

The Vine



January 2020

## 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  
pastorjuliannelcos@gmail.com

#### **Office Assistant**

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

#### **Office Assistant**

Johanne Johanson  
403-253-1453  
office@oursaviourchurch.ca

#### **Administration &**

#### **Congregational Care**

Katharine Heimbigner-Tenor

#### **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  
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

Thanks to all volunteers who shared gifts, time and talents in LCOS ministries. Whether you see them or they are behind the scenes all people in the congregation contribute to the work God has given us at LCOS.



8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary T2H 0Z4

403-253-1453

Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

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

## Pastor's Reflections by Pastor Julianne Barlow

On Jan. 1, 2020, we recognized not only a new day, a new year, but also a new decade.

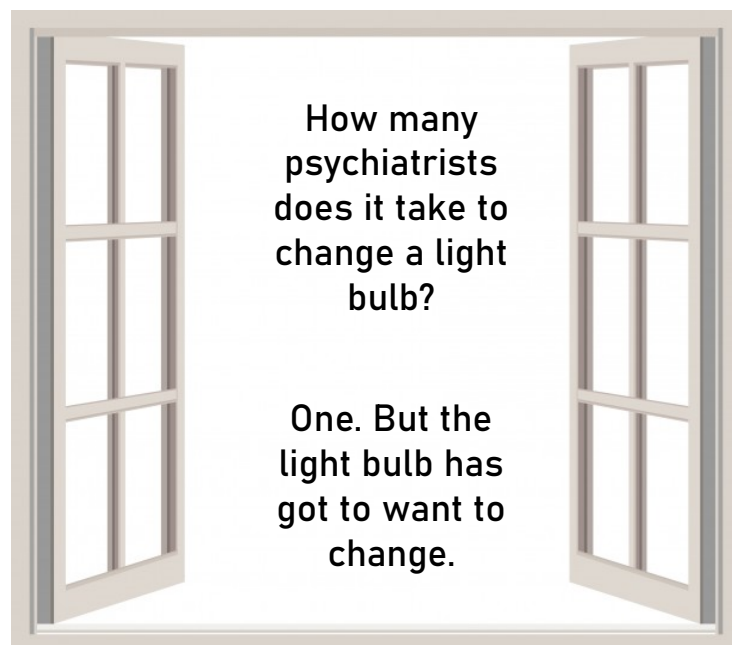
The Flourishing Congregation Survey report from Feb 2019 indicated 11.1% of LCOS respondents described this congregation as “resistant to change” and 42.0% described LCOS as “reluctant to change” (totalling 53.1%).

Here we are almost a year later, and I still ponder the root of continued resistance or reluctance to change. It seems that the comfort of knowing what is next is a strong value for many in this congregation. Is there room for growth in being more willing to risk as we follow God?

The attitude, “if it isn’t broken why fix it?” can be based on a lack of awareness of the realities of our culture, including a changing view of the importance of church to those who don’t attend. Where is God leading us as workers in the kingdom of God? Perhaps the growing edge is more about faithfulness to the leading of the Holy Spirit than fixing anything.

What actions, attitudes and perceptions are God asking us to consider? Can we actively seek awareness so that we recognize, embrace and live into whatever new thing God has for this congregation and for each of us?

*“No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.” Mark 2:21-22 Amen.*



## Family & Youth Ministries

**Saturday, January 11 at 7:00 pm - Grades 4+ It's A Grand Affair!**  
All youth are invited to an evening of glitz and glamour (in black and gold) as we enjoy a 1920's evening of activities in the **Great Gatsby** style!



**Whether it's Instagram, YouTube, TV, or movies, we are constantly surrounded by "influencers." But in reality, we are all influencers because we all influence others in some way, whether we mean to or not. We're all already influencers, but the question is, "What kind of influencers will we be?" In a 4-week series, the youth (grade 4+) will learn from a few key influencers in the Bible about what real influencers are like. They're humble (not arrogant), chase good (not evil), live small (and dream big), and tell God's story (not just their own)..**



## Board & Call Committee Report by Garry Mihaichuk

The Board has been busy with a number of discussions. One of our focus' has been how do we support Pastor Julianne, Judy and Johanne during this time of transition without Jesse and a reduced staffing level in administration.

