

The background is a dark blue night sky with a bright, multi-pointed star in the center. The star is surrounded by a faint, glowing cross-like pattern. The sky is filled with small, distant stars. In the foreground, there is a silhouette of a manger scene. A shepherd stands on the left, holding a long staff. A woman is kneeling on the right, tending to a baby in a manger. The scene is set against a dark, rounded horizon line.

THE VINE

December 2017

Ministry Team

All members of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour



Pastor

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Pastor Lee's Office hours:
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Administration

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Jesse's Office Hours:
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Office Hours

Monday to Friday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Church Board 2016-2017

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

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As of November 30, 2017

Christmas Carolling



Ever since I was in Junior High, Christmas carolling has held a special place in my heart. It really began when our youth group at church went carolling very early Christmas morning. The week before our pastor would contact a number of elderly people whom he described as “shut-ins.” Then leaving the church that frosty morning, there was a caravan of vehicles taking us sleepy-eyed and sleepy-headed youth to each house. Amazingly, people were waiting for us at their front doors to this motley crew of questionable singers. Yet everyone was gracious, some had cookies for us and one gentleman even shoveled his sidewalk before we arrived. However, one year at one house, we had a different experience. Even though Pastor Behnken knocked rather loudly at the front door, no one answered. He told us that was okay, he knew where her bedroom window was, we just needed to sing louder. While we gave it all we had, still no light came on and no one came to the window. As we trudged back to the cars, we heard a voice a few houses away. It seems we had gone to the wrong house.

Years later, at our first parish in North Dakota, I decided to share this same wonderful experience of Christmas carolling with our youth group. Surprisingly, they weren’t as excited as I was about Christmas morning. However, they were game to go out some afternoon and sing some carols for shut-ins and those having a tough time. One place I wanted to take them was the “home” of Hans Hanson. He was an elderly bachelor who lived in a run-down shack. His place had no running water or electricity and he managed to keep warm in the winter by burning tires inside his place! I’m not sure he remembered the last time he took a bath; he was perpetually filthy, toothless and had been known to chase people away with a shotgun. The kids knew this and thought I was not dealing with a full deck. They told me they would follow as long as I went to the door first while they stayed at least 50 feet away. I knocked on the door, Hans recognized me, and I explained that these kids, huddled in the distance, wanted to sing Christmas carols. He stood by the door and a few carols were sung. Suddenly he came charging at them with his fists raised. Not surprisingly, the kids ran back to the vehicles and hid behind them. As it turned out, Hans had fists full of coins for the kids, thankful that they had sung to him.



We just never know the impact we have when we take the time to join in the holy venture of Christmas carolling! So, sing, sing, sing, with all your heart and great joy!

“Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!”

In Christ alone,

Pastor Lee

Youth & Children's Ministry

by Jesse Ramson

Did you know that the word Carol actually means a dance or song of praise and joy? My favourite time of the year is Christmas, and a big reason why is the carols, or songs that we sing. It really is a joyous time in which we celebrate the greatest gift ever given, the baby boy Jesus. It seems like during the time of Christmas we leave behind all the bad, and simply rejoice every day for the good in our lives, which is an amazing thing. I would like to invite everyone out to our Young Explorer and Youth Christmas Production on December 17th at 11am, in which we continue our joyous celebration through music, art, skits, and much more, all with the theme "A Super Christmas." We hope to see you there!

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"

Luke 2:10-11 NIV



Advent Party with Guest LCOC Friday December 1st at 7 pm

It's our annual Advent party! Come on out for a night of fun with snacks, games, and a special activity making Christmas Cards for the homeless. We'll also be joined by special guests Lutheran Church of the Cross youth! Once again, we'll be participating in a Secret Santa, so make sure to bring a wrapped 10\$ maximum gift to participate!

EXPERIMENT Christmas Party with Lutheran Church of the Cross December 1st @ 7pm at LCOS



Tween – Winter Olympics Saturday December 2nd at 7 pm

Make sure to bundle up in warm coats, mitts, and toques, as we head into the winter wonderland outdoors to crown a winner in our annual Winter Olympics. We'll be building snow sculptures, playing capture the flag, and much more. Afterwards, we'll head inside for some nice hot chocolate and snacks, and a Christmas devotion.

WINTER
OLYMPICS
LCOS
7:00pm to 9:00pm



TWEEN NIGHT
12/02/17
dress warm



Youth & Children's Ministry

Congregational Advent Activity Sunday December 3rd at 10 am

ALL AGES are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall between the services for a special Advent Activity! We have incredible Advent posters all the way from USA to color and decorate, as we join together as a church family to celebrate the start of the Advent season. Even if you don't have any artistic abilities at all, please stop by to check out the designs!



