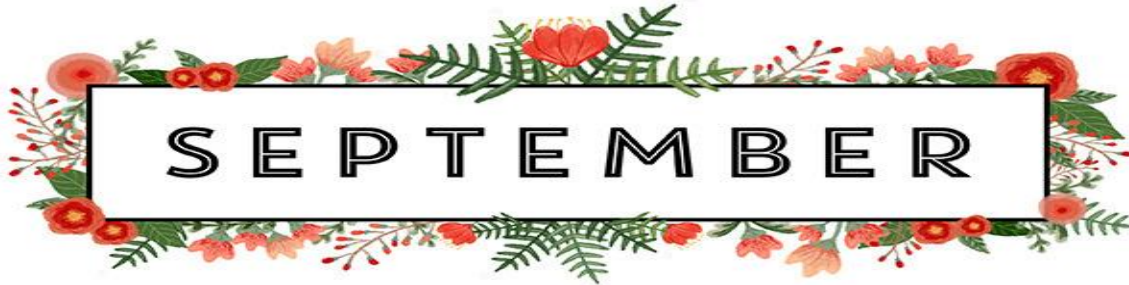




SEPTEMBER 2023
NEWSLETTER OF
LAKELAND LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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



Rev's Words:

Matthew 18:15-20

15 "Now if your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that on the testimony of two or three witnesses every matter may be confirmed. 17 And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, he is to be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.

19 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. 20 For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

This gospel reading is part of a longer discourse, at a turning point in Jesus' earthly ministry. We have found him until now at work in Galilee, his familiar home. In chapter 19, he will turn his face toward Jerusalem—and the awful yet wonderful events that await him there. The "little ones" (aka, his disciples) will come along. Jesus wants them to remember something important, however, before they start out. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst." (v.20) Our lives are filled with turning points like these—from the comfortable and familiar, to something less clear and potentially dangerous. Jesus' promise is available to us in situations like these, just as it was for those first-century "little ones." Jesus invites us to pray with his promise: "I will always hear you. And to step forward confidently: "You will always find me at your side."

Prayer

Thank you for your promise to abide with us. Help us live as if it were true. Amen.

Pastor AnnE



September 2023 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

On a regular basis I have folks ask me, what are you reading? Many know that I read ferociously, with several books always on the go, ranging from popular novels to church leadership, poetry to mystery novels, light reading to heavy-duty reading. Over the next few months and columns, I will be sharing some excellent reads.

Recently I have been appreciated a newly published book which is very accessible. A great resource for small group study and conversation, and/or for congregational councils: *Leading Faithful Innovation: Following God into a Hopeful Future* Dwight Zscheile, Michael Binder and Tess Pinkstaff, ©2023 Fortress Press, Minneapolis.

What might God be up to amid the seismic changes the church and our culture are undergoing? What opportunities will congregations encounter if they rediscover and follow God's leading? *Leading Faithful Innovation* offers a practical, hands-on approach to addressing this challenge, a process that culminates in the hope that comes from following the Spirit.

Leading Faithful Innovation explores Acts 16:6-15, the story about the biblical Lydia, to embody the key themes of this book. Jesus' followers are led by the Holy Spirit on a path where the destination isn't clear when they start. The road isn't straightforward. They discover where to go by listening, acting, and reflecting. They must practice being hosted by others in neighborhood spaces they don't control. They are redirected multiple times as dead ends lead to open doors but not necessarily the open doors they expected. Throughout, they must depend on God's leading, not their own strategies and plans.

This is the kind of journey that characterizes much of what we read in the New Testament about the early church. The Jesus movement was about a group of strangers and friends being joined together by God into a community practicing a distinct way of life that crossed cultural and geographical boundaries. That movement was animated by the life-giving Holy Spirit, which broke down walls, bound people together, and freed them to take risks in love. It was a subversive movement that called into question the predominant narratives and structures of the day.

Many church leaders today find themselves on an unexpected journey. We are learning/relearning how to be led by God's Spirit like the early followers, exercising both patience and the willingness to move quickly and responsively. This journey means learning to pay attention to the Holy Spirit in new ways.

Dwight Zscheile, Michael Binder, and Tessa Pinkstaff (each from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota) build on Scripture, theology, and the latest leadership and change theories to guide church leaders on a journey toward grassroots, participatory spiritual growth.

