

***The Vine***  
***December***  
***2021***



# Ministry Team

## Pastor

Pastor Greg Smith  
403-464-8254 cell/text  
[pastorgreg@oursaviourchurch.ca](mailto:pastorgreg@oursaviourchurch.ca)



## Office Administrator

Judy McDonald  
[office2@oursaviourchurch.ca](mailto:office2@oursaviourchurch.ca)

## Church Media Director

Mike Mihaichuk  
[licos.yyc.media@gmail.com](mailto:licos.yyc.media@gmail.com)

## 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.

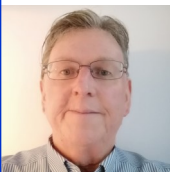
**Brent**



**Lois**



**Alfred**



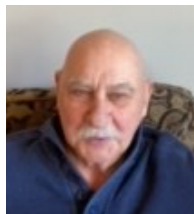
**Kathy**



**Beverly**



**Dale**



**Iain**



**Garry**



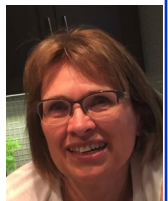
**Brian**



**Nick**



**Shirley**



**Bob**



## Church Board 2021-2022

Brent Anderson  
Lois Beuttenmiller  
Alfred Forbrich - Vice-Chair  
Kathy Gibson  
Beverly Marshall  
Dale Mass  
Iain McKay  
Bob Montgomery  
Shirley Moule—Secretary  
Nick Perchthaler - Chair  
Brian Prunkle  
Garry Mihaichuk - Past Chair





**Public Domain**

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.*  
- Galatians 4:4-5

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.* -Ephesians 2:8

*What A Friend We Have In Jesus.* -Joseph Scriven

Philip Van Doren Stern was shaving one morning and it came to him. The entire story, as if by inspiration, developed in his mind while he was looking into the mirror. It would be a year before he wrote the story. Then it would take another four years for him to try to sell his story to publishers. No publisher wanted Philip's story, ***The Greatest Gift***. He even tried peddling it to magazines. Each time he was turned down.

## Pastor's Message (continued)

Finally, RKO movie studio bought the story, at the request of Carey Grant, thinking he might star in a future movie based on Stern's work. Unfortunately, RKO's screenwriters could not successfully adapt the story to the silver screen.

RKO finally sold the story to another movie company called Liberty Films, run by a man named Frank Capra. Mr. Capra took Philip's story and turned it into one of the most moving films ever produced: *It's A Wonderful Life*. It's a beautiful tale about a man on the brink of suicide who gets the opportunity to see what his life would have been like had he never been born. Not only is it noted as one of the 10 greatest movies ever made, it is a movie that my family sees their Dad cry like a baby.

But there's more...

When the movie was first released in 1946, it did not receive wide appeal. No Academy Awards were won. It barely broke even at the box office. Needless to say, Frank Capra was quite disappointed.

So how did this beloved film become the phenomenon that it is today?

In 1974, the renewal for the movie's copyright came up. But because this movie was so obscure, the studio office either forgot or didn't bother to renew the rights. So it ended up as a piece of work within the **PUBLIC DOMAIN**.

This allowed television stations to air it every year during the Christmas season **FOR FREE!** So, naturally, they show it often. And millions have watched through the years to discover from the angel Clarence, "**That no one is a failure who has friends!**"

Sisters and brothers in Christ. Christmas reminds us that **We have a friend in Jesus**. He is **THE GREATEST GIFT** of Christmas. His love, grace and forgiveness is in the **PUBLIC DOMAIN**, available to all for free! And it is because of His life, we have **A WONDERFUL LIFE**, now and forever!

Have a **WONDERFUL** Christmas, and **LIFE!**

Pastor Greg



We will be offering two in facility worship services at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. The 4:00 pm service will be livestreamed. Communion will be celebrated at the 6:00 pm services. Seating will be limited. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks on registration and protocols. There will be a recording of the 4:00 pm service should you desire to view at a later time. Whether you join in person or virtually, may the story of the birth of Jesus give you hope and peace!



