



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

Parish Administrators: Darlene Kneller & Teri Craven goodshep@telusplanet.net

Music and Worship Director: Nadine Harshenin gsmusic@telus.net

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

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

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

June 2021

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37 No. 06

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.

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



Greetings in the name of Christ our Lord.

By the time you read this, it will be June (or close enough). At the time of writing it's still mid May so it's hard to think of what June will look like yet. The signs are there to make a good guess though. The leaves on the trees are poking through, the grass is already growing through the old growth of last fall, and the dandelions are showing signs...NO! They're out already. Those yellow blooms seem to have come out of hiding in the time that I walked into the office this morning to the time I looked out the church door at noon!

Spring always seems to bring hopefulness here in Alberta. The long winters of the Canadian prairies creates a people who know how to hope. Every farmer looks out and sees a hopeful season. By the time June comes around at least some of the seed is already in the ground, and the sower of the seed goes about the business of farming with hope. The same holds true with the gardeners in our midst.

We're never really sure what it will turn out to be when fall arrives, and yet the planting of the seed is an act of hope, and yes, faith too.

As Christians, as the people of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, and followers of the Risen Christ, we ought always to be the people of hope. We all know that these past 14 months have been difficult at best. We all know that the COVID crisis as set everything on end and for some has affected our mental health. But remember that we are a people of hope, and the first

thing we put our hope in is the Risen Christ. That is the sure thing. Christ has remained the same and has remained with us through the whole episode. He will remain with us long past the COVID pandemic, and will be with us into our future. Now that's a hope that doesn't disappoint.

We look forward with hope to the end of this pandemic. We will be considering carefully the timing and rate of reopening when it is right to do so. We hope that process will begin soon. Know that the church council is at work on your behalf to do what is best and what is safe for all people of Good Shepherd, with careful consideration for our more vulnerable folks. In the mean time, remain in the hope that is not from us but is from our Risen Lord. What we need to do together to overcome and then to rid ourselves of this pandemic will seem so much easier in the light of Christ. Amen.

Pastor John

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)

The below is sent from the office of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories on behalf of Bishop Larry Kochendorfer and Rev. Dr. Brian Rude:

Retirement of Pastor Brian Rude – ELCIC Missionary to El Salvadore

After 36 years of ministry, Pastor Brian Rude will retire the end of August 2021. Brian states, "Transitions transpire on many levels. While El Salvador is going through a major transition, my role in this picture will be going through a minor transition. I hope to continue on in El Salvador as I have over the past decades, though, beginning 1 September, 2021, it will no longer be under the sponsorship of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. While many in Canada do retire (more or less?), "retirement" isn't really a thing in El Salvador."

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Red Deer wish to join the church at large in thanking Pastor Rude for his dedicated service to the people of El Salvador.

Cards and letters can be mailed to the Alberta Synod office at www.albertasynod.ca

In this message you will find a link to correspondence regarding "*En Misión con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador*", announcing the upcoming retirement of Pastor Brian Rude.

Find the letter [here](#).

Here is Pastor's Rude's latest update from El Salvador: There is still great need to pray for God's intervention for the people and in the politics of El Salvador.

Greetings from El Salvador, where summer is transitioning into "winter" (rainy season), for the next six months (temperatures remain year-round at 31°C / 19°C, plus or minus 2°C).

This past weekend brought other transitions, largely anticipated, resulting from the elections of 28 February. "*Nuevas Ideas*" are being implemented, fast and furious, as new personnel replace former personnel at many levels, from the legislative assembly (67% new parliamentarians from "*Nuevas Ideas*"), to Supreme Court magistrates, to the attorney general.

Following is our Lutheran lawyer Tim's summary and assessment of the situation, as of May 3, "*Día de la Cruz*."

<http://www.elsalvadorperspectives.com/2021/05/the-coup-against-separation-of-powers.html>

Thank you for your ongoing concern and prayers.

