

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

40 Holmes Street, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6L6

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

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

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

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

August 2021

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37 No. 08

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 by invitation. If you would like special prayer or to be included in the intercessory prayers, 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 Christ's name.

St. Paul had a special place in his heart for the church in Philippi. It was the first Christian church in what we know as Europe, having been established in Macedonia (modern day Greece) around 50 A.D. It's obvious from the letter that Paul loved these people and earnestly yearned to be with them again. He writes, *"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing the gospel from the first day until now."* (Phil. 1:3-5)

If you read on from there (vs. 12-13), you see that Paul writes this letter from prison. He had been imprisoned in Philippi before this, (see Acts 16), but a well-timed earthquake freed him and his pal, Silas, from the prison. The Jailor actually becomes a convert to Christianity through all this. So Paul sees his previous and present imprisonment as something that God uses to bring about good things.

That's a bit of my feeling for all of you people of Good Shepherd. I have yearned for the day when we would be able to meet together to worship again, instead of meeting online...and meeting

many of you for the first time. Yes, we still walk carefully through this reopening process and maintain some of our restrictions, but we hope that these will soon be put to an end as well. Our reopening committee and Church Council are watching things carefully, and are keeping all of you in heart and mind, your safety and your health. No decisions are being made lightly; all is done out of love for all of you.

As with Paul, we have seen that God used present circumstances for the good of the church. This is true for our congregation and for our Alberta Synod, with the new technologies that we've employed. It is far better to worship together and in person, but we have learned that we can continue to worship together, even when circumstances prohibit physical presence. As Paul sites the work and presence of the Holy Spirit so can we, knowing that it is the Holy Spirit that binds us always into a common body just as the Spirit had done for an imprisoned Paul.

Now we can again be in one another's presence, and I rejoice that I can meet you. I will rejoice again when we can do so without masks, and a real handshake or hug for the sharing of the peace. This will come, and may it be **soon**. We will soon return to a fully active congregation, and as such we will want you not only in the pews again, but active in Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group, Adult Studies, Worship Helpers, committees and the rest. This August is the key for our province and for Good Shepherd.

So let us continue to pray and hope for one another.
In Christ's peace,
Pastor John

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

Synod Convention Report

Peace to you from our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Alberta/NWT Synod;

This year's convention began in late June with three Pre-convention sessions to cover three areas of importance: Mission Priorities, Changes to Constitution and Bylaws, and Synod Budget and Finances.

The only item I found concerning in these was the Synod Budget for 2022. On top of normal Benevolence from congregations (budget is targeting \$660,000), there is a hope for an additional \$40,000.00 Benevolence. With the condition some congregations are in, just coming out of Covid lockdown, I feel this may be too ambitious. To give to a comparison, the actual benevolence in 2020 was \$615,009. I pray for wisdom to guide the finances of our Synod.

The actual convention began Friday evening, July 16, with an introductory session to the Lumi convention system. This program links into a zoom format, but also gives the option of having elections in real time. The great part was live tech support to help us thru all the bumps. The convention theme was "on the Road", with the Road to Emmaus being our guide. Dr. Karoline Lewis followed this them in her reflections of our journey thru covid 19 and the challenges we face.

An exciting moment was the signing of the Statement of Covenant with the Lutheran Church of Columbia, 2021-2027. This especially becomes significant with the news that Brian Rude will be

retiring from his mission in Columbia, but future funds for his good works will continue to serve the region.

I especially enjoyed the “Moments with Bishop Larry”, hosted by Anna Berg; Bishop Larry being asked casual questions about himself. This triggered the most controversial moment of convention when Bishop Larry said his favorite football team was Saskatchewan. 😊

Good Shepherd had a proud moment with the awarding of the Stephen D. Wildfang Leadership Award, recognizing a life of serving. The recipient for this year’s award is Pastor David Larsen and it was presented to him by our own Pastor John Lentz. Many of us know “PD” and our congratulations and prayers are with him for many more years of blessed service.

Thank you for allowing me to be your delegate this year. It is always a time of renewing old friendships and connecting with the larger church.

In peace.
Glen Kneller
Delegate to the Synod Convention.

Worship Committee

We continue to welcome all worshipers to regular Sunday services.

We are live-streaming services and posting services online in real time, as they occur — and now with a congregation in attendance.

Council voted that we will still need to be masked during the summer. Congregational singing and sung responses to liturgy are allowed. We sharing the peace with a wave and a wink. We sit in our own cohorts, spaced apart, as directed by our ushers. However, are together! Hopefully, as vaccinations in the general population increase and Covid infections decrease, regulations will relax even more.

We will need worship assistants, lectors, ushers and musicians for each service. Plus 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. We also need people willing to help with the sound system. We will happily provide training and encouragement to anyone willing to take a turn helping out with this vital task.

Anyone interested in learning how to video the service 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.

We have returned to the House of God, and that truly is good news!

Greg Neiman

Streaming-A/V

Thanks to those individuals who have offered to help run the Video, and soundboard during our services. Speaking for myself, and Tom M., and Glen K., we are wanting to get a bit more experience with the video equipment in particular before showing others how to use it.

