



The Vine

September 2021

Ministry Team

Pastor

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



Office Administrator

Judy McDonald
office2@oursaviourchurch.ca

Church Media Director

Mike Mihaichuk
lcos.yyc.media@gmail.com

Office Hours:

The office will be staffed Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, until further notice.

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.

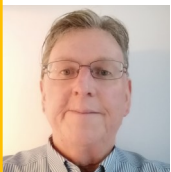
Brent



Lois



Alfred



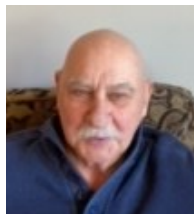
Kathy



Beverly



Dale



Iain



Garry



Brian



Nick



Shirley



Bob



Church Board 2021-2022

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Lois Beuttenmiller
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Iain McKay
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Nick Perchthaler - Chair
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8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary T2H 0Z4

Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Website: www.oursaviourchurch.ca Instagram: lcos_youth

Pastor's Message by Pastor Greg

Memories or Dreams

"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." – Apostle Peter, Pentecost Sermon from Acts 2 (quoting the prophet, Joel)

Too many churches have lost the ability to **dream dreams**. Thomas Friedman, in his book *The World is Flat*, documents the globalization and resulting competition happening in the business practices and political arenas of our world. In referring to organizations that aren't making it in this new world he says:

"Does your society have more memories than dreams or more dreams than memories?" Then he quotes another author, "One thing that tells me a company is in trouble is when they tell me how good they were in the past. Same with countries. You don't want to forget your identity. I am glad you were great in the fourteenth century, but that was then and this is now. **When memories exceed dreams, the end is near.**"

What about us, at LCOS? Do we have more memories than dreams?

Memories are necessary. They can even be healthy. Memories remind us of what God has done in the past. The problem is when our focus is mainly in the past rather than the future. The past is comfortable and safe. The future, with all the change it brings, can be frightening because it is venturing into the unknown.

The church throughout history has had to change and adapt to the world in which it serves. The fear in adapting to the realities around us is that the Gospel message might get "watered down" or even lost. This is a legitimate concern that needs to be continuously addressed as we do ministry in a new world. But let us not allow this concern to prevent us from seeking new ways to share the Gospel. I believe that the church can have an even greater impact in this ever evolving world as we continue to be innovative and **dream dreams**.

I believe it is time for the church to embrace a new story, a new dream— the one God has been calling us toward all along through Joel, Peter, and others from Scripture. God wants us to **know** him, not just know **about** him. God's word is a call for us to move from the left brain to the right brain, from our heads to our hearts, from cognition to communication, from religion to a relationship with God. This is God's dream for you and me.

As we, the community of LCOS, **navigate Change** for the future, let us once again **dream dreams** as we seek God's will for the future where our Lord already resides. Let the journey begin!

Follow Him,

Pastor Greg

Pastor's Message (continued)

Thank you to all who have been praying, checking in and bringing me groceries and essentials while on this Covid journey. We are so grateful for your kindness and support!

See you soon and stay safe!

Peace and blessings!

Pastor Greg

THANKFUL

GRATEFUL

BLESSED

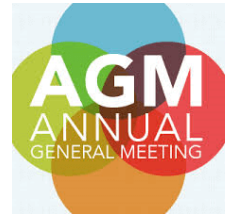


SWARM

The Southwest Area Refugee Mission is holding our second Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. Our online venue will be ZOOM. As part of the Southwest Area of the Synod, you are welcome to attend. Please indicate your interest in attending to your church office or to calgaryswarm@gmail.com and we will provide details.

SWARM continues to support refugee families in our city, assisting them in many ways.

We always welcome new members to our CORE committee.



9:00 Praise Team

The 9:00 am Praise Team has joyfully served in worship for over 20 years. As LCOS considers the 'new normal' regarding worship services, and as 9:00 am service attendance has declined markedly over the past several years, the 9:00 am Praise Team supports LCOS discussions that consider offering one service on Sunday mornings in the future. It has been a tough decision to transition away from leading worship music; however, in light of low attendance, even pre-pandemic, the 9:00 am Praise Team appreciates and is grateful for the opportunities over the past 2 decades to praise our Lord and Saviour. May God continue to guide and protect our church family during this time of transition during the pandemic.

