



# Augustana Church PREVIEWS

*Lutherans & Anglicans worshipping together*



December 2023

Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church 1201 Broadway Avenue Saskatoon, SK S7H 2A4

Office: 306-242-9553 E-mail: [augustana@sasktel.net](mailto:augustana@sasktel.net)  
[www.http://augustanasaskatoon.net/](http://augustanasaskatoon.net/)

WELCOMING CELEBRATORY INSPIRING ADVENTUROUS IN MISSION

Advent is upon us.

This is my favorite part of the church year.

There is something frantic about the commercialization of Christmas — its many layers of consumption and overconsumption, its demands upon our time and money, the way it is seemingly thrust upon us earlier every year.

There is a restlessness to the way our culture anticipates and celebrates Christmas. It is easy to get caught up in the rush and desire for all that is shiny and delicious and happy. It is easy to mistake this for joy.

As a liturgical practice and as frame of mind, Advent invites us into a different way of being this time of year. It helps us detox from commercial Christmas so that we might better celebrate the coming of Christ.

It marks the beginning of the liturgical Cycle of Light. Through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, appropriately set in these longest, darkest days of the year, we will remember that Jesus is the light of the world.

*A people walking in darkness have seen a great light.*

*A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of God is upon you.*

We will not pretend that it isn't dark. We will not try to cover up our sadness with tinsel and shiny paper. We will be who we are and look for the God who is promised to be present in the light and in the dark. And I think that we will be surprised as we always are that God is never as far off as we think.

I hope you join us for our Advent celebrations this year as we explore themes of light and darkness in our lives.

*Pastor Kirk*



**Saskatoon Men's Chorus  
presents**

*Silence*  
**Frost**  
and Snow

**Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2:30 p.m.  
Grace Westminster Church**

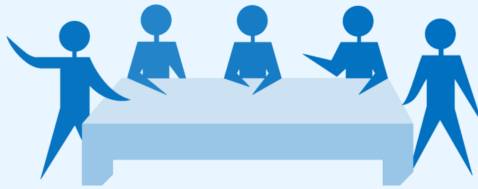
With Scott McKnight, cello and  
Nora Rittinger, soprano

Tickets \$25; free for under 12

**[www.saskatoonmenschorus.ca](http://www.saskatoonmenschorus.ca)**

# *Council Notes*

## Pat Blakley, Council Chairperson



Hello Augustana Church Family,

December brings us Advent and subsequently the birth of Jesus.

On behalf of Church Council, we wish that you and your family have a blessed holiday season.

Church Council met on November 15, 2023 with a focus on changes to the congregation's Constitution and finances. Changes to the Constitution were initially discussed at the Special Congregational Meeting held on June 11. To make changes to the Constitution, the motions to be discussed are announced on two Sundays followed by two Special Congregational Meetings held 1 month apart.

The first meeting to be held on January 14 will allow discussion of the motions and the second meeting will be on February 18 when the motions will be voted upon. The motions are:

*"Moved that the Augustana Lutheran Constitution  
Article VIII Congregational Meeting Section 4 be amended to read:  
30 voting members shall constitute a quorum."*

*"Moved that the Augustana Lutheran Constitution  
Article IX Congregational Council and its Officer Section 1 be amended to read:  
At its annual meeting the congregation shall elect a Congregational Council  
of not less than 6 nor more than 12 members for terms of three years each  
with approximately one-third of the terms expiring annually."*

Regarding finances, Council is actively exploring opportunities for facilitate financial stability. More information will be provided as available.

Finally, Council would like to thank all members of the congregation who assisted in the organization of the November social dinner as well as the participants, which resulted in a wonderful evening of good food, entertainment and fellowship. Over \$5000 was received in donations. We anticipate hosting another meeting next year.

If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to be brought to Council, please feel free to contact me.

Blessings,

*Pat Blakley,  
Church Council Chairperson*

### **Augustana Church Council:**

**Chairperson** — Pat Blakley

**Vice-Chairperson** — Larry Trenouth

**Secretary** — Katie Ottley

**Treasurer** — Karen Wallace

### **Members:**

Shelley Apolonia

Echo Fettes

Merv Johnson

Monica Johnson

Gabi Lindenbach



*An Invitation to ...  
A Service of Remembrance  
and Healing*



*You, your family and friends  
are invited to  
a Candlelight Service of Remembrance and Healing  
on Thursday, December 14, 2023  
at 7:30 p.m.  
Zion Lutheran Church*

*Christmas without a loved one can be a difficult time for those left behind. Other losses, such as the loss of a relationship, health or job can be the cause of loneliness in the midst of Christmas celebrations. Please join us in a service of prayer, scripture, communion and music knowing that God is present. May we find hope and comfort in knowing that we are not alone at this time.*

