

Annual Report for 2017

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

to be held

Sunday, February 25, 2018

Worship at 10:00 am, followed immediately by a potluck lunch

Meeting to follow immediately after lunch.

Please bring this report along with you!

Preamble: At the 2017 AGM members asked council to bring motions forward moved and seconded to future AGMs. This does two things. First, it is more transparent in what the intentions of council are for the AGM. Second, it helps the flow of the meeting. Bringing motions moved into an AGM does not mean they will be passed, rather it allows us to jump right into conversation. These motions can still be amended or voted down. Additions to the agenda or new motions may be added from the floor at the time of "Adoption of Agenda" or when they are germane to the motion under discussion.

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Annual General Meeting Agenda

Sunday, February 25, 2018



Chair: Ryan Mason, President

Devotions: Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum

Recording Secretary: Karlina Millers

Establish quorum: we need at least 30 confirmed members in attendance.

Agenda:

Motion: To open the 2018 HSLC AGM. Moved and seconded by council.

1. Devotion
2. Quorum
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. AGM "Meeting 101"
5. Holy Spirit Annual Report for 2017 (excluding the 2017 Budget)

Motion: To receive the 2017 Holy Spirit Annual Report as information. Moved and seconded by council.

Note: the 2017 AGM minutes were approved by council at a previous council meeting

6. Presentations
 - a. Year in Review Video
 - b. Strategic Plan: Belonging, Worshipping, Service, Gospel
 - c. Missional Learning and service for HSLC
 - d. Infrastructure Grants
7. New Business
 - a. 2017 Financial Report (Toby Schneider)
 - b. 2018 Budget (Toby Schneider)

Motion: To approve the 2018 HSLC Budget. Moved and seconded by council.

8. Nominations and Elections
 - a. Nominations for National Convention
 - i. Information available at <http://albertasynod.ca/convention/national-convention/>
 - b. Nominations and Elections for Church Council
 - c. Acknowledgement of outgoing council members/installation of council.

9. Closing

Motion: To close the HSLC 2018 AGM. Moved and seconded by council.

10. The Lord's Prayer and Benediction (Pastor Trish)



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CONTENTS

President’s Report.....	3
Pastor’s Report	3
Associate Pastor’s Report.....	4
First Call Report.....	5
Administration Committee.....	6
Communications Committee.....	6
Community Engagement Committee.....	7
Food Depot Report	7
Refugee Committee Report.....	8
Yesterday’s Youth Report.....	8
Lifelong Learning Committee.....	9
Youth Leader’s Report.....	9
Ministry Committee.....	10
Worship Committee Report	10
Nominations for Church Council.....	11
Treasurer and Financial Secretary.....	12
Membership Statistics.....	14
Greenfield School Age Day Care Association.....	15
Mulhurst Lutheran Church Camp Report.....	15
Bishop’s Message.....	16

MISSION STATEMENT

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church provides a welcoming and nurturing environment for anyone who chooses to join us in our walk with Jesus. In this walk, we praise God, we cherish community, we strive for justice, and we learn about our faith, our world, and each other. In our shared and individual lives, we are witnesses of God’s saving grace, love, and forgiveness through our actions, attitudes, and relationships with others.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Congregants of Holy Spirit Lutheran,

I would first and foremost like to thank all of our congregation for adapting and supporting the church's needs over the last several years of transition. Since I have been on council our church has transformed out of necessity, but this does not mean worse for wear. Where we have lost friends, staff and some capacity, we have gained opportunity to which many people have responded. I have seen congregants step forward to fill gaps and to take on new responsibilities at our church. In the last year we have formed a Worship Committee that has taken on the planning roles of music and worship. We have found a way to use our skills at hand to back stop two entire refugee families, both of which will soon arrive. We have created a strong and healthy partnership with the Greenfield School Age Daycare Association and diversified our community engagement. As a result, our building is filled with the laughter and voices of children on a daily basis. And there are countless more examples of members stepping forward in mission for the church. However, we cannot pause now as we have lots more to do.

Over the last year, council has begun exploring 'Missional Ministry.' It is a theological guide to action that focuses our strengths, resources and perspective outside of our church walls to see what God's calling is in the community(ies) around us. While this has always been the goal of our congregation, Missional Ministry is a toolkit for helping focus our efforts and decisions on this community centered Christianity. Over the next year our council is hoping to continue education around Missional Ministry, as well as, introducing it to the entire congregation.

In the next year we will also be looking for a new community garden coordinator, a Financial Secretary (not the same as Treasurer) as well as volunteers to fill out our Communication and Lifelong Learning Committees. Council is also hoping to re-energize the Stewardship Committee and create a Personnel Committee, which have been identified as gaps within our structure. Looking back to how this year began, I am very happy to see where we currently are. This is a great church, with great and driven people who are part of it. Whether you have been at Holy Spirit for a month, a year or since the beginning, thank you for contributing to making us who we are. And finally, a big thanks to all of the work done by our great pastoral and office staff who have been keystones in our foundation of our congregation throughout the last year.

Peace, love, mercy and grace,
Ryan Mason, President

PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear people of God,

In many ways 2017 was a year that Holy Spirit needed and undertook good self-care. In a climate of inequality between revenue and expenses and in grief as we said farewell to beloved staff members and their ministry, we not only made difficult and necessary decisions but, we worked together through it all. In small and personal ways, I have seen us as a congregation recommit ourselves to ministry in this place. As such there has also been many things to celebrate. I prepared a short video of highlights throughout the year; it was a good reminder to me (and I hope also to you) of the good work God has given us and to which HSLC has responded.

With the departure of our Musician, Kim D., in February last year, I informed council that I would form a Worship Committee to help with necessary planning. This committee began work in May and they have done good work. Their report is included later in this package.

Following the February 2017 AGM, a small group was formed to explore different grants HSLC may utilize. Dave U. and Ron S. accepted my invitation to be part of a grant group and begin this work. We've looked at several possibilities, but I want to share with you two important applications. They both focus on accessibility for the many people who come to HSLC. The first is a grant to renovate both our washrooms to make them more accessible for all people, as well as, push button openers for our front and back doors. A third application is in the works to refurbish the old grade 5/6 classroom (to the west of the hall) to be a "multimedia room." We're very excited about these possibilities and you will hear more at the 2018 AGM.

