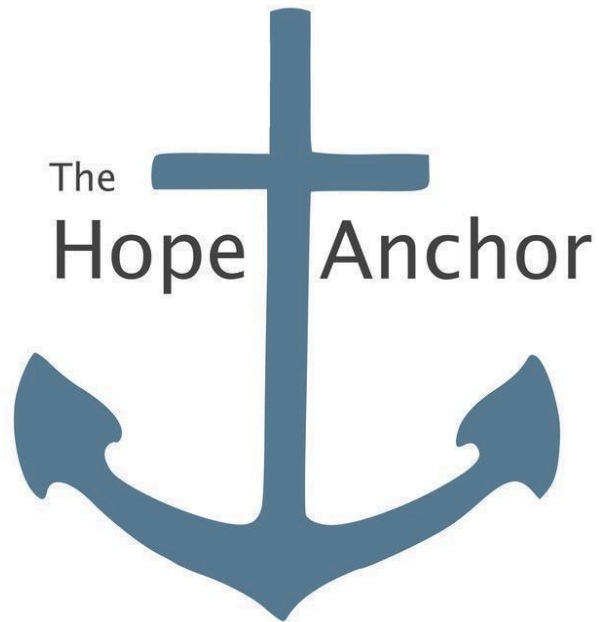


October 2026



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

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, October 13 at 7:00pm

A Message from Your Council Chair

Dear Friends,

October has arrived with a complex mix of emotions across our congregation. In recent weeks, we have felt the weight of unexpected news: Pastor Greg has had to take a sudden medical leave, and our longtime lay leader, Joyce McKenny, is moving to a new parish closer to her new home. It is entirely natural to feel surprise, grief, and uncertainty in moments of transition like these. Joyce's steady presence and Pastor Greg's leadership are deeply valued, and we hold them both in our prayers as we navigate these changes together.

Yet, even in times of unexpected shift, we are reminded of the profound ways God continues to provide. When we look closely, we see a story not of scarcity, but of abundance.

Gratitude for Abundance

God has graciously placed extraordinary people in our midst to surround us with care and leadership just as we need it most:

Ben Lukenchuk and His Family: Our hearts were lifted by the timely return of seminary student Ben Lukenchuk and his family to Calgary, arriving right when we needed preaching support.

Kathy Lee: We are so grateful to Kathy for stepping forward with enthusiasm to lead our weekly Bible study.

Pastor Aaron: Thank you to Pastor Aaron from Advent Lutheran for stepping in to walk alongside our confirmands on their faith journey and for offering pastoral care to those in our congregation who are most in need.

Markus Lee: We warmly welcome Markus as our new Child & Youth Coordinator, already feeling the energy and gifts he brings to our young people and families.

The "Work of the People" & One Body in Christ

Over the past year, Pastor Greg and I often talked about the vital importance of churches stepping away from the "pastor-centric" models of the past, that is, the idea that a pastor must be at the center of every single activity for ministry to happen.

These past few weeks have shown us the strength of that shift in action. The word liturgy literally means "the work of the people." As Paul writes in 1 Corinthians, the church is one body made up of many distinct, essential parts. Each of you brings unique gifts that keep our ministry vibrant and whole. When one part stumbles or needs rest, other parts of the body step up in love to hold the community high.

Living Into Our Multicultural Vision

This spirit of shared community was beautifully visible during our recent Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations, led by members of Hope's new Chinese Ministry. Through shared food, music, fellowship, and action, we experienced a tangible sense of belonging and compassion that reflects our strategic commitment to a multicultural lens. We are also thrilled to celebrate a wonderful new relationship forged with the Calgary Chinese Oratorio Society, opening up exciting new avenues for connection, artistic expression, and shared faith.

Looking Forward with Hope

On behalf of Church Council, thank you for your continued patience, trust, grace, and support as we walk through this liminal time.

As autumn encourages us to reflect on gratitude and the harvest of our lives, I invite you to consider the abundance God has placed in your hands. May we find meaningful ways to share that abundance with the world around us, whether that is through simple acts of everyday kindness, by courageously speaking out against oppression, or by continually extending God's grace and unfailing love to one another.

With deep gratitude,

Anne Harding
Council Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Stepping into October with Growth, Collaboration, and Community Life

As we move into October, Hope continues to deepen its ministry presence, strengthen partnerships, and nurture the vibrant life of our congregation. September has been a month of meaningful transitions, joyful gatherings, and steady progress across our ministries and Operations.

