

# The Vine

H . A . P . P . Y

*Thanksgiving*

CELEBRATE YOUR BLESSINGS

October 2019

## Ministry Team

### *All members of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour*

#### Pastor

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#### Administration & Congregational Care

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#### Office Assistant

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#### Fall Office Hours

9:00 am —1:00 pm  
Tuesday—Thursday

#### Church Board 2019-2020

Brent Anderson  
Alfred Forbrich  
Doug Gerbrandt  
Jens Kaack  
Dale Mass  
Iain McKay  
Garry Mihaichuk  
Shirley Moule  
Nick Perchthaler  
Darren Tenor  
Les Walker

#### Transition Team

Jaqui Anderson  
Andrew Little  
Terry Lee McKay  
Keith Rude

#### Call Committee

Jens Kaack  
Alex McKay  
Garry Mihaichuk  
Bob Montgomery  
Keith Rude  
Karen Smith  
Leah Thormoset

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# Pastor Report by Pastor Julianne Barlow

The stories of the garden of Eden tell us humanity has disobeyed God right from the beginning. We are prone to think we know best (tasting from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil - Gen 2:16-18). The history of God's chosen people shows us that Israel turns away from God and gets brought back by God's work of love time and time again.

This text from Deuteronomy describes a time when the people who turned away from God, created idols for themselves. Their lives and well-being suffered. They are assured and encouraged that God's covenant/promise remains true despite their resistance to God.

*"But even there, if you seek God, your God, you'll be able to find him if you're serious, looking for him with your whole heart and soul. When troubles come and all these awful things happen to you, in future days you will come back to God, your God, and listen obediently to what he says. God, your God, is above all a compassionate God. In the end he will not abandon you, he won't bring you to ruin, he won't forget the covenant with your ancestors which he swore to them. Deuteronomy 4:29-31 The Message*

God your God is a compassionate God.

Compassion has been described as the recognition of pain with the desire to relieve it. Many peoples' lives continue to be affected by their inability to recognize their need for God's compassion. The gift of love, in the person Jesus our Saviour, offers humanity new life in the face of our pain, self destruction and disobedient attitudes and actions.

That we can trust in God's compassion is in itself life giving and certain. As followers of Jesus we also are to give that same compassion we receive from God to others and ourselves.

In his book Resilient, Rick Hanson says "when we treat others with respect and caring, the best in them usually comes out. Much the same would happen if we could treat ourselves the same way.

Yet most of us are a better friend to others than we are to ourselves. We care about their pain, see positive qualities in them, and treat them fairly and kindly. But what kind of friend are you to yourself? Imagine treating yourself like you would a friend. You'd be encouraging, warm, sympathetic, and you'd help yourself heal and grow."

Compassion for others and for ourselves comes from God, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, by the power of the Spirit. God has endless compassion for humanity, despite generations of disobedience and rejection of God's love.

It is God's compassion which fuels our capacities to be compassionate day by day.

*But God's already made it plain how to live, what to do,  
what God is looking for in men and women.*

*It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbour,  
be compassionate and loyal in your love,*

*And don't take yourself too seriously—  
take God seriously. (Micah 6:8 The Message)*

Amen

# Family & Youth Ministries by Jesse Ramson

Well, we are truly on our way into another year of family ministry programming! September's launches were awesome, incredible in so many different ways. The one thing that stood out to me was definitely the culture of support that is building behind the ministry. We've had so many amazing people step up to help us out, whether that was leading a challenge for our Amazing Race event, or volunteering as a teacher in our Sunday School program, or even starting to help plan some very exciting stuff for the upcoming holiday season. Each one of you is greatly appreciated. I am also overjoyed to know that people are praying for the lives of every single young person in our church family. That is an incredible act of love, and one that will help, sometimes in unseen ways.

As we look ahead to October, we are starting to shift in our discipleship theme to the idea of building relationships with others. The focus this month, especially for our youth, is to start reaching out to those outside of our church congregation. That includes other youth groups through the 403 Rally Event, as well as community families with our Halloween Party. This is an exciting next step for our ministry, in our discipleship journey.

## **Friday, October 4th at 6:30 pm - Family Fun Night - Noah's Ark**



All families of all ages are invited to this special intergenerational event. There is a free meal, themed crafts, games, and a special time of worship designed for children. Please talk to Jesse to RSVP!

## **Saturday, October 5th at 7:00 pm - Tween - Mission Impossible**

It is time to see who can be the best secret agent! Come on out for a night filled with brain-teasing challenges, stealthy activities, and much more! Feel free to dress up like a spy!