The past few years have been lived under a blanket of Covid; filled with loss and isolation. This year we want to gather to acknowledge our individual and corporate losses. This service will give the opportunity to lament and share the losses. It will also point to the hope that we have in the One whose light the darkness can not extinguish. Join us in person or virtually on Tuesday, December 21 @ 7:00 pm.

## Board Report by Nick Perchthaler

Greetings to everyone and the Board wishes you and your families a very Merry Christmas.

As we are entering the Advent and Christmas seasons and the year is coming to an end, it is an opportunity for us to reflect back on the year 2021. It has obviously been another challenging year with the pandemic and we still have not seen the end yet. Having said that, there have been a lot of positives this year. We have gone through the whole year with being able to hold weekly services. Where we could not hold live services for a good part of the year, we continued with virtual services. And then when we were allowed to re-open, we developed the necessary protocols to keep everyone safe. There was a solid core of members attending each week and we even surpassed 50 attendees one week.

Here are some other significant achievements from 2021. We managed to successfully hold a virtual AGM in February using Zoom technology to vote. At Easter time, a "Journey with Jesus" was set up taking us on a twelve station spiritual journey. This experience was enjoyed by 73 members. We also managed to approve our new Constitution. Virtual meetings were held in April and May where the congregation gave their approval and in July the new Constitution was registered with the provincial government.

November was Stewardship month and the Board has started the budgeting process for 2022. At this point, it looks like we will be able to finish 2021 with a bit of a surplus. This is mainly due to subsidies that we have benefitted from and a reduction in costs. Please know that this continues to be a major focal area for the Board and our Financial situation is reviewed monthly. More details regarding the 2022 budget will follow.

As we move forward, the Risk Management Committee and Board will advise as to what our Christmas Eve protocols will look like. They will be likely very similar to what we are currently doing. Social Distancing will be a primary concern.

We continue to live stream the services from the Sanctuary and continue to Broadcast over FM 100.5 station at our 10 am service. If there are comments on the live stream or FM please contact Mike by email at [lcossyc.media@gmail.com](mailto:lcossyc.media@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.

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. Thank you volunteers!

And being able to continue with having Live music is a blessing.

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

## Board Report (continued)

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](mailto:nperchthaler@shaw.ca) or via phone at 587-437-8511.

Again, Merry Christmas and stay safe everyone.

Nick Perchthaler

Board Chair



## 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 December 01, your monthly donation would begin December 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. \*\*

If you indicated you require a set of 2022 offering envelopes, they will be distributed as follows:

To those who receive hand delivery of 'The Vine'

Envelopes will be distributed with 'The Vine' in late November

To all others

Envelopes will be available at the church in mid-December

Many of you who are giving via online methods have indicated you do not require 2022 offering envelopes. If you indicated you don't require a set of envelopes, you will not be assigned one.

As well, if you are signed up for the PAR program you will not be assigned a set of envelopes

\*\* NOTE: If you do require a set of offering envelopes and have not informed Cliff earlier in 2021, please contact Cliff at blumhagencg@gmail.com or 403-936-0419. \*\*

### **December Designated Giving...**

In December, please consider the following:

a donation of non-perishable food items or cash to the Interfaith Food Bank or Acadia Food Pantry


a donation of new and gently used winter clothing for ladies and children for the Brenda Strafford Centre

a donation to Canadian Lutheran World Relief to support the organization's national and international relief efforts