These material projects help us to look to the future, now it's time to pray about HSLC's future ministry. It's been difficult to shoulder a shrinking church, but wasn't it interesting when +Larry was with us in January that he mentioned that this shrinking was "necessary?" Isn't that food for thought? We all know that the look, feel, shape, taste of the church is different today than it was some years ago, but this in no way means that God is any less alive among us. God is constantly shaping us to be people of faith and love; we may not always understand or agree with how that happens, but it is God's work in and among us.

At the October meeting of council, Assistant to the Bishop Julianne introduced missional thinking to our council. This new missional thinking stretches us to learn about why things are the way they are and to join with God who is alive and well everywhere in the world – actually right in your neighbourhood! We are learning to delve into scripture, to look and listen for signs of God at work, to take chances as we experiment, and to build relationships. For example, we could try a community kitchen, satellite gatherings, a congregational retreat, newcomer services, and more. You are invited to come and learn at the AGM!

I wish to recognize and publically thank Pastor Lindsey and Lori Z., for their incredible work and team spirit through 2017. They are truly a blessing to HSLC and myself. A good team is far more effective than the sum of its members, and this is certainly true for our office. In addition, I am grateful for Kim D. was also a wonderful team member and a blessing to our church; Kim left us at the end of April and her absence is noted. In a new role, this year we welcomed Jared S. as choir director and we have been able to enjoy the choir again in worship. Thank you Jared. Behind the scenes, my spouse Ken is a source of incredible support and love, without him my work would be far more difficult.

Our church council is a dedicated group of volunteers who undertake the work of ministry and leadership. Being a congregationally based church, we have a lot of freedom to make our own decisions around finances, ministry, our building and more. Being congregationally based also means that together we share in caring for ministry, the building and one another. Our last year was challenging and our council members faithfully navigated through it all. Please join me in showing gratitude to each of them for their gift of time, mind, prayer and so much more. You can keep in the know by reviewing council minutes on the bulletin board or by speaking with any council/staff person.

Each week in our bulletin we say "Ministers: Every Member." What is your ministry with HSLC? I want to encourage each and every member to pray about it and then take action. Being members of the same church family means we need each person to pull together. With fewer staff in 2017 we experienced many of you already doing this. Thank you. Serving is a principle means by which we grow in faith through leadership, learning and experience.

*He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said,
"Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
Revelation 21:5*

In this passage from Revelation, we hear that Christ is always renewing us. Renewal isn't always glamorous. It's easy to be the church when finances are flush, when volunteers are plenty, when everyone agrees. But nowhere in the Bible does it say this work is easy. Speaking up for justice, for equality, learning about white privilege and affirming all people, committing to Fairtrade resources, caring for creation, welcoming refugees, strangers and seekers – all of these are important and meaning ways faith is lived. All of these are essential to bearing the name "Christian."

In this church we often say "all are welcome," because we want all to understand they have a place here and a role to play. Whether you are considering membership or baptism or being confirmed, whether you need a visit or know of someone who does, whether you have a concern that needs to be heard or just want to say "thanks," my door is open. Thanks be to God for the deeply meaningful work we have been given. Thank you for having me as your pastor, for your support and care.

May God richly bless each of you and Holy Spirit Lutheran Church,
Rev. Trish Schmermund

ASSOCIATE PASTOR'S REPORT

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces; I would still plant my apple tree."

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church,

The above quote; often attributed to Martin Luther, has long been a favorite of mine. While it is unlikely that Luther ever penned these words, the quote has become a popular mark of the Protestant Reformation in recent years. I think this is largely because it gets to the heart of the good news Luther longed to share - that it is through the grace and forgiveness of Christ that we are truly freed to live as beloved children of God. This is a message that has been echoed by the Lutheran World Federation's theme for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, "We are Liberated by God's Grace." A theme that has gathered Lutherans from around the world to contemplate how we are being called to live out the grace and love of God within our very communities.

This past year Holy Spirit joined in the call to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation through acts of justice, care and grace. We took part in the ELCIC's Reformation challenge by planting trees within our community, raising scholarships for students in Jordan and the Holy Land and through our continued commitment to assist refugee families settling in Edmonton. These were all tangible examples of the life giving ministry we have been called to share and have been a testament to the faithful stewardship this congregation has extended to its community over the years.

This last year we have also continued to learn how to be a caring community of faith where everyone is welcomed to experience the love and grace of God. We have shared our gifts with one another whether it is through volunteering our time to serve on one of our many rosters, committees or the church council. Helping with the Food Bank, providing meals through our mission to the inner city, or lending our gifts to help enrich our time of worship. By making prayer shawls, spending time with our children, youth and seniors or by helping plan things behind the scenes - we have all been richly blessed by the faithful and continued support of this congregation.

While we may have finished commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with much celebration, the actual work of the Reformation is far from complete for us here at Holy Spirit! God is continually calling us to be renewed and transformed by the grace we have been gifted, sending us out into the world to share what we have received. So as I reflected on our community of faith and its journey over the last year, I began to question how we were being called by Christ to step into the next five-hundred years? And as I did I began to wonder:

- What are the opportunities that await us as a community of faith as we seek to live out our life as followers of Christ within this very neighborhood?
- How are we being called to share the healing and reconciliation we have received through God's grace?
- And lastly, what will be the mark of our life together as the Holy Spirit calls us to renew our hope in the gospel we proclaim?

For me, the most exciting part of these questions is that we will have to live them out to truly find out the answers we will receive. A challenge that may cause us to stretch and grow in new and exciting ways – but a challenge we will share together as we journey together as God's people at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church.

As we begin another year together as a community of faith, I look forward to the ways we will continue to learn and grow together as we walk alongside God to carry out the life and mission of this congregation in 2018. I am grateful for all the ways you continue to uplift and support the life and work of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church with your time, talents, and stewardship. I am thankful for hours of dedication volunteers, teachers, committees, church council and our church staff have put in to ensure we remain a vibrant and welcoming community of faith within this neighborhood. I am honored to serve alongside the members and friends of this congregation in the mission we have been called to share. And I feel privileged to work alongside my colleague in ministry Pastor Trish, and our office administrator Lori.

