

THE VINE

CHOOSE

Joy

JAMES 1:2-3

NOVEMBER 2019

Ministry Team

All members of Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow
403-253-1453 ext. 11
403-464-8254 cell/text
pastorjulianne@lcos@gmail.com

Administration & Congregational Care

Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor
403-253-1453
office@oursaviourchurch.ca

Director of Family & Youth Ministries

Jesse Ramson
403-253-1453 ext. 114
403-200-1740 (cell/text)
youth@oursaviourchurch.ca

Office Assistant

Judy McDonald
403-253-1453
office2@oursaviourchurch.ca

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
Terrylee McKay
Keith Rude

Call Committee

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

8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary T2H 0Z4

403-253-1453

Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

www.oursaviourchurch.ca

Pastor Report by Pastor Julianne Barlow

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:8-10 NLT

This week at the Transition Team meeting (the team who gather to reflect on this "in between time") we were discussing the word "change." Many people cringe at that word, uncomfortable with the unknown.

Others are the first to embrace something different, welcoming something new.

The conversation about the mandate of the team went something like this;

"I don't like that word change."

"We are not trying to fix the congregation!"

"Congregations who maintain the status quo slide into decline."

"I just read about not just surviving in life but thriving."

"So what is that that we are about?"

"Walking with the congregation, focussing on preparing, getting ready for what God has for us next."

"It is more like becoming aware and following where God leads."

"Like what is important to do and how to do it."

"How do we (the congregation) even know what that is?"

"Listening to insights, God's voice in prayer and in reading the Bible?"

"And talking about it together."

"God has given each of us skills and passions which makes us a diverse congregation."

"And putting all these bits of clarity together helps discern what God is saying to us!"

Each person at LCOS, old or young, here for a long time or a short time, is uniquely created, gifted and loved by God. November is traditionally the month we focus on stewardship, that is, what we do with what God has given us, and why we do it.

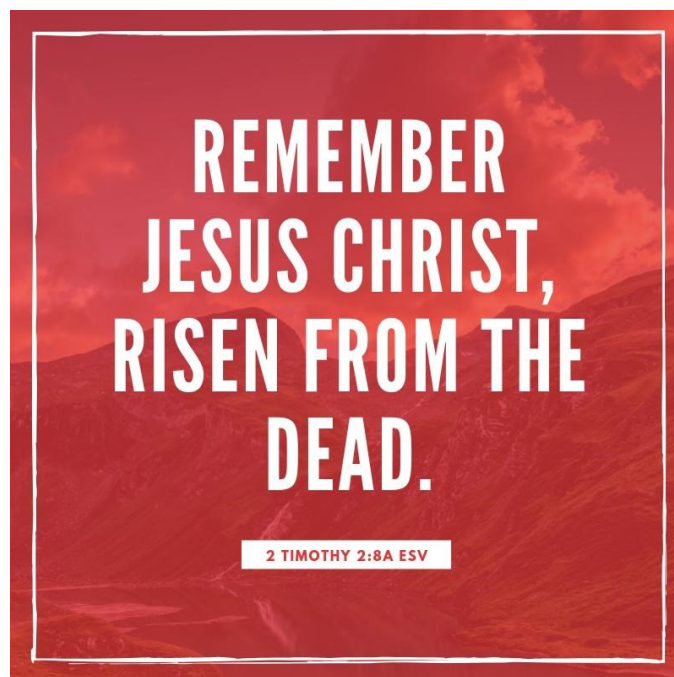
For what purpose? The congregation has accepted the mission God has given us; We are an inviting and growing Christian presence, with a passion for living and sharing Jesus Christ.

As the days and months continue to unfold, the congregation is invited to join in the journey God has for us, the joys, the challenges, the ah ha's and the oh no's, to live fully into the good things God planned for us long ago. Amen.

Family & Youth Ministries by Jesse Ramson

Right now, the keyword on my mind is “remember.” I’ve been doing a lot of writing, a lot of speaking, and a lot of thinking on the topic, and of course, entering this month of celebrating Remembrance Day, it is, even more so, something I am focusing on.

I think it is so important for us to remember, but to remember the right things. We are living in a culture that is based upon reminders. Our phones ding to remind us of emails we need to respond to, our walls are filled with calendars reminding us of important dates, our homes are decorated with pictures reminding us of special memories, and our desks are covered in sticky notes reminding us of tasks and due dates. Amidst all of that, how are we reminding ourselves of the most important thing in our lives, the gospel of Christ? How are we, intentionally, everyday, thinking of the love and grace of God in a way that is impacting how we approach each day? I actually don’t think it is that hard. Take all of the things I just mentioned above, and add a little more. Send yourself an email with a Bible verse. Fill your calendar with prayers for each day. Decorate your home with pictures that remind you of the victories you have had in Christ. Cover your desk in sticky notes that remind you of the simplest truths of the faith. In everything you do, remember.



