



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

40 Holmes Street, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6L6

Office: (403)340-1022

Pastor: Rev. John Lentz [revjohn.goodshep@telus.net](mailto:revjohn.goodshep@telus.net)

Parish Administrators: Darlene Kneller & Teri Craven [goodshep@telusplanet.net](mailto:goodshep@telusplanet.net)

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

Website: <https://www.goodshepherdlutheranrd.ca/>

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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**May 2021**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 37 No. 05**

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*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. If you would like special prayer or to be included in the intercessory prayers, ask to speak to Pastor John.*

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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.

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### **From Our Pastor's Desk**



One of the upcoming Sundays in May will be Pentecost Sunday. We'll read again the remarkable passage from Acts 2 that tells of the Holy Spirit entering our world in a new way. The most important thing to remember about the work of the Holy Spirit is that there are countless ways that the Spirit provides the church (the people of God) with what is needed in the moment. The moment the Spirit descended on the disciples wasn't the first time the Spirit of God was active, but it was a moment of new beginnings. Between the time of the resurrection and that moment, it was as if the disciples were in waiting. They didn't even know exactly what they were waiting for, only that Jesus had told them to wait.

We are in waiting too, it seems. We're into the second year of Covid now and the second spring in a row that seems like the second "anti-spring". What we're waiting for is the end of all these restrictions, the end of danger to our lives and the lives of our neighbors, and the new beginnings of our lives together in the work of Good Shepherd. We just have to hang on for just a little longer though, and I'd like to encourage you to hang in there out of love and care for one another. I'm reminded of the passage from Hebrews 12:1-2...

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God."

It is a bit like a marathon run, this COVID race. Running a marathon requires not just endurance. It also requires patience and determination to follow through to the end. It requires emotional strength and a resilience to run through the pain, in this case the pain of isolation. It requires a vision towards a future that we cannot see till we get to the finish line. When we finally arrive at the finish line it is like a joy we didn't expect. Jesus endured the cross to come to a joy that is profoundly everlasting and is given by the grace of God. We will need to celebrate with joy when we can come together again in worship and in the fellowship of the body of Christ, yes, but this will still pale in comparison to the joy of the day of Christ when we will join Christ in the resurrection.

Till then, know that the gift of the Holy Spirit will provide you with everything necessary to keep you in faith, strengthen your endurance to run the race, enliven you with the Word of God, and keep you in the unity of the whole body of Christ with all of us. Amen.

Rev. John Lentz

\*\* Since we continue to follow not only the provincial government guidelines, but also the recommendations of our Synod office and Bishop, we do want to give you the opportunity to meet with the Pastor here at the church. Pastor John cannot come to your homes to get to know you, but because we have the space here at Good Shepherd in the foyer to meet one on one (or one couple with one pastor), we invite you to come have coffee with the Pastor. Just phone the church office at 403-340-1022 and ask to schedule a visit. Pastor John has some afternoons and some evenings open so you can come and visit. Darlene or Teri will be glad to set a time. (\*bring your own coffee or tea)

### **From Bishop Larry**

Dear Beloved of God –

The Synod of Alberta and the Territories will gather in convention in July under the theme, “On the Road,” inspired by Luke 24:13–35. It is the post-Resurrection narrative of two people journeying from Jerusalem to Emmaus, where they are joined by a stranger who, when recognized, vanishes, and the two race back to Jerusalem.



Luke's narratives frequently take us on the road. More than half of the gospel takes place on or is related to a journey, and each time we know that something important is about to happen: Mary rushes to a Judean town in the hill country where she greets Elizabeth; a road leads Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem; a road is the narrative setting for the parable of the Good Samaritan; a road leads the prodigal back home to his father.

Jesus sets his eyes toward Jerusalem in Luke 9:51 and travels there until 19:28; this is known among scholars as the travel narrative where Jesus is on an extended journey.

The sequel to this gospel, The Acts of the Apostles, continues this theme: at Pentecost people journey to Jerusalem; on the road to Damascus, Saul is blinded and there is a significant change in his career, including his name; Philip meets the Ethiopian eunuch on a road.

There is something about travel that evokes Luke's literary and theological imagination. There is something about roads: the way they can bring us together; the way they can pose a danger to us all; the way they become a symbol of a faith on the move.

Luke's narrative take us on the road frequently, and we discover that whenever we start to journey with someone, we really do not know if we will end up where we thought the road was leading.

