

Annual Report for 2018

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

to be held

Sunday, February 24, 2019

Worship at 10:00 am, followed immediately by a potluck lunch (sandwich & finger food)

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 24, 2019



Chair: Toby Schneider, President

Devotions: Pastor Trish Schmermund

Recording Secretary: Wendy Illott

Establish quorum: At least 27 confirmed members must be in attendance.

Agenda:

Motion: To open the 2019 HSLC AGM. Moved and seconded by council.

1. Devotion
2. Quorum
3. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: To adopt the 2019 HSLC AGM Agenda. Moved and seconded by council.

4. AGM "Meeting 101"
5. Holy Spirit Annual Report for 2018 (excluding the 2019 Budget)

Motion: To receive the 2018 Holy Spirit Annual Report as information. Moved and seconded by council.

Note: as per HSLC Bylaws Section 3, the minutes of the 2018 AGM and November 25, 2018 extraordinary meeting were approved on behalf of the congregation by council at the April 9, 2018 and December 10, 2018 council meetings, respectively.

6. Presentations
 - a. Year in Review
 - b. The Year to Come
 - c. Strategic Focus: The Church We and Others Need

7. New Business
 - a. Review of financial processes and books.

Motion: To wave the requirement for an audit, as enabled in HSLC Bylaws Section 7. Moved and seconded by council.

- b. 2018 Financial Report (Amy Cooper)

Motion: To approve the 2018 Financial Report. Moved and seconded by council.

- c. 2019 Budget (Amy Cooper)

Motion: To approve the 2019 HSLC Budget. Moved and seconded by council.

- d. Renovation Project (Toby Schneider)

Motion: To approve the Renovation Project to:

- 1) redesign and replace our bathrooms; and
 - 2) make the front and main rear entrance doors automated by push button, for a total project cost including government support not to exceed \$108,000.
- Moved and seconded by council.**

8. Nominations and Elections
 - a. Nominations and Elections for Church Council
 - b. Acknowledgement of outgoing council members/installation of council.

9. Closing

Motion: To close the HSLC 2019 AGM. Moved and seconded by council.

10. The Lord's Prayer and Benediction (Pastor Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum)



11223 - 51 AVENUE, EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6H 0L5
 PHONE: 780- 434-4012
 E-MAIL: church@holyspiritlutheran.ca
 WEBSITE: www.holyspiritlutheran.ca
 Facebook Page: Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
 Twitter: @HSLutheran

CONTENTS

President's Report.....	3
Pastor's Report	3
Associate Pastor's Report.....	4
First Call Report.....	5
Administration Committee.....	6
Renovation Committee.....	6
Communications Committee.....	7
Community Engagement Committee.....	7
Food Depot Report.....	7
Refugee/New Comers Committee Report.....	7
Yesterday's Youth Report.....	8
Lifelong Learning Committee.....	8
Youth Programming Report.....	9
Ministry Committee.....	9
Worship Committee Report	10
Nominations for Church Council.....	10
Treasurer's Report.....	11
Membership Statistics.....	13
Greenfield School Age Day Care Association.....	14
Mulhurst Camp Report.....	14
Bishop's AGM Letter.....	15
Strategic Focus Document.....	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

2018 has been a year of seeking God's direction for our church. This is not to say that Holy Spirit is in crisis or directionless. In fact, our church has thrived with our focus on welcome, social justice, and community as our witness of Christ's love in and for our world. There is a definite energy and enthusiasm within our walls that is truly exciting! But we cannot rest easy. Holy Spirit was blessed with visits from Synod Bishop Larry Kochendorfer and our Lutheran Theological Seminary President Rev. Dr. William Harrison in 2018, who brought powerful perspectives on where the ELCIC is as a church and how we might want to move forward.

The ELCIC is no doubt in transition. While diminishing numbers capture the headlines and our concern, Bishop Larry and Dr. Bill each shed more light. Germany and Scandinavia are no longer our main sources of immigration and new members. If we cannot rely on traditional immigration patterns to fill our pews, we must find new ways to reach out. However, within this context another message was lifted up: church is, for all intents and purposes, no longer an institution that helps organize and normalize society.

While this change, which has been under way for many decades, may feel scary, it is also liberating. Church can focus on what God calls us to be: a witness of God's love and deliverer of the message of hope and salvation that Christ secured for us. This is offered to all humans, everyone, not by works but by grace. Just by saying yes, I need God's forgiveness.

Throughout 2018, Congregational Council has been on a journey of *Missional Thinking*, led by our pastors. *Missional Thinking* does not bring a formula on how to run a church. It is a framework for thinking about how we can understand how to meet our neighbours, the people in our communities and lives, where they are. It is a model of learning, discovery, and experimentation. It is our model of service, relevance, and growth.

This year, instead of updating our traditional strategic plan, Congregational Council has put our attention to a strategic focus document called "The Church that We and Others Need." This document marks an introduction for the congregation to Congregational Council's journey to the starting line. It's just a beginning. And Congregational Council cannot go one step further without you, Holy Spirit's faithful members and friends. It is a journey we are called to take together.

Holy Spirit is a truly blessed and amazing place. It is because of the energy, dedication, and hard work of our members and staff. I would like to thank our dedicated members of Congregational Council and our staff. I also thank all those who contribute to our church, with service, offerings, prayers, and support. We have amazing opportunities to bring the greatest message of hope ever conceived to a world in need of hope. As I think about the year that was, I feel like Holy Spirit is truly ready to move forward together to become, even more than we are now, the church that we and others need.

Toby Schneider, President

PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear Holy Spirit community,

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
Romans 12:12

Glancing back to our past year, it's obvious that Holy Spirit continues to be not only a busy place, but an important place in this city. The word that has often come to mind in the past few months is *gratitude*; in every change, in every worship service, in every conversation and prayer I am thankful for each of you!

