



NEWSLETTER OF  
LAKELAND LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
MARCH 2023

Po Box 456, Cold Lake,  
Alberta  
780-639-4673  
Office Hours:  
9am - noon Tues-Fri  
[lakelandlutheran@telus.net](mailto:lakelandlutheran@telus.net)  
Pastor: Rev. AnnE Zimmerman  
780-201-0806  
[PastorAnnE@lakelandlutheran.com](mailto:PastorAnnE@lakelandlutheran.com)



Rev's Words:

### Thoughts - Lent II

Romans 4:1-5,13-17

**4** What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? **2** For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. **3** For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." **4** Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. **5** But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. **13** For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. **14** For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. **15** For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. **16** For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, **17** as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

### Devotion

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century Reformation, salvation by grace through faith was revealed anew through Paul's letter to "God's beloved in Rome," liberating believers from bondage to the

Medieval church's penitential systems. In the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the Apostle Paul was contending for the full inclusion of all who trust God's promise, including, but reaching beyond, those who observed Jewish rituals of circumcision and dietary practices. We mortals are forever tempted to point to markers of our "righteousness," proofs of our good standing before God and the world: long life, financial wealth, high-performing families, public recognition, etc., the stuff of well-crafted obituaries. "There's no righteousness like self-righteousness," sad and exhausting as it is. Living in Christ Jesus is liberation. Beloved of God, you don't need to prove you are worth. You are free to join God's care for the neighbour and the world, "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). Live in joy, loving those God sends to you, today!

### **Prayer**

Fill my life with your love, Lord Jesus, to trust I am beloved of God without proving myself and to share this gracious love with everyone I meet today in God's world.  
Amen.

(with help of David L. Tiede, B.D.

Professor of New Testament and President Emeritus - St Paul's Seminary)



March 2023 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders  
Dear Beloved of God -

**Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.**

Death is a reminder of the brevity of life on earth and of the universal, inescapable nature of life's end. In the face of death, care for the dying and those who have died is a fundamental sign of humanness, giving expression to deeply held convictions about the meaning of life.

The church's most deeply held conviction is the *paschal mystery*: Christ's saving passage through death to resurrected life as the new creation – the same passage that Christ calls the baptized to follow. When the church gathers to mark the end of life, the paschal mystery in which the baptized live is our source of worship, the heartbeat of mutual consolation, the hope of healing, and increasingly, I am becoming convinced, the opportunity for practices that speak to the “dust” of our existence as part of care for the earth.

For some time now, I have been thinking about green (or “natural”) burials, which focus on reducing the environmental impacts on the earth by promoting simplicity and sustainability, seeking to reduce the carbon emissions, toxins released, and waste produced.

Broadly speaking, natural burial means caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact. Natural burials use no embalming chemicals, use a shroud or a biodegradable coffin, and avoid cement, steel, and non-biodegradable materials conventional burials put into the earth. A natural burial also lacks the carbon footprint of cremation, which has been calculated as the equivalent of a 500-mile car journey.

For some people natural burial also involves a more participatory burial process: washing and dressing your loved one's body at home, accompanying them to the grave site, physically laying them into the ground, and then fully covering their body with dirt.

This contemporary Western resurgence of green burials began in 1993 when Ken West, head of bereavement services for the city of Carlisle, England, opened up an area of grassland bordering the municipal cemetery for burials. His goal was to find a way to integrate wildlife with burial, so he also offered families the option of planting an oak tree at the grave site instead of erecting a gravestone.

The idea took off. When three British researchers studied burial grounds in the United Kingdom in 2013, they found that 268 natural burial sites had been created in the two decades after West's initial project.

The Green Burial Society of Canada ([www.greenburialcanada.ca](http://www.greenburialcanada.ca)) defines green and natural burials by five simple principles:

No Embalming — In natural burials, embalming is not done as the chemical agents used in this process are harmful to the environment. With that in mind, bodies can still be prepared for burial and viewing made possible with refrigeration and the use of environmentally sensitive soaps, lotions, and disinfectants.

