

# ***Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd***

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Interim Pastors: Rev. Darryl Roste & Rev. Rita Roste

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Parish Administrator: Darlene Kneller [goodshep@telusplanet.net](mailto:goodshep@telusplanet.net)

Music and Worship Director: Nadine Harshenin [gsmusic@telus.net](mailto:gsmusic@telus.net)

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-noon; Thursday 1-3pm

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

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**February 2020**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 36 No. 01**

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### ***FROM OUR PASTOR'S - Rev. Rita Roste and Rev. Darryl Roste***

The season of Epiphany directly follows the Christmas season. To mark the transition, here's a litany called "*The Work of Christmas*"

When the song of the angels is stilled;  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home;  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks;  
Then the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost; to heal the broken;  
to feed the hungry; to release the prisoner;  
to rebuild the nations;  
to bring peace among the people;  
and to make music in the heart.

- Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader

Jesus is attributed with healing and with restoring life to those considered dead, but the real work which he did was to restore hope to people who often had none. Thurman's poem lists the real "work" of Christmas – the work which Jesus did in his physical life on this earth – and the work which continues to be done in his name through his followers: to find the lost – the invisible, the marginalized, those with no status or "family"; to heal the broken – those who have lost homes, families, their way of life; to feed the hungry – those whose hunger is physical as well as those who hunger for knowledge, purpose, and love; to release the prisoner; rebuild the nations; bring peace; and make music in hearts. The list can be daunting.

Yet Jesus models the way for us: to honour the lives of those around us and to see each person we meet as having value in this world. At times the church has failed in this work, and the harm caused by our failures has been grievous. Perhaps that is why this season of Epiphany lands at the beginning of the year. The New Year offers us opportunities to do the work of God in our world today – new ways to do the "work of Christmas".

Imagine a world where each person engages in the work of Christmas: healing, feeding, releasing, bringing peace, and making music. It's the world Howard Thurman imagined in his poem and worked for with his life. It's the world Jesus believed in and worked for with his life. It's the world we might find if we also are willing to work for it with our lives. Perhaps we may find inspiration for our lives in this poem.

### **Adult Forum**

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd is privileged to welcome and host Pastor Carla Blakley, Director of Community and Donor Relations, from Canadian Lutheran World Relief. On Sunday, Feb. 2, Pastor Carla will be visiting us and sharing the work of CLWR. She will lead an Adult Forum with a power point presentation at 9:30 AM and also bring the message during the worship service. This is a great learning opportunity you will not want to miss. Pastor Carla is a warm, engaging person and a compelling speaker.

## **From Bishop Larry**



Dear Beloved of God –

Since being called to serve as your bishop, October 2012, my prayer has often been the following: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forward with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

One of the reasons I love this prayer is because it is realistic but encouraging, honest but hopeful. It doesn't deny difficult truths, but neither does it succumb to sterile pessimism. It was written in the first part of the twentieth century by a Church of England priest named Eric Milner-White. Like many good prayers from another time and place, it sounds like it was tailor made for us here and now.

O God, you have called your servants.... I have seen so many signs of hope in these few years of serving as your bishop, not just in projects and initiatives and ideas, but in our people: • in the faithful and dedicated rostered ministers, who are a gift to us all; • in the diligent and committed staff and officers of the Synod, who it is a joy to work with on a daily and weekly basis, who love the Synod and serving it; • in the lay leaders of this Synod, serving in various and multitude capacities; • in the faithful people who hold no particular office or position, but who form the faithful backbone, week after week, that is the body of Christ in the ABT Synod.

You are all not only living, breathing signs of hope, but you also have my profound thanks for all that you do, and it is my privilege to serve with and among you.

A complete two-page report for Congregational Annual General Meetings, together with our Synod's 2020 Narrative Budget is available at: <https://albertasynod.ca/2019/12/2020-abtsynod-agm-letter-and-narrative-budget/>

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**

As I am writing this it is the last few days of a seemingly very long cold spell we had to live through. Everyone has probably had to deal with some cold issues – whether dead car batteries, frozen cattle waterers, furnaces having a hard time to keep the temperature in the house up, pets that cannot handle the cold. As one of my dairy customers put it – this weather shows you where the weak links of the operation are. My heart goes out to our local homeless population as they have to try so much harder to find a warm spot. Thanks to the Mustard Seed and similar organizations. It looks like next week will be better and we will likely consider -10-degree weather tropical after the cold we endured. It is all relative is it not? This weather makes me feel grateful for the comfort and plenty we have to be able to live a relatively normal life during the midst of winter.