Our Faith Formation Ministry begins a new chapter as we welcome **Markus Lee**, our new PartTime Children Youth Coordinator. Markus brings several years of experience in Lutheran children's and youth ministry, along with recent service at Calgary Lutheran Unity Mission's VBS and teaching support at the University of Calgary. His crosscultural background and caring leadership will be a blessing to our growing ministry. Markus will lead Hope Kids on Sunday mornings and join our monthly youth events. He is also seeking one or two adult volunteers (preferably nonparents) to support occasionally, helping strengthen intergenerational connections within our church family.

Hope's collaboration through the **Calgary Lutheran Youth Ministry** continues to flourish. The first joint church youth activity—an Escape Room event on August 29—brought together 26 youth from across Calgary and was a great success. The next citywide youth gathering will take place on **October 3 at Laser City**, offering another opportunity for shared fellowship and faith exploration among our young people.

Operationally, **our rental portfolio continues to evolve**. PreK has begun their 2026–2027 school year in our community hall, and we look forward to supporting their early childhood learning program as they continue to grow. As we move into fall, we will also be sharing information about our available rental spaces with community groups who may benefit from them. Many of our past partnerships have grown naturally through relationships, hospitality, and word of mouth. If you know community groups, small programs, or neighbours who may be looking for space, sharing that Hope has rooms available can be a simple and meaningful way to support our ministry. In doing so, we extend our welcome beyond our walls and offer our facilities as a place where people can gather, grow, and experience God's love.

Our Chinese Ministry continues to grow in depth and connection. Cantonese sermon attendance has varied over the past few weeks, and we are grateful for the faithful group who continues to gather for worship, learning, and fellowship. The first MidAutumn activity—**HongKongers Sing & Belong Together**—was held on September 26, and **Camp Sunday 27**, with mooncake, glutinous rice dumpling, and fruit tasting after worship, offered opportunities for cultural celebration and shared ministry with Faith Formation.

Our seniors ministry also enjoyed a meaningful outing. Led by Zena, the **Under 100** Club attended the Seniors Acting Lab production BINS on August 27, with 14 participants. The play explored the realities of homelessness with honesty and compassion, reminding us of the deep human longing to be seen, heard, and valued—and of the hope that sustains us even in difficult times.

Planning for the **Hope & Holly Christmas Market** continues to progress well. The task force has finalized promotional posters and is moving forward with vendor coordination and event logistics as we prepare for our November 28 market. **Our Salsa Party team** also contributed joyfully to this effort, gathering in fellowship to prepare **85 bottles of homemade salsa** for Christmas Market sales. Their dedication and teamwork reflect the creativity and generosity that continue to shape Hope's community life.

As we step into October, I am grateful for the dedication of our staff, volunteers, ministry partners, and congregation members. Each initiative — whether pastoral, operational, or community focused — reflects Hope's mission to be a place of welcome, care, and shared purpose. May this new month bring continued growth, renewed energy, and meaningful connection for all who call Hope home.

With gratitude,

Deborah Leung

Manager of Parish Operations and Administration

MESSAGE FROM HOPE FINANCE COMMITTEE

END OF AUGUST 2026 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Monthly offerings for August were favourable to budget by \$450 and August 2025 actual by \$1438. However, when we add the other revenue streams for the month, we find ourselves unfavourable to budget by \$2542. This can be attributed to a decrease in rental revenue for the month. Our monthly expenses for August were slightly unfavourable to budget forecast, but favourable to August 2025 actual numbers. So, when we compare our August revenues to expenses, we find ourselves in a minor unfavourable position of \$1757. One important item to note pertains to the funds we have been expecting from Synod. We did receive a cheque in mid-September for the balance of the funds relating to dissolution of Unity Chinese Mission Church and the subsequent welcoming of its members into our congregation. These funds will have a positive impact on the September Financial Report.

August Highlights

- Deficit of \$1,757 reported in August, YTD surplus \$41,134 (excluding depreciation expense)
- Discretionary cash \$7,904 increased by approximately \$4,112 from July
- Chequing account balance \$166,862 increase of \$4,325 from July