As the two travelers to Emmaus walk along, talking with each other about the momentous things that had happened, Jesus joins them. After they answer Jesus' questions, he speaks to them and interprets the scriptures for them, beginning with Moses and the prophets.

As they near their destination, Jesus walks ahead as if he is going further, but they convince him to stay with them, and at the table he takes bread, then blesses, breaks, and gives it to them. Their eyes are opened and they recognize him. Then Jesus vanishes.

But the narrative isn't finished. The journey isn't over. That same hour they get up and return to Jerusalem. The verb that the gospel writer uses here gets lost in translation. The word that we translate as "get up" is "anastantes" in the original Greek – the verb form of the noun that means resurrection.

This is a resurrection story. The two rise up and return to Jerusalem. They have been transformed, having passed through the shadow of death to new life.

And they return to Jerusalem, the place where the journey, the road, began. But they are not going back to their old normal. They have changed, and so has Jerusalem. Grief, sadness, and loss have been transformed: "The Lord has risen, indeed."

At a recent meeting of Synod Council, our Bible study leader suggested that this Lukan narrative, "The Road to Emmaus," has been incorrectly titled and that it should more accurately be named, "The Road to Jerusalem and Back, with a Pit Stop in Emmaus."

Emmaus was thought to be home, but it was not the destination. Emmaus was simply a pit stop on the road. We thought the destination was somewhere else, but we are back in Jerusalem. Back where grief has taken place, back into the hot seat. Back to the sadness, the loss, where hope once resided.

Back ... and transformed.

Where is the road taking us today? To our homes? Or to a pit stop?

We do not know the future, but we have what we need. Jesus is feeding us. We have the Scriptures. We have each other. We know that we will not get to where we are going without going together. Jesus is with us.

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**

Sometimes I feel the regular calendar and the church calendar have gotten one of our holidays wrong. Most of the time, I feel more thankful in spring than in October, when we're all supposed to be counting our blessings at Thanksgiving. In spring, I'm thankful that the snow is finally gone, and the frost is coming out of the ground. I'm even thankful to see dandelions poking up in my lawn.

I'm thankful my family has gotten through a year of Covid; I'm thankful that I've gotten my first vaccination and I'm grateful that Good Shepherd has weathered the winter still able to help us all serve God and each other. I'm told that our online services are still being well-followed. It's still a challenge sometimes to get a good rotation of 10 or so volunteers to help present the services that we record on Wednesdays, but the staff at Good Shepherd has always been able to bring a full roster of singers, musicians and readers forward.

We still need to share the Good News. We still need to share each others' cares and burdens. We still need to belong to one another. So everyone on council is so thankful for all those who helps us in our mission to present and record our services. Your gift of time is important. We are getting closer and closer to the time when we can all be together in one place physically as well as online. But we must still get through this present time.

I look forward to seeing our sanctuary filled again, just as I look forward to the time when I can dig my fingers into garden soil. Let us all keep faith in our worship and support of Good Shepherd. And when Covid restrictions finally ease, then our gratitude will truly flow.

Greg Neiman

### **Notes from Nadine**

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord! (Psalm 150)

Greetings in the middle of our up-and -down (temperature -wise) Spring weather! Amazing variety in this, as my folks who've come from Europe are marvelling at. Wow, snow on April 18th! ..on ANY day of the year in Alberta, the saying goes..

Psalm 118 exclaims: 'This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!' - And that includes a day of a sudden turn in the weather; and a day of a sudden turn in expectations, in outcomes, in health, in finances, in 'bonuses', in relationships, in worldwide disease issues, in this or that - stressful, joyful, exhilarating, peaceful, devastating.... God has always made THIS DAY.

He is always worthy of our praise and thanks, though we may not understand. His ways and thoughts are infinitely higher than ours (Isaiah 55). And thankfully He promised to work ALL THINGS for good for those who love Him. (Romans 8:28).

These unprecedented times are tough. We can support each other in different ways, and that helps. In fact, God made us for 'community', since He Himself exists as a 'Community of Three'. Our greatest encouragement perhaps lies in knowing we are totally dependent upon Him, and that His strength, beauty, and shining glory are somehow made perfect in OUR weakness. Go figure...