We are **thrilled** to be offering
a NEW format of VBS:
LCOS' **Fall Fest WBS** (WEEKEND
Bible School) for children ages 4-12.
NOVEMBER 19 - 21

In person Snacks & crafts
Worship & actions Inreach & Outreach
Stay tuned for more details...



To register or volunteer please contact

jocetonge03@gmail.com

or

office2@oursaviourchurch.ca

Board Report by Nick Perchthaler

Greetings to everyone and the Board continues to pray that all of you and your families are healthy.

Well, we always said that the pandemic would create some dynamic situations and that sure was true for August. It started so well with our service on August 8. We had 37 people attend the service in person. We had a live sermon by Pastor Greg and for the first time in a long while the Praise team sang in person. It was a special moment.

Then we had a bit of a setback as Pastor Greg tested positive for the Corona virus a week later. On August 15 we still had 27 members in attendance with taped music and sermon. Fellowship is a powerful thing! And even on August 22 we had 15 members in attendance even though the service was a taped one from last year.

Pastor Greg is continuing to recover and we pray that he will be able to rejoin us in person as soon as possible. That will likely be in early September.

Given the current situation, the Board felt that it would be prudent to postpone our "Return to Church" celebration that was scheduled to be held on September 19. This will be rescheduled to October and further details will follow. It should also be noted that Vacation Bible School, originally scheduled for October 22-24, will now be held from November 19-21. Please know that the Board and Risk Management Committee continue to actively review our circumstances and we will continue to communicate with weekly updates until further notice. So, stay tuned for what September will look like. The "new normal" has yet to be defined. What is great to see is the resiliency of our church during these times.

As mentioned last month, we continue to seek feedback from the congregation on how we move forward. The Board continues to plan one to two months in advance. It is our plan to have the Youth Minister in place starting in October and that process is well underway. This position will then help support the Vacation Bible School which has been rescheduled for November 19-21. We are also looking at adding a mid-week Casual Contemporary service. So, if you have any input that you would like the Board to consider, please contact us and share your ideas with us.

Our Financials have not looked good over the past couple of months. We finished July with a deficit of around \$6,500 and it looks like August will finish with a deficit of about \$3,000. That has cut our surplus almost in half over the past two months and we are no longer benefitting from most of the subsidies and one-off donations. The summer generally seems to be a little bit lower, so we are hoping to see an uptick in September. This is an important area and we will continue to share our situation each month.

We continue to live stream the services from the sanctuary and continue to broadcast over FM 100.5 station at our 10:00 am service. If there are comments on the live stream or FM please contact Mike by email at Michael.Mihaichuk@gmail.com. We also continue 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.

Board Report (continued)

And the Board continues to acknowledge all staff and volunteers at LCOS who continue to support the congregation and all church activities during the pandemic. That has allowed us to continue with weekly services and communicate with all congregational members in a safe manner. And now we have live music again!

Thank You Volunteers! You are a blessing to the congregation.

If you require any assistance with operational issues, please contact Pastor Greg at 403-464-8254.

The Board continues to work on behalf of the Congregation to ensure that LCOS is a safe place where we can grow according to our Mission "We are an inviting and growing Christian presence, with a passion for living and sharing Jesus Christ" and our Vision "To be a Christ-centered community that equips disciples to make disciples". If you have any questions or comments regarding Board activities, please feel free to contact Nick Perchthaler at nperchthaler@shaw.ca or via phone at 587-437-8511.

Stay safe and enjoy the last month of summer.

Nick Perchthaler

Board Chair



September 2021

Sundays at 10:00 am

Live Stream & Drive In (FM 100.5) Service

In-Church Worship Service

(Registration Required)

Communion Celebrated September 5 & 19

*For Live Stream Link or to Register
Email office2@oursaviourchurch.ca*

Submitted by Cliff Blumhagen, Financial Secretary

If you wish to contribute to the church, the following are options for giving:

Interac e-transfer:

Donations are made to email address: donate@oursaviourchurch.ca. This is set up to transfer automatically without a password.

