



AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER OF LAKELAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours
9am-noon Tues-Fri
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Pastor's Page August

A few words of greeting, explanation, and something about myself.

Welcome to our new shared ministry! Thanks to the many people who have personally welcomed myself and my wife Beth (and Jimmy) as we have been in Cold Lake for services. We hope to be able to get to know you better as we live into the agreement and our shared ministry.

So first, a little about me and my family. I was born and raised in Brooks. I attended Augustana Campus (was Camrose Lutheran College at the time) and was part of the first regular graduation class. I then moved to Edmonton where I worked and attended the U of A. In the fall of 1991, I started seminary at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (now Martin Luther) and graduated in 1995. I met my wife out there and we were married in 1993.

We moved to Innisfail, AB in 1995 where I was ordained and took my first call. Our daughter Helena was born while we were serving in Innisfail. In 1999 I left Innisfail to become the Program Director at Camp Kuriakos. In 2000 we moved to Edmonton, and I became the pastor of St Paul's Ellerslie. While there we adopted our daughter Ava. I started a doctoral program in Mission and Leadership at Luther Seminary in 2008.

In the fall of 2012, I moved to Hosanna where I have been ever since. I completed my doctorate in 2013. My doctoral research looked at faith formation as a result of participation in the Christian preschool program we started at St. Paul's. In 2019, as part of a sabbatical plan (that got bigger) I started a Masters in Communication and Technology at the U of A, which I completed in 2021. COVID was not part of my original plan, but it did give me a great research topic related to livestreaming services. The subject was then explored through the lens of Marshal McLuhan's work. It ended up being both timely and interesting.

So that is a little bit of background about me, now a bit more about our shared ministry plans and approach. One of the realities we face as a church is that interim ministries are longer than they used to be (2 years in not uncommon) which is partly the result of having fewer pastors available for a growing number of vacancies. This is further complicated by the reality that fewer congregations are able to afford full-time ministry and there are limited numbers of pastors who can afford to work part-time. This makes filling vacancies a challenge.

Given this reality, we were approached by Bishop Larry about the possibility of a shared ministry between Hosanna and Lakeland Lutheran Churches. Because we worked together well during COVID it seemed like a good opportunity to see if we could make a different model of ministry work. So, after meeting together we developed the basis for our Memorandum of Understanding. We will do an initial evaluation later in the fall and then a more complete review next June. We see this as an experiment and are open to making adjustments as we live into our ministry together.

A couple of things make this plan unique, first it focused on shared ministry – so doing ministry together when possible, and it uses a hybrid format of both onsite and online presence. Normally Pastor Anna or myself will be onsite every 2nd and 4th Sunday. On the other Sundays we will send prerecorded sermons to be used in a lay-lead service.

We would like to make the best use of our time on-site as possible and so are open to visits, meetings, programs along with leading worship while we are on-site. If you are interested in having one of us come for a visit, coffee or even a meal let us know in advance and we will do our best to schedule these for when we are on-site. If we need to do other services (like funerals) we will do our best to arrange for them around one of our on-site visits. Preparation may need to take place over zoom, but we are willing to conduct the services on-site.

As I mentioned this past Sunday, one of the things we are hoping to do is help you, as a congregation, explore the various kinds of ministry to which God might be calling you. While we know ministry is changing and will look different in the future, we don't know what ministry will ultimately look like in your context. There are many possibilities to be explored.

Undoubtedly, this shared ministry model will come with some growing pains as we do our best to figure out how to make it work. It might form the basis of a longer-term ministry, it might not. We don't know the answers to these questions yet, but we are willing to do our best to provide the best ministry possible in both places, given our current resources and circumstances. I hope you will be an active part of our shared ministry.

Pastor Anna will be with you in August as I will be away on Holidays for the first three weeks of the month. Our regular schedule will begin after that, so as the old song goes... see you in September.

Blessings as we journey together.

Pastor James

Jeremiah 29:11-13 "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart."

Members and Friends

Throughout the year, your church hosts weddings and funerals and user groups use our facility. There are times when help is needed to make the event happen, allowing access, moving tables and chairs or ushering. If you are able to share your time, please contact Bill C. Thank you.



BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

Jim Kirstein

Trevor Benoit

Helen Runke

Linda Lohmaier

Irene Cobb

Piercen Benoit

Carson Ahenakew (Sr)

Sara Morisette

Cameron Morisette



ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST



Pat & Derek Williamson

Connie & Cam MacLeod

Merlene & Dan Walchuk

Julie & Reinhold Lutter

Shirley & Jim Kirstein



**Watch out for details of our
'Take Out Fall Supper'
on September 29**



First and foremost, thank God for all the miracle workers whose hands He held and guided through my surgery, His healing spirit which flowed through my soul and for His divine care He provides endlessly.

A special thanks to my wife Lila for her genuine care and patience that can't be matched.

Thank God for her gifts.

Thanks to Lakeland Lutheran Church for your on-going prayers, care, support and the meal provided by Service and Care Committee was greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all other congregations, families and friends everywhere, for their continued prayers, support and outreach.

From the depths of my heart which is still ticking, thank you for your loving support!!

It has been 6 weeks post surgery and recovery is going well. The swelling is residing, and the pain is minimal. As my rehab continues with an increasing workload, I am pleased with the progress.

Cornel Wollmann



Sobeys and NoFrills Gift Cards

If you purchase groceries at either Sobeys or No Frills, please remember that you can purchase gift cards for these stores from Helen Runke 780-594-2440. For each card sold Lakeland Lutheran is given a small percentage which aids our fundraising efforts. As they say, 'every penny counts,' so please consider using the gift cards to purchase your groceries.

YOUR OFFERING

If you wish to etransfer your offering, please use the following email address to etransfer from your account.

financialsecretary@lakelandlutheran.com



You can also drop your offering at the church during normal office hours or mail to us at Box 456, Cold Lake, AB T9M 1P1.

Thank you for your continued support of our church.

Church Safety

Now that we are finally back in our building there are a few safety instructions we all need to follow when leaving the church. If you are the last person to leave the building, please do the following:

- **Check all blinds are lowered so that rooms are not visible from the outside.**
- **Make sure all internal/external doors are closed.**
- **Set the alarm using your code.**
- **Lock the external door on leaving.**

If you have any questions, please contact Kathy in the office and she will be happy to run you through any of these procedures.



CHECK OUT THE AUGUST 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 September Newsletter reach the church office by August 25th.

LLC Council minutes and Committee reports are available on the LLC website.

lakelandlutheran@telus.net/contacts and links/Council

Password: NoHope!

Welcome Pastor James

