

A photograph of a bird perched on a branch, silhouetted against a bright sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The background is a mix of blue and yellow, with the branches of the tree in the foreground and background.

FREE

AT LAST

**The Vine—May 2017**

# Ministry Team

All are members of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

## Pastor

Lee Woolery  
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Pastor Lee's Office hours:  
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9:00 am to Noon

## Administration

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## Office Assistant

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## Church Board 2016-2017

Rachelle Ellis  
Phyllis Gale  
Doug Gebrandt  
Jens Kaack  
Avril LeBlanc  
Garry Mihaichuk  
Bob Montgomery  
Shirley Moule  
Keith Rude  
Darren Tenor

## Office Hours:

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9:00 am to 1:00 pm

[www.oursaviourchurch.ca](http://www.oursaviourchurch.ca)  
8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary, T2H 0Z4  
Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour



## The ELCIC

# REFORMATION CHALLENGE



Refugees Sponsored



GOAL: 500

**536**



ELCJHL Schools



GOAL: 500

**148** Scholarships



Trees Planted



GOAL: 500,000

**72,724**



LWF Endowment Fund



GOAL: \$500,000

**\$144,952**

As of May 3, 2017.

# BREAK FORTH IN PRAYER



“  
We sensed that God had something huge in store for Break Forth Ministries’ 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.”  
Arlen Salte

In 1977, Arlen Salte began an amazing journey, creating an evangelical Christian ministry of music and worship. First known as New Creation Ministries, it evolved into Break Forth Ministries with founders and directors, Arlen and Elsa Salte, who have been married for over thirty years. The Saltes have been guided by the goal of “sharing the life-giving message of the Gospel in the language of the people.” For the past twenty years this ministry has become internationally known for offering the largest equipping and renewal event in North America, the Break Forth Canada Conference. It has been a gathering place for Christ-followers of all generations and across all denominations to be renewed, equipped and unleashed. Registrants come from 1,000 churches around the world, filling the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton. Not too bad, since the goal of the first conference was to have 75 people register. However, 250 people registered that year, meeting at a local church in Sherwood Park. Some of the presenters and musicians, through the years, have included: Philip Yancey, MercyMe, Casting Crowns, the Skit Guys, Tony Campolo, Phil Callaway and Nick Vujicic.

For a number of years, Arlen and Elsa have hooked up with Hans Weichbrodt, to lead trips to Israel. Which now leads to that “*something huge*” God has “*in store for Break Forth Ministries’ 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.*” Arlen, Elsa and Hans have been invited to be the founders of an historic gathering in Jerusalem this coming June 5-8: the first nationally sponsored Christian Gathering and Prayer Breakfast! This has been endorsed by the Israeli President, Reuvin Rivlin and hundreds of world leaders are expected to attend. Various venues will be used for times of prayer over those four days, including the President’s residence.

God continues to do incredible, miraculous things through his servants as we “break forth in prayer!”

In the risen Christ alone  
Pastor Lee

Arlene & Elsa  
Salte



# Youth & Children's Ministry—Upcoming Activities

Wow! We're already in our last month of 2016/2017 programming! Where has the time gone? It's been such an amazing and blessed year that I really don't want it to end. And really, it doesn't! We have plenty of opportunities coming up in the summer to keep you involved! The major highlight is Vacation Bible School, Maker Fun Factory, where children will learn that they were created by God, built for a purpose! There are tons of ways you can help out! Know any kids? Get them registered and excited to join us! You could help us decorate by coming to any of our decorating sessions! Or you can help us that actual week by being a crew leader, or volunteering at a station.

Psalm 100 "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations."

## **Youth Hunger Mission** **Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm to Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:01 am**

Every ten seconds, a child dies from hunger-related diseases. Approximately 1 in 9 people in the world do not have enough to eat. Support your youth as we raise funds and awareness for world hunger. We'll be fasting for 30 hours from Thursday to Saturday. Donate to the cause by talking to a youth today!

Youth, we will also be gathering for an overnight stay here at the church starting 7pm Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>. We'll break the fast with some pizza at midnight, and have some breakfast in the morning. Pick-up will be 10am Saturday morning.