Direct Earth Burial — The body is wrapped in biodegradable material, often a shroud, and interred directly into the earth. Alternatively, the shrouded body can be placed into a casket or alternative container, where the casket or container is also made of sustainable and fully biodegradable materials. Ideally, the shroud or casket will be locally sourced, as close as possible to the deceased's place of death and burial.

Ecological Restoration and Conservation — Visitation to the green burial site is sensitively managed, such as staying on designated pathways, to ensure the peaceful cohabitation of wildlife and visitors wanting to commemorate loved ones. Preservation is a key component, as green burials aim to integrate gravesites into the natural ecosystem. Once a natural burial has been completed, the surface of every grave is planted with locally indigenous plant materials, using a combination of groundcover, shrubs, and trees.

Communal Memorialization — For green burials the use of individual memorials is discouraged. Instead, communal memorialization, again using naturally sourced materials, is placed in the natural burial cemetery. Ultimately it is the green burial site as whole that becomes a living memorial to the persons interred there.

Optimized Land Use — The site is designed to optimize land use to further promote natural sustainability and the environment it is located in.

This Lent I will be thinking more, and making decisions for my burial, mindful of the paschal mystery, including both my baptism into Christ and care for the earth.

In Christ Jesus —  
Shalom, +Larry

## Worship Service Lessons for March

Sunday Mar 5 – Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17

Sunday Mar 12 – Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

Sunday Mar 19 – 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

Sunday Mar 26 – Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

## LENT & EASTER WORSHIP INFORMATION

Services in Lent: Mar 1<sup>st</sup> – 6.45pm Holden Evening Prayer (Soup supper at 6pm)



Mar 5<sup>th</sup> – 10am Worship with Communion

Mar 8<sup>th</sup> – 6.45pm Holden Evening Prayer (Soup supper at 6pm)

Mar 12<sup>th</sup> – 10am Worship with Communion

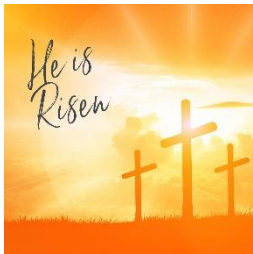
Mar 15<sup>th</sup> – 6.45pm Holden Evening Prayer (Soup supper at 6pm)

Mar 19<sup>th</sup> – 10am Service of the Word, Lay-led service Keith Scheidt

Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6.45pm Holden Evening Prayer (Soup supper at 6pm)

Mar 26<sup>th</sup> – 10am Worship with Communion

Mar 29<sup>th</sup> – 6.45pm Holden Evening Prayer (Soup supper at 6pm)



Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> – 10am Service with Communion PALM/PASSION Sunday

Apr 6<sup>th</sup> – 7pm MAUNDY THURSDAY Service

Apr 7<sup>th</sup> – 10am GOOD FRIDAY Service

Apr 9<sup>th</sup> – 8.30am SUNRISE service; 10am EASTER Sunday Worship with Communion

Apr 16<sup>th</sup> – Service of the Word, Lay-led service

Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> – 10am Worship with Communion

Apr 30<sup>th</sup> – 10am Worship with Communion

The prayer families for March are: [Petterson, Primeau & Radke](#)

## From the Office

If you are planning to come to the office during normal business hours (Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 12pm) please call ahead to ensure that I am here to let you in. There have been several occasions when I have been in a meeting and I have not heard someone at the door or that I have been out running errands or even at home sick. I hope this will help prevent any future visitors from being stranded at the door.

Kathy



## Are You Able to Help??

We are looking for anyone willing to prepare food for one of the youth nights. Call Kathy at the office and let her know if one of the following might be workable for you. Thank you!!