The Board and Pastor Julianne have agreed that it would be inappropriate to hire a family or youth position until we determine who our new pastor will be and what their interests and skills are in this regard. Therefore, we will be requesting assistance from the congregation and potential part time to fill this position. It also means that Pastor Julianne will be less available to complete a number of transitional activities as she works through the events that Jesse had planned for the youth and children. Please keep Pastor Julianne in your prayers and support her when she requests assistance.

The Board met on December 17<sup>th</sup> to review the 2020 Budget with Doug Drennan. This was a combination of what we prayerfully believe our donations will be for 2020 and what expenses we can afford in 2020. This was a long meeting with good lively discussion.

The Board also reviewed the ELCIC Model Constitution and By-Laws and recommended changes to the model that the Constitution Committee (Garry Mihaichuk, Cliff Blumhagen, and Brent Anderson) had recommended. There were some excellent suggestions which were incorporated and the LCOS Draft Constitution and By-Laws was sent to the Synod Review Committee on December 2<sup>nd</sup> for their initial review. Once they approve or make recommended changes to our draft we will then bring it back to the Board for their agreement. Once this is agreed to, the Constitution Committee will have meetings with the congregation to get your feedback and any further changes that the congregational members recommend. If there are changes these would have to go back to the Synod Review Committee for approval and the Board for approval. The Constitution would then need to be approved by the LCOS congregation at two separate meetings to take effect.

Again, please keep Pastor Julianne, Judy, Johanne, the Board and the congregation in your prayers.

Garry

## Call Committee Report by Garry Mihaichuk

The Call Committee has been busy in December as we continue with the call process.

We met on December 9<sup>th</sup> to review the candidates resumes (Mobility Forms) and after much prayer and discussion came up with an excellent short list of candidates which we would like to continue on with the process. Any of these candidates would be an excellent pastor for the congregation's final approval. We also started examining the sermons that were available on-line or attending the services to hear and view the sermons to determine the pastor's style and potential fit with our congregation.

We also met on December 18<sup>th</sup> to start our interview process with the candidates. These interviews will continue to the end of January 2020 as we meet with each to answer our questions to them and answer their questions to us about LCOS. Again, due to the extreme sensitivity of the pastors and their congregations we will not provide any numbers of short list of candidates or their names.

The Call Committee's hope and expectation is that we will prayerfully reach a decision by the end of January on the candidate and then will submit the name to Bishop Larry to continue the process with that candidate. They have time to prayerfully reflect on the call before we get their answer on accepting the call.

Please keep Bishop Larry, Pastor Julianne, the Call Committee, the "new" pastor and the congregation in your prayers as we continue to determine God's will for LCOS for our Senior Pastor.

Garry Mihaichuk

## Annual General Meeting

# Annual General Meeting




**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020  
12:00 NOON**

**ALL MEMBERS AND NON-VOTING MEMBERS ARE  
INVITED TO THIS IMPORTANT AGM MEETING.**

**THE ANNUAL REPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE JANUARY 19 SO YOU HAVE  
TIME TO READ THE REPORTS AND PREPARE YOUR QUESTIONS.**

**A POTLUCK LUNCH WILL FOLLOW THE AGM.  
THE FOLLOWING POTLUCK DONATIONS (TABLE READY) WOULD BE APPRECIATED.  
A-G DESSERTS      H-M SANDWICHES      N-Z SALADS & RAW VEGGIES**

# Financial Secretary Report by Cliff Blumhagen




**Stewardship will always push us into places of discomfort. Yet even in the desert, we are able to realize the faithfulness and provision of our God.**

Our anxiety over tomorrow leads us into the pursuit and worship of false gods and idols that will never satisfy our needs, but only push us deeper into fear and restlessness. God wants us to trust him and he has given us every reason to do so. He wants this, not only for our good but for the sake of his world and his name. When we trust in the Lord, everyone benefits, maybe not with material possessions or security or good health, but through the presence of God being made manifest with us. This is our hope, our joy, and our mission in stewardship.