PAR Program Giving:

The Pre-Authorized Remittance program (PAR) gives the option to give monthly directly from a bank or credit union account. If you sign up by September 01, your monthly donation would begin September 20. Please contact the Financial Secretary Cliff Blumhagen (403-936-0419 or blumhagencg@gmail.com) to get a PAR sign up form.

Cheque:

You can mail or bring a cheque to the church. 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>.

****NOTE:** to give via debit card, the card must have a CVV code (on the back of the card). This is like the code on the back of a credit card. ******

Text Giving (via credit or debit card):**

Donations are made by texting LCOSGive to 73256 followed by the donation amount.

****NOTE:** to give via debit card, the card must have a CVV code (on the back of the card).

This is like the code on the back of a credit card. ******



Financial Secretary

Church Expenses...

... continued during the summer and donations have dropped off significantly.

Please consider a catch-up donation if you were away this summer.

September Designated Giving...

In September, please consider financial support to the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon.



Financial Secretary Report (continued)



Stewardship is not our getting the glory. It is the hope that what we do will point to the Source of all gifts. It is the hope that whatever God entrusts to us will reflect divine grace, love, and mercy.

We sing, teach, preach, heal, prophesy, and serve because our mind is God-bent, heaven-bound, and does not cater to our own whims. We lead, organize, administer, and hold safe our sacred organizations because they are the Body of Christ.

Stewardship of such bodies requires that we seek the health of the corporate because it is comprised of individuals who have gifts that must be stewarded and nurtured. Unless the body is whole, the parts tend to suffer and experience atrophy.



be of the same *mind*

have the same *love*

be in *full accord*

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A 90th Birthday Blessing for a Special Lady



Walli Haase



Prayers

Below are some suggestions to include as part of daily prayer at home.

*O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. (Psalm 51.15)
Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O Lord. (Psalm 70.1)
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

St. Matthew 4.23-24 *Jesus Ministers to Great Crowds*

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them.

Lamentations 3.22-26 *The love of the Lord never ceases*

*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”
The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.*

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, look with favor upon Your servant, our pastor, Jacob Sutton. Assure him of Your mercy, comfort him with the awareness of Your goodness, preserve him from the temptations of the evil one, and give him patience in his tribulation. If it please You, restore him to health, or give him grace to accept this affliction; through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

Lord God, Give insight, skill, and alertness to the doctors and nurses and all others who will be ministering to the bodily needs of Your servant Jacob Sutton that, blessed by You, their tender care may serve to the healing of his sickness and lead to a speedy return to health; through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

Almighty and merciful God, look with favor upon the family of our Pastor, and all families who are affected by the virus. Give them strength to endure this time of distress and separation, and comfort them with the peace which only comes from You. Visit, O Lord, their home, and keep all harm and danger far from them. Grant that they may dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels, sharing eternally in Your blessings; through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Submitted by Pat Farn

When GOD solves our problems, we have faith in HIS abilities.
When GOD doesn't solve our problems, HE has faith in our abilities.

One may observe God's accuracy in the hatching of eggs...
those of the Canary in 14 days; those of the Barnyard Hen in 21 days;
Eggs of Ducks and Geese in 28 days; those of the Mallard in 35 days;
Eggs of the Parrot and the Ostrich hatch in 42 days..
(Notice, they are all divisible by seven, the number of days in a week!)

See God's Wisdom in the making of an Elephant...
The four legs of this great beast all bend forward in the same direction.
No other quadruped is so made.
God planned that this animal would have a huge body... too large to live on two legs.
For this reason He gave it four fulcrums so that it can rise from the ground easily.
The Horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first.
A Cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first.
How wise the Lord is in all His works of Creation!

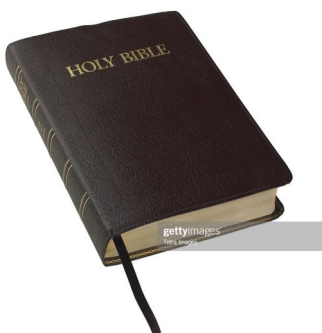
Each Watermelon has an even number of stripes on the Rind.
Each Orange has an even number of segments.
Each ear of Corn has an even number of rows.
Each stalk of Wheat has an even number of grains.