## **Sunday, October 13th at 10:00 am - Young Explorers - Thanksgiving Class**



In celebration of Thanksgiving, we will be travelling back to Biblical time to discover the roots of gratefulness. There'll be storytime, games, crafts, and of course...snacks! All children and youth are invited to join us in Classroom A/B.



# Family & Youth Ministries (continued)

## Friday, October 18th at 7:00 pm - Youth - 403 Rally

Once again, we will be joining with hundreds of other youth from groups across Calgary in a night of worship and Biblical teaching! Sign up on Doodle or contact Jesse by Sunday, October 6th so that we can organize carpooling.



## Saturday, October 19th at 10:00 am - Youth Band Practice



Join us in the sanctuary as we continue to work on our Christmas songs. All youth and young adults of any musical experience/expertise are welcome to come on out!

## Friday, October 25th at 7:00 pm - Young Adults - Laser Tag

Bring your friends out for this incredibly fun night of laser tag at Laser Quest. The cost is approximately 20\$, this will be confirmed as soon as we get final numbers. Sign up on Doodle by Sunday, October 13th.



## Saturday, October 26th at 6:00 pm - Youth/Families - Community Halloween Party



All families are invited to join us for this special free community Halloween party, hosted by the LCOS youth! There'll be games, crafts, and snacks, designed for all ages. Feel free to invite your friends, as this is truly an event designed for the entire community. Also, you are invited to dress up in your Halloween costume!

# Board Report

The Board meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup> had a number of important focuses.

The first was of course the unfortunate break-in that happened on Friday September 13<sup>th</sup> early in the morning. The caretaker found the lights were on in the Administration office and there were clear signs of someone having gone through the offices. We asked the Risk Management Committee headed by Bob Montgomery to look into a security and alarm system that would let us know when someone enters the church after hours so that the damage can be limited. We reviewed the proposals and are having Bob look into how we can make the system as easy as possible for the congregation to enter and exit and unset and reset the alarm system after hours. This method could also be used as a door unlock system so that each person could have a personal code or a personal FOB which can identify who is entering the church after hours.

The next topic was the financial position of the congregation. When you compare the revenues to our expenses we are running a deficit to the end of August of \$28,000. If that trend continues we could have a year-end deficit of \$42,000. This would completely deplete most of our financial reserves and we would be operating on a hand-to-mouth basis. We discussed ways that we could reduce the deficit. This could be accomplished by: 1) decreasing the costs (which as in most congregations, are 65% or 2/3 staff related costs such as salaries and benefits) or 2) from an increase in revenue (donations and other revenue like Shauna's pre-school).

Expense cuts have taken place all year and total \$20,000 to the end of August. We don't see many more opportunities that will not cut the minimal staffing level that we currently have and with a cut the capacity to complete our mission.

On the revenue side we have renegotiated the contract with Shauna and she has been great at increasing her rental fees to help us out. We have a Revenue Committee which is looking into ideas which will assist us in generating more income as well as the staff continuing to look for ideas.

The biggest opportunity for revenue is from all of us through our prayerful donations. We will be providing information on a monthly basis to show us where we stand financially and how we can help out. Please consider our situation and I would be glad to speak to any of you on ideas and concerns.

We are looking at a photo directory. The photos will be taken by Mariette Jessup in November and she will be paid by a free will offering. Thanks for doing this for us! Please take this opportunity to have members and non members update our family directory.

The Board will continue to provide more details on various topics during the rest of the year. Let us know what areas you would like to hear about.

Yours in Christ

Garry

# Call Committee

The Call Committee met with the congregation on September 15<sup>th</sup> and we had a great discussion on what the characteristics were that we wanted to have our future pastor to possess. The Call Committee met on September 16<sup>th</sup> and Leah Thormoset assisted us in compiling the notes from these meeting to come up with a ranked list of characteristics both personally and theologically.

We wanted to present the results of your deliberations.

