



July/August 2018 Ascension Update

Update from the Pastor's Office

Take a Break!

“And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.” (Gen 2:2,3)

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

Summer is here! July and August are the months for many to take a break... to go on holidays... to slow down.

Is the Bible actually talking about holidays and vacations? No, of course not! These are, after all, terms that were not known at the time of the Bible. But, the idea of rest, of taking a break has been around pretty much from the beginning of time. And there is some clear talk about rest already as part of the creation story on the first pages of the Bible. “²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.” (Gen 2: 2, 3).

From the beginning, God made room for a time of rest. And we all appreciate God's very wise and sensible decision, because we all know from personal experience that no-one can ever only workworkwork - no matter what kind of work it might be.

So, what do you do when you rest from your work? If you are constantly dealing with a lot of people in your job, you may be looking forward to some quiet, introverted time. Or if you have a desk job in an office, you might want to get outside, outdoors, and move around and be active. Those whose work is heavily structured might appreciate a rather casual, floating-through-the-day kind of life for a while. Some might need a vacation at a far-away place, others might prefer a staycation, and hang out at home. For me holidays start when I switch off my cell phone, and stay away from my email accounts.

There are so many different ways to break free from the everyday grind, and so many things to do that we often don't take the time to do.

And isn't that what the passage means? ...to step away from everyday life for a while, and to unplug from our everyday ruts - be it through a lot of activity and action, or sweet idleness and doing nothing! Or a mixture of both.

Our everyday lives and holidays are two areas that complement each other, they belong together. Our everyday life and holidays are two areas that together contribute to a healthier, more balanced life. Our everyday life and holidays are two areas that are both gift, gift that God has created for us. For in six days God created the world, and on the seventh day God took a break. And Jesus, too, took time off from his otherwise 24/7 schedule. Jesus sought peace and solitude, time to rest, time to pray, time to spend with friends. Why should we do otherwise?

Enjoy your summer! Enjoy your holiday! I am sure you'll find something that suits you!

God's Peace to you all,

Pastor Barbara



Food Bank Donations

In 2017, Edmonton's food bank collected, sorted, repackaged, and redistributed over 4 million kilograms of food. Here at Ascension, we support this mission by collecting **new, unopened packages** (*before their expiry date*) in the box in the Place of Welcome.

If you are at all able, please consider donating some of the Edmonton Food Bank's most needed items:

- beans (with or without pork)
- canned fish or meat
- baby formula
- peanut butter (500g)
- healthy school snacks (100% real fruit juice boxes, granola bars, fruit cups)
- soup
- canned fruit or vegetables
- pasta & pasta sauce

Thank you for helping to support this valuable service!

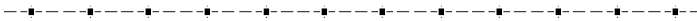
Update on the Summer Service Card Project

For a month we have run this summer project: Instead of trying to fill the several worship leader roles with people that won't be around for the summer, each of the duties that are required during the service are put on cards.

These **service cards** are placed on the table in the Place of Welcome. Those coming to worship on a Sunday morning are invited to grab one of the cards, to serve as usher, as reader, prayer leader, gift bearer, or as Communion assistant, and please make sure to return the card at the end of the service to the designated box on the table in the foyer.

Thank you for making this work! We will continue with this to the **end of August**.

If you know *ahead of time* on which Sunday you are available, and know what you would like to do, please, let Iris in the office know



Pastor Barbara's Summer Schedule

I will be in **Whitehorse** from **July 11-15**.

Then, I will take **study leave** from July 26-Aug 6 to participate in the Synod Trip ***Daunting Challenges - Wellsprings of Hope*** to **Colombia**. I am so excited that I will meet our sisters and brothers of Santiago Apostol in Yopal in person! From Ascension **Joyce Hendrickson, Tricia and Geoff Hoepfner**, and myself will be sent off with your blessing during the worship service on July 22.

If you would like to send along a card for the congregation in Yopal, or a *small* token of friendship, please, let me know. And please, support our whole ABT delegation in prayer while we are traveling.