Time flies when you are having fun and it is hard to believe it has already been nearly three years that I have been on church council looking after the Worship Committee. I have to admit that I am looking forward to having a full-time pastor again with less need for filling vacant Sundays. But let's not get ahead of ourselves here. For the month of February, the following Sunday Worship

schedule is lined up: February 2<sup>nd</sup> Pastors Roste will be presiding and Carla Blakely from Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) will bring us some insight into what it is the CLWR does. February 9<sup>th</sup> Pastor Art Weiss from Camp Kuriakos will be back to preach and preside for us. On both, Sundays February 16<sup>th</sup> and March 1st Pastor Dave Larsen will preside and Rev. Don Stoesz will preach and I am looking forward to the lessons already. February 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have Pastor Mabel Woo preside for us with Rev. Don Stoesz preaching his third Sunday in a row. February 26<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday and there is a 7 pm service at the St. Leonard's Anglican Church. Thanks so much to all who help out.

During the Lenten period, the Wednesday evening Holden services after soup & bun services will be held at Good Shepherd on starting on March 4<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow, but be sure to watch for the sign-up sheets for the soups for anyone who would like to contribute to the delicious meals.

As I was pondering in previous Newsletters, I was hoping to set up an usher training session – here is what I came up with so far. Anyone interested in learning/refreshing what is involved in the usher volunteer job will hopefully be able to meet **after Church on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at around 12:15 PM. If everyone brings a lunch, we can all have that and then go over what the job entails. There have been a few suggestions and recommendations brought forward to me that I would like to make sure everyone is on the same page. Please help spread the word to any volunteers.

Any input to help improve the area of the worship committee is appreciated – call me at 587 877 5378 whenever you have an idea.  
Annette Suominen

### **Notes from Nadine**

(Song) 'God sees the little sparrow fall,  
It meets His tender view.  
If God so loves the little birds, I know he loves me too!'

(Traditional; Kevin Prosch, arr. 1991)  
'He brought me to His banqueting table (echo),  
He brought me to His banqueting table (echo),  
And His banner\_\_ over me\_\_ is LOVE.'

'I am my Beloved's and He is mine (echo)..'



We heard beautiful, heart-warming messages from Pastor Prema Samuel and Pastor Art Weiss in January about how we are God's beloved children. Just as a crumpled, trampled \$20 bill is still worth the same as a smooth one, and as Jesus was called by God at His baptism: 'This is my BELOVED Son' - so WE are of unimaginable worth and value to God, whatever we have been through, and however we 'look' on the outside.

God our Father has unique gifts, opportunities and purposes for each of us. In His unlimited creative love for humankind, He will use us to change the world. We are His mirror; we reflect His light to others, as we ourselves draw near, and experience Him for ourselves. We are SO loved by God, who desires our companionship - and TRUST, as we walk daily with Him.

Pastor Darryl encouraged us recently to seek God's unique identity for us as a church 'body' / family. What is it in us TOGETHER that will bless those seeking meaning and purpose for their lives? -- including those who have been with us for a long time? Which aspects of God's love and grace show especially through OUR church family that will encourage many to 'Come and see' who Jesus really is? Let's seek those answers.

'I want to walk as a child of the Light...'

'Jesus, hope of the nations; Jesus, comfort for all who mourn.' (B. Doerksen)

God's rich blessings on each of you in Jesus' Name! .. as we wait patiently for Spring, and through the Lenten season of searching, listening and expectancy.

Blessings,  
Nadine, Worship and Music Director

### **Quilting Group**

We will be quilting, here at the church, on

Friday, Feb. 21, 10am – 3 pm & Sat., Feb. 22, 10am to approx. 3pm

Friday, Mar. 20, 10am – 3 pm & Sat., Mar. 21, 10am to approx. 3pm

If you plan on coming, coffee and fellowship is supplied but bring a bag lunch. **Drop in for an hour or for the whole day. Everyone is welcome!!!**

### **GSLW**

A huge thank you to all who helped with hosting the lunch after Jim Williams Memorial Service.

### **Wednesday Evening Ladies Bible Study**

We are continuing the study of Women of the Bible. We have just started a new set of women starting at the very beginning of scripture. Our next study focuses on Hannah. We are a friendly casual group so come join us. This study will be at Linda Bjorge's, 35 Ansett Cres., Red Deer on Wednesday, February 5th at 7:00 pm. Should you need the study resource, please contact Darlene Kneller 403-343-1983.