EVERY  
**10**  
SECONDS  
A CHILD  
DIES FROM  
HUNGER  
RELATED  
DISEASES

**Youth**  
**hunger**  
**mission**

THUR. MAY 11TH AT 6PM -  
SAT. MAY 13TH AT 12:01AM  
**fasting for 30 hours**

Approximately **1 in 9** people  
in the world do not have enough to eat

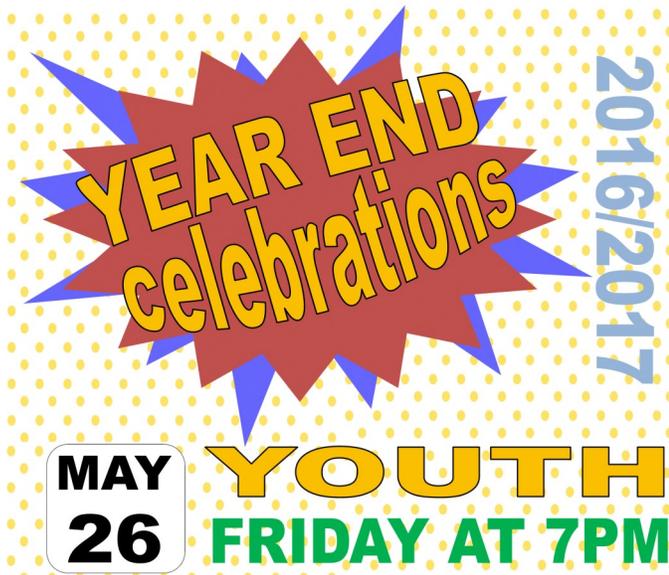
# Youth & Children's Ministry—Upcoming Activities

## Last Day of Young Explorers Experiment Classes—May 14th

Today is the last day of Young Explorer and Experiment classes for 2016/2017! Come on out as we celebrate the past year, and the coming one! We'll be hosting a special Mother's Day tea, including a neat craft for all the moms in our church!

**Last Day**  
of YOUNG EXPLORERS & YOUTH  
**May 14th 10am**

come on out as we celebrate the past year, and the upcoming one!



## Youth – Celebration Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

Party time! Join us as we celebrate the last event of the 2016/2017 year through games, snacks, and lots more!

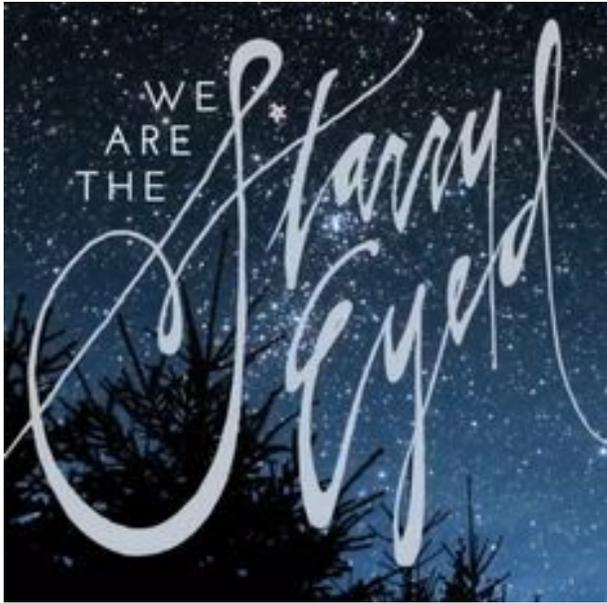
## Celebration Service & Reformation Fair Sunday May 28th

In honor of the end of the 2016/2017 children and youth ministry year, and the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, we'll be putting on a super special event for all! Join us for our 10am service where we'll have some special presentations from families, music from our youth band, and an awesome recap video! Stay afterwards for our festival fair as we throw ourselves back into Luther's time. There will be crafts, games, snacks and so much more! And it's Hot Dog Sunday!!



Join us as we throw ourselves back into Luther's time

# MOPS



MOPS (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) and MOMSnext (Mothers of School Age Children) is an international organization geared towards providing support for Moms. MOPS creates a time-out for Moms while their kids have fun in MOPPETS; the childcare program. Our meetings for May are:

**May 10th 9:30 -11:30am; Salads in a jar**

No cost. Just come and make a salad and take it home.

