



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

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

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

March 2021

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37 No. 03

Just a reminder to everyone that if you or a loved one is hospitalized or wish a visit from Pastor John, please contact the Church office. Under Covid restrictions our pastor cannot visit the hospital or someone's home without an invitation. If you would like special prayer or to be included in the intercessory prayers, ask to speak to Pastor John.

Territorial Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we gather on Treaty Six territory to the North of the Red Deer River and Treaty Seven territory to the South of the Red Deer River. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit footsteps that have marked these lands for centuries and whose respectful stewardship have enabled us all to enjoy the riches of the Creator's blessings.

From Our Pastor's Desk for March



Lent is well underway. You know the old Shakespearian phrase, "...beware the ides of March." Well, the ides of March this year will mark the 1 year anniversary of our Synod's COVID shutdown. It is indeed, a terrible anniversary. What can we find that's a positive?

One of the characteristics of a life of faith is Hope. St. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians sites the three most important attributes of the Christian life and to "abide in", to "make yourself at home in". These are of course faith, hope and love (1 Corinthians 13:13). Now, Paul does say the greatest of these three is love, but let's not diminish the importance of hope, and hope is the forward looking character of our faith that that yearns for what is yet to come.

We hope all these COVID restrictions will end soon. We hope those vaccines will work well enough to keep the most vulnerable people, and ourselves, safe from the affects of this raging virus. We hope the variant forms of the virus will not take over. We HOPE to return to that "normal" lifestyle we had before. The truth is, however, that life will not be the way it was before. Here's why: we will have now had the "opportunity" to get reacquainted with hope. Hope is not about life as it was. Hope is always looking for something better than what it was, and may we keep heart and eyes open to see what that better thing is.

Our hope is in Christ, and the Lenten journey takes us along the road with Christ to the cross. This path of Christ looks dark with the cross's shadow always there. Christ of the cross is a lonely figure, a desperate figure, and a deathly figure. Yet, hope is there too. Christ foretells the cross,

and also the hope of resurrection. Hope is the light that will shine into darkness. Perhaps that's why we are so enthralled with a beautiful sunrise. Paul also writes that "hope does not disappoint".

As we move through March, yes, we'll pass that 1st anniversary of COVID isolation, but we'll have learned some positive things. At Good Shepherd we've been on a technological learning curve with more to come, (that you may just see in March!). May we also learn a thing or two about the core of our life in Christ, to learn that "hope" is a powerful tool of the Spirit.

Have a blessed Lent!
Pastor John

From Bishop Larry

Dear Beloved of God –

Recently the Annual Study Conference concluded. During the Conference, as is our Synod's long practice, I shared a Bishop's Time with those gathered...this year via ZOOM.



It's nearly been one year....COVID-19. It is incredible to note that a year has come and gone. Together we continue to seek to listen, discern and explore how we might support, encourage, and innovate for mission and ministry in a constantly changing context.

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, 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?

In this liminal time, we are seeking to wonder, reflect, pray, discern, imagining what wants to emerge, to be birthed:

What have we learned 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?

What relationships/collaborations/partnerships will we need to initiate or strengthen in the months ahead?

What were the things that seemed so important before the coronavirus crisis that we might give less attention to, or let go of altogether?

What is/are our greatest asset(s) now?

I believe...and what I am hearing across our Synod...is that we are discovering that we have the capacity to be more creative and flexible than we had imagined.

I believe...and what I am hearing across our Synod...is that we are discovering that we have the desire and willingness to work cooperatively, with innovation, and are learning together from our experiments, including our missteps.

I continue to be moved, impressed, and filled with gratitude during this coronavirus wilderness for rostered and lay leaders, congregations, specialized ministries, and our strengthening relationship across the synod and church. For pastoral support, connection, compassion and care offered. For creativity, ingenuity, openness, support, encouragement and trust-building.

Opportunities for imagining, experimenting, risk-taking, innovating, and learning abound in this time even in the midst of yes, anxiety and disorientation.

May our Lenten journey be one of deeper as we seek to be the Beloved of God.

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)

Notes from Nadine



Dear church family and friends,

How nice to experience some warmer weather this week! Hints and promises of spring to come, new growth, more time outside, are very welcome.

Many thanks to all those who have been stepping up to contribute to and organize music ministry and video services while I was in Austria with my elderly parents for December and January. Shelly, Pastor John and Karen, Darlene and Glen, Tom, Joanne, Gail Berg, Mim and Ron, brothers and sisters from Grace Bentley and St. Paul's Olds, young adults at Christmas Eve, all our singers, lectors, musicians, PowerPoint people, etc. and those who pray. Thank you, thank you - for keeping the home fires of worship at GS burning brightly!! My folks came back with me to live in our place near the church, and we are adjusting to many things, by God's grace. I thank you for your many prayers for each of us. God hears, and has done many miracles for us!