*Refreshments to follow hosted by Saskatoon Lutheran Stephen Ministers.*

CONGREGATION	DECEMBER 24	DECEMBER 25	BLUE CHRISTMAS	OTHER
Augustana	Pre-taped 10:30 am, 6: pm (no communion) & 8 pm (with communion but no livestream)	10:30 am		Lessons & Carols, Dec. 31, 10:30 am
Good Shepherd	5 pm & 7 pm	No Service		Service of Hope & Healing, Dec. 21, 7 PM
King of Glory	6:30 pm	No Service	Dec. 17, 10:30 am	
Redeemer	5 pm & 7 pm	No Service		
Resurrection	Morning (10 am) – No Communion Evening (7 pm) with communion	10:00 a.m.		
Trinity	Morning 10:30 am Candlelight at 7 pm	No Service		
Zion	Advent 4 at 10:30 am, Candlelight at 7 pm	10:30 am	December 14 <sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm	Organ Recitals on Dec 3 and 10 at 3 pm



# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Augustana services are in-person and live-streamed, and worship recordings can always be accessed through the YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCua4E9ZVxlZ4Wfmct0ZLnBA/videos>

Or on the Augustana website <http://augustanasaskatoon.net/worship-resources>

To participate in the **10:30 AM live-streamed worship service** please go to the Augustana YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCua4E9ZVxlZ4Wfmct0ZLnBA/featured>

Once there, click the play button on the player in the browser to open the live player

Date	Tech Support	Ushers & Communion Assts	Lector & Prayers	Coffee Clean-up & Set-up
Dec. 3	Bryan T. (Greg F-N. <i>bu</i> )	Noreen Donald & Larry Trenouth ( <i>Tannis Sharp</i> )	Paul Weatherington	Leverne & Rene Baxter
Dec. 10	Katie O. (Karen W. <i>bu</i> )	Marie Ebbert & Marlene Trenouth	Betty Warren	Betty Warren
Dec. 17	Greg F-N. (Bryan T. <i>bu</i> )	D.-Jay Krozser & Lorne Carlson ( <i>Tannis Sharp</i> )	Wayne Carlson	Cherie Jarock
Dec. 24, 6P	Karen W. (? <i>bu</i> )	(?) & (?)	Greg Fowlie-Neufeld Ruth Zuk	NA
Dec. 24, 8P	NA	Echo Fettes & Tyrel Rink ( <i>Pat Blakley</i> )	Pat Blakley Chris Martin	Linda & Mark Stauffer
Dec. 25	NA	Heather Ward & (?)	(?)	NA
Dec. 31	Greg F-N. (Bryan T. <i>bu</i> )	Larry Trenouth & Bonnie Moser	Linda Jarock Chris Martin' Ruth Zuk	Pat Blakley

*If you need to trade with someone for a worship role, please let the church office know as soon as possible. Thank You!*

- ✚ If anyone would be interested in helping with altar guild or any of the worship roles, it would be greatly appreciated and make a huge difference for how worship continues at Augustana. Please prayerfully consider assisting and signing up when the clipboard is passed around on a Sunday. Thanks!

## Advent Services

Dec. 3 – Advent 1 at 10:30 AM

Dec. 10 – Advent 2 at 10:30 AM

Dec. 17 – Advent 3 at 10:30 AM

Dec. 24 – Advent 4 will be a pre-recorded service and online only. No in-person morning services will be held.

## Christmas Eve Services

6 PM (*livestreamed*)

8 PM (*with communion*)

**Christmas Day** – 10:30 AM (*no livestream*)

**Dec. 31 – Lessons And Carols** at 10:30 AM

# *THE WORD OF GOD -*

## *In Their Hands - And Upon Their Hearts*

*Weber - Lutheran Bible Translators Cameroon*

**"Do not fear, do not be afraid!"**

Do not be afraid, Zechariah,  
Your prayer has been heard,  
Your wife will bear a son,  
Who will bring people back to the Lord.  
You will call his name John.  
Foretold by prophets long ago,  
He prepares people for God's Anointed One.

Do not be afraid, Elizabeth,  
Your prayers have been heard.  
Your godly life is not in vain,  
God will keep His Word!  
Even in old age, you have received God's favour.  
Your shame is removed, your joy is complete,  
Your son will prepare the way for the Saviour!

Do not be afraid, Mary,  
God's messenger comes to show you favour.  
The Holy Spirit will overshadow you,  
And you will give birth to the Saviour.  
Jesus is His name,  
He will be called the Son of the Most High.  
Forever over the nations He will reign.

Fear not, Joseph,  
Things aren't what they appear.  
Mary has not been unfaithful,  
So take her as your wife without fear.  
Her child is fulfilling God's plan  
He is showing you in a dream,  
To be born the Son of God and Son of man.

Do not be afraid, Shepherds,  
The angel announced a message of great joy,  
Of good news for all people.  
In Bethlehem you will find the baby boy.  
Good news! They announced the Saviour's birth.  
Christ the Lord has come to mankind.  
Glory to God on high, and peace to people on earth!