Continue to pray for us as a family of faith, and listen for the ways God is calling forth the many gifts and blessings you have been given to share with this congregation and our wider community - and may the grace and peace of God be with you all as you do.

In Christ,
Pastor Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum

FIRST CALL COMMITTEE REPORT

First Call is a mandatory program of the four Western Synods of the ELCIC that was instituted to facilitate the continuing education of newly ordained rostered ministers within the first three years of their call. The program seeks to provide support for those in their first call by offering opportunities for the newly ordained to build relationships with the Western Synod Bishops, Ministry Mentors and colleagues who are experiencing similar transitions in ministry.

The *First Call* program also acknowledges that our Lutheran understanding of ministry and the mission of the church is shared by all the baptized people of God – not just the rostered leaders within a congregation. As this is the case, the ministry of the congregation is stronger when there is a *First Call* mutual ministry committee who meet regularly to affirm, evaluate and strengthen the ministry of both the rostered leader and the congregation.

Holy Spirit's *First Call* committee was formed by HSLC's Church Council in January of 2017. The committee met together with Pastor Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum five times throughout the course of the year. At each meeting *First Call* committee members heard reflections from Pastor Lindsey on parish life, self-care and continuing education goals. The *First Call* committee is accountable to HSLC's Church Council; to whom they report following each meeting.

The following education areas were explored by Pastor Lindsey through reading lists and conferences in 2017:

1. Pastoral Counseling: *People in Crisis: Clinical and Public Health Perspectives, fifth addition* edited by Lee Anne Hoff; *Levels of Life* by Julian Barnes.
2. Preaching: *When God Speaks through change* by Craig A. Satterlee
3. Pastoral Identity: *She: Five Keys to Unlock the Power of Women in Ministry* by Karoline Lewis, Attended "She – Women in ministry conference" featuring Karoline M. Lewis May 29 -31, 2017.
4. Right Relationships with First Nations: Attended 12 week online course *Indigenous Canada*, through Coursera / the University of Alberta. Attended three sessions with the Amiskwaciy History Series. Attended sessions at the First Call conference on "Abiding in Right Relationships" featuring the Ven. Travis Enright, Archdeacon for Indigenous Ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton.

It is the work of the First Call Committee to:

1. Strive to support and strengthen the ministry of the First Call rostered leader, the church staff, and the congregation.
2. Identify continuing education possibilities in light of the ministry goals and concerns of the *First Call* rostered leader, the congregation, and the ELCIC.
3. Annually evaluate the rostered leader's professional ministry through theological reflection in light of the congregation's mission and strategic plan.

4. Serve as a personal and confidential support to the *First Call* rostered leader through quarterly meetings - or as special situations arise.
5. Ensure the *First Call* rostered leader and the congregation meet the requirements of the *First Call* program.
6. Help Facilitate the end of rostered leader's and congregation's participation within the *First Call* program. This is accomplished through a time of discernment which will culminate in the submission of a final review of the *First Call* rostered leader to HSLC's Church council. This report will be used in the review and discussion of the pastor's call process within the congregation in 2019.

Thank you to Kathryn E., Randy K., Ron S., Harriot S., Paul T., and Mary W. for carrying out the work and continued support of this committee.

The *First Call* committee has no concerns or requests to bring before the congregation at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
First Call Committee

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The big news for the Administration Committee this year was the implementation of our new partnership with Greenfield School Age Daycare Association (GSADA.) While this was a large project with lots of moving parts it was relatively seamless on our end. However, it is not the Administration Committee's efforts that made it go so smoothly, but rather the ability of our own administrative assistant, Lori Z., combined with an independent and experienced partner in the GSADA. The daycare has been operating since July 1, 2017 and has been close to capacity for the whole time. They have mentioned many times how grateful they are to Holy Spirit and how much they love our space and our cooperative mentality. It is a mutually beneficial relationship and we are excited to continue it for many years to come.

Beyond the daycare, our group has met several times to discuss other administrative tasks. We cancelled our door mat rental (\$3500/year) and purchased them for a onetime cost of \$2300, a savings we will see over the years. Additionally, we have undergone a greatly needed rekeying of our building and upgraded our security system to make our workplace safer for our staff and rental groups.

Moving forward we will be focusing on more security upgrades, addressing future renovations, maintaining our relationship with our current rental groups and looking over old policies to make sure they are up to date. Overall, pretty glamorous stuff. Finally, I want to officially thank our administrative assistant, Lori Z. With the changes in staffing and the addition of the daycare, Lori has had additional tasks and scheduling to work around and has been excellent at her job. She has also shown great ingenuity and leadership on this committee. So Lori, on behalf of the congregation, thank you.

Ryan Mason
Council Chairperson and Administration Committee Chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

This past year the Communication Committee followed through on several projects that were proposed in the last Annual Report. 2017 was the first full year of the new format for the Holy Spirit Connects newsletter, designed and laid out by Janelle J. While cutting back on the number of issues of the newsletter to only four a year, we are still producing a monthly event calendar with prominent HSLC updates. A lot of effort was put into ensuring the most relevant content is available monthly, as well as, in the quarterly newsletters. The email blasts have also included more event updates this past year. Thank you to Lori Z. for her work on collecting and proofing the content (along with Dorothea and George C.) as well as, setting up and sending out the email blasts to subscribers. A big thanks also goes to Jennifer O., who took the content we wanted on the new pew cards and produced a set of beautifully designed and rebranded cards. The full set of pew cards are now printed and available in the pews for everyone to enjoy and share.

Our plans for the upcoming year are to ramp up work on the website and to establish a more unified plan for our social media posts to create more engagement and further our reach to underrepresented groups. While the Communication Committee has had some set backs with the website planning timeline, we are hoping to take the organizational structure we have drafted into a new template this year in hopes of clarifying communication and refining the brand of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. Michael C. did a lot of research into the sitemap of other church websites in order to plan a new organizational structure for the HSLC website.