Philippians 4:5 says that 'The Lord is near'. And from the very beginnings of Scripture we hear this. God having fellowship with Adam and Eve in the Garden. "He is not far from any one of us", Paul says to Greeks in Acts, encouraging them to seek the One Who sees us and knows us. Our cause for rejoicing this Lenten season, is that through the course of Jesus' many dark days and nights leading up to his final sacrifice on the cross, He who was/is closest to God tore through all the barriers that could ever hinder us from coming boldly into God's presence.

We bring the sacrifice of praise, as we journey daily with humility, awe, penitence and gratitude, appreciating more the depths of His love that spared no expense - for us.

Prayers, blessings and love to each of you this Lenten season,
Nadine

Ladies Wednesday Evening Bible Study

The Bible study will resume when the province opens in person gatherings to 20 persons.

Please pray for those in our congregation **who are sick, recovering from surgery, taking care of others, dealing with COVID, or grieving over losses.**

Service (Social) Committee

After the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, March 14, there will be a new chairperson of the Service Ministry committee on church council. It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve in this capacity for the past three years. I give thanks to God for the opportunity, thanks to my fellow council members, committee members, Darlene Kneller for her ever-ready help and everyone at Good Shepherd for showing interest and support in the work we have been doing in our community. During the restraints of Covid, our commitments and projects have been altered to fit the circumstances and many have been cut back. My prayer is that soon, opportunities to resume action and interaction in service will once more be available. I hope to continue to be involved in this ministry and am ready to serve in other ways.

Here I share part of an interview with **Pastor John Mayer Dut**, who serves six congregations (Anglican/Lutheran) of the Interlake Regional Shared Ministry, MB. His words appear in the IN MISSION section of the January 2021 issue of Canada Lutheran (p.9). I believe they apply to the goals of Service-Social Ministry, even during the pandemic. These are Pastor Mut's words:

"We need to celebrate with one another by sharing small things in love. Try to be there for others when they mourn, when they receive the gift of a child, or at a wedding. Be present for your community and neighbours by showing a positive attitude toward others.

I hope our church grows more and more into being a church where we spend most of our time amongst the people in the community to reach out to them and share the good news with some boldness.

One of my favourite sayings is, "Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." – Mother Teresa. "

Jeanette Page

Learning

Sunday School deliveries on the way! Sunday School aged children can expect a home delivery. It will be "Lent in a Bag"! Inside you will find symbols and their meaning, and how they relate to the season of Lent.

Bags will be delivered during Lent 2021. Keep a look out for your delivery!



Our Lenten services this year are going to be held over ZOOM. I will e-mail the link out a day prior to the 7 p.m. Wednesday call. We may even try out our new on-line streaming equipment one Wednesday. Stay tuned.

A good suggestion has been made. In previous years, Good Shepherd hosted a soup and a bun just prior to the Lenten Services that we held in connection with St. Leonard's Anglican and St. Luke's Anglican churches. This was such a blessed time of fellowship. Perhaps you would like to make Wednesday's supper meal a soup and a bun before the ZOOM Lenten service so it feels like we are all doing the same thing.

Together . . . during Lent – from the Synod

We have been compiling a list of Lenten mid-week and Holy Week worship and study opportunities from throughout the Synod.

Thank you to those who have offered to share these activities.

Click [here](#) to see the list.

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

A promotional poster for "Lenten Poetry". The background is a collage of colorful, abstract shapes and patterns. On the left, the text "Lenten POETRY" is written in large, white, bold letters. Below it, in smaller white text, it says "a free weekly Bible Study with Rev. Sean Bell and others from Campus Ministry". At the bottom left, "9AM THURSDAYS FEB 18 - APR 1" is written in green and yellow. On the right, there is a photo of Rev. Sean Bell, a man with a beard and curly hair, wearing a blue clerical shirt. Below the photo are the logos for "LUTHER COLLEGE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA" and "9GK". On the far right, a vertical banner reads "set apart to be together".

Care of Creation A Lenten Journey

Easter Vigil Service - Pr. Kristian Wold

Ash Wednesday (Service & Sermon) - Pr. David Saude

Palm Sunday (Service & Sermon) - Pr. David Saude

Maundy Thursday (Service & Sermon) - Pr. David Saude

Good Friday (Service & Sermon) - Pr. David Saude

Easter (Service & Sermon) - Pr. David Saude

TOPICS FOR A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Canadian Gold Mining in El Salvador - Pr. Brian Rude

From Extinction to Life (Service & Sermon) - Pr. Matt Lyseng

Forest Therapy - Pr. Phil Penrod

Renewing Creation Through Partnership with Water -
Pr. Wallace Bornhuse

Soil and Regenerative Agriculture - Pr. Tim Wray

The Cost of Doing Nothing - Pr. Bill Bulger

The Keep of the North - Pr. Kirk Tastad

The Value of Nature - Pr. John Lentz

Water Not Coal (A Study Packet) - Pr. Richard Reimer

Online Resources Available

January 28

Click here to access [resources](#).

