

November 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

MESSAGE FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Dear Hope Lutheran Church Family,

November brings us closer to Advent, a season of waiting and quiet anticipation. For our church family, this season offers space to look at how we live out our shared values of belonging, compassion, grace, and faithfulness in our everyday life together.

Living Our Values Through a Multicultural Lens

Over the next few years, we are taking a multicultural lens to our ministry and activities. This year, we want to intentionally listen, learn, and build relationships with five specific communities connected to our history and our neighborhood:

- Our German heritage
- Our Scandinavian roots
- Chinese immigrants from Hong Kong
- Youth
- The LGBTQ+ community

Building real connections takes time. We want to show up with consistency and care, recognizing that meaningful relationships are built through steady, ongoing actions that speak louder than words.

Staffing & Organizational Updates

We have a few important updates regarding our staff:

- **Pastor Greg:** We are planning for a gradual return from medical leave during the week of November 23rd, easing back in so he can be fully present with us by mid-December for Christmas.
- **Mary Snyder:** Mary remains on long-term medical leave, and we expect an update later this month.
- **Office Support:** Megan Haney and Nico Hernandez continue supporting our office administration. Nico is lending her social media experience to help open our digital doors wider ahead of the holiday season.
- **Community Care:** this new Ministry continues to take shape under Zena's leadership. Its focus is doing the practical work of living into our values of belonging and compassion within our church community through visitation, fellowship groups, care initiatives and updating our community directory.

Reviewing Our Technology Systems

Good stewardship means taking practical responsibility for our building and tools. Council recently approved an audit of three internal systems:

- **Sanctuary A/V and Livestream:** Making the equipment simpler and more reliable for volunteers, renters, and everyone joining worship in person or online.
- **Website Accessibility:** Pastor Greg calls our website our front porch. We are looking at practical ways to make it more accessible and welcoming to people of different walks of life who are exploring their faith and looking for a place to belong.
- **Administrative and Financial Systems:** Consolidating records, files, and software that have built up over several years to eliminate duplicate effort.

(If you have questions or concerns about either our staffing transitions or the technology audit, please reach out to Deborah or me directly.)

Council and Leadership Opportunities

Our church structure is shifting so that ministry teams and committees carry out day-to-day programs, while the Church Council focuses on overall governance and long-term stewardship.

We are heading into a significant transition of leadership. Six of our current Council members are finishing their terms (many of whom have served 7, 8, or 9+ years on Council), leaving just two continuing members (Kim Harding and Anne Harding). We are looking for **five to seven people** to put their names forward to serve on Council. We especially welcome folks who bring:

- Passion for considering how we will be a vibrant, joyful, dynamic, and creative community. A spiritual home built on faith and grace as the foundation, where belonging is the promise and compassion is our way of life AND
- Lived experience or connections with our focus cultural groups OR
- Comfort or experience with finances and budgeting.

An overview of what these roles involve will be shared in late November and early December, ahead of our Nominations Committee being formed in January.

As we get ready to light the first Advent candle at the end of November, please take some time to reflect on where you might like to connect or contribute. If you are interested in serving on Council, a committee, or a ministry team, talk with Pastor Greg or any current Council member.

In anticipation and with gratitude,

Anne

Council Chair, Hope Lutheran Church

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 6:45pm.

MESSAGE FROM MANAGER OF PARISH OPERATIONS

Gratitude, Generosity, and Growing Together

As we enter November, I find myself especially grateful for the strength and faithfulness of our church community. During this season of pastoral leave, we have witnessed the beauty of shared ministry in action. Staff members, volunteers, ministry leaders, guest pastors, congregation members, renters, and community partners have all stepped forward in different ways to ensure that worship, programs, fellowship, and outreach continue to flourish. It has been a powerful reminder that the church is not built around any one individual, but around a community of people called together by Christ to serve and care for one another. Through this shared commitment, Hope continues to be a place where belonging, grace, faithfulness, and compassion are lived out every day.

One of the most exciting developments this season is the growing momentum behind our Hope & Holly Christmas Market on November 28. We are delighted that 20 vendors have already registered, offering handmade crafts, locally sourced baking, seasonal goods, and unique gifts. More than a Christmas market, this event is an opportunity to welcome neighbors, friends, and families into our church and

share in the spirit of the season. The market reflects Hope's commitment to creating opportunities for connection, hospitality, and community, extending our ministry beyond Sunday mornings and into the broader neighborhood.

What has been especially encouraging is seeing how many people have contributed to bring this event to life. Over the past several weeks, volunteers have gathered for salsa-making and pickle-making events, while others have been preparing homemade baked goods to share with the community. Our Hope Kids participants are also creating handcrafted items for their own market table, giving them an opportunity to contribute their creativity and experience the joy of serving others. We have also been blessed by generous donations from our community. Two beautiful handmade quilts, one donated by a renter partner and another by a congregation member, will be featured as special raffle prizes. In addition, volunteers are contributing themed gift baskets that will be awarded as hourly door prizes throughout the market. These contributions, large and small, are a wonderful reminder that ministry grows when people share their gifts, talents, and time in service to one another.

Our ministry programs continue to thrive as well. Hope Kids has become an important part of Sunday mornings, creating opportunities for children to grow in faith, friendship, and a sense of belonging within our church community. Beyond our faith formation ministry, Hope has also taken a leadership role in helping establish the Calgary Lutheran Youth Ministry, bringing together Lutheran congregations across the city to co-create monthly youth events and strengthen connections among young people. From Escape Room challenges to Laser Tag Night and upcoming activities, these gatherings are helping youth build meaningful friendships while fostering a stronger sense of Lutheran community across Calgary.