**May 24th 9:30-11:30am; Year End Wind Up Party**

This year we want to do a potluck party.

You are welcome to join any time. We offer drop-in, 5-and 10-card passes and yearly membership. More information, including registration forms and pricing, is available from the LCOS website [www.oursaviourchurch.ca/connect/mops-mopsnext](http://www.oursaviourchurch.ca/connect/mops-mopsnext)



## *Mother's Day Tea* *May 14th at 10am*

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a special Mother's Day tea  
hosted by the children and youth of LCOS.

*Everyone Welcome*

## College & Careers

Celebration  
Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

It's our last event before we take a break for the summer. Stay tuned for more details.



**YEAR END  
celebrations**

2016/2017

**MAY  
27** **COLLEGE &  
CAREERS**  
**SATURDAY AT 7PM**

**Everyone Welcome**  
**Age 3 to 103!**



# REFORMATION

# FAIR

SUN 28TH MAY - 11AM

**CRAFTS, GAMES & SNACKS**  
and so much more ...

Join us as we throw ourselves back into Luther's time

# Vacation Bible School Planning—Help Needed!

## Decorating Fun Bees!

Do you have a creative mind? Are you great at making tons of different things? We need you to come out and help us get ready for VBS by creating some of the decorations that we'll be using. You could be building a robot, painting cars, or designing backdrops. Bring your own ideas as well!

[youth@oursaviourchurch.ca](mailto:youth@oursaviourchurch.ca).

## VBS Set Up—Saturday August 19th

We need your help! Join us as we set the church up for the coming week of VBS, putting up our decorations all over the building! Time to be announced.

## VBS Set Up and Volunteer Orientation—Sunday August 20th

Join us after the church service to finish setting up for VBS! All helping hands are greatly appreciated. For everyone who will be volunteering during the week, please stick around after the service a little longer for a quick orientation session, where we'll go over some specifics, including schedule, procedures, and much more!



# DECORATING FUN BEE



**workshop open:**

**June 10th at 4pm**

**July 20th at 7pm**

**July 27th at 7pm**

**WORKERS NEEDED**



## Vacation Bible School Details

Imagine a world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God. Join us for Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School!

Thanks to a generous sponsor the cost to families this year is zero! However, we still need help with some supplies. Please see the lobby or website (coming soon) for a list.

We anticipate a full house so please sign-up early to guarantee a spot.

[www.vbsfun.ca](http://www.vbsfun.ca)



The image shows a colorful sign for Maker Fun Factory VBS Registration. The sign is set against a brick wall background. On the left, the words "MAKER FUN FACTORY" are written in large, colorful, 3D letters. Below this, a small sign reads "Created by GOD Built for a Purpose". To the right, the dates "August 21-25" are displayed in large white letters. The main text on the sign reads "VBS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN" in large green and blue letters, followed by the website "www.vbsfun.ca" in orange. Below this, a quote from Jeremiah 29:11 is written: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord." The sign is decorated with various mechanical parts like gears, pipes, and a bee character. A vertical sign on the right side of the main sign reads "CREATE".

**MAKER FUN FACTORY**  
Created by **GOD**  
Built for a Purpose

**August 21-25**

**VBS REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN**  
[www.vbsfun.ca](http://www.vbsfun.ca)

*"For I know the plans I have for you,  
says the Lord."  
(Jeremiah 29:11)*

**CREATE**



## The Lay Academy

### *The Lay Academy*



The establishment of the **LAY ACADEMY** evolved in response to the leadership needs of congregations and the interest expressed by lay people for a comprehensive program of study. It is to provide lay persons (both potential and appointed), with progressively developed skills in theology, leadership and discipleship.

It arose from the vision of the four western synods of the ELCIC as expressed through the action of the Lutheran Theological Seminary's (LTS) Board of Governors in the Strategic Plan of 2016 and consists of two streams – general education and specially authorized education.

The purpose of the **LAY ACADEMY** is to provide educational programs that deepen the spiritual life, as well as the theological and biblical understanding of the laity in the ELCIC. The **LAY ACADEMY** has also been instructed with developing the educational component of the ELCIC's National Authorized Lay Ministry program.



