

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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A Caring Community Anchored in Christ, Reaching Out to All People

April 2020

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 36 No. 03

From Our Interim Pastors

A Reflection for This Time

We are living in a time of social disruption, of much anxiety and concern for the future of our society and world. The Corona virus has injected a threatening new element of insecurity into our lives. For many people, things now seem very dark and scary. We wonder, will our lives ever return to normal again.

At the start of the book of Genesis, God was faced with chaos. God did not waste time describing the chaos, analyzing it or discussing whose fault it was. Instead God created light, and following the creation of light, a whole new world came into being.

The Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent is the story of the healing of the man born blind, recorded in John, chapter 9. Here John wants us to know that Jesus is doing the “works of the One who sent him.” In John’s gospel, a new chaos is coming – the night, the darkness when Jesus will be killed and the world plunged into a twilight zone, when Jesus’ disciples were bewildered and confused.

Yet after the chaos of Holy week, the unsettling events of Good Friday, and the in-between time of Holy Saturday, God brought a whole new creation into being with the dawn of that first Easter Day. A whole new world came into being.

In the story of the healing of the man born blind in John 9, there was much questioning; “whose fault was it that this man was blind?” Jesus answer is that “*he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.*” And “*as long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*” The man was healed, and given a whole new life. New creation does happen. Healing comes, and lives are transformed.

May our prayer in this time be that the God who brings light, may also give us vision, to see ourselves and our world through the eyes of Jesus. May we be given eyes to see the world – not only as it is, broken and suffering and groaning in travail, but as it could be when renewed and recreated by God’s Spirit of healing and hope. May a cure be found soon for the Corona virus, and healing for those who are ill. Give us vision to see God’s light, even in this time of difficulty. Fill us with hope that a whole new world may come into being, Amen.

From Bishop Larry

Dear Beloved of God –

“Our Emmaus” One of the house rules in my childhood farm was that we weren’t allowed to bicycle or walk to town without permission. However, we five young siblings had a plot to break this rule and to sneak down to the Co-op store with the few pennies we had to buy some candy.



Two of us were elected to sneak off to the store – our youngest sister and myself. That afternoon we cautiously left the yard and walked down the hill to the store and its tempting treats. We made it to the store safely with no grown-ups questioning our presence, and we set off on our triumphant return, five small bags of candy clenched in our fists.

Now – fortunately or unfortunately – unknown to us, our Mother had some shopping to do at the store that day. And – fortunately or unfortunately – we could see and hear the old green Buick rumble its way down the driveway to the main road leading down the hill ... along the very road we were walking on.

Panic stricken, my sister and I ran as fast as we could. And – fortunately or unfortunately – between the store and our home was a concrete culvert and we ran to it, squeezing our bodies into this tight space.

We felt we were running for our lives. Running from our parents and a situation that had become unbearable. Hiding fearfully in a place that we hoped would be safe. It became our Emmaus. It was someplace, anyplace, away from the preceding events.

“Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.” They were on their way to Emmaus. Someplace, anyplace, away from recent events. They were leaving Jerusalem. This, after hearing the remarkable news from the women that the tomb was empty, and that Jesus was alive. And yet they can’t leave events behind. Their recent past haunts them. And they pour out the story to the first stranger who comes alongside them.

You know how it is. When we are traumatized, we often find ourselves telling the story over and over to anyone who will listen, even a perfect stranger: “I went into work and found a memo on my desk asking me to see the manager right away. Right then I knew that there was going to be trouble.” Or: “It happened so quietly. The rest of the family had slipped out for dinner in the hospital cafeteria – and I was just holding her hand and humming softly when she just stopped breathing and slipped away.”

On the road to Emmaus, seeking to escape the horror, the two of them can’t help but pour it out. They tell about the mighty prophet Jesus who had been lynched in a horrible weekend of violent treachery. “We had hoped,” they say, “that he was the one to redeem Israel.” “We had hoped.” I suppose this was the reason they had left for Emmaus – because they could no longer find any hope in Jerusalem. And they tell the stranger the story of tragedy.

And then the mysterious stranger begins to tell the story in his own words. But his story begins long before these past few days, reminding the two of the larger story within which these events take place. The stranger speaks of Moses and the prophets, interprets the scriptures, retells the story in a way that strangely warms their hearts and then, when invited to join them for the night, he is recognized in the breaking of the bread as the risen Lord. They then race back to Jerusalem.

