



The Vine

January 2021

Ministry Team

Pastor

Pastor Greg Smith
403-464-8254 cell/text
pastorgreg@oursaviourchurch.ca



Office Assistant

Judy McDonald
office2@oursaviourchurch.ca

Office Hours:

The office is currently closed. Please email office2@oursaviourchurch.ca to arrange access to the building.

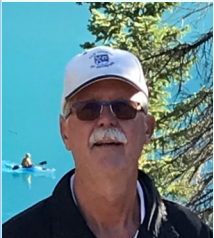
Our Mission:

We are an inviting and growing Christian presence, with a passion for living and sharing Jesus Christ.

Our Vision:

To be a Christ-centered community that Equips Disciples to Make Disciples.

Brent



Church Board 2020-2021

Brent Anderson

Alfred Forbrich

Kathy Gibson

Beverly Marshall

Iain McKay

Garry Mihaichuk—Chair

Bob Montgomery—Vice-Chair

Shirley Moule

Nick Perchthaler—Secretary

Brian Prunkle

Brian



Alfred



Nick



Kathy



Iain



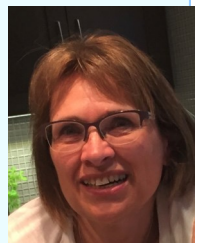
Garry



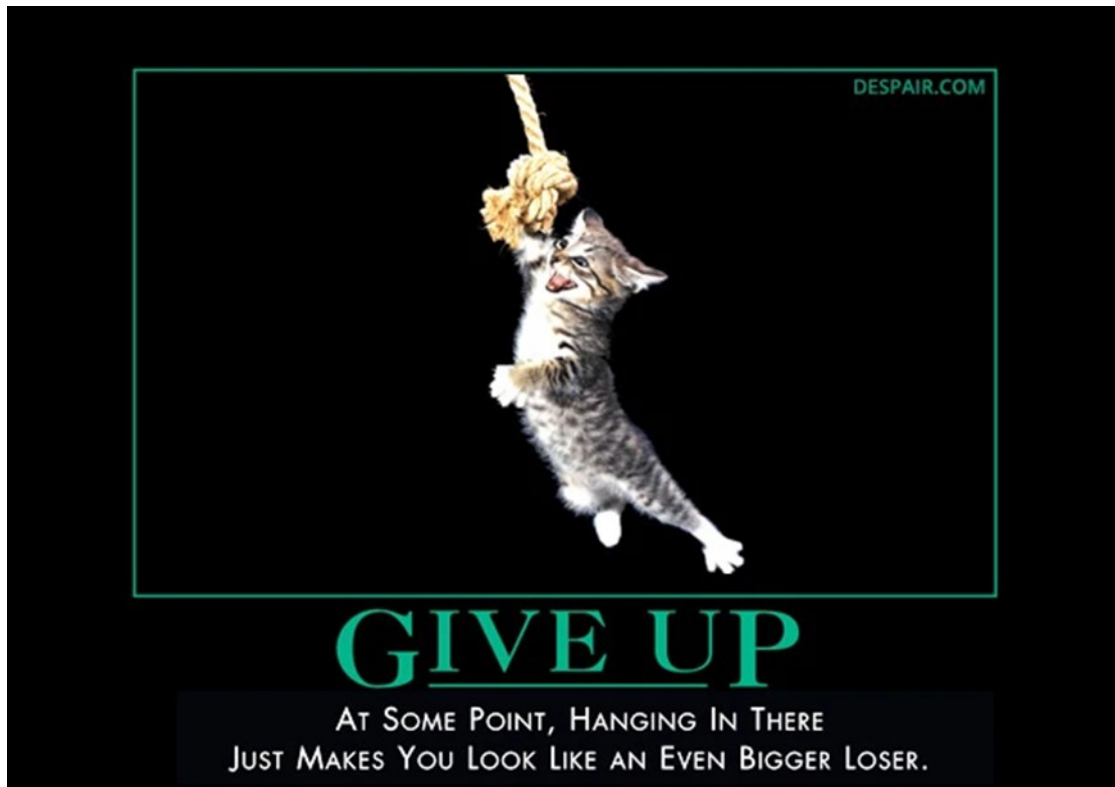
Bob



Shirley



8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary T2H 0Z4
Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Website: www.oursaviourchurch.ca Instagram: lcos_youth



Giving Up

By letting it go it all gets done. The world is won by those who let it go. But when you try and try. The world is beyond the winning. – Lao Tzu

We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the life that is waiting for us.
– Joseph Campbell

So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.
Luke 14:33 – Jesus

When I have a taste for dark humour, I often go to a website entitled “despair.com”. There I will find DEMOTIVATIONAL posters. It is a sarcastic counter to the motivational messages found in office space walls to encourage employees. The image above is one such snarky poster.

