

The Vine

September 2023



Ministry Team

Interim Pastor

Pastor Daranne Harris
403-464-8254 cell/text
pastordaranne@oursaviourchurch.ca



Youth & Family Ministries Director

Mariette Jessup
403-560-2039 cell/text
youth@oursaviourchurch.ca

Parish Administrator

Judy McDonald
825-438-7632 cell/text
office2@oursaviourchurch.ca

Church Media Director

Mike Mihaichuk
lcos.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.

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am - noon

Jens



Doug



Alfred



Kathy



Beverly



Debra



Brian



Nick



Carolyn



Church Board 2023-2024

Carolyn Anderson

Alfred Forbrich (Vice-Chair)

Doug Gerbrandt

Kathy Gibson

Jens Kaack

Beverly Marshall (Secretary)

Nick Perchthaler (Chair)

Brian Prunkle

Debra Starratt



8831 Fairmount Drive SE, Calgary T2H 0Z4

Facebook: Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

Website: www.oursaviourchurch.ca Instagram: lcos_youth

Pastor's Message

Thanks for such a warm welcome to LCOS!

It's been a wonderful first month with you folks and I am excited how life together this Fall seems to be taking shape in front of us. So many people in the congregation are involved in so many different ways, and it is energizing to join in that momentum.

There is lots of kick-off news in The Vine. As you move into this new season, it is my hope that you will find intentional ways to not only fill the calendar but also your sense of well-being – spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically.

One of the tools in my spiritual well-being toolbox is a book called “Psalms for Praying” by Nan Merrill. Now of course, everyone has a book of Psalms in their Bible, however, this modern translation stands as a companion alongside those for me, awakening a gentle joy of co-creating with God in modern times.

With an invitation to slip into the Psalms this September as spiritual practice, I offer you one of my favourites for this season. There is no right or wrong way to experience the Psalms, however if you don't know where to start, you might consider simply reading a line or section and quietly sitting for 5 or so minutes to listen for how it moves you - what resonates or stands out for you, how does it feel in your heart. I will often revisit a Psalm over a few days or even week to week and see what new insight arises or how I see or experience it differently in conversation with what is going on in my life at that time. And if you decide to take me up on the invitation to try this practice, let me know how it goes!

Warmly,

–Pastor Daranne

Psalm 145

My soul yearns for You, Eternal Flame of Love,
longing to reconnect to the Great Mystery!
Every day I will bless You as
I follow the Voice of Truth.
Great are You, who call us to childlike wonder,
to the healing balm of forgiveness.

Each generation must learn anew the efficacy of silence,
the wisdom of turning inward,
That your light might be their guide to holiness,
and your Love nurture them toward wholeness.
Yet, many there are who turn from You in fear,
denying their birthright.
Their denials will lead them further into alienation;
loneliness will companion them.

Pastor's Message continued

*The Beloved is gracious and merciful,
allowing every soul free will to follow the ego's illusions or to choose Life.*

*Gratitude and quiet joy overflow
as I recall the abundant blessings of your grace!*

*Lift up your hearts, all you who choose the path of Life!
My heart is lifted up!*

*“Do you not know that your whole being is
encompassed by My Love?
I am the infinite and the eternal within your soul;
O, that I might make Myself known to you!
Choose Love that you might overcome
oppression and blind obedience to false idols!”*

*“Divine Light shines in those
who live in Love.
I shall uphold all who are burdened with fear,
and raise up all who call to Me.
The time is nigh for you to choose,
for great is the new dawn that fast approaches;
I call each of you to open your inner ears to
see with spiritual eyes,
And to trust that even amidst the outward chaos,
all is working toward the wholeness of humanity.”*

*O, Heart of my heart, envelop me!
I know You are near to all who call upon You.
Bring to my recollection all that I have denied,
that I might be accepting and free
To help rebuild the soul of the world
with radical trust, love, and wonder!
When I speak, let it be of blessing and gratitude;
let your glory within me shine out to the world!*

Board Report

Welcome to some New Beginnings. August was a very positive time for us at LCOS. Pastor Daranne Harris was installed as our interim pastor on August 13. This finally gets us some needed stability going forward. As a 0.5 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) she has committed to leading at least two services a month. The Board has met with Pastor Daranne and during our next Board meeting we will be reviewing the main focal areas that we would like her to concentrate her energy on. She has already been reaching out to members of the congregation to introduce herself. We are truly blessed. Again, we are looking for your input in this area as well. On the office window there is space for you to add any comments and suggestions via sticky notes. Please take the time to help us with these important decisions. Thank you.