We all know Emmaus – it is someplace, anyplace, safely away from recent events. Emmaus can be many things. But the amazing thing – the good news – is that Jesus comes alongside, and often in ways we least expect. Yes, in Word and bread and wine, but also in friendship, through a healthy touch, a listening ear, a gift of hospitality. Emmaus invites us to see that it isn't our unshakeable faith or evidence of deep spirituality that connect us with the risen Lord, but our openness to his presence.

May you journey with bright eyes to see and fresh ears to hear – knowing that the risen Lord is with you. Yes, even with you, and even at your Emmaus.

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)

Worship Committee

After three years this is my final Worship Committee Report. It has been an honour to hold the worship committee chair position for that period of time and I am looking forward to serving as a council chair going forward.

Unsettling times are upon us now but you know what – our beef cows don't know about the Covid 19 pandemic and the first 90 or so calves are on the ground. It is comforting that some things continue on 'as normal' and I have faith that the Lord's blessing will be on us 'as normal' going forward, in spite of uncertainties right now.

On February 23rd we had a second 'usher training session' after church service. Thanks for those who met with me at that time. A few changes were agreed upon at the time (or implemented afterwards in discussion with our staff and council). I posted a laminated sheet with the 'usher duties' at the south side of the mailboxes besides the bulletin board and table for everyone to review as needed. New in particular will be a 'sweep' by two ushers through the downstairs rooms to make sure no-one remains in the building after each Sunday worship. This is done so our staff or anyone else coming to church on a Monday morning will not be greeted by a surprise visitor.

Our Sunday Worship services going forward will be pre-recorded 'empty pew' services online through YouTube under [**Good Shepherd Lutheran Red Deer**](#) (just highlight this and press CNTR/CLICK). Thanks to Glen for figuring out how to do this. This includes Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday Worship.

I am certain we are all looking forward to a time when gathering for worship in our church building will be permitted again. Until such time our communications will be pre-dominantly through e-mail

and YouTube recordings on the website. The communications will be mailed to the members who do not have e-mail. The church office will be open during regular hours and if you have any questions give Darlene a call. If we can help with anything please let us know. This is a time we can all help to look after our members.

Annette Suominen

Notes from Nadine

Well, a lot has changed for each of us, and for our world, just in the past short while. The abiding things of God, and the eternal, unseen things have NOT changed – and never will.

Nothing is hidden from God's sight (Hebrews 4:13), and since we know that he is 'For us' and not against us (Romans 8:31), we turn frequently to Him - putting our trust in Him alone, thanking Him, and fixing our eyes on Jesus, as we run the race marked out for us (Heb. 12:2). The One who loves us, and gave Himself for us (Galatians 2:20) NEVER leaves us nor forsakes us (Deut. 31:6/ Heb. 13:5b).

A 'cool' point is that Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, endured the cross for the JOY that was set before Him!! (Heb. 12:2 again!) So, he could bear the horrendous suffering He went through, with the deep, abiding knowledge that, man, when this is over, we are going to have one amazing, everlasting party and CE-LE-BRATE this victory!! - And all that it has accomplished!!

God isn't against joy and gladness. In fact, He endorses it! It's the second-listed fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22, right after love. Psalm 100 says to 'Shout for JOY to Him', worship Him with gladness and BRING joyful songs; entering in with thanksgiving and praise! King David danced with delirious joy before the Lord, celebrating the return of the ark of the covenant (2 Samuel 6).

Proverbs 17:22 says: 'A cheerful heart is GOOD MEDICINE (but a crushed spirit dries up the bones btw – yucky!). And many other passages in Scripture speak about experiencing and expressing JOY. Children easily express joy; music (making it ourselves or listening, moving to it) can create joy in our beings; fun times, comedy, laughter, light-heartedness contribute to our health and well-being - through gladness, lifting our spirits and lightening our loads.

We have the opportunity now to learn a little of what Jesus knew: that JOY is an integral part of heaven and eternal life – and that glimpses and experiences of it can strengthen, change and motivate us here on earth.

With the advent of Spring, the cackling of Canada geese returning home to have families, the celebrations of a Resurrection Life that no grave could hold down, may you seek and find the beauties that God puts in to each day, and the 'completeness of joy' that Jesus extends to us (John 15:11 and 16:24).

Love, peace, good health to you,
Nadine

Children's Ministry

Unfortunately, VBS has been POSTPONED until 2021. Pray for our children and their parents during this very strange and difficult time that God will make Himself known to them in other ways.