Paz,

The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude

"In Mission with El Salvador" / Synod of Alberta and the Territories, ELCICanada

Worship Committee

Truth be told, I've gotten tired of having to live under Covid health restrictions. I miss hanging out with friends over dinner. I miss going out for a restaurant meal and having it served at our table while it's still reasonably warm. And I miss that feeling of togetherness that was found in our "old" regular church services and fellowship activities. I suspect our small group of volunteers who present, record and post online our modified worship services might be getting tired of Covid health restrictions as well.

But at Good Shepherd, the Word of God is still being presented to all willing to hear it, the Good News of the grace of God is still repeated to us and communion is still shared. Our group is gaining a bit more expertise at the technical parts of putting our services together. The purchase of new microphones and hi-resolution camera are beginning to make recording our services online go a bit smoother. We are still a community called by Christ to serve, even though we cannot "be together" in the way we used to be at worship.

If we think about our roles of worship and service as the work we are called by Christ to do, then

that's what we should do, even though some parts of our working conditions have changed. Christ didn't call us just to attend worship in the way we always used to do it. There's more to it: we are called to be light and grace to the places where we live and move. The worship and fellowship that we enjoy are there to teach us and build us up — for service.

I am hoping that though we cannot come together yet, there is still something in worship for each of us that will teach us, build us up and keep us united. There is loving work for us to do in God's kingdom. We need to hear repeated the endless promise of grace for us. So we can repeat that in our lives, for others. There's no restriction on that.

Greg Neiman

Update on video streaming volunteers and equipment

Hopefully you are enjoying our church services that have been faithfully recorded, edited, and posted to YouTube for the past 13 months. The May 9th, and 16th, services were recorded using the streaming equipment which instead of a using a camera, and computer for power point, also involves using the sound board just as we would for an in person service.

I tried to operate the remote camera and do the sound on my own, and we got it done, but it is too much to look after for one person. **We need a sound person for recording, a person to operate the PowerPoint, and yet another to operate the camera/switcher for each service.** We are planning to reacquaint ourselves with the sound board in the near future.

If you are able to help with these roles please let us know. The goal would be to have a pool of people to call on.

If you are interested in looking into this, email me at rondave62@gmail.com
Ron Kunz

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

Some of the great, anointed yet frail, figures in the Bible acknowledged that they could not deal effectively with their own weighty OR pesky problems. Instead, they found that continually flinging their cares, troubles, sorrows, anxieties, difficulties on the Lord who loves them unconditionally, gave them peace, gave them solutions. God Himself opened doors, comforted, and provided - subtly, miraculously, and every which way in between. The likes of Moses - liberator of the Jews from bondage - King David, Mary, mother of Jesus, and the apostles Peter and Paul candidly

share this in Scripture. God gives grace to the humble, He lifts up and strengthens the weary and those who trust Him; in our professed weakness, perfects His power. He honours those who acknowledge His absolute supremacy AND His intimate care for us. So we too, as we worship in our spirit and in truth the living and Creator God, who dwells not in buildings or shrines made by man (Acts 17), but who looks for those who search and reach for Him, wants us to KNOW that He is not far from ANY ONE of us - Wow! - at ANY time. He hears and knows our problems and issues, day to day, lovingly listening, and crafting responses beyond our understanding, to sustain and encourage us. Until we see Him face to face. Blessings and love as you share all, worship, and LEAVE all with Him.

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, Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre and Central Alberta Women's Emergency Centre and so many other local outreach agencies.

Service (Social) Committee

Service committee members include Jeanette Page, Donna Rodatz, Karen Thomson and Ron Bjorge.

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. Donations will be gladly accepted throughout the months of JUNE and JULY. Thank you for giving this your consideration.

The Mustard Seed was closed for a few days due to Covid related matters, but is now back open. Our congregation will begin serving again, once Covid levels drop and vaccinations increase.