I often like to remind us that we are a very unique congregation in the city (and even in our whole Synod!) I'm so grateful for the way we have embraced diversity and justice and that we are learning side by side how to live as God's people in our own context. We continue to be a beacon of hope and welcome for refugees, the hungry, Muslim friends, and the LGBTQ2SIA+ community. We reach out to seniors through Yesterday's Youth and engage younger generations through our Youth Group and College & Careers. We stretch ourselves in service and worship, seeking just practices in caring for the earth, using fresh and inclusive language, and in studying the stories of the Bible. We're looking to improve our building with some important renovations that will serve us for years to come. These are just a few of the more obvious things going on! I also see the meaningful ways you care for one another and take up the work and challenges we encounter. So many people just step up to do what needs doing without recognition or reward – thank you! And Ken and I are especially grateful for your love and support when just before Christmas I required surgery. It's a privilege to be your pastor and care for you, and it was a delight to be cared for in a time of need. Let's not forget or underestimate the impact of our ministry together! We are doing God's work.

Gratitude comes to mind in thinking of our council, who faithfully undertake the role of leadership and committee work. The *Missional Thinking* learning we are undertaking is helping us to stay focused on collaborating with the Holy Spirit! Intentional reflection on biblical stories coupled with our own stories reveals not only how God is at work all around us, but also helps us to see where we may connect. In the upcoming year we hope to intentionally engage changes to help us grow with God. There is always room for new faces and ideas – consider how God might be nudging you to share your gifts!

I am extremely grateful for Pastor Lindsey, Lori our Administrator, Jared and Kathryn who lead our Choir, Naomi our nursery attendant, whom all excel in their work on our behalf. Each week Pastor Lindsey, Lori and myself meet to make sure things are in place for worship and to check in on the many facets of ministry at Holy Spirit. We work together effectively and strategically – and we have a lot of fun together too! Thanks be to God for growing us into a well-connected team.

“Thank you” seems insufficient when I think of the support and love received from my family and especially my spouse, Ken. Their encouragement is manna in desert times and a harvest of plenty in times of joy.

As you may know, I currently also serve as the Dean of the Northern Area. In that role, I work closely with Bishop Larry to meet the needs of area congregations. For example, in 2018 I was able to assist with the merger of the Lutheran and Anglican parishes in Edson. This had not yet happened in this diocese, and it took a lot of conversation to bring together two very different church polities. The fruit of this hard work will be in seeing this new ministry take foot as they explore their new identity! I’m grateful for this opportunity and for the learning that came with it! Other wider church responsibilities I had in 2018 included: rewriting the Mutual Ministry Guidebook for the ELCIC, sitting on the National Church Council Nominations Committee for the ABT Synod, chairing the Reference and Counsel Committee at our Synod Convention. In each of these roles I have been challenged to grow and to serve this wonderful church.

2018 was difficult for us financially. Most of the year we faced a growing and deeply concerning deficit. It was stressful for us all to watch this happen. Yet, as you can see by our financial report, we ended the year in a great position. This is simply because of the generosity of our community!

For 2019, I pray that we could work together to grow healthier stewardship practices. Probably the most needful area for growth is in our consistency. Instead of waiting until the end of the year or for a special Sunday, our giving could be divided evenly over the year. This would be tremendously helpful, as our monthly expenses are pretty stable. More consistency in stewardship also enables ministry to happen. We might all find this a less stressful approach that will lead to growth in many ways. One helpful way to do this is to sign up for pre-authorized-remittance (PAR) check with Lori in the office for information.

God has given to us abundantly and consistently. All that we have is from God. In stewardship we seek to give back in gratitude for all that God is in our lives. It’s meant to be an intentional act of faith and trust that God will always provide for us. And God does! For each person, for the way you are able to give of time, talent and treasure we give thanks. Stewardship is where ministry gets very real – without it there is no church. We are all encouraged to pray for guidance and growth in this work.

Our identity as Holy Spirit Lutheran Church is a result of God’s love spanning many generations. For the past, the present and for tomorrow we give thanks! I look forward to God surprising us in the years to come.

Two kinds of Gratitude:

*The sudden kind we feel for what we take;
and the larger kind we feel for what we give.*

Poet Edwin Arlington Robinson.

In gratitude (of course!)
Pastor Trish

ASSOCIATE PASTOR’S REPORT

“The Church may have a building, but that is not its place. The building may be the church’s location, but its space is in the shared humanity of its persons.”

— Andrew Root

This quote from Andrew Root reminds us of the important mission we share here at Holy Spirit. A mission that isn’t just held within our walls – but a mission that calls each of us out into the world to share the grace, love, and welcome we have all received from God.

It has been a year of learning and growth for us in many ways as a family of faith. We have begun to use *Missional Thinking* as our primary approach to ministry and outreach both within and outside of our church walls. We have begun to ask important questions that call us to stretch and grow in our faith. We have invited and welcomed new members, while mourning the loss of some pillars of our faith community. We have continued to learn to explore scripture to look and listen for signs of God’s call, and as we do all these things, we are taking chances as we continue to build a welcoming and caring community of faith.

It’s a new way of thinking and being in ministry within the world. A way that doesn’t ascribe to a specific program with measured outcomes that can be counted on – but rather a way that frees us to listen to the call of the Spirit of God moving and breathing among us all. A call that can come to ask us to step out in faith in new and exciting ways, because when we are actively listening to the call of God - who knows where we might be led to change!

Change is a word we often don’t like to embrace when it comes to our lives or our faith. Change as we know from our personal experience can be difficult. There is after all a level of comfort in what we have become accustomed to experiencing as God’s people at Holy Spirit. We all have our preferred place to sit, or perhaps even a favorite hymn that help us to feel at home within this congregation. But those things aren’t what makes Holy Spirit the wonderful community of faith it has blossomed into over its 54 years. It’s the body of Christ that has come to be welcomed and fed here week after week.

It's the cross generational relationships of care and support that have been fostered through our shared ministry. It's the grace and love of God we have all come to know as we have gathered as a community. These are the things that will always remain central as they are at the core of our DNA as a family of faith.