Community life continues to flourish through many other areas of ministry. Our Chinese Ministry has created meaningful opportunities for fellowship, cultural celebration, and outreach, while the Under 100 Club continues to bring seniors together for friendship, learning, and connection. These ministries help foster the sense of belonging and community that is such an important part of life at Hope.

As I reflect on the past month, I am reminded that the strength of a congregation is found not only in its programs or activities, but in the way people care for one another. One particularly meaningful moment came during worship when our congregation joined together in prayer and song for Pr. Greg's continued recovery. It was a simple yet powerful expression of faith, compassion, and unity, reflecting the spirit that continues to shape our community. Witnessing that moment reminded me that Hope is more than a building or a collection of ministries. It is a community where people walk alongside one another through both joyful and challenging seasons.

As we prepare for Advent and the coming celebration of Christ's birth, may we continue to share our gifts, strengthen our relationships, and extend Christ's welcome to all who enter our community. Together, we continue Growing in Hope: One Body, Many Stories.

With gratitude,

Deborah Leung

Manager of Parish Operations and Administration

MESSAGE FROM HOPE FINANCING COMMITTEE

END OF SEPTEMBER 2026 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Monthly offerings for September were unfavorable to budget by \$4040 and September 2025 actual by \$3065. However, when we add the other revenue streams for the month, we find ourselves favorable to budget by \$16,426. This significant positive position can be attributed to the remainder of Unity Chinese Mission Church funds released to us from Synod. Our monthly expenses for September were favorable to budget forecast by \$3800, but unfavorable to September 2025 actual numbers. This can be attributed in large part to the roof repair done by Freeze Maxwell. Overall, for the month of September we find our expenses were slightly unfavorable to revenues by \$434.



Hope Lutheran Church

Financial Report

September 2026

September Highlights

- **Deficit of (\$434) reported in September, YTD surplus \$40,700 (excluding depreciation expense)**
- **Discretionary cash \$221,776 increased by approximately \$3,823 from August**
- **Chequing account balance \$171,144 increase of \$4,283 from August**
- **Funds received from the Synod \$32,993.85 regarding Grant for Unity Church**
- **Payment to Freeze Maxwell for roof repairs \$29,033**

Hi Level Operations Summary for Month of September 2026

		2026			2025		2026 v 2025
		Actual	Forecast	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenues	Offerings	26,346	30,386	(4,040)	29,412	27,600	(3,065)
	Committee & Activities	150	100	50	100	116	50
	Administration & Property	34,344	13,879	20,465	6,423	5,517	27,921
	Transfers	(50)	0	(50)	0	0	(50)
Revenues Total		60,790	44,365	16,426	35,934	33,233	24,856
Expenses	Wages & Benefits	21,754	20,290	(1,464)	16,567	20,089	(5,187)
	Committee & Activities	1,622	1,535	(87)	3,842	4,202	2,221
	Administration & Property	36,182	41,533	5,351	3,808	8,942	(32,374)
	Synod & Ministry	1,667	1,666	(1)	1,500	3,900	(167)
Expenses Total		61,224	65,024	3,800	25,718	37,133	-35,506
Extended Mini Synod & Ministry		0	0	0	0	0	0
Extended Ministry Total		0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus / (Deficit)		(434)	(20,659)	20,225	10,216	(3,901)	(10,650)

Comparing year to date numbers for both revenues and expenses we find ourselves in a relatively strong position. While offerings were unfavorable to budget by \$3590, they remain favorable to September 2025 actual by \$17,189. Expenses are favorable when compared to budget by \$1862 and to 2025 actual by \$14,482. Both 2026 and 2025 actual expense include roof repairs done in both calendar years. Overall year to date we are currently sitting in a surplus position of \$40,700 with our revenues outpacing expenses. Most of this surplus does come from the funds received from Synod as I stated in the previous paragraph.

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

		2026			2025		2026 v 2025
		Actual	Forecast	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenues	Offerings	248,708	252,298	(3,590)	231,520	248,400	17,189
	Committee & Activities	1,950	1,850	100	1,120	1,045	830
	Administration & Property	118,749	101,025	17,723	80,543	69,650	38,206
	Transfers	(10,650)	(10,300)	(350)	24,500	24,500	(35,150)
Revenues Total		358,757	344,873	13,884	337,682	343,595	21,075
Expenses	Wages & Benefits	170,549	169,882	(668)	177,019	180,802	6,470
	Committee & Activities	14,563	12,686	(1,877)	23,015	30,447	8,452
	Administration & Property	117,796	122,204	4,408	119,005	138,987	1,209
	Synod & Ministry	15,149	15,148	(1)	13,500	15,900	(1,649)
Expenses Total		318,057	319,919	1,862	332,539	366,136	14,482
Extended Mini Synod & Ministry		0	0	0	0	0	0
Extended Ministry Total		0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus / (Deficit)		40,700	24,954	15,746	5,143	(22,542)	35,557

To date our Synod benevolence totals \$15,000 and funds directed to Lutheran Campus Ministry amount to \$3265. Our chequing account balance has increased by \$4283 from August to month end September.

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

Steve Medhurst

Financial Liaison-Hope Lutheran Council

OFFICE NEWS

Office hours are Monday - Thursday 9am - noon

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 for Remembrance Day.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

The church directory is such a valuable resource! It allows us to place names with the faces we may greet on Sundays and it helps us stay in touch with one another via phone calls, emails or even cards in the mail!

We have begun compiling information for our new Hope community directory. Ken Stewart will be taking photos and creating our directory books. The cost of this new directory has been approved by church council.

Zena will be calling, emailing or speaking with you in person regarding the following information:

- Do you give permission to be in the updated directory - Yes or no
- Is our contact information current
- What contact information can be printed in directory
- Do you want to sign up for a photo time slot OR can you email a good quality family photo (deadline to email a photo - November 30, 2026).