Submitted by Ron Bjorge
Council Rep for Mutual Ministry and Service

Cultural Awareness

Taken from Canada Lutheran on the importance of Truth and Reconciliation March 2021 Issue

“Education is the key to reconciliation. Without a shared understanding of how our collective past has brought us to where we are today, we will not be able to walk together into a better future.

Education means not only learning a history that many are never taught but, for non-Indigenous people, unlearning attitudes and behaviours that contribute to intolerance and racism.”

KAIROS Times, February 2021

Truth and Reconciliation opportunities

You can register today for Kairos Blanket Exercise Teaching and Sharing Circles Summer Sessions:

Register at [Upcoming Events – Kairos Blanket Exercise](#)

<https://www.kairosblanketexercise.org/event/>

Interactive, Zoom-based sessions that build positive relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people through truth, sharing, and open dialogue. This summer, five public sessions will be offered, including:

Tuesday, June 1 (7-9 pm ET) - The Impacts of Residential Schools

Tuesday, June 15 (7-9 pm ET) - Metis Teachings

Monday, June 21 (7-9 pm) - We Are All Treaty People (National Indigenous Day)

Tuesday, June 29 (7-9 pm ET) - Social Justice in the Court System

Tuesday, July 20 (7-9 pm ET) - The Importance of Growing Gardens

Jeanette Page

Hello Eternity for Today Subscribers

Your third quarter *Eternity for Today* booklet will be in your church mailbox or mailed directly to you on June 1, 2021. If you would like to change your method of receiving the booklet please call me at 403-782-3205 or email me at thepages@telusplanet.net.

Learning



Bible Study on Jesus' Parables - Are you missing the inspiration, learning and the fellowship of Bible Studies? Well here's a chance for you to reconnect with some of the other people of Good Shepherd. It's no use waiting for the COVID restrictions to subside enough to open up in person gatherings in the building, so we're going digital. Beginning Thursday, May 13, at 7:30 pm., Pastor John invites you to join us in a 5-part series on "The Parables". A Zoom link will be emailed weekly so that you can join in and have some fun and learning with some of your friends. Conversation will be strongly encouraged. You can attend one or all of the sessions; each parable will be a "stand alone" session...and, you won't be tested on the material either!

Ladies Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Please take advantage of the Pastor's bible study above.

Scriptures for the Sundays after Pentecost May-June 2021

These are available on our website as well.

Season after Pentecost Year B	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Trinity Sunday May 30, 2021 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i> ART -- PRAYER	<u>Isaiah 6:1-8</u> <u>Psalm 29</u>		<u>Romans 8:12-17</u>	<u>John 3:1-17</u>
Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth May 31, 2021 ART -- PRAYER	<u>1 Samuel 2:1-10</u> <u>Psalm 113</u>		<u>Romans 12:9-16b</u>	<u>Luke 1:39-57</u>
Proper 5 (10) Second Sunday after Pentecost June 6, 2021 ART -- PRAYER	<u>1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20, (11:14-15)</u> <u>Psalm 138</u>	<u>Genesis 3:8-15</u> <u>Psalm 130</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1</u>	<u>Mark 3:20-35</u>
Proper 6 (11) Third Sunday after Pentecost June 13, 2021 ART -- PRAYER	<u>1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13</u> <u>Psalm 20</u>	<u>Ezekiel 17:22-24</u> <u>Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17</u>	<u>Mark 4:26-34</u>
Proper 7 (12) Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 20, 2021 ART -- PRAYER	<u>1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49</u> <u>Psalm 9:9-20</u> <u>or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16</u> <u>Psalm 133</u>	<u>Job 38:1-11</u> <u>Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32</u>	<u>2 Corinthians 6:1-13</u>	<u>Mark 4:35-41</u>

<p>Proper 8 (13) Fifth Sunday after Pentecost June 27, 2021 <u>ART</u> -- <u>PRAYER</u></p>	<p><u>2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27</u> <u>Psalm 130</u></p>	<p><u>Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 or Lamentations 3:22-33</u> <u>Psalm 30</u></p>	<p><u>2 Corinthians 8:7-15</u></p>	<p><u>Mark 5:21-43</u></p>
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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/>

Please visit and explore our website: <https://www.goodshepherdlutheranrd.ca/>

As summer approaches we will be returning to summer office hours. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9-1, from June 29th until September 2nd.