And we have continued to faithfully respond to the call of God by sharing our gifts in our community in meaningful ways. Whether it is through volunteering your time to serve on one of our many rosters, committees, or church council. Helping with our newcomer families, assisting with the Food Bank, providing meals through our mission to the inner city, or lending your 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 your faithful response to God's call to you here in this congregation.

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 listen to the ways God is calling us to carry out the life and mission of this congregation in 2019. A mission that may just cause us to lean into the winds of change – trusting in the hope of God as we follow where the Spirit leads us all.

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

The Western Synods *First Call Program* involves rostered ministers in the ELCIC (ordained and diaconal) who are part of an intentional continuing education program for a three-year period during their first call to ministry serving in the western synods of the ELCIC. When congregations call a new rostered minister to serve in their community of faith, they make a commitment to support and fund their participation in the *First Call Program*. This means that the congregation is responsible for covering travel, registration, accommodation and meal expenses at the western synods sponsored annual event which takes place in October.

In addition, the congregation provides the *First Call* pastor with an intentional Mutual Ministry Committee who aid in the development of an education plan, as well as provide support for pastoral ministry within the context. Holy Spirit's *First Call* Mutual Ministry Committee has been served by Harriot S., Kathryn E., Mary W., Paul T., Randy K., and Ron S. over the course of the last three years.

On July 31, 2019 - Pastor Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum will come to complete the requirements of the *First Call Program* within the context of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church and will be eligible to begin the process to renew their call with the congregation. Over the first few months of 2019 the *First Call* Committee will undergo a process of directed reflection, discernment and evaluation of Pastor Lindsey's ministry with and among us at Holy Spirit. This process will help the committee and council review the expectations and leadership needs within the congregation's ministry.

The committee will meet to identify the shared strengths of our time in ministry together, to develop specific strategies which will strengthen our ministry into the future and to develop recommendations to Holy Spirit's Congregational Council with regard to a renewal of call in of May 2019.

Following the completion of this process, Congregational Council will be empowered to make an informed decision as to whether, and under what terms, a new call should be issued to the incumbent *First Call* pastor. Congregational Council will then formulate the final terms of the call renewal and contact the bishop to renew the recommendations. The recommendations are finally presented to the congregation for ratification at a special congregational call meeting. Following the meeting, written confirmation of the congregation's decision shall be immediately forwarded to the pastor and bishop. Should the congregation decide to not recommend extension of a call, the incumbent pastor and bishop should be informed of this decision immediately, both verbally and in writing.

The months leading up to the conclusion of a term call to ministry can provide a welcome opportunity for celebration, learning, and reflection within the congregation. If you have a story or reflection to share of Pastor Lindsey's ministry with and among us during their first call, please take a moment to share it with a member of the first call committee over the next few months. We give thanks for our time of ministry with them and look forward to exploring new ministry opportunities as we discern our future together.

Respectfully submitted,
First Call Committee

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

2018 was a fairly uneventful year for the Administration Committee. A significant item is the bathroom renovation planning that will be reported on separately by the Renovation Committee.

The partnership with Greenfield School Age Daycare Association (GSADA) is going along quite smoothly for which we owe a lot of thanks to Lori, our office administrator, for her capable guidance. Utility expenses were reviewed for the past year to see if there was an impact on the use by GSADA and was found to be relatively insignificant. It continues to be a mutually beneficial relationship that we should be able to continue for years to come.

We continue to have a great relationship with all the groups using our facilities in which Lori's coordination plays a big part. A new group this year is 'Anyone Can Dance' who teach private ballroom dance lessons during the days and evenings with a group class on Friday evenings.

Building maintenance expenses were minimal for the year thanks to the very capable care from Gord G. and Ken S. Thanks to both for their many volunteer hours of maintenance, building and equipment, cutting grass and shoveling snow. A "Many Hands Cleanup" was organized in the spring and 15 volunteers came out to help make our building sparkle. Watch for sign-up sheets this spring for your opportunity to volunteer.

The Administration Committee meets on a monthly basis, except for the summer months, addressing ongoing administration issues. If this sounds like something you are interested in, new committee members are always welcome.

Our church staff are all excellent, capable personnel that we should be very thankful for.

Some items that we are working on going forward into 2019 are a mutually beneficial performance review plan for our staff, and of course overseeing our renovation project going into the next level.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Loewen, on behalf of the Administration Committee

Renovation Committee

The church was originally built in April 1966 when the first service was held in the current building. Since that time, we have grown from the original 114 members to over 500 members. The original church had two toilets and two sinks until 1980 when the current washrooms were built. In October 2015, Ron S., David U., and Pastor Trish started looking for grants to upgrade the church and its ministry. In October 2017, the group was successful and received money requested, in the form of a matching grant, from the Government of Alberta to do two projects: wheelchair accessible doors and to make the washrooms accessible to all.

On November 25, 2018 there was a special congregational meeting to discuss moving forward with these upgrades. After much discussion, the congregation voted in favor to move ahead with this renovation project looking towards a final discussion at our February 2019 AGM.

The reason for upgrading the doors is to improve accessibility and to bring our back entrance up to building code. This will include a button inside and outside that will automatically open the doors so people may come in. Unfortunately, the back door, to the parking lot, requires additional work to bring to code because the slope at the entrance is too steep.

We are looking at updating the bathrooms in order to, again, improve accessibility. This means better access for those with disabilities, strollers, walkers, and it will also improve accessibility for persons of any gender and for families to use facilities together.

If the "go ahead" is given at the February AGM, the grant money must be spent by approximately August 2019. The matching grant is \$54,000 from the *Community Facilities Enhancement Program* and it is designated as a matching grant. For our part, HSLC will need to raise matching funds for costs of the project. This can be in labour, gifts in kind, donations and fundraising.

Upon approval at the AGM, we will proceed with many different ways to obtain our matching goal. A GoFundMe site has been set up for anyone who prefers that method of donation as some of our user groups have asked. We have a "Canada Helps" button both on our website as well as on our Facebook page that have already been setup. There is also a vanity sink in the narthex that is equipped to have money deposited as attendee's think of it. On top of this we will also be doing church-wide fundraising events and you are welcome to simply contribute through your offerings.