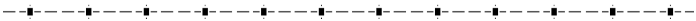
From **August 7 - 28** I will take **holidays**. And I don't have a clue yet what I might be doing, but I am looking forward to it.

Services of the Word will be led by our experienced assisting ministers, and sermons will be provided by Pastor Aaron Schnell, St Matthew's Lutheran, Spruce Grove, and Pastor Kathy Calkins, Grace Lutheran, Innisfail. And on Sundays with Holy Communion Pastor Prema Samuel (Aug 12), and Pastor Jane Zinken (Aug 26) will preach and preside.

In case of an pastoral care crisis, please, contact the office or any of the council members.

JUNE COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- **Model Constitution:** The ELCIC, has proposed a Model Constitution for all churches to follow. Ours is very close to the proposed model, and is currently being reviewed with leadership on this issue from Maureen Chell.
- **Financial Report:** We are not meeting our budget yet this year, we are at 79% of our target. We are approaching the summer months with families travelling. This is just a reminder to maintain your offerings throughout the summer, and the option of **PAR** (pre-authorized remittance) is still available. We are meeting our expenses, and our designated giving is higher than last year so far.
- **Long & McQuade** will host a workshop for musicians at Ascension **Sept 7th and 8th**. We typically host **3 coffee breaks and a lunch** for this group and we will need some volunteers to assist with baking, making soups, and serving that weekend. Any help would be appreciated. Please speak to Jackie if you can assist.
- **Bonnie Doon Library** branch continues to offer Senior's drop-in events **Wednesday mornings from 10 to 12 noon**.



OFFERINGS	CURRENT	BENEV.	DESIG. MIN.
May 27	3510.00	475.00	190.00
June 3	3058.00	644.00	93.00
June 10	1253.00	94.00	38.00
June 17	935.00	156.25	73.75
PAR	990.00	277.00	172.00

ATTENDANCE

May 27: 64	June 3: 49	June 10: 62
June 17: 87		

Bishop's Message - July/August 2018

Dear Beloved of God -

I am writing on Tuesday morning, June 12, just days before the Synod Convention begins in Camrose under the theme based on I Cor. 13:13, **“Faith, Hope, Love: and the greatest of these is love.”**

As we gather on Thursday afternoon we will take time for a few minutes of conversation around expectations of our time together: what are you looking forward to at this convention? What do you anticipate taking home with you from convention? What am I looking forward to? What are my hopes as we gather? In no particular order:

- Worship that is deeply meaningful
- Welcoming and learning from our Colombian guests
- Signing, together with Bishop Atahualpa, the “Covenant” between our Synod and The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia
- Daily Eucharist
- Singing that blows the roof off of the Convention Hall
- Nourishment through the three presentations - Faith, Hope, Love - from Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen
- Enriching debate, decision-making and elections
- Conversations
- Learning through “Lunch and Learn” opportunities and guests to the Convention: for example, CLWR, Pastor Brian Rude, Lutheran Theological Seminary, and so on
- Ordination Anniversaries and presentation of the first Synod of Alberta and the Territories *Stephen D. Wildfang Leadership Award*
- Chillin’ with the Chaplains gelato event
- Mission Priority videos - hearing the stories
- Prayerfully walking through the Art Display with items from across the Synod
- And the list could go on...

As we gather from across our Synod please remember all who gather in your prayers that together we will be open to the Spirit's work among us... shaping...transforming...reworking... guiding...and that we will know the reality of the words of Paul to the church in Rome (15:13): *“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.”*

In Christ Jesus - Shalom,

+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

Update on the Zone Email Lists

Things are coming together! Iris has created email lists for each of our Zones: Zone Joy, Zone Peace, Zone Love, and Zone Kindness. And we will hopefully soon get this means of communication up and running soon.

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 for congregational events, or to pass on any information pertaining our congregational life. The Zone lists are update and distributed by Parish Life every year in the Fall. If you need the latest Zone list (updated Nov 2017), please, let Iris in the office know.

Thank you to all who have provided us with updated contact information.

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