Family & Youth Ministries by Jesse Ramson

Friday, November 8th at 7:00 pm - Tween - 403 Rally

This is going to be awesome! We're going to be joining together with tons of other Tween groups from across Calgary in a night of worship, teaching, games, and lots of fun! Sign up with Jesse **ASAP**.



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9TH AT 7PM

Saturday, November 9th at 7:00 pm - Youth - Virtual Reality

It's a whole new world! We're going to be heading to Ctrl V in Calgary for a fun Virtual Reality experience! Cost is approximately 20\$, be sure to RSVP to Jesse **ASAP** to reserve your spot!



Friday, November 15th at 6:30 pm - Family Fun Night - Abraham

In our next edition of Family Fun Nights, we are going to be looking at the story of Abraham! All ages are invited to join us for this unique night of worship, crafts, games, and a free meal! Come on out and experience an awesome, intergenerational, fun way of connecting with God!



Saturday, November 16th at 10:00 am - Youth Band

We're getting close to our Christmas Production! Join us as we continue to work on our holiday songs.

Friday, November 22nd at 7:00 pm - Young Adults - Locked Room

We're heading off on another Locked Room adventure! Time to put your skills to the test as we try to get our group out of the puzzle in under 60 minutes. Cost is 20\$, please bring extra for Tim Horton treats afterwards. Sign up with Jesse by Sunday November 10th.

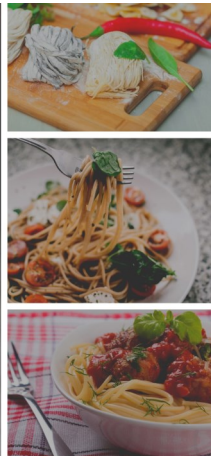


Family & Youth Ministries (continued)

Saturday, November 23rd at 8:00 am - Youth

Breakfast and Operation Christmas Child Workbee

Join us for Breakfast at Smittys (by the Southland Walmart), before we head back to the church for the annual Operation Christmas Child Workbee at 10am. Breakfast will be approximately 15\$, invite your parents too! RSVP with Jesse by Sunday November 10th, so we can organize carpooling if need be.



Saturday, November 30th at 6:00 pm -

Spaghetti Dinner Youth Fundraiser

Coming up in August is the Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth Gathering here in Calgary at SAIT. To help us with registration costs, the youth will be hosting a number of different fundraisers. This one will be a spaghetti dinner for all ages! Everything will be served by the youth, with the cost being by donation. Please talk to Jesse to get tickets for your whole family today!

Christmas Pageant Practices



Friday, November 29th at 6:30pm

Saturday, November 30th at 9:30am

Sunday, December 8th at 10:00am

Saturday, December 14th at 9:30am

Sunday, December 15th at 10:00am

All adults and children are welcome!

Board Report

The Board meeting on October 15th discussed a number of important items which should be of interest to the entire congregation.

The first was related to the break-in that happened on Friday September 13th. The Risk Management Committee, headed by Bob Montgomery, looked into a security and alarm system that would let us know when someone enters the church after hours. We reviewed the proposals in September and determined the company we would like to use. Our request was to make the system as easy as possible to enter, exit, set and reset the alarm system after hours to reduce the level of false alarms that occur from inappropriate system handling. The Board approved the system installation and the monitoring of the alarm system which was installed at the end of the October. Alarm system training for everyone who has a key to ensure they know how to operate the system has taken place.

The next topic was the financial position of the congregation. When you compare the revenues to our expenses we were, at the end of September, running a deficit of \$20,000. Compared to August (deficit \$28,000) this is a reduction of the deficit by \$8,000. There was a significant increase in congregational donations in August and September by \$14,000. Monthly donations from September 2018 to September 2019 have increased by \$7,000. This is fantastic and greatly appreciated. We still have a long way to go but if this level of donations continues we should be able to reduce the deficit to \$0 by the end of the year.

We are also looking for an individual to chair the Nominating Committee. This position was vacated earlier this year. The chair of this committee determines interest from congregational members in becoming a director on the Board. If you might be interested in chairing this committee please contact to Garry Mihaichuk at gmihaichuk@me.com or 403-975-0081.

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

The keyless entry security system will go live on
Tuesday, November 5.
Any entry without a key tag will set off an alarm.