Witness

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you 1- Thessalonians 5:17

Life as we know it has changed in one week. Lots of new challenges ahead. Our soup and a bun supper was cut short, but thank you to everyone who brought soup and helped out. Next year!

A special thank you to council who provided food for our annual AGM Meeting. A donation of \$211.35 was sent to CLWR. Thank you.

Volunteer Week – April 19-25/2020 Volunteer Canada states *Volunteers are the roots of strong communities. Just like roots are essential for trees to bloom, volunteers are essential for communities to bloom. They are a leading social change around the world.* **Thank you to all our volunteers** here at Good Shepherd and to all those who volunteer in the community.

Barbaranne Stickelmier, Chairperson

Service (Social) Ministry

Project for the Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre - Fill the Cradle

The cradle will remain in the narthex to accept your donations whenever we gather in church again. I am including the list of items that has been specifically requested by CAPCC for your reference:

- Wipes
- Diapers (larger sizes only Size 3 – 6)
- Pullups
- Clothing (larger sizes only 12 – 24 months)
- Face cloths and towels for both babies and moms
- Good Start formula

No blankets please. No infant size clothing.

Good Shepherd Book Club is postponed until further notice. If you read a great book on any topic please pass on the title and author and a brief description of the book to me by email at thepages@telusplanet.net and I will include the information in the next newsletter.

The Mustard Seed has discontinued all volunteers until further notice. The Seed is continuing to provide expanded services to their guests with the basic staff.

Red Deer Native Friendship Society has discontinued all programs and sessions until further notice.

'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.' **2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4 (NIV)**

In Christ, **Jeanette Page 403-782-3205, cell 403-302-2468**

Letter to Good Shepherd from the Rev. Brian Rude

San Salvador, El Salvador - 29 February 2020

Dear Good Shepherd friends of El Salvador:

The time has come to once again thank you for your faithful and generous support of this, our ABT Synod ministry: "In Mission with El Salvador / *En Misión con El Salvador.*" Whether you contributed \$5.00 or \$50,000 (I don't have the figures), your support and encouragement, especially your prayers and concern, are much needed and appreciated, by myself, and by all of our Salvadoran sisters and brothers, whether they are in El Salvador, Canada, some other country, or in transition.

For regular updates about El Salvador, I refer you to our friend Tim's blog:

<http://www.elsalvadorperspectives.com/> Tim is a semi-retired Lutheran lawyer from Milwaukee, WI, who spends half his time in El Salvador, together with his wife Linda (<http://blog.walkingwithelsalvador.org/>). Both are very active with the Lutheran Church in El Salvador. If you want an entire decade's worth of background and context, here's a worthwhile suggestion: <http://www.elsalvadorperspectives.com/2019/12/top-stories-of-decade.html>

My annual report and an article or two should be available soon, so I won't bore you here with duplicate accounts. Watch for them in the ABT Synod insert of the Canada Lutheran, and the ABT Synod webpage (<https://albertasynod.ca/ministries/global-missions/el-salvador/>).

My focus this past year has been on migration, and all the complexities and variations on that theme. This ministry is urgent because of the social and economic instability in El Salvador. At least until February 9, political stability had improved, with considerable hope heading into the future. Now, we're not so sure, once again. Read Tim's blog if I've made you curious.

Consequently, I am surrounded by Salvadorans in crisis, my "calamity-a-week" entourage. Health crises. Security crises. Housing crises. Transportation crises. Education crises. Unemployment (and employment) crises. Every day seems to bring a few. Unfortunately, expenses accrued cannot be claimed or reimbursed through the ABT Synod fund, since the Synod's agreement with Canada Revenue Agency is that the ministry focus on prison seminars and HIV/AIDS accompaniment. Prison ministry has been blocked for the past five years, for almost everyone, including legal, health, and church personnel (even bishops), due to "extraordinary measures" imposed by the government. These were temporary to begin with, but were extended repeatedly, and eventually written into law. I continue accompanying the HIV mutual support group at Rosales Public Hospital, but other than the Christmas banquet, this involves little financial commitment for us.

God's richest blessings to you in your lives and ministries throughout 2020.

Grateful,

Rev. Dr. Brian Rude

"In Mission with El Salvador / *En Misión con El Salvador*" ABT Synod, ELCICanada

On March 16, 2020, The President of the Republic of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, declared all over Salvadoran territory a national quarantine, valid for 21 days to control the spread of Covid-19.