At the AGM we will present a final layout, based on building structure and input received from the congregation and we will be able to discuss information on construction costs, donation of time, etc.

Thank you for journeying alongside HSLC and this project as we look to the future together!

Respectfully,
The Renovation Committee

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

This is my first year on Council and as lead of the Communications Committee, but with the help of the new and previous members of this team, we were able to reach out to our neighbourhood community and beyond, sharing the Good News and inviting people to join us for services and events. I am grateful to Janelle J. for offering to continue to coordinate the publishing of the *Holy Spirit Connects* Newsletter and ensuring that social media platforms are running well, and to Lori for helping with the publishing of all our communications. It has been a great help as I get my footing. Thanks to everyone who posts on Facebook and Twitter – our statistics for how active those platforms are continues to rise and reach well beyond our local neighbourhood. Social Media has been a fantastic way to move beyond our walls with our message of welcome, and we hope to find new ways to communicate and move our mission forward, reaching out with God's Love and touching the hearts of those who are hurting and in need.

Kim Goebel
Communication Committee

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

We have had an active and exciting 2018 in Community Engagement! Throughout the year we have been active in our community. We collected toiletries to celebrate Mother and Father's Day. Over the summer we welcomed the two refugee families we are supporting. In the fall, we started missional thinking as part of our meetings. God led us to host a family-fun event to help kick off Sunday School. We also helped out with dinner at the Mustard Seed and Lutheran Campus Ministry. We supported an inter-faith group of five initiatives to help sponsor an LGBTQSIA+ refugee to settle in Edmonton. Recently, we started to see if there is interest from volunteers to reach out and contact congregants who don't communicate over the internet or are unable to make it to church themselves. Our congregation is filled with people who are working to make our community better. Thank you to everyone for your faith-filled efforts. We look forward to what God has in store for us next year!

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Ilott, Community Engagement Committee

Food Depot Report

The Holy Spirit Food Bank Depot continues to hum along at maximum capacity distributing 857 hampers of groceries in 2018. Special thanks to our dedicated volunteers who carry out this important outreach into the community every Tuesday afternoon. For 2019, we anticipate a continuing need for Food Bank hampers as the economy struggles to accommodate low oil prices. If any of the congregation has questions about the Food Bank Depot operations, please feel free to talk to me or any of the volunteers.

Submitted by Carola Unsworth
Food Depot Coordinator

Refugee/New Comers Committee Report

*"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink.
I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home."* Matthew 25:35

Wow! What an amazing year we've had. After many months of busying ourselves with paperwork, planning meetings, fundraising, collecting items and what seemed like endless waiting, two new comer families arrived to a warm welcome at the end of July, 2018.

Over the past six months the congregation has supported the two families of five and six members in many ways. These include, but are not limited to, providing furnishing and household items, organizing school supplies and seasonal clothing, assisting with school registrations and communications, weekly shopping trips, orientation to public transport and services, seasonal celebrations and language tutoring. Many meals, smiles and memories have been shared. Most recently, the families led a Syrian cooking class that was greatly enjoyed by those attending. All funds used in support of the new comer families have come from a designated account, separate from the general operating budget of the congregation, and through gifts in kind. The families will continue to receive financial support from the designated account until the end of July 2019, at which time they will be eligible for Alberta Income Supports if they require it.

The success of our committee and their great diversity of talents has led to some possible future opportunities to serve beyond the financial. Another brother and his family of 8 have been accepted and possibly sponsored by the Canadian Government to resettle in Canada. We have also been approached regarding potentially assisting a Somalian mother whose safe-country visa ended with the death of her spouse. Most recently, a member of the nearby St John's Anglican Church Refugee Committee dropped in to connect with us, share advice and build community. God continues to call us to action!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the work of this committee, directly or indirectly, and for your continued prayers and guidance.

Submitted by Wanda Chell
Refugee Support Committee

Yesterday's Youth Report

The Yesterday's Youth group continues to meet for a catered hot luncheon buffet on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month from September to December and February to June. We meet for cards and games on the third Wednesday afternoon of the month from September to November and February to May. We welcomed three new regular members and sadly said goodbye to two long time members who died over the course of the year.

There were approximately 70 individuals who participated in our luncheons over the course of the year. We had a high attendance of 47 at the September luncheon and an average monthly attendance of 36. 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 2018 we had three guest presenters, four musical entertainers from various genres, and one travelogue presented by one of our members. We played "White Elephant BINGO" at our June luncheon which was well received; everyone in attendance went home a winner.

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 treasurer and Carole P., her backup.
- Lori Z. in the church office who arranges the set-up of tables & chairs
- Brenda C. and Meta F. 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 organizing coffee and dessert on the cards and games weeks.
- Paul L. who helps me with the audio set-up and take-down and serves as emcee in my absence.
- 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 2018

Opening Balances (1 January 2018)		
Cash		\$0.00
Chequing		\$2,484.22
Outstanding Deposit		\$0.00
Total		\$2,484.22
Income:		
Catered Lunches	\$5,070.00	
Cards & Games	\$140.00	
Memberships	\$370.00	
Donations	\$41.82	
Cash Adjustments	-\$1.00	
Total Income	\$5,620.82	
Expenses:		
Caterer for Lunches	-\$4,482.00	
Entertainment and Gifts	-\$659.53	
Donations Made		
Supplies	-\$89.29	
Total Expenses	-\$5,230.82	
Income Less Expenses	\$390.00	\$390.00
		\$2,874.22
Closing Balances (31 December 2018)		
Cash		\$269.00
Chequing		\$2,605.22
Outstanding Expense		\$0.00
		\$2,874.22

LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church continued to support learning to help all groups grow in faith. These included Thursday Morning Bible Study for adults, College & Careers group, Confirmation and events for youth, and Sunday School and Vacation Bible Camp for children.

We are so thankful for our pastors and the many members who volunteered their time to lead and participate in these programs. The opportunity for all to share ideas in a supportive environment is an important tradition of our Lutheran faith.

