

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

40 Holmes Street, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6L6

Office: (403)340-1022

Pastor as of August 1<sup>st</sup>: John Lentz

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

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

***Summer Office Hours: Effective June 22***

***Tuesday, Wednesday: 9am – 1 p.m.***

***Thursday: 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.***

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

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**July 2020**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 36 No. 06**

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### ***From Our Pastors* **IT IS IN YOUR HANDS****

Author Toni Morrison, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize winner for literature, told the following story: An old woman who was the child of slaves, black, American, lived alone. The old woman had the reputation of having the gift of being able see into the future and to read people's minds. One day the old woman was visited by some young people who were bent on exposing her as a fraud. They entered her house and asked a taunting question. "*Old woman,*" one of them said, "*I hold in my hands a bird. Tell me whether it is living or dead.*"

She did not answer. In her blindness she was unable to see her visitors, nor what one of them held in his hands. She only knew their motive. After a long silence that made her visitors edgy and confused, she finally spoke, "*I don't know whether the bird you are holding is dead or alive, but what I do know is that it is in your hands. It is in your hands.*"

Toni Morrison commented: "*Her answer can be taken to mean: If it is dead, you have either found it that way or you have killed it. If it is alive you can still kill it. Whether it is to stay alive, it is your decision. Whatever the case, it is your responsibility.*" **IT IS IN YOUR HANDS.**

Perhaps the bird represents the well-being, the future life and vitality of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Whether the congregation and area ministry return to in person worship, or whether it will continue to offer videos of the worship services, or some combination of the two, remains yet to be seen. The future of this congregation is up to the members and supporters of the congregation. It is in no small degree strongly in your hands. Covid19 will be with us for some time, the Interim pastors are leaving, and a new Pastor will come in August. The change-over of pastors in the past three years demonstrates the reality that pastors come and go. The life and spiritual health of this community of faith is in your hands. The changes brought about by Covid19 will likely mean that we will be called to work harder, pray more, give generously, and be more intentional about inviting others to worship and fellowship, in order that the church will grow in faith and knowledge of God. If we are open to such effort and involvement, and with God's help

we dedicate ourselves to the task of being all the things God wants the church to be, this church will have a promising future. Whatever the case, it is in your hands.

**From Synod Office**



Dear Beloved of God –

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

I am writing to a future that is uncertain and unknown, to a situation that is changing not by the month, week, day, or even by the hour, but literally minute by minute, with the certainty that nothing will be the same again. Our church and our world will be very different for all of us on the other side of this coronavirus wilderness.

In many ways, this tragic time has accelerated the movement of the church into profoundly adaptive changes and challenges. And we need to address these challenges in order to be vital communities of witness to Jesus in the 21st century.

There are new opportunities and possibilities before us, including recommitting to a missional model of listening, discerning, experimenting, reflecting, and learning. And, all the while, to keep asking the questions: where is God in our neighborhood? Our community? Our world? And equally importantly: how might we join God in God's mission?

Dear Church, I continue to wonder, to reflect, to pray:

- What is God calling us to be and do in the time ahead? What is God's purpose for us – what is God's mission through us – moving forward?
- What have we learned during the last few months about what is most important in our life together as the body of Christ? And how can we use that knowledge to shape how we will live, work, and serve together? What might we bring into the future from this experience?
  - What new skills have we picked up? What other skills and gifts will we need to embrace a new future?
  - How might our theological, denominational, and biblical perspectives and traditions inform how we move forward?
  - What were the things that seemed so important before the coronavirus crisis that we might give less attention to, or let go of altogether?

Dear Church, I wonder, reflect, pray: Our life together as the body of Christ, in service to our neighbours and all of creation, is going to be very different moving forward. Be humble and gentle with one another. Honor each other. Make space for lament. Welcome moments of joy. Help each other live into hope. Learn from this journey through the coronavirus wilderness and let the learning lead you forward. Trust that God is at work in this time and look for the new things God is doing even now.

Thank you for your witness to patient trust in God and to sacrificial, cruciform love for your neighbours. And know that God is with you and even now is planning and nourishing seeds of resurrection life.