Bits and pieces from the office..... Although we cannot meet in person, we can join together in spirit by watching some of the on-line options. Here is the link from Synod Office regarding those churches offering online worship: <http://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>

Stay posted as **Good Shepherd Lutheran Red Deer** will be videoing something from our pastors and posting on our own YouTube space at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJBg3reFTupyzn5oS-kCgow>

Check out the **Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd** on Facebook (the one with the church picture in snow). <https://www.facebook.com/groups/277991775631450/>

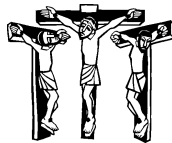
Our website is at <https://www.goodshepherdlutheranrd.ca/>



For those of you who like numbers and statistics, the **2019 Parochial Report** to the National church was recently completed. Active membership at Good Shepherd for 2019 is 272 Baptized members (down 22 from 2018) and 226 Confirmed members (down 16 from 2018). Average Worship attendance is 98 (up 1 from 2018).

I am remaining in the office during regular office hours. Please call if you need anything or just need someone to chat with. The office will be closed Good Friday and Easter Monday.

Shane Cornelius does our weekly maintenance and upkeep of the church inside and out. Since the church is currently empty, Shane is taking care of those projects that require attention. He has installed metal runners at the entrance to all the doors with carpet. He has stripped the upstairs kitchen and washroom floors and re-waxed them. He will also be doing the downstairs floors.



Here are the Scriptures for Holy week, Easter and the next 5 Sundays:

Mar 29	5 Lent	Ezek 37:1-14	Ps 130	Rom 8:6-11	John 11:1-45	Jesus is a rock in a weary land	333
Apr 5	Passion/Palm Sunday Color: Scarlet or Purple	Isa 50:4-9a	Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Matt 26:14-27:66 or Matt 27:11-54	A lamb goes uncomplaining forth	340
Apr 9	Mundy Thursday Color: Scarlet or White	Exod 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14	Ps 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	Great God, your love has called us	358
Apr 10	Good Friday Color: None; altar is stripped	Isa 52:13-53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10:16-25 or Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1-19:42	Holy God, holy and glorious	637
Apr 11	Easter Vigil*			Rom 6:3-11	John 20:1-18	We know that Christ is raised	449
Apr 12	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6	Ps 118:1-2, 14-24	Col 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43	Matt 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18	Christ has arisen, alleluia	364
Apr 19	2 Easter	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1 Peter 1:3-9	John 20:19-31	Alleluia! Christ is arisen	375
Apr 26	3 Easter	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Ps 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1:17-23	Luke 24:13-35	Day of arising	374

HOLY WEEK THREE DAYS EASTER

Camp Kuriakos webpage: <https://kuriakos.ab.ca/>

Wow, how a few weeks have made a difference for our operations. As the whole world shifts to the new realities of social distancing, Kuriakos is no exception. The coming months will have their share of challenges for our community, but we are confident in our ability to recover together.

We ask for your prayers and support as we work toward a fantastic summer season. Please get in touch if you have any further questions or ideas for support for our ministry.

Kuriakos Gathers Together ONLINE

- Auction will run April 18-25
- **Online program will be the evening of April 25**
- We would appreciate donations of items or experiences for the auction.

Can't attend? Watch the recording after the event! Or, Celebrate with us at Thanksgiving 2020, or each week all summer. Please participate, if you can, as this is the camp's 90th Anniversary and major fundraiser.

Annual General Meeting

- **Meeting will be held online**, March 28, 2020

COVID-19 Response - <https://kuriakos.ab.ca/covid-19>

- This pandemic has resulted in some significant changes to events and rental usage
- We have moved upcoming events online, and have had numerous rental cancellations
- We are still hopeful for a life-changing summer season

Thank you for your continued support. Please let us know if we can offer any other information for your role. Spiritual connectedness is crucial to helping us all during these difficult days! Stay connected with your faith community and with Kuriakos during this time. As we know from Psalm 46, God is our refuge and strength. In times of uncertainty and anxiety, we know we can talk with one another and with God about our situations. We pray for God's work through each person to care for one another, pray for one another, and live in grace and peace each day.

The Kuriakos Team

MARCH 14, 2020 BY STACEY GLEDDIESMITH

A Prayer for Containment

When we are tempted to be fearful, teach us peace.