Thank you to our long serving superintendent Amy D. for organizing eight teachers who used their talents to guide our children who numbered approximately twenty-five this year.

Discussion with the teachers and a survey sent out in the summer to the congregation gave some input for future ways to utilize our volunteers in the best way to serve the children.

Vacation Bible Camp had 20 youth and adult volunteers to help 21 children enjoy faith and fun August 7–10. Seven youth, led by Pastor Lindsey and Anne S., attended CLAY in Thunder Bay for a memorable faith experience.

Our church supported learning events like the Grief Conference in October for the greater community, and invited people, especially families with youth, to attend the Lutheran Student Movement at the University of Alberta one night to provide supper and participate in their studies.

The Lifelong Learning Committee will continue to meet with the Community Engagement Committee on the last Sunday of each month to discuss ways to support learning together with outreach. For example, a Film and Faith discussion night is planned for February to encourage intergenerational groups to interact and discuss their faith.

Our committee looks forward to having more members come to share their ideas about how we can support learning. Missional thinking helps guide our work as we envision new ways to help people within our church and beyond grow in faith and love.

Submitted by Tanya Gusdal-Calkins,
Lifelong Learning Committee Chair

Youth Programming Report

The Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering (CLAY 2018) has come and gone, but the memories, lessons learned and experiences gained will live on for years in the lives of our youth. Held every two years in a different Canadian city as a joint youth gathering between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Anglican Church Canada (ACC) CLAY offers youth an opportunity to live out their faith with their peers. This year seven of our youth traveled with two leaders on the ABT Synod Bus tour to CLAY 2018 which took place at Lakehead University Campus in Thunder Bay, Ontario, on the traditional lands of the Fort William First Nation, Signatory of the Robinson Treaty of 1850.

Coming together under the theme 'Threads', the 2018 gathering focused on story-telling, story-tending, and what it truly means to listen. Five story weavers (Steve Greene, Beatrice Twance-Hynes, Jenny Salisbury, Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum, and Esther Diabo) helped to lead Large Group Gatherings (LGG) with the following themes/questions, including: How to listen to the stories of others, How to trust God in our unravelling, Where God fits within our stories, Good news stories from God, and Where do we go from here as unfinished but beloved children of God?

Highlights from the gathering included: an offsite event, where youth were able to hear stories about Thunder Bay at the nearby Marina Park, and the indigenous lands and the threads of the lives of the locals. Attendees were also able to take part in the second-largest KAIROS blanket exercise in the world, and the largest ever by youth. The 45-minute activity helped participants gain a better understanding of colonization and the process of displacement endured by Indigenous Peoples here in Canada. A variety of late-night spots – including dances, swimming, yoga, a campfire with the CLAY Worship Band, and a coffeehouse provided many options for the youth following evening sessions.

Our youth were able to share their personal experiences from the gathering during a CLAY Themed worship service this past September. CLAY 2020 will take place in Calgary, Alberta, on the traditional territories of the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) and the people of the Treaty 7 region at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

When HSLC Youth are not at a CLAY gathering they continue to meet up throughout the year on the first Tuesday of the month for "Youth Unite" a time of fun, games, learning, and prayer with their pastors, for quarterly events like the WEM Waterpark, or annual events like the youth sleep over. In 2019 the youth are looking forward to attend the ABT Synod Youth gathering in May.

A word of thanks to the congregation for your strong and continued support of our youth and their journey of faith. Thanks to Anne S. for her hours of volunteering, planning, and connecting with our youth. We have some amazing young people and we are so glad to share and hold their stories among our vibrant and welcoming community of faith.

Submitted by Pastor Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum,
on behalf of the youth.

MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT

It has been a pleasure to work with the ministry committee this past year.

We have met a total of six times over the year. Our meetings are held on Sundays after the 10am or 11am service, depending on the worship schedule. Our committee is responsible for the worship duties for the services. We have a duty roster posted on the bulletin board for members and friends to sign up. Thank you to everyone who has signed up this past year as an usher, reader, communion assistant, PowerPoint assistant, altar guild, and coffee set up/clean up. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered these duties last minute on arrival to services also. All these duties make our worship services run smoothly and add to our sense of community. We welcome you to consider trying one of these duty rosters if you have not before.

This year we have created videos for the Altar Guild and ushering duties to explain to people what these duties entail, and to encourage others to consider participating in this ministry. We have also filmed a video for worship assistant, communion assistant and PowerPoint rosters which is in editing stage. Thank you to Sarah Z. for her filming and expertise in editing and adding music to these videos.

The Community Garden was a success again this year. Thank you to Gordon and Dorothy G. who coordinated the clean up in the spring. Thank you to all the gardeners who made this a vibrant addition to our congregation and our community.

The Prayer Chain is still functioning in giving prayer support to various members in need.

A list of congregational musicians has been compiled. They are available for adding special music throughout the year to various services. These include guitarists, drummers, violinists, and vocalists. Thank you to those who have offered their musical gifts.

A conference called "Uncovering Grief" was held at Holy Spirit Oct 12-14, 2018. This was open to the congregation and the public and was possible thru a grant received from the ELCIC Women of Faith fund. Danika J-S was the organizer of this event. Thank you for your gifts and to all who assisted in making this event a success.

A sign up was begun and options given to restart the Small Group Ministry, whereby members and friends could meet in smaller groups for fellowship and support. We gave more options so that people could meet for dessert, dinner or at a cafe. These groups will be formulated soon and this will be hopefully started in Feb 2019.

We want to make the theme of “Welcome” a priority at Holy Spirit. Pastor Lindsey and Pastor Trish have made this an emphasis to explain ways to be more welcoming. This was our main focus for January leading up to RIC Sunday.

Plans for 2019 include creating a banner in commemoration of the 500th year anniversary of the Reformation. We are looking for talented quilters and creative ideas.

We will complete the videos and establish the small group ministry in the coming year. We would like to continue to build on the theme of welcome and come up with ways to do this. This is a main theme of our strategic focus for 2019, to be enthusiastically welcoming and to grow in leadership. We welcome new members on this committee to make this a reality!