### **Witness & Evangelism Committee**

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.....if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is perfected in us. *John 1 3:18, 4:12*

Never a dull moment in Alberta when it comes to weather. Even though I grumble, I am always grateful for the warmth of my working furnace, hot water tank and a car that starts. Spring will be here sooner than we know.

Greet, Eat and Meet, Bentley and Innisfail congregations will be joining us here in our basement, Saturday February 1 at 6pm. Bring your favorite dish for Potluck and get to know our other congregations.

We will again be hosting Holden/Soup and a Bun Services in March. Its time to get your favorite soup recipes together. Dates are March 4 ,11, 18,25 and April 1. Sign up sheet will be posted in the narthex.

Barbaranne, Chairperson

### **Learning Committee**

As I now have finished my time on council, (this time for sure), I need to pass the torch on the Learning portfolio.

Mark 6.34: "As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things."

If you are creative and love adventure, the Learning portfolio is for you. The primary focus is children's ministry, arranging curriculum and teachers for a year of learning about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It's not just about adults teaching children, but the children can teach us so much about being children of God. Another aspect is working with our Anglican brothers and sisters to coordinate the summer Vacation Bible School. Excitement is the word that best describes the atmosphere that is created to introduce many young people to God's love.

Another area of learning, if resources permit, is adult education; working with the pastor on learning opportunities such as Adult forum. If required, helping the youth committee find a suitable curriculum for Sunday mornings also falls under this portfolio.

For myself, the Learning portfolio has always been a source of great fulfillment, not only providing a chance to teach others, but to teach myself.

One of my favorite quotes is "Develop a passion for learning; if you do, you will never cease to grow." (Anthony D'Angelo)

Glen Kneller, Learning Committee

Mark your calendars!!! **Saturday, Feb 1 @ 6pm** Good Shepherd basement. Greet, Eat and Meet. Innisfail, Bentley and Red Deer congregations will be sharing a **potluck** as part of the collaborative partnership. This is an informal chance for our three congregations to connect and get to know each other better. Hope to see you all there.

Glen Kneller, Area Ministry Team

Many thanks for all the donations of glasses for third world countries. In record breaking numbers, 24 pairs of glasses, 12 pairs of sun glasses, 4 clip on sun glasses, and 16 glass cases were delivered to optometrist Dr. Leinweber. All donated glasses will be shipped to Jamaica. Ed Primas

## **Service (Social) Committee**

### **CNOY Coldest Night of the Year**

We have received an invitation to **join The Mustard Seed on Saturday, February 22 for Coldest Night of the Year 2020** and briefly share the experience many vulnerable men and women experience every day without a home. When we walk together and raise support, we can put empathy and compassion to work in a tangible way! Their goal is to raise \$22,000 to fund employment, housing, and wellness programs, as well as providing warm meals and a safe space for healing and hope for thousands of Red Deerians living on the margins. You can register as an individual or create a team of friends, family, coworkers or members of Good Shepherd, and walk to support the work of The Mustard Seed in Red Deer. Joanne Burkin is captain of one team of ten walkers including Christine Mayan and Jordyn, Christine's sisters and their children. Speak to one of them if you would like to support their team.

#### **Ways to get involved:**

- Register a team or join as an individual (Children 10 and under are free)
- Volunteer

**Date:** Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (Dinner included)

**Location:** The Mustard Seed, 6002 54 Ave, Red Deer

Follow on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to see how they are preparing for #CNOY2020!

**Go to [cnoy.org](http://cnoy.org) to register or volunteer.**

**Questions?** Contact Laura Unruh at 403-347-1844 or via email at [LauraUnruh@theseed.ca](mailto:LauraUnruh@theseed.ca)

#### **What does the Blanket Exercise look like?**

The **KAIROS Blanket Exercise** is a workshop that explores the nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. **Blankets** are arranged on the floor to represent a map of North America. Participants take off their shoes before taking a place to stand on the blankets (there is never a time to sit on the floor) — each blanket represents a territory of the estimated 20 million Indigenous people who occupied this land before European contact. Participants are invited to step into the roles of First Nations, Inuit and later Métis peoples using an interactive script. As land is taken, as disease spreads, as government policies targeted at assimilation gain momentum, participants are forced off their blankets and return to their seats — until what remains is a shadow of the once thriving civilization, diverse in language, culture, and customs. Find several great short descriptive videos at [kairoscanada.org>the-blanket-exercise-video](http://kairoscanada.org>the-blanket-exercise-video).