Call Committee

The Call Committee met with the congregation again on September 22nd and we had a great discussion on what builds our spirituality. The Call Committee met on September 28th and we compiled notes into a ranked list.

We wanted to present the results of your deliberations in ranked order.

Spirituality

- Contemporary Service
- Contemporary Music c/w some Hymns
- Volunteering
- Young families, youth and children
- Sense of congregational family
- Small Groups
- Community activity
- Internal Bible courses
- Trip to Israel/Mission
- Assisting with decreasing social isolation
- Warm greeting by pastor and greeters
- Missional focus with community outreach
- External worship assistance
- Serving others outside of church
- Full pews
- VBS

The Call Committee had a meeting with Bishop Larry on October 18th. We reviewed the congregational mission profile (congregational resume) that LCOS submitted. He felt it was very comprehensive and very well done. Bishop Larry provided some context as concerns pastoral availability to the committee. The timing for pastoral calls is now 1 ½ to 2 years. There was only 1 graduate from the seminary in 2019 and there will be 2 graduates in 2020 causing a supply problem. There are 7 congregations in the AB Synod with profiles which have been submitted requesting a pastoral call, and 4 congregations w/o a submitted profile which are expected to finish their profiles by November. That would make 11 congregations requesting a pastoral call. Additionally, there are 11 congregations w/o a pastor.

We reviewed the status of the 15 candidates that were submitted by the LCOS congregation. Of these, 2 were not eligible due to not being an ELCIC rostered pastor, 6 were not interested in a move at this time and 7 remain to have a discussion with Bishop Larry on their interest. We are expecting to hear the results of these conversations in the next month.

The call committee members also provided Bishop Larry with our views on the characteristics of the pastor that he should be considering for LCOS. This provided him with valuable information which he felt could yield another 3 potential candidates. Once Bishop Larry contacts the pastors they have some time to determine if they have an interest in further information and will provide a resume to the call committee for our evaluation. Congregations with approved profiles and therefore an approved pastoral call are also listed in the AB ELCIC Wednesday Word. This provides rostered pastors an opportunity to determine if they have an interest and wish to contact the Bishop for more information. LCOS was included in this listing on October 23rd.

The Call Committee will continue to provide monthly updates and appreciates all your prayers for a new pastor!

Yours in Christ

Garry

The Master's Singers



Director: Muriel Wiebe



Accompanist: Lori Chang-Shivji

PRESENT OUR

20th Anniversary Concert

with guest violinist, Maury Michie

**Saturday, November 30, 2019
at 7 pm**

**BETHANY CHAPEL
3333 Richardson Way, S.W. Calgary, AB**

60 Voice Interdenominational Male Chorus
Representing 11 denominations and 34 churches

FREE ADMISSION ☿ DONATIONS APPRECIATED ☿ FREE PARKING

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox WorkBee



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23RD
AT 10AM

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX WORKBEE

*Boxes are available for pick up now for
those who want to fill a box at home.*

Altar Care



Our Altar care group is always looking for new people to join.
This is a lovely opportunity if you prefer behind-the-scenes volunteering.

For more information, please contact
Marg Hall - 403-256-4786 or Karen Smith - 403-271-1472.

Advent Corsages

We will be making Advent corsages on Saturday, November 30th, beginning at 9:30. Everyone is welcome! The corsages are easy to make, so we should be done by 11:00-11:30.

There will be an ample supply of snacks and coffee!



Canada Lutheran Magazine

If you would like to subscribe to the Canada Lutheran please advise the office by email at office2@oursaviourchurch.ca no later than November 6, 2019.

The annual cost is \$19.49 (which includes gst).

CANADIAN
LUTHERAN.ca

Prayer List

If you are aware of anyone who would like to be added to our confidential prayer list, the public prayer list that appears on the back of the weekly bulletin or you feel may benefit from a visit, kindly advise the church office at office2@oursaviourchurch.ca.



Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

November 2019 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

Our Synod seeks to live out of four Mission Priorities reviewed and approved at our 2019 Synod Convention. One of these Mission Priorities is Collaborative Partnerships. Here, we say in part that, “Listening to the Spirit’s leadership we are intentional in developing deeper relationships, sharing of resources, and partnership ministries within Areas of the Synod.”

Together, in the Synod of Alberta and the Territories and across the ELCIC, we are experiencing several common realities: increased congregational vacancies, decreased congregational finances and participation, fewer pastoral graduates, to name a few. In the mist of these realities we continue to journey together seeking to discern God’s work in our communities and to join God in God’s mission.

With our Collaborative Partnerships Mission Priority in mind, as well as our current context, I invited 28 congregations, and lay and rostered leaders, to gather in three regions of the West and East Central Areas of our Synod in early October for a Collaborative Partnership Gathering. 23 out of 28 congregations were represented at the three regional gatherings.