Thank you to Pastor Lindsey, Pastor Trish, Dianne L., Sara D., and David J. for your hard work and dedication. Thank you to others who have contributed to our ministries at Holy Spirit in many ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Aaron, Ministry Committee Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Worship Committee over the last year. The committee members have been very committed to their duties and the work of this committee.

The committee has met for nine monthly meetings and one workshop session on a Saturday to do more long term planning. The main focus of our meetings has been to choose the hymns for all the Sunday services other than special Sundays such as Confirmation where the pastors have planned the service with the confirmands. We have also planned the liturgies over the year, trying our best to add variety to the services. The pastors have planned the mid week Lenten services as well as Good Friday. We have been responsible for the accompanist schedule and thank you to David J. for doing a wonderful job of taking on this task. Thank you to all our accompanists: Kathy R., Jared S., Mark G., Kathryn E., Anne L., and Anna K. for your musical gifts. Thank you very much to Gordon G. for keeping the music organized for choir and taking care of the piano.

We had a special Gospel Sunday on May 27 which was planned by Jared. We also had a special Carols and Lessons service on December 16. Jared arranged for special musicians for Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve 7pm services as well. A special thank you to Jared S., our Choir Director who has done a wonderful job in challenging the choir and yet making it a very fun ministry to participate in. He has also recruited some new members. We are always welcoming new members of the choir. Thank you also to our Choir Accompanist Kathryn E. for your hard work and dedication.

We purchased some new musical material from the memorial funds: 2 hymnals and 1 accompanist book of “Voices United” and “More Voices”. These will add to our variety of music to be selected for services. We have decided to experiment with one 10am service for the month of January 2019 and will extend this into February 2019 until our Annual General Meeting when we will then evaluate other options.

We will continue this next year with planning music and liturgies for the services. We may look at joining the Alberta Choral Federation which will give the choir more exposure and give us access to borrow music from their lending library. We will look at our worship options. Thank you to Pastor Lindsey, Pastor Trish, Rita R., Mary W., Tom d., and Bev D. for all your hard work. We look to continue to make Holy Spirit a vibrant worship community.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Aaron, Worship Committee

CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

At the time of printing, no nominations have been brought forward. Council currently has 10 returning members. Our Constitution stipulates we require a council of 10 - 18 members. Nominations from the floor are invited and encouraged.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Holy Spirit ended 2018 slightly in the red, with a net budget deficit of \$979.

Our balance sheet includes \$28,127 of available bank balance and a \$54,000 GIC which is the grant monies received for the Renovation Project, as well as \$20,000 in undesignated savings and \$15,000 in a reserve fund for building maintenance. \$1,000 was also put in an endowment fund under the church's name run by the Edmonton Community Foundation, bringing the total endowment fund to \$2,000. Our total assets are \$121,559. Holy Spirit has \$106,880 in designated gifts 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 \$240,125, which includes holding \$3,000 as the damage deposit for the daycare. From our cash flow report on the second page, we see that our cash balance increased by \$24,492. This was mostly due to the \$54,000 received from the Government of Alberta. The addition was offset by reserve fund (\$12,000), mortgage payable (\$10,402) and the endowment fund (\$1,000). This change in available cash does not indicate a deterioration in financial health. Finally, Holy Spirit forwarded \$4,258 of donations to third party charitable organizations in 2018 on behalf of our donors as detailed on the second page of this report in the Designated Income Report.

HSLC Dec 31, 2018

Income Statement

Budget Income	\$ 366,232	Designated Income	\$33,790
		<i>Internal</i>	\$ 29,532
		<i>External</i>	\$ 4,258
Budget Expenses		Designated Paid	\$33,790
<i>Worship</i>	\$ 19,183	<i>Internal</i>	\$ 29,532
<i>Witness</i>	\$ 3,310	<i>External</i>	\$ 4,258
<i>Staff</i>	\$ 238,370		
<i>Education</i>	\$ 8,850	Designated Surplus*	\$ -
<i>Property</i>	\$ 53,965		
<i>Service</i>	\$ 35,218	Current Surplus	(\$979)
<i>Support</i>	\$ 8,314		
Total	\$ 367,211		
Net Budget Income	(\$979)		

*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	
Short Term Investment	\$ 54,000	Designated Gifts (Internal)	\$ 106,880
Bank Operating-CIBC	\$ 28,127	Designated Gifts (external)	\$ -
GST Paid & Receivable	\$ 718		
Donations Receivable	\$ 1,512	TOTAL GIFTS PAYABLE	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 84,558	Total Accounts Payable	\$ -
		Total Employee Remissions Payable	\$ 1,349
FIXED ASSETS		Total Long Term Debt	\$ 240,125
Fixed Assets	\$ 1	TOTAL LIABILITY	\$ 348,354
Undesignated Savings	\$ 20,000	EQUITY	
Reserve Fund	\$ 15,000	SURPLUS	
Endowment Fund	\$ 2,000	Accumulated Surplus	(\$225,816)
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	\$ 37,001	Current Surplus	(\$979)
		TOTAL SURPLUS	(\$226,795)
TOTAL ASSET	\$ 121,559	TOTAL EQUITY	(\$226,795)
		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 121,559

Cash Flow from Operating Activities

Net Income (loss)	(\$979)
-------------------	---------

Adjustments to reconcile net income to cash provided by operating activities**Decrease (increase) in operating assets**

GST Paid and Receivable	\$8
Donations Receivable	\$720
Undesignated Savings	\$0
Reserve Fund	(\$12,000)
Endowment Fund	(\$1,000)

Increase in operating liabilities

Mortgage Reduction Payable	\$0
Renovation Fund Payable	\$55,175
Book Registry Payable	\$0
Memorial Fund Payable	\$829
Library Payable	\$0
Children's Ministry Payable	\$0
Youth (Projects) Payable	(\$2,011)
Parish Pantry Payable	(\$1,464)
Pastor's Discretionary Payable	\$319
Other Gifts Payable	\$361
Wind Power Payable	\$8
Fitness Program Payable	\$643
Refugee Fund Payable	(\$5,795)
Social Justice Payable	\$0
Table Fund Payable	\$0
Accrued Liabilities	\$0
Employee Remissions Payable	\$83
Mortgage Payable	(\$10,402)
Damage Deposit Payable	\$0
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$24,492