*“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*

In Christ Jesus – Shalom,  
+Larry

### **Worship Committee**

Although we cannot meet in person, we can join together in spirit by watching the on-line videos at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJBq3reFTupyzn5oS-kCgow>

Filling in for the month of July: Pastor Don Stoesz July 5 & 12; and Pastor Marty Tuer July 19 & 26. Thank you to our guest pastors for serving our congregation.

Bill Hehn, Worship Committee Representative on Council

### **Notes from Nadine**



Facebook is such an interesting phenomenon. I finally got on it about a month ago, and life has changed for me in certain ways because of it!

For awhile, it was almost too much – I was overwhelmed to be suddenly touching base with friends from other places I had lost touch with almost decades ago. Or some that go back to my childhood school days! My mind was in a whirl many times, hearing about them, their (now grown) families, issues, celebrations, etc. I had hoped mainly to be able to connect more with family, which is far-flung, and that has certainly been a big bonus!

Some of you share comments almost daily, and I'm grateful to be privy/ 'in on' that sharing. To me, to see the support of others when things are hard – even in brief comments back and images – is uplifting. And comments that flow freely in mutual celebration (like for our dear Grade 12 grads, for example) affirm as best we can these days the significance of individuals, and their life journeys!

This is part of our current 'fellowshipping' and our praise when we are thankful. It's kind of cool how we can still experience 'beauty for ashes', when we get through hard times 'with a little help from our friends' on FB, and then share the beauty of our gardens, scenic photos of last year, etc. – remembering how uplifting loveliness can be.

'The oil of joy for mourning' comes with joy in celebrating events, milestones, birthdays, anniversaries, Mothers/ Fathers' Day, 'how the kids have grown' – and stayed healthy! – from start of school to now, end of school year, etc.

And 'a garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness' becomes ours through thankfulness – through all and anything we can thank God for, and thanking others. He is with us! It's beautiful that in

these ways, we 'bear each others' burdens', and find ourselves uplifted.

Well, I'm glad I got on Facebook! Another avenue to apply praise, and prayer, thankfulness, shared sorrows and joys, and encouragement and other things.

Blessings and love, Nadine

### **Learning Committee**

I am learning about video editing program "Filmora 9". It is quite a process on how to get the footage from our video taping on Thursdays onto the computer, editing, and uploading to YouTube. This is to give Glen Kneller a break when he needs it. I have some experience in video editing from teaching it years ago.

Ron Kunz

### **Service-Social Ministry**

#### **Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre**

Last Thursday all items in the cradle in the narthex at the church were packed up and taken to the Pregnancy Care Centre where they were gratefully received on behalf of their clients. If conditions permit we will begin this project again next year. Thanks to Linda Howell for the use of her cradle and to everyone who was able to make a donation to the cradle or baby bottle campaign at CAPCC.

Thank you so much for doing your part to help those in need.

#### **Book idea / recommendation**    *When Days Are Long* by Amy Wilson

When Amy Wilson accepted the job of field nurse for the Indigenous Peoples in the Yukon and Northern British Columbia in 1949, she was told that the north was a fine country for men and dogs but that it killed women and horses. Undaunted, Wilson travelled the Alaska Highway from Whitehorse (Mile 916) to Mile Zero. She served Indigenous Peoples in tents, shacks and on the trapline, travelling by dog team, car, plane and boat. She was responsible for the health of 3,000 Indigenous Peoples, but Wilson was more than just a health care provider: over time, she became an advocate, partner and friend for the community with whom she shared mutual respect, music, medicine, tea from tobacco tins and, most of all, with whom she shared her heart. The book includes an introduction by Laurel Deedrick-Mayne (formerly of Lacombe, now of Edmonton), Amy Wilson's grand-niece.

What good books have you been reading? Please contact me with book titles in any genre and on any subject that you would like to recommend to others and I will pass them along in next month's newsletter.

**A very big THANK YOU** to our faithful and dedicated Good Shepherd Prayer Chain members and to everyone in our congregation who continue to lift family members, friends, neighbours and all those in need of prayer during this unusual and difficult time. **Thanks Be To God** for hearing and answering prayers.

"I call upon you, for you will answer me; incline your ear to me, hear my words." **Psalm 17:6**  
**(NRSV)**

**June is National Indigenous Month**

**Prayer of a white settler on National Indigenous Peoples Day 2020 (as sent from KAIROS)**

from Shannon Neufeldt

**Creator God,**

I come to you with a humble heart,  
So grateful for Your creation,  
this place I am in.