Hi Level Operations Summary for Month of August 2026

		2026			2025		2026 v 2025
		Actual	Forecast	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenues	Offerings	23,861	23,411	450	22,423	27,600	1,438
	Committee & Activities	150	100	50	1,766	117	-1,616
	Administration & Property	10,099	12,841	(2,742)	4,575	5,517	5,524
	Transfers	(300)	0	(300)	24,500	24,500	(24,800)
Revenues Total		33,810	36,352	(2,542)	53,264	57,733	(19,454)
Expenses	Wages & Benefits	20,559	21,356	796	19,774	20,089	-785
	Committee & Activities	2,440	650	(1,790)	1,776	3,577	-664
	Administration & Property	10,901	9,958	(943)	18,174	23,692	7,273
	Synod & Ministry	1,667	1,666	(1)	1,500	1,500	(167)
Expenses Total		35,567	33,629	(1,937)	41,224	48,858	5,657
Extended MiniSynod & Ministry		0	0	0	0	0	0
Extended Ministry Total		0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus / (Deficit)		(1,757)	2,722	(4,479)	12,040	8,875	-13,797

Comparing year to date numbers for both revenues and expenses we find ourselves in a relatively strong position. Offerings are favourable to budget by \$450 and August 2025 actual by \$20,254. Expenses are unfavourable when compared to budget by \$1937 but favourable to 2025 actual by \$49,988. The 2025 actual expense would include last year's roof repair cost. Overall year to date we are currently sitting in a surplus position of \$41,134 with our revenues outpacing expenses.

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

		2026			2025		2026 v 2025
		Actual	Forecast	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenues	Offerings	222,362	221,912	450	202,108	220,800	20,254
	Committee & Activities	1,800	1,750	50	1,020	929	780
	Administration & Property	84,405	87,147	(2,742)	74,120	64,133	10,285
	Transfers	(10,600)	(10,300)	(300)	24,500	24,500	(35,100)
Revenues Total		297,967	300,509	(2,542)	301,748	310,362	(3,781)
Expenses	Wages & Benefits	148,795	149,592	796	160,452	160,713	11,657
	Committee & Activities	12,941	11,151	(1,790)	19,172	26,245	6,231
	Administration & Property	81,614	80,671	(943)	115,197	130,045	33,583
	Synod & Ministry	13,482	13,482	(1)	12,000	12,000	(1,482)
Expenses Total		256,833	254,896	(1,937)	306,821	329,003	49,988
Extended MiniSynod & Ministry		0	0	0	0	0	0
Extended Ministry Total		0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus / (Deficit)		41,134	45,613	(4,479)	(5,073)	(18,641)	46,207

To date our Synod benevolence totals \$13,333 and funds directed to Lutheran Campus Ministry amount to \$3135. Our chequing account balance has increased by \$4325 from July to month end August.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 31 YTD Results & Year-End Forecast

Summary of actual revenue and expenses compared to annual budget

Category	YTD Actual (Jul 31)	Full Year Budget	Full Year Forecast	Variance v Budget
Offerings & Donations	\$198,501	\$343,225	\$355,173	+\$11,948
Admin & Property Revenue	\$74,306	\$105,970	\$121,409	+\$15,439
Wages & Benefits Expenses	\$128,236	\$265,058	\$237,029	+\$28,029
Admin & Property Expenses	\$70,714	\$161,625	\$156,283	+\$5,342
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	\$42,891	(\$5,033)	\$26,946	+\$31,978



OPERATIONAL SHIFTS

Key Forecast Shifts From Original Budget

Strategic decisions and structural updates shaping our year-end position



\$10K Landscaping Deferred

Removed the \$10,000 capital landscaping project from the forecast as it was not prudent to proceed while an initial deficit was budgeted.



Market Rate Rental Income

PreK expanded to include daycare services, enabling transition to full market rent of **\$4,000/month** (\$48k/yr revenue stream).



Staffing Realignment

Organizational review implemented: Mary Snyder remains on leave; Office Admin duties continue under contracted reduced scope with Megan.



Chinese Ministry Development

Supported by Synod grant: \$24k previously allocated to rent now powers operational ministry, plus \$17.5k expected ministry grant.



Roof Replacement Project

Status update on building infrastructure needs and assessment plan

🏠 Background & Replacement Need

Original installation errors have caused recurring leaks. Despite tens of thousands spent in patches, full replacement is needed due to square footage.

Estimated Cost: North of \$300,000

📋 Due Diligence & Assessment

Working with **Deborah (Manager of Parish Operations)** to ensure full condition clarity and obtain multiple competitive contractor quotes.

Status: Sourcing Multiple Quotes

🏛️ Government Grant Application

Dale (Finance Committee) submitted a Govt of Alberta grant application for structural building repairs to offset costs.

Potential Support: Over \$100,000 (Decision Next Month)

👥 Next Steps for Congregation

Council will present a fully vetted proposal and financial strategy to the congregation for review and approval once quotes and grant outcomes are clear.