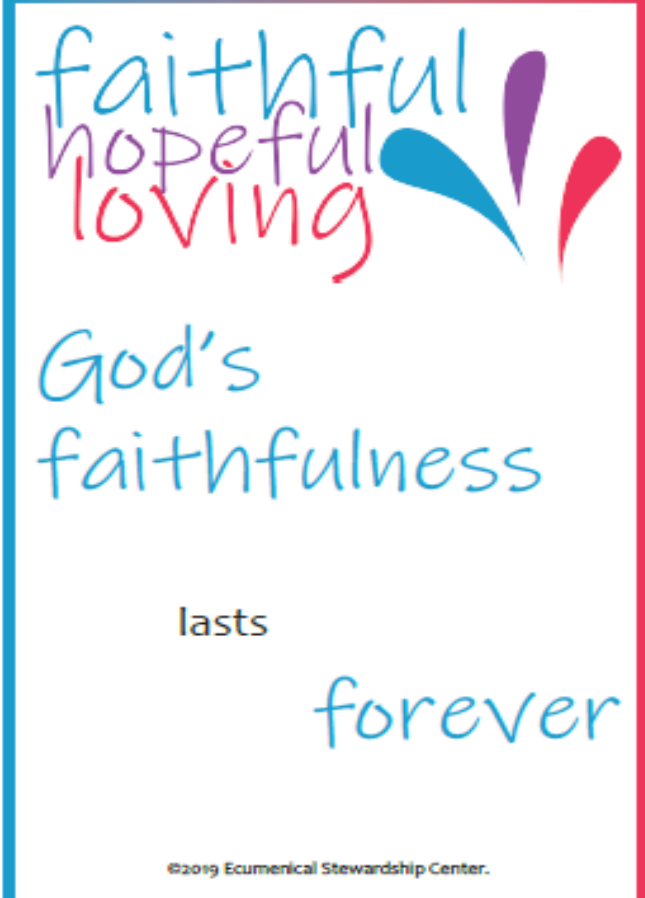
## Financial Secretary Report (continued)



Much like the ancient audience for whom the words of Isaiah 61 were originally spoken, faith communities are in a familiar but new place. Like those who faced rebuilding Jerusalem, many of us feel that our beloved churches have suffered the brunt of attack, and we wonder if it's even possible to rebuild them so they will be around for more than another generation.

The words of Isaiah 61 call us to a different path, one of action and faith. The prophet's message was not a call to grasp at security or embrace complacency. These were words of challenge, risk, and service. Is not this message still relevant for us today?

To respond to this call to ministry we will have to take off our mourning clothes and take the risk of being generous, in order to bring about this realization of God's will.



faithful  
hopeful  
loving

God's  
faithfulness

lasts  
forever

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### LCOS Stewardship Program Together For Joy

The annual stewardship program for this year is 'Together For Joy'.

It is based on Psalm 98 (NIV):

"Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things..."

We spent four weeks in November exploring the history of difficulties facing God's people in past times, how they found new ways to sing to God, new ways to stay together as a community and new ways to praise God.

This program encourages us to share our treasure and invest in our mission as a church as a community of new songs, new ways of singing and new ways of being God's church in God's world.

On Stewardship Sunday (November 21) each giver / household was asked to consider their blessings and voluntarily make a response to share our treasure.

You may still make a commitment to the program. You may complete a pledge card or contact Financial Secretary Cliff Blumhagen with the details of your confidential pledge.

Contact Cliff at [blumhagencg@gmail.com](mailto:blumhagencg@gmail.com) or 403-936-0419.



## The Giving Tree



**JOIN THE LCOS TRADITION OF TRIMMING OUR GIVING TREE DURING  
ADVENT WITH MITTENS, SCARVES, HATS, SOCKS, BLANKETS AND NEW TOYS  
IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL CHARITIES. THIS YEAR WE WILL ALSO BE  
ACCEPTING NEW OR NEARLY NEW DONATIONS OF KITCHEN ITEMS,  
BEDDING AND CLOTHING FOR FAMILIES ARRIVING FROM AFGHANISTAN.  
ITEMS MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT CHURCH ON SUNDAY MORNINGS. YOU  
ARE ALSO WELCOME TO EMAIL [OFFICE2@OURSAVIOURCHURCH.CA](mailto:OFFICE2@OURSAVIOURCHURCH.CA)  
OR CALL 403-615-9317 TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS.**

## SW Area Refugee Mission

If you would like to assist families that are arriving from Afghanistan to make a new and safe home in our country you might want to consider the following groups who are coordinating assistance. Our email is [calgaryswarm@gmail.com](mailto:calgaryswarm@gmail.com).