The land is full of Your glory this solstice day.  
Sunlight sparkles on fresh green leaves.  
Bees buzz as trees burst into bloom.

Even as dew collects on dandelion leaves,  
Or raindrops gather in boiling thunderclouds,  
A morning sip of lifegiving water deepens my gratitude  
for the life that teams across Turtle Island.

**O Creator, perfect Host,**

Your care and compassion were, and are,  
echoed in the generous hospitality  
of the original peoples - Indigenous peoples.

But the reciprocal relationships of host and guest  
have been shattered.

And the pain continues.

For the death and destruction, I pour out my sorrow in lamentations.

It is for the sins of my own heart that I seek forgiveness.

Cleanse me of the thoughts and emotions  
that keep those relationships from healing -  
wash away the toxic entitlement, prejudiced assumptions, defensive disinterest.

**O Creator, faithful Guide,**

Show me the path towards right relations,  
Shape not only my words and deeds,  
but even more, my reactions and thoughts.

Open my heart to the wonder, the beauty, the gifts  
of the person next to me,  
the protester on the news,  
the culture so different from my own.

Expose my racism,  
Root out my deep-seated fear of change,  
That I may be healed within,  
even as I try to be part of the healing of the healing of your world.

AMEN

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Page 430-782-3205, cell 403-302-2468

## **Camp Kuriakos News**

### **Kids + Youth**

Click [here](#) to watch a video and get to know your Summer Coordinators and learn a little more about what fun things are happening each week.

Click [here](#) to read more about the daily programs.

### **ONLINE Leaders in Training**

This leadership training course is designed for young leaders in your community. Join a fun and interactive program while learning key skills for personal growth. We will cover leadership topics relevant to both camp and home. To learn more about the LIT Program, please click [here](#).

**We're hosting a special program for adults of all ages! Our theme is "New Shape", based on Luke 5: 1-11.**



Jun 28	Lectionary 13 (Pent 4)	Jer 28:5-9	Ps 89:1-4, 15-18	Rom 6:12-23	Matt 10:40-42	All Are Welcome	641
Jul 5	Lectionary 14 (Pent 5)	Zech 9:9-12	Ps 145:8-14	Rom 7:15-25a	Matt 11:16-19, 25-30	Come, follow me, the Savior spake	799
Jul 12	Lectionary 15 (Pent 6)	Isa 55:10-13	Ps 65:[1-8] 9-13	Rom 8:1-11	Matt 13:1-9, 18-23	Almighty God, your word is cast	516
Jul 19	Lectionary 16 (Pent 7)	Isa 44:6-8 or Wis 12:13, 16-19	Ps 86:11-17	Rom 8:12-25	Matt 13:24-30, 36-43	Beloved, God's chosen	648
Jul 26	Lectionary 17 (Pent 8)	1 Kings 3:5-12	Ps 119:129-136	Rom 8:26-39	Matt 13:31-33, 44-52	God, when human bonds are broken	603
Aug 2	Lectionary 18 (Pent 9)	Isa 55:1-5	Ps 145:8-9, 14-21	Rom 9:1-5	Matt 14:13-21	Break now the bread of life	515



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

Church office summer hours are **Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** We tape our services at 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays. If you have questions or concerns, please call the church office and leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

E-transfer is now available. Send E-transfer to [gsacctg@telus.net](mailto:gsacctg@telus.net)

Please use your last name and envelope number as your security answer. If you do not have or know your envelope number, please just use your last name. Any questions, call the church office at 403-340-1022.

If your information has changed or if you are not currently included in our church phone book but would like to be in our next update the **end of August**, please contact the office. Please note that this directory is compiled for the convenient use of our congregation. Some of the phone numbers included are otherwise unlisted numbers and are not meant for use outside of church activities. Thank You!

Hear are some thoughts from the Pastors Roste from last summer that are as appropriate, if not more appropriate, this year as we cope with a Covid-19 reality.

**Enjoy the Night Air with Family** On a clear night, take dessert outside after dark. Turn off all the electronic devices, take some lawn chairs and watch the stars – the Milky Way or certain constellations; sit quietly listening to the crickets, or watch the fireflies flitting through the darkness. What a perfect time to talk together about the wonders of the universe that God created! Perhaps name together some of the best things that happened in the week past.