In other words, if our treasures in this life are things – money, health, fame, power, comfort – our anxiety will never stop because all of those things can disappear in a moment. But if our treasure is God and his kingdom, anxiety has no place in our lives for there is nothing that can separate us from his love, his presence, his power, and his will being done here on earth just as it is in heaven.

***Blessed are those who trust in the Lord.  
-Jeremiah 17:7***



©2019 Ecumenical Stewardship Center.

## Pre-Authorized (PAR) Program

The PAR program is available to anyone who wishes to donate one time monthly from their bank or credit union account via automated debit. The payment comes out of your account on the 20th of each month (or first business day after when the 20th falls on a holiday or weekend. You may donate to these funds: General, CLWR, and Capital Ministry.

There is no cost to sign up nor any additional fees to the donor. Regular charges apply from your bank or credit union (if applicable). The minimum monthly total donation amount is \$50.

For sign up forms, please contact the Financial Secretary.

For donors who are currently on the PAR program and wish to change their monthly amount, please contact the Financial Secretary.

Contact information for the Financial Secretary:  
Cliff Blumhagen at [blumhagencg@gmail.com](mailto:blumhagencg@gmail.com), 403-936-0419 or in person.

## 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.

## Communion Assistants

If you are interested in assisting with Holy Communion, or wish to help coordinate the 11:00 assistants, kindly contact Kari Paul at 403-278-3561 for further details.



## Games Group



On the first and third Tuesday of each month our games group continues to meet and enjoy a game of bridge, cribbage, Mexican train or Skip-Bo, along with coffee and fellowship. If you would like more information please contact the church office.

## Ushers

New volunteers at both 9:00 and 11:00 am services are always welcome. Kindly contact the church office for details.



## Sharing Your Talents

Are you looking for something to try in the New Year? Are you wondering where God wants you to serve?

Openings:

- Children's Message - 9:00 or 11:00 am Sundays
- Young Explorers leader for Ages 3-5 (once, occasionally or regularly) - 10:00 am Sundays
- Young Explorers leader for Grades 1-6 (once, occasionally or regularly) - 10:00 am Sundays
- Family Gatherings worship leader, organizer or food planner - Friday, Feb 21, 2020
- Family Gatherings worship leader, organizer or food planner - Friday, March 20, 2020
- Family Gatherings worship leader, organizer or food planner - Friday, April 3, 2020
- Family Gatherings worship leader, organizer or food planner - Friday, May 1, 2020
- Slide techs for 11:00 am service (once, occasionally or regularly)
- Table set up or take down (once, occasionally or regularly) Sundays

And anything you are interested in doing . . .



# Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry Kochendorfer



January 2020 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

Christmas has come and gone for another year. The music that filled our ears for weeks on end is now hushed. For many the decorations have been stored away for another year.

As the story of the nativity with its shepherds, and the couple and the newborn baby was unfolding, another story was developing. The Magi came from the east and began to ask questions around town: “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? We have followed his rising star and we have come to give him honor.”

King Herod, shaken up by it all, works at getting the Magi to help him locate the child. Indeed, the strange foreigners find the child and are so overwhelmed by what they find that they fall upon their knees in worship and praise and adoration. Like the shepherds on the hillside, they begin to realize that something is changing in their world, that a new thing is happening, that a new world is being born.

It is a wonderful story, full of emotion and intrigue. It provides the inspiration for art and music, for poetry and song. Few stories told through the centuries are so familiar, so beloved, so rich with pathos and delight.

This gospel according to Matthew is telling the story of the birth of Jesus for new Christians, for new followers of the Way. And even in so young a church it seems that their vision was limited. The boundaries of their community were already closing tightly around them. The gospel writer could see already that the new believing community was too easily settling into the idea that this new life in Christ was for them; they were already getting too comfortable with themselves and too easily willing to put others outside.