VOLUNTEERS please be thinking and praying about how you can serve your congregation as we move toward re-opening. Following all current COVID restrictions, even now while we are still recording services we require volunteers to be available– to train to use the on-line video equipment, operate the PowerPoint, operate the soundboard, readers, musicians including pianists and singers. Of course, we are limited by the numbers of volunteers but let us know if you are interested in becoming involved. As summer approaches keep in mind that some of our regular volunteers may need a break. Our on-line services are meeting a real need in our community and beyond. Consider that our last service already has 125 views – maybe more than one in a household watching it. Plus some of our members watch the service posted on our Facebook page.

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/>

Once again, our plans for a summer together are affected by the current public health restrictions. **However, this summer we come to you with much more positive news than last year..**

You have likely heard of the dilemma faced by camps across the country, as we balance our planning with current and projected restrictions. At this point, July presents a challenge. Following a recommendation from the Board of Directors, we do not anticipate being able to run our regular on-site programming. However, though we need to make some changes to our program schedule for July, **we still have hope for hosting all age groups in August.**

June and July - Join us for **Kuriakos Community Camping!** Book a cabin or campsite with your cohort, and enjoy your favourite activities, games, campfire, lakefront, and chapel - all planned with Covid guidelines in mind.

July - Current scheduled programs are suspended. Programs to be rescheduled to August if permitted. However, we hope to offer **Day Camps** in partnership with local congregations. These would take place at local parks or churches, with staff teams from Kuriakos joined by local volunteers. ****Heads up Good Shepherd we are trying to negotiate on this opportunity. Stay tuned.**

August - Current scheduled programs are suspended. We're hopeful for plans (see below August Programs On-site).

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.

Mutual Ministry

An email was sent to all those involved in Mutual Ministry including Pastor John, Darlene, Nadine, and Teri as well as Committee members Beth Nichols and Karen Borley, outlining key MM responsibilities and next steps. Karen Borley has recently joined the committee, so thank you Karen.

Ron Bjorge, Chair

Property

In a “normal” year we would have had a spring cleaning to spruce up the grounds, and church. Thanks to Shane C. for looking after so much of this while our church has been closed to in person services. I am finding out what the property person does, and there are things I wasn’t aware of like property insurance. We have paid our insurance for another year, I was a bit surprised to see how much it is. We were fortunate to have insurance after the clean up, and repairs needed earlier this year.

Ron Kunz

Stewardship and Finance

As Christians and Lutherans we are called to be good stewards of the resources that are entrusted to us. Good stewardship is essentially a faith issue. It is a reflection of our relationship with God.

Covid 19 has presented challenges for our congregation. In these challenging times it is essential that we use our resources wisely.

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 etransfer.

Dallas Craven

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 April 30, 2021

As at April 30th our bank balance is \$79,071.05. We also hold \$24,736.02 in money market and other savings. We were short giving in April but also had an unexpected expense with the \$5,000.00 deductible on our insurance claim. Thank you for your continued financial support.

Income

Facility Rental		
Designated Offerings	1,560	
Envelope	57,182	
Loose & miscellaneous		
AB Reopening grant	5,000	
TOTAL		\$ 63,824

Expenses

Learning	94	
Mutual Ministry	52,211	
Service	475	
Witness and Evangelism		
Property	14,560	
Stewardship and Finance		
Benevolence	6,400	
Designated	1410	
Office	1,269	
Insurance		
Worship	3,056	
TOTAL		\$ 79,951

Income less Expense \$-16,127