Fear not, Simeon,  
Your heart's desire has been fulfilled,  
You can now depart in peace.  
You have seen and held the holy child,  
The Messiah, come for every nation.  
He is the Glory of God's people Israel,  
And the Light to bring all people salvation.

Fear not, Anna,  
God has seen your prayers and fasting,  
Your continual worship is not in vain.  
You have seen the gift of Life Everlasting  
In the promised Messiah fulfilled!  
You spoke to all of what you have seen,  
The Saviour has come into the world!

Fear not, Disciples of Jesus,  
Though the storm is real,  
The wind is strong, and the waves are high,  
Jesus says the word, "Peace, be still!"  
Then all is calm and at peace.  
"Why were you afraid? Where is your faith?"  
Wow, He even makes the storm to cease!

Fear not, all you followers of Jesus,  
Through the raging storms of life,  
When we are overwhelmed with trials,  
Through all our struggles and strife,  
Jesus is still Lord. He is in control!  
"Why are you afraid?" He asks.  
He speaks peace to us and calms your soul.

Fear not.  
Because of Christmas, we need not live afraid.  
Jesus came to us, died and rose, conquering the grave.  
He lives, He still heals sickness and calms storms.  
He still delivers from Satan's power,  
Multiplies food and provides in this hour.  
He conquers our fears, comforts our tears,  
And promises to be with us always, all our years.

His Word says,  
"Fear not." "Do not be afraid." "Do not be anxious."  
"Do not let your hearts be troubled," ...  
God is reminding us to put our trust in Him.  
He is ever faithful and gives us His peace within.  
He sent His Spirit to live within us,  
So we can receive what He has given us.

May your Christmas season be blessed,  
With God's Peace in your heart,  
With good will towards all,  
With the message of Jesus to impart  
To all who will hear.  
And may you have a very blessed New Year!

## *From the Treasurer's Desk*

**Karen Wallace**

Woops – I missed last month! In October I talked about the stewardship of time. This month I will focus on the many ways in which stewardship was demonstrated recently with the Social Supper. First, please let me apologise as there was not enough space to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend. So, how can we fit more people into the spaces we have? Your thoughts are welcome (please!).

So how do you turn 7 turkeys, 30 lbs of potatoes, 4L of milk, several lbs of butter, spices, carrots, chocolate, etc. into a social event for 65? You rely on those around you to donate their time, treasures, and talents to prepare food, create decorations, set up tables and chairs, canvass for silent auction and door prizes, put together an entertainment line-up, perform, and so much more. For me, the social supper was an opportunity to join with many of you to enjoy an evening of friendship and camaraderie after a period of time when we couldn't meet in large groups to socialize. I am overwhelmed by the responses we received and the energy that flowed in our space. This coming together truly reflects the Augustana that I have come to appreciate and it feels amazing to connect with each other once again.

My thanks to everyone who had a part to play in making the Social Supper a success. Too many people to name individually - all sharing their time, treasures, and talents!

*Karen*

Here is a snapshot of Augustana's **current financial position** as of October 31, 2023:

YTD Income: \$165,026	Current Assets: \$37,800.61
YTD Income:(2022) \$142,117	Includes bank account balances less outstanding- cheques and all accounts receivable
YTD Expenses: \$210,321	
YTD Expenses (2022) \$151,334	
YTD Deficit: \$45,295 Average Deficit of \$4,530/month	<b>Given the average monthly deficit our current assets will last approximately eight (8) months.</b>

At the AGM the budget was presented with an estimated \$40,000 deficit for the year. As of October 31, 2023 our deficit was \$45,295. I know my concern is shared by all of you. Council is actively looking at options as an interim measure however, if you have any thoughts about things we might do to reduce our deficit please reach out to me or any of our council members. Thank you to all of you who have already provided suggestions.

### **Budget 2024**

In order to accurately prepare a budget for next year it is important that all committees submit their budget requests to Karen Wallace no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please understand that we need to continue to be fiscally responsible with our expenditures while balancing our needs against our income. Thank you.

*Expenses estimated (November): 19,792*

*Income estimated (November): 29,456*





*The Place... For  
New Beginnings*



**For over 30 years EGADZ has assisted children/youth and their families through advocating, referrals, housing, education, helping them to become contributing citizens in our community, as our Mission states.**

## **Christmas Wish List 2023**

**We wish to have Donations in by Friday December 8th**

### **Stocking Stuffers:**

- **Stockings**
- **Towels and face cloths**
- **Family size shampoos and lotions**
- **Body wash**
- **Travel size shampoo/conditioner/body wash**
- **Brushes**
- **Deodorant** (male & female)
- **Tooth brushes/toothpaste and dental floss**
- **Toques, Gloves and Mini Mitts**
- **Socks**
- **Individually wrapped Christmas candy**

**\*EGADZ tries to ensure each Child/Youth gets a gift for the holiday\***

### **PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL**

- With a cash donation: EGADZ is able to purchase gifts for each child/youth/client (300 Stockings/Gift)

