

# **Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**

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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: Tuesday thru Thursday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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July 2021

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37 No. 07

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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. Even with COVID restrictions easing, hospital and care home visitation is limited at this time. If you would like special prayer or to be included in the intercessory prayers, speak to Pastor John.*

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



Grace and peace to all of you in the name of Christ.

You'll see in this newsletter that it's a busy month here at Good Shepherd. Summer is upon us and our thoughts turn to warm weather and relaxation, at least for some of us. It will be busy here though, with our work towards reopening the church. You'll have received the summer worship notes. July 11 will be the first Sunday when all of you can return for worship in person.

As with quite a number of institutions and churches (of our Synod of Alberta, ELCIC variety), as well as at least a couple of cities in the province, we open with some restrictions still in place. We will still ask you to wear masks, continue to social distance, no hugging and singing will be restricted to our lead singers. Now all of this is for the time being until we see how numbers of COVID cases do once our province opens up without restrictions. We (Reopening Committee and Council) do this for the safety of all of our people, the community and because we still don't know much about how the Delta variant of the virus will be managed. We ask for everyone's patience. No one wants the church to return to normal more than I do.

I do want to finally meet all of you, get to know each of you, and to fully be your pastor. But, I also want all of you to be safe. So, as we notice numbers declining, variants controlled and safe worship for all a certainty, we will begin to lessen the remaining restrictions.

I'm reminded of Hebrews 12:1-2, as the author writes, "...and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...". These last 16 months of restricted living have been more than just a marathon, but perhaps an ultra-marathon that has taxed our emotions, our spiritual wellness and likely our physical health as well. We have a bit of the race to go yet though. Right now it's like the marathoner on the prairies; you can see the end from where you're running, but you know it's still a few miles away (and please, no jokes about the runaway dog on the prairies who you can still see him running three days later).

Running with patience takes faith in the Christ who with greater patience than I have, "endured the cross" for the sake of future joy (also from Hebrews 12:1-2). The Joy of being together to worship Christ, enjoy the fellowship of each other's company, and church coffee will

arrive. And we have joy even now because of the surpassing joy of Christ. Our joy is there because we are tied inseparably to the One who endured the cross for the sake of an everlasting joy meant for us.

In the grace and joy of Christ,  
Rev. John

**\*\*Note: Pastor John will be on holidays from July 26 – August 12, 2021.**

### **From Bishop Larry**

Dear Beloved of God –  
CLWR was there. You were there.

When I think of the ministry of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) over its 75 years, my mind often journeys to the international relief and development work taking place alongside many partners. At this moment, when I hear “CLWR,” my thoughts go to their local collaboration and partnerships, such as the response in Alberta to flooding in High River in 2013 and to the wildfires in Fort McMurray in 2016.

Never will I forget the overwhelming, immediate support, nor the outpouring of compassion and generosity the moment word of these disasters hit the news. In my first journey to Fort McMurray following the fires, it looked like a battle zone, with entire neighbourhoods completely destroyed and laid waste; vinyl siding melted and twisted; families and neighbours arm in arm, staring silently, slowly shaking their heads in disbelief and despair.

But I visited again Fort McMurray approximately one year later, together with CLWR staff and Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer, then-president of the Alberta-British Columbia District of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC). We heard story after story of relief, support, and gratitude amid the devastation and ongoing effects of trauma.

CLWR was there, you were there, partnering with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and LCC to help meet the physical and psychosocial (emotional and mental) needs of community members.

CLWR partnered to provide new homes for those who had lost everything in the fire. Energy-efficient homes were built in Hague, SK, by teams of Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS) volunteers and transported to Fort McMurray where other volunteers had poured foundations and basements. CLWR had previously partnered with MDS, experts in domestic disaster assistance, to respond to the flooding in High River.

“I just can’t believe it,” one individual shared with us, standing in their new home. “I’m sure nobody realizes how all those little bits of love add up to something meaningful. It took a lot of people to get this together. This house will remind me of that every single day. It seems that thank you is not enough, but thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

CLWR also partnered with a Fort McMurray organization to help alleviate the physical and psychosocial pain of those affected by the fires. Funds were provided to enhance the reach of the organization’s outreach services in Fort McMurray and the surrounding communities. With increased staffing, expanded and more frequent visits to the rural communities were made possible, enabling greater access for children and adults to counseling and support, especially for those people who could not always travel to Fort McMurray. In addition, domestic violence services included an emergency women and children’s shelter, second stage housing, and community outreach, which included support groups, risk assessments, education, and training.

Yes, I think of international efforts, but I also think of collaboration and partnerships to meet national needs.