Proposal to Follow Confirmation



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

Steve Medhurst

Financial Liaison-Hope Lutheran Council

OFFICE NEWS

OFFICE HOURS MONDAY – THURSDAY, 9AM – 12:00PM

The church office is closed Monday, October 12th for Thanksgiving.

Can you please provide the church office with a contact name of a family member or a 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 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 have someone let the church office know. Contact Zena for pastoral emergencies. (403-282-6033) or coordinator@hopelutheran.ca. We are thankful that other Lutheran pastors from the Calgary area are able to support us as needed during Pastor Greg's leave.

WORSHIP NEWS

Thank you to all our worship presiders, volunteer worship planners, worship assistants, AV team, accompanists, special musicians, communion assistants, altar guild, readers, ushers, hospitality team, coffee set up/ clean up folks and cookie donators. It takes many hands to offer worship each Sunday! If you feel called to serve in any of these ways, please call the office or speak with anyone on council - we will be sure you have the support and training you need to feel comfortable in any of these roles.

October 4

- Presider TBD; no communion

October 11

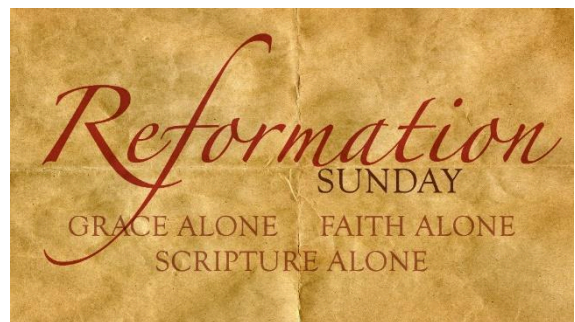
- Presider TBD; no communion
- Hope Worship Band

October 18

- Presider TBD; no communion
- The Range

October 25 - Reformation Sunday

- Presider - Pastor Kristian Wold; communion
- Brass musicians

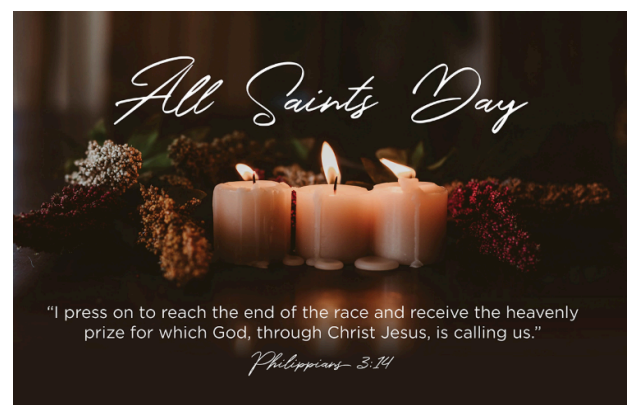


November 1 - All Saints Sunday

- Presider - Pastor Margaret Koizumi; communion

All Saint's Sunday

We will be celebrating All Saint's Sunday on November 1st. Please provide the church office with names of those dearly departed between November 1, 2025 and November 1, 2026 so they may be recognized during this service.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

HOPE KIDS

Fall has kicked off with the return of our regular Sunday morning *Hope Kids* programming! This program is aimed for ages 4-12, and will start in worship and continue after the children's chat with the pastor. It's been a few years since we've had consistent children's ministry at Hope, and we're thrilled to bring it back- especially with our new Coordinator, Markus. He joins us with previous Lutheran children and youth experience, and we're excited to welcome him into this role. Be sure to say hello when you see him!



We are looking for a couple of volunteers to support this new initiative on a regular basis- ideally individuals who are **not** parents of the children attending. Hope Kids will run three Sundays each month, with Camp Sunday continuing once a month and rotating between Hope and Advent Lutheran.

The next Camp Sunday will be on October 18th at Hope Lutheran.

CONFIRMATION

We will continue our joint venture with Advent and Lutheran Church of the Cross. Classes begin after worship, starting October 4th (12:00 - 1:30pm at Advent). We encourage confirmation families to attend worship service at the host church each Sunday. We will also have two opportunities for Confirmation Camp at Kuriakos. Please pray for our confirmands on their faith journeys.

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning Bible studies in October, led by Kathy Lee, will continue to look at the treasures of I and II Peter. Come and join us in the Matthew Room at 10:00 a.m. You are warmly welcome!