We will have three photography session times. Anyone who gets photos taken by Ken will have the opportunity to purchase additional photos (they will be available for viewing and purchase online through Ken. Details will be provided).

Please contact Zena with any questions or to book a photo session. You will be booked into an approximate time slot.

Sunday, November 22

9:00 - 9:45am

11:00am - 12:45pm

Sunday, November 29

9:00 - 9:45am

11:00am - 12:45pm

Tuesday, December 1

4:00pm - 8:00pm

ETERNITY FOR TODAY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Hope council will pay for a bulk order of the 2027 booklets so they can be made available to members, guests and home communion visitors (used on visits). A subscription is 4 booklets/ year - with daily scripture reading for reflection and prayer. If you would appreciate a subscription, please contact the office by November 23 to be added to the list. The cost of each subscription is approximately \$20. You may help offset the cost by including an additional donation in the weekly offering. Contact Zena with any questions.

WORSHIP NEWS

November 1 - All Saints Sunday

- Pastor Margaret Koizumi presiding
- Communion
- Home Communion Sunday

November 8

- Presider Ben Lukenchuk
- Hope Worship Band
- NO communion

November 15

- Presider TBD
- NO communion

November 22

- Presider TBD
- NO communion

November 29 - First Sunday in Advent

- Pastor Kristian Wold presiding
- Communion
- Home Communion Sunday

THE SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, 2026.

Lutheran Advent Tradition

Posted December 2, 2016 lutheranreformation.org

by Dcs. Betsy Karkan

At a time when much of the world is frantically gift shopping, putting up Christmas lawn decorations and anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus, Christians around the world are observing the liturgical season of Advent. From the Latin word for “coming”, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ both in the past in His incarnation as the baby Jesus, but also in the future with His promised second coming as Christ Triumphant. Furthermore, Advent is a time to focus on His present coming to us in the Word and Sacraments. In the Lutheran church there have been many traditions observed during Advent that help Christians to both prepare for and anticipate His coming at this time. Martin Luther encouraged families to observe Advent as a time for them to teach their children about the coming of Christ.

Advent marks the beginning of the church calendar. It traditionally starts on the Sunday closest to St. Andrew’s Day (November 30th) and continues for four Sundays until Christmas. During this time the liturgical paraments and vestments in many churches will change to violet to recognize Advent as a time of preparation and repentance as well as a symbol of the royalty of the coming King. The color blue can also be used as a symbol of anticipation and hope.

Christians in many countries have adopted various traditions of lighting candles during Advent to observe this as the time of the coming of Christ who is the light of the world. One widespread tradition is the use of an Advent wreath both in the church and the home to mark each Sunday in the Advent season. While the origin of this as an Advent tradition dates back to the Lutheran church following the Reformation, the current form commonly used today was developed more recently and is used in many other Christian churches throughout the world. The wreath is made out of evergreens in the shape of a circle to represent eternal life. It consisted of four candles originally; three purple or blue candles to match the liturgical colors and one pink candle lit on the 3rd Sunday in Advent. This 3rd Sunday is known as *Gaudete* Sunday, meaning “rejoice” in Latin and comes from Philippians 4:4. Lighting this 3rd candle, Christians relax the fast to rejoice for the promised Messiah is coming soon. Many Advent wreaths also have a 5th candle, the Christ candle, which is lit during the time of Christmas, symbolizing that Christ, the light of the world, has entered the darkness.

Another tradition is the observance of special commemoration days during the season of Advent, namely St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra on December 6th and St. Lucia, Martyr on December 13th. As numerous stories surrounding St. Nicholas spread and became legend, Martin Luther was concerned that the observance of St. Nicholas day was becoming separated from Christ the true giver of gifts. As a response and an effort to replace St. Nicholas Day, Luther began the tradition of celebrating the *Christkindt* or Christ Child who would bring gifts to children on Christmas Eve. Though Luther hoped to eliminate the secular traditions surrounding St. Nicholas, Lutherans today still observe his commemoration and give thanks to God for the gifts He gave him to bless others and confess Christ in a time of darkness and persecution. St. Lucia was a Christian martyr in the 4th century who is traditionally known as wearing a candle-lit crown to light her way through the catacombs as she brought food to Christians who were being persecuted. Her commemoration is meant to signal that Christmas is coming soon when Christ, the light of the world, will arrive. Today many Christians throughout the world celebrate by lighting candles and attending major festivals not only to commemorate her confession of faith and care for persecuted Christians, but in anticipation of the coming of the Christ child.

There is so much beauty and rich tradition during the season of Advent to prepare Christians for the coming of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem. When you see the altar draped in purple, remember your King who came to bring you life and salvation. If you don't have one already, consider getting an Advent wreath for your home as you prepare for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. Give thanks to God for the confession of faith He gave to His people to shine His light in dark places. Learn about the tradition of reciting the *O Antiphons* (found in *Lutheran Service Book* along with hymn # 357 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel") and incorporate it into your Advent devotions. Finally, anticipate with joy the coming of our Lord!

ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, November 29th at 7:00pm

Highwood Lutheran Church - **419 Northmount Drive NW**

All are welcome!



*Please join us for an music-filled evening including selections from Amicus choir.
Refreshments and fellowship will follow.*

**Save the date.....
Annual Christmas Pageant and Potluck Lunch**



*Sunday, December 13th
We have invited Advent Lutheran to join us this year.
We are excited for this joint venture!*



December 24, 4:30pm and 7 pm (Thursday)
December 25, 11 am (Friday)

Christmas Eve Services
Christmas Day Service

USHERS NEEDED FOR DECEMBER SERVICES

Please contact Zena, especially if you are available to usher either Christmas Eve service 7:00 pm or Christmas Day at 11:00 am.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study continues Wednesday mornings in the Mark Classroom at 10:00am. You are warmly welcome to join us! **Note: There will be NO BIBLE STUDY on November 11th**



Children aged 4-12 are welcome to join us for **HOPE KIDS** - our weekly Sunday programming where we will participate in children's chat during worship and then participate in crafts, games and activities.