We are hardwired not to give up. It cuts against the grain of our western societal norms. The idea of giving up seems to suggest losing and no one wants to be a Loser. Holding on seems to fit our standards of being winners and masters of our own destinies. It is our desire to be in control of the future outcomes.

Pastor Greg (continued)

Any yet...here we are: having to give up so much during this pandemic.

- freedom to travel
- in-person worship and fellowship
- hugs
- family gatherings
- sporting events
- parties
- rite of passage events
- the normal access to health care

...and the list could go on.

Through it all, there have been many lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. I would have to say that one of my biggest takeaways has been that I am *not* in control. Everything seems to be out of control. I've had to give up on many of my preconceived notions of how life should be. I've had to reconcile my ideas of how life "should be" with how it is. Maybe you have too?

We are not comfortable with giving up.

But we see the call to "give up" throughout the Gospels. I have been on a COVID quest to rethink many of the texts of Scripture I viewed as Law-based and re-frame them in the Gospel. The reading from Luke 14:33 is one of them.

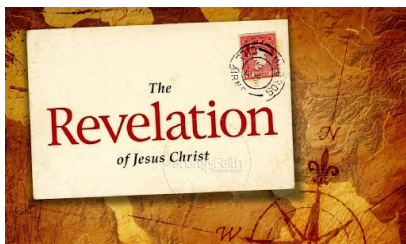
Many times, I've avoided these calls to give up all my possessions as a prerequisite to being a follower of Jesus. Honestly, I don't want to! But maybe I've been looking at what Jesus is saying incorrectly. I have seen it as a de-motivational message rather than a Gospel call to let go. I'm beginning to read the words of Jesus as a motivational call of giving up on my fruitless desire to CONTROL. To let go of holding on to those things that possess me. To see Jesus' words as an invitation to trust Him and to leave the control to Him.

In that sense, giving up is not a legal mandate to poverty. It is a pathway to freedom. Freedom from the stuff of life that weighs us down.

Giving up and trusting God: it's a winning combination!