In the general education stream of the **LAY ACADEMY** three courses will be offered in a calendar year. Classes are to meet the needs and priorities of the church, be accessible to the broader church, meet the needs of the Authorized Lay Ministry program, provide for biblical and theological grounding, as well as skill sets necessary for work and mission in the congregation, and living faithfully in daily life.

Some of the **LAY ACADEMY** sessions and course will be provided through an online format that allows multiple sites from across the four Western provinces and Territories to listen and interact with the presenter at the same time, while also enjoying discussion led by a facilitator within a local church setting. Some courses and sessions will use face-to-face settings and others a combination of online and in-person. It all makes for a collaborative teaching and learning experience!

If you're interested in growing your faith, learning more about the Bible, and expanding your knowledge in leadership and service, consider participating in a **LAY ACADEMY** session or course.



# "Building Community: Welcoming the Stranger/ Loving Our Neighbor"

**Saturday, June 3 and June 10, 2017**

Start time is 9:40 in Calgary.

June 3rd Session will be held at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Welcoming the stranger and getting to know one's neighbors, be they inside or outside the pew, has never been the easiest of missions. At first glance it may appear like we have nothing in common but we need to commit to listening and connecting, to going a step beyond. Join us for the SPRING/SUMMER LAY ACADEMY SESSION as we discuss and learn about 'loving others as ourselves'.

[Registration Fees and Location information is forthcoming.]

**Facilitator:**

**Rev. Dave Saude  
MNO**



*Rev. Dr. Dave Saude obtained his Masters of Divinity from the Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota and his Doctor of Ministry from St. Stephen's College in Edmonton. He is now semi-retired after serving 42 years as a pastor in Western Canada. He has conducted numerous lay training sessions in Manitoba for those who serve in their congregations as worship assistants, leaders and preachers and is a member of the Lay Academy Advisory Committee.*



**Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein, AB June 3 "Theology of Welcoming"**

*Kayko Driedger Hesslein was born and raised in Calgary, receiving her M. Div from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She was ordained in the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC and served her first parish in Toronto from 2002-2007. She then received her PhD in Systematic Theology (with a minor in Christian and Jewish History) from Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Kayko and her family moved back to Calgary in 2014 to become the interim pastor at St. John's Lutheran. She has taught courses at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon.*



**Dr. Fike Tsehaj, BC June 3 "Making a Difference Through Resettlement"**

*Fikre M Tsehaj is the Development Manager of the Refugee Resettlement Program for Canadian Lutheran World Relief, working out of Western Regional office in New Westminster, BC. He studied at the University of Paris in France obtaining his Doctorate in 1984. For the past 25 years, he has been working with Lutheran Churches and other community groups to resettle refugees in Canada and has been instrumental in resettling over 10,000 refugees in all parts of the country. Fikre has been a member of the Sponsorship Agreement Holders Association Council serving three consecutive terms. He has also served as a member of the Executive Council for the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR).*



**Rev. Jason Johnson, SK June 10 "Congregational Challenges in Reconciliation"**

*Jason Johnson is a graduate from the Lutheran Theological Seminary and presently serves as the pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Laird while also working as a counsellor at an inner-city elementary school in Saskatoon. He has played a key role in building community amidst the Lutherans, Mennonites, and the Young Chipewayan Band in the process of reconciliation for Treaty 6. <https://www.reserve107thefilm.com/>. He also participates in advocacy work with Saskatoon Native Ministry in areas of poverty, homelessness, gang lifestyle, and missing and murdered Indigenous women.*



**Rev. Tyler Gingrich, MB June 10 "Finding Our Way in Upholding God's Mission"**

*Tyler Gingrich has a B.A. in English Literature and Political Science from the University of Victoria and studied at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon from 2002 to 2004. He has served as a pastor in Spiritwood, Saskatchewan and Kelowna, BC. In 2012 he became the Youth Engagement Coordinator for Canadian Lutheran World Relief and in 2015 Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Young Adult Ministry for Manitoba and the Northwestern Ontario Synod. Tyler participated in the Justice and Reconciliation Tour to Split Lake, Manitoba in 2016 and is currently one of the co-leaders of monthly youth services at Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church in Winnipeg.*

# Lenten Project Update/Additional Request

The Brenda Strafford Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence would like to thank everyone from LCOS that contributed towards our Lenten project. We collected 50 caring bags full of necessities and 95 pillows for their residents. This will provide their needs for a year.