Scriptures for March 2021

Feb 28	2 Lent	Gen 17:1-7, 15-16	Ps 22:23-31	Rom 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38
Mar 7	3 Lent	Exod 20:1-17	Ps 19	1 Cor 1:18-25	John 2:13-22
Mar 14	4 Lent	Num 21:4-9	Ps 107:1-3, 17-22	Eph 2:1-10	John 3:14-21
Mar 21	5 Lent	Jer 31:31-34	Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 119:9-16	Heb 5:5-10	John 12:20-33
Mar 28	Passion/Palm Sunday Color: Scarlet or Purple	Isa 50:4-9a	Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Mark 14:1–15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 [40-47]
Apr 1	Maundy 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

Bits & Pieces from the office.....



Wonderful news: Teri Craven will be joining me in the Church Office on March 1, 2021 as we share the Parish Administrator position.

A huge thank you to Mim Kunz for volunteering to update our church website. She has done a phenomenal job. Go have a look for yourself. <https://www.goodshepherdlutheranrd.ca/>

The **General Annual Meeting reports** were e-mailed or mailed to the members of our congregation. If you wish a paper copy, please contact the church and one will be made available to you.

For those of you who like numbers and statistics, the **2020 Parochial Report** to the National church was recently completed. Active membership at Good Shepherd for 2020 is 272 Baptized members (same as 2019) and Confirmed members 224 (down 2 from 2019).

Contact Information.....Have you moved? Cancelled your landline? Got a new cell phone number or changed your email address? Let us know so we can update our records. Thank you!

Greetings Good Shepherd family! I am excited to begin this new chapter, to serve our congregation in the shared role as Parish Administrator. For those who don't know me, my family and I have been a part of Good Shepherd for more than 10 years. I have a passion for cooking, for reading and writing, and watching sci-fi tv shows. I beg your patience as I begin to learn the ins and outs of the church office routine, and look forward to being of service.

Blessings to you all!

~ Teri

Shane Cornelius does our weekly maintenance and upkeep of the church inside and out. Since the return of some of our outside users he is maintaining sanitation stations and observing COVID-19 extra requirements. He has set up boot racks by the front door in hopes of cutting down the tracking in of mud and other particles and especially salt when used.



Mutual Ministry

After an interview process with Ron Bjorge, Annette Suominen, and Pastor John we are pleased to announce that Teri Craven is hired to work with Darlene and share the Parish Administrator position.

Dallas Craven

Update on video streaming volunteers and equipment

We had the very positive response from our Good Shepherd congregation for the purchase and installation of video streaming equipment. The equipment includes a remote controlled camera, joystick controller for the camera, a converter/switcher device to get the video online, a new laptop top computer that can run the associated software and equipment, cables and other smaller hardware items, and professional installation with training on how to use the new equipment. We will also receive a monetary donation from Grace Bentley towards this project. Thanks to those that were able to contribute.

As of Tuesday February 17, the equipment is installed and we had a training session with Duncan from Parkland Audio. We limited the training session to a small group to maintain physical distancing in and around the audio/video desk, it is pretty tight quarters in there! We are planning to have a instructional video available to those who are interested in helping with running the streaming equipment. Last month I had put a call for volunteers for helping with this, however nobody took me up on it...yet.

We will still need people to run the sound board and power point, but so far there are three of us gearing up to operate the video equipment. Thankfully we have time to practice using the equipment, and hopefully get a few more volunteers before we go "LIVE" with in person worship and video streaming.

If you are interested in looking in this email me at rondave62@gmail.com

Ron Kunz

Finance and Stewardship

As it looks we are still only having on-line services due to COVID 19. Pastor John is going to hold Lenten services on Wednesdays besides the Sunday services. The Annual General Meeting on March 14th will also be on ZOOM.

Our giving for January was \$8,000.00 below budget which is significant. This isn't creating a cash flow issue yet, but we must be mindful of the monthly cost of providing service to our congregation and community.

For nominations for council contact Don Nielsen or Barb Primas.

Thank you again for your continued faith in Good Shepherd.

Yours in Christ,
Greg Krauss

Greetings from your Council Chair

I am certainly relieved that the weather finally warmed up – and our baby calves look much happier at -5 than at -40 degree weather. The chores take a lot less time and it is more fun not to have to deal with frozen cattle waterers or frozen water lines. Let's hope the warmer weather will stay.