1. Check any of these websites for ways to help: CCIS (Calgary Catholic Immigration Society), Centre for Newcomers, or Immigrant Services Calgary

2. Clothing and household Item donation

Donate new or like-new household items and clothing for any age or gender: donations to WINS (Women in Need Society), SWARM can assist. If you have a truck or are able to help move furniture or deliver clothing let us know.

3. Volunteer as part of a welcoming environment for newcomers to Canada by contributing your time and sharing your skills, connecting with a new family. Contact a SWARM member for ways to get involved.

4. Non-perishable food donations

Donate culturally comforting food to help our newcomers feel at home. The Culturally Comforting Food Hampers are customized food hampers based on an individual/ family's dietary needs. They are customized depending on the number of individuals and their ethnicity. To make a donation contact [colleencory@immigrant-education.ca](mailto:colleencory@immigrant-education.ca).

5. Monetary donations

If you'd prefer, tax receiptable donations can be made to [Centre for Newcomers](#), [Immigrant Services Calgary](#), or The [Immigrant Education Society](#) online or via cheque. SWARM can also accept donations designated to Afghan resettlement.

**Donated items will be accepted at LCOS throughout the month of December.**

## Games Group

Eleanor Wilson and Ruth Peterson would like to pass on their very best wishes for a safe, blessed Christmas and look forward to getting together with the Games Group in January. Eleanor and Ruth will be in touch. Details to follow.



## Submitted by Pat Kaack

On November 18th my brother-in-law, John Shanks, died at age 69 at 3:00 am in Toronto. John had had a journey of ups and downs with his cancer for 12 years.

Our family in Toronto and here have supported and comforted him. We expected my sister, Margaret, to be a widow, but on February 12th Marg died at age 68. They were married 47 years. Their younger son Mike lives here in Erinwoods has two lovely little children. Mike was with his mother from December until she died peacefully at home. Mike flew to Toronto two weeks ago to care for his dad in his home. His 42 year old brother, Phil, who lives in Whitby was also assisting.

I want to thank all the praying warriors of our faith community for your prayers.

May Margaret and John Shanks rest in eternal peace.

Pat Kaack



## The Benedictus: The Song of Zechariah Luke vs 76-79

"And you my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way of the Lord. You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins, because of God's tender mercy, the light from heaven is about to break upon us. To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace."

Another way to reflect on Advent and Christmas. Zechariah speaks prophetically to his little son John the Baptist. He is to be the forerunner of his cousin Jesus who is about to be born. Their mothers were Elizabeth and Mary. One of my sisters is Mary Elizabeth. All the years of my life I never really connected those two names with the mothers of John the Baptist and Jesus.

Zechariah tells his son he is to prepare the way for his cousin. John is to tell God's people to repent and ask for forgiveness. Salvation for all. Jesus the Light of the World is to break forth in great JOY and MERCY. He will bring his light to those in darkness, and in the shadow of death. He will guide us to the path of peace. Note, not to peace but to the path of peace.

Peace is not assured to all, but only to those pleasing to God. The angels proclaimed a deeper more lasting peace than that of the Roman Peace which was that of external tranquility. It was a peace of mind and soul made possible by the Saviour. That peace with God is received by FAITH in JESUS CHRIST, and it is on his believers that "his favours rest." Rejoice and thanksgiving be ours to keep.

May we as faithful servants take time this next four weeks to reflect on this special verse in Zechariah's Benedictus which means, "Praise Be". May this Christmas 2021 be one of Peace on Earth good will to ALL. May we be a part of that Light of Jesus, bringing his word of salvation to all those we meet along our journeys to eternal peace.

