatre.... On August 27 the Seniors Acting Lab went to see the production of BINS - a play about what we discard, what we keep, and what we really value in the "age of unaffordability". Thought-provoking and entertaining!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We very much enjoy our coffee and fellowship on Sundays. Please check the sign-up list and take a turn! Baking is always appreciated! Thank you for composting cups, napkins and paper plates.

We are so thankful for the many volunteers who help with Sunday worship. Please contact the office if you are interested in learning more about being a reader, usher, worship assistant, etc.

Meals on Wheels - Hope route

*Did you know that Hope Lutheran has supported a weekly Meals on Wheels route for decades?!! Coordinated by Zena, and made possible by our Hope volunteers Hal, Marcia, Dawn and Shelly. THANK YOU for keeping Hope active in serving others. **We are looking to add another volunteer or two to our Hope route team! Please contact Zena to get more information - volunteer training and one Wednesday morning/ month is the only time requirement!***



HOPE & HOLLY CHRISTMAS FAIR

at

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28

10:00am – 2:00pm

No admission

Door prizes every hour!

We are looking for volunteers:

donations for our church bake sale table, preserves table (monies raised will go to Hope)

Would you like to rent a table?

Cost is only \$40! (\$25 for Hope members)..... Tell your crafty friends about this opportunity.

HOPE & HOLLY
CHRISTMAS MARKET

Become a Vendor!

Table Rental: ~~\$50~~ **\$25** Hope Member Price

Handmade locally sourced crafts • Baking • Preserves • Seasonal goods

Date: Nov 28, 2026
Time: 10am-2pm
Venue: Hope Lutheran Church
3527 Boulton Rd NW Calgary, AB, T2L 1M5

Register Today!
Deborah Leung
403-282-6033
manager@hopelutheran.ca
www.hopelutheran.ca

Fill in the Application form online

+ Growing in Hope: One Body! Many Stories!

Pickle Preparations

In August, a great team gathered to make pickles for the sale. There were lots of laughs and everyone went home happy to have helped (and smelling like garlic 😊)



SALSA PARTY

Friday, September 18 we will be gathering in the church kitchen for a salsa party! Join us from 9:00 - 11:30 am or 1:00 - 3:30pm (or both!) The more help we have, the less chopping you have to do! Sign up on the Nurturing Connections board.

Our salsa sold out so quickly at our fall fair last year, so we hope to double our production for our Christmas market this year!

Looking for half-litre jars - please bring to the office!



SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

STITCHING FOR HOPE

A group of stitchers meet at 10 am every Tuesday morning at Hope to work on blankets while enjoying some great fellowship (and often coffee and treats). Can't stitch? No problem, come for the visit! There's always lots of laughs, and delicious treats too!



MID-AUTUMN HONG KONG SING ALONG

Please join us for the first Chinese Ministry event "Mid-Autumn – HongKongers Sing & Belong Together" on September 26 (Saturday) at 7:00pm at Hope. Through music, stories, and fellowship, we will learn about the experiences and challenges faced by Hongkongers in Canada and explore how we can offer understanding, encouragement, and support.

Enjoy an evening of Hong Kong-style songs and sing-along, featuring a special choir performance by the Calgary Chinese Oratorio Society (CCOS). We hope you will join us as we listen, learn, connect, and show our support for the Hong Kong community. Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or click the link to register online.

We also need volunteers to help with various event responsibilities. If you are available to serve, please review the [Volunteer Duties List] [Volunteers List.docx - Google Docs](#) and sign up for a role that suits you by contacting Amy Ho at 403-970-9892 (text or WhatsApp).



The poster features a night view of the Hong Kong skyline with a large full moon. Red lanterns are on the left, and a boat with red sails is on the water. The background is a dark blue night sky.

中秋唱聚
港人同心同行

— Mid-Autumn —
HongKongers
Sing & Belong Together

音樂傳心意
友愛建社群
同行更美好

Music connects hearts.
Community builds love.
Together, we belong.

September 26, 2026 (Sat)
7:00pm – 8:30pm

Hope Lutheran Church
3527 Boulton Rd NW,
Calgary, AB T2L 1M8

AN EVENING OF MUSIC, FRIENDSHIP & ENCOURAGEMENT

Enjoy Hong Kong style songs and sing along that bring comfort and connection.