Increase (Decrease) in Cash	\$24,492
-----------------------------	----------

Cash at Beginning of period	\$57,635
-----------------------------	----------

Cash at End of Period	\$82,127
-----------------------	----------

Designated Income Report (All funds have been forwarded)

Lutheran Campus Ministry Received	\$703
CLWR Received	\$220
On Eagles' Wings Received	\$781
Mission with El Salvador	\$1,179
Lutheran Theological Seminary SK	\$554
Edmonton Gleaners Association (The Edmonton Food Bank)	\$425
The Pride Centre of Edmonton Received	\$396
Total External Designated Gifts Received and Paid	\$4,258

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

Mortgage Reduction Payable	\$37
Renovation Fund Payable	\$55,390
Book Registry Payable	\$115
Memorial Fund Payable	\$8,254
Library Payable	\$271
Children's Ministry Payable	\$1,605
Youth (Projects) Payable	\$3,815
Parish Pantry Payable	\$7,120
Pastor's Discretionary Payable	\$2,135
Other Gifts Payable	\$4,546
Wind Power Payable	\$673
Fitness Program Payable	\$2,992
Refugee Fund Payable	\$17,986
Social Justice Payable	\$1,943
Designated Gifts (Internal)	\$106,880

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

	Baptized	Confirmed
1. Membership as of December 31, 2017	678	534
2. New members received during 2018		
a. By baptism: children (15 years and younger)	0	
b. By baptism: adults (16 years and older)	0	0
c. By affirmation of faith from responsibility / adherent list	0	0
d. By transfer from ELCIC member congregations	2	2
e. By transfer/affirmation of faith from Anglican or other Lutheran congregations	2	2
f. By affirmation of faith from non-Lutheran congregations	12	10
g. Statistical adjustment	0	0
Subtotal: Total members received 2018	16	14
3. Members who affirmed their baptism thru confirmation during 2018		3
4. Members removed during 2018		
a. By death	9	9
b. By transfer to other ELCIC congregations	5	5
c. By transfer to other Lutheran or Anglican congregations	0	0
d. To non-Lutheran congregations	4	4
e. To responsibility list & dropped (inactive)	0	0
f. Statistical adjustment	0	2
Subtotal: Members removed during 2018	18	20
5. TOTAL membership December 31, 2018	676	531¹

a. Total number of Sunday worship services during the year	77
b. Total number of weekday worship services during the year	13
c. Total number of services with Holy Communion	58
d. Average number in attendance each week at Sunday worship*	108

Funerals	7
Weddings	3
Baptisms	0

History of *average weekly attendance for years:

2018 - 108	2013 - 164	2008 - 201	2003 - 209	1998 - 329
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	2009 - 190	2004 - 217	1999 - 327	1994 - 327

+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 676 members, 531 are confirmed.

GREENFIELD SCHOOL AGE DAY CARE ASSOCIATION

January started with our First Accreditation Visit, this visit happens every three years to ensure we are performing at, or above best practice. It consists of a two-day visit where they observe the program and then go through all of our documentation and evidence. We passed! This also allows our program to get additional funding for our educators when they are working with children. In February we began celebrating and inviting families into our program for Coffee Mornings, we encourage families to grab a cup of coffee or tea and maybe spend a couple minutes in our program. March our program was invited to be a practicum placement for MacEwan students, we are proud to be a learning environment for Child Care students. We also participated in a full day Professional Development which allows our educators to get a full day of learning. April, our Educators received support through their first TPOT reviews from GRIT (Getting Ready for Inclusion Today) focusing on social emotional development in young children. May, we were fortunate to host a hiring fair at Holy Spirit which allowed potential candidates easy access to us being so close to transportation. On June 10, Holy Spirit Child Care hosted an open house for new family members. Families are continually amazed by our space! June 28 – we celebrated our One-year Birthday Party with families! We had treats, face painting and cake! July began with Summer Programming for children in full swing (field trips and fun activities). August brought many fun visitors to our programs, the Lego person, snakes, bugs and their handler too. September 4 was the first day of school for our kindergarten children. We walk them back and forth twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon. October celebrated gratefulness and gratitude: inviting children and families to participate in donating to the Edmonton Food Bank. Hosted our associations AGM in Holy Spirit, also brought in Zoo2U (mobile petting zoo) for the children of families attending the AGM. November 20 we celebrated National Child Day: Right to an Identity, asking families what the meaning of children's names are. This was such a fun activity to find out why families chose a name. We also participated in Association Wide Educator P.D evening. November started accepting students from L.Y. Cairns Schoolwork experience program. December 8: Chuck-A-Puck Fundraiser through the Oil Kings, we are selling Oil Kings vouchers if anyone is interested please let Durray know at gsad_len@telus.net. December celebrated letter writing with children and families, recognizing the importance of family and loved one's connection this time of year. December 15 was our Staff Holiday Party at the Royal Alberta Museum.



Thank you,
Durray Bosch
Director GSADCA

MULHURST CAMP REPORT

New Year greetings to all our Mulhurst Camp members! As your congregation looks ahead to the coming year, and your role in outdoor ministry and renewing your Mulhurst Annual membership here are a few things to consider.

This will be the first full year that our new lodge extension will be enjoyed by all camp users. The space provides so many options for programs and rental opportunities. Coupled with Eden Lodge, with over 40 individual rooms, the camp will be more accommodating for a wider variety of adult rental options, workshops and retreats. The new shower house which is now in place for the campground is also a great addition for campers. Looking to complete the remainder of the expansion project which includes a new kitchen, will be addressed by the Board in the coming months.