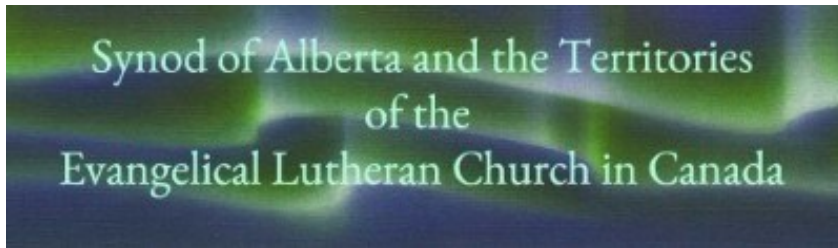
I also came across this reflection in my many pages of collectable thoughts. It was from one of Thomas Merton's "Seasons of Celebration" writings.

"The mystery of CHRISTMAS therefore lays upon us all a debt and an obligation to the whole created universe. We who have seen the light of Christ are obliged, by the greatness of the grace that has been given us, to make known the presence of the Saviour to the ends of the earth.

This we will do not only by preaching the glad tidings of His coming, but above all by revealing Him in our lives. Christ is born to us today, in order that He may appear to the whole world through us.

This one day is the day of His birth, BUT EVERY DAY of our mortal lives must be His MANIFESTATION, His DIVINE EPIPHANY, in the world which He has created and redeemed."

Peace of Christ be with you this Advent Christmas season filled with God's Hope, Peace, Joy, Love  
Patricia Kaack



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief

The following special appeal is being forwarded for your consideration from the Synod office.

November 19, 2021

Massive floods and landslides have devastated parts of British Columbia, destroying roads and leaving several mountain towns isolated. At least three people are missing, some 18,000 people are displaced and authorities expect death tolls to rise.

CLWR invites you to pray for the people of British Columbia, and to consider making a gift to support recovery efforts. As we move to quickly identify partners well-positioned to respond effectively, your gift will provide emergency support and hope for recovery.

CLWR is accepting donations now on its website at [clwr.org/BCfloods](http://clwr.org/BCfloods). Donations can also be made by phoning our office at 1.800.661.2597 (Monday to Thursday, 9:00 - 16:00 CDT) or by mailing a cheque to 600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3B 0W5.

Thank you for responding in love to this emergency.

Blessings,  
Karin Achtelstetter - Executive Director  
Canadian Lutheran World Relief

CLWR is a member of:

**act**alliance



**HUMANITARIAN  
COALITION** 



**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.

### **Donate blood**

#### **Acadia Recreation Complex**

**240- 90th Ave SE**

Rose Hall

**Saturday, December 4**

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Donor Event - 100 Donors Needed**

Appointments are required during Covid-19



Join **Canada's Lifeline**

Visit [blood.ca](http://blood.ca) to learn more.





# 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.

## Donate blood

### Delta Calgary South

**135 Southland Dr SE**  
Bonavista Room - Tower Building

**Thursday, December 9**  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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

Join **Canada's Lifeline**  
Visit [blood.ca](http://blood.ca) to learn more.







# 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.

**Donate blood**

**Delta Calgary South**

**135 Southland Dr SE**  
Bonavista Room - Tower Building

**Thursday, December 23**  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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



Join **Canada's Lifeline**  
Visit [blood.ca](http://blood.ca) to learn more.



## Assistant to the Bishop's Message by Rev. Prema



December 2021 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear friends and family in <sup>t</sup>Christ--

In the reading from Luke for the first Sunday in Advent, we are confronted with a portion of Luke's apocalypse. It is a reading where Jesus offers up images that we associate with the end. Perhaps it is the end as it pertained to the Jerusalem temple. Or maybe Christ's words were meant in a more far-reaching sense, pointing to the end of all things. We have often read these words in such a way. It is hard not to. These words speak of the Son of Man coming upon a cloud and of creation itself showing signs of the coming of the end. We can get so caught up looking for what is coming, at watching for the signs of this final time, that we don't hear the good news.

And, yes, there is good news, even though it seems overshadowed by these visions of rapture that dance through our heads. There is good news, even as Jesus warns us to hold fast against what is coming. The good news is this. The kingdom of God is near or in some translations, at hand. Now, that could be read as part of the foreboding nature of this text. The Kingdom of God is near? Yikes, I better shape up. God will be here soon. But it is also good news. The kingdom of God is near. God will soon usher in God's kingdom and will make everything right.