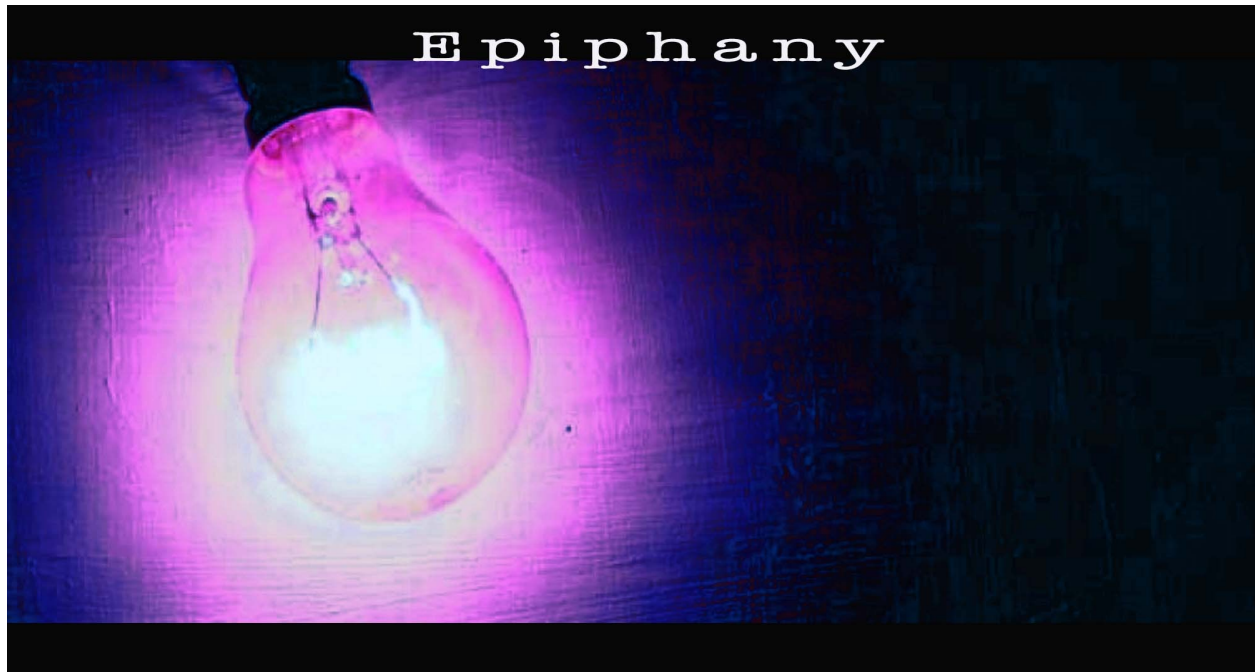
Pastor Greg

Revelation Bible Study



The **Revelation Bible Study** on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 and Thursday mornings at 10:00 will resume via zoom January 6 and 7.

Please email office2@oursaviourchurch.ca for zoom details.



Apocalypse Now: Reclaiming the “A” Word

In a time of pandemic, the word “apocalypse” is tossed around frequently and haphazardly. It conjures up images of cataclysmic events and zombies. Yet, *apocalypse* has a deeper meaning than talking about the end of the world. From the Greek, it means “a disclosure or revelation of great knowledge”. Kind of like an Epiphany. As a matter of fact, these two words are related.

In the coming months, like the wise men of old, we will be seekers. Our quest will be to look for the deep revelations of Jesus as Messiah during the season of Epiphany. We will be reclaiming the “A” word. I assure you; no zombies will be involved!

January 3 (Epiphany observed)	A Star is Born (Matthew 2:1-12)
January 10	A Royal Declaration (Mark 1:4-11)
January 17	Why Nazareth? (John 1:43-51)
January 24	A Decree Went out From Caesar Jesus? (Mark 1:14-20)
January 31	There’s a New Sheriff in Town (Mark 1:21-28)
February 7	An Emancipation Proclamation (Mark 1:29-39)
February 14	The Passing of the Baton (Mark 9:2-9)

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, gifts, and prayers for us during this Advent and Christmas Season. It is lovely to be thought of! We send our blessings for a wonderful 2021, filled with the love and grace of Christ, and touched with God-sightings in every day.

Blessings and love,

Pr. Greg, Jocelyn, Keltie, and Seth

Families

Celebration

Acting

Songs

VIRTUAL

Dear LCOS Family,

We are so proud to be a part of this new-to-us church family! Thank you to every person, near and far, who made our Christmas Eve service such a meaningful one. There was no small part! It was exciting and touching to see it all come together. We are praying to be able to meet together at the church again in the near future, but in the meantime, please stay healthy and keep being the hands and feet of Jesus to our needy world.

With love,

Pr. Greg and Jocelyn

The Hidden Gifts of Christmas

Board Report by Garry Mihaichuk

The Board continues to pray that this note finds all of you safe and healthy. We are all thankful for the start of the vaccination program for Covid and hope that you all are willing and able to receive it so we can return to some form of normal.

However, provincially and in Calgary, Covid cases continue to sky rocket. This forced Premier Kenney on December 8th to address the province and suggest that we restrict our contact with people outside our family to reduce the spread of the virus both indoors and outdoors. Alberta Health Services warned that further spread could cause damage to our health system and health care workers. New restrictions include the restriction on worship services to 15% of fire rated occupancy (for LCOS that would be approximately 45 people). Bishop Larry and the LCOS Board continue to recommend a more conservative approach and with an over-abundance of concern and care for all of our congregation we will continue to suspend all in-person services. The Board will continue to monitor the situation for when we are safe to re-open.

We continue to live stream the services from the sanctuary and continue to broadcast over the FM 100.5 station at our 9:00 am and 11:00 am services. If there are comments on the live stream or the FM please contact Mike immediately by email at Michael.Mihaichuk@gmail.com. We also continued to provide a YouTube recording of the services when completed on Sunday afternoon. Since we are live streaming we will be able to conduct virtual communion so please be prepared with your own elements (bread and wine/juice) for that part of the service on the first and third Sundays of the month.

One aspect that has occurred with the “shut down” is the need to have the praise singers produce their songs separately and then have Mike edit the individuals to match their voices with the music. This is a very time-consuming process for the praise singers and for Mike. Pastor Greg has requested the addition of a part-time technology position be added in 2021 and with the time requirements recommended to the Board that this position start date be back dated to November 1st. Pastor Greg has discussed this with Mike and he has accepted the part-time position.