All praise to Him 'Who rides the ancient skies above' (Psalm 68).  
THIS day. May your hearts be warmed.  
Blessings, Nadine

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

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

### **Prayer Chain**

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

Please pray for our church schools – LCBI in Outlook, CLBI in Camrose and our Seminary in Saskatoon as well as our ELCIC Synod, both National and Regional . Continue to pray for our Camp Kuriakos. Pray for our church missionaries - in El Salvador, Rev. Brian Rude; and the Northern Outreach with On Eagle's Wings. Remember to pray for the Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Pray for our community - the Mustard Seed, Red Deer Native Friendship Centre, Shalom Counselling, the Food Bank, and Central Alberta Women's Emergency Centre and so many other local outreach agencies.



### **Service (Social) Committee**

Below is the link for the Women's Fun Run 2021. We are in search of volunteers and participants. Friday, May 7 we are in need of 35 volunteers for 3 different shifts to assist with the registration starting from 10:30 to about 4:30. Saturday, May 8 we are in need of about 40 volunteers from 8:30 to about 1:00 to be a Course Marshall at our ten different locations. Please let me know if you have any questions and also if you sign up so I can set you up with a Mustard Seed shirt!

<https://www.womensfunrun.com/volunteer>

### **Cultural Awareness**

#### **Truth and Reconciliation**

Wabanakwut Kinew, you may know him as Wab Kinew, is hip hop artist, broadcaster, university administrator, author, politician (leads the NDP in Manitoba), Ojibwa activist, public intellectual. He hosts a series of television episodes focusing on 500-year-old relationship in Canada's history ... coming out of conflict, colonialism, and denial. You will find it at cbc.ca 8thfire or **Google Wab Kinew 8<sup>th</sup> Fire** to access the episodes.

To begin, join him on a two-minute walk through 500 years of aboriginal history (A Walk Through History) and then watch the entire four episode series (about 45 min. each) at your leisure. "8th Fire" travels coast to coast with host and journalist Wab Kinew to show the need Canada has to mend its relationship with our Aboriginal people and offer a way to get it right the second time around.

8th Fire Episodes are E1 · Indigenous in the City; E2 · It's Time!; E3 · Whose Land is it Anyway?; Ep4 – At the Crossroads.

**A few facts about Ramadan** gleaned from online sites.

Our Muslim neighbours began observing the Holy Month of Ramadan, the ninth month on the Islamic calendar, on Tuesday, April 13, this year. It is believed to be the month in which Mohammad, whom Muslims consider a prophet, revealed the holy book — Quran — to Muslims. Throughout the holiday, most observers fast from sunrise to sunset and then partake in nightly feasts – in pre-covid times this would include large groups of family and friends. Children, pregnant women, the ill and the elderly are exempt from fasting. Ramadan is a time of spiritual reflection, self-improvement, and heightened devotion and worship. Muslims believe that Ramadan teaches them to practice self-discipline, self-control, sacrifice, and empathy for those who are less fortunate, thus encouraging actions of generosity and compulsory charity. Ramadan ends on Eid al Fitr, Tuesday, May 13.

Greetings to share with Muslim friends: **Ramadan Kareem!** (May the blessed month of Ramadan bring you peace and prosperity. May your prayers be answered.)

**Ramadan Mubarak!** (May Allah protect you from all sins and bring you peace, joy, and hope.)

submitted by Jeanette Page

### Learning



Every second Thursday of the month, the Bishop's Office hosts an on-line learning opportunity and conversation via Zoom. The hour-long Synod Connect will begin at noon and will include opening prayer, an introduction of the presenter, a 20-minute presentation, time for conversation and connection, and will end with a closing prayer. **All are welcome to join.**

Date	Presenter	Topic	To Register
Previous	presentations are	available on the Synod YouTube channel	
May 13	CARe	Mental Health	<a href="#">Register</a>
June 10	Rev. Daranne Harris	Compassionate Care	<a href="#">Register</a>

Please consider joining, mark your calendar, and watch for updates in upcoming issues of Wednesday's Word and on the Synod website. Registration will close at 10:00 AM that morning. A zoom link will be forwarded to all registrants the morning of the presentation. The links don't appear to work so please go directly to the Synod Website. <https://albertasynod.ca>

**SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2021 @ 4:00 - 5:30 PM (MDT)**

**ONLINE ZOOM EVENT. LINK WILL BE EMAILED AFTER REGISTRATION**

# HEAR ME OUT

## ANTI-ASIAN RACISM & IDENTITY

Life as a 2nd-Generation  
Chinese/Japanese-Canadian  
Lutheran



### PANEL GUESTS

**ENOCH MOK**

DIGITAL COORDINATOR FOR LUTHERAN/YYC CAMPUS MINISTRY  
CALGARY, AB

**REV. DR. KAYKO DRIEDGER HESSLEIN**

FACULTY OF LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
SASKATOON, SK

**REV. MARGARET PROPP**

CHAPLAIN OF LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY  
CALGARY, AB