The program runs Sundays during worship. Parents receive a take-home summary of the weekly lesson so they can review the themes at home and reinforce what their kids learned. Thank you, Markus, for your leadership and creativity.

We do not run Hope Kids when we have Camp Sunday.
There is no Hope Kids on Nov 1

CAMP SUNDAY

Our October Camp Sunday was held on October 18 at Advent Lutheran and led by Sorena Cook. The kids participated in readings and music in worship, followed up with lunch and more activities.

Once per month we join together with Advent Lutheran to hold CAMP SUNDAY! Held either at Hope or Advent, we meet at 9:30am to prepare for worship - this usually involves music, a skit, helping with ushering or the readings, etc. After worship, we have lunch and then enjoy fun activities. Children aged 4-12 are encouraged to join us! We also have opportunities for youth to gather and enjoy fellowship and programming too! Lunch is always included! Parents, please register your children! Pick up is 1:00pm.

NOTE: WE WILL NOT HAVE A CAMP SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER.



CONFIRMATION

The class of 2026-2027 is in full swing. Once again, we are collaborating with Advent Lutheran and Lutheran Church of the Cross.

Classes are from 11:30am - 1:30pm and include pizza lunch. Below is the schedule going forward:

Confirmation Schedule:

November 1 - Commandments - at Advent

November 8 - **THIS CLASS HAS BEEN ADDED** at Advent

- Pastor Lindsay from Church of the Cross will lead

November 15 - Commandments - at Advent

November 20 - 22 - Confirmation Retreat at Camp Kuriakos

November 29 - Apostles Creed - at Hope

Confirmation Retreat: November 20 - 22 at Kuriakos.

Confirmation Retreats provide an opportunity to take Confirmation out of the classroom and experience faith, friendship, and community together at camp! Throughout the weekend, confirmands will participate in Kuriakos-led games and activities, campfires, worship, devotions, and community care, along with dedicated study periods led by their church leaders.

Past confirmation students will tell you that some of their best memories are from retreat weekends!

Pre-registration is required for each confirmand and leader attending the retreat. When registering, use the code **HOPE**, which will reduce the fee to \$75/ participant. Hope will pay for the other half of the fee.

www.kuriakos.ab.ca

587-468-2267 (CAMP) — New Number

Lunch on confirmation days: we would like to have lunch for the confirmands each time they have class. This is because many of the students are coming straight from worship to confirmation class.

They learn much better when they aren't hungry! Ordering pizza each time is getting very expensive so we are reaching out to confirmation families and church members! Would you like to make lunch for the confirmation students one Sunday? Or would you like to contribute to the cost of a lunch? Lunch can be sandwiches, frozen lasagna, hotdogs or even something like pancakes! Please contact Zena to get more details. Your consideration is greatly appreciated!

SPIRITUAL LIFE NEWS

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 - Don Olafson	13 - Marianne Slot	21 – Dennis Myrthu
4 - Jacob Fortna	16 - Eleanor Wilson	21 – Margaret Kromm
9 - Frank Mueller	17 - Jitka Gingrich	27 – Bernie Blieske
11 - Patrick Mullrooney	18 - Regula Witschi	

ETERNITY FOR TODAY DAILY DEVOTIONALS - Hope church council will cover the cost of Eternity for Today daily devotionals for 2027. If you would like to have a subscription, please let the office know by November 15 so we can estimate how many subscriptions we would need to order.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS – November

Sunday, November 01: All Saints Day - Matthew 23:1-12
Monday, November 02: Psalm 128; Joshua 4:1-24; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Tuesday, November 03: Psalm 128; Joshua 6:1-16, 20; Acts 13:1-12; Psalm 5
Wednesday, November 04: Psalm 128; Joshua 10:12-14; Matthew 15:1-9; Psalm 5
Thursday, November 05: Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 5:10-12; Revelation 8:6-9:12; Psalm 70
Friday, November 06: Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 8:30-35; Revelation 9:13-21; Psalm 70
Saturday, November 07: Psalm 78:1-7; Joshua 20:1-9; Matthew 24:1-14; Psalm 70
Sunday, November 08: Matthew 25:1-13
Monday, November 09: Psalm 78; Joshua 24:25-33; 1 Corinthians 14:20-25; Psalm 63;
Tuesday, November 10: Psalm 78; Nehemiah 8:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Wednesday, November 11: Psalm 78; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 24:29-35; Psalm 63
Thursday, November 12: Psalm 123; Judges 2:6-15; Revelation 16:1-7; Psalm 90:1-8, 12
Friday, November 13: Psalm 123; Judges 2:16-23; Revelation 16:8-21; Psalm 90:1-8, 12
Saturday, November 14: Psalm 123; Judges 5:1-12; Matthew 12:43-45; Psalm 90:1-8, 12
Sunday, November 15: Matthew 25:14-30
Monday, November 16: Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Judges 4:8-24; Romans 2:1-11
Tuesday, November 17: Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Exodus 2:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
Wednesday, November 18: Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Esther 7:1-10; Matthew 24:45-51; Psalm 9:1-14
Thursday, November 19: Psalm 100; Genesis 48:15-22; Revelation 14:1-11; Psalm 95:1-7a
Friday, November 20: Psalm 100; Isaiah 40:1-11; Revelation 22:1-9; Psalm 95:1-7a
Saturday, November 21: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:25-31; Matthew 12:46-50; Psalm 95:1-7a
Sunday, November 22: Reign of Christ - Proper 29 (34)
Monday, November 23: Psalm 28; Numbers 27:15-23; 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Psalm 7; Esther 2:1-18
Tuesday, November 24: Psalm 28; Zechariah 11:4-17; Revelation 19:1-9; Psalm 7; Esther 8:3-17
Wednesday, November 25: Psalm 28; Jeremiah 31:10-14; John 5:19-40; Psalm 7; Ezekiel 33:7-20

Thursday, November 26: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 13:1-9; Revelation 14:6-13
Friday, November 27: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Zechariah 14:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18
Saturday, November 28: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Micah 2:1-13; Matthew 24:15-31
Sunday, November 29: First Sunday of Advent - Mark 13:24-37
Monday, November 30: Psalm 79; Micah 4:1-5; Revelation 15:1-8

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

MEN'S BREAKFAST

November 7th, 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.