☐ \$30.00 donation for a gift

☐ \$60.00 donation for 2 gifts

☐ \$ Other

Receipts issued for any gift over \$10.00

We accept etransfer – [financial@egadz.ca](mailto:financial@egadz.ca) please put Christmas in the subject

**Any questions please call Suzanne or Maria at 306-931-6644**

**SASKATOON DOWNTOWN**

*youth*

**CENTRE INC.**

485 - 1ST AVE. NORTH, SASKATOON, SASK. S7K 1X5

Tel: 306-931-6644

Fax: 306-665-1344

*An Inter-Agency Approach to Saskatoon's "Youth at Risk"*



**United Way**  
Funded Agency

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

## ADVENT CYCLE OF PRAYER: FOR THE CHURCHES IN THE HOLY LAND AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Archbishop and Primate Linda Nicholls of the Anglican Church of Canada, Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry of The Episcopal Church, National Bishop Susan C. Johnson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, are sharing a cycle of prayers for each day throughout the season of Advent for specific congregations, ministries, and outreach initiatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (EDI). The prayers, written personally by the Presiding/National/Primalial bishops of the four churches, focus on themes of truth, justice, peace, and hope. Members and congregations of the four churches are encouraged to uphold our siblings in prayer. To read and download the full 2023 Advent Cycle of Prayer, [please click here.](#)

## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE.

You, your family and friends are invited to a **Candlelight Service of Remembrance and Healing on Thursday, December 14 at 7:30 PM, Zion Lutheran Church.** Christmas without a loved one can be a difficult time for those left behind. Other losses, such as the loss of a relationship, health or job can be the cause of loneliness in the midst of Christmas celebrations. Please join us in a service of prayer, scripture, communion and music knowing that God is present. May we find hope and comfort in knowing that we are not alone at this time. Refreshments to follow hosted by Saskatoon Lutheran Stephen Ministers.



Experience **CHRISTMAS PRESENCE** with **Burnt Thicket Theatre** - Dec 16 live in Saskatoon.

A unique mashup of stories and songs that explores the incarnation with a messy but joyful hope.

Artists include Cas Bitner, Rob Horsley, Ed Mendez, Jessica Isaak, Mara Teare, Sarah Manafo, Kirsten Waldschmidt, Stephen Waldschmidt, and more. Everyone is welcome, including kids! Live show Dec 16, 7:30pm at College Park Covenant Church, 909 Acadia Dr in Saskatoon. Details and tickets at

[www.burntthicket.com](http://www.burntthicket.com).

## AUGUSTANA & ST. TIMOTHY'S CHOIR

Augustana & St. Timothy's Choir will be sharing two very special anthems thanks to a gift from Wayne Carlson in memory and celebration of Eileen Carlson.

On Christ the King Sunday the choir sang "**How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place**" by Daniel Kallman. The text, a paraphrase of Psalm 84, is set to a lilting Irish folk tune. On Dec. 17 (Third Sunday of Advent) the choral selection will be "**O Emmanuel**", based on the well-known American tune "Star in the East" in an energetic setting by Karen Marroli, featuring a wonderful violin part played by Cherie Jarock.

Thank you to Wayne for making possible these musical treasures for Advent—a fitting tribute to our friend and former choir member and cantor Eileen, who so cherished music.

## CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

The Health Cabinet **Christmas Hamper Appeal** ends December 3rd with the goal to provide gift card grocery vouchers to over 20 needy families.

If you would like to share any extra

**Christmas Cookies for our Christmas Hampers** there is a sign up sheet on the Health Cabinet board.

Cookies can be brought to the church Dec. 10 or before, OR contact Linda Catton if you need to make other arrangements. Cookies should be nut free. And if you have any extra Christian themed Christmas Cards or large Christmas gift bags you would like to donate for our Christmas Hampers there is a box by the **Health Cabinet Board** you can place them in.

Packing day of the Christmas Hampers will be on Dec. 10 after church.

## CLWR

**CLWR** and its partners, including Lutheran World Federation Jerusalem, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the Middle East Council of Churches continue to respond to the humanitarian emergency in Gaza where estimates indicate that more than one million people have been forced to leave their homes and over 9,000 killed. Please join us in prayer and consider making a gift to provide critical life-saving aid to those affected.

To find out more or to donate, please visit [clwr.org/gaza](https://clwr.org/gaza) or call 1-800-661-2597 (Mon-Fri 8:30am-4pm).

## CLWR'S GIFTS FROM THE HEART



CLWR's *Gifts from the Heart* catalogue has something to inspire and delight anyone on your list this year. It's full of meaningful, tangible gifts that will touch your loved ones and share God's love with the world! Copies are in the narthex and or you can shop online at [clwr.org/GFTH](https://clwr.org/GFTH).

## DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE

### DECEMBER 2023

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>01</b> Isaiah 63:1-17     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>16</b> John 1:6-18           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>02</b> Isaiah 63:18-64:12 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>17</b> John 1:19-34          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>03</b> Psalm 85           | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>18</b> 2 Samuel 7:1-17       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>04</b> 2 Peter 2:1-16     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>19</b> 2 Samuel 7:18-29      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>05</b> 2 Peter 2:17-3:7   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>20</b> Psalm 89:1-18         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>06</b> 2 Peter 3:8-18     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>21</b> Psalm 89:19-37        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>07</b> Isaiah 40:1-17     | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>22</b> Psalm 89:38-52        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>08</b> Isaiah 40:18-31    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>23</b> Psalm 97              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>09</b> Mark 1:1-8         | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>24</b> Luke 2:1-14           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>10</b> Revelation 21:1-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>25</b> Hebrews 1 ★           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baruch 4:36-59 ✎             | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>26</b> 2 Corinthians 7:2-16★ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>11</b> Ezekiel 16:44-63   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>27</b> 1 John 1:1-2:2 ★      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>12</b> Isaiah 61          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>28</b> Psalm 148             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>13</b> Psalm 126          | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>29</b> Isaiah 62             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>14</b> 1 Thess 5:12-28    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>30</b> Luke 2:15-21          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>15</b> Luke 1:39-56       | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>31</b> 1 Chronicles 29:10-30 |

### Daily Bible Reading Guides for 2024

have just arrived. Ken Peterson (its 'author') has a limited supply available, and if you let him know (preferably by email ) if you wish one (autographed) he will put one in your church mailbox. There will be a supply left on the tract rack in the narthex as well. If you are a regular contributor to the Canadian Bible Society you may have received a recent mailing with a copy of the guide enclosed.

The ones Ken will have available should be the ones that include the Apocrypha or Deutero-Canonical alternatives (for about 20 days of the year) in addition to the regular daily passages. Enjoy reading!



## LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE



**Sunday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> Augustana's Lessons & Carols Service** will feature special music by the choir and other congregational members and guests, as well as a feast of hymns for all! Help us choose the hymns for our Lessons & Carols service!

Here's all you need to do: just pick the hymn you like better from each pair, and... that's it!

The weekly link will be shared in the worship email each Friday, on our YouTube livestream and Augustana

Webpage, and as a QR Code in the church. All these ways connect to an online form where you can vote. We'll also have paper ballots to cast your vote in the Narthex.

If there's a hymn you're passionate about, maybe a bit of good natured campaigning is in order!

Each week's poll will be available from Friday to Tuesday - so get your votes in early!

Don't know a particular hymn? We've listed the hymn number (and book) to help you out, and there are hymnals available in the Narthex. Or, send an email to Rev. Alexa Wallace and she'll send you a link to listen on YouTube.

As a congregation, we'll narrow it down to 8 - 2 each from the "Classics," Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Cranberry Book), Common Praise (the Blue Anglican book), and some new favourites from All Creation Sings (the new purple Lutheran hymn book) and Sing a New Creation (the new Purple Anglican hymn book). Then Pastor Kirk and our wonderful musicians will choose hymns from our shortlist to create our service of Lessons & Carols! (Of course, they might add some of their favourites too!) Thanks everyone for participating!

## SASKATOON'S MEN CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

"Silence, Frost and Snow"

**Sunday, Dec. 10th at 2:30 PM at Grace Westminster Church,**  
505 10th St East.

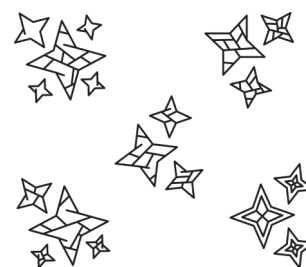
Our program takes its title from a beautiful work by composer Mark Sirett based on three Canadian poems about winter. Joining SMC's pianist Karen Reynaud is guest cellist Scott McKnight, for whom Sirett has crafted a lyrical cello part. Additional guests are Heather Wilson on violin, and 17-year-old Saskatoon soprano Nora Rittinger. Rittinger, the winner of many local and provincial music festival scholarships, will sing the traditional carol "*I Wonder as I Wander*" with the Chorus, as well as other seasonal selections. And no SMC Christmas concert would be complete without some carol-singing from our enthusiastic audience!

As in past years SMC will be collecting donations of food for Saskatoon Food Bank at the door.

General Admission is \$25 for adults, with no charge for children under 12 years of age.

Tickets are available from a Chorus member, at the door, or by sending a request to

[inquiries@saskatoonmenschorus.ca](mailto:inquiries@saskatoonmenschorus.ca)



## DIETRICH BONHOEFFER'S ADVENT MEDIATIONS

The **Study Guide on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Advent mediations, "God is in the Manger"** is now available. These meditations are largely pulled from Bonhoeffer's writings during his two-year imprisonment under the Nazi regime, from 1943 to the end of his life in 1945. The Study Guide, set up in four chapters, one for each week of Advent to accompany the four sets of weekly readings in ***God is in the Manger***, suggests spiritual practices and discussion questions to encourage you to engage in Bonhoeffer's reflections more deeply. The Study Guide can be downloaded [here](#) or can be mailed out to you for free; while the book ***God is in the Manger*** can be purchased to help accompany the Study Guide. For more information, please [click here](#).