SPIRITUAL LIFE NEWS

DAILY BIBLE READINGS – OCTOBER

Thursday, October 01, 2026: Psalm 19; Exodus 23:1-9; Colossians 2:16-23

Friday, October 02, 2026: Psalm 19; Exodus 23:14-19; Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a

Saturday, October 03, 2026: Psalm 19; Exodus 23:10-13; John 7:40-52

Sunday, October 04, 2026: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Monday, October 05, 2026: Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 1 Peter 2:4-10
Tuesday, October 06, 2026: Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3; 2
Wednesday, October 07, 2026: Psalm 119:49-56; Deuteronomy 6:10-25; John 11:45-57
Thursday, October 08, 2026: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:1-8; 1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14
Friday, October 09, 2026: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:9-11; James 4:4-10
Saturday, October 10, 2026: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Exodus 24:12-18; Mark 2:18-22
Sunday, October 11, 2026: Exodus 32:1-14
Monday, October 12, 2026: Psalm 97; Exodus 32:15-35; Jude 17-25
Monday, October 12, 2026: Thanksgiving - Deuteronomy 8:7-18
Tuesday, October 13, 2026: Psalm 97; Exodus 33:1-6; Philippians 3:13-4:1
Wednesday, October 14, 2026: Psalm 97; 2 Kings 17:7-20; John 6:25-35
Thursday, October 15, 2026: Psalm 99; Exodus 33:7-11; 3 John 9-12
Friday, October 16, 2026: Psalm 99; Exodus 31:1-11; 1 Peter 5:1-5
Saturday, October 17, 2026: Psalm 99; Exodus 39:32-43; Matthew 14:1-12
Sunday, October 18, 2026: Exodus 33:12-23
Monday, October 19, 2026: Psalm 63:1-8; Exodus 40:34-38; Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20
Tuesday, October 20, 2026: Psalm 63:1-8; Numbers 12:1-9; Revelation 18:21-24
Wednesday, October 21, 2026: Psalm 63:1-8; Numbers 13:1-2, 17-14:9
Thursday, October 22, 2026: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 31:14-22; Titus 1:5-16
Friday, October 23, 2026: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 32:1-14, 18
Saturday, October 24, 2026: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Deuteronomy 32:44-47
Sunday, October 25, 2026: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Monday, October 26, 2026: Psalm 119:41-48 ; Numbers 33:38-39; James 2:8-13
Tuesday, October 27, 2026: Psalm 119:41-48; Exodus 34:29-35; James 2:14-26
Wednesday, October 28, 2026: Psalm 119:41-48; Deuteronomy 26:16-27:7
Thursday, October 29, 2026: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 1:1-11; Romans 2:17-29
Friday, October 30, 2026: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 2:1-14; 2 Peter 2:1-3
Saturday, October 31, 2026: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; Joshua 2:15-24; Matthew 23:13-28

BIRTHDAYS

October 1 – Brigitte Wilhelm

October 3 – Cindy Robinson

October 6 – Shelly Mueller

October 10 – Sarah Kuziej

October 14 – Glory Christensen

October 17 – Alfred Bondli

October 4 – Joan Pattinson

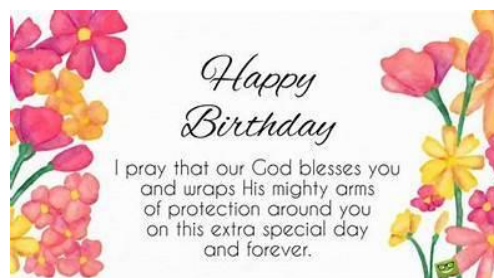
October 24 – Esther Kang

October 24 – Dennis Sonntag

October 27 – Doris Anderson

October 27 – Laura Ost

October 24 – Corinne Kaminski



FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

MEN'S BREAKFAST

October 3rd, 8:30 am at Cora Brentwood.

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

WORK OF ART

Thursday mornings 10am. Do you have an art project at home you just never seem to get to? Bring whatever project you are working on and join in the conversation while to work on your project while enjoying the company of others.

UNDER 100 CLUB

In September we went to the Austrian-Danish Canadian Club for an afternoon of delicious food and great conversation.



Next Under 100 Club.....Thursday, October 15, 1:00pm

We will have a presentation on Meals on Wheels.

REFORMATION SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

We will be celebrating Reformation Sunday on October 25. We will join together for lunch after worship. Bratwurst and hotdogs will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.



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.



HOPE & HOLLY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Join us on Saturday, November 28th from 10:00am – 2:00pm at Hope Lutheran Church for our Hope & Holly Christmas Fair. There will be door prizes! Enjoy some coffee and treats at our café! Cash preferred!