Please volunteer for one of the following items if able:

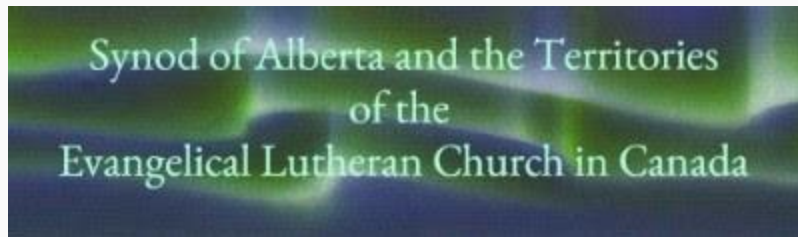


- main course e.g., Chili, pizza, pasta, buns with toppings (or something of your own choosing). vegetarian food - enough for 3 youth and the regular food for 12 youth
- cut veggies
- dessert or fruit

Note calendar dates and note our group meets 4-6 pm. Perhaps a date works for you?

(No need for drinks)

Thank you for your consideration, help and support for our youth group. (Note: we have no stove for reheating but we do have a microwave)



**Spirit-Led Leadership**

**Innovative Tradition**

**Hope-Filled Discipleship**

**Collaborative Partnerships**

## **March's Monthly Message and a Call for Assembly Volunteers**

The following notification is being sent from the Synod office on behalf of Bishop Larry.

Greetings from Synod office. Below you will find a link to March's message from Bishop Larry to congregations and lay and rostered leaders, along with a call for Pastoral Care Volunteers at this summer's National Assembly.

1. Bishop Larry's March Message for Congregations, and Lay and Rostered Leaders is available [here](#) and also posted on the synod website or available in Wednesday's Word.

If you would like a word version of this document please email the office at [abtsynodoffice@elcic.ca](mailto:abtsynodoffice@elcic.ca).

2. This summer the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada will meet in Assembly at the University of Calgary from June 27- July 2 (The Anglicans will begin on June 27, with ELCIC delegates and officers

joining June 28).

The Assembly is seeking two or three Lutherans to join the team of Anglicans who have volunteered to provide pastoral care during the convention. See a description of the role below:

The ministry of pastoral care during Assembly and General Synod 2023 is an attentive ministry of presence to all who are gathered: members of General Synod and National Convention, volunteers, and staff. Members of the Pastoral Care Team will be identified with badges and their presence made known to the assembly. There is pastoral support that by definition is to be short term – moments of encounter, listening, prayer, crisis intervention, support and, if appropriate and necessary, referral.

If you feel called to offer pastoral support for this event, please contact the synod office for more details. Our email address is [abtsynodoffice@elcic.ca](mailto:abtsynodoffice@elcic.ca) or you can call 780.439.2636 or toll-free at 866.430.2636.

3. The National Church is seeking a Lutheran to serve as co-chair of the local Arrangements Committee for the 2023 National Lutheran-Anglican Assembly, taking place in Calgary. Perhaps there is someone within your own church council or congregation who would be willing to serve the greater church in this way. For further information and/or to volunteer, please contact Kyle Giesbrecht at the National Church Office: <mailto:kgiesbrecht@elcic.ca> or phone 204.984.9178

Blessings,  
Marla Berg  
Office Administrator  
Synod of Alberta and the Territories



# Don't Wait For Summer!

Come to the Youth Retreat

March 10-12



Celebrate the last blast of winter... with a blast of camp! **This weekend retreat is a perfect way to connect with old friends and meet new folks.**

You'll get to enjoy some of our great outdoors (with sauna, tobogganing, and, hopefully, skating on the lake), then hang out with board games and hot chocolate.

There's nothing quite as beautiful as camp in the winter!

And, we'll join in conversation about our faith, and how it can make a difference in our everyday lives. This community is perfect for asking some questions and sharing your experiences.

**We can't wait to see you out here  
(and luckily there's no need to wait any longer!).**

[Learn More Online](#)

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# Renew Spiritual Retreat for Women

with Rev. Prema Samuel (Asst to the Bishop, AB ELCIC)  
March 31 to April 2 at Kuriakos  
or March 24–26 at Mulhurst Camp (Pigeon Lake)

This is a weekend for women to come together to be renewed – in their faith, in their life, in their relationships. Through prayer, teaching and meditation, we will experience the grace of God.