## Personality Traits

- Relates well to everyone (14 mentions)
- Holy, Christ-like, Godly and Spirit-led (11 mentions)
- Compassionate, caring, has empathy (11 mentions)
- Servant Leader (9 mentions)
- Personable/Charming (8 mentions)
- Good Listener (6 mentions)
- Humble (6 mentions)
- Sense of Humour/Fun (6 mentions)
- Respects Diversity (5 mentions)
- Engaging/Welcoming (5 mentions)
- Good Communicator (4 mentions)
- Can appreciate and mix both traditional and modern (both Bible-based) elements of worship/service styles (4 mentions)
- Enthusiastic/charismatic (4 mentions)
- Flexible/Open to change (3 mentions)
- People person (knows people & their names and stories) (3 mentions)
- Visionary/Forward thinker (3 mentions)
- Imaginative/Innovative (3 mentions)
- Self-aware/Healthy attitude (3 mentions)
- Approachable (2 mentions)
- Sincere (2 mentions)
- Encouraging (2 mentions)
- Selfless (2 mentions)
- Inspiring (2 mentions)
- Informal (1 mention)
- Positive (1 mention)
- Full of faith
- Patient
- Collaborative
- Organized
- Grateful
- Intelligent
- Pastoral Care

# Call Committee (continued)

## Theology/Doctrine

- Can relate Scripture to our everyday lives (5 mentions)
- Great teacher (5 mentions)
- Great speaker/orator (5 mentions)
- Grounded in Scripture (4 mentions)
- Engaging (4 mentions)
- Open to being challenged and to challenging others (2 mentions)
- Relevant
- Knowledgeable

By the time you get this report we will also have completed the second deliberation with the congregation on direction and strategy. Unfortunately we will not have completed our analysis until after the Vine deadline so you will have to wait until the next edition.

The Call Committee will continue to provide more details during the rest of the year!

Yours in Christ

Garry



*You're Invited:*

***Founding Assembly & Campaign Launch***

*October 17*

*Musical Program @ 6:40 pm*

*Formal Program @ 7:00 pm*

*Knox United Church – 506 4th Street SW*

*All are Welcome*

*Please Register at: [www.calgarycommongood.org/founding\\_assembly](http://www.calgarycommongood.org/founding_assembly)*



# Israel Study Tour by Preston Pouteaux

## Israel Study Tour with Lake Ridge Community Church and Jerusalem University College June 22 to July 5, 2020

Preston Pouteaux is pleased to announce that he has been accepted to lead another group from June 22-July 5, 2020.

This study tour was created with the intent of inviting participants from Lake Ridge Community Church in Chestermere, where he serves as a pastor, and participants from The Link Christian Fellowship in Medicine Hat. They hope to create a group of about 34 people to study with Jerusalem University College. Their Pastor & Parishioner study tour is a unique opportunity for us to study, travel, learn, and engage with the land of the Bible in ways that normal travel agencies cannot.

**Costs:** The cost of the tour is \$3130 USD per person. This includes three meals a day, transportation during the program, instructors, tips, and site entrance fees. Additional costs include airport bus transportation (approx. \$50) and your own spending money, etc. A non-refundable application fee of \$50 USD will be due December 15, 2019. A non-refundable deposit of \$200 USD will be due March 1, 2020. Final payment will be due one month before program date.

More information is available by contacting Preston at [prestonpouteaux@gmail.com](mailto:prestonpouteaux@gmail.com) or at 403-880-6486 with questions.

## Lion's Eye Band

We are collecting your used eye glasses. Please put them in a Zip Lock bag and place them in the box in the top shelf of the donation cupboard. Please note that they do not take the cases.

## Operation Christmas Child WorkBee



***HOLD THE DATE!***

***OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD WORKBEE***

***SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23***

# UJAMAA GRANDMAS

## **Bags, Babies & Beyond 2019**

Friday, October 18 - 2:00 to 8:00 pm

Saturday, October 19 - 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

at

Marda Loop Communities Association

3130 16th Street SW

Hand crafted items for sale:

- *Our famous handcrafted bags*
- *Book bags for children and adults*
- *Children's clothing and toys*
- *Sweaters, hats, scarves, slippers, mittens, shawls and other accessories*
- *Christmas items*
- *Many exciting surprise items for your home or for gift giving*
- *Jewelry and much more*

Proceeds to Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

[www.grandmotherscampaign.org](http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org)

*For more information visit [www.ujamaagrandmas.com](http://www.ujamaagrandmas.com)*

*Or contact [handcrafts@ujamaagrandmas.com](mailto:handcrafts@ujamaagrandmas.com)*

# Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry

October 2019 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

I give thanks to God for...

In January 2016 I stood with ELCIC and ELCA bishop colleagues at the border between Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Mexico. We were silenced by the high, seemingly impenetrable metal wall that separated not only countries, but cities, neighbourhoods, friends and families.

And so I was fascinated this summer when news reported what seemed like an ordinary scene: children and adults playing on bright, hot-pink seesaws, laughing and chatting with each other. But this scene filmed at the end of July was a playground unlike any other, for these custom built seesaws had been placed through the slatted steel border fence that separates the United States and Mexico.