During my time on council, over the past six years, I have been the lead of the Communication Portfolio and then held the position of chair of the Communication Committee. Since the 2018 AGM marks the end of my two terms on council the Communication Committee will be requiring new leadership this year. While I am still committed to volunteering for the committee, the chair position will be open for a new voice and perspective. I would also like to encourage people to consider joining the committee to add more voices to the table that are interested in strategizing a unified communication plan for Holy Spirit.

Janelle Johnson
Communication Committee Chair

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

God isn't just inside the church, but alive and active in the whole world. We want to do "outreach" to our people within (to strengthen community, build relationships and support.) We want to do "outreach" outside the church (to engage with what God is already up to out in the world, build relationships and support.)

Committee Activities:

- Plan and provide programs and outreach initiatives as guided by the Strategic Plan (Worship, Serve, Gospel, Belonging)
- Enable people to experience the good news
- Invite people to inclusive community
- Reach out to those in need
- Cultivate active and faith-filled stewardship of God's generosity
- Network with other committees of Holy Spirit and partner with the community
- New committee members and ideas welcome!

The Community Engagement Committee had a very active and productive year in 2017. Some of the activities of the Committee included:

- HSLC sponsored and served the evening meal at the Mustard Seed on November 20.
- The committee assisted in organizing a picnic/open house event at HSLC on June 11, coordinated with the Sunday School wrap up, which was open to the congregation and local community members (potluck, barbecue, children's games and activities etc.)
- HSLC participated on November 7, in an initiative from Lutheran Campus Ministry inviting congregations to provide dinner on Tuesday evenings to U of A students at Martin Luther House and then join in the evening fellowship.
- The Giving Tree was set up in the narthex before Christmas and was a great success – the recipient organization this year was the Mustard Seed Clothing Distribution Centre.
- Toiletry Collection – also a great success and the recipient organizations were the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC) and the Herb Jamieson Centre (for men). We collected items starting in late May until Sunday June 18 (Father's Day.)
- The committee initiated involvement with the Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS) and arranged to have a representative join us at the January 22 services when we learned more about the needs of at-risk young people in our city. We also sponsored a pizza lunch for the youth at the YESS Armoury Resource Center on February 17.
- HSLC did not participate in the Pride Parade this year but we will plan for 2018.
- Thanks to the HSLC members who generously gave their time to serve on the Community Engagement Committee and to all who participated in the committee's activities and initiatives. We look forward to a very productive and successful year in 2018 in facilitating the outreach activities of HSLC.

Submitted by Jerry Bentz,
Community Engagement Committee Chair

Food Depot Report

The Holy Spirit Food Bank Depot has been busy all year, 854 hampers were distributed. Ellen F. stepped down as coordinator in June and her excellent work carries on with minimal glitches. Special thanks to all the volunteers for their dedication to this important ministry. As we move into 2018 the Depot's work will continue at the same pace, as we have reached our maximum capacity here at Holy Spirit. If any of the congregation has questions about the Depot operations, please feel free to talk to me or any of the other volunteers.

Submitted by Carola Unsworth
Food Depot Coordinator

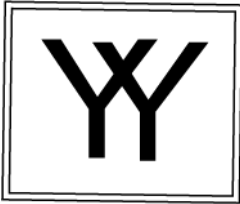
Refugee Committee Report

We are still watching and waiting for our families to arrive!

In 2016, in partnership with the Anglican Diocese, we were paired with a Syrian man who was looking to sponsor his elder brother's family. In November 2016 our church agreed to "Undertake to Sponsor" this Syrian couple and their four young children. After meeting with the brother in Edmonton we learned that he is currently in the sponsorship process for a second brother, sister in law and their three children. We informally committed to help the second family with the logistics of getting settled too. Both families passed their immigration interviews in the past two months and are just waiting for the final step, the medical exam. We anticipate that they may be arriving some time around March 2018. We will keep you posted as soon as we have more information about the families' pending arrival.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Ilott, Vice President, on behalf of the Refugee Committee

Yesterday's Youth Report



Our group of active, committed, and enthusiastic seniors continues to meet for a catered hot luncheon buffet on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month from September to December and February to May. We had 78 individuals who participated in our luncheons over the course of the year, 57 of whom attended more than once. We had a high attendance of 47 at our Christmas luncheon in December with an average monthly attendance of 37. The buffets are provided by our longstanding friends and caterers, Terry and Randy. There is much conversation and discussion at the luncheons as friends gather and catch-up on recent happenings in family, church and

community. Following the meal, we enjoy a presentation from one of a variety of venues. During the year of 2017 we had guest presenters speaking on topics such as "Alberta's Water Under Pressure" (Rev. Richard Reimer from Lutheran Campus Ministry) and "A Bold Vision for Canada" (Dr. Margaret-Ann Armour from the University of Alberta.) Musical entertainment included a folk/pop singer & guitarist and the hand bell choir from Robertson Wesley United Church. We got a glimpse of Edmonton's historic past and took a trip to Iceland & Greenland through photographic presentations presented by members of HSLC. Ukrainian music & dance presented by students from our neighbouring St. Martin's Ukrainian Bilingual School seemed to be the most well received entertainment of the year; we had them visit us on two different occasions in 2017.

On a sad note, we experienced the death of two of our long time members over the summer. Additionally, three other members had diminished health/mobility and could not continue to attend our events. For these reasons, attendance at the cards & games gatherings diminished. Therefore, it was decided that we would meet only once a month on the third Wednesday for cards and games beginning in September 2017. We will continue to do so for February to May 2018. We will review attendance and poll attendees over the summer of 2018 to see if we wish to continue to hold these monthly gatherings in the autumn months.

There are many who contribute to making the group a success. Among them I'd like to note the following who deserve special recognition and thanks.

- Ellen P., our capable and efficient treasurer and Carole P., her backup.
- Lori Z. in the church office who arranges for the set-up of tables & chairs for the lunches.
- Brenda C. who does the decorating and setting of tables for our monthly catered lunches. Also the folks who help her in the kitchen doing dishes and clean-up.
- Fern B. and Gertie B. for providing the coffee and dessert service on the cards and games weeks of the month.
- Paul L. who helps me with the audio set-up and take-down and served as emcee in my absence on two occasions.
- All of our members who faithfully attend the meetings and assist with the tear-down of tables & chairs. They also contribute their wonderful selves and smiles to make our group a welcoming place for guests and newcomers.