Meet other Hong Kong families facing similar experiences.

Relax over light refreshments in a friendly, welcoming environment.

Receive encouragement and practical support during the settlement journey.

Share experiences and concerns through a collective appeal letter to the Canadian government.

Everyone is welcome!

Whether you attend church or have never been to one, come as you are!

Click (link to [Registration Form](#)) or Scan to join us

HOSTED BY
HOPE Lutheran Church
Hope Lutheran Chinese Ministry

A SPECIAL CHOIR PERFORMANCE BY
Calgary Chinese Oratorio Society (CCOS)

Calgary Chinese Oratorio Society 2025

CHARITY OF CHOICE

Thank you for supporting Lutheran Campus Ministries - Calgary over the summer months. By collecting donations and offering free use of space at Hope to make soup, Lutheran Campus Ministries is prepared to welcome students for the new school year to their weekly soup suppers. THANK YOU!

Charity of Choice for September and October - Calgary Meals on Wheels

For 60 years, Calgary Meals on Wheels has been more than a meal delivery service - they have been a source of nourishment, connection, and community support for those who need it most. From seniors aging in place to individuals facing life's challenges, their impact reaches thousands of Calgarians each year.

In 2025, they celebrated this milestone while expanding their capacity to prepare and store an additional 180,000 meals annually through a new freezer and cooler expansion. This much-needed infrastructure will help ensure they can continue meeting the growing demand for nutritious meals across our city.

Thanks to many dedicated church members, Hope Lutheran Church has actively supported a weekly route for over 20 years! We hope to continue this relationship for years to come!

National Day
for Truth and
Reconciliation

September 30th



September 30th marks National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day – Every Child Matters [Orange Shirt Day – Every Child Matters](#) began in Williams Lake, British Columbia, on September 30, 2013. Established to honour Residential School Survivors, their families, and those who never returned home, it serves as a powerful reminder of the lasting impacts of the Residential School system. What began as a grassroots initiative has since evolved into a nationally recognized movement, with individuals, organizations, and communities across Canada participating in acts of remembrance, reflection, and reconciliation each year.

The orange shirt symbolizes the loss of culture, freedom, and self-esteem that many Indigenous children experienced. This day reminds us that “Every Child Matters”.

MINISTRY PARTNERS

CAMP KURIAKOS

In September the Sylvan Lake Lutheran Bible Camp Association will be having a Special General Meeting (SGM) to 1) receive the audited 2025 financial statements; and 2) vote on proposed changes to our bylaws.

The bylaw revision is the fruit of two years of work to bring our bylaws up to date and carefully consider how they can support our future in the most effective way. The original plan was to have the draft of new bylaws ready for approval at the 2026 AGM. However, the Working Group discussions surfaced some important changes that we felt would benefit from input at the AGM. That input has been incorporated into these draft bylaws which the Board is recommending to the membership at the SGM.

The Working Group was guided by the following assumptions in drafting the new Bylaws:

- Our future must be grounded in our Lutheran heritage and faith.
- Maintaining and nurturing relationships with congregations is important to our mission.
- Protecting the land and the Kuriakos commitment to being a place set apart to be together is key to our future.
- Ensuring a strong membership in support of Kuriakos mission is required for our success.

An information package, including introductory material and the full text of the revised bylaws, is posted on our [website](#). The 2025 financial statements are also included.

Everyone is welcome to attend and have a voice at the meeting; voting is open to delegates from member congregations. If you would like to be a delegate, please check with your congregation's leadership to ensure your church's membership is up to date.

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY - CALGARY

Save the date.....Saturday, November 7th

We hope you will make plans to attend their annual Fundraiser held at
Hope Lutheran Church

Looking for silent auction items - please bring them to Hope's office by October 18th.
Stay tuned for more details!

PRE-KINDERGARTEN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Did you know that Hope Lutheran Church has a full-day childcare centre who rents space from us? Pre-Kindergarten Educational Services is excited to offer full-day care at Hope Lutheran for children ages 3–6. Our programs are designed to give children a warm, engaging place to learn, play, build friendships and develop confidence. Throughout the year, children will enjoy hands-on learning experiences, creative activities, music and movement, outdoor play and special visitors and experiences that make each month exciting.