We will also be deciding if we would like to look into an additional camera or not once we have done a few more services.

Ron Kunz

Notes from Nadine

It is exciting to think of the potential opportunities ahead for the Fall of doing more things TOGETHER as a church family, and in our neighbourhood and city. Sunday school, Confirmation, kids' and youth ministries, Bible Studies, Music Ministry - perhaps out to smaller communities as well - prayer groups, social outreach, and so on, as the Lord leads and opens up. I know we wait on Him who alone knows the way forward.

For at least some, I believe the restrictions and isolation required or brought on by the advent of the Covid virus have created voids, added fears and tendencies of 'withdrawal' and escapism. Despondency, despair, and depression need to be voiced and heard, and people treated with gentleness and respect on the road to greater health and wholeness. If we seek Him, God will show us and open the doors to our own ministries to individuals in our path, and to those He brings forth to minister and listen to us.

Our Lord Jesus was familiar with aloneness, isolation, rejection by even His closest friends, suffering, fears, tortured compassion for His people who were lost. He knew intimately as a man what it was to be 'tossed aside', hated, considered worthless and vile. We will never approach His depth of experience, but HE KNOWS about human frailty - and always responded with LOVE. We can trust Him.

And so on our 'wobbling way' our Master will take our hand as we venture forth into the Fall. God bless us, every one!

Nadine

Youth Committee

Some of our youth gave their time and energy to serve at our Day Camp in July. Let's keep the momentum going! **Good Shepherd is in dire need of a Youth Committee!** People who are passionate about serving, encouraging, and building up the young people in our congregation are needed. People who like to have fun! If you have a heart for the youth of our congregation and our community, please contact Pastor John.

Confirmation

Confirmation is a two-year program for middle school students. Confirmation covers Biblical literacy and thorough understanding of the primary tenets of our faith (the Creed, the Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacraments, Luther's Small Catechism). If you know of any 7th or 8th grade students who would benefit from learning about what being a Christian and a Lutheran is all about, please be in touch with Pastor John Lentz.

Service (Social) Committee

A huge thank you for the diaper donations for the Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre. We have had a total of 10 items donated for which CAPCC is most grateful. – Donna Rodatz

Mustard Seed

The Mustard Seed is getting back into the swing of things. They have asked Good Shepherd if we could provide the manpower for serving the evening meal on August 9. We are planning to do that and presently have some volunteers lined up, but could use more. If available to help, please contact Ron Bjorge at 403 347 4680. We hope to continue volunteering at Mustard Seed in the fall.

Currently they have some individual opportunities in addition to serving as indicated below.

- Hygiene room sorting
- Meal prep
- Faith companion – once a week for 3 months
- Pre dinner music
- Coffee bar, various times

If you feel called to serve, please inquire at the Mustard Seed at: theseed.ca/volunteer or Ron Bjorge (403-347 4680).

Food Bank - Good Shepherd has a great history of providing food items for the Red Deer Food Bank. Beginning September 1 we will commence collecting non perishable food items to be delivered to the Food Bank after the first Sunday of the month. So please keep this in mind and consider bringing an item for the Food Bank.

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

Brian Rude has a new e-mail address: Brian.Rude.ES@gmail.com

Cultural Awareness

The long awaited and hard-fought national legislation to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) has successfully passed the final vote in the Senate.

Thanks to those in our congregation who have shown interest and provided personal support for the passage of the UNDRIP legislation. Canada is one of the last countries in the world to put this legislation in place.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action 48:

“We call upon the church parties to the Settlement Agreement, and all other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada who have not already done so, to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation...”

What does the Declaration state? Very briefly, the UN Declaration affirms Indigenous peoples' inherent right to self-determination, including the right of Indigenous peoples to make their own decisions about how their lands will be used and protected and how their cultures and traditions will be maintained. The Declaration prohibits racial discrimination, requiring special measures to address the needs and safety of those at greatest risk of human rights violations, and calls on states to respect and enforce the Treaties and other agreements they have entered into with Indigenous peoples.

For more information please go to faithinthedeclaration.ca/take-action-1

At the Red Deer Museum and Art Gallery

The MAG has a local Indigenous history display which includes the Red Deer Industrial School. You can view a 22 minute documentary film by local filmmaker Rueben Tschetter entitled *A Historic Survival*. The film features two local women, Bertha Poor (who passed away in 2019) and Rosena Winnie talking about their personal experiences in residential schools. It can also be seen through a YouTube link on the National Screen Institute's website, nsi-canada.ca. Other related films made by Tschetter, *Being Kokum (YouTube)* and *Sacred Transitions (thecacheproject.ca)*.

Powwow season has begun again. It's the time of the year when Indigenous communities enjoy mother nature on her earth, gathering to connect and celebrate the summer solstice and season through dance. Each dancer, in their personal regalia, has their own form of prayer through dance, presenting for family, friends and community. There are also vendors and food trucks. If you are interested, **everyone is invited to attend the Samson Cree Nation powwow at Maskwacis , August 13-15.** It's a great experience, giving us an opportunity learn more about our neighbours as they display a part of their culture.