Pastor Greg provided some information on the outreach that our live streams and YouTube services have accomplished. The average attendance via livestream is 50 families at the 9:00 am service and 50 families at the 11:00 am service. In addition, there are an average of 50-100 families that view the recorded services on YouTube. The attendance is quite wide from Calgary to the east coast and as far away as Africa. This outreach capability was what caused Pastor Greg to recommend that the technology position is not only a Covid requirement but will be a new means of outreach after Covid.

The Board also discussed the process of congregational consultation on a new LCOS Constitution and ByLaws. These virtual meetings were held on November 26th and December 1st with over 20 members attending. There was excellent discussion which resulted in six (6) changes being made to the Constitution. These changes were sent to the Synod Review Committee for their approval at the January 15th committee meeting. The congregation will be required to approve the new Constitution and ByLaws at two (2) separate meetings. The first meeting is being planned as part of our 2021 Annual General Meeting.

Board Report (continued)

The Annual General Meeting for 2021 will be virtual and will be completed via the computer application called Zoom. This required an AB Synod approval since our current Constitution does not allow for virtual voting. The Synod provided a "variance" to the constitution which allowed congregations to hold their AGM virtually. The Board will be working on the details for voting and will provide support for those that are not familiar with Zoom so that we can get everyone that is interested in attending able to do so.

With the cost reductions that Doug Drennan has put in place, we expect that our December expenses will be around \$26,000. Cliff Blumhagen reports that LCOS continued to have great support during the first half of December with donations to December 15th being approximately \$18,000. If we are able to receive an additional \$8,000 in donations during the last half of December we will end the year in a balance of expenses and donations not only for the month of December but for the entire year of 2020!! Congratulations and thanks and please continue your support of our ministry.

The services continue to be made possible by a dedicated group of people: 1) Pastor Greg completes wonderful services in the church sanctuary; 2) the Praise Singers which you all see and hear each week from our sanctuary include: Doug and Joan Drennan, Yvonne and Beth Eberhardt, Reiko Formella, Alex and Terrylee McKay and Lisa Henderson; 3) the slide preparation by Lauren Dzikowski and Dorothea Schaab; 4) the videoing and editing of the worship services and running of the live streaming and FM by Mike Mihaichuk; 5) all decorations provided by Karen Smith and Wendy Mihaichuk and 6) Judy McDonald for her dedicated and excellent administrative work and care she takes. A large thanks to you all for providing us with essential spiritual food for our souls.

The staff and a team of LCOS with over 50 members have ensured that every member is called each week, including Flock Care which continues to provide support on a safe and healthy basis. Pastor Greg and Judy McDonald have worked diligently to prepare the package contents and delivery and call systems. There are also volunteers who are delivering items to members when they are needed. One of the best aspects of this Covid19 situation is that we are bringing people closer together even though we are required to stay physically apart. Thanks to all those that are volunteering as it is greatly appreciated. You are a blessing to the congregation. If you do require any assistance please contact Pastor Greg at 403-464-8254 so he can co-ordinate.

The Board continues to be concerned about the health and welfare of all of you in the congregation especially during these times. We are also dedicated to continuing the viability and spiritual strength of the LCOS family. Please keep up your contacts in a healthy and medically safe manner but please continue. If you have questions for the Board please send them to Garry Mihaichuk electronically at gmihaichuk@me.com or over the phone at 403-975-0081.

On behalf of the Board, we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our prayer and expectation is that at some point in 2021 we will return to some form of regular service and fellowship.

Yours in Christ

Garry Mihaichuk
Board Chair

Our 2020 Worship Team

Alex



Dorothea



Mike



Jocelyn



Doug



Yvonne



Beth



Terrylee



Joan



Lauren



Scott



Reiko



Submitted by Cliff Blumhagen, Financial Secretary

The following are options for giving to LCOS:

Interac e-transfer:

Donations are made to email address: donate@oursaviourchurch.ca. There is no service charge to the church for this giving method and generally there is no service charge to the giver.

PAR Program Giving:

The Pre-Authorized Remittance program (PAR) gives the option to give monthly directly from a bank or credit union account. There is a service charge of \$0.50 per transaction to the church for this giving method and generally there is no additional service charge to the giver. If you sign up by January 01, your monthly donation would begin January 20. Please contact the Financial Secretary Cliff Blumhagen (403-936-0419 or blumhagencg@gmail.com) to get a PAR sign up form and with any questions.

Cheque:

You can mail or drop off a cheque to the church. There is no service charge to the church for this giving method and the usual service charge for writing a cheque will apply to the giver. However, bank trips are limited at this time and it may take several weeks until cheques are deposited at the bank.