Every bunch of Bananas has on its lowest row an even number of Bananas,
and each row decreases by one, so that one row has an even number
and the next row an odd number.

There's more...
The Waves of the Sea roll in on shore twenty-six to the Minute in all kinds of weather.
All Grains are found in even numbers on the stalks.
God has caused the Flowers to Blossom at certain specified times during the day.
Linnaeus, the Great Botanist, once said that if he had a Conservatory
containing the right kind of Soil, Moisture, and Temperature,
he could tell the Time of Day or Night by the Flowers that were Open and those that were Closed.

The Lives of each of us may be ordered by the Lord in a Beautiful Way for His Glory,
if we will only Entrust Him with our Lives.

If we try to Regulate our own Lives, we will have only Mess and Failure.
Only God, who made our Brains and Hearts, can Successfully Guide them to a Profitable End.



When you carry the Bible, Satan has a Headache;
when you Open it, he Collapses.
When he sees you Reading it, he loses his Strength,
and when you Stand on the Word of God, Satan can't Hurt you!

Life without God is like an Unsharpened pencil - it has no Point.

I pray God blesses you in ways you never even Dreamed.



The eagle brings us JOY. As we enter into a season of transformation, the leaves begin to die, but the colours on those leaves become beautiful. We have been renewed over the summer, so we should start to grow as a community of God's people.

What are we going to do as a community?

What direction will we take?

In the meantime take time to absorb this reflection from Soren, and receive the Joy, that only God gives to nature to give to us.

May your weary spirits be lifted high.

JOY I would like to share this excerpt from the Danish Church Newsletter (June-August 2021) Pastor Charlotte in her wisdom found this reflection. Pastor Charlotte wrote, "'Finding Joy in the Middle of a Pandemic" .

In these days of weariness, after having spent more than a year with the world focused on almost nothing but Covid 19 numbers of people infected, hospitalizations, and many restrictions, it might be a good idea to lend an ear to what the Danish philosopher **Soren Kierkegaard** says about feeling **JOY**.

"Other living beings take joy in their nature, while we feel anxious and dissatisfied – and yet we share the same gift as the lily and the bird, and much more besides. That you came into existence, that you exist, that "today" you receive the necessities of existence, that you became a human being, that you can see—consider this: that you can see, that you can hear, that you have a sense of smell, that you have a sense of taste, that you can feel; that the sun shines for you and for your sake, that when it becomes weary, the moon begins to shine and the stars are lit; that it becomes winter, that all of nature disguises itself, pretends to be a stranger—and does so in order to delight you; that spring comes, that birds come in large flocks—and do so in order to bring you joy; that green plants spring forth, that the forest grows into beauty, has its nuptial—and does so in order to bring you joy; that autumn comes, that the birds fly away; not to make themselves precious and hard to get, oh, no, but so that you will not become bored with them; that the forest puts away its finery for the sake of the next time, that is, so it can give you joy the next time; Is this supposed to be nothing to rejoice over! Excerpts from, "The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air: Three Godly Discourses." Joyfully yours Patricia Kaack



**Canadian
Blood
Services**

BLOOD
PLASMA
STEM CELLS
ORGANS
& TISSUES

Your donation matters

It matters to every patient across Canada.
Because it's something we can do today to help
others wake up healthier tomorrow.

Blood donation events

Delta Calgary South

135 Southland Dr SE
Bonavista Room - Tower Building

Thursday, September 2
Saturday, September 18

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Donor Event - 100 Donors Needed
Appointments are required during Covid-19

Join Canada's Lifeline
Book now at **blood.ca** or call **1 888 2 DONATE**





September 2021 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

("On the Road" – Luke 24:13-35. This is an abridged version of my verbal report at Synod Convention. The report in its entirety is available in video format on the synod website: albertasynod.ca)

Over the past several months, I have been doing a lot of reflection on the significance of the idea of "synod," which comes from Greek and combines the ideas of "together" (*syn*) and "on the way" (*hodos*).