Mindful Movements

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

Wednesdays October 21 - December 9

11:30am - 12:30pm

\$50/ 8 classes

Nonagenarians are free!

Try first class for free - guaranteed you will love it!

Physio receipt will be provided for payments.

Contact Tonia at tonia.physioactive@gmail.com

TREE TRIMMING NIGHT – Monday, November 23rd at 7pm.

Calling all elves, no matter your age!

Join us for an evening of tree trimming and fellowship. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies while you admire your work! SS children and confirmation students, please bring your parents along - we will need some tall, strong helpers to get those trees together!

YOUTH GROUP: The youth have voted and officially named their group **HOLY CHAOS**. October's event was a Halloween party at Advent on October 30, complete with snacks, games, costumes, and dancing.



November FAMILY Event

Join us for Zoo Lights on the evening of Friday, November 27.

Signup will be sent out mid November.

UNDER 100 CLUB

October 15 - we had a wonderful presentation by Barb and Megan from Meals on Wheels. Many thanks to these ladies for teaching us so much!

Meals on Wheels started in Calgary in 1965 in a small church with only 8 clients. Calgary now has the largest Meals on Wheels program in Canada. In 2025, they provided 1.4 million meals (approx. 5700 meals/ day). There are currently 64 delivery routes throughout the city and volunteer drivers deliver to approximately 550 people/ day. Hope volunteers cover one of these delivery routes!

Aside from home deliveries, Meals on Wheels Calgary delivers to 55 schools and many agencies. Their clients vary – working families, seniors, post-natal or post-surgery, people with disabilities, folks experiencing food insecurity, etc. Depending on financial need, meals can be provided on a sliding fee scale.

Clients can order the chef's daily special (refrigerator meals that are predetermined), frozen meals, packages of muffins or cookies, and even family sized trays! Clients may order a minimum of 3 meals or up to meals for 7 days. Meals can accommodate a renal diet, be diabetic friendly, or safe for gluten/ dairy/ egg/ pork intolerances.

Meals on Wheels also offers a "going home program" – if a person is in hospital for a minimum of one day, his/ her medical team can make a referral to receive up to one month of meal support free of charge so focus can be spent on rest and recovery. Meals on Wheels Calgary delivers food within Calgary only, but clients outside of the city can order and pick up.

Meals on Wheels Calgary works hard to get nutritious meals to anyone! They rely on grants and donations so they won't have to refuse anyone. This program offers so much more than food service. Volunteer drivers often serve for decades because they form friendships with their clients. We hope to continue the Hope delivery route for years to come!

We will not have an Under 100 Club event in November. Instead we hope you will attend "Be The Light" - Saturday, November 7th and the "Hope & Holly Christmas Market - Saturday, November 28. Both events will be held at Hope Lutheran Church.

Save the Date.....

Our annual Under 100 Club Christmas Café will be held at 12:00pm on December 17th.

Stay tuned for details.



Be sure to check out our puzzle and book shelf. Donations of current reading material and puzzles (without missing pieces) are always welcome! Please tape the boxes so pieces don't get lost.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please sign up to set up & clean up Sunday coffee - just ONE DAY would be a huge help!

PROPERTY CLEANUP

Fall Clean-up was held October 17th and attended by a small but mighty group of 13 people. We all donned our work gloves and pruned, raked, shoveled, blew, swept and some even jumped in the leaves. We eventually wrestled them into 35 bags that were hauled to the dump. Unfortunately, right after all our hard work was completed the wind came up and a bunch more leaves came down. Oh well, there is always Spring Clean-up!



Thanksgiving Altar Arrangement



A shout out to all who made our Thanksgiving Altar arrangement possible. It started with a vision from Leah Runka of world community, nature's abundance and family. The thought grew from there to show the diversity and outreach of our church community.

I want to thank the following people who donated items and made our vision come to life:
Leah R., Debbie W., Valerie B., Heidi B., Erika K., Regula and Christian W., Anne and Allie H., Zena K., Deborah L., Megan H. and Nicole H. Thank Your One and All!

The leaves were taken from our "Tree of Gratitude" and below is a list of things we were thankful for:

Family – 28	Education – 1
Friends – 10	Love – 6
Freedom – 3	Wife – 1
Coffee – 1	Mercy – 1
Abundant Harvest – 2	Peace - 2
Kindness – 1	Opportunity – 1
Hockey – 1	God's Blessing – 10
Dancing – 1	Church Family – 8
Care – 2	Beautiful Day – 1
Forgiveness - 1	Community – 5
Dogs – 1	Children – 3
Canada – 1	Grandkids – 2
Miracles – 1	Long Life – 2
Health – 8	Sharing – 2

We have much to be Thankful for and we are Truly Blessed by God!

Thanks to Sig and Mark for making Hope a little brighter! These gentlemen had to use a lift to change out MANY of our light bulbs throughout the sanctuary and fellowship hall!

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. Get a start to your Christmas shopping list with local hand made goods, baked treats, and more. There will be door prizes and a cafe selling coffee and treats. Cash preferred.