Matthew shocks his readers right from the first verse of this gospel by recounting the genealogy of Jesus. He does so in a way that must have confounded those who first read it. A genealogy in those days was traced through the male lineage, but Matthews breaks from tradition and includes four women in his list of the ancestors of Jesus. And they were not just any four women. They were women whose lives bore the scars of prostitution and incest, of adultery and murder. Matthew is laying the groundwork, even in his seemingly boring list of names of folks long dead, that the new day that is dawning is quite different from anything one might be expecting.

## Bishop's Message (continued)

And this gospel writer keeps up the theme when he introduces the Magi. We often call them wise men. Some have suggested they were philosophers; others have called them astrologers because of their fascination with the stars. But whoever they were and wherever they were from, Matthew's point is that they are not from here; these are not hometown folk, with hometown values, and hometown upbringing. These were odd folk from some foreign land. Not our kind.

The gospel writer unfolds the rest of the story of Jesus by reminding his readers – and he continues to remind us – that the saving word of God, the death and resurrection of Jesus, is not for some, but for all. Not for men only, but also for women. Not for the apparently perfect only, but for those whose lives bear the scars of unmentionable human pain. Not for the hometown crowd only, but for those on the other side of the tracks. Not for those who believe exactly as we do, but also for those who are struggling to believe anything at all, or those who have lost their faith.

The star comes and rests over the place where the infant Jesus is born. Keep your eyes on it. Gaze at the star. Focus on it. Fix it firmly in your mind. Because in time you will discover that the points of the star will stretch themselves into the form of a cross, and it will no longer rest over the place where the child lay, but will come to rest over your life and the world you inhabit.

Some years ago, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York plastered the city with posters of the altar of St. Patrick's Cathedral lavishly decorated for Christmas. It was a warm and inviting sight. The poster's caption was simple: "Come home."

This Epiphany, "come home." That is the invitation implicit throughout the season. No matter where you've been or what you've been up to, or how long you may have been away, "come home."

This home is for everyone. For wise folk from the east who seek out the child, and the home for the Christ Child in every heart that will have it so.

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)

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 8:30 50+ Exercise
<b>5 Communion</b> 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Children & Youth Ministry 11:00 Worship Service	<b>6</b> 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Fireside Group	<b>7</b> 1:00 Games Group	<b>8</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 11:00 am Praise Team	<b>9</b> 10:00 Falling Upward Book Study	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00 Breakfast at The Seed 8:30 50+ Exercise 7:00 Grades 4+ Great Gatsby Night It's A Grand Affair!
<b>12</b> 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Children & Youth Ministry 11:00 Worship Service	<b>13</b> 1:00 Memory Plus	<b>14</b> 7:00 Today's Pilgrims 7:00 Board Meeting	<b>15</b> 9:00 Staff Meeting 9:30 Experiencing God 10:30 Southwood Care Centre 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 11:00 am Praise Team	<b>16</b> 7:15 Flock Care	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8:30 50+ Exercise
<b>19 Communion New Member Sunday</b> 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Children & Youth Ministry 11:00 Worship Service	<b>20</b> 1:00 Memory Plus 7:00 Fireside Group	<b>21</b> 1:00 Games Group	<b>22</b> 9:00 Staff Meeting 9:30 Experiencing God 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 11:00 am Praise Team	<b>23</b> 10:00 Falling Upward Book Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:30 50+ Exercise
<b>26</b> 9:00 Worship Service 10:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Children & Youth Ministry 11:00 Worship Service 12:00 <b>Annual General Meeting</b> 1:30 Potluck Lunch	<b>27</b> 1:00 Memory Plus	<b>28</b> 7:00 Today's Pilgrims	<b>29</b> 9:00 Staff Meeting 9:30 Experiencing God 11:00 Acadia Lunch Program 7:00 Drop In Dwelling 7:00 Al-anon 7:00 11:00 am Praise 8:30 Al-anon Book Club	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	