Online Giving (via credit or debit card):

Donations are made via the following secure link: <https://onrealm.org/LutheranChurchofOurSaviour/give/now>. There is a service charge of \$0.50 per transaction plus 2.3% of the amount given to the church for this giving method and generally there is no service charge to the giver. When giving there is an opportunity to give an additional amount to help defray the transaction fees to the church.

Text Giving (via credit or debit card):

Donations are made by texting LCOSGive to 73256 followed by the donation amount. There is a service charge of \$0.50 per transaction plus 2.3% of the amount given to the church for this giving method and generally there is no service charge to the giver. When giving there is an opportunity to give an additional amount to help defray the transaction fees to the church. In addition, standard text message and data rates may apply to the giver.

LCOS is now using a new cloud-based system called REALM to track member and friend information and giving information. Individual logins can be set up for anyone who has an email address. With a login you can view and change personal information and view your giving anytime. If you would like a login, please contact Cliff.

The quarterly giving statements for quarter 4 will be generated in early January and distributed via email to givers with an email address on file.

**** NOTE:** if you have an email address and do not receive an email with your statement, check your Junk or Spam folder in the event it is directed there. ******

For givers who do not have an email address and are getting The Vine delivered to their residence, their quarterly giving statement will be delivered in late January along with The Vine.

If you did not receive a set of offering envelopes for 2021 and would like a set, please contact Cliff.

If you are currently signed up for the PAR program and submitted a pledge for 2021 which is a different amount, you need to complete a PAR Amount Change form. Please contact Cliff for one.

You can contact Cliff at blumhagencg@gmail.com or 403-936-0419.



The LCOS Stewardship program and theme for 2021 is 'Faithful, Hopeful, Loving'.

It is based on 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV):

"And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love".

The traditional definition of stewardship is time, talent, and treasure. Here there is a thought that temperament should be added, as generosity is a matter of the heart and attitude, and that a good steward has a faithful, hopeful, and loving heart.

The program ran throughout November which led up to Stewardship Sunday on November 22.

On Stewardship Sunday each giver / household was asked to consider their blessings and voluntarily make a response. This is a symbol of our individual and collective witness to Christ's presence in our lives.

Thanks to all who submitted a pledge to the church in response to this opportunity!



Faithfulness to the call from the Holy One hinges on the awareness that God calls us to be true to who we are. Yes, calling requires us to grow and mature. Still, the beginning is grounded in what is already there.

As God has allowed us to be faithful and true to our identity, out of gratitude for such we should respond to the call to go wider, deeper, higher, and farther. Faithful stewardship is holding in tandem where and who we were when Jesus called, with what we are called to be here and now.

Stewardship as a response to our grounding in identity frees us to display care for all things. It is treating people and institutions with a sense of historical value and cultural and spiritual purpose. The past informs the present and provides insight for the future.



It is only in recognizing
who we are
that we can move
forward
and remain
faithful.

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The Giving Tree

A HUGE SUCCESS



Thank you!

Thank you so much to everyone for your willingness to volunteer over this past year and to ensure that we kept in touch with our church family during these challenging times, keeping everyone updated and involved in our ongoing programs. There was never a time when a request went out for volunteers that people did not step up.

And thank you for all your kind Christmas wishes! It has been such a pleasure for me to work with everyone in our community. I wish a safe and blessed 2021 to all and look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Judy

2019 Ladies Potluck

With our Annual Ladies Potluck not possible in 2020 we wanted to share some memories from our 2019 celebration and we look forward to seeing everyone and celebrating in the New Year.



A carload full of donations from LCOS was dropped off at the Mustard Seed on December 16. The Mustard Seed, always needs donations for men, women & children, especially during these challenging times. They distribute to homeless and low income individuals and families. The staff were thrilled with the amount of LCOS donations and wished our entire congregation a safe and blessed Christmas.

Poinsettias & Calgary Food Bank

Donations

Lloyd & Earlene Manz

Garry & Wendy Mihaichuk

Ruth Peterson

(In loving memory of Andrew Peterson)

Helmut Sonnenberg

Many children who participated in Virtual VBS in August contributed to the success of our Christmas Eve Service.

Julie and Braeden Hahmo celebrated the baptism of their son, Coleman, on December 12 with Pastor Greg and in the presence of their immediate family.

The Brenda Strafford Centre, a shelter that offers support to women and children fleeing domestic violence, gratefully accepted the many donations collected by LCOS from Annabel Glanville on December 21.