HOPE Lutheran Church

Hope & Holly

Christmas Market

Handmade & locally sourced baking,
crafts, seasonal goods, & more

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

Door Prizes & Cafe

Growing in Hope: One Body! Many Stories!



Hope Lutheran has gone Social!

Follow us on our new social media pages on both Facebook and Instagram

Facebook: [Hope Lutheran Church Calgary](#) **Instagram:** [hopelutheran.yyc](#)

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY- CALGARY FUNDRAISER

"Be the Light" Saturday, November 7th

2:30 - 5:00pm at Hope Lutheran Church

Lutheran Campus Ministry–Calgary invites everyone to our annual fundraiser, "Be the Light". Join us for **Holden Evening Prayer**, led by Campus Ministry students, followed by a short program describing the great things happening at LCM-Calgary this year.

This year we will again be offering a **Simple Supper** of homemade chili and buns, similar to meals students enjoy at Campus Ministry gatherings. There will be a few other goodies as well, including a special cake from Glamorgan Bakery.

Please also plan to **attend the event in person!**

You can also bid on items at <https://campusministry.ca>

Thank you for your donations of food for the Calgary Food bank that were collected on Thanksgiving Sunday.

HOLIDAY DRIVE FOR THE MUSTARD SEED

Hope Lutheran and Brentwood Cares have joined forces to collect items for the Mustard Seed.

Saturday December 5 from 10:00am - 2:00pm at Hope Lutheran Church.

We are also collecting books and puzzles for our neighbors living at Carroll Place (adult apartment across the street)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - SAMARITAN'S PURSE

For anyone wishing to support this program, we have some empty shoeboxes at the church available for pick up. Once you fill your shoebox, you can drop it off at a shoebox depot between November 16-22.

STITCHING FOR HOPE

Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am

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

Your support for Meals on Wheels throughout September and October was very much appreciated.

Our Charity of Choice for November and December is Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR).



"Inspired by God's love for the world, CLWR challenges and responds to the injustice which causes human suffering and poverty. We are committed to working alongside our partners to

build resilience through a continual shared learning approach. As an international relief and development agency of the Lutheran communities, CLWR provides opportunities for Canadians to respond to national and international needs."

By March 2025, CLWR has provided the following advances toward these programs:

- Gender Responsive and Inclusive TVET project, Palestine \$1.1M
- Nature Based Solutions project in Chad & Cameroon \$1.9M
- Humanitarian Assistance project in Amhara, Ethiopia \$1M
- Humanitarian Assistance project in Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan \$2.2M
- Humanitarian Assistance project in Colombia and Haiti \$1.6M

Some more specifics of a couple of their programs:

Humanitarian & Emergency Response

- Venezuela Earthquake Relief: Following two massive earthquakes in June 2026, CLWR partnered with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Humanitarian

Coalition to deliver emergency food, clean water, immediate shelter, and sanitation facilities.

- Active Global Interventions: Deployed emergency cash, critical supplies, and medical/gender-based violence (GBV) support across areas of conflict and disaster, including Haiti (Hurricane Melissa recovery and gang violence), Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, and Ethiopia.

Development & Climate Action

- Water & Sanitation in South Sudan: Successfully implemented localized water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure projects.
- Empowering Women in Colombia: Launched targeted assistance programs providing safe spaces and community integration for vulnerable women and girls.
- Lake Chad Climate Advocacy: Orchestrated a national awareness campaign focused on restoring land and deploying locally led agricultural solutions around Lake Chad, while lobbying the Canadian government to strengthen international climate finance.

CLWR has a 'Gifts from the Heart' donation catalogue on their website including **Tiny Hearts**, a program for kids to donate from \$4-14 to provide families with gifts of ducklings, seeds, or trees (to name a few) to help families establish ongoing food sources. Check out this page if your kids want to get involved! <https://donate.clwr.org/products/tiny-hearts>

Their **Matched Gift** program matches your donation (3-4x your donation!) and will provide assistance such as emergency food, crop know-how, and garden tools. These gifts range from \$20-250 and can be found here: <https://donate.clwr.org/products/matching-gifts>

The full gift listing can be found here: <https://donate.clwr.org/products/all-gifts> and is chock full of impactful gifts and would make great family Christmas donations, if you are so inclined!

Members of Hope Lutheran church are encouraged and invited to propose their suggestions for Chairity of Choice for 2027 and take the lead if possible.

MINISTRY PARTNERS



Upcoming Kuriakos events:

For more information about these events, visit their website - kuriakos.ab.ca

WOMEN'S RETREAT - THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF WAITING

Life can be busy, and sometimes we all need a little space to slow down, breathe, and reconnect. Join us for a meaningful weekend of reflection, fellowship, and renewal at Kuriakos!

November 6-8, 2026 Cost: \$195 per person

Registration Deadline: October 30, 2026

Join Our Team as Program Director at Kuriakos

Kuriakos is seeking an energetic and experienced **Program Director** to lead our year-round ministry of camps, retreats, and outdoor school programs. This full-time, on-site role combines hands-on program development with team leadership and community building. The Program Director works closely with the Executive Director and program staff to design and deliver meaningful experiences for children, youth, and adults, while mentoring seasonal staff and ensuring excellence in safety and operations.

If you're passionate about outdoor ministry, enjoy mentoring others, and thrive in a collaborative environment, we invite you to explore this exciting opportunity to live, work, and serve at Kuriakos.

FROM THE WIDER CHURCH



October 2026

Grace and peace to you from Jesus!

The end of September Ken and I were in Switzerland where I was able to attend a new leaders conference hosted by the Lutheran World Federation.

As we were there the season of thanksgiving was just beginning with grapes being harvested, sunflowers with loaded seedheads, and we heard of the Alpabfahrt (parades of cows decorated with flowers as they come down from mountain meadows.) At home, we too have our own traditions that we each know so well.