CLWR was there, you were there.

I have seen CLWR's strategic compass designed to be visionary and dynamic, emphasizing innovation and collaboration, sustainability, and transformation. CLWR maintains a commitment to building resilience, using rights-based and adaptive approaches.

When God lays the needs of people facing natural disaster and dislocation on the hearts of God's people, the response is immediate, filled with compassion and generosity. CLWR is there. You are there.

Blessings to you, CLWR, in these next 75 years as you seek to faithfully live your mission: *Inspired by God's love for the world, CLWR challenges and responds to the injustice which causes human suffering and poverty. We are committed to working alongside our partners to build resilience through a continual shared learning approach. As an international relief and development agency of the Lutheran communities, CLWR provides opportunities for Canadians to respond to national and international needs.*

Our National Church Council approved the designation of September 26, 2021 as CLWR Sunday to celebrate their 75th anniversary. Watch for further information and resources.

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**

Good news! In Alberta, we are finally able to return to in-church worship! Beginning July 11, we will welcome all worshipers to regular Sunday services, up to one-third of our sanctuary's capacity under fire codes. That means up to 117 people can attend at once!

We will still be live-streaming services online, but instead of their being taped in advance, we will be posting services online in real time, as they occur — and now with a congregation in attendance.

Of course, conditions apply. We will still need to be masked, plus congregational singing and sung responses to liturgy will not be allowed. As well, for the time being, no hugging during sharing of the peace. We will need to sit in our own cohorts, spaced apart, as directed by our ushers. But most important, we will be together. Hopefully, as vaccinations in the general population increase and Covid infections decrease, regulations will relax even more.

This also means we will also be returning to our longstanding tradition of member assistance to our services. We will need worship assistants, lectors, ushers and musicians for each service.

Plus, we will need people willing to help with the Power Point projectors (we cannot have hymnals in the pews as yet, so all the words for liturgy and hymns will be on our projector screens). That's an easy task, which only needs someone to press a button at the appropriate time, once the system is up and running.

We will also need people willing to help with the sound system, since not only are we projecting the words and music to the congregation, but we are also recording it for online worshipers. We will happily provide training and encouragement to anyone willing to take a turn helping out with this vital task.

As for the video, we already have a committee of trained people signed up to do this for the entire

summer! (But, of course, anyone interested in learning how to help with this will be quite welcome.)

How do we notify that we're willing to volunteer once again? By filling out the Time and Talent sheets that every member will soon receive. You will see how it is that many hands work together in the part of the Kingdom of God that is Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Let us know where it is that you would like to help. We will make sure that no task will be too difficult.

There is a huge bank account of love and energy at Good Shepherd. Add to that the joy of returning to God's house. All who wish to share that joy in service will be joyously welcomed. So look for your Time and Talent sheet, find a role that you would like to fill, and return it to the church office.

We are returning to the House of God, and that truly is good news!

Greg Neiman

**Worship Conference:** Registration is now open for the [2021 National Worship Conference](#) (NWC). *Disruption and Grace: Learning Edges in Liminal Times* - the 2021 NWC conference is all about exploring the disruptions and the graces we have experienced in the current pandemic and other unsettling circumstances. What have we learned from these experiences? July 6-7, 2021

### **Notes from Nadine**

A huge shout out of thanks to you, my church family, who welcomed my folks to the first 'trial' livestream service at GS last Sunday. They are truly grateful for every interaction with each of you, and look forward to knowing you better.

They came to be with me last January from Austria. Many of you prayed diligently for my mom's emergency surgery last year, and for relief from her difficult, ongoing scoliosis pain. We are hugely grateful for your care and encouragement of each of us, including me!

It's wonderful how God gave us to care for each other, and 'bear each other's burdens'. Some of our beloved families are experiencing grief and huge challenges, and we lift them individually to the Lord in worship, humility, gratitude and sympathy.

We can also experience God's greatness in the beautiful outdoors this season, and as we return in July to regular in-person Sunday worship.

I am grateful for your faithfulness to Christ, to personally seeking Him out, and for providing needs physically, emotionally, and spiritually for our church body.

Friday evening Music Gatherings will begin again starting July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30pm.

May God enrich your lives and keep you whole and healthy, as we press on in Him this summer!  
Blessings, Nadine



## **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**

One of the projects the Service Committee is wanting to support is a **Diaper Drive for the Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre.** There is a need for the following sizes:

- Diapers sizes 4-6 (the sizing is printed in large font on the front of the box/package)
- Pull-ups, any size

If you are able to support this worthy cause, please drop them off at the home of Donna Rodatz, 127 Ammeter Close, Red Deer, or give a call at 403-505-5859 and they will be picked up. Please note that if the church re-opens in July, items could be dropped off there. Donations will be gladly accepted the remainder of JUNE and the month of JULY. Thank you for giving this your consideration.