Innovation, for the authors, is defined as the adoption of a new practice in a community. Innovation is not invention, rather it is the adaptation of Christian community life and witness to changing cultural circumstances. Something which the church has always done. Above all, innovation recognizes the agency and activity of God. God continues to create, re-create, restore, reconcile, and heal the world. Faithful innovation is about joining the Spirit's movement.

This faithful innovation begins with a three-step process: listen, act, and share. Listen – listen to God, one another, and our neighbours. Act – try something new based on God's leading. Share – reflect on your actions and share your story. Real-life stories and supportive spiritual practices make each step toward effective change accessible and actionable.

The book then examines how these steps change the culture of a church, establishing a new, biblically grounded way of being church. The authors present leadership practices that invite readers to redefine their leadership identity, accept the loss of their role as the primary driver of their congregation, and discover new hope and possibility. These topics are again fleshed out with real-life stories and undergirded by suggested practices.

The authors believe that the church's future is waiting to be discovered not inside the walls of church buildings or in committee meetings but on journeys into the neighbourhood, "outside the gate" at the "place of prayer" (Acts 16:13 where the spiritually curious gather in dynamic relationship with both the Spirit of God and the Lydias of our own day.

It's worth a read.

In Christ Jesus –

Shalom, +Larry



Watch out for Pastor AnnE's Columbia Service on Sunday 17th September

Worship Service Lessons for September

Sunday Sept 3 – Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Sunday Sept 10 – Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday Sept 17 – Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday Sept 24 – Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

WORSHIP INFORMATION - SEPTEMBER

Sept 3rd – 10am Service of Word and Prayer, Lay led by Shirley Kirstein

Sept 10th – 10am Service with Communion; Sunday School Start-Up; Bless the Backpacks; Potluck Lunch

Sept 17th – 10am Service with Communion - Columbia

Sept 24th – 10am Service of Word and prayer, Lay-led

The prayer families for June are: [Zimmerman, Affolter & Ahenakew](#)

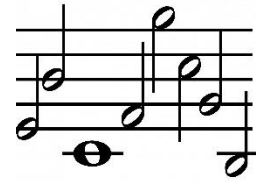
Are You Available?

Are you available to go with Pastor AnnE to her Long-Term Care Services?? (See church monthly calendar for Service schedule). Anyone willing to help with the singing (as part of the congregation not solo), play the piano, assist members of the congregation in following the service? Please let Pastor AnnE know, any help would be greatly appreciated.



J.A.M – Just About Music

Let's sing together.... The next J.A.M session will be September 20, 6.30pm to 7.30pm. Hope you can join us!



A thought and invitation for support sharing together

I have been asked to have an opportunity for a time of sharing - an opportunity to talk, be together as we remember those who we love and have passed away and/or relationships broken through, our siblings, friends, spouse, or family members. This may be what you have experienced recently in loss of a relationship or loss in the far distant past. Just listening and being together may be what you desire.

I am proposing Wednesday 20th September at 2pm as our first gathering to discuss what is helpful (or not). There is no need to register, simply show up. Please let me know if this date and time does not work for you.

Pastor AnnE

Information from our Education Committee

September 6, 1:30pm Education meeting. Contact Bernie if you would like more information about what the Education Committee does.



Sunday Worship Service, September 10, Sunday school kick off. If you would like to help teach Sunday school contact Bernie. Sunday Worship Service, September 10, Bless the Back packs Sunday.



Information from our Service & Care Committee



We would like to hear from you if you have not received the photos you ordered from IPC Photo shoot or your free 8x10. Please email Gail Chernesky gail1971@telus.net

Service & Care will be helping with “Kick Off Sunday” on 10th September with a ‘sandwich and veggie’ Potluck lunch during our coffee time after Service.

BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Kathy Pedersen
Joy Mann
Beckham Strong
Sherryl Bantilan
Pat Williamson

Grace Safroniuk
Mary Pelechosky
Dave Ashby
Tori McIntyre
Karen Strong

Jolan March
Sarah Davis
Cheryl Benoit
Gail Chernesky



ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER



Joy & Don Mann

**Thank
You**

The Service & Care committee would like to thank Shirley Kirstein for the goodies she has baked and which we have enjoyed during coffee time!! Thank you for all the years you so generously served in this fellowship.

CHECK OUT THE SEPTEMBER CALENDAR FOR ALL ACTIVITIES

Are we missing anything from our newsletter? Is there something you wish to have in our newsletter on an ongoing basis?