Jesus himself used this term *hodos* when speaking about himself as "the way." Early Christians were often referred to as *hodos* as well: "followers of the way." So we can say that being "synod" – not the periodic church business meetings, but rather, people called to be on the move with others – is foundational to what it means to follow Jesus.

For some time, being Church was rather static and solo. The Church of Establishment sometimes didn't move to be where God was doing a new thing, because it thought it had it all contained inside. The Church of Dominance sometimes didn't walk the way with others as genuine fellow travelers, because it thought it was already at the destination and was simply waiting for those others to catch up.

Both of these distortions have caused great harm to our neighbours, and to the church community itself.

I believe we are at the point where the people of God are going to have to get out on the land again, to move to places we do not know, and to find new and unexpected travel partners. If the Church does these things, I am confident we will meet the transforming and life-giving Spirit of Jesus there again and anew ... as on the road to Emmaus.

We have been drawn into this journey by the power of the Holy Spirit, who creates, reconciles, and renews us; who nurtures our lives and fosters our witness as people of faith, as congregations, as specialized ministries, as Synod, and together as ELCIC; who steers our hearts, minds, and actions towards reconciliation with God, with others, among ourselves, and with God's good creation.

Like those first disciples on the road, we are called into new journeys, asked to shift, to let go, to leave behind ... so that we can open up our lives for the transforming presence of God in our world, sharing the gifts of new life as we receive them through Christ. And therefore, we have hope.

Bishop's Message (continued)

This is, I believe, one of the most powerful gifts we can offer to our time: hope. A hope that is not only waiting for the new to come into our lives and our world, but a hope that knows all of this is already present in our world in the gift of Jesus Christ.

Beloved of God, if we have a reason to hope, it is because all that we expect to still happen has already happened in Bethlehem, at the cross in Golgotha, and in Christ's resurrection.

As we gather online, we are still in the thick of it. Not only the pandemic, but also as Diana Butler Bass writes in her latest book, *Freeing Jesus*: "We live in a time of disruptions, deconstruction, and dislocations, of political chaos, climate crisis and global pandemic. Yet we are still called to go on journeys to unexpected places, get lost, get found, and continue farther down the road." (xxvi)

Recently, at a meeting of the Council of the Lutheran World Federation, one council member described this time as one with "a deficit of hope and a surplus of fear."

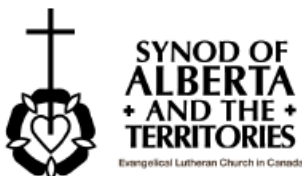
I call upon you, our Synod, to let our witness be one of hope. A witness that frees and empowers, that lifts yokes of oppression and imposed burden, that releases hope, and never fear or hate. A Synod of generosity, a people of gratitude. Freely we have received, freely we shall give as we proclaim the good news of Christ and of God's ongoing work; as we stand with and receive from suffering neighbors; and as we tend God's gift of creation.

If we are on the road, as the disciples travelled with Jesus, where is our road taking us? To our homes? Into the world? Our neighbourhood? Our community? Where is the road taking our Synod? The ELCIC?


We do not know the future, but we have what we need. Jesus is feeding us. We have the Scriptures. We have each other. We know that we will not get to where we are going without going together. Jesus is with us.

In Christ Jesus –
Shalom,
+Larry

"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)



September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 pm Al-Anon	2 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Risk Mgmt Committee Meeting	3	4
5 Communion 10:00 am In-Church Worship (registration required) Drive-In Worship Service Live Stream Service YouTube Service	6	7 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	8 7:00 pm Al-Anon	9 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	10	11
12 10:00 am In-Church Worship (registration required) Drive-In Worship Service Live Stream Service YouTube Service	13	14 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	15 7:00 pm Al-Anon	16 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	17	18
19 Communion 10:00 am In-Church Worship (registration required) Drive-In Worship Service Live Stream Service YouTube Service	20	21 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm 7:00 pm Board Meeting	22  7:00 pm Al-Anon	23 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	24	25
26 10:00 am In-Church Worship (registration required) Drive-In Worship Service Live Stream Service YouTube Service	27	28 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	29 7:00 pm Al-Anon	30 Office Hours 10:00 am - 1:00 pm		