**Take Time to Smell the Flowers** Are you spending time alone this summer? Perhaps take time to get outdoors. If no yard, find a park or green space near you where you can center your heart on being God's beloved. We can experience lots of joy just observing God's creation! Perhaps it can help us also to sense God's presence. Journaling or reading can be relaxing, or pick up an old favorite book or a new one.

Darlene

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. Shane also maintains our yard property.



### **Faith Story from Ron Kunz**

My name is Ron Kunz and I am new on church council this year. Here is a little bit about me.

I grew up in Edmonton attending Trinity Lutheran Church until I got married to Mim, and moved to Lacombe 32 years ago. I am a retired Industrial Education teacher, and enjoyed my career teaching woodworking, metalworking, math and science. We raised our three children; Murray, Naomi, and Tom in Lacombe.

We went to Mulhurst for family camp, my family would go every couple of years and when I was in my early teens the camp got a new guy working out there. He was the assistant director, or program director or something like that. I could see that there was something different about him and the other people working out camp, and it must have made quite an impression on me. I could hear how he talked about his faith.

A couple of years later the director called me up and asked if I would work as a camp counsellor that summer as he was short one male staff. I said sure. During that time and for a number of summers that followed I worked at camp. I met people who loved the Lord and being in Christian community. I can see that God put people in my life to help me see him in every day things. I learned many things at camp that helped me to lead a group. Later when I was in college, I wound up helping run the youth group at Trinity, so thankfully I did get involved after all.

Certainly, there were times when I wondered why God allowed events like people, I cared about dying before what I thought was their time. Even now it's hard not to wonder why events work out the way they do sometimes. When my wife Mim and I were first married church was a contentious issue for us. We tried a couple of churches which were neither Lutheran or Mennonite. Looks like I fell in love with a Mennonite girl too.

I think my faith grew at that time, we were in a small group studying a Navigator's course; we did Bible verse memorization, and then talked about sharing our faith with others. So, in a way I started preparing this talk about 28 or 9 years ago. I do think small groups and/or bible study groups are a great thing, being able share, talk, and pray with other Christians in a smaller setting is something I hope to get back into again.

My parents and Mim's parents certainly exemplified a God centred life, and I realized that I wanted to be like them in those ways. Other people through my life were important mentors usually without knowing it. I was fortunate in my time working out at camp to have met so many pastors, and hearing what they said and how they said it seemed to be what I wanted to become.

How do I experience God in my life now? Well again I think it is community that we as Christians are looking for. I can say I experience God in the community like here, or out at camp, or in a beautiful stretch of water when I am fishing, or hearing someone singing or playing their instrument, and they hit that right set of notes at the right time just perfectly. I also experience God when I get great news usually related to a loved one's health.

As Lutherans we tend to express our faith quietly, which is okay by me, but I hope and pray that my words and actions especially as a teacher for all those years had good effect on the kids I taught.

In closing, I would say that being married to another Christian has made my path clearer, not necessarily easier. Having a partner who shares similar values and understanding for me has made a big difference. Being forgiven when I have wronged her, helped me have a better idea of how God has forgiven me and loves me.

## **A Message From Church Council**

The church council has approved a lawn Farewell Gathering for the Rostes on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. Come to the church at 10:30 a.m. with your lawn chairs and masks (where possible) and we will spread out our families on the front lawn at least 2 meters apart keeping with the Alberta Health Services requirements. There will be no food shared. You can bring your own drink.

Plan B - If inclement weather (wind or rain) we will do a drive-by with an opportunity to speak to the pastors from your car.

There will still be recorded video service for June 28<sup>th</sup> posted on YouTube and Facebook.

If you have a card you want to leave, there will be a basket available. If you don't think you can make this event, you may send a card or e-mail to the church and we will make sure the Rostes receive your well-wishes.

\*\*Cards and/or emails to the church office will be collected and given to the Rostes on their last day at the church.