But I will offer to you another thought on the word "near". The word in this context is the Greek *eggus*, which can mean nearby, both in time and in position. The Kingdom of God approaches and will soon be here. But another use of the word is to indicate nearness as a way of accessing God. The Jews, for example, were near to God. God was their God, and they were God's people. The nearness wasn't about God soon arriving. It was about having God close at hand, able to be accessed. Israel saw their relationship with God in such a way. God wasn't distant. God wouldn't show up one day. God was with them already.

This understanding situates itself well with the story of the Israelites all through their history. God was not a distant God to them. God was a warrior, who fought for them. God was the one who helped Moses split open a sea or gave David the power to overcome Goliath. God brought the people together as a nation and God, they believed, abided in the temple. That was where God was to be found. That was the centre of all things.

Now, we might not agree with their cosmology, or the idea of God being limited to the temple in any way, but there is something so intriguing and beautiful about God being near like that, as near as a family member or friend. One to reach out to and take comfort in and gain strength from. We might not think of God that way but consider that this was the same God who came down in the person of Christ, God incarnate, to walk amongst God's people. Jesus lived and ate and wept and laughed and healed and taught and slept and died right along with us. He was as near to his disciples as I am when I sit with my family at the end of the evening. He was near and he loved them, and they loved him.

The nearness of God does not stop there. Even after Jesus departed again from his disciples, he gifted the Holy Spirit to the disciples and to the world. That is the Spirit who sustains us and guides us and who knows us more than we know ourselves. That is the nearness of the Spirit. As near to us as our own flesh.

## Assistant to the Bishop's Message (continued)

To say that God's kingdom is near is to say that God is present in our lives. To say the kingdom is near is to say that even as we struggle with the realities of a harsh world, that seem only to get darker with the passing of time, God's kingdom is still near. We may wonder what can stand against such anger and hate, and yet the answer is as close as the Spirit. God can. God's kingdom, which we are called to serve, is that light which represents the very best that we can be, inspired and empowered to be such by the Spirit. The kingdom, which stands for mercy and hope, love and forgiveness, service and community, stands firmly opposed to the darkness all around us and it is near. As close to us as our own skin. It just has not been fully realized yet. But what a hope we have, knowing it is there. By knowing that, we can stand strong, because God is with us. We can persevere because the Spirit sustains us. The kingdom is near and so we can go on.

I can't think of a better way to start Advent. The Kingdom of God is near. God holds us fast. God, in Christ, came once to a manger in Bethlehem and the Holy was given flesh. The Christ will come again and then that which is near but not yet fully realized, will be in all its glory and the world, finally, will be made right.

During this Advent, may you know the nearness of God, now and throughout your days. May it give you hope.

Blessing and Peace in <sup>†</sup>Christ,

Rev. Prema

*See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God;  
and that is what we are.*

1 John 3:1



**SYNOD OF  
ALBERTA  
+ AND THE +  
TERRITORIES**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in Canada**  
*In Mission for Others*

# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 pm Al-Anon	2	3	4
<b>5 Communion</b> 10:00 am In-Church Worship (registration required) Drive-In Worship Service Live Stream Service YouTube Service	6	7	8 7:00 pm Al-Anon	9	10	11
12 10:00 am In-Church Worship (registration required) Drive-In Worship Service Live Stream Service YouTube Service	13	14	15 10:30 Southwood Care Centre 7:00 pm Al-Anon	16 10:00 am Bible Study	17	18
<b>19 Communion</b> 10:00 am In-Church Worship (registration required) Drive-In Worship Service Live Stream Service YouTube Service	20 January Vine Submission Deadline	21 7:00 pm Board Meeting 7:00 pm Blue Christmas	22 7:00 pm Al-Anon	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 4:00 pm In-Church Worship (registration required) Drive-In Worship Live Stream Service YouTube Service  6:00 pm In-Church Worship With Communion (registration required)	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>
26	27	28	29	30	31 <b>New Years Eve</b>	