HOPE & HOLLY
CHRISTMAS MARKET

Calling all Big Kids who would like to sell their handmade items
(Jewelry, crocheting, 3D printed items, etc)

Your Help makes it a Real Community Christmas!

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

Contact person:
Deborah LEUNG
403-282-6033
manager@hopelutheran.ca

Growing in Hope: One Body! Many Stories!



THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who helped to chop and dice our way to make 80 jars of salsa! These and many other great items will be available for purchase at our Hope & Holly fair!

PROPERTY CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday October 17th 9am – noon

It's autumn!!! The fallen leaves and pinecones must be raked before the snow flies! Bring your gloves, rakes, leaf blowers, and trimmers. Help of all ages welcome! It's a great morning of fellowship, exercise and donuts 😊 Let Marianne know if you can help/ sign up on the Nurturing Connections board.



Image from the 2024 Property Clean Up Day

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!

CHARITY OF CHOICE - 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!



Mindful Movements

Mindful Movements returns this fall!!

Led by registered physiotherapist Tonia Wood, this weekly strength and stretch class focuses on balance, standing and seated exercises for all abilities!

Wednesdays October 21 - December 9

11:30am - 12:30pm

\$50/ 8 classes

Location: Fireside Room

FREE to nonagenarians!

Contact Tonia directly for registration and payment tonia.physioactive@gmail.com

MID-AUTUMN HONGKONGERS SING & BELONG TOGETHER EVENT

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our September 26 community event. **Over 60 participants joined us, in addition to members of CCOS (Calgary Chinese Oratorio Society), special singing groups, Scripture readers and all volunteers**, for a meaningful evening of fellowship, reflection and community support.

We were especially grateful for the **Support Letter from Bishop Trish** and for **Rev. Margaret's blessing** during the evening.

We are also thankful for the tremendous response to the **Collective Appeal Letter regarding the Hong Kong Pathway applications**, with over 350 signatures collected through online and paper signing as of September 28, 2026 (today).

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, volunteered, signed the letter, prayed for us, and stood together in support of Hong Kong families in our community.

MINISTRY PARTNERS

CAMP KURIAKOS

Sylvan Lake Lutheran Bible Camp Association

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING UPDATE: from Saturday, Sept 26, 2016

The special general meeting was held to:

- Receive the audited 2025 financial statements
- Vote on proposed changes to the bylaws

The proposed bylaw revision is the result of 2 years of work to bring the bylaws up to date and consider how they can support the future of Kuriakos. A bylaw working group was formed in December 2025, this group identified several important changes.

Changes:

1. Definition of Member

- Definition of a member will be individual person
- Congregational membership has been removed
- Membership is open to ages 14 or older will an annual fee (to be determined)

2. The Kuriakos Ministry Partnership Program is proposed to provide a simple way for congregations and Kuriakos to be intentional in their walk together in shared ministry. It is a two-way relationship, congregations are invited to identify the ways they would like to participate in and support the ministry of Kuriakos while Kuriakos commits to support and strength the ministry of its congregational partners.

Please refer to the Kuriakos webpage for a very detailed description of the bylaws and the proposed new partnership program. <https://kuriakos.ab.ca/join-us/special-general-meeting>

The Meeting was chaired and directed by Phil Penrod, chair of the Kuriakos board. There were 22 participants in an online meeting: delegates as well as interested individuals. The vote was called and the new bylaws were passed unanimously.

Hazel Mitschke

Hope Delegate

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Being the Light



A Celebration of Campus Ministry

Holden Evening Prayer • Auction • Simple Supper

Saturday, November 7, 2026

2:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Hope Lutheran Church

3527 Boulton Rd NW, Calgary,

rsvp and auction at <https://campusministry.ca>

We are collecting silent auction donation items. Contact Zena or bring to Hope office by Oct. 18. No broken or stained items please.

If you have attended before, and this year you introduce someone new to this wonderful event by bringing them along, we will have a small thank you gift for each of you! We appreciate you spreading the word about Campus Ministry.

AMICUS SINGERS

Amicus Singers will begin rehearsals Sunday, September 20th at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room at Hope Lutheran Church alternating Sundays thereafter through June. Please, speak to Gretchen if you're interested in joining us (403-918-0480 cell). We are a welcoming group of friends. We will provide musical contributions to occasional worship services at Hope throughout the year.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

This fall, 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 spaces 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 together.