When we are tempted to hoard, teach us generosity.

When we want to look only to the wellbeing of our own family,
teach us to expand our care.

When we become overwhelmed and disengaged,
teach us to feel the pain of others.

When we are financially unstable, teach us to find ways to live smaller.

When we are disappointed, teach us joy in sacrifice.

When we are tempted to despair, teach us to remember that you are still God,
and that you are still good.

When we think we know it all, teach us to listen harder.
When we struggle to decide what to do in small ways,
teach us to pray for those in positions of authority.
When we are tempted to despise the actions of others,
teach us to see behind foolishness and negative behaviour to the hurt beneath.
When we respond to rising tension in haste and without consideration,
teach us patience.
When we are tempted to blame others, teach us to have grace
for decisions made in a time of fluctuating information and changing conditions.
When we are isolated,
teach us to find ways to connect—with you and with others.
When we feel bored, teach us to expand our creativity.
When we feel alone, teach us to ask for help.
When we feel strong, teach us to care for those who are not.
When we are tempted to despondency,
teach us to see all the varied goodness that surrounds us.
When we are tempted to be careless,
teach us to see each action we take as resonating in the lives of others.
When we feel we can do nothing, teach us how very wrong we are.
Above all this, teach us to love.
Now more than ever.

Amen.

How are you finding ways to reach out to your community despite “social distancing”? How are others reaching out to you? In what ways are you finding beauty, life, and creativity in a time of increasing anxiety? Feel free to leave a comment to encourage others!

Stewardship and Finance

As we are all aware of the current world COVID 19 pandemic and what it has meant to our daily activities, all church services including Sunday worship and Lenten services are canceled indefinitely. We all need to take this very seriously and make sure we listen to what the health officials are saying to protect ourselves and others around us.

Even though the church services are canceled, the church operating expenses do not stop, such as utilities, staff salaries etc. There are ways you can still financially support our church during this time. These ways include dropping your weekly/monthly offering off at the church as Darlene will be there working her normal hours or; there is also the option of setting up an automatic monthly deposit. Darlene has the forms to get started with this type of giving. Please prayerfully consider these options as we all get through these times.

Bill Hehn, Vice Chair

Faith Story by Teri Craven

Tonight, I want to talk about the idea of being called and how that concept has shaped my faith. To “be called” is one of those churchy phrases that we bandy about, but don’t always fully understand. We think about it mostly in terms of people who feel led to go to seminary and become pastors or missionaries. Ministry professionals. But I’ve come to understand the idea of being called as something much broader.

For those of you who know me, you may be aware that my family of origin and my childhood were not what most folks would call normal. In another time and place, my biological parents would have been considered gypsies. Always on the lookout for a better place to live, a better job, a better situation. I’ve lived in three provinces, three states, and three countries. We moved a lot! I’ve changed residences more than 60 times in

my life, most of those before my 21st birthday. We kept track of where we lived by how many Christmases, we celebrated in one place, or if we celebrated Christmas in that particular house at all.

But through all the moves, and changes of schools (11 schools from kindergarten to grade 12), there was a constant. God's call on my life, not that I always recognized it for what it was.

My biological parents weren't church going people. I was baptised at my grandparents' insistence when I was about a year and a half old. My grandparents were faithful people. My grandmother, in particular, took the time to teach me some basics. She taught me to say "This is the day the Lord has made" every morning. When I was 4, we moved far away from my grandparents, and those moments of faith teaching disappeared from my life.

When I was six years old, we lived in a small town in southern Alberta. The best I can recall, there were two churches in town, a Roman Catholic church and a United Church. At 6 years old, for reasons I didn't understand at the time, it became very important to me to start attending church. I would walk across town by myself to the United Church every Sunday morning, participate in Sunday School, and then walk home. It was my first experience being in a congregation and I loved it.

We moved a lot, and so my time at the United church was short lived. A couple of years later, we lived next door to a family who went to a Nazarene church. Their set up was a little different from the United Church I had attended, doing Sunday School before worship. To facilitate this, they sent school busses out to the smaller communities around the region to pick up kids. I remember loving those bus rides. The people at the Nazarene church taught me about Bible memorisation and some great songs.

Again, we moved. My parents separated and eventually divorced. Life got messy. Church faded from my life. But looking back I can still see God's action, God's call. I was fascinated by the Bible, particularly the Old Testament stories. When I was Audrey's age, I loved reading about Moses and Joshua.