Report Submitted by Tom Schultz
Financial Summary Submitted by Ellen Pedersen

Yesterday's Youth Financial Summary 1 January to 31 December 2017

Opening Balances (1 January 2017)	
Cash	\$0.00
Chequing	\$2,481.87
Outstanding Deposit	\$0.00
Total	\$2,481.87

Income:	
Catered Lunches	\$4,884.84
Cards & Games	\$285.00
Memberships	\$380.00
Donations	\$22.00
Cash Adjustments	\$2.00
Total Income	\$5,573.84

Expenses:	
Caterer for Lunches	-\$4,358.00
Entertainment and Gifts	-\$640.33
Donations Made	-\$500.00
Supplies	-\$73.16
Total Expenses	-\$5,571.49

Income Less Expenses	\$2.35	\$2.35
		\$2,484.22

Closing Balances (31 December 2017)	
Cash	\$0.00
Chequing	\$2,484.22
Outstanding Expense	\$0.00
	\$2,484.22

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Over the past year the Lifelong Learning Committee has been working to provide positive learning and growth experiences for all. The main goal of this committee is to work continuously towards more integrated learning and growth in faith through various groups and projects. In 2017 there have been activities at Holy Spirit for individuals to participate in and enjoy. We would like to thank everyone who helped with the preparation and organization this past year.

Decisions from the previous year meant adjusting to major leadership changes within the church. This impacted how some of the programs operate. Despite the changes, the programs this committee oversees ran successfully throughout the year. These programs include Adult Education, Sunday School and Children's Ministry, Confirmation, Midweek Lectionary Study, Youth and College and Careers.

Each year this committee puts on an event during the Advent season to provide a way for people to get involved and connect with each other. This year the 3rd Sunday of Advent consisted of a Cookies, Coffee, and Cider event where congregational members baked cookies and brought them to share with each other following the service. This event connected people of all ages, as there was a display photo booth for children to enjoy while adults socialized. There was an enthusiastic response and participation resulting in many leftover cookies. Following the event, volunteers from Holy Spirit went caroling and brought cookies to those who couldn't come to church. A huge thank you goes out to the bakers and volunteers who helped with planning, set-up and clean-up.

With many discussions at council meetings around the idea of Missional Thinking, we have been inspired and challenged to think of new ways to move forward. Missional Thinking is focused on spreading our faith and good work outward into communities with the idea of going to others rather than expecting others to come to us.

In the future we hope to integrate learning between more groups, generations and people. We have discussed exploring new initiatives and addressing social justice issues using various means such as mentorship, guest speakers and presenters from other faith communities, film screenings, focus groups and learning/information sessions.

We are looking for more volunteers as committee members or on a project basis to help oversee, support and improve programs. We welcome all ideas that could help us find new and creative ways to increase outreach and learning in 2018.

We appreciate everyone's involvement as we explore our purpose as a congregation and community on an ongoing basis. Working through the challenges and changes associated with learning and growth in our lives is an important journey and we look forward to the opportunities the new year will bring.

Submitted by Karlina Millers,
Lifelong Learning Committee Chair

Youth Programming Report

Youth Drop-In

Programming began early in 2017 on the first Tuesday of each month. Instead of leaving a gap in weekly youth activities after the monthly congregational confirmation class there was a recreational activity planned instead. The goal was to provide the youth with the opportunity for fellowship and activities in the church to build community and relationships through games and conversations.

Youth Drop-In became Youth Unite in September 2017 with the goal of creating structure and purpose with the potential for igniting youth leadership and strengthened community. It is held from 4-6 pm on the first Tuesday of every month, lead and organized by Anne Servold with support and assistance from Pastor Trish and Pastor Lindsey.

Youth Gatherings:

Youth attended the ABT Synod Youth Gathering at Camp Kuriakos on the weekend of May 7, 2017 and we look forward to attending it again with youth from across the Synod in 2019.

The youth have been working towards fundraising for the national Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) event which occurs every other year. We were last in Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown and are planning for a trip to Thunder Bay, Ontario this summer in August with the help of parents and other congregational support. We have ongoing fundraisers through bottle drives, as well as, intermittent fundraisers planned and organized by the youth and their families.

The event will be held at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay from August 15-19. Our youth group, as well as, many others from across the city will be taking a cross-country bus tour which is still being planned. The theme for this year is "Threads." We are very excited to attend another fantastic CLAY event.

Youth Group Relations:

Our youth have developed a close relationship to Trinity Lutheran Youth over the past year. We are often in communications with the youth leadership team there, as well as, with other youth groups across the city through the CLAY Edmonton group. This has allowed us to attend and bond at other youth events such as the Corn Maze event hosted by Trinity, the WEM Water Park event (city-wide) and the Trinity Christmas sleepover. Holy Spirit has offered a reciprocal invitation to our own sleepover that comes during the Christmas break – a fun time for all.

In closing, our youth would like to thank the congregation for all its support, well wishes and interest that it has had in the future of our youth and the activities in which we take part. Our youth are a lively, fun, energetic group that take pride in calling Holy Spirit a home and a place where Christ dwells.

Submitted by Anne Servold
Youth Leader

MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

The focus of the Ministry Committee is our ministry as a congregation both within and outside of the walls of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. Part of this responsibility is to maintain the routine functions that make the church “run” as carried out by our dedicated volunteers such as the Altar Guild, the Ushers and Worship Assistants among others. The other and broader part of this responsibility is to look at ways in which we may include other methods/activities of worship that honour and praise God within and outside our congregation.

Apart from the routine, there were some exciting highlights during the past year. One was the formation of the Worship Committee. This committee works with the Pastoral Staff in the selection of liturgy, hymns and music that complement the church year calendar, arranges for accompanists for the Sunday/Special services and supports the Choir Director and Choir. We also aired our first training video on the work of the Altar Guild and participated in the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation goals in the funding of Scholarships and the Tree Planting initiative. (Our congregation also participated in the Refugee Support goal managed through the Refugee Committee.) We were also able to acquire a portable Labyrinth for prayerful, contemplative support wherever and whenever the opportunity arises.