## ELCJHL APPEAL

The ELCIC invites members to support the ELCJHL Emergency Appeal through prayers and financial support with a goal of covering one month of expenses (teachers & pastor salaries included) for the ELCJHL, totalling \$263,000. Financial donations may be given through your local congregation by **designating your offering to ELCJHL Appeal OR** [Online through the ELCIC National Office at secure.elcic.ca](#).

## ELW

In keeping with the spirit of the Advent season, the **ELW** has again set up the **Mitten Tree** in the narthex, decorated with mittens, toques, scarves, etc. Yarn will be placed under the tree for anyone wishing to knit/crochet articles to be donated to Haven Kids' House, Interval House and the Salvation House.

The **ELW** will again be sending a **financial Christmas & Birthday gift** to their adopted child, Amsa. If you are interested in contributing to this gift, please mark your donation accordingly and place in the offering plate. All donations are very much appreciated.

And finally, the **ELW meeting and Bible Study** for December will be held on **Monday, December 11th at 2 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. Ladies are reminded to bring their Prayer Partner gifts and 3 dozen cookies to be donated to Haven Kids' House and the students at the Lutheran Theological Seminary. All women are welcome.

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Each year, people observe **16 Days Against Gender-Based Violence** beginning on **November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**, and ending on **December 10, Human Rights Day**. During this campaign, the World Council of Churches works with member churches and ecumenical aims to raise awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at all levels, while also strengthening local prevention and response work. For more information and to see their line-up of events, please [click here](#).

## J.O.Y. GROUP

The **J.O.Y. Group** cordially invites you to their **Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 15th at 11:30 AM** in the Activity Room at **Aspira Village at Stonebridge, 250 Hunter Road**.

The menu from their dining room is posted in the narthex along with a sign-up sheet and you can order whatever you wish. Selections including sides such as salad, soup or fries; white or whole wheat bread for sandwiches should be specified, including if you wish to have coffee. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet and give Sandra Cey your order by **Tuesday, December 12th**.

We also ask that each of you bring a **wrapped \$1 to \$2 gift** (gender neutral) for a fun gift exchange.

Since there is limited guest parking by the building, carpooling is suggested. If you need a ride or are able to offer a ride, please call Sandra Cey (306) 373-1071.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this fun-filled afternoon!



“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight’” (Mark 1:2-3). God calls for us to live God’s reconciliation, inviting us to speak shared peace with justice into this moment of deep division.

How quickly the world divides into “Us” and “Them”! We watch this happen between Israelis and Palestinians and we feel deep pain. Yet, we are also touched by the us/them dynamic, in our historical relationship with Indigenous people.

So, in the midst of all that can separate us from one another and from knowledge of the love of God, the one who holds us eternally calls us to be ministers of reconciliation, to be a community that invites Christ into the life of the world. Pr. Jailyne Corbin’s artwork reminds us of the heart of our call: to overcome the us/them, to see and be the life of Christ in the world.

LTS is committed to this mission. We seek to include Indigenous voices in reading lists and class conversations. The “Our Classroom is Western Canada” project seeks to engage with this land and with Indigenous people. Our “Indigenous Intercultural Relations” course, a semi-immersion experience with all Indigenous instructors (Everyone invited!), engages our students with the lives and stories of Indigenous people. Overlooking our Common Room is *Tukwaka-Pisim / Autumn Moon*, an artwork by Ray Keighley, an Indigenous Christian artist – a reminder of the history of this land. As we imagine leadership for the church of today and tomorrow, God’s work of reconciliation grounds our vision.

**LTS is striving to be a community of reconciliation. We invite your support for the general fund, enabling our classes, and the Grace Fund for Faculty, supporting our teachers.**

A strong Lutheran voice in the life of a changing church depends upon high-quality teacher/scholars, ignited by the Good News of Christ Jesus, engaged with the Divine call, empowered by the Holy Spirit. We invite you to share in creating the LTS of tomorrow.

Best wishes in 2024.

Blessings in the name of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity,



The Rev. Dr. William Harrison, President

PS: We are pleased to say that we are generously provided with funds for student aid, so that today’s students have nearly all tuition and fees costs covered. Please consider giving to the Grace Fund for Faculty, including for memorial and planned gifts. Gifts dated and sent by Dec. 31 will count for the 2023 tax year.



**LUTHERCARE**

If someone is willing to help in this way, please contact  
Cynthia Wiebe at [cynthia.wiebe@luthercare.com](mailto:cynthia.wiebe@luthercare.com).

# LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon** is conducting a series of short surveys to assess the presence of lay leadership in ministries and congregations and to determine how we might support lay leaders. Please fill out this six-question survey as we engage in this important and necessary work together.

<https://forms.gle/yCp17ET4NeK2ed6BA>

Thank you so much for your continued collaboration and support. You are a blessing to us and our work here at LTS.



**The students, staff & faculty at Lutheran  
Theological Seminary wish you a most  
wonderful Advent and Christmas season.  
We thank you for your prayers and  
financial generosity.**

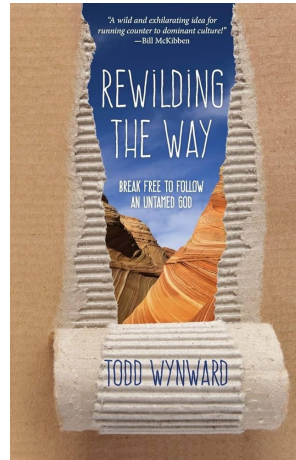
**You have blessed us and supported us  
beyond what we could imagine!**

**Thank you for remembering the  
Seminary this Advent.**



LUTHERAN  
theological seminary  
SASKATOON

## MEN'S BOOK AND BREAKFAST CLUB



The **Men's Book and Breakfast Club** meets each Wednesday morning for about one hour beginning at **8 AM**. We are studying ***Rewilding the Way*** by Todd Wynward. The Book Club reads both fiction and non-fiction books. They are not always directly related to theology or spirituality but

we generally discuss them through a spiritual lens.

We often choose books that are available through the Saskatoon Public Library's Book Club in a Bag program, in which case it is not necessary to buy the book. We will meet by Zoom most weeks but may get together at a restaurant occasionally (probably every six weeks) for breakfast, discussion and exchange of books. If you are interested, contact Bryan Tastad. Dec. 6th will be our last meeting for 2023.

**MULTIFAITH SASKATCHEWAN**

The **Multifaith Saskatchewan AGM** will be on **Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 3pm**. This meeting is held online to facilitate participation from across the province. **Please register for the Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461491031?pwd=ZU9kd0o2OGdRbE9lLjZqZ5RedfelKFcjdmKq>**

In addition, the MFS has some vacancies on the Board: President (2023-2025), Communications (2023-2025), 1 Southern representative (2023-2025), and 2 Northern representatives (2022-2024 & 2023-2025). Nominations for any of these positions may be sent to the Nomination Committee, c/o Nicholas Jesson ([njesson@archregina.sk.ca](mailto:njesson@archregina.sk.ca)). We welcome self-nominations! No experience is necessary.

These positions are described in the MFS Constitution at <https://multifaithsask.org/constitution>. If you have questions about the Board and its responsibilities, please contact the Nomination Committee at the same address. **Download the [AGM Jan. 7 2024 Agenda](#), the [2022 AGM MFS Minutes](#), and the [2022-2023 Financial Statements](#) if interested.**

## A NOTE FROM THE SYNOD OFFICE

Advent blessings! The Synod treasurer's workload takes no break for the holiday season, so thank you again for your time and talent.

As this year draws to a close, I would like to thank each congregation for your ongoing support and share some financial information with you.

	YTD	2022	2021	2020
<b>Total benevolence received</b>	<b>\$319,459</b>	<b>\$411,485</b>	<b>\$428,765</b>	<b>\$419,667</b>
<b>Number of congregations sending</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>congregations of 500+ confirmed</b>	<b>\$13,150</b>	<b>\$14,200</b>	<b>\$16,250</b>	<b>\$13,750</b>
<b>congregations of 100-499 confirmed</b>	<b>\$3,613</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$5,795</b>	<b>\$5,545</b>
<b>congregations of fewer than 100</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>Median per confirmed member</b>	<b>\$21.75</b>	<b>\$32.26</b>	<b>\$31.43</b>	<b>\$31.27</b>

Out of 81 congregations who gave in either 2022 or 2023, 55 have so far given less than last year, 15 have already given more than last year, and 11 have maintained as of November 27, 2023.

For 2023, we budgeted only a partial return to pre-pandemic support, even though the full amount is needed to sustain Sask Synod operations. As of October 31, 2023, benevolence received to date was only 60% of budget and 12% behind the previous year of 2022. This means we are operating at more of a loss than budgeted while maintaining services and our commitments to the national church and the seminary.

"Synod" means walking together. Your benevolence supports congregations engaged in a call process for rostered leadership and when facing difficult choices about God's call for their congregation, leadership training for clergy and rostered leaders as they seek to be effective in a changing and challenging world, and seminary education. Your contributions also allow us to be part of a Lutheran voice of grace and acceptance around the world as full members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Lutheran World Federation.

We offer PAR monthly pre-authorized giving for congregations who want to sign up for a regular monthly amount without the hassle of cheques. Etransfers sent to [finance@sasksynod.ca](mailto:finance@sasksynod.ca) will automatically deposit.