Again, and again we moved. Custody agreements were formalized and then changed. I lived with my mom for a time, then my dad, and then back with my mom. It wasn't until my mom and I moved to British Columbia that church became a part of my life again. My mom gained an interest in faith, and we joined a Lutheran congregation. I was 14 when I started attending confirmation classes, a little older than the others in my class. But it was like I found my place, my anchor.

It was in those classes, my time in youth group, and teaching Sunday School and VBS that I began to get an inkling that God had some plans for me. I began to feel that I was supposed to do something in ministry. One pastor we had strongly encouraged me to consider the old Lutheran deaconess program. Our youth director was biased toward youth ministry. Another pastor we had said that he thought youth ministry was a good start, but that really, I should consider going to seminary. Throw into the mix that my grandparents were very old school, and didn't think that as a woman I had a place in professional ministry. To say that I was overwhelmed with opinions about what I was being called to do would be an understatement. Ultimately, I decided to listen to my heart, to what passions God had placed there... and I went to a small Lutheran Bible college outside Seattle to study Youth & Family Ministry and Children's Ministry. It was a wonderful, challenging, life-changing, faith-shaping four years.

And it was in that time in Bible college that I began to understand a bit about what it means to be called by God.

Understanding what God is calling you to do requires some self-awareness. What gifts and abilities do I have? What am I passionate about? What gets me excited? How can God use those gifts and abilities and passions to have an impact on this world? To share God's Word, to plant seeds that can be watered by God's Spirit?

And being called also requires some openness to change.

My time in professional ministry was relatively short. I was a youth director for only 4 years. When I left professional ministry, I felt like a failure. I wasn't using my education, I wasn't working in the church, I wasn't working with children or teens. I was certain I had failed God and what I had been called to do. But God had some things to teach me. Instead of professional ministry, I was taking care of my foster mom as she went through cancer treatments. Instead, I was matched online with the wonderful man who would become my husband. And over time, I began to understand that my calling was changing. My passions, what I dreamed of, and what excited me changed. I wanted to be a mom. The road to getting to be a mom wasn't easy, and there were many times along the way when I wasn't sure that what I wanted was what God had planned for me.

Now that I'm firmly in the middle part of my life, I still wonder about God's call on my life. What excites me? What am I passionate about? Those are easy to list... I love my family. I love cooking and teaching others to cook. I'm passionate about writing. I love leading our confirmation classes.

In confirmation, we talk a lot about living out our faith in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. Can we be called to be a Christ-centered auto mechanic? Can we be called to be a Christ-centered medical professional? Software engineer? Pastor? Musician? Parent? Burger flipper at a fast food restaurant? The answer is a resounding yes! We can be called by God into any industry, any profession... whatever gets us excited, our passions flowing, fulfills us.

Being called by God isn't a one and done situation. It can and should change over time. Whatever you're called to, I hope you listen. I pray you stay open. I pray I stay open to what God has in store.

Our Church Council

Executive:

Chair	Annette Suominen
Vice-Chair	Bill Hehn
Treasurer	Paul Erlandson
Secretary	Renate Scheelar

Committees:

Worship	Bill Hehn
Learning	Ron Kunz
Witness (Evangelism)	Barbaranne Stickelmier
Service (Social Ministry)	Jeanette Page
Stewardship & Finance	Greg Krauss
Youth	vacant
Mutual Ministry	Ron Bjorge
Property Management	Chris Knelson

Financial Recording Secretary:

Dallas Craven

**Newsletter items due April 20th for the May Newsletter.*

Financial Update to February 29, 2020

As at February 29th our bank balance is \$51,869.20. We also hold \$24,003.50 in money market. We did not run a deficit in February but we didn't meet our planned giving as shown on the chart below. Our monthly expenses continue to be met (but they were far below average this month) and we hope to have increased activity as the year progresses. Thank you for your continued support in prayer, time, talent and finances in these challenging times.

Income

Facility Rental	1,450	
Designated Offerings	975	
Envelope	28,012	
Loose & miscellaneous	185	
TOTAL		\$ 30,762

Expenses

Learning	479	
Mutual Ministry	14,584	
Service		
Witness and Evangelism	43	
Property	6,116	
Stewardship and Finance		
Benevolence	3,200	
Designated	685	
Office	1,101	
Worship	450	
TOTAL		\$ 27,136
Income less Expense		\$ 3,626