Council is getting ready for the **virtual Annual General Meeting** for Good Shepherd **on March 14th 2021 at 1 pm**. Due to provincial gathering restrictions we decided against having members in our church building for the AGM, in particular with so many recent COVID cases in Red Deer. Please plan to attend the AGM in virtual format – even if you have to invite someone over who has an electronic device available to let you watch the AGM on a zoom meeting. It is a great way to rope some of the next generation to show off their technology skills to help everyone join the virtual AGM.

Here is a rough description on what will happen:

You will have received the electronic copy of the AGM reports by now by e-mail – I received mine on February 19th2021. Prior to the AGM have a look at the report and if you have any questions feel free to give me a shout. I can make sure your concern can be addressed at the AGM.

There will be an **e-mail invitation to the AGM zoom meeting** to all our congregation members prior to March 12th 2021. We need more than 25 members to be at the meeting in order to have quorum. In that e-mail body there will be a link to join the zoom meeting with a meeting id and a password. Close to the start of the AGM zoom meeting you can click on the link and the host will let you join. If you have not participated in a zoom meeting prior to the AGM you may have to download some free software in order to participate. You do not have to pay for the zoom software, but depending on the computer speed you have, it may take a little while to get that completed. It would be good to do this ahead of time so you are ready to 'rock and roll' at 1 pm on March 14th. One great opportunity to practice a zoom meeting is with the Wednesday evening Lenten services Pastor John will host between now and then. You can be all practiced up prior to March 14th.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter the election of the new church council members is one of the highlights of our AGM meeting. I want to take the opportunity to thank all council members who have completed their term at the AGM. Without your time and talents we would not have been able to make it through this difficult last year. Since the February newsletter the nominating committee has presented us with a couple familiar names that have let their name stand to be on council – I am so glad to invite those members back ‘on board’. We look after the Lord’s business on church council to allow his Ministry to grow at Good Shepherd. To let you in on a little secret though – we also have fun during our council meetings. Why don’t you join us? We meet once a month (currently by zoom meetings) and we need more than the four remaining members of church council and the three people the Nominating committee recruited to fill the nine positions on council. Please consider prayerfully if you can help in this and if we can add your name to be a church council member.

If you or someone you know would like to take the opportunity to join us on council please give Barb Primas or Don Nielsen a call. You can also give me a shout if you like.

If you have any questions or concerns give me a call at 587 877 5378
Annette Suominen

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

Financial Update January 31, 2020

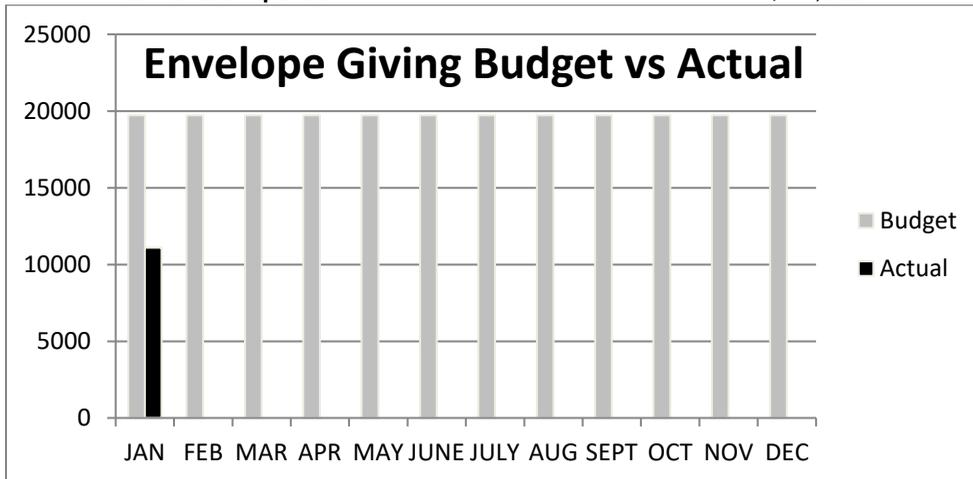
As at January 31st our bank balance is \$91,987.69. We also hold \$24,736.02 in money market and other savings. January giving was down substantially so we are starting the year with a significant deficit but we currently have sufficient cash on hand.

Income

Facility Rental	
Designated Offerings	92
Envelope	11,080
Loose & miscellaneous	
Fed Gov Subsidy	
TOTAL	\$ 11,172

Expenses

Learning	
Mutual Ministry	11,276
Service	
Witness and Evangelism	
Property	2,218
Stewardship and Finance	
Benevolence	1,600
Designated	50
Office	421
Insurance	
Worship	500
TOTAL	\$ 16,165
Income less Expense	\$ - 4,993



PENANCE

PRAYER

ALMSGIVING



THE
FORTY
DAYS
of LENT



RETURN
to the
LORD
YOUR
GOD



REPENTANCE

RENIAL