For 2018, we are looking at continuing the work started in 2017, as well as (some) new ideas to explore:

- One idea to highlight the Reformation celebration in 2017 was to design and make a banner that would include the Reformation goals that HSLC achieved: tree planting, scholarship fund and Refugee support;
- Continue with developing educational videos for Ushers, Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants and other volunteer activities in the church;
- Continue support of the Worship Committee;
- Look at potential workshops on how we can be better at welcoming people;
- “Holy Pop Ups” – satellite groups of congregants and others, based on their location, who can come together for coffee and build relationships;
- Hold workshops for the congregation and the community on healthy living/eating, recipe sharing, community garden etc.

We thank everyone who has volunteered and/or assisted with the work of the Ministry Committee. We invite anyone from the congregation who is interested in helping in this opportunity for ministry to either become a member or present ideas on how we can improve and expand our worship.

On behalf of committee members Sara D, Inessa M, Dianne L, Tom S, Pastor Trish and Pastor Lindsey,

Yours in Christ,
David Jaipaul
Ministry Committee Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

A new committee for Holy Spirit, the Worship Committee had its first meeting in May 2017. The committee was formed in response to need after our Music Director, Kim Denis, was laid off at the end of April. Thank you to Brittany M., Tom D., Janet A., Rita R., Marcus H., Pastor Lindsey and Pastor Trish for their work in getting this committee going and undertaking the work of worship planning. Thanks also to David J. and Andrea M. for their interest and supportive work.

This awesome group of people has been hard at work to ensure that worship happens! It's been a steep learning curve and we started by learning about Principles for Worship, liturgy, copyright licenses and much more. We considered hiring a Music Coordinator, but this did not fit into finances in 2017. We very much appreciate our Sunday musicians who come to Holy Spirit bringing the gift of music, each in their own style. We are also very excited and grateful to Jared S. who is directing our choir and we hear that they are having too much fun!

Each meeting we learn about something related to worship. For example: what are the liturgical seasons? We learned about the different liturgies Holy Spirit knows and when it is appropriate to use them. We've even learned about special parts of the liturgy and when they are included (or not!) in worship. We select songs for worship and plan out the special Sundays. We also examine our worship attendance so we will know the best way to not only accommodate people on a Sunday morning, but also to be welcoming to newcomers.

One of the questions that is being asked is whether we should have one or two worship services on Sundays. It's a good question and one that needs regular review. To help us decide, we look at our attendance numbers for the year. As was said in a newsletter article in October 2016, we want to "*remain a welcoming church to all members as well as to new and potential members.*" Research demonstrates that having available "space" in worship makes newcomers feel more at ease; this is known as the "80% rule" and some would put it even at 70%. Generally, this means once you've reached 80% capacity, you're full even if you still have empty seats. After all, who likes to sit in the front row? Based on our 2017 numbers the Worship Committee recommends we continue with our current plan for 2 services per Sunday (with the exception of summer, Advent and a few special Sundays.)

Besides statistics however, we ought to meaningfully undertake an attitude of growth rather than reduction. While the Ministry Committee is beginning to talk about this (for example, perhaps we could host some community building workshops) it is also the work of every person to share the good news of Christ and to invite people to serve alongside one another. Certainly, we all love the atmosphere of a full sanctuary! But to be a welcoming congregation, a growing congregation, we should position ourselves for growth by every means possible. We have been given a beautiful message that needs sharing!

What can you do? Glad you asked!

- Invite people to join you on Sunday morning. Most importantly, because we want people to know Jesus as we do, not to prop up attendance.
- Leave space for newcomers. Especially the seats at the back and those along the aisle are the easiest to access; be a good host and leave these available.
- See the potential of unused seats rather than the problem. We have room to grow; pray that God would help us.
- Take home extra bulletins or newsletters to share with others.
- Like/Follow our Facebook page and invite friends to get connected.
- Share your ideas with committees or Council.
- Join a committee or council.

This committee works collaboratively with staff, choir, council, altar guild and other committees as needed. As we look toward fall planning we will be dreaming of special ways to make worship meaningful. Your gifts and input are welcome. We usually meet the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. All are welcome.

Respectfully,
The Worship Committee

CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

At the time of printing, there are seven vacant positions to be filled. No nominations have been received. Please note that nominations received after printing will be presented at the AGM. Nominations from the floor are invited and encouraged.

TREASURER and FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Holy Spirit ended 2017 in the black, with net budget income of \$1869.

Our balance sheet includes \$57,635 of available bank balance, as well as, \$20,000 in undesignated savings and \$3000 in a reserve fund for building maintenance. \$1000 was also put in an endowment fund under the church's name run by the Edmonton Community Foundation. Our total assets are \$84,794. Holy Spirit has \$58,817 in designated gift which are available for special activities. The Internal Payable Balance Report at the end of the financial report provides details. Our total long term debt is \$250,536, which includes holding \$3000 as the damage deposit for the daycare. From our cash flow report on the second page, we see that our cash balance fell by \$27,025, but this was due to the addition of donations receivable (\$2,063) undesignated savings (\$20,000) reserve fund (\$3,000) and the endowment fund (\$1,000.) This change in available cash does not indicated a deterioration in financial health. Finally, Holy Spirit forwarded \$5,799 of donations to third party charitable organizations in 2017 on behalf of our donors as detailed on the second page of this report in the Designated Income Report.

HSLC Dec 31, 2017

Income Statement

Budget Income	\$ 354,358	Designated Income	\$ 20,077
		<i>Internal</i>	\$ 14,279
		<i>External</i>	\$ 5,799
Budget Expenses		Designated Paid	\$ 20,077
<i>Worship</i>	\$ 10,156	<i>Internal</i>	\$ 14,279
<i>Witness</i>	\$ 4,044	<i>External</i>	\$ 5,799
<i>Staff</i>	\$ 235,405	Designated Surplus*	\$ -
<i>Education</i>	\$ 5,044		
<i>Property</i>	\$ 55,603	Current Surplus	\$ 1,869
<i>Service</i>	\$ 35,437		
<i>Support</i>	\$ 6,799		
Total	\$ 352,489		
 Net Budget Income	 \$ 1,869		

*Designated surplus on the income statement is expected to equal zero, since all external designated donations are paid to the external agencies at year end, and all internal designated surpluses are transferred to the balance sheet as "payable items". See the Cash Flow from Operating Activities to examine the change in internal designated funds, which are listed as "payable".