Applied Theory – Shopping Mall Hunt Friday December 15th at 7 pm

In classic Christmas spirit, join us at Southcentre Mall as we participate in a special Santa shopping trip. We'll draw a name for a hat, and search throughout the mall for the perfect 10\$ gift for that person. Afterwards, we'll share some snacks at the Food Court, and exchange our gifts.

Youth Band Saturday December 16th at 10 am

This is our last practice before the Christmas Production. Please join us as we finish preparing our special Christmas tunes.



The Giving Tree



Join our LCOS tradition of trimming our tree in the lobby with mittens, scarves, hats and socks. Under the tree you may place small afghans, and blankets.

The tree will be available for decorating from December 3rd until December 17th. After the 17th the items will be delivered to various organizations including Ronald MacDonald House, the Mustard Seed and CLWR.



The Giving Tree

DECEMBER 3rd
to DECEMBER 17th



Give the gift of warmth this holiday season.

Games Group Potluck



Usually 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month

December 5th only in December

We accept new members year round.

The Games Group is having a Christmas Party potluck on December 5th beginning at noon. Please come and join us as we celebrate together! Any questions can be directed to Ruth Peterson or Eleanor Wilson. Our first meeting in 2018 will be January 2nd.

We play Bridge, Mexican Train, Cribbage and a variety of other games and always are looking at learning more. Join us for a game or two and get to know us. We also enjoy celebrating life's big events of our members such birthdays, anniversaries and other life events.



COME JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
Ladies Potluck
December 4th at 6pm

Last name: A-M brings a main dish, N-Z brings a salad or dessert

Christmas Café for Congregation

Friday December 8th at 7 pm
Youth – Host
Christmas Café

Another return of a favourite event from last year! Once again, the youth will be hosting a Christmas Café for the congregation. Feel free to stop by anytime between 7 and 9pm to be served hot beverages and deserts by the youth. There may even be live entertainment!



**Christmas
CAFÉ**
hosted by the youth



DECEMBER 8TH
open 7pm-9pm

Live entertainment, speciality drinks
and great fellowship.

Everyone is Invited!

Cost - donations only



Saturday December 9th at 7 pm
Christmas Cards

Join us for a fun evening of Christmas celebration. We'll be participating in a special Christmas devotion, and sharing some special Christmas treats, while we make cards to send out to the homeless.



Evening of Caroling

December 10th at 7pm

Bring a dessert to share afterwards



Food Handling Training

Do you help out in the kitchen at LCOS?

Would you like to learn more about food safety?

Our Acadia Lunch program has been providing lunches to hungry children at several schools for a few years. To ensure the safety of the children receiving the lunches LCOS is required to take out a Food Handling Permit by January. Thankfully, due to our recent kitchen renovations, there were very few physical changes required. (Did you notice the brighter lights?)

However, we are required to have a congregation member complete a Food Safety Alberta Certification course. The course is onsite at 10301 Southport Lane SW and runs from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. The course is offered on different weekdays and needs to be completed in December or early January. The cost of the course will be covered by LCOS. If you might be interested in completing this course please contact Katharine in the office at 403-253-1453 or admin@oursaviourchurch.ca



Join us for a potluck dinner
and a "Dickens" of a movie

A-M brings a salad or dessert & N-Z brings a main dish

DEC · 15 · 6PM

Christmas Pageant



Sunday December 17th at 11 am

Everyone is invited to this special service put on by the children and youth of the congregation. There will be music, special performances, skits, art, and so much more. Come on out and enjoy the talents of our young people as they show us what Christmas is really about.

Christmas Production Practices

Saturday December 2nd at 5:30pm

Saturday December 9th at 10am

Sunday December 10th at 10am

Sunday December 17th at 10am



Thank You!



Thank you to everyone that has helped on Sunday Mornings. Your willingness to serve is appreciated.
Our helper Elves include:

Altar Care

Hotdog Crew

Choir

Ushers

Children's Ministry

Volunteer Driver

Counters

Youth Ministry

Welcome Desk

Communion Assistance

Computer Operation

Coffee Duty

Praise Teams



CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

December 17th

AFTER THE 11AM "SUPER" PAGEANT



A-M bring a main
N-Z bring a dessert or salad



Thank You!



Thank you to everyone that helped with our work bee on November 18th. Between the work bee and individual families the congregation donated a total of 641 boxes.