## **Mustard Seed Urgent Request for Items**

As part of our association with The Mustard Seed, they have presented us with a list of items that are urgently required. If you have some of the items listed below or feel moved to buy some of these, they will be most welcome at The Mustard Seed.

Sunscreen	Aloe / After Sun
Hats	Summer Wear (shorts, t-shirts)
Sunglasses	Bottled Water
Non-perishable snacks	Umbrellas
Underwear ( <b>NEW</b> , all sizes, men & women)	

They ask that items be taken directly to the Mustard Seed, 6002 54 Ave, Red Deer during 8 am to 4 pm Monday -Friday. Ring the door bell on the main entrance on the east side. Thank you for your consideration of these needs.

Submitted by Ron Bjorge, Council Rep for Mutual Ministry and Service

## **Cultural Awareness**

### **Truth and Reconciliation opportunities**

**The following is taken from the recent KAIROS newsletter and edited by me (JP) for length. KAIROS echoes faith communities and Indigenous nations' calls for accountability to mark numerous reconciliation anniversaries:** ...the beginning of Indigenous History Month; the second anniversary of the 231 Calls for Justice for MMIWG2Spirit; the Truth and Reconciliation Committee of Canada's (TRC) Calls to Action (2015). These have

been overshadowed by the recovery of 215 stolen children at a former Indian residential school in British Columbia.

...The hard truth is that there are many stories out there and they will continue to trickle out and cause sorrow to each new Indigenous generation. No one has ever been held accountable for these atrocities and this permission continues to be the biggest injustice of all ...here are some educational resources: (*Please put the websites into your search bar to access. JP*)

- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Bill-C-15 Video Now Available Watch the recorded video of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Bill C-15 [in English](#) or [in French](#). To learn more about what you can do to take action and support the implementation of Declaration Legislation in Canada, [faithinthedeclaration.ca/take-action/](http://faithinthedeclaration.ca/take-action/)
- [Settlers Take Action](#) resources compiled by the On Canada Project
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#) and its 94 Calls to Action
- [Yellowhead Institute - Calls to Action Accountability](#): A 2020 Status Update on Reconciliation
- Find out whose traditional territory you live on, visit the [Native Land website](#).
- Sign up for [Indigenous Canada](#), a free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. (*I took this course in 2017 after seeing it promoted in our GS newsletter. I found it to be of high caliber and excellent. JP*)

Submitted by Jeanette Page - please contact me if you wish additional information

***Hello Eternity for Today Subscribers*** - Your third quarter *Eternity for Today* booklet was put in your church mailbox or mailed directly to you on June 1, 2021. If you have not received your booklet please call me at 403-782-3205 or email me at [thepages@telusplanet.net](mailto:thepages@telusplanet.net).

### **Witness (Evangelism) Committee**

“Almighty Lord, we are often hesitant to be part of leadership on your behalf. Help us overcome our fears and feelings of being overwhelmed, and give us your guidance. Amen.”  
Prayer from Eternity for Today

Why did I ever volunteer? What was I thinking? For those of us who volunteer, I'm sure these thoughts have crossed your minds. I know they did when asked to be on council and chair the Witness committee. It's been 8 years and I can honestly say it's been a rewarding experience. You see, I have learned about how churches are run. I have learned how to organize a Fall Supper. I have made many friendships along the way. I have written items for the newsletter. And most of all I listened to that voice that said sign up, it will be a way to be of giving back. I have challenged myself to do more which is why I volunteered on the nominating committee. Renate Scheelar has also graciously volunteered for this committee. Open positions on council are Learning, Service and Youth. As the prayer above says overcome your fears. If anyone hears that voice and wants a new life challenge, please give me a call at 403-396-7168. Barbaranne Stickelmier, Witness

## Learning



Camp Kuriakos/Good Shepherd Kids Day Camp is coming!! With the help of some enthusiastic leaders from Camp Kuriakos, we are happy to announce that all children aged 6-11 years old are welcome to join us **July 19-23, 2021**, here at the church. The event will run Monday-Friday, 9am-noon. Participants will be grouped in cohorts of no more than 20. Volunteers will be needed as helpers. Watch for more info!

### Ladies Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Will resume in the fall.

### Scriptures for the Sundays after Pentecost

These are available on our website.