Last summer we had the opportunity to have children from south Edmonton Boys & Girls Clubs spend a day at camp. It was a new experience for many of the children, some who had never been to a lake before! Spending time in nature, playing outdoors in a supportive environment is important for all children, but there are many children that cannot financially afford to come to camp. This year, Mulhurst is looking to grow our 'Kids to Camp' fund which we can use to either fully support or subsidize children to attend summer camp. Please consider helping a child come to camp this summer!

Building on a new opportunity working with the Wetaskiwin Public School District last summer, Mulhurst will once again be the site for students to take summer school classes. Finalizing these plans are currently underway and you will hear more about this soon. This connection to school aged children and their families that have never heard of Mulhurst Camp has the potential to bring new people to learn about our summer program, camping facilities and rental availability.

Mulhurst Camp is looking to build a winning team and a successful organization, which will require that we build a culture of greatness and faith. When we create a culture of greatness, we create a collective mindset at Mulhurst that expects great things to happen – even during challenging times. We expect our small organization of people to be their best, we are looking to make it a priority to coach them to be their best and most of all, we are creating a work environment that fuels them to be their best.

To do this, we need to find the right people that fit our vision, mission and culture. Currently, we are engaging in the process of finding our new Executive Director, to add to our team. This is an important leadership role and reports directly to the Board of Directors. A key part of the ED role will be to work with the staff, coach them, develop them, work with them. This process develops positive leaders who share their energy throughout the organization.

Another important leadership role for Mulhurst is our Board of Directors. If this is something that you or someone you know might be looking to give time, energy and expertise to, please contact us. It is an exciting time to be giving back to something that you care about, where you know you can contribute and make a difference.

A big focus for Mulhurst this year is communication. Our members, users, renters, and potential customers and families sending children to camp, span several generations. That means we need to consider numerous ways to communicate. Reaching our churches is challenging at times, as often there is limited office staff or hours. Every congregation has their own way of sharing information that comes to them with members. It is difficult to know just how and what works in every case.

Visiting each of our members churches this year is an important goal for the Board. We want to hear from you what challenges you are facing, and how outdoor ministry fits into your churches' spiritual growth. Come to Mulhurst Camp and find 'your place in the SON!' See you at camp in 2019.

Mulhurst Board of Directors

Darlene Schindel, Sherry Knull, Sharon Villettard, Lorraine Kalis, Debbie Ziebarth, Michael Kant, Ken Schmermund, Leon Specht

BISHOP'S AGM LETTER

January 2019

Dear Beloved in Christ,

May grace and peace be yours in abundance (1 Peter 1:2a).

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 of reconciliation in the world. You will be supporting your partners in ministry – the rostered ministers 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 Misión 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:

- View the 4 Mission Priority videos and use the study guide prepared for our June 2018 Synod Convention, distributed to each congregation, and also available through Synod's website: (<http://albertasynod.ca/convention/synod-convention/2018-mission-priority-video-links-downloads-and-study-guide/>)
- View Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen's 3 Synod Convention Presentations: Faith, Hope, Love (<http://albertasynod.ca/convention/synod-convention/rev-dr-anna-madsens-2018-presentations/>)
- Review the Synod Council Meeting "Talking Points" (<http://albertasynod.ca/people/synod-council/>)
- View the Videos of Faith, Hope and Love prepared at our 2018 Synod Convention for Fall 2018 Area Gatherings (<http://albertasynod.ca/convention/synod-convention/area-gathering-videos/>)
- Subscribe to our Synod's e-mail newsletter: *Wednesday's Word*, 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

STRATEGIC FOCUS DOCUMENT

Strategic Focus - Holy Spirit Lutheran Church 2019 – 2022



Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

The Church We and Others Need

The church is needed, now more than ever. While the statistics point to a secularization of our society, the truth is the majority of Albertans and Edmontonians identify themselves as believers. Loneliness, hopelessness and lack of community are on the rise. Brokenness and despair arise from many influences and factors including economic hardship, loss of family and community, addiction and other influences. People are searching and hoping for meaningful living and for ways to make meaningful contributions to humanity.

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church has grown into a welcoming and inclusive community. Continuing in the work God has gifted to us, we seek to enter into a growth and discovery mode, preparing our church to be the home for those who are not yet here. As we embark on a journey of discovery we look to these guiding principles:

Guiding Principles:

1. This is God's church. We understand that God is alive and well, guiding us in the ministry we undertake. As such, it is important to us to faithfully listen to God, which includes listening to one another as a community. Because we have faith, we are inspired to go out and join in God's work.
2. God calls us to continual reform. In love, we are patient, kind and grace-filled with one another as we discern and respond to God's call.
3. Let's "over pray" instead of over think. Let's err to the side of action and experimentation. There is always something to learn.

Our mission

Steeped in faith, with a prayer on our lips, we are intrepid and relentless in our discovering and building the church we and others need.

We aim to grow into this mission by:

1. being enthusiastically welcoming,
2. being messengers about who we are,
3. being hungry to share, invite, grow, and
4. being ready to respond to God's will with our approach, programming, and path.

Holy Spirit has so much going for it and every person here is a gifted and an important part of the community. We are grounded, but not restricted, by a rich, historical foundation. Trusting in who we are and in God's presence, we will learn to step into the world and learn about God with intentionality. We give ourselves permission to take chances without running the risk of taking chances on the message or falling into a false gospel.

Our Strategic Focus is to concentrate on:

- 1) **Participation.** Participation is about being open to the gifts of one another, making room for all to share as they are able, growing in our faith as a community, and growing closer together as a community. Each person among us is important, valued and encouraged to give and receive of who they are in order that we might grow a community of God's heart.
- 2) **Witness.** God has given us an awesome ministry and we hope to build and expand the presence, brand, and awareness of Holy Spirit. Faithful to the work God has given, we will witness in our greater community, spreading the word that Holy Spirit is a place of welcome and inclusion, of growing together in faith, and creating positive change in our world.
- 3) **Growth.** Numbers tell one part of our story. In faithful discipleship we seek to learn about and grow numbers such as attendance, membership, and giving. We intend this to be a natural outcome from the above two goals.