The Brenda Strafford Centre is looking for new dishcloths, dishtowels and



placemats. If you are able to help out with any of these items please bring them to the church by May 28th.



pastor/parishioner

# ISRAEL

study tour

March 12th to 25th, 2018

THROUGH JERUSALEM UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Your experience starts here as you work together through material and maps beginning in October here in Calgary provided by Jerusalem University. Once in Israel you will be led to a multitude of sites by an instructor of Jerusalem University College. Come discover Israel and see God's Word come alive. For more information contact Pastor Lee at 403-253-1453 or visit <http://www.oursaviourchurch.ca/learn/israel-study-trip>.



## ACADIA COMMUNITY **SUSTAINABLE GARDENING OPEN HOUSE**

### LOCATION

Fellowship Hall (Lutheran Church of Our Saviour)  
8831 Fairmount Drive SE, T2H 0Z4

### DATE

Saturday June 10, 10am - 2pm, Cost: Free

- Join us for a **sustainable gardening demo & info session**. There will be **gardening trivia, prizes and refreshments**.
- **Preview the Bumble Bee Garden Circus Show** (June 24 or 25, weather dependent)



This is a Toastmasters International High Performance Leadership Project in collaboration with the Acadia Community Garden & Art Society

Can't make it on the 24th? We would love to see you in another city!  
May 28 Brooks • June 10 Red Deer • June 11 Edmonton • June 25 Camrose



# Ponder Anew

*what the Almighty can do*

**Join Bishop Larry for dinner.  
Listen to stories of God's work in  
and around the Synod.**

**at the  
Ambrose University (Airhart Theatre)  
150 Ambrose Circle SW, Calgary  
June 24, 2017 6:00 p.m. (doors open 5:30)**

**There is no cost to attend. Please RSVP to the Synod Office  
by June 9. More info is available on the Synod website.**

# Message from the Bishop



May 2017 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ –

I invite your prayers for the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation taking place May 10-16, 2017 in Windhoek, Namibia. The ELCIC will be represented by four delegates: National Bishop Susan Johnson, Rev. Katherine Altenburg, Dan LeBlanc and myself. In addition, I have been nominated by the North American region to serve as a council member of the LWF. Including travel time to Namibia I will be away May 7-19.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of 145 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing over 74 million Christians in 98 countries. Once every six years, delegates from the member churches gather to convene an Assembly, and set the vision and priorities of the communion. As well as determining the direction of the LWF, we examine issues facing our churches, and worship together in a celebration of communion and cultural diversity. As the LWF's supreme authority, the Assembly is responsible for safeguarding the Constitution, electing its next set of leaders, acting on reports, speaking out on issues concerning the life and witness of member churches, and setting the overall direction for the ensuing period.

The theme of this Assembly is, *Liberated by God's Grace*, with sub-themes focusing on issues pertinent to our time: that salvation is not a gift that can be bought, and that exploitation of people and environmental degradation are critical issues of our time that demand our attention.

Each LWF Assembly is unique. It is shaped by the historical juncture in which it takes place, its venue, and the people who help shape its character, define its purposes and determine its outcomes. The Assembly is excited to meet in Namibia, a country that is deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition.

The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. This Assembly is the venue for its global commemoration.

The choice of Namibia as the venue for the Twelfth Assembly has great significance for the LWF. The story of the relationship between the LWF and the Lutheran churches in Namibia is closely intertwined with the national struggle and victory against apartheid so that justice, freedom and dignity could be achieved for all Namibians. To anchor the Assembly in Namibia is

## Message from the Bishop cont.....

to epitomize and celebrate this accompaniment made possible by the grace of God. It is also significant that the global commemoration of the Reformation is taking place in Namibia during the Assembly. With Lutherans comprising half the population, Namibia exemplifies the way in which the Lutheran faith has been embraced and has effectively taken root in other lands outside of Europe.