Balance Sheet

CURRENT ASSETS		LIABILITY	
Petty Cash - General	\$ 200	DESIGNATED GIFTS PAYABLE	
Bank Operating-CIBC	\$ 57,635	Designated Gifts (Internal)	\$ 58,817
GST Paid & Receivable	\$ 726	Designated Gifts (external)	\$ -
Donations Receivable	\$ 2,232		
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 60,793	TOTAL GIFTS PAYABLE	
		TOTAL ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$ -
FIXED ASSETS		TOTAL EMPLOYEE REMISSIONS PAYABLE	\$ 1,266
Fixed Assets	\$ 1	TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT	\$ 250,526
Undesignated Savings	\$ 20,000	TOTAL LIABILITY	\$ 310,610
Reserve Fund	\$ 3,000	EQUITY	
Endowment Fund	\$ 1,000	SURPLUS	
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	\$ 24,001	Accumulated Surplus	-\$ 227,685
		Current Surplus	\$ 1,869
		TOTAL SURPLUS	-\$ 225,816
TOTAL ASSET	\$ 84,794	TOTAL EQUITY	-\$ 225,816
		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 84,794

Cash Flow from Operating Activities

Net Income (loss)	\$ 1,869
Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash provided by operating activities	
Decrease (increase) in operating assets	
GST Paid and Receivable	\$ 1,599
Donations Receivable	-\$ 2,063
Undesignated Savings	-\$ 20,000
Reserve Fund	-\$ 3,000
Endowment Fund	-\$ 1,000
Increase in operating liabilities	
Mortgage Reduction Payable	\$ -
Renovation Fund Payable	-\$ 6,732
Book Registry Payable	\$ -
Memorial Fund Payable	\$ 2,998
Library Payable	\$ -
Children's Ministry Payable	\$ 605
Youth (Projects) Payable	\$ 2,271
Parish Pantry Payable	\$ 233
Pastor's Discretionary Payable	\$ 182
OtherGiftsPayable	\$ 229
Wind Power Payable	\$ 598
Fitness Program Payable	\$ 413
Refugee Fund Payable	\$ 1,867
Social Justice Payable	\$ 385
Table Fund Payable	-\$ 235
Accrued Liabilities	\$ -
Employee Remissions Payable	-\$ 146
Mortgage Payable	-\$ 10,096
Damage Deposit Payable	\$ 3,000
Net cash provided by operating activities	-\$ 27,025
Increase (Decrease) in Cash	-\$ 27,025
Cash at Beginning of period	\$ 84,660
Cash at End of Period	\$ 57,635

Designated Income Report (All funds have been forwarded)

Lutheran Campus Ministry Received	\$ 1,392
CLWR Received	\$ 217
On Eagles' Wings Received	\$ 544
ELC Holy Land Scholarships Received	\$ 3,065
Edmonton Gleaners Association	\$ 210
The Pride Centre of Edmonton Receiv	\$ 371
Total External Designated Gifts Received and Paid	\$ 5,799

Internal Payable Balance Report (these amounts are available for program spending)

Mortgage Reduction Payable	\$ 37
Renovation Fund Payable	\$ 215
Book Registry Payable	\$ 115
Memorial Fund Payable	\$ 7,426
Library Payable	\$ 271
Children's Ministry Payable	\$ 1,605
Youth (Projects) Payable	\$ 5,826
Parish Pantry Payable	\$ 8,584
Pastor's Discretionary Payable	\$ 1,816
OtherGiftsPayable	\$ 4,185
Wind Power Payable	\$ 665
Fitness Program Payable	\$ 2,349
Refugee Fund Payable	\$ 23,781
Social Justice Payable	\$ 1,943
Designated Gifts (Internal)	\$ 58,817

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

	Baptized	Confirmed
1. Membership as of December 31, 2016	693	546
2. New members received during 2017		
<i>a. By baptism: children (15 years and younger)</i>	2	
<i>b. By baptism: adults (16 years and older)</i>	1	1
<i>c. By affirmation of faith from responsibility / adherent list</i>	1	2
<i>d. By transfer from ELCIC member congregations</i>	0	0
<i>e. By transfer/affirmation of faith from Anglican or other Lutheran congregations</i>	0	0
<i>f. By affirmation of faith from non-Lutheran congregations</i>	0	0
<i>g. Statistical adjustment</i>	0	0
Subtotal: Total members received 2017	4	3
3. Members who affirmed their baptism thru confirmation during 2017		4
4. Members removed during 2017		
<i>a. By death</i>	5	5
<i>b. By transfer to other ELCIC congregations</i>	3	3
<i>c. By transfer to other Lutheran or Anglican congregations</i>	0	0
<i>d. To non-Lutheran congregations</i>	0	0
<i>e. To responsibility list & dropped (inactive)</i>	11	11
<i>f. Statistical adjustment</i>	0	0
Subtotal: Members removed during 2017	19	19
5. TOTAL membership December 31, 2017	678	534¹

a. Total number of Sunday worship services during the year	85
b. Total number of weekday worship services during the year	10
c. Total number of services with Holy Communion	60
d. Average number in attendance each week at Sunday worship*	119

Funerals	11
Weddings	3
Baptisms	3

History of *average weekly attendance for years:

2017 - 119	2012 - 170	2007 - 209	2002 - 221	1997 - 344
2016 - 146	2011 - 195	2006 - 212	2001 - 226	1996 - 343
2015 - 157	2010 - 193	2005 - 211	2000 - 266	1995 - 334
2014 - 162	2008 - 190	2004 - 217	1999 - 327	1994 - 327
2013 - 164	2008 - 201	2003 - 209	1998 - 329	1993 - 325

+estimated figure* calculation based on regular Sunday services, excluding Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services and additional Lenten service

¹ The number of confirmed members is included in the number of baptized, i.e., of this congregation's 678 members, 534 are confirmed.