Full & Half Day Child Care Programs

**Early literacy based Pre-Kindergarten and
Kinder Care classes for children ages 3 – 6**

Our program provides an opportunity for children to grow physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally while in a safe and stimulating environment.

**Registration Now Open for the
2026 - 2027 school year**

Register@PreKindergartenEd.com

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.

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.

¹ Corinthians 12:12-13

² Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

³ Corinthians 12:7

⁴ Philippians 2:3-4

⁵ Leviticus 19:33-34

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bishop Trish Schmermund".

Bishop Trish Schmermund

Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCIC

⁶ Matthew 25:35-40

From Hope About the Alberta Referendum: Information and Learning Opportunities

The upcoming Alberta referendum includes questions about immigration and the delivery of public services that may have particular implications for newcomers, including members of our own community who are navigating the immigration and permanent-residency process. We want to help members and friends of the church make an informed decision by connecting them with reliable, non-partisan information about the referendum questions and their potential implications.

While we have not found any upcoming in-person information sessions specifically focused on newcomers, the following resources and events may be helpful:

For newcomers: The Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (AAISA) has published *Alberta's October Referendum: What It Means for Newcomers*, a resource focused specifically on how the referendum questions relate to newcomers and immigrant-serving communities.

[AAISA: Alberta's October Referendum — What It Means for Newcomers](#)

In everyone: Calgary Public Library is hosting several free, in-person opportunities to learn about the referendum more generally: [The Referendum and You](#)

Please check the links for dates, times, locations, and registration information.



**Synod of Alberta
the Territories**

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

Immersed
in water,
word, and the
world!

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!

The poster features a circular logo with a book and the word 'Immersed'. It includes a photo of Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen and a photo of three people. The background is light green with blue and yellow accents.

Join the SYNOD 2026 ABT Congregational Life Event on October 3rd at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Red Deer for an unforgettable day filled with learning, worship, creativity, and renewal. Register today and don't miss out! 🙌 [Register here](#).



September 2026

Grace and peace to you from Jesus!

September has always carried with it a welcome back to routine. We're often busy wondering, What do I need to do? What do we have to buy? What must I mark in my schedule? But what if we begin this fall with a different question?

What are we here for?

The church in Canada faces significant challenges – financial, volunteers, buildings, spiritually - we know them well. Church is no longer at the centre of community life in the way it once was, and many people have little familiarity with the Christian story. These realities are real and they matter. They demand wisdom, courage, and faithful stewardship.

God has never relied upon abundance or even expertise to accomplish God's purposes. God has always invited faithful people willing to trust, willing to take a chance, willing to foster brave imagination.

So, what are we here for, ABT Synod? I believe the “answer” is more about what we do. Backed by an amazing God, we step out in curiosity to explore where God is and what God is up to. With open hearts we listen to the needs of the poor and oppressed. With generosity of time and talents and money we strive to be persistent in supporting the church and making meaningful changes in our world.

Put “Sunday worship” back in your calendars this fall. Worship is where we are nourished by community, word and sacrament (and perhaps good coffee!) to be ready to encounter a world that needs good news. Every Sunday, Christ gathers us not simply to comfort us, but to send us back into the world as witnesses of grace.

In addition – take advantage to join in learning together at gatherings and events planned by the Synod or in your region. October 3 you are invited to come to the ABT Synod Congregational Life Event in Red Deer. We welcome internationally recognized Anna Madsen to bolster our spirits and Ben and Caitlyn Johnston-Urey to inspire with a new healing liturgy. Such events are times that spark learning, imagination and hope as we meet others just like us and know we are not alone. Watch for more details on this event.

So as September begins, whatever corner or rural route you are on, spend some time in prayer and pondering: What are we here for? May the Holy Spirit continue to lead us, challenge us, and surprise us together!

In Christ,

Bishop Trish Schmermund

Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCIC

REFLECTION & FUN

A TRIP TO AMERICA – PART ONE by Kathy Lee

The most significant trip my family took occurred in October, 1948, after farm fall work was done. It wasn't a vacation; we were headed to visit relatives in Nebraska. My mother had two aunts and some cousins in the northeastern part of the state ; my dad's sister lived in Ruskin, where my parents had grown up. Ruskin was in the southeast, almost on the state line with Kansas. Since it would take a few days to reach our final destination we could act like tourists along the way.

First was the site of The Battle of Little Big Horn (Custer's Last Stand) in Montana. A chill wind was blowing as we looked at the monuments and places of significance. Young as I was, I remember being awestruck at seeing all the white crosses. (Now the crosses have been replaced by headstones.)