We are currently welcoming new families and have space available for the upcoming school year. If you know a family in Brentwood or surrounding areas who is looking for full-day child care for a child ages 3–6 please share the word! We are so appreciative of the warm welcome and continued support we receive from the Hope Lutheran community, and we look forward to another wonderful year

FROM THE WIDER CHURCH



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.

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.

¹ 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

² Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

³ 1 Corinthians 12:7

⁴ Philippians 2:3-4

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,

⁵ Leviticus 19:33-34

⁶ Matthew 25:35-40

Bishop Irish Schermund

National Worship Service to celebrate the ELCIC's 40th anniversary

August 21, 2026 Carter Brooks National Bishop, National Church, News, Youth



As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada celebrates 40 years in 2026, members and congregations from across the church are invited to come together for a special National Worship Service on Sunday, October 25.

Led by National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, the service will be livestreamed from Camp Kinasao at Christopher Lake, Saskatchewan, where youth from across the Saskatchewan Synod will gather for a weekend retreat.

Congregations across the ELCIC are encouraged to join the livestream as part of their Sunday morning worship (as timing and technology allow). Individuals and households are also invited to join the wider church in worship.

"This year marks 40 years in the life of our church," said Bishop Kochendorfer. "This milestone not only invites us to remember our story, but also to reflect on who we are today and how God is calling us forward as a church Living out God's grace and unconditional love."

The National Worship Service falls on Reformation Sunday and will centre on the theme 'One Body,' drawing from Ephesians 4:1-6: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling."

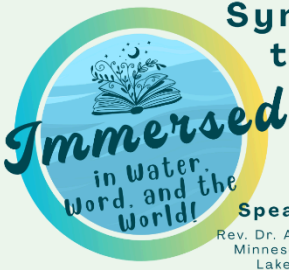
"Our worship's focus, One Body, reminds us that in a fragmented world and church, we are called to unity in the one body of Christ," Bishop Kochendorfer said. "One body rooted in the love of Christ, centred in the cross of Christ and united in service to God's creation. One body rejoicing together, liberated by grace, reaching out to the world in Christ's reconciling love."

Youth participating in the Saskatchewan Synod retreat will help lead the service as the synod continues preparations for the 2027 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering, Safe Harbour, taking place August 19-22, 2027, at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo, B.C. Reflecting on the service's theme, Kochendorfer points to Ephesians as a reminder that the church is called to live into the unity God has already given in Christ.

"Ephesians reminds us that our witness binds us to mutual nurture, care and peace toward one another," he said. "Ephesians reminds us that we are called to be a diverse, inclusive community that celebrates all people. Ephesians reminds us that this growing up into Christ necessitates a changed life: a way of living characterized by love, by humility, bound to peace and to justice."

As the ELCIC marks four decades of ministry together, the October 25 service will offer an opportunity for the whole church to worship as one, across congregations, synods, communities and homes all over the country.

Further details, including the livestream time and link, to be shared in the weeks ahead.



**Synod of Alberta
the Territories**

October 3
Lutheran Church of the
Good Shepherd,
Red Deer
8:30am-4:00pm

Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen lives on
Minnesota's North Shore of
Lake Superior where she
serves as a public theologian
for her Lutheran synod in the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America (ELCA).

Bonus!
Come learn a new Healing
Rite, homegrown by Rev Erin
Thomas, Ben and Caitlyn
Johnston-Urey!



ABT Synod bi-monthly e-newsletter: *WEDNESDAY'S WORD*

Beginning in January of 2016, in order to provide regular communication and to reduce financial costs, the Synod office made the decision to discontinue distributing regular quarterly mailings to all Congregations and Rostered leaders.

These bi-monthly e-letters, called *Wednesday's Word* provide timely information and quick links to synod resources and other websites, as well as weekly prayers. This is a useful communication resource for Rostered Ministers, Lay Leaders and Congregations. These may be forwarded to interested individuals, and reproduced in your Sunday bulletins/newsletters and on your congregational website.

To subscribe to Wednesday's Word, please go to our home page and click on the subscribe link which you will find on the lower right hand corner of the page. <https://albertasynod.ca/>

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

From our Friends at Brentwood Community Association: Little Food Library Needs Your Help! Critically Short!!