Hopes for the Twelfth Assembly are summed up in four key words: joyful, transformative, forward-looking, outward-looking.

- Joyful - we celebrate diversity and the sense of belonging to one global communion;
- Transformative - we will develop clear insights and a powerful narrative of what it means to work together towards a just, peaceful and reconciled world;
- Forward-looking - we will embrace the future with courage and hope and in this process upholding the generation that embodies this future;
- Outward-looking - we will strengthen ecumenical involvement and engagement in the world through compassionate diaconal concern and unwavering passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ

In total, around 800 participants – including nearly 400 delegates – will gather in Namibia. The Assembly will be hosted by the three Lutheran member churches: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia-German Evangelical Lutheran Church. These churches are joined and work together through a common platform, the United Church Council of the Namibian Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

I encourage you to follow the Assembly online:

Website <http://lwfassembly.org>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/lwfassembly/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/lwfassembly>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/lwfassembly>

Youtube <http://bit.ly/LWFAsssemblyYoutube>

Assembly hashtag #LWFAsssembly

And please join me in prayer:

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship – the mission of the church*, pg. 75)

In Christ Jesus –

Shalom,

+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

*The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*

**Y'ALL ARE INVITED**

**TO LCOS'S 25TH ★★**

# **STAMPEDE BREAKFAST**



***Sunday, July 16th***

**8am to 10:30am**

**CHURCH SERVICE TO FOLLOW AT 11AM**

**★★★ WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
BISHOP LARRY KOCHENDORFER**

**DONATIONS GO TOWARDS PUT BOOTS TO HUNGER**

# Youth—Mark Your Summer Calendars

## Youth Archery Tag

**Wednesday July 19th at 4 pm**

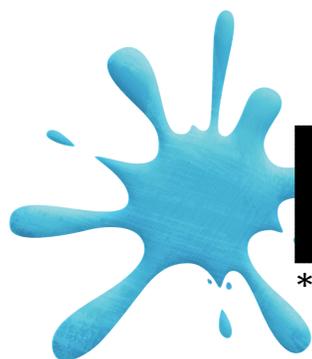
Join us for a mid-summer bash! We'll be heading down to the newly opened Archery Games Center for some archery tag! Parents are welcome to join this event, cost is approximately 25\$ per person for a 75 minute session, although the cost can be reduced if we have more than 20 people signed up for the event. Please sign up at least two weeks in advance by contacting Jesse at [youth@oursaviourchurch.ca](mailto:youth@oursaviourchurch.ca)



## Paintball

**Friday August 25th at 2 pm**

It's almost back to school time! As a last summer hurrah, we'll be heading outside to play some paintball! Location and cost to be announced soon stay tuned for more details. Parents, you are welcome to join us as well.



# PAINTBALL

\*parents welcome too

# YOUTH



**SAVE THE DATE  
08/25/17 2PM**

# Mental Health & The Church

*Mental Health Week in Canada is May 1-7, 2017. This is a national event to encourage people from all walks of life to learn, talk, reflect and engage others on all issues relating to mental health. One fifth of Canadians in any year experienced a mental health problem or illness. In addition, 1.6 million Canadians report their mental health care needs are not being met. The efforts we make to deal with mental health issues are an investment in the mental wealth of our population.*

*There still is a great deal of stigma about mental health issues. Communities of faith can be a means of breaking the silence about these issues because these communities can be a source of hospitality, healing and hope. A recently posted story of one man's journey with mental illness and the role of the church for him is found at [www.anglicanjournal.com/articles/the-church-and-th...](http://www.anglicanjournal.com/articles/the-church-and-th...) (A portion of the article can be found below).*

*The Congregational Action and "Response for Mental Health (CARE) ministry of the Alberta Synod also provides many resources on mental health for congregations to use, which you can find at <http://albertasynod.ca/ministries/c-a-r-e/resources/>*

Dear Archbishop Hiltz, (Anglican)

I am a member of .. I have lived with a mental illness, bipolar disorder, for over 40 years.

It has affected every aspect of my life. Many times I almost killed myself, because I could no longer endure the pain and despair. At such times, it was my belief in God's abiding love, no matter my condition, that enabled me to choose life.