Thank you to everyone that donated to the Veteran's Food Bank Collection. We filled three large boxes representing several hundred pounds of food.



Service of Remembrance & Healing

Sunday, Dec. 17th 7pm

The holiday season can be difficult for those missing loved ones. Join us this evening for a service to remember loved ones lost.



Stewardship



A total of 70 pledges have been received on Stewardship Sunday, November 26, 2017 committing a total of \$172,356 for 2018.

This compares to last year where there were 77 pledges received committing a total of \$207,020.

This is a 16.75% decrease in the amount pledged.

If you were not able to submit a pledge on Stewardship Sunday, you may still submit one. On Sunday Mornings you can ask an usher for a pledge card and place in the offering plate or contact Cliff Blumhagen directly.

If you participate in the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program for your giving and you've changed the amount you've pledged, you'll need to submit a PAR Change Request form to the Financial Secretary by the end of December. You can find the forms on a table in the Place of Welcome.



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR CHRISTMAS EVE *Candlelight Services*

December 24th 4pm • 6pm • 8pm

*There will be no morning services this day



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.

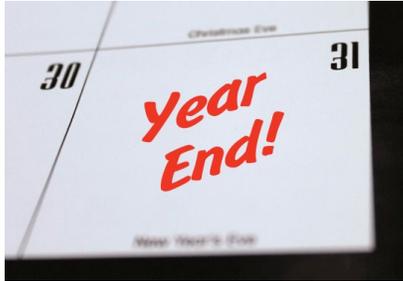
Internet e-transfers & PayPal are also available!

To make a one time or recurring email transfer simply send donations to donate@oursaviourchurch.ca. 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.

No
worship
service
DECEMBER 25th

The background of the bottom section is a photograph of a Christmas tree. The tree is dark green and has several bright, out-of-focus lights in shades of yellow and green. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Year End



If you have any expenses that require reimbursement please submit them to the office by December 15th for year-end wind-up.

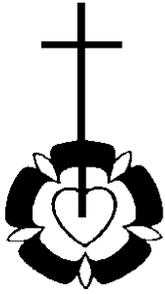
The Annual General Meeting will be held on
January 28th

AGM

One worship service

Sunday, December 31st at 11am

Bishop's Message



Dear Beloved of God –

As we enter the season of Advent I have been thinking of Joseph and Mary journeying to Bethlehem. The gospel writer tells us that as the hour of birth drew near they tried to secure lodging and they found no room in the inn (Luke 2:7).

Founded in this verse Las Posadas (literally “the inns”) developed as a tradition based on the unavailability of shelter. For nine days (usually occurring nine days before Christmas) los peregrinos (the pilgrims) walk through darkened streets carrying candles to accompany the Holy Family. They travel from house to house requesting lodging and singing carols. The procession is invited inside to enjoy food and drink before they are turned away by someone posing as los mesoneros (the innkeepers).



La comunidad is invited to partake in the pilgrimage and await the birth of the child; but for many walking in solidarity with the Holy Family means more than simply re-enacting the familiar biblical story. The re-enactment reminds participants of the challenge of providing a home for all and of the millions who have journeyed from home and land to refugee camps or to other countries. The re-enactment remembers a God who calls us to hospitality, lest we, too, leave Jesus out in the cold.

To remember involves more than abstract thought; it involves praxis. Re-enacting Las Posadas signifies the risk-taking and life-seeking migrations of millions. Participating in Las Posadas reveals the most basic understanding of who God is and what acts we are called to enact. Dr. Ana María Pineda reminds us that when we participate in this annual Advent practice, we “ritually participate in being rejected and being welcomed, in slamming the door on the needy and opening it wide. [We] are in this way renewed in the Christian practice of hospitality, the practice of providing a space where the stranger is taken in and known as one who bears gifts” (Ana María Pineda, “Hospitality,” in *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People*, ed. Dorothy C. Bass [San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1997], 29-42 [31]).



This Advent, though we may not ourselves participate in Las Posadas, I invite you to ponder with me and then to move to action as we consider the Christian practice of hospitality. Who is that stranger for whom we are called to provide a space? How might we share and receive, and learn from, the gift of hospitality? How might we experience the stranger as gift...les we, too, leave Jesus out in the cold?

