



May 2018

Ascension Update

Update from the Pastor's Office

It's about time!

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
(Isaiah 43:18-21)

Grace and Peace, from God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Finally! Spring is in the air! Even though winter might still be trying to hang on, spring is coming! I don't know about you, but this year I have been waiting with great anticipation for the season of spring... the season of new life. It is wonderful and invigorating to see that the days are becoming longer and brighter. Lawns turn from brown and tired to fresh and green, and we can see the first green shimmering in the trees and gardens. And I can hear the loud chirping, and singing, and croaking of birds in the trees of the cemetery next to my place - loudly welcoming spring. There is no stopping. New life breaks forth all around us.

What a delight to walk through the neighbourhood and parks without having to bundle up, and taking in spring smells, and air, and light, and noticing all these changes around us at this time of year... even when the weather is not perfect.

With the warmer weather, many people also feel a greater love for life and more adventurous. Something new is coming! New beginnings all around!

In this time of year, something of the very nature of God is revealed. God, the Creator is creating. For God not only created the world and all that is in it a loooooooong time ago, but God has not stopped and is constantly creating new things and new life. We are still in the season of Easter... the season of the empty tomb... the season of resurrection life! And spring is one of the many visible signs of the new life God gives.

And we, too, know of this ever-creating, life-giving God. When we have come through times of grief, despair, or when we might have given up hope, we have experienced the power of new life within us... life that God gives to us.

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

These are the words that God speaks through the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah is inviting the exiles, "Look around, for God is doing something!" They have been exiled for a long time, and had lost all hope of ever returning home. And Isaiah calls out to them making an important point: "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. Don't live in the past."

That counts for us, too. Hanging on to what was reveals that we are not reconciled with what lies behind us. Looking back prevents us from seeing life right in front of our eyes, and life unfolding. "Cherish the present, live in the moment, and look ahead," Isaiah says.

For God creates new life - now, in this moment! And we are witnesses of the power of new life bursting forth from a long dark winter.

May God open your eyes to see new resurrection life happening all around you, and may God fill you with delight and hope this spring season.

God's Peace,
Pastor Barbara



April Council Meeting Highlights

- A wheelchair has been donated to the church, and is near the coat racks. If anyone has a walker they are willing to donate, please let us know.
- A Quarterly financial report is being prepared, check your mailboxes.
- The Edmonton Public Library Idylwylde/Bonnie Doon branch is offering a Senior's Drop in every Wednesday morning from 10 to 12 noon.
- Council is looking at transportation challenges and parking challenges for our members. If you know of anyone having difficulty getting to church, or not attending due to parking issues related to the construction, please let the office know. We would like to assist in any way possible.

Dwelling in the Word

Our next gathering will be held on **May 6** after worship. We will take the time and root ourselves in the **Word** by reading scripture and reflecting together on that reading. Please, come and join us. And if you can't make it, please, uphold the group in prayer.

Ascension Zones and emails

At council we have discussed improving our ways of communicating with each other as a community. One way that was suggested is to make **email lists** of the four Zones that the congregation is divided into zones: Zone Joy, Zone Peace, Zone Love, and Zone Kindness.

The Zones system has been created a long time ago, in order to share duties such as monthly coffee duty, or set up/take down tables and chairs in the basement, or to pass on any information pertaining our congregational life.

The Zone lists are updated and distributed every year. If you need the latest Zone list (updated Nov 2017), please, let Iris in the office know.

Creating these Zone *email* lists is work in progress. Many of you have received an email for us to see if this means of communication works. **Thank you to all who have responded so far!**

If you haven't received an email yet, but would like to be added to your Zone email list, please provide Iris with your email information.

If you have received the email but would like us to use a different email address, please, let Iris know. Her email address is admin@alchurch.ca

Thanks a lot for helping with this!

Away From the Office

Pastor Barbara will be in Europe for another Reformation Tour (this time we will cover Germany, Switzerland, France, Scotland, and England!) from May 20th right after the service, and I will be back in the pulpit on June 10th.

In case of an emergency, or if you are in need of pastoral care, please contact the office 780 469 2421, or any council member for more information.

OFFERINGS	CURRENT	BENEV.	DESIG. MIN.
March 25	1424.00	422.00	132.00
March 29	278.00	34.00	28.00
March 30	315.00	30.00	10.00
April 1	4390.00	961.25	543.75
April 8	2168.00	284.00	74.00
April 15	1114.00	257.00	72.00
April 22	5025.00	860.00	240.00
PAR	990.00	277.00	172.00

ATTENDANCE

March 25: 71	March 29: 32	March 30: 62
April 1: 107	April 8: 60	April 15: 61
April 22: 60		



Summer Schedule and Worship Leaders

Summer is approaching which means that many are away from home. *Thank you to those who let us know the dates you won't be available!*

This also means that Iris, who is scheduling the worship leaders every week, has a difficult time to find willing people for the tasks at hand.