Throughout Scripture, people are often called to remember God's goodness and to give thanks together. Thanksgiving is not simply a celebration of harvest or abundance, but an opportunity to recognize God as the giver of every good gift and to rejoice in abundant provision, grace, and faithfulness.

As we gather this season, I want to give particular thanks for you, our congregations and ministries throughout this synod. We are grateful for the many ways you faithfully serve Christ and share the good news of the Gospel and for your generous support of the whole church. Through your prayers, generosity, encouragement, hospitality, teaching, service, and daily witness, you help make Christ known and strengthen this synod.

Increasingly, I note the ways you are caring for one another. We are learning to share resources, pray for one another and to give generously. Such acts are important in a time when so much in the world seeks to divide us. When we open conversations on difficult subjects, listen before we speak, act justly toward those who struggle, teach our children in the Way – we are changing the world as we ourselves are changed.

I am thankful for each of you and for the privilege of serving Christ together. May Jesus bless our homes, our families, and our ministries as we enter this season of thanksgiving.

In Christ,

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

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

REFLECTIONS & FUN

A TRIP TO AMERICA- PART TWO by Kathy Lee

What a relief to finally arrive at the home of Uncle Alfred, Aunt Esther and cousins Angela, Clifford and Linda. It was a large, two-story house, a couple of blocks from the grocery / dry goods store that Alfred & Esther owned. We settled in on the top floor of the house where Mom could unpack and give us some sense of normality. Aunt Esther went to work at the store every day, but she still managed to feed all of us at mealtime. At breakfast we were introduced to a new cereal: Cheerios. (When Cheerios finally made the scene in Canada, they didn't taste like the ones we ate in the States. Frankly, those were much better.)

My dad had several other relatives in the area - uncles, aunts, cousins- and I think we visited them all. A memorable occasion was a visit to Uncle Knud and Aunt Ida. (Uncle Knud was the brother of my paternal grandmother.) The first vision of Aunt Ida was scary to a five-year-old. She came out of the house to greet us as we got out of the car. Her white hair was sticking out in all directions. (She'd been taking a nap in the farmhouse.) To my mind she looked like the drawing of the beast from Beauty and the Beast in my coloring book. She was no beast. In fact, she was extremely kind and generous. We kids fell asleep on the couch while the adults were talking and when we awoke we each had a huge orange in our lap. When we sat down at the table for coffee, Aunt Ida asked us if we'd like a pop. Oh, yes! I heard the word as pup and I thought we were going to get a puppy. No, not a pup, but a whole bottle of soda pop for each of us, not just a tiny glassful. We felt special.

One of Dad's cousins, Rose, was a hairdresser in Hardy and she gave my mother a perm while we were there. It was a long, slow process and my sister and I were bored to tears. Rose compensated by giving each of us a hair embellishment. She fashioned a flower with a little braided stem out of Elaine's thick brunette locks, sprinkling the petals with red glitter and the stem with green. My hair was blonde, thin and flyaway, so Rose used a stencil and made a row of three stars above my neckline. I got purple glitter. We felt fancy, especially when we went to some sort of gathering in Ruskin's town hall that night. We didn't know why; we just had to go along. Actually, it was election night (Harry Truman vs Thomas Dewey) and the place was packed. My sister overheard a conversation between two women: "Oh, are those the kids from Canada?" "Yes, they're visiting the Sorensens." "They look just like our kids!" I wonder what they expected Canadian children to look like.

Just as we were getting ready to head back home, a blizzard struck. We had to remain in Ruskin until the roads were opened. Even so, there were huge piles of snow on both sides of the highway. We hit an icy patch and skidded. There was an oncoming car and a collision seemed inevitable. The driver took some evasive action but it wasn't enough. His vehicle clipped our car, and part of the back bumper was torn off. I was sitting in the front seat between my parents. "Daddy! I'm scared!" No one else could say anything as we spun off into the snowbank in the ditch. Dad went back on to the road to pick up the piece of the bumper. I remember his hand bleeding from being cut on the sharp edge. A passing grader pulled us out of the ditch and we were on our way again.

It was well past the middle of November when we crossed the border into Alberta. Dad expected we could get across the Oldman River as usual by ferry, but it was frozen in and we had to take a long detour to Bow City where there was a bridge. The highway (really only a dirt road) to Brooks was 35 km. Dad thought some time could be made up by taking a short cut across the prairie. It was very dark,

there were many trails and after some distance, Dad realized we were lost. Oh, dear Lord. Are we going to be stranded out here? No. Dad got out of the car, looked for the North Star and determined the direction we should head towards Brooks. Once we reached it we could travel back to our farm on familiar roads. I fell asleep and the next thing I knew we were in the yard and piling out of the car into the house. I was too young to realize the anxiety and fear this must have caused but I am very sure fervent prayers of thanksgiving were raised for God's providence and protection, just as they'd been on the entire trip- a trip with memories to last a lifetime.