October 1 – Bethel Lutheran, Camrose – over 60 participants representing 12 congregations
October 2 – Peace Lutheran, Leduc – over 30 participants representing 6 congregations
October 7 – Peace Lutheran, Innisfail – 53 participants representing 5 congregations

I am grateful for the presence of God’s Spirit among us and guiding us as we gathered. And, I am grateful for the participation of so many.

The goal of the evening was to kindle conversation and extend a call to further conversations and collaboration. The goal was to frame and reframe how we see ourselves: where are we at? what is our current reality? The goal of the evening was to engage in conversation sharing where God is at work, and where God is calling us to. The goal was to spark conversation about what journeying forward together might look like. The goal was to begin conversation and to continue these conversations at the upcoming Area Gatherings.

During each Gathering time was spent in prayer and in Dwelling in the Word considering John 21:1-14. What stands out for you in the text? a word? a phrase? What questions do you have of the text? Considering the gathering and current realities what might the Spirit of God be saying to us tonight?

Following the Collaborative Partnership Gathering at Peace Lutheran, Innisfail, Vivian Holtby, a member at Grace Lutheran, Wetaskiwin and a member of the West Central Area Leadership

Bishop's Message (continued)

Team forwarded this reflection on John 21:1-14 to me, as well as a picture. I share Vivian's reflection with her permission.



Photo Credit: Vivian Holtby January 2018 Off-shore from Tiberius on the Sea of Galilee. Casting the net.

Lord, I'm so tired and I'm so weary, but I must go on you say. So much loneliness, so much toil, so little fruit (fish) (people) (believers), so little hope! I came to fish in this night, for that is when fishing is good. The moon shines on the water on the left side of the boat so I cast there. The fish make themselves known as the light sparkles on their scales. But tonight, there is no moon, so I/we don't see them. The light is not with us, the Light is not in us, not in me, not in Peter! It's not in the fish, the people.

You're watching us, waiting, seeing, knowing. You say, how do I bring you back to me? So, you greet, you speak. You offer us insight, an idea, a way in, a way out, a way forward, a way to success, hope.

What is that hope- to feed and to be fed? To have strength and hope? To have friends travel the road with you? To have a purpose? To have You!

Ah, try something different today, tomorrow, tonight! Look on the untrod path, look to the least likely, look to the unknown, look inward, look outward,, look on the other side of the boat!

I looked elsewhere Lord, right close by, on the other side of the boat, fence, road, street, city, world. In my neighbour's yard!

I found 153, more or less, and I thought- what do I do now?

So, I brought them to breakfast with me! You were there waiting with your few. We sat in that place, there in the beach and we- those already there and those brought by me/us- breakfasted together.

I'm no longer tired, weary, lonely as I found a fisherman's net full of believers, just on the other side of the boat! Thank you, Lord, for leading me where I needed to go- out there in untried water, so to speak, so that I might find you and your people where you wanted me to find You and them!

Try the other side of the boat!

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)

November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 6:00 Breakfast at The Seed 8:30 50+ Exercise
3 Communion 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult, Children and Youth 11:00 Worship Service	4 7:00 Fireside Group 7:00 Al-anon	5 1:00 Games Group	6 9:30 Experiencing God 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon	7	8 7:00 Tween 403 Rally	9 8:30 50+ Exercise 7:00 Youth Virtual Reality
10 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult, Children and Youth 11:00 Worship Service	11 Remembrance Day Office Closed	12 7:00 Today's Pilgrims	13 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	14 10:00 Falling Upward Book Study	15 6:30 Family Fun Night—Abraham	16 8:30 50+ Exercise 10:00 Youth Band Practice
17 Communion 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult, Children and Youth 11:00 Worship Service	18 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Fireside	19 1:00 Games Group	20 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	21 7:15 Flock Care	22 7:00 Young Adults Locked Room	23 8:00 Youth Breakfast 8:30 50+ Exercise 10:00 Operation Christmas Child Workbee
24 Hot Dog Lunch 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult, Children and Youth 11:00 Worship Service	25 1:00 Memory Plus December Vine Submissions Deadline	26 7:00 Today's Pilgrims 7:00 Board Meeting	27 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 8:30 Al-anon	28 10:00 Falling Up- ward Book Study 6:00 City of Calgary Matched Savings Program	29 6:30 Christmas Pageant Practice	30 8:30 50+ Exercise 9:30 Christmas Pageant Practice 9:30 Advent Corsages 6:00 Spaghetti Dinner Youth Fundraiser