### **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	Dallas Craven
Property Management	Vacant

**Financial Recording Secretary:** Dallas Craven

### **Stewardship and Finance**

Thank you for your continued financial support of Good Shepherd whether mailed in, dropped off or automated withdrawal. **NEW:** It is good to see that some of you have discovered and are using our **e-transfer**. Use [gsacctg@telus.net](mailto:gsacctg@telus.net) or even [goodshep@telusplanet.net](mailto:goodshep@telusplanet.net) Please set up your security question so the answer will be your last name and envelope number. Eg. Jones123 This can remain the same for all subsequent transfers. If you do not have or know your envelope number, please just use your last name. Any questions about the above ways to give, please contact the church office. Thank you for your continued faith in Good Shepherd.



*Rev. John Lentz and Mrs. Karen Lentz bid a fond farewell to Olds RCMP Sgt. Jim MacDonald and many other well-wishers who offered a surprise 30-vehicle parade outside the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Olds, April 30, to honour Rev. Lentz's last day at the church. Murray Elliott/MVP Staff*

**OLDS** — Pastor John Lentz, who has served St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Olds for 22 years, received a noisy, friendly sendoff on April 30, his last day of ministry in the community before he becomes a pastor in Red Deer this fall.

About 30 vehicles took part – including at least one RCMP cruiser -- Lentz has served as a detachment chaplain for years -- a bylaw officer and a couple of youth on bikes. Lots of horns and sirens were sounded as the vehicles drove by the church. Lentz and his wife Karen waved to all and exchanged some jokes and pleasantries.

Members of the congregation said something had to be done because a farewell party can't be held yet due to the need for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, they're hopeful some kind of farewell event can be held later.

Lentz starts his new job as pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Red Deer on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The full article can be found at: <https://www.mountainviewtoday.ca/olds-news/parade-gives-departing-olds-pastor-a-noisy-sendoff-2314984>

## **Financial Update to May 31, 2020**

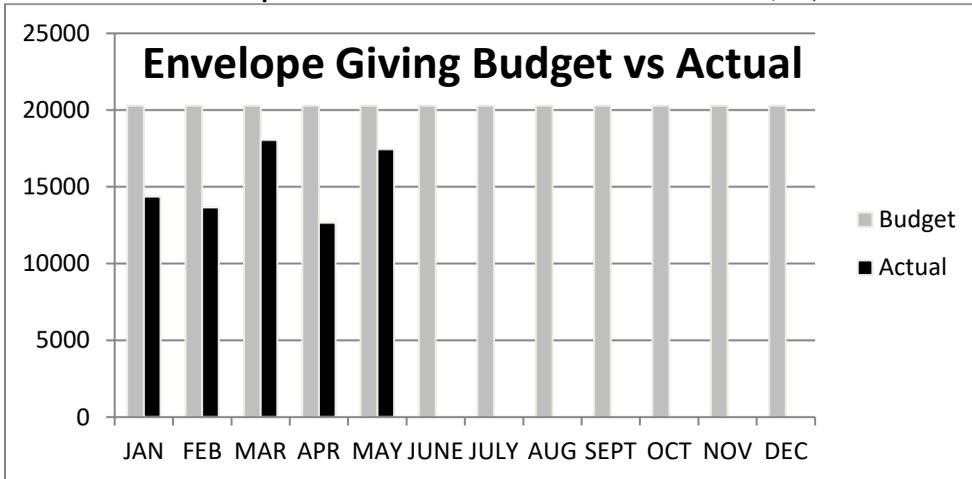
As at May 31st our bank balance is \$50,794.06. We also hold \$24,003.50 in money market. We ran a surplus in May and have an operating surplus year to date with the acknowledgement that we have somewhat lower operating expenses and haven't funded any reserves. We have seen positive results from our ability to receive e-transfers. Thank you for your continued support in prayer, time, talent and finances.

### **Income**

Facility Rental	1,500	
Designated Offerings	1,526	
Envelope	76,195	
Loose & miscellaneous	226	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 79,590</b>

### **Expenses**

Learning	479	
Mutual Ministry	41,630	
Service	475	
Witness and Evangelism	43	
Property	14,608	
Stewardship and Finance		
Benevolence	6,400	
Designated	1,276	
Office	2,648	
Insurance	6,446	
Worship	623	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 77,079</b>
<b>Income less Expense</b>		<b>\$ 2,511</b>





**Have a safe and restful summer!**