**REV. NATHAN FONG**

PASTOR OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BURNABY, BC

An online Zoom event titled "**Hear Me Out: Life as a 2nd Generation Chinese/Japanese-Canadian Lutheran**" will be held on **Sunday, May 23, 4:00-5:30 p.m. (MDT)**. This discussion brought to you by [Lutheran Campus Ministry Calgary](#) will be conducted in a "living room" style conversation among four guest panelists sharing their personal experiences as Asian-Canadians people of faith in the ELCIC. The panel will include Enoch Mok, Rev. Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein, Rev. Margaret Propp, and Rev. Nathan Fong. To attend this event, please [register here](#). A link to join the event will be emailed after registration.

## Scriptures for the Sundays after Easter to Pentecost 2021

These are available on our website.

<p><b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> April 25, 2021 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p>*<a href="#">Acts 4:5-12</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Psalm 23</a></p>	<p><a href="#">1 John 3:16-24</a></p>	<p><a href="#">John 10:11-18</a></p>
<p><b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> May 2, 2021 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p>*<a href="#">Acts 8:26-40</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Psalm 22:25-31</a></p>	<p><a href="#">1 John 4:7-21</a></p>	<p><a href="#">John 15:1-8</a></p>
<p><b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b> May 9, 2021 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p>*<a href="#">Acts 10:44-48</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Psalm 98</a></p>	<p><a href="#">1 John 5:1-6</a></p>	<p><a href="#">John 15:9-17</a></p>
<p><b>Ascension of the Lord</b> May 13, 2021 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p>*<a href="#">Acts 1:1-11</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Psalm 47</a> or <a href="#">Psalm 93</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Ephesians 1:15-23</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Luke 24:44-53</a></p>
<p><b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> May 16, 2021 <i>(If Ascension not observed here)</i> <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p>*<a href="#">Acts 1:15-17, 21-26</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Psalm 1</a></p>	<p><a href="#">1 John 5:9-13</a></p>	<p><a href="#">John 17:6-19</a></p>
<p><b>Day of Pentecost</b> May 23, 2021 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p>*<a href="#">Acts 2:1-21</a> or <a href="#">Ezekiel 37:1-14</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Psalm 104:24-34, 35b</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Romans 8:22-27</a> or <a href="#">Acts 2:1-21</a></p>	<p><a href="#">John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15</a></p>
<p><b>Trinity Sunday</b> May 30, 2021 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i> <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Isaiah 6:1-8</a>  <a href="#">Psalm 29</a></p>		<p><a href="#">Romans 8:12-17</a></p>	<p><a href="#">John 3:1-17</a></p>
<p><b>Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth</b> May 31, 2021 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a></p>	<p><a href="#">1 Samuel 2:1-10</a>  <a href="#">Psalm 113</a></p>		<p><a href="#">Romans 12:9-16b</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Luke 1:39-57</a></p>



### ***Bits & 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 continuing to video and post 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 the snow). <https://www.facebook.com/groups/277991775631450/>

Kudos once again to Mim Kunz and Angel Poon for their diligent work on our web page. Please visit and explore our updated website: <https://www.goodshepherdlutheranrd.ca/>

The office will be closed Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>.

***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!

Shane Cornelius does our weekly maintenance and upkeep of the church inside and out. He is maintaining sanitation stations and observing COVID-19 extra requirements.



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

*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. Visit our website for news on all of our monthly activities. Be sure to check out our free Thursday Bible Studies.*

### ***Update on video streaming volunteers and equipment***

We have purchased two new microphones.

There is an instructional video available to those who are interested in helping with running the streaming equipment. This is an important ministry of our church. Remember we will still require volunteers on our sound board and PowerPoint.