Another positive activity in August was VBS (Vacation Bible School). There was certainly a lot of energy and creativity displayed during the five day event. There were 45 kids that attended during the week. That is a big increase from the 25 we had last year. A big shout out goes to Mariette, Judy and the many volunteers that made this event happen. It is also great to see that we had six youth members amongst the volunteers. It was also great to see how we celebrated the event during our August 27 service. Did I say that we are truly blessed! Hopefully, this will result in us seeing a few more of these youngsters along with their families joining us for Sunday services.

The Board continues to work on the four areas that were agreed to during the Board retreat in April. They are **Building, Finances, Communication and Engagements Groups**. September will see us pick up the pace on some of these activities. The Engagement Group has been the quickest out of the gate and some good work has been done in that area. We would also like to hear from you if there are any other Engagement Groups that you would see formed or that need more support. Let's hear from you! The Building group is looking at such items as a sprinkler system, new carpeting in the fellowship hall and paving. These items involve some significant financial commitments. So, we are looking at how we can be creative to get these items completed over the next few years.

Our Financial situation saw us finish July in a deficit of \$232.00. That is a lot better than where we thought we would be at this time of the year. Based on the August forecast, we expect to see the year-to-date deficit increase to about \$5,000.00. The main reason that our deficit is not larger is due to the reduction in our salary expenses. So, Giving continues to be a focal area for us.

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.

God Bless us and it is the "Most wonderful time of the year" as schools will start again soon.

Nick Perchthaler

Board Chair

Call Committee Report

The Call Committee work has continued with revisions and updates to the 2021 Congregation Mission document. This document is used to provide information to prospective pastors that are interested in examining a call. The committee is also accepting names of pastors that we would like to have the Bishop contact to determine their interest. Please send these to Garry Mihaichuk at gmihaichuk@me.com or call at 403-975-0081.

The committee has also been visiting with members and friends of LCOS to determine if there are any changes to the criteria, wants and needs that we wish to have in a new pastor. Please provide your feedback to any of the committee members: Carolyn Anderson; Kathy Gibson; Jens Kaack; Dale Mass; Terrylee McKay, Bob Montgomery, Keith Rude and Bonnie Swan.

This continues to be a challenging time for the congregation and we ask for prayers for the congregation, Call Committee and Pastor Daranne Harris as she provides an excellent interim pastor role.

Yours in Christ

Garry Mihaichuk
Chair, Call Committee

September Worship Services

Sunday, September 3 10:00 am Worship Service

Sunday, September 10 10:00 am Worship Service with Communion

Sunday, September 17 10:00 am Worship Service

Sunday, September 24 10:00 am Worship Service with Communion

Live Stream Available

Youth and Family Ministries Report

Fall is a time of new beginnings and big plans. There's a lot to be excited about, and plenty to fret about if we let ourselves,

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

It is my prayer that each of us will have our focus on God and our trust in Jesus as we move forward into fall. I pray that we choose to put our growth as Christians in the proper place ... front and centre in our lives.

We need to belong to a community of believers to experience the give and take of love, to be able to fix our gaze upon Jesus, to know where to store our treasure.

So, I invite you join in all Lutheran Church of Our Saviour has to offer!

Kids Church begins on September 10th – Service is at 10:00 am with Kids Church at 11:00 am. We will be going on an amazing bible adventure each week! There's always a tasty snack and lots of fun!

Teens meet at 9:00 am Sunday mornings to study the Bible and develop and share their faith. The Search offers special events for youth throughout the year.

Don't miss our Fall Carnival on September 24th! Hot dogs, popcorn, games, prizes, face painting, live music and a pie silent auction ... add up to tons of fun!

There is always so much happening for every age and interest at LCOS! We are a joyful and welcoming Christian community and we can't wait to step into new beginnings together!

Your sister in Christ,

Mariette





LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

8831 FAIRMOUNT DRIVE SE

825-438-7632

WORSHIP SERVICE @ 10:00 AM

KIDS CHURCH @ 11:00 AM

(PRE-K - GRADE 7)

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!!



The Search

Asking the Big Questions

Youth Grade 8 -12

*Contact: Mariette Jessup
Youth Director,
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Cell: 403-560-2039
youth@oursaviourchurch.ca
8831 Fairmount Drive SE
Calgary, AB*



2nd Annual LCOS Fall Carnival



Clown!

**Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
8831 Fairmount Drive SE
Everyone Welcome!**

Games!

Sunday, September 24th @ 11:00 am

Financial Secretary Report

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.

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 financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca) to get a PAR sign up form and with any questions.



Cheque:

You can mail, bring to a church service, or drop off a cheque at the church.

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. **

Giving via online and text will go to General giving.



General giving and Designated giving can be done via Interac E-transfer, cheque, and cash.

Shares from Investments:

Shares from investments are made by transferring them from your investment account to the church investment account.

Legacy Giving:

Donations are made from your estate by gifting to the church by remembering the church in your will.