The idea for this "Teeter-Totter Wall" came from Ronald Rael, an architecture professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and Virginia San Fratello, a professor of design at San Jose State University – and it was a long time coming. In 2009, the two designed a concept for a binational seesaw at the border, and ten years later, their conceptual drawings became reality. The "Teeter-Totter Wall" featured three pink seesaws installed between the slats on the border fence, allowing people on both sides of the border to see and to play with each other.

The seesaws were fabricated by a group of artists and the project was realized with help from Colectivo Chopeke, which focuses on bringing communities together through design. Rael and his crew transported the colourful seesaws to Sunland Park, New Mexico, which is separated by a steel fence from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Sunland Park is also where many migrants have been detained this year.

In an Instagram post (July 29, 2019) Rael wrote that the event was "filled with joy, excitement, and togetherness at the border wall. The wall became a literal fulcrum for U.S.-Mexico relations and children and adults were connected in meaningful ways on both sides, with the recognition that the actions that take place on one side have a direct consequence on the other side."

Rael and San Fratello, speaking to Forbes Media, said: "The seesaw demonstrates how those immediate relationships between people can create an environment where happiness and play are also important aspects of life on the border and that our relationships with our neighbors can extend past political relationships but also humanistic relationships."

Word of the installation spread quickly across social media, but as quickly as the seesaws went up, they came down equally fast.

# Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry (continued)

"There is no playground along the U.S.-Mexico border wall in New Mexico," a customs and border patrol official is quoted by Forbes Media as saying. "On the evening of July 28, U.S. Border Patrol agents encountered a small group who identified themselves as local university faculty/staff at the border wall. They had placed boards through the wall and appeared to be playing with residents of Mexico while recording the engagement. The group removed the boards and left the area without incident after it was established that there was no advance coordination."

I remain fascinated by this report, this experience, this play. The wall, which I had seen only as an impenetrable metal barrier, had become a fulcrum to create meaningful connections on both sides as the hot-pink seesaws went up and down.

Though the wall still separates the two countries and their people, the alternate life given it by professors and artists is profound. This was an image of community and relationships, and a striking contrast to the heart-wrenching scenes that now fill the news.

Joy, excitement, togetherness.

I give thanks to God for artists, architects, poets, musicians, playwrights, actors, dancers and theologians who open our eyes to hope and possibility, and to a vision to see beyond the barriers that separate us, creating meaningful connections.

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)

(A brief video of the teeter-totter wall may be viewed at Ronald Rael's instagram feed

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B0fY2R6hfKr/>)

# October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 7:00 Games Group	<b>2</b> 9:30 Experiencing God 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 11 am Praise Team	<b>3</b> 10:00 Falling Upward Book Study 7:00 Divine Renovation Book Study	<b>4</b> 6:30 Family Noah's Ark	<b>5</b> 6:30 Breakfast at The Seed 8:30 50+ Exercise 7:00 Tween Mission Impossible
<b>6 Communion</b> 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult, Children and Youth 11:00 Worship Service	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00 Today's Pilgrims	<b>9</b> 9:30 Experiencing God 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 11 am Praise Team	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8:30 50+ Exercise
<b>13</b> 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult, Children and Youth 11:00 Worship Service	<b>14 Thanksgiving</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>15</b> 1:00 Games Group 7:00 Board Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:00 Staff Meeting 9:30 Experiencing God 10:30 Southwood 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 11 am Praise Team	<b>17</b> 7:00 Divine Renovation 7:15 Flock Care	<b>18</b> 7:00 Youth 403 Rally	<b>19</b> 8:30 50+ Exercise 10:00 Youth Band
<b>20 Communion</b> 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult, Children and Youth 11:00 Worship Service	<b>21</b> 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Fireside	<b>22</b> 7:00 Today's Pilgrims	<b>23</b> 9:30 Experiencing God 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 11 am Praise Team	<b>24</b> 10:00 Falling Upward Book Study	<b>25</b> 7:00 Applied Theory Laser Tag	<b>26</b> 8:30 50+ Exercise 7:00 Youth Community Halloween Party
<b>27 Hot Dog Lunch</b> 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult, Children and Youth 11:00 Worship Service	<b>28</b> 1:00 Memory Plus November Vine Submissions Deadline	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30 Experiencing God 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 11 am Praise Team	<b>31</b>	<b>Coming Up .....</b> November Stewardship Month November 8 Tween 403 Rally November 9 Youth Virtual Reality November 15 Family Fun Night November 23 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Workbee	