The workshop helps people to understand how the colonization of this land impacts those who were here long before settlers arrived. It engages people's minds and hearts in understanding why the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples is often broken and how we can take action together. It helps us to move forward in our progress towards accepting the truth and the long road towards reconciliation.

If enough interest is shown it may be possible to arrange the **Blanket Exercise** in a session here at Good Shepherd in spring. Please speak to me and/or put your name on the list available on the Service-Social Ministry bulletin board near the office if you would be a participant in the **Blanket Exercise** offered at Good Shepherd (likely a weekend 2-3 hour session). Call Jeanette Page 403-302-2468

**How about a new focus for your Lenten challenge?** The following is taken from the Dec. 2019 issue of *Canada Lutheran*. "ELCIC members are encouraged to reduce their reliance on single-use plastic products and embrace the "ongoing call to be mindful Stewards of Creation and to seek a healthy relationship with the earth." (2019 National Convention Motion) Some of the several resources listed to assist in this initiative are: **Lent Plastic Challenge** - [www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-03/Plastic\\_Free\\_Lent\\_2019.pdf](http://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-03/Plastic_Free_Lent_2019.pdf) **15 Ways to reduce plastic use** – <https://4ocean.com/blogs/blog/15-ways-to-reduce-your-plastic-use> **100 steps to a plastic free life** – <https://myplasticfreelife.com/plasticfreeguide/>

"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for the one who loves others has fulfilled the law. Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law." – Romans 13: 8, 10 (NIV)

**Service-Social Ministry      Jeanette Page      403-782-3205, cell 403-302-2468**

### **From the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

During the joint service on January 20th the attendees were asked: **"To whom could I show unusual kindness?"** The following suggestions were given in response to this question:

- For a specific person I know – a family member or close friend
- Some named a person and said a little bit why: "a neighbour with terminal cancer," "my husband and those who are suffering or living with dementia," "the ones I feel anger towards"
- Others identified general categories of people: lonely, shut-in, homeless, refugees, those with mental illness/depression, new Canadians,
- Others named organizations through whom they could show kindness: Habitat for Humanity, Pregnancy Care Centre
- Others named specific actions:
  - o Have a conversation with a homeless person on the street
  - o Sponsor a child from India
  - o To help at least one refugee and the Centre (CARE?)
  - o Take time to listen carefully, enthusiastically, to those having emergencies. In my work it becomes so normal, but to people with an emergency, its not "normal" to them.
  - o To explore and become an ESL tutor/volunteer
  - o Send messages of God's hope, healing and forgiven to those in prison (pen pal)
  - o Socks to Turning Point (Mustard Seed, Youth Volunteer Center) every month
  - o Help our refugee families in their effort to come to Canada
  - o Make items for the Australian wildlife relief

We can see that the opportunities are unlimited. What would be your answer be?



***Bits & Pieces from the office.....***

***\*\*Mark your calendar and plan to attend our Congregational Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 8rd. Immediately following worship our Council will provide a light lunch. Your freewill offering for your lunch will be given to Lutheran World Relief.***

We are in need of phone callers for the months of July and December. Contact the office if you are willing to take one of these months.

**Shrove Tuesday pancake supper** will be at St. Leonard's on **February 25<sup>th</sup>**. See Poster.



**Ash Wednesday is February 26<sup>th</sup>**. The service is at 7pm at St. Leonard's Anglican church.

Good Shepherd will once again be hosting **'soup and a bun'** and the **Holden Evening prayer** service each Wednesday during Lent until the week leading up to Easter Sunday.

Thanks to Shane for installing a change table in the downstairs ladies' washroom. Shane Cornelius does our weekly maintenance and upkeep of the church inside and out. If you encounter any maintenance problems at the church please call Shane at 403-506-5605.



**Financial Secretary**

***in the spring, a young heart turns to thoughts of love...old hearts...taxes.***

More to the point, where did all that money I made last year go, and how can I increase my tax deductions? Now is the time to review your charitable donations and maximize your giving. It's always hard to remember that envelope every week, yet a little every week adds up to a lot at the end of the year. An easy solution is to go with Direct Deposit for your offering. It's quick, easy and makes tax time a little easier.

Direct Deposit benefits Good Shepherd in many ways:

- Allows us to prepare a more accurate budget.
- Guarantees monthly incoming revenue.
- Saves money spent on envelopes.
- Saves time for our volunteer tellers counting offering.