Shauna Gross and the staff of the Painted Wombat Preschool collected donations for the Brenda Strafford Centre Toy Mountain.

Doreen Hogg and her daughter, Rhonda Ohlhauser, with help from Margaret Heimbigner and June Logan, prepared and delivered 330 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to Samaritan's Purse.

Submitted by the Ungers

We wanted to share an insightful perspective of "the most wonderful time of the year"! May you enjoy a hopeful celebration.

Love, the Ungers

Below is a quote by a British Bible translator who lived from 1906-1982.

What we are in fact celebrating is the awe-inspiring humility of God, and no amount of familiarity with the trappings of Christmas should ever blind us to its quiet but explosive significance....

This beggarly beginning has been romanticized by artists and poets throughout the centuries. Yet I believe that at least once a year we should look steadily at the historic fact, and not at any pretty picture. At the time of this astonishing event only a handful of people knew what had happened. And as far as we know, no one spoke openly about it for thirty years. Even when the baby was grown to be a man, only a few recognized him for who he really was. Two or three years of teaching and preaching and healing people, and his work was finished. He was betrayed and judicially murdered, deserted at the end by all his friends. By normal human standards this is a tragic little tale of failure, the rather squalid story of a promising young man from a humble home, put to death by the envy and malice of the professional men of religion. All this happened in an obscure, occupied province of the vast Roman Empire.

It is fifteen hundred years ago that this apparently invincible Empire utterly collapsed, and all that is left of it is ruins. Yet the little baby, born in such pitiful humility and cut down as a young man in his prime, commands the allegiance of millions of people all over the world. Although they have never seen him, he has become friend and companion to innumerable people. This undeniable fact is, by any measurement, the most astonishing phenomenon in human history....

That is why, behind all our fun and games at Christmastime, we should not try to escape a sense of awe, almost a sense of fright, at what God has done. We must never allow anything to blind us to the true significance of what happened at Bethlehem so long ago. Nothing can alter the fact that we live on a visited planet.

We shall be celebrating no beautiful myth, no lovely piece of traditional folklore, but, as millions will testify, he will come again with the same silence and the same devastating humility into any human heart ready to receive him.

J.B. Phillips

(excerpt from "The Christian Year," from Good News Thoughts on God and Man, 1963)



Thank you for supporting the
Acadia Food Pantry and all [REDACTED]
those it served in 2020!

We wish you Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

I have heard people say lately, "I can hardly wait for 2020 to end", What are they saying?

Perhaps they are very tired of that interruption in our lives, The Virus!!

December 31 2020 and January 1 2021 Will there be any difference in the world, our community, our homes or ourselves??

For some, one day is no different then the next day. Probably TRUE!

Moving from 2020 will be a year we won't forget into a NEW YEAR on this planet earth. We all have our own ideas of how that shall be. But the ?? today as I reflect on this writing is

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

Today, December 31 or January 1, take some time to read Paul's instruction to God's people in Romans 13. We are to submit to the Authority (keeping order). "Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt of LOVE to one another for he who loves his fellowmen has fulfilled the Law.

Review the 10 Commandments found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 which is our guiding light along life's journey.

After reading the 10 Commandments go to the last verse in Romans 13: 14. "Rather clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature." (The 10 Commandments could be a good discussion these days, as many young children, young adults and even elders are oblivious to what they are, and for whom. For some, they accept this or that commandment, but the other commandments do not apply to them or society. I find that very sad).

Clothing ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, is taking on His earthly example of how to live. The Gospels spell it out, and in Matthew 22:37. It is good to memorize in our thoughts, hearts, and actions. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and to love your neighbour as yourself." Also found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Whether it is December 31 2020, or January 1 2021, life continues forward, and taking time out to reflect on own thoughts of How Then Shall I Live? is a very good place to start the New Year. God gives us answers by daily reading in HIS WORD. It keeps us connected with God. Daily devotional is excellent. There are always some available in the narthex. "Eternity for Today" written by Lutheran pastors/lay people from across Canada, and "Our Daily Bread". For some, you have a Devotional from some other source and that is very good It takes discipline to find a quiet time with Our Lord. It brings gladness and joy to our aching spirit. That is what we need first thing in the morning, perhaps with a cup of coffee or tea. For some that does not work as you hurry off to work, but lately, many are not rushing off to work. They go to their laptops (working online), so you can use some of that time you used driving or biking to work in the past. For others you will find a favourite time during the day, to sit still and know that I am the Lord.