Autumn and back to routine are here.
While you were away enjoying your summer,
the church expenses continued.

Please consider an autumn offering to the church.

The church computer system is called Realm.
All the demographic data and giving data is
tracked in that system.

Each person who is connected to LCOS can have
a login to view / change information updates and
to view their giving.

Please contact Cliff at 403-936-0419 or
financialsecretary@oursaviourchurch.ca if
you'd like a login to the Realm system.

Welcome Pastor Daranne



What's Been Happening at LCOS



What's Been Happening at LCOS





*Happy
Birthday*

Walli Haase

Eleanor Wilson

Orville Biberdorf

Ruth Peterson

Margaret Biberdorf

Annabel Glanville

Pat Halvorsen

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

DON & LEONA SMITH



All are invited to browse the tables in the Fellowship Hall following worship on October 1 as engagement group leaders showcase the many opportunities to become involved in our LCOS community.

Please take a moment to review the wall display in the Place of Welcome.



A special thank you to board member, Carolyn Anderson, for all her work interviewing Engagement Group Leaders, taking photos, creating the display in the Place of Welcome and coordinating the Engagement Group Fair.

THE MASTER'S SINGERS

The Master's Singers is seeking new members for the 2023-24 season. We are a men's, non-auditioned choir presenting 4-part arrangements at local churches once a month on Sunday mornings as well as two concerts (Christmas and spring). We're a diverse group who enjoy fellowship and singing Christian hymns and sacred music. We're looking especially for tenor 1 and 2 voices, but baritones and basses are welcome.

Rehearsals are Monday evenings from 7:30 - 9:30 at 8831 Fairmount Drive SE Calgary and we are excited to start our 24th season on Monday, September 11th. For further information please visit our website <https://www.themasterssingers.org>





**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

Acadia Recreation Complex

240- 90th Ave SE
Rose Hall

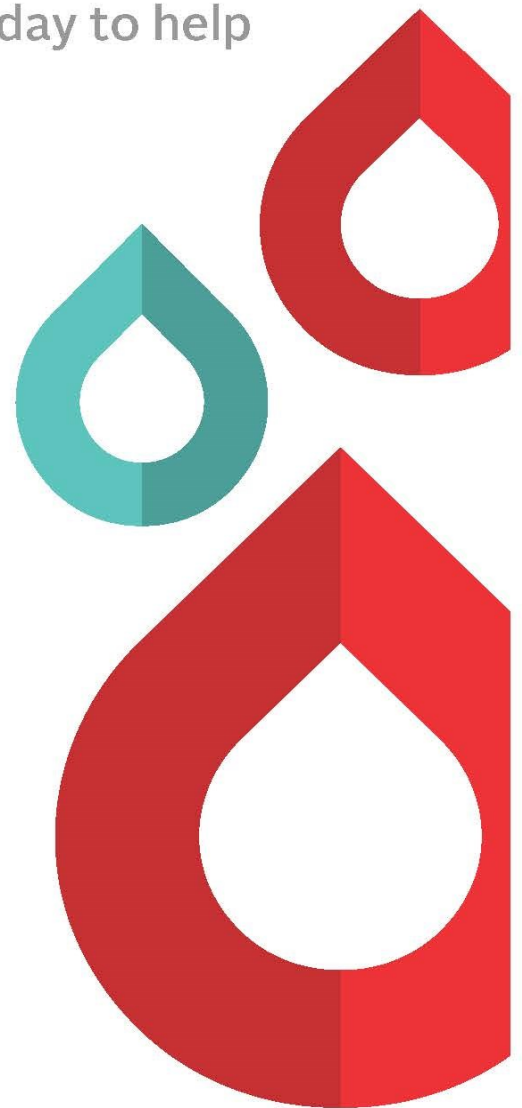
Saturday, September 16
Saturday, September 23

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Donor Event - 100 Donors Needed

Join **Canada's Lifeline**

Book now at **blood.ca** or call **1 888 2 DONATE**



Bishop's Message by Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

September 2023 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God -

On a regular basis I have folks ask me, what are you reading? Many know that I read ferociously, with several books always on the go, ranging from popular novels to church leadership, poetry to mystery novels, light reading to heavy-duty reading. Over the next few months and columns, I will be sharing some excellent reads.

Recently I have been appreciated a newly published book which is very accessible. A great resource for small group study and conversation, and/or for congregational councils: *Leading Faithful Innovation: Following God into a Hopeful Future* Dwight Zscheile, Michael Binder and Tess Pinkstaff, ©2023 Fortress Press, Minneapolis.

What might God be up to amid the seismic changes the church and our culture are undergoing? What opportunities will congregations encounter if they rediscover and follow God's leading? *Leading Faithful Innovation* offers a practical, hands-on approach to addressing this challenge, a process that culminates in the hope that comes from following the Spirit.