Direct Deposit benefits the donor in many ways:

- Ensures your offering is received, even when you're away.
- Allows the church to focus time and energy into areas that more meet your needs.
- Guarantees you a larger tax break at the end of the year by keeping your giving consistent.
- Helps alleviate the stress of always having to remember to bring "that blasted envelope."

Please help keep Good Shepherd financially sound. Thank you for your donations in 2019.

Dallas Craven

### **Church Council**

As part of building up a “Memories Book” about the history of Good Shepherd, we look forward to accepting your pictures and/or stories. Many thanks to Don Nielsen who captured a bit of our history by submitting the following.

#### ***Memories of the “49ers”***

My late wife Eunice and I became members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in the year 2000. At this point I have been a member for 19 years. We came when the church was quite young and enjoyed seeing it grow into a vibrant place. Many groups formed over the years and it has been my pleasure to belong to many of these. One such Group was what we named “The 49ers”.

This was a group of seniors of various ages coming together once a month for fellowship and fun. At its peak there were likely 15 or a few more who met in the hospitality room. It was a relaxed and happy band, out to accomplish nothing but enjoying each other’s company in our beautiful church setting and being bonded in fellowship. Many in this group were widows and widowers, a source of support for them.

During the afternoon gathering we started with a time of devotions & prayer followed by a short Bible Study. That was followed by crazy fun table and card games. There were always sweets and treats to enjoy along with tea and coffee and a LOT of visiting. I think I remember that we

shared family events, the news of the day and has some serious solving of the world’s dilemmas, just as we do when gathered socially today. We enjoyed this group for some years.

The “49ers” hold forever memories of a time that I hold dear. It also calls to mind many special friends who shared these times together. I often think that it would be good to bring back such simple happy gatherings as this but we live in a very different society now and these days are past and gone, replaced with new interests and expectations.

For many of us, ever more senior now, these memories are sweet for at this stage of life “we are our memories!” Good Shepherd holds countless memories for me, ALL treasured through good and difficult times as we moved forward and continue to do so TOGETHER today.

Submitted by Don Nielsen

**Exciting News!** The congregation of Good Shepherd wishes to **congratulate Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry** on his appointment as the ninth President of Luther College, Regina, beginning July 1, 2020.

Luther College, established in 1913 is a two-campus educational institution that operates a historical independent high school accredited by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education and a post-secondary campus federated with the University of Regina. May Luther College continue to be blessed as a liberal arts and science and research institution along with its emphasis on community and service to the students through Pastor Marc’s leadership.

**Special Congregational Call meeting** planned for after service the **9<sup>th</sup> of Feb 2020**. Please plan to be in attendance for this most important meeting in our church's path moving forward.  
Respectfully submitted.  
Your Call Committee.

**Our Church Council**

**Executive:**

Chair	Mary Louise Merrick (term expires)
Vice-Chair	Bill Hehn
Treasurer	Paul Erlandson
Secretary	Renate Scheelar

**Committees:**

Worship	Annette Suominen (renewable)
Learning	Glen Kneller (expired)
Witness (Evangelism)	Barbaranne Stickelmier (expired)
Service (Social Ministry)	Jeanette Page
Stewardship & Finance	Bill Hehn
Youth	vacant
Mutual Ministry	Ron Bjorge (term expired)
Property Management	Chris Knelson

<b>Financial Recording Secretary:</b>	Dallas Craven
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# *Prayer of Peace St. Francis of Assisi*

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is error, the truth;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled, as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

-author unknown-

## Financial Update to Dec 31, 2019

As at December 31st our bank balance is \$48,244.21. We also hold \$24,000.00 in money market. Our giving was quite good in December but not enough to meet our giving budget for the year. We did not run a deficit per se but we were unable to cover needs on the horizon such as replenishing our reserve fund for building repairs. As we move toward finding a permanent full time Pastor, we see the need for increased financial commitment. Thank you for your continued support in prayer, time, talent and finances.

### Income

Facility Rental	5,560	
Designated Offerings	11,336	
Envelope	186,718	
Loose & miscellaneous	3,348	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 207,773</b>

### Expenses

Learning	1,370	
Mutual Ministry	121,559	
Service	2,112	
Witness and Evangelism	1,436	
Property	33,390	
Stewardship and Finance		
Benevolence	19,200	
Designated	11,366	
Office	5,890	
Worship	2,288	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 207,758</b>
<b>Income less Expense</b>		<b>\$ 15</b>