GREENFIELD SCHOOL AGE DAY CARE ASSOCIATION

Hello from GSADCA (Greenfield School Age Day Care Association!) For those that don't know us we are the child care centre that is now residing in the church. It has been 6 months since we first opened our doors to families to extend our care offering in the neighbourhood. We cannot express how much we love the space and the sense of community we feel in this wonderful environment. We currently have 6 toddlers which is a new age group for us, 12 preschool aged children and 7 children who attend Lendrum kindergarten when they are not with us. We are very excited that come summer and into fall of 2018, we look to be full with 16 kinders! I guess good news travels fast. Some highlights from the last 6 months have been: being invited to watch the Ukrainian dancers from St. Martin School, we had our big accreditation visit and licensing visits which went very well, celebrated National Child Day on Nov 20, had a visit from Hon. Lori Sigurdson who presented us with a huge cheque from CIP (Community Initiatives Program) Grant which helped fund our program getting started and most recently got 2 pet fish! We can't wait for what the next 6 months will bring and are very excited to continue to make connections in the community. If you have not yet had the chance to take a tour and look through our space, please take some time we are very proud if it. We appreciate all the kind words and actions in support for our program, we couldn't do it without you!



Thank you,
Durray Bosch
Director GSADCA

MULHURST LUTHERAN CHURCH CAMP ANNUAL REPORT



Mulhurst Lutheran Camp

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Phone 780.389.2174 Rentals 780.389.4355
www.mulhurstcamp.ca

Mulhurst Camp Annual Report 2017

2017 has been a year of change for Mulhurst Camp! The Board has worked very hard to implement and adapt to the new Governance model. We met in October and developed a new Strategic Plan that will carry us through the next year and lead us into the future.

David Unsworth was hired as our Chief Executive Officer in December of 2016 and has taken on this role with enthusiasm. He has been able to provide a fresh look at opportunities that will ensure Mulhurst will be sustainable into the future. The Board is very excited to be working with David and appreciates his leadership.

The Board has also set several critical tactical directions. One of the directions is to continue a very exciting capital project to carry our camp forward into the future. We launched "The Excitement is Building" capital project campaign in 2015 to raise funds to improve the facilities of the camp. To date we have a committed amount of approximately \$750,000 toward this Capital Project. Initially we had planned on commencing construction in September 2016 however the Tenders for this project came in much higher than anticipated and we were unable to obtain grant funding. We decided to move forward with the expansion in stages with the funds committed. We began by replacing the roof on the lodge and the extension of the dining hall to the south has begun. Ground leveling for the whole expansion has been done as well. Additionally, we replaced the dishwasher and brought the current kitchen up to necessary standard by installing a new range hood which extends the life of the kitchen for a limited time. The dishwasher and range hood will be moved to the new kitchen when funds are in place to continue the project. Approximately \$700,000 is still needed to complete the building expansion to the east which includes the kitchen, handicap accessible washrooms etc. and the landscaping.

Additionally, a 49-bedroom camp unit has been purchased and will be installed in January. The cost of this unit has been donated by friends of the camp. Additional donations will go toward clearing the site and installing the utilities.

Christian programming will continue to be an important part of the camp's mandate. This past year we hosted a mirage of different and exciting camps and retreats. One way we support our congregations directly is by hosting pastors and confirmation students for confirmation retreats, hosting pioneer days, family day activities. We also hosted a wonderful Christmas Gala on November 25, 2017. We appreciate those who came to the event to support the camp and its ministry.

The future is bright at Mulhurst Church Camp and we welcome one and all to participate in some way. Volunteer, send your children or grandchildren to camp, pledge to our building project attend a retreat and most of all continue to pray for this very important mission.

Yours in Christ,
Sherry Knull, Board Chair



January 2018

Dear Beloved in Christ

I send you greetings in the Name of the One who is the light of the world, Jesus our Lord, as you gather for your Annual General Congregational Meeting.

When you gather together, know that I am filled with gratitude to God for you; that I am thankful for our partnership in the gospel; and, that you continue to be in my prayers as I know I remain in yours.

When you meet together, you will be making decisions about your priorities for ministry. You will be adopting budgets that enable ministry that joins in God's mission in the world. You will be supporting your partners in ministry – the rostered leaders of this Synod, and especially those who serve among you as they, first and foremost, seek to equip you for the work of ministry: the building up of the Body of Christ.

Joining God's mission means that your ministry is among the people with whom you live and move and have your being. Your ministry is done each day in the living out of your baptismal identity as God's beloved children through your service in word and deed.

Ministry continues beyond the neighborhood and congregation through the many faces of the Church and many facets of its ministries: our Synod and its staff, our National Church expression, the Lutheran World Federation, En Misi3n con El Salvador: In Mission with El Salvador, and our Companion Synod – The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

Perhaps at this year's Annual General Meeting you might reflect, name and give thanks for the gifts and mission into which God has invited you and your congregation. Consider taking a few moments in small groups to listen to each other and then share with all gathered reflections on the following: 1) Share about a time or situation when you or your congregation experienced God's love. 2) What resources do you have within your community? Share three gifts God has given you.

As you meet, I ask you to prayerfully consider forwarding a tithe (1/10th) of your annual income as a congregation as your minimal offering for Benevolence for the ministry of the Synod and through the Synod to the wider Church. Some congregations have exceeded this mark already, but I would encourage all congregations to set this goal.

As you gather be sure to join others across the Synod as you:

- prepare nominations for youth, lay and rostered delegates to the 2018 ELCIC National Convention. (<http://albertasynod.ca/convention/national-convention/national-conventiondelegate-elections/>)
- determine delegate(s) to the June 14-16 Synod Convention, Faith, Hope, Love.
- Review the Synod Council Meeting "Talking Points" (<http://albertasynod.ca/people/synodcouncil/>)
- subscribe to our Synod's new weekly e-mail newsletter, Wednesday's Word, which begins January 6 and replaces the Synod mailings. Subscribing is easy on our Synod's website.

And remember Paul's words to the saints in Philippi: *...sisters and brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things (Philippians 4:8).*

My prayer is that your gathering will be a recital of gratitude and praise to God for the signs of the Holy Spirit at work in, through, around, and among you.

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).

In Christ Jesus-
Shalom,

+The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Spirit-Led Leadership Hope-Filled Discipleship Innovative Tradition Collaborative Partnerships