Across Calgary, students, seniors and many others are struggling. Calgary Food Banks Hampers were more than double 2023 at 800/day. Alberta with a minimum wage unchanged since 2018 has seen CPI increases of Food +34.0%, Shelter +33.2%, Transportation +26.8%, Energy +26.0% No wonder hampers have more than doubled. Recent Food Bank report Work that Isn't Working.

It's a way of reminding people that they are not alone and others do care. Brentwood Cares is so thankful for your generous and continued support of the little Food Library.

Calgary Food Bank City Wide Food Drive – September 19th

New this year is the opportunity to donate through a virtual food drive. No matter where you are in the city, you have the option to purchase food through our online shop. The food will be delivered directly to our warehouse and distributed to those in need, no trip to the grocery store required!

If you receive a cloth bag, you are invited to fill it with non-perishable food donations and leave it on your doorstep after 10:00 am on September 19th, 2025 for pickup. If you don't get a bag, you are still invited to donate through the [virtual food drive](#)!

Nose Hill Library Programs (just four of many):

Drop in English Sunday Afternoons 1 - 2:30 p.m. no registration required

Open Lab Ages 13-17 Friday Afternoons 3 - 4:30 p.m no registration required

Seniors Social Club +55 years Monday Mornings 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. no registration required.

Library Volunteering – Many programs and ways to help. Did you know youth volunteers start at age 12? Must also be in grade 7.

REFLECTION & FUN

BIKES AND BRUISES

Kathy Lee

I don't know how old I was when I finally got a bicycle of my own. Being the youngest of three siblings meant having to wait in line. There was only so much money to go around. My brother, Dean, being the oldest, got his bike first. Purchased from the Marshall-Wells hardware store in Brooks, it was a CCM boy's bike, a beauty with a shiny dark red frame. In due course my sister, Elaine, got her CCM girl's bike, blue and white. Both bikes had fenders over the wheels and chain guards.

Elaine loved her bike but I dare say she did not love having to transport her little sister on the back of it to school. Dad got a carrier seat, attached it over the back fender, and it was off for both of us to Bethany School. I figure Elaine's legs were probably good and tired, sore even, after lugging me along on the 4 km to school. It was especially challenging when there was a headwind blowing.

One day Dad came home with a Garry bike that became my sole possession. I don't know where he got it, perhaps at an auction sale, common in the farm community back in the 1950s. It was not brand new. In fact, it looked quite worn—a faded red—and to top it all off, it was a *boy's* bike. There was no chain guard. It didn't even have any fenders. No fender on the back wheel? How embarrassing! Who rides a bike with a bare back wheel? Well, it was make do or do without. Embarrassing or not, I was determined to learn how to ride that bike. It took awhile, and I had the bumps and bruises to show for it. I was a black and blue mess, actually.

I admired my brother and sister who got on their bikes without needing a prop. Dean threw his leg over the seat and away he'd go. Elaine raised the kick stand, hopped on and she was off. Boy! I'd like to be able to do that! There was an old fence post, half-buried, lying on its side in the front yard. That was my launch pad. For a long time I rode under bar, which frankly, I don't remember doing. My sister assured me that was indeed the case. I guess I was finally able to reach the pedals from the seat. Having my own bike meant freedom and I rode that old pelter, day in and day out.

After I got brave enough to tackle riding on the road, not just in the yard or the lane leading into it, I was off on new adventures. My steering ability left something to be desired, though. One time I found myself headed towards the ditch and I didn't know how to stop. I just kept going, drove right in and landed in a heap. Oof! Well, just get up, get out of the ditch, and go back home, a little worse for wear. No broken bones, fortunately. I probably had to walk my bike because there was nothing to help me get back on it. Eventually I was skilled at getting on and off, steering, and braking. After a running start I could even throw my leg over the seat to get on the bike, just like my brother. I was secretly very proud of myself.

There were three boys at the school, Steve, Frank, and Johnny. Steve and Johnny were in the same grade as my sister; Frank was Steve's younger brother. They all had bikes that were a cut above everyone else's: balloon tires, chrome fenders, fancy handle bar grips with streamers. Those guys made sure everyone was made aware of their status of having the best of the best. They were real jerks, though, because instead of riding their own bikes around the schoolyard at recess and lunchtime, they grabbed Elaine's, and took turns riding it furiously. The end result was a broken back fender support. The bike was never the same afterwards; the fender shook and rattled. It was a daily reminder of how defenceless girls were against bullies. Elaine was just disgusted, to say nothing of being frustrated and immensely disappointed.