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

Learning



A huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers who helped make our Day Camp a success! Sixteen children were blessed by your time and willingness to invest in their lives. An extra special thanks goes out to the young people who helped out... Madisen Gero, Rufus Thalathoti, Simon Marwood, Blair King, and Regan Rivard, as well as the Camp Kuriakos staff members, Hannah, Tanner, and Elenor.

Scriptures for the Sundays after Pentecost

These are available on our website.

Proper 13 (18) Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 1, 2021 ART -- PRAYER	<u>2 Samuel</u> <u>11:26 - 12:13a</u> <u>Psalm 51:1-12</u>	<u>Exodus 16:2-4,</u> <u>9-15</u> <u>Psalm 78:23-</u> <u>29</u>	<u>Ephesians 4:1-</u> <u>16</u>	<u>John 6:24-35</u>
Proper 14 (19) Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 8, 2021 ART -- PRAYER	<u>2 Samuel</u> <u>18:5-9, 15, 31-</u> <u>33</u> <u>Psalm 130</u>	<u>1 Kings 19:4-8</u> <u>Psalm 34:1-8</u>	<u>Ephesians</u> <u>4:25-5:2</u>	<u>John 6:35, 41-</u> <u>51</u>
Proper 15 (20) Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 15, 2021 ART -- PRAYER	<u>1 Kings 2:10-</u> <u>12; 3:3-14</u> <u>Psalm 111</u>	<u>Proverbs 9:1-6</u> <u>Psalm 34:9-14</u>	<u>Ephesians</u> <u>5:15-20</u>	<u>John 6:51-58</u>
Proper 16 (21) Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 22, 2021 ART -- PRAYER	<u>1 Kings</u> <u>8:(1,6,10-11),</u> <u>22-30, 41-43</u> <u>Psalm 84</u>	<u>Joshua 24:1-</u> <u>2a, 14-18</u> <u>Psalm 34:15-</u> <u>22</u>	<u>Ephesians</u> <u>6:10-20</u>	<u>John 6:56-69</u>
Proper 17 (22) Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 29, 2021 ART -- PRAYER	<u>Song of</u> <u>Solomon 2:8-</u> <u>13</u> <u>Psalm 45:1-2,</u> <u>6-9</u>	<u>Deuteronomy</u> <u>4:1-2, 6-9</u> <u>Psalm 15</u>	<u>James 1:17-27</u>	<u>Mark 7:1-8,</u> <u>14-15, 21-23</u>

Ladies Wednesday Evening Bible Study

First meeting of the year will be held on September 8th, 2021 @ 7pm at the church.

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.

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 29th until September 2nd.

Deadline for September Newsletter Items is August 23rd.



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.

Note: Shane will be on holidays July 6-14.

Property

Thanks to Shane who has topped up the flower beds with cedar mulch in front of the church, and he adding the triangular beds with the large rocks and pea gravel base along the sidewalk leading up to the main entrance.

Our elevator was inspected with only one minor repair noted. This will be addressed in the next couple of weeks.

Ron Kunz

Camp Kuriakos News

Are you interested in community camping on site or sending someone you love to Kid's or Youth Adventure camp this August? All the info you need is available at www.kuriakos.ab.ca or by talking with Tom Marstaller or Ron Borge our Camp Kuriakos Ambassadors.



Apple Sale



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. This fund raiser is being picked up by the Good Shepherd Lutheran Ladies.

Monies can be e-transferred to the office with the question:

What is our fund raiser? and the password can be "applesales".

Attention All Volunteers

Your willingness to volunteer is valued by our church community. As a sign of the times, we do have an obligation to have a current police check on file with the office. As per our policy to protect children, youth, and vulnerable people the church requires that this security clearance be completed and submitted to the church office **every two years**. If you have previously submitted a record check, your record is **due to be updated**. Please check your church mail box for more information or phone the church office.

Stewardship and Finance

What is good stewardship?

Good stewardship is simply wisely using the resources that God has entrusted to us.

This includes using those resources for our family's needs to be certain. But we also need to remember the needs of our community of faith.

The stewardship committee would like to thank the congregation for its continued support, and to ask the congregation to continue that much needed support

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 June 30, 2021

As at June 30th our bank balance is \$84,214.24. We also hold \$24,736.02 in savings. We had a fairly good June with breakeven income and expenses. We still have a large YTD deficit. 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	350	
Designated Offerings	1,870	
Envelope	85,167	
Loose & miscellaneous		
AB Reopening grant	5,000	
TOTAL		\$ 92,470

Expenses

Learning	94	
Mutual Ministry	77,428	
Service	800	
Witness and Evangelism		
Property	19,416	
Stewardship and Finance		
Benevolence	9,600	
Designated	1,720	
Office	2,074	
Insurance	7,515	
Worship	3,976	
TOTAL		\$ 123,200

Income less Expense

\$ - 30,729