Leading Faithful Innovation explores Acts 16:6-15, the story about the biblical Lydia, to embody the key themes of this book. Jesus' followers are led by the Holy Spirit on a path where the destination isn't clear when they start. The road isn't straightforward. They discover where to go by listening, acting, and reflecting. They must practice being hosted by others in neighborhood spaces they don't control. They are redirected multiple times as dead ends lead to open doors but not necessarily the open doors they expected. Throughout, they must depend on God's leading, not their own strategies and plans.

This is the kind of journey that characterizes much of what we read in the New Testament about the early church. The Jesus movement was about a group of strangers and friends being joined together by God into a community practicing a distinct way of life that crossed cultural and geographical boundaries. That movement was animated by the life-giving Holy Spirit, which broke down walls, bound people together, and freed them to take risks in love. It was a subversive movement that called into question the predominant narratives and structures of the day.

Many church leaders today find themselves on an unexpected journey. We are learning/re-learning how to be led by God's Spirit like the early followers, exercising both patience and the willingness to move quickly and responsively. This journey means learning to pay attention to the Holy Spirit in new ways.

Bishop's Message (continued)

Dwight Zscheile, Michael Binder, and Tessa Pinkstaff (each from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota) build on Scripture, theology, and the latest leadership and change theories to guide church leaders on a journey toward grassroots, participatory spiritual growth.

Innovation, for the authors, is defined as the adoption of a new practice in a community. Innovation is not invention, rather it is the adaptation of Christian community life and witness to changing cultural circumstances. Something which the church has always done. Above all, innovation recognizes the agency and activity of God. God continues to create, re-create, restore, reconcile, and heal the world. Faithful innovation is about joining the Spirit's movement.

This faithful innovation begins with a three-step process: listen, act, and share. Listen – listen to God, one another, and our neighbours. Act – try something new based on God's leading. Share – reflect on your actions and share your story. Real-life stories and supportive spiritual practices make each step toward effective change accessible and actionable.

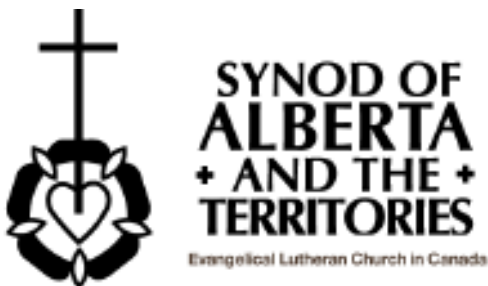
The book then examines how these steps change the culture of a church, establishing a new, biblically grounded way of being church. The authors present leadership practices that invite readers to redefine their leadership identity, accept the loss of their role as the primary driver of their congregation, and discover new hope and possibility. These topics are again fleshed out with real-life stories and undergirded by suggested practices.

The authors believe that the church's future is waiting to be discovered not inside the walls of church buildings or in committee meetings but on journeys into the neighbourhood, "outside the gate" at the "place of prayer" (Acts 16:13 where the spiritually curious gather in dynamic relationship with both the Spirit of God and the Lydias of our own day.

It's worth a read.


In Christ Jesus –

Shalom, +Larry



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

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:00 am Worship Live Stream Service	4	5 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 1:00 pm Games Group	6 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Lighthouse Church Prayer Meeting 5:30 pm Al-Anon Book Study 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg 7:00 pm Fitness Class	7 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice	8	9 9:30 am Ladies Book Study
10 Communion 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Live Stream Service 11:00 am Kids Church	11 7:30 pm The Master's Singers Rehearsal	12 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	13 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Lighthouse Church Prayer Meeting 5:30 pm Al-Anon Book Study 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg 7:00 pm Fitness Class	14 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice	15 4:00 pm Feed the Hungry	16
17 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Live Stream Service 11:00 am Kids Church	18 7:30 pm The Master's Singers Rehearsal	19 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 1:00 pm Games Group 7:00 pm Board Mtg	20 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Lighthouse Church Prayer Meeting 10:15 am Southwood Care Centre 2:00 pm Chinook Care Centre 5:30 pm Al-Anon Book Study 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg 7:00 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	21 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice	22	23
24 Communion 9:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship Live Stream Service 11:00 am—1:00 pm Fall Carnival 	25 7:30 pm The Master's Singers Rehearsal October Vine Submission Deadline	26 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon	27 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Lighthouse Church Prayer Meeting 5:30 pm Al-Anon Book Study 7:00 pm Al-Anon Mtg 7:00 pm Fitness Class 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	28 Office Hours 9:00 am - 12 noon 10:00 am Bible Study 1:00 pm Joyful Noise Music Practice	29	30
					Sunday, October 1 11:00 am Engagement Group Fair	