<b>Proper 9 (14)</b> Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 4, 2021 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a>	<u>2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10</u>  <u>Psalm 48</u>	<u>Ezekiel 2:1-5</u>  <u>Psalm 123</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 12:2-10</u>	<u>Mark 6:1-13</u>
<b>Proper 10 (15)</b> Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 11, 2021 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a>	<u>2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19</u>  <u>Psalm 24</u>	<u>Amos 7:7-15</u>  <u>Psalm 85:8-13</u>	<u>Ephesians 1:3-14</u>	<u>Mark 6:14-29</u>
<b>Proper 11 (16)</b> Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 18, 2021 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a>	<u>2 Samuel 7:1-14a</u>  <u>Psalm 89:20-37</u>	<u>Jeremiah 23:1-6</u>  <u>Psalm 23</u>	<u>Ephesians 2:11-22</u>	<u>Mark 6:30-34, 53-56</u>
<b>Proper 12 (17)</b> Ninth Sunday after Pentecost July 25, 2021 <a href="#">ART</a> -- <a href="#">PRAYER</a>	<u>2 Samuel 11:1-15</u>  <u>Psalm 14</u>	<u>2 Kings 4:42-44</u>  <u>Psalm 145:10-18</u>	<u>Ephesians 3:14-21</u>	<u>John 6:1-21</u>

#### **Where to find us online:**

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

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/277991775631450/>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJBg3reFTupyzn5oS-kCgow>

\*\*\*To access our services when they are livestreamed, you need to first subscribe to Good Shepherd's YouTube channel (use the link above). \*\*\*



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

**As summer approaches we will be returning to summer office hours. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9-1, from June 29<sup>th</sup> until September 2<sup>nd</sup>.** The church office will be closed July 1 for Canada Day.

Deadline for August Newsletter Items is July 26<sup>th</sup>.



**Contact Information** – Have you moved? Got a new mobile number or email address? Gotten rid of your land line? Please remember to let the church office know so that we can update our records and ensure that you are getting all your Good Shepherd news! **We plan to update the congregational phone book this summer.**

**What can happen in 17 years? A Lot!** Families grow and change. Babies are born. Teenagers grow to adults and leave home. And technology continually evolves. In an effort to keep our files up to date, and to protect your information and privacy, the church office asks that all members and friends of Good Shepherd fill out a new Personal Information Permission form. These forms are required by Canada's Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (2004). **We need to have written consent to collect, use, or disclose information about you.** These forms are available in the rack by the church office door. Please fill one out and drop in the office mailbox at your earliest convenience.

**Time & Talent Sheets – Many Hands Make Light Work!** Now that we are moving back toward something that looks like normal, we need your help! We ask that each congregation member fill out a new Time & Talent sheet, indicating where they are interested volunteering to help with the ministries of Good Shepherd. We are starting our lists from scratch and need fresh information. Even if you filled one out two years ago, please take a moment to prayerfully consider where your talents can be put to use within our congregation. Completed forms can be left in the office mailbox.



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.

## **On Eagle's Wings**

In years past our congregation has supported On Eagle's Wings VBS ministry in the North. In the time of COVID they, like so many, need to do things a little differently. Rather than going into communities to lead a VBS program, they are sending out "Bible Camp in a Bag" kits.

From Rev Lesley Hand's letter... *"Would you help On Eagle's Wings with VBS supplies again this year? Because Covid still prevents us from travelling to the North, we are offering a home-based 'Bible Camp in a Bag'. This is a virtual Bible Camp through which families experience Jesus' love in the home, as a family.*

*Northern communities are embracing Bible Camp in a Bag and eagerly anticipating the arrival of the kits. So much so, that we have had to increase our supply order (twice!) due to many requests. We are preparing 425 backpacks. That's 425 families in 21 communities. 425 backpacks to fill means that we need 425 of everything. To facilitate the large quantities, we are ordering all the supplies in bulk. Staff and volunteers will assemble and pack all the kits in Edmonton. As soon as we have assembled and packed the kits, they will be shipped to communities."*

If you would like to support On Eagle's Wings VBS program, you can make a special offering (indicate amount on your offering envelope).

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

*Prime Time Camp (age 35+), July 5-7 & 9-11 – Pastor John Lentz will be the resource pastor for both sessions.*

## **Witness**

*"Almighty Lord, we are often hesitant to be part of leadership on your behalf. Help us overcome our fears and feelings of being overwhelmed, and give us your guidance. Amen."*

- Prayer from Eternity for Today

Why did I ever volunteer? What was I thinking? For those of us who volunteer, I'm sure these thoughts have crossed your minds. I know they did when asked to be on council and chair the Witness committee. It's been 8 years and I can honestly say it's been a rewarding experience. You see, I have learned about how churches are run. I have learned to organize a Fall Supper. I have made many friendships along the way. I have written items for the newsletter. And most of all I listened to that voice that said sign up, it will be a way to be of service. I have challenged myself to do more which is why I volunteered on the nominating committee.