Reminding ourselves daily that when we wake up each morning we thank God for a good night sleep, and for the beautiful day before us. How Then Shall We Live ? today?? Not down the road of tomorrow that we don't have. I will add to this refection a poem my dad gave to me years ago. He had it in his keepsake box. It sure makes a lot of sense.

Reminding ourselves that all that I do is for the honour and glory of God' . Psalm 45: 11; Psalm 8:5.

Walking with Our Lord in our homes, at work, school, or neighbourhood, the Light of Jesus radiates beyond ourselves. As servants of Jesus we bring His light to the beckoning world around us, the broken hearted, those wounded spiritually, physically and mentally. His light shines forth even if it is a little ray of hope, kindness, or joy given to others today, that is how God wants us to live.

Go forth in 2021 , it is here. God will direct each of us in His plan. To our faith community, He will guide us to walk forward together, virtually (for some time ahead) holding hands united in God's love. His light shines in us, Psalm 45!!; John 5:23; Psalm 8:9

A Blessed New Year and God with us, as we journey together in How Then Shall We Live?

Patricia Kaack

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry,
two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is YESTERDAY with its mistakes and cares, its
faults and blunders, its aches and pains. YESTERDAY has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back YESTERDAY. We cannot undo a single act we performed;
we cannot erase a single word we said. YESTERDAY is gone.

The other day about which we should not worry is TOMORROW, with its possible adversities, its burdens,
its large promise and poor performance TOMORROW is also beyond our immediate control.

TOMORROW'S sun will rise, either in splendour or behind a mask of clouds but it will rise.
Until it does, we have no stake in TOMORROW for it is as yet unborn.

This leaves just one day—TODAY— anyone can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add the
burdens of those two awful eternities—YESTERDAY and TOMORROW—that we break down.

It is not the experience of TODAY that drives one mad—it is remorse and bitterness for something which
happened YESTERDAY and the dread of what TOMORROW may bring.

Let us therefore, live but one day at a time.



MEDIA RELEASE

Alberta Bible College's upcoming PACE Block

Calgary, Alberta - Alberta Bible College's next PACE block starts Tuesday January 5.

All courses are **available online** through Zoom. The current pandemic has not stopped ABC from continuing to equip its students; in fact, we are bringing students together from all over North America.

Seven Courses are being offered during this block, all of them being in a six-week modular (Jan 5 – Feb 9).

Take a look at these opportunities:

Modular: Jan 5 – Feb 9; Tuesdays 6 – 10pm

<https://www.abccampus.ca/term/january-5-modular-format/>

1. Introduction to Worldviews (Modular) with Marnie Hoetmer

Examine the way you think about the world

Learn how to dialogue with others who think differently

Critically evaluate the impact of each worldview

2. Crisis Counselling (Modular) with Joanna Jewell (*Prereq: P3545 Counselling Skills*)

Recognize and demonstrate understanding of the dynamics involved in a crisis

Articulate factors that impact how people respond to a crisis

Relate and observe

3. The Pentateuch (Modular) with Rick Love

Diving into the first 5 books of the Old Testament

Gain an understanding of main contours of the theology found in the Pentateuch

Analyse both biblical narrative and biblical poetry

4. Introduction to Preaching (Modular) with Billy McMillan

Learn to give a basic gospel message true to the text and relevant to the audience

Develop your preaching style

Analyze and evaluate sermons and delivery styles

5. Thriving in Transitions (Modular) with Les Howell

Looking to better understand yourself,
Live your purpose and listen to God
Be transformed through tough situations of life

6. Life and Teachings of Jesus (Modular) with Steve McMillan

Identify the major moments in the life of Christ
Gain a foundational understanding of who Jesus is
Seek to grow spiritually through interaction with Christ described in the gospels

7. Program Planning and Evaluation (Modular) with Gail McKenzie

Outline the process of program development from conception to evaluation
Explore strategic planning; program planning
Articulate fundamentals of marketing a program

Media Promos

2 Stills of PACE Block Courses ([No description](#) & [With Description](#))
2 Gifs of PACE Block Courses ([No description](#) & [With Description](#))
2 Videos of PACE Block Course ([No description](#) & [With Description](#))

Registration Deadline

Modular Jan 5 – Feb 9 – Register by December 23

How do I register?

You can register through our website directly for a [Modular](#) course. Or you can download the registration form [here](#), fill it out and forward it with payment (call in your credit card, send a cheque, e-transfer) to Finance@abccampus.ca. You can take up to 5 courses before you need to [apply for a program](#) and declare a major.