In Christ Jesus –

Shalom,

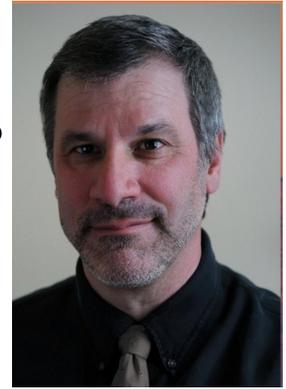
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

*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 15:1*

Jack Beck Returns!



Jack Beck, who is sometimes described as the “Indiana Jones of Israel,” is coming back to LCOS. This will be his third time here to share a Saturday seminar and preach during both worship services the next day. He “has always carried a passion for reading God’s Word as well as a passion for exploring the natural world. His zest for both combines and comes to life in his clearly written books which challenge Bible readers to mature their understanding of the physical geography, human geography (culture), and natural history (plants and animals) of the biblical world. The Holy Spirit speaks geographically, Bible readers who tune their understanding of the language will never read their Bibles the same way. Jack has led three of our study tours to Israel and his latest book is [The Holy Land for Christian Travelers: An Illustrated Guide to Israel](#). We also have a number of his books in the church library.



Jack will be here, January 13-14. On the 13th he will lead a seminar from 9 am. to 3 pm. The theme for that day will be “Along the Road: How Jesus Used Geography to Tell God’s Story.” The cost of the seminar is \$25/person for advance tickets, which includes lunch, and \$30 at the door. Jack will also be sharing two Bethany stories during the 9 am. and 11 am. worship services on Sunday. (Tickets available for purchase by December 10).

Jack and his wife, Marmy, will be our guests that weekend and we are absolutely delighted and honored that they will be with us.

Jack Beck

Along the Road,

How Jesus Used Geography to Tell God's Story

JANUARY 13, 2018 9am-3pm

Tickets for sale at the **LCOS office**
\$25/ticket in advance
\$30/ticket at the door
Lunch provided



Merry Christmas

AND A HAPPY NEW YEARS
FROM THE STAFF AT LCOS



December 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Upcoming in January: January 2—Office Re-opens January 6—College & Careers January 7—Discipleship January 8—Fireside January 9—Book Club January 11—Research Action Team January 12—The Experiment: Bowling				January 13/14—Jack Beck January 18—Flock Care January 19—Movie Lovers January 19—Tween: Sleep over January 26—Applied Theory January 27—The Experiment: Swimming January 28—Annual General Meeting		1 7:00 Experiment Christmas Party	2 6:30 Breakfast at the Seed 8:30 50 Plus Exercise Class 10:00 Advent Wreaths 5:30 Pageant Rehearsal
3 Communion Sunday 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Study 10:00 Young Explorers 10:00 The Experiment 11:00 Worship Service Noon: Choir Practice 6:30 Discipleship	4 1:00 Memory Plus 6:00 Ladies Annual Potluck 7:00 Al-anon	5 Noon: Games Group Christmas Potluck	6 9:30 Experiencing God 9:30 Mom's Group 11:00 Acadia Lunch 7:00 Running Group 7:00 Al-anon 8:30 11 AM Praise Team	7	8 7:00 The Experiment- Christmas Cafe	9 8:30 50 Plus Exercise Class 10:00 Pageant Rehearsal 7:00 College & Careers	
10 Communion Sunday 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Study 10:00 Young Explorers 10:00 The Experiment 11:00 Worship Service 7:00 An Evening of Caroling Sandwich Sunday	11 1:00 Memory Plus 6:00 Fireside Christmas Party	12 10:00 Book Club 7:00 Today's Pilgrims	13 9:30 Experiencing God 11:00 Acadia Lunch 7:00 Running Group 7:00 Al-anon Apprecia- tion Party 8:30 11 AM Praise Team	14	15 7:00 Applied Theory 6:00 Movie Lovers Christ- mas Potluck & Movie	16 10:00 Youth Band	
17 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Study 10:00 Young Explorers 10:00 The Experiment 11:00 Worship Service with Children's Pageant Noon: Christmas Potluck	18 1:00 Memory Plus	19 7:00 Church Board	20 9:30 Experiencing God 11:00 Acadia Lunch 4:00 Private Wedding 7:00 Running Group 7:00 Al-anon 7:30 Choir 8:30 11 AM Praise Team	21	22 Office closes at 1:00 pm and re-opens on January 2nd at 9:00 am	23	
24 No Morning Services. 4:00 Candlelight Service 6:00 Candlelight Service 8:00 Candlelight Service with Holy Communion	25 	26 Boxing Day Office Closed	27 Office Closed 7:00 Al-anon 8:30 Al-anon Book Club	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30	
31 One Service at 11 am							