The old bare-wheel boy's bike gradually came to the end of its useful life and it ended up in the junk pile. Elaine's bike became mine and I was thrilled to have a girl's bike at last.

Did you know that we have a puzzle and book shelf at Hope?

Please donate great reads and awesome puzzles - be sure that all pieces are in the box and that the box is taped closed.

Feel free to browse the shelves and borrow anything you'd like!

Puzzles are Good for Everyone's Brain!

You will find a collection of puzzles at: iyampuzzled.org including Sudoku and a Wheel of Fortune variant. The rest involve basic arithmetic.

Most can be adjusted from: EASY – good for learning – up to CHALLENGING.

Junior number-crunchers may actually find them fun! (I hesitate to add 'educational')

Link to the puzzles: iyampuzzled.org

An introductory video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVLnjsNIbyE>

Enjoy!

Robert



03-05-2012

A MUSTARD SEED OF FAITH, A KERNEL OF TRUTH, AND AN ACORN OF HOPE WAS HIS SECRET RECIPE FOR PLANTING CHURCHES



Bible Word Search

Y H P E S O J T G Q O E Z B W S E S O M E M V I
M P M Y D Z C V U L E A Z G A O P N X Y G F D C
E J R E C U D S Z W Z S V E E T S O Q R K N E N
E C Y X C M J D D N Q T G K K J J Z H E G W M G
S U J O V G F N T R B E G C S P Q L V T U M Z V
O K D T W S U Z I S Y R Z M R F C W F E A U D L
B E F I Z A O Q J U D O M A S Y C I Z P H M Y B
T Y O K R M X A E T N E V D A G B J N S O I X N
B N J R Y U U C H R I S T M A S C G P G L P K D
G N B F K E A X O H B R U A F I J P F C J F R H
H X R N V L A K Z K G X A T F W L M A R Y E A X
L E A Y Y Q G W P M C U G Q O W C W Q I D C M K
U J S S N H Z G M W E H T T A M Z D O D J R J N
K V Y T T S I T P A B E H T N H O J B C T Q I W
E N D R W Q W H S U V Q Y Q V N N H K G Z C A J
X D K J O H N Y I T B J U S R E E H X V M Y R V
S E L P I C S I D N G G J O I R S B X X Z H H K
S Q V M K O S W D E H P N I A V G E W I L P D V
K V G A C K O V I L E S T H E R U I V I N K S K
Q I K H Q G K W R J A H P F I G A I D Y L C B G
Y Z P W I B N N X I F I O C X L F R B S A I O A
Y A Z T D M G F J E S U S K Y Q X C G L F C Q T
Q R Z X K H A O N U F U G P A U L N P Q G M E Z
M K T X J L Y V Z B S O T O L N Y L E A O B F F

JOHN THE BAPTIST

CHRISTMAS

DISCIPLES

MATTHEW

ADVENT

EASTER

ESTHER

JOSEPH

SAMUEL

JESUS

LYDIA

MOSES

PETER

JOHN

LENT

LUKE

MARK

MARY

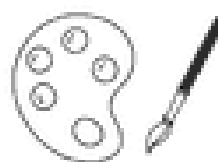
NOAH

PAUL





SCHOOL SUPPLIES



J Q H P Z R H O L E P U N C H
G U Z P O S T I T L L V Q M J
O U C W Y K P E A M U H U A T
C Y X X Q O U U P C N R X R A
R M Z U B O L L E X C E Y K O
A P B S O B E G N Z H L Q E C
Y D A J C E U P C L S U W R M
O J C Z H T K A I T N R F S K
N H K P A O O P L N W F O D D
E W P A L N O E F J Z J L U D
Z K A X K Q B R Y V J O D Z P
C N C D F R E L P A T S E C Q
L T K G G B J B I N D E R C V
U S K W N E P X P A I N T F I
I B A G S Z Q Q N A Z D N J Y

WORD LIST



BACKPACK
BAG
BINDER
BOOK
CHALK

COAT
CRAYON
FOLDER
GLUE
HOLE PUNCH

LUNCH
MARKERS
NOTEBOOK
PAINT
PAPER

PEN
PENCIL
POST IT
RULER
STAPLER



Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY