



# Monthly Newsletter of LAKELAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2019

Cold Lake, Alberta

780-639-4673

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-12pm

Pastor's Office hours

Wednesday-Friday 9am-12pm

[lakelandlutheran@telus.net](mailto:lakelandlutheran@telus.net)

Interim Pastor:

AnnE Zimmerman



*From the desk of AnnE....*

## I Hold My Life Up to You Now

Patient God,

The clock struck midnight

and I partied with a strange sadness in my heart,  
confusion in my mind.

Now, I ask you

to gather me

for I realize

the storms of time have scattered me,  
the furies of the year past have driven me,  
many sorrows have scarred me,  
many accomplishments have disappointed me,  
much activity has wearied me,  
and fear has spooked me  
into a hundred hiding places,  
one of which is pretend gaiety.

I am sick of a string of "Have a nice day's."

What I want is passionate days,

wondrous days,

dangerous days,

blessed days,

surprising days.

What I want is you!

Patient God,

This day teeters on the edge of waiting

and things seem to slip away from me,

as though everything was only memory

and memory is capricious.

Help me not to let my life slip away from me.

O God, I hold up my life to you now,

as much as I can,

as high as I can,

in this mysterious reach called prayer.

Come close, lest I wobble and fall short.

It is not days or years I seek from you,

not infinity and enormity,

but small things and moments and awareness,

awareness that you are in what I am

and in what I have been indifferent to.

It is not new time,

but new eyes,

new heart I seek,

and you.

Patient God,

in this teetering time,

this time in the balance,

this time of waiting,

make me aware of moments,

moments of song,

moments of bread and friends,

moments of jokes

(some of them on me)

which for the moment, deflate my pomposities;

moments of sleep and warm beds,

moments of children laughing and parents bending,

moments of sunsets and sparrows outspunking winter,

moments when broken things get mended

with glue or guts or mercy or imagination;

moments when splinters shine and rocks shrink,

moments when I know myself blest,  
not because I am so awfully important,  
but because you are so awesomely God,  
no less of the year to come  
as of all the years past;  
no less in this moment  
than of all my moments;  
no less of those who forget you  
as of those who remember,  
as I do now,  
in this teetering time.

O Patient God,  
make something new in me,  
in this year,  
for you..

**Guerillas of Grace—by Ted Loder**



## January 2019 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

“In the time of King Herod...,” that’s how the story begins.

“In the time of King Herod...” He built monumental structures including the Second Jewish Temple, the mountaintop palace at Masada and the palatial Herodium complex whose desert palace included a grand residence, a theater and large pools, baths and gardens. When his position was seemingly threatened, he did not hesitate for a second but had his wife killed and at least two of his sons.

“In the time of King Herod...” He dominates the story. Of the twelve verses of the Epiphany Gospel, Matthew 2:1-12, he controls the action in ten of them. He rules a world dominated by his authority, his power, his ruthlessness.

King Herod so rules over the world, over this story, that it would be easy to miss the good news of the birth of an infant for it is almost buried, almost hidden, almost veiled in the reality dominated by Herod.

It is no wonder then that he, and all of Jerusalem with him, are stunned by the arrival of wise men from the East who come to Jerusalem wishing to pay tribute to a “child who has been born king of the Jews.” It frightens him, and all Jerusalem and he moves quickly to control, to assess, to dominate calling the religious leaders together and then secretly meeting the wise men.

And later we will learn that Herod had been fooled by these wise foreigners – fooled but not beaten. He fights back as cruelty does and has all the infants slaughtered.

“In the time of King Herod...”

This is not an easy, gentle story – but the gospel writer, Matthew’s witness, does not shy away from recognizing that the good news of Jesus – of the birth of the Christ-child, “the king of the Jews” is surrounded by, it is immersed in, harsh reality. And that beneath this reality as defined by Herod – almost hidden, almost veiled – is the truth.

Foreigners arrive in Jerusalem with wealth to place at the crib of a Jewish baby. And, in this act of homage, they become the first to see what God is up to in the birth of this infant. An epiphany which means something like manifestation, or unveiling, or revealing the truth. That the steadfast love of God is met in the flesh and blood of Jesus, born of Mary and that it is veiled, revealed in weakness, hidden in poverty, seen in helplessness.

The gospel writer's witness invites us to see that the epiphany is not obvious. Rather, it is fragile, tenuous, dreamlike, as vulnerable as an unnoticed baby in a god-forsaken little village, witnessed to by foreigners, in a land ruled by Herod.

And this is where we find ourselves. For if we are to be a people who seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ, "in the time of King Herod," then we are invited to see God at work in the hidden, veiled, fragile, tenuous, vulnerable, weak, poor; in people and places and events one would hardly notice at all.

For what child is this whose epiphany is so quiet, so unobtrusive, little more than a whisper and yet this one is known, is revealed in the sharing of a little piece of bread and a sip of wine?

For what child is this whose epiphany is so fragile, so veiled, in a village fifteen kilometers from the center of power in Jerusalem and yet this one is baptized, and we are ourselves, baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, are named and claimed children of God?

For what child is this whose birth in a manger is witnessed hardly at all, and who is killed on a cross embracing the whole world. A story from start to finish surrounded by loss and grief and yet a story that ends in surprising, new life?

"In the time of King Herod...." And soon this family will be running to Egypt.

God give us eyes, new eyes, to see You at work among us. And then nurtured in the water and the Word of our baptism, nourished in the communion meal, and upheld in community move us to action for the fragile, tenuous, vulnerable, weak, poor.

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)*

## **WOULD YOU LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OUR CHURCH?**

Our Church Council is looking for new members to serve. Service would begin (after voting for council members) at the Annual General Meeting this coming February 2019.

### **\* COMMITTEES PLEASE REMEMBER TO PREPARE YOUR REPORTS FOR THE A.G.M.**

### **Confused what a Church Council Member actually does?**

Speak to our Council President Keith Scheidt. He will give you any information you need together with an opportunity to come and see what actually does happen at a Council meeting.





# Upcoming Events

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## Announcements

### CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE

Please join us in prayer at Lakeland Lutheran Church on Sunday January 20th @ 7 PM for the Christian Unity Service.



### CHECKOUT THE JANUARY 2019 CALENDAR FOR ALL ACTIVITIES.



Are we missing anything in our newsletter? Or is there something you wish we would have in our newsletter on a ongoing basis? Remember all inclusions for the February newsletter must be to the church office by January 27th, 2019. Please contact the church office with your ideas or necessary inclusions. Kathy is waiting for your call or email.

### Come and Join:

Friday 25th January from 7 to 9 PM is our Games night for the Adults. Bring a game and join us for a night of fun and fellowship.



## **BIBLE STUDY – MOVIE NIGHT**

Everyone is invited to join the Bible Study group on Thursday 17th January @ 6 PM to watch the critically acclaimed movie – The Indian Horse. An adaptation of Richard Wagamese's novel 'Indian Horse' produced by Clint Eastwood, it centers on Saul Indian Horse, a young Canadian First Nations boy who survives the Indian residential school system to become a star ice hockey player.



Josephine Sinclair and her family, would like to thank everyone for their calls, cards, visits and gifts over the Christmas season. It is greatly appreciated and her church family is a huge blessing in her life. Thank you!

## **Witness, Outreach and Mission Projects for 2018 – 2019**

JANUARY: Pack up items from Mitten Tree, have them blessed and delivered.

FEBRUARY: Refuge Support

MARCH & APRIL: Lenten Project – We Car Bags (CLWR)

MAY: Missionary Support – Pastor Brian Rude, missionary to El Salvador

JUNE: Cold Lake Food Bank Drive

JULY: Support for Lac La Biche Congregation

AUGUST: Adopt a Family – Back to School Expenses

Community Registration

SEPTEMBER: Campus Ministries

Back to Church Sunday

Sunday School Kick-off

OCTOBER: CLWR Soap Drive

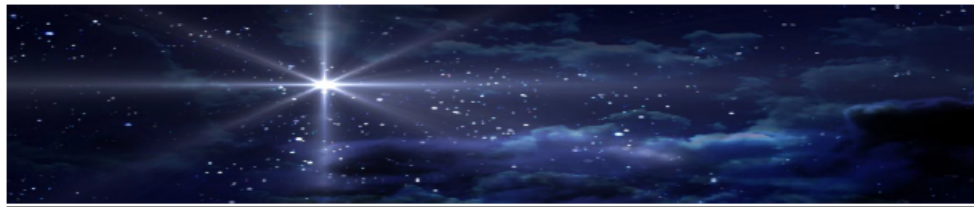
NOVEMBER: Gifts from the Heart

DECEMBER: Mitten Tree – Donations of warm mitts, hats, touques, scarves & socks for LAMP

Ongoing donations for the Disaster Fund, Joie's Phoenix House, Seminary and Discretionary Fund.







## JANUARY EPIPHANY BEGINS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	OFFICE	CLOSED	NEW YEAR	OFFICE OPEN 9-12pm 9.30 AM Bible Study book review at Pastor AnnE's house		
6 Epiphany of Our Lord 10 AM Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School Start-up  Church Cleaning: Chernesky Kirstein S Armbruster	7 AnnE' Day Off	8 AnnE's Day Off	9 3.45 PM Education and Witness & Outreach meetings @ Pastor's house followed by a Potluck together.  7PM AA Meeting	10 9.30 AM Bible Study book review  11 AM Long Term Care Service  11.30 AM Ministerial Meeting  4.30 PM Pub Theology. Potluck @ Pastor's house 7 PM Council Meeting	11 Nahom Andemichael's Birthday	12
13 Baptism of Our Lord  10 AM Worship, Service of the Word  After Service: Parish Formation Group	14 AnnE's Day Off	15 AnnE's Day Off	16 9.30 AM- Noon & Noon – 2.30 PM Food Bank  7PM AA Meeting	17 10 AM Caregivers Meeting (Brunch at Pastor AnnE's house)  6 PM Bible Study MOVIE – Indian Horse. All are welcome.	18 5PM Anglican Community Supper  5 PM CLAY at Pastor AnnE's house	19
20 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany  10 AM Worship with Holy Communion After Service: Parish Formation Group  7 PM CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE @ Lakeland Lutheran	21 AnnE's Day Off	22 AnnE's Day Off	23 1.30 PM Christian Unity – Pastor AnnE @ Holy Cross School  7 PM Praise Team  7PM AA Meeting	24 9.30 AM – Bible Study "It's all about John!"  4 PM Long Term Care Service  4.30 PM Pub Theology @ TAPS	25 1.30 PM Christian Unity – Pastor AnnE @ St Dominic's School  7-9 PM Adult's Game Night	26
27 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany 10 AM Worship, Service of the Word After Service: Pastor AnnE travelling to Saskatoon CHURCH CLEANING: Scheidt/Hartman, Le, Wickstrand	28	29	30 7 PM Praise Team  7PM - AA Meeting	31 No Bible Study	Feb 1	Feb 2  Pastor travelling to Cold Lake.
	Pastor	AnnE	Away	At	Seminary	

REGULAR OFFICE OPEN HOURS – MON – THURS, 9AM –NOON

- Please note updated Food Bank Schedule

*\*All words in italic print are friends in Cold Lake who use our building.*