In light of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, I believed I was not alone in my suffering, because Christ was at my side. I believed that my suffering was not the final word. The final word was the Father's faithful love.

I also knew of Christ's special care for the poor, the sick and the outcasts. It leaps off the pages of the gospels. Christ even went so far as to identify with the least of his brothers and sisters. I cannot adequately express how much all of this meant to me. Mental illness brings with it a profound shame and loss of dignity. In spite of this, I still believed I was God's beloved son.

Therefore, I have been deeply saddened, to the point of tears, that Christian churches have not proclaimed to the mentally ill these words of consolation. How much suffering would have been allayed. We are like the man in St. Luke's parable who was left half-dead in the ditch as the priest and Levite passed by.

The church needs to stop and take notice of us, and then climb down into the ditch, kneel by our side and whisper into our ear that we are God's delight. He will never leave us alone. If the church were to take time to listen to our stories of terror and darkness, it would never pass us by. Remember the words Yahweh spoke to Moses from the burning bush,

*"I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings" (Exodus 3:7). These words initiated the Israelites' long journey into freedom. Would that we who live with mental illness could hear these words proclaimed by the church. We would know that God was with us as we traversed our personal deserts.*

I am dumbfounded why the church has failed to do this. Is it because of ignorance on the church's part or the stigma attached to mental illness? It is as if we are invisible or unworthy of being cared for. The church, by not seeing us or caring for us, implicitly increases our shame and intensifies the stigma. We are not worthy of its attention. This is no longer tolerable, given our numbers, the severity of our suffering, the number of us who commit suicide and society's increasing understanding of mental illness. We are no longer in the Dark Ages when mental illness was seen as a form of possession or the result of sin.



# Mental Health cont.....

In an effort to increase the awareness and understanding of the impact mental illness has upon a person, on several occasions,... The response of the community has been heartwarming. I do not have to hide. I am loved and consoled in all the seasons of my life. I am free to be me.

With the encouragement and support ....our church has reached out to the mentally ill and their families in the greater community. Twice we have held a blessing ceremony for them to manifest that they are beloved children of God. At each of these ceremonies, an Anglican priest spoke of his/her experience of mental illness, thus providing the power of testimony. We plan to continue offering these blessings in the coming years, and we hope they might spread to other Anglican churches in our diocese.

What I am requesting ....would only involve opening its eyes, listening to our cries and proclaiming God's good news to us... "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised" (Luke 4:18). If this were done, how many hearts would be consoled? If the church were to listen to and act upon the words of Jesus, "As long as you did not do this to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did not do it to me" (Matthew 25:40), there would be no option in this matter.

I conclude with the words of Jean Vanier: "He who is or has been deeply hurt has a right to be sure he is loved" (Tears of Silence).....



## Financials

### Get on PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) at LCOS

Did you know that you may give to LCOS via pre-authorized remittance one time per month from your bank or credit union chequing account? This program is like any other pre-authorized debit program and is called the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) program. Debits will be drawn from accounts on the 20th of each month. Whenever the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday, the debits will be drawn on the first business day following the 20th. Donations via the PAR program will be recorded on quarterly statements and year-end tax receipts along with all other giving.

#### **Amounts from PAR can be directed to:**

- 1) The LCOS general budget
- 2) Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)
- 3) Capital Maintenance

You can give additional amounts and to other purposes via your regular donation envelopes.

The minimum amount to give via this program is a total of \$50.00 per month.

You can sign up, make banking or donation amount changes, or withdraw from the program at any time. These changes will be effective the month following the submission of the change. Forms are available to process these changes. The program is administered by the Financial Secretary. Authorization forms are available in the Place of Welcome.

### Internet e-transfers & PayPal are also available!

To make a one time or recurring email transfer simply send donations to [donate@oursaviourchurch.ca](mailto:donate@oursaviourchurch.ca). Please include either your envelope number or your name and address in the email so that we can give you a proper receipt at the year's end.