We carried on, crossing into Wyoming. The unforgettable sight there was Devils Tower. We just observed it from a distance; there was no time to make a side jaunt from our route to see it up close. We wanted to get to the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore. The memories surrounding that are quite a jumble, but I do recall the pig tail curves on the Needles Highway, and my parents saying we were driving in the clouds. All the motels in the area were closed for the season, so Dad had to keep driving until we got to Rapid City,SD, where, thank God, we got a room in a hotel. (Years later my mother remarked that my dad was completely exhausted from the nerve-wracking drive on an unfamiliar road in the dark.) In the morning we were off to see Mount Rushmore, but when we got there, clouds covered the top, and we couldn't see any of the faces carved into the rock. We had to settle for seeing large replicas housed in a building on the site.

The next point of interest was the Corn Palace in Mitchell, South Dakota. We made a brief stop to walk around the outside of the building where large murals made entirely from different colours of dried corn were displayed on the walls. It was impressive. The miles between stops were long and tedious, with nothing to entertain three kids, except counting vehicles or cars on freight trains. After Dad bought each of us a bottle of pop at a gas station my brother and sister made up a game, and I was allowed to participate. The game was to take a sip of pop every time we met a car. If we saw a train we had to keep sipping until it was past. The idea was to see how long the pop would last, the winner being the one whose bottle held out the longest. My sister was bummed when she learned that our brother pretended to sip for as long as we saw a train. He faked it and didn't drink anything at all. Of course he was the winner in that contest. I was never a contender; I'm pretty sure I emptied my bottle first.

There certainly wasn't anything like a drive-through in those days, so we ate in little cafes/restaurants. I ordered the exact same thing every time: a toasted cheese sandwich. I was a picky eater and I wasn't about to try anything new. More about that later.

Mom's relatives lived about a four-hour drive directly south from Mitchell, SD. We stayed in Laurel with Mom's aunt, Minnie, a sister to my maternal grandmother. Mom's cousins on that side were Carrie, Carsten and Martin. We made all the rounds, including a visit to Aunt Amanda and cousins Art and Walter. They lived in Creighton, about an hour from Laurel. Amanda was my paternal

grandfather's sister and was an imposing figure. (She was a widow, as was Aunt Minnie.) Anyway, we were invited for dinner. I don't know what the entire meal consisted of, but I do know there was bacon. I wanted none of it. In fact, I refused to eat much of anything. It was almost bedtime when we got back to Aunt Minnie's and I announced that I was hungry. Aunt Minnie's response was that I should have eaten at Aunt Amanda's. She offered not even a cracker. Basically: "You had your chance, muffed it." I doubt my own grandmother, her sister, would have had the same response but Aunt Minnie's hospitality extended only so far.

Chastened and dismissed I was secretly relieved when our stay with Aunt Minnie came to an end and we hit the road again. Ruskin, here we come!

Part Two of A Trip to America next month.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Shared from our friends at Brentwood Community Association:

Did you know that the Brentwood Cares Little Food Library just celebrated its six year anniversary? Check out this article about it in the Calgary Herald:

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/brentwood-cares-sixth-year-providing-barrier-free-food-access>

The Little Food Library needs your love... they're critically short. Please consider making a donation.

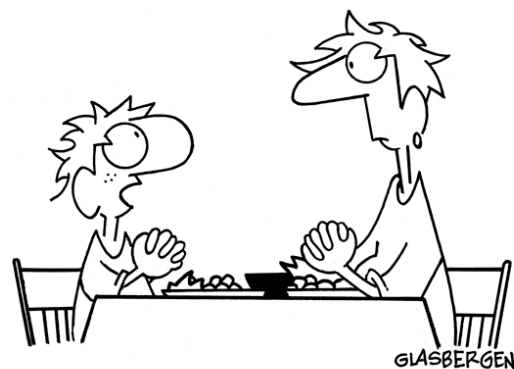
Next Brentwood Cares Meeting - New Date Monday Oct 5th 4:30th PM

[Draft Agenda - Brentwood Cares Oct 5th 4:30pm](#)

New core team members always welcome, please RSVP cam.howey@gmail.com



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"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables, why did He make them taste like vegetables?"

Reformation

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

October Thirty-First
Sola Deo Gloria
All Saints Day
Martin Luther
church door
grace alone
Catholic

Glory of God Alone
scripture alone
Sola Christus
Christ alone
Reformation
grievances
protest

Ninety Five Theses
Sola Scriptura
justification
Sola Gratia
faith alone
Sola Fide
reform