We do need one more person for this committee. Open positions on council are Learning, Service and Youth. As the prayer above says overcome your fears. If anyone feels interested and wants a new life challenge, please give me a call at 403-396-7168.

Barbaranne Stickelmier

## **Stewardship and Finance**

The Stewardship/Finance committee thanks the congregation for its continued faithful support. We also encourage you to maintain your support. You can contribute via preauthorized payment, by cheque, or by interac e-transfer.

As we return to in-person worship, we will be in need of volunteers to serve as tellers following services. If you have served in this capacity before, please be expecting a phone call as we work to cover the summer schedule.

Dallas Craven

## **Youth**

When the summer starts to wind down, don't forget to plan on your **APPLE ORDER!** Once again we will be partnering with Davison Orchards in the Okanagan. There are four different boxes to choose from:

1. **Davison Honeycrisp:** \$40/box
2. **Gala:** \$30/box
3. **Okanagan Blend:** \$32/box
4. **Bartlett Pears:** \$40/box

All boxes average 15lb. Orders must be in by **September 2, 2021** and pickup is scheduled for **September 12, 2021** from 4-7pm. Order forms are available in the rack by the church office. Please see Teri Craven for more info.

## **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): Ron Bjorge  
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 May 31, 2021*

As at May 31st our bank balance is \$84,013.72. We also hold \$24,736.02 in savings. We had a substantial deficit in May with a large shortfall in giving and a large expense with the annual insurance premium. We thank you for your continued financial support and ask you to consider and keep in your prayers, the work of our church.

### Income

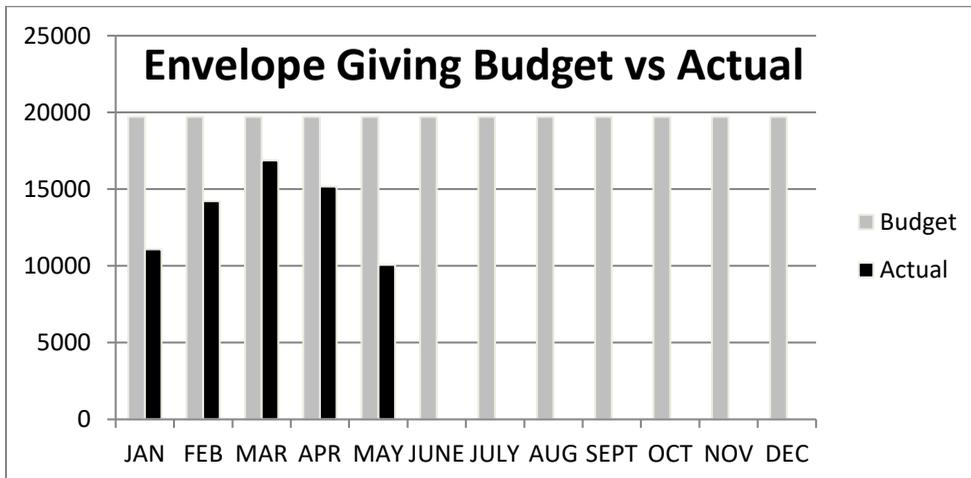
Facility Rental	82	
Designated Offerings	1,790	
Envelope	67,247	
Loose & miscellaneous		
AB Reopening grant	5,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 74,119</b>

### Expenses

Learning	94	
Mutual Ministry	64,745	
Service	475	
Witness and Evangelism		
Property	17,053	
Stewardship and Finance		
Benevolence	8,000	
Designated	1,640	
Office	1,760	
Insurance	7,515	
Worship	3,356	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 105,168</b>

**Income less Expense**

**\$ - 31,049**





## *A Summer Prayer*

Father, Creator of all,  
thank you for summer!

Thank you for the warmth of the sun  
and the increased daylight.

Thank you for the beauty I see all around me  
and for the opportunity to be outside  
and enjoy your creation.

Thank you for the increased time I have  
to be with my friends and family,  
and for the more casual pace  
of the summer season.

Draw me closer to you this summer.

Teach me how I can pray  
no matter where I am  
or what I am doing.

Warm my soul  
with the awareness of your presence  
and light my path  
with your Word and Counsel.

As I enjoy your creation,  
create in me a pure heart  
and a hunger and a thirst for you.

Amen.

*Author Unknown*