This weekend runs at a slower pace than many of our retreats, with an intentional focus on rest and spiritual renewal, however we will still have lots of fun, laughter, worship, great food and growth.



[Learn More Online](#)



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief



## Ukraine invasion - One year anniversary

Today marks one year since the invasion of Ukraine. As I reflect on everything that's happened since, and all that we've heard from our partners in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, I thought I should reach out to say thank you and let you know the difference your support has made.

As of February 2023, over 8 million have fled Ukraine and more than 6 million are internally displaced, requiring humanitarian assistance and protection. But people and churches across Canada have stepped up to make sure that even in the face of unimaginable tragedy, there is hope.

Thank you for your prayers for Ukraine, its people, and for all those responding. Thank you for praying and working for peace. And thank you for your donations to our urgent relief efforts.

These gifts have been of such value, providing real help and hope to those affected by this crisis.

At first, that meant emergency support to get through the first days and weeks, but as time has passed, the needs of Ukrainian families have evolved — and so has our partners' response.

I wanted to share some of the highlights of the work you've made possible. We've gathered some info on our website at [clwr.org/Ukraine-response](http://clwr.org/Ukraine-response) - I hope you'll click now for stories, videos and more about the crisis and our response.

If your congregation is one of the hundreds across Canada who have taken time to pray together for this work or to collect donations, we have some resources you can use to share about the impact of your gift — please feel free to use these on Sunday:

- **PowerPoint slide**
- **Sample bulletin announcement:** *As we mark one year since the invasion of Ukraine, we ask that you continue to pray for CLWR's partners who are delivering life-saving aid, and for the millions of families who have lost everything. Your support has provided incredible hope and help — thank you for your compassion. For the most recent updates on our relief efforts in Ukraine, please visit [www.clwr.org/ukraine-response](http://www.clwr.org/ukraine-response).*
- **Impact report**

If there are other ways we can help you engage your congregation or share the impact of their gifts, please get in touch with our Church Relations Manager, Heidi Van Schaik at [heidi@clwr.org](mailto:heidi@clwr.org).

I hope you'll join me today in lifting up a prayer for peace. Thank you again for being a partner with CLWR and with the people of Ukraine.

Lenten blessings,



Karin Achtelstetter

Executive Director, Canadian Lutheran World Relief

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**CHECK OUT THE MARCH CALENDAR FOR ALL  
ACTIVITIES**

Are we missing anything from our newsletter? Or is there something you wish we would have in our newsletter on an ongoing basis?

Please make sure that any inclusions for the April Newsletter reach the church office by  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>

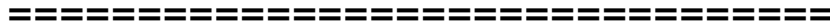
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## A Note of Thanks

Reverend AnnE & Lakeland  
Lutheran Church Parishioners

Heartfelt thanks for  
the love and prayers that  
have embraced Tom & I along  
a challenging health journey.  
Happy to report that being  
alive in 2023 is a welcome surprise!  
Wishing you all God's love & blessing  
on this journey called life. <sup>with love</sup> + gratitude  
Wanda Z.



## BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

Amelia Affolter	Pastor AnnE
Rodney Anderson	Ethan Naugler
Sandra Shipclark	Linda Klinger
Lisa Wickstrand	Evadine Shipclark
Lila Wollmann	Ashley Naugler





## **Make the Thursdays in Black Pledge**

*I commit to Thursdays in Black. In solidarity, In protest, In mourning, For awareness and In hope  
By supporting Thursdays in Black I stand:*

- In solidarity with 1 in 3 women worldwide who face violence in their lives,*
  - In protest against systems and societies that encourage violence in any form,*
  - In mourning for men, women and children who are harmed and killed in sexual violence,*
  - For awareness and knowledge about the challenges of sexual and gender-based violence,*
  - In the hope that a different reality is possible.*
- 