If you are interested in looking into this, email me at [rondave62@gmail.com](mailto:rondave62@gmail.com)

Ron Kunz

**Shalom Counselling Centre** will be hosting a 5 week on-line group session where participants will learn about anxiety. An experiential component will take place each week as well. Participants will be exploring anxiety using expressive therapies such as writing, art, movement, poetry and storytelling,

Thursdays starting May 6, 2021. 1-3 p.m. Cost: #25.00 This group will be limited to 10 participants (Age:18+)

Facilitators: Winn Rietema MA, Counsellor and Angela Bennik

To register for this group, please call 403-342-0339 or email [info@shalomcounselling.com](mailto:info@shalomcounselling.com)

### **Property**

As of our March meeting, I have moved into the role of Property person on our church council. The repairs are coming along, this past week the workers from On Side Restoration were replacing the drywall after thoroughly drying out the ceiling and walls in the affected class rooms in our basement. It will be a few more weeks until all the repair work is completed.

I am pleased to say that there is another person on the Property Committee already. Chris K has graciously volunteered to come on, I look forward to working with him and anybody else that would like to join. As I am new to this role I will be gleaning all I can from Chris as the past Property person on council.

Ron Kunz

### **Your Council**

#### **Executive:**

Chair: Annette Suominen  
Vice Chair: Ron Kunz  
Treasurer: Paul Erlandson  
Secretary: Renate Scheelar

#### **Committees:**

Worship: Greg Neiman  
**Learning: \*VACANT** (to be appointed for one year – Ron Kunz liaison)  
Witness (Evangelism): Barbaranne Stickelmier  
**Service** (Social Ministry): **\*VACANT** (to be appointed for one year - Ron Bjorge liaison)  
Stewardship & Finance: Dallas Craven  
**Youth: \*VACANT** (to be appointed for one year)  
Mutual Ministry: Ron Bjorge  
Property Management: Ron Kunz  
Financial Recording Secretary: Dallas Craven

\*Let Annette know if you are willing to fill a vacant position for a year.

## **Financial Update March 31, 2021**

As at March 31st our bank balance is \$87,101.87. We also hold \$24,736.02 in money market and other savings. March showed improved giving and receipt of the Alberta Government reopening grant helped our cash flow for the month. We continue to run a deficit year to date. Thank you for your continued financial support.

### **Income**

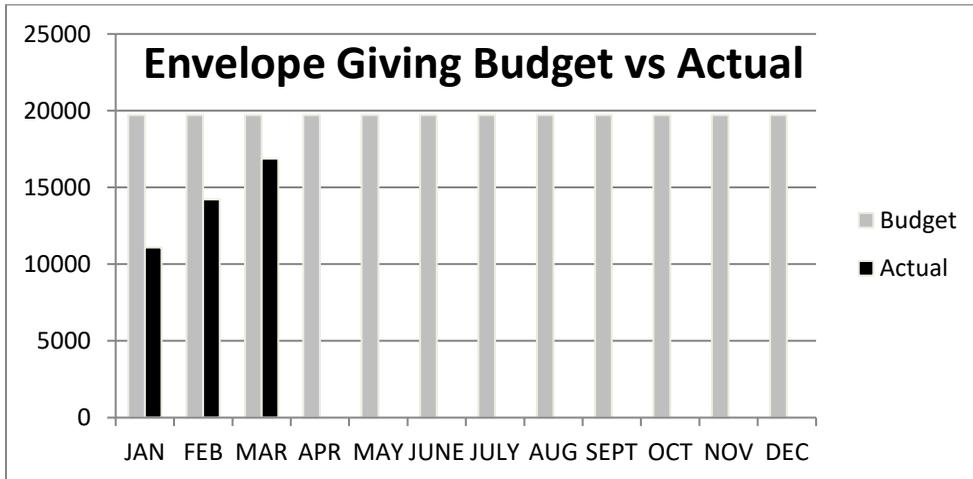
Facility Rental		
Designated Offerings	1,480	
Envelope	42,020	
Loose & miscellaneous		
AB Reopening grant	5,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 48,582</b>

### **Expenses**

Learning	94	
Mutual Ministry	39,560	
Service	475	
Witness and Evangelism		
Property	6,965	
Stewardship and Finance		
Benevolence	4,800	
Designated	1,330	
Office	1,500	
Insurance		
Worship	2,108	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 57,109</b>

**Income less Expense**

**\$ - 8,527**



*Happy Mother's Day on May 9<sup>th</sup>!*

A decorative border of watercolor flowers and leaves in shades of pink, red, and green, framing the central text.

THE LORD BLESS YOU  
AND KEEP YOU;

THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE  
TO SHINE UPON YOU  
AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU;

THE LORD LIFT UP  
HIS COUNTENANCE UPON YOU  
AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

NUMBERS 6:24-26