Please make sure that any inclusions for the summer Newsletter reach the church office by September 23rd If you would like to ask Pastor to include anything in the newsletter or her Rev's Words' she will need to receive it a week before this date.

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.*

Waterloo, Ontario
August 2023 – CLAY Ashes & Embers



Congratulations to Bernie Hartman in winning this prestigious award.

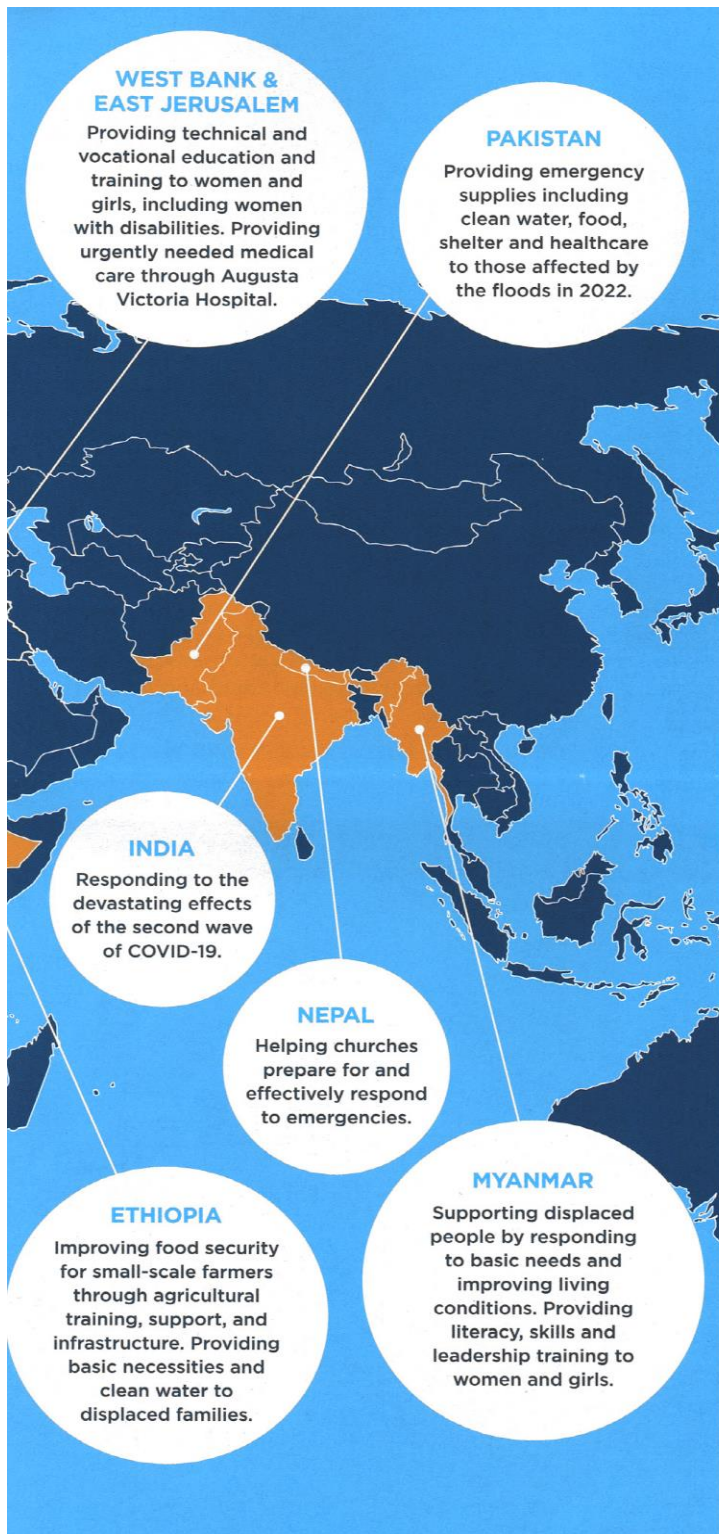
Best Garden



Canadian Lutheran World Relief

2022 Program Highlights





You are making a difference in the lives of thousands of people around the world! **Thank you!**

Your support in 2022 was critically valuable.

Your gifts are:

- Providing emergency food and shelter for people displaced by conflict or disaster
- Connecting communities with sustainable sources of clean water
- Improving food security and building resilience to climate change
- Helping refugees resettle and find new homes in Canada

We take good care of your generosity.
Thank you for your trust!