If you can help out by reading the lessons on Sunday, or greeting and ushering, or leading in prayer, or being an assisting minister, *please let the office know at your earliest convenience!* Thank you!



Ascensionians Around the World

In May we will use the Spanish liturgy in worship to remember our connection to our sisters and brothers in **Yopal, Colombia**. And on **May 27 after the service** Tricia Hoepfner will share pictures and information about the city of Yopal.

Noticias de Colombia

The Synod Delegation to Colombia will be taking place from July 26-August 6, and will be facilitated by Bishop Larry and Tricia Hoepfner. The group will be made up of 12 people from around our Synod. Four people from Ascension will be attending this journey including Pastor Barbara, Joyce Hendrickson, and Geoff and Tricia Hoepfner. Plans are being made to include worshipping with our partner congregation in Yopal on July 29.

If you have any ideas of what our congregation can send along as a gift to our brothers and sisters in Christ, please talk to Tricia. Our next Colombia month will be in May. Please join us as we worship with a Spanish flavour, remembering our connection with the Colombian people.



PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

HAPPENINGS AT MULHURST

Ladies Retreat:

May 12-13. Marg Daly & Dr. Helen Bowden back for 6th retreat.
Friday 7 pm- Saturday 7:45 pm
Theme: "Faith, Hope, Love" \$80.
Call 780-389-4355 to register.

Summer Camps:

July 15-20 - Family Camp (All ages)
July 22-27 - A Taste of Camp (Age 10 and 7nder)
July 29- Aug 3 - MADD Camp (Ages 10-18)
August 6-10 - Youth Camp (Ages 12-16)

Father's Day at the Lake

June 16-17

Can you help us put on a great day?

Contact Lorraine: Mulhurst.FundDevelopment@gmail.com or
780-490-0882

Pioneer Day:

June 28: 10 am to 4 pm

More information at www.mulhurstcamp.ca

Bishop's Message - May 2018

Dear Beloved of God -

Soon we will gather in Convention in Camrose - UofA Augustana Campus - June 14-16, 2018 under the theme based on I Cor. 13:13, **“Faith, Hope, Love: and the greatest of these is love.”** I am appreciative of the work of Wendy Christensen-Grosfield who has again been contracted to serve as Convention Manager. Our Convention Chaplain will be The Rev. Jeff Decelle (Unity Lutheran, Medicine Hat).

Convention highlights will include three keynote presentations and opportunities for conversation facilitated by The Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen (omgcenter.com/about/). We are planning to video Anna's presentations which will be made available following Convention.

We will also welcome and hear from our National Bishop Susan Johnson, four guests from The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO): Bishop Atahualpa Hernández Miranda and his wife, Rev. Angélica Bernate Rojas, along with Rev. Diana Carolina Londoño Espinosa and her husband, Óscar Ricardo Niño Durán and ELCA Global Mission Staff, Manager for Relationships, Latin America and the Caribbean, Paulina Dasse, The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude, *En Mision Con El Salvador*: In Mission with El Salvador, the Lutheran Theological Seminary President, The Rev. Dr. Bill Harrison, CLWR, and LCBI.

Convention actions will include a second reading of our Synod Constitution and decision-making related to our Synod By-Laws. Elections for Synod Bishop, Synod Secretary, several Synod Council Positions, Rostered Minister to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors, and Delegates to the 2019 ELCIC National Convention.

I invite your prayers as final preparations are made for the Synod Convention: for Wendy Christensen-Grosfield, for our Convention Chaplain and those preparing for worship; for Anna Madsen as she finalizes her keynote presentations; and for our guests as they journey to be with us. As we gather please be in prayer for each of the elections which will be taking place.

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

Poem of the Month

Joy is our Banquet

O God,
Breathe kites high into blue skies,
Sow bright mirth into circles of friends,
Embroider brilliance into stars of night,
And teach us how to joy.

Paint the air with lilac's fragrance,
Feast the earth with gentle rain,
Clothe each creature with a whimsy,
And teach us how to joy.

Dance the seasons with new colour,
Caress each face into a smile,
Splash creation with your laughter,
And teach us how to joy.

By Keri K. Wehlander; from *Joy is our Banquet - Resources for Everyday Worship*;
The United Church Publishing House, 1996, pg 77