Alberta Bible College is a leader in quality Christian higher education for the equipping of a broad base of students, for effective service within changing social and cultural contexts. ABC is accredited by ABHE. ABC is located in Calgary, Alberta.



**Canadian
Blood
Services**

BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

Sirens for Life

Join us in helping to save
lives by donating blood.

John,
blood recipient,
Sirens for Life champion



Upcoming donation events:

Donor Event - 225 donors needed

Delta Calgary South - Bonavista Room

135 Southland Dr SE

Saturday, January 23 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Thursday, January 28 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Appointments are required during Covid-19

Join the #SirensForLife challenge.

Book now at blood.ca or on the **GiveBlood app**



@CanadasLifeline

Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry Kochendorfer



January 2021 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

I've been thinking lately about the conclusion of the liturgical year and the coming New Year in which this article will be read.

The Reign of Christ includes the gospel reading from Matthew 25:31-46. The familiar passage of the sheep and the goats. Both those identified as sheep and those named goats are ... surprised: "When was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison?"

Surprised by their failure to recognize the Son of Man. Surprised that the Son of Man is present in the face of the poor, the imprisoned, and all who are in need. Neither sheep nor goats expected the Son of Man to be present and available in the face of "the least of these." Each imagined that the Son of Man would come in strength, power, might, and glory. Yet Jesus reveals that he comes in weakness, vulnerability, and brokenness.

Surprise!

God didn't come to us in Athens or Rome or Washington or Beijing or Moscow, or any other seat of power. Surprise! God came to us in lowly Bethlehem as a vulnerable infant. And God didn't conquer the world through military strength, but through the scandal, shame, and pain of the cross. And even more, the God we know in Jesus welcomed the child, the woman, the orphaned, the sick, the lame, the outsider. To these he showed compassion, grace, mercy, love.

The God we know in Jesus is revealed not in power but in vulnerability, not in might but in brokenness, not in judgement but in mercy.

And God continues to come where we least expect God to be...in the plight of the homeless, the poor, the needy, the refugee, the imprisoned.

And, in those who work with great courage and confidence for justice for all. In those who seek reconciliation with First Nations peoples. In those who yearn and work for a place and a space of welcome for all. In those who seek to be bearers of God's grace, mercy, and love.

And to us, and to all who are weak and vulnerable, worn and wounded, broken and hopeless. To all of us affected in one way or another by the roller-coaster ride of the pandemic.

In the midst of this time of crisis, this gospel reading draws our attention this New Year to what might be a surprise: that God regularly, even relentlessly, shows up where we least expect God to be. To surprise us, disarm us, overturn our expectations and judgements. God invites us to see and to welcome with open hands and lives God's surprising and unimaginable grace, mercy, and love.

Bishop's Message (continued)

Perhaps this text isn't as much about us – sheep and goats – as it is about God, and about who God is and where God is present. God is not only at the end of time waiting on a royal throne in glory, but right here, right now, in the face of those around us, with us – each of us – in the middle of this pandemic.

It may not be where we expect God to show up, but it is just where we need God to be.

Surprise! Blessed New Year!

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)



HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion Drive-In Worship Services 100.5 FM 9:00 & 11:00 am Live Stream Services 9:00 & 11:00 am YouTube Service	4	5	6 7:00 pm Revelation Bible Study via Zoom Praise Team Practice and Worship Taping	7 10:00 am Revelation Bible Study via Zoom	8	9
10 Drive-In Worship Services 100.5 FM 9:00 & 11:00 am Live Stream Services 9:00 & 11:00 am YouTube Service	11	12	13 7:00 pm Revelation Bible Study via Zoom Praise Team Practice and Worship Taping	14 10:00 am Revelation Bible Study via Zoom	15	16
17 Communion Drive-In Worship Services 100.5 FM 9:00 & 11:00 am Live Stream Services 9:00 & 11:00 am YouTube Service	18	19 7:00 pm Board Meeting	20 7:00 pm Revelation Bible Study via Zoom Praise Team Practice and Worship Taping	21 10:00 am Revelation Bible Study via Zoom	22	23
24 Drive-In Worship Services 100.5 FM 9:00 & 11:00 am Live Stream Services 9:00 & 11:00 am YouTube Service	25	26	27 7:00 pm Revelation Bible Study via Zoom Praise Team Practice and Worship Taping	28 10:00 am Revelation Bible Study via Zoom	29	30
31 Drive-In Worship Services 100.5 FM 9:00 & 11:00 am Live Stream Services 9:00 & 11:00 am YouTube Service						