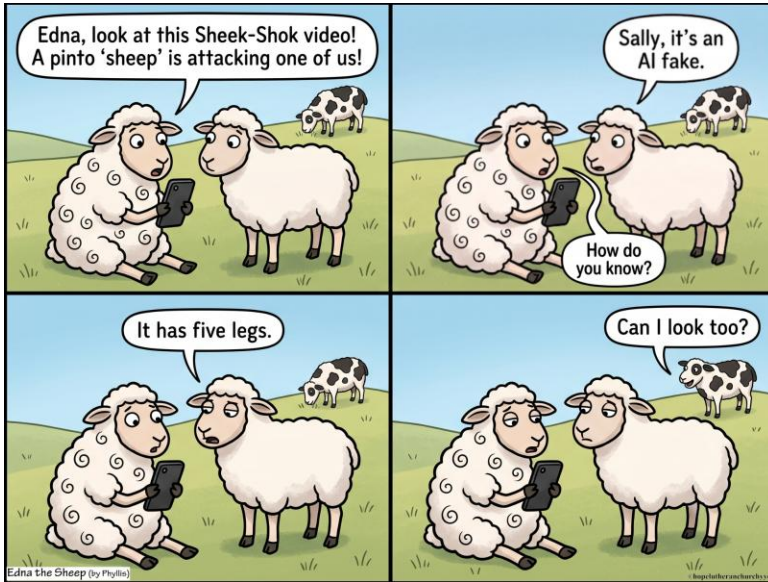
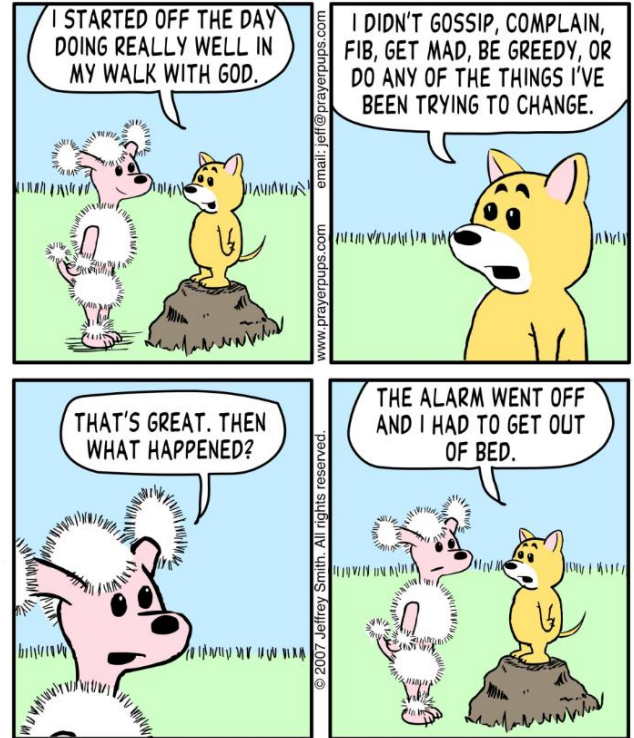
LEST WE FORGET

Remembrance services in Calgary

Remembrance Day services scheduled for Calgary on Nov. 11, 2026:

- **Field of Crosses**, 200 Memorial Dr. NW – Televised is held in the field at 10:10 am; Outdoor Service. Service will also be televised beginning at 10:10 am
- **The Military Museums**, 4520 Crowchild Trail SW – Outdoor Service starting at 10:45 am with the museum opening to the public after - admission by donation after starting at 11:45 am.
- **Hangar Flight Museum**, 4629 McCall Way NE – 10:30 am (doors at 9:30am) Outdoor service. Admission to the museum from Noon to 4pm by donation. Drop-off for Veterans food bank is onsite.
- **The Veterans Walkway App has launched-** This recently launched app takes you on an interactive walkway down Memorial Drive with markers along the route sharing stories of Calgarians who have served across generations honouring their service and sacrifice. You can learn more about the app and download it at <https://www.veteranswalkway.ca/>

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO DO WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT, BUT IT'S ALWAYS WORTH TRYING.

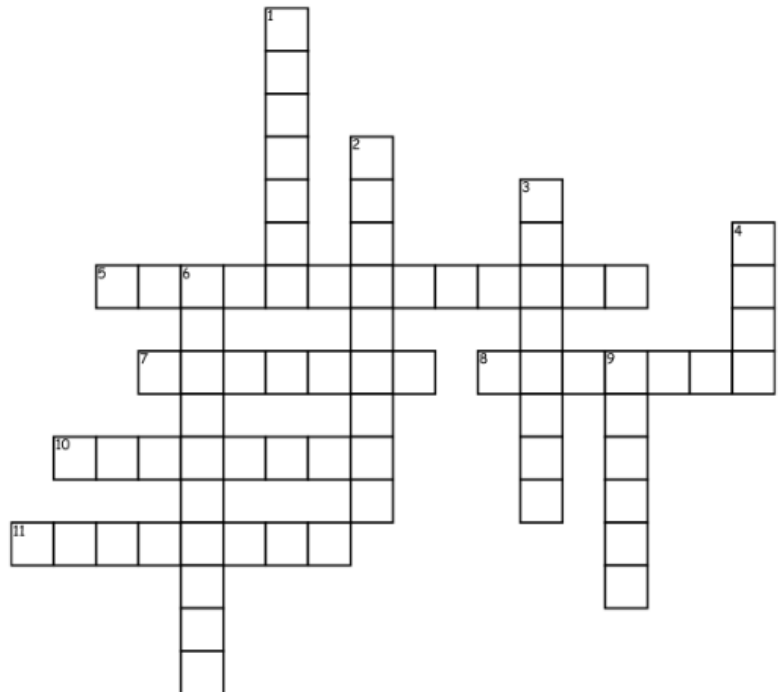
Across

5. What is the famous Remembrance Day poem called?
7. What is the Remembrance Day flower called?
8. Which country started the war?
10. What month do we honour the soldiers?
11. How long was World War II?

Down

1. When an explosion went off in France, where could it be heard?
2. How long was World War I?
3. What day did World War I end?
4. What month did World War I start?
6. Where do we wear our poppy?
9. Who wrote the poem "Flanders Field"? (Last name)

Remembrance Day



Peace of Advent

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

JOHN
LEAVE
WORLD
ADVENT

HEARTS
HOLY SPIRIT
JESUS
NOW

BELIEVE
FOREVER
TROUBLED
GIVE

PEACE
TRUST
AFRAID
GOD