# Year to Date Financials

CATEGORY	FUND	2017	2016
	Debt Reduction		\$70.00
	General	\$25,489.00	\$25,965.00
	Initial	\$50.00	\$10.00
	Loose	\$428.89	\$633.80
<b>Budgeted Giving</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,967.89</b>	<b>\$26,678.80</b>
	CLWR	\$605.00	
	Urgent Care	\$495.00	
	Flower Fund	\$110.00	
	AW Peterson Memorial	\$10,000.00	
	Grant ABT Synod	\$4,440.00	
	Refugee Mission	\$175.00	
	Refugee Mission-Advent	\$2,611.00	
	Refugee Mission-Hope	\$100.00	
	Capital Maintenance	\$70.00	
<b>Designated Giving</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,606.00</b>	<b>\$6,780.00</b>
	Cost Recovery	\$995.00	
	Youth Funds	\$105.00	
<b>Non-Receiptable / Credit</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>	<b>\$165.00</b>
	Hot Dog Sunday	\$175.32	
	Rentals	\$395.00	
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$570.32</b>	<b>\$1,222.72</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$46,244.21</b>	<b>\$34,846.52</b>
Pre-Authorized (PAR) giving (included in totals above):			
	General	\$4,469.00	\$4,469.00
	Capital Maintenance	\$70.00	\$70.00
	CLWR	\$255.00	\$255.00
	# participants	21	21
Number of Sundays		4	4
Average Attendance		216	208
<b>COMMENTS:</b>			
Designated >= \$1000 for 2017 includes:			
	AW Peterson Memorial (\$10,000.00)		
	Grant:Alberta Synod:Employment Fair & Business Forum (\$4,440.00)		
Designated >= \$1000 for 2016 includes:			
	Grant:Alberta Synod:ESL Program (\$2,800.00)		
	Capital Ministry-Ark Mural (\$3,025.00)		
Good Friday and Easter Sunday - in March for 2016 and in April for 2017			
Cliff Blumhagen			
Financial Secretary			

# May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Al-anon	2 1:00 Games Group 7:00 Yoga	3 9:30 Experiencing God 11:00 Acadia Lunch 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Running Group	4 7:00 Revelation Study  7:00 Hebrew Class	5 7:00 College & Careers— Fireside	6 4:00 VBS Decorating 7:00 Tween Night
7 Communion Sunday 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Young Explorers 10:00 The Experiment 10:00 Adult Bible Study 11:00 Worship Service 12:30 pm Lunch & Pathway Clean-up	8 1:00 Memory Plus	9 7:00 Yoga 7:00 Today's Pilgrims	10 9:30 Experiencing God 9:30 MOPS 11:00 Acadia Lunch 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Running Group	11 10:00 Morning Glories 7:00 Revelation Study 7:00 Hebrew Class	12 7:00 Movie Lovers 7:00 Hunger Mission	13 10:00 Hunger Mission ends
14 Mother's Day 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Young Explorers 10:00 The Experiment 10:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Mother's Day Tea 11:00 Worship Service	15 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Fireside	16 1:00 Games Group 7:00 Church Board 7:00 Yoga	17 9:30 Experiencing God 11:00 Acadia Lunch 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Running Group	18 5:00 Affirmation Rehearsal & Dinner 7:00 Hebrew Class 7:00 Revelation 7:15 Flock Care	19 Preschool Closed	20
21 Communion Sunday  <b>Summer Worship Schedule Begins</b> 10:00 Worship Service Affirmation of Baptism	22 Victoria Day Office Closed	23 7:00 Yoga 7:00 Today's Pilgrims	24 9:30 Experiencing God 9:30 MOPS 11:00 Acadia Lunch 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Running Group	25 10:00 Morning Glories	26 7:00 The Experiment— Celebration	27 10:00 Youth Band  7:00 College & Careers— Celebration
28  10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Reformation Fair & Lunch	29 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Fireside	30 7:00 Yoga	31 9:30 Experiencing God 11:00 Acadia Lunch 2:00 Southwood Nursing Home Birthdays 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Running Group 8:15 Al-anon Book Study	June 1	June 2	June 3 9:40 Lay Academy Training— Welcoming The Stranger
June 4 10:00 Worship Service	June 5 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Fireside	June 6 1:00 Games Group	June 7 9:30 Experiencing God 11:00 Acadia Lunch 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 Running Group	June 8 10:00 Morning Glories	June 9	June 10 10:00 Art & Garden Sustainable Gardening Event