**Convention Levy:** In January, a letter will be sent to every congregation regarding the convention levy for the upcoming special convention scheduled for May 30 to June 1, 2024. Please include this in your budget planning.

Peace and best wishes,



Monica Johnson, Finance Manager  
[finance@sasksynod.ca](mailto:finance@sasksynod.ca)

Jeff Barber, Treasurer



## PEOPLE IN NEED

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every 2nd month,  
(Dec. 17, Feb. 18, etc.)

after the offering plates are sent around,  
baskets with slips of paper with

**needed food items for the Food Bank  
and/or People in Need** will follow.

The large blue bin in the Narthex is  
available for you to drop off your food items at any  
time. Thank you for supporting those who need our  
help. Monetary donations to People in Need  
are also welcome.



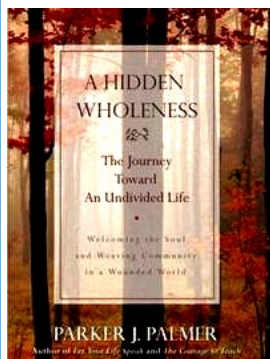
## AUGUSTANA VISION SESSIONS

Augustana's 3<sup>rd</sup> Vision Session will be  
**Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> after church.** Draft Value  
statements will be discussed. Our hope is that by the  
end of these sessions, we will have a much clearer  
understanding of what we are about and how that is  
going to shape our shared life and ministry together  
going forward. Please plan to attend for at least 2  
hours after church and bring a bag lunch. If you are  
unable to participate in the session but would like to  
contribute your suggestions, please email your them to  
Pat Blakley.

## QUEEN ELIZABETH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Your Queen Elizabeth/Exhibition/Haultain  
Community Association meets quarterly,  
at 7:00 pm, usually on the first Tuesday of September,  
December, March and June. **The next meeting  
is Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 pm.** Location Queen  
Elizabeth School, 1905 Eastlake Avenue. Mark Emmons,  
Planner with the City, will provide an  
update of the City's progress toward implementing the  
Recommendations of the Exhibition and Queen  
Elizabeth Local Area Plan and Traffic Study. If you are  
interested in learning more about sharing your skills  
and talents check out the [Volunteers](#) page of the  
website. Please find the Minutes of the September 4  
meeting [here](#).

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP



The Spiritual Growth Group  
will meet at 8 AM on Tuesday  
Dec. 12th via Zoom.

We continue to discuss  
*A Hidden Wholeness*  
by Parker Palmer. If you are  
interested in know more about  
the group contact Heather  
Kleiner or Noreen Donald



## SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Spirit of Christmas returns to Broadway to celebrate  
late night shopping in the district on **December 7th  
from 6 to 9pm.** There will be sleigh rides, smores, and  
hot chocolate provided by Prairie Sun. The Broadway  
Brass (featuring Sheldon Corbett) will be playing on  
the Little Stone Stage and carolers will be visiting  
businesses along Broadway Ave. We will also be  
visited by Tangled in Tiaras' Frostie Friends! Take it in  
if you have the chance!





# Prayer Changes Things

**Prayer Net:** God hears our prayers. Prayer is a gift God has given to us for sharing joys and sorrows. Intercessory prayers, prayers for others, are offered as we follow Christ's example. The Prayer Net involves volunteers who feel called to the ministry of prayer and are committed to pray for those who ask for special prayer or for those whose needs have been made known to us. To activate the Prayer Net, contact any person on the list; that person will then pass the prayer request to other members. The confidential nature of information shared is respected. When a request is received or need is known, prayer will be offered as soon as possible and continue to be held up until told otherwise.

## THE PRAYER NET

Sandra Cey

Michael Diegel

Noreen Donald

Marie Ebbert

Alice Hamp

Heather Kleiner

Ev Knoll

Jim Komar

Ev Schumacher

Kirk Tastad

(306) 242-9553

Augustanapastor  
@sasktel.net



*Please remember all those in need of our prayers:*

*Ron & Marlene Belke, Curtis Carlson, Danielle Carlson,  
Edith Carlson, Kevin & Linda Catton, Gayle Dixon, Alice Dzus,  
Ron Fast, Shelby Gwozdz, Alice Hamp, Lisa Hamp, Scott Hamp,  
Audrey & Ed Hedlin, Brodie Jenkins, Minnie Kaminski,  
Adrienne Kinchen, Evelyn Knoll, James Komar, Mildred Lesser,  
Karin Lissel, Doris Lundmark, Lyssa Martin, Sharon & Gord Morley,  
Bruce Nordstrom, Linda Richmond, Evelyn Schumacher,  
Jim & Tannis Sharp, and Deanna White.*

*May all be strengthened in the knowledge of God's grace,  
and the healing power of the Holy Spirit.*

*We also pray for those who grieve at this time.*

*May they be comforted by the promise of God with us.*

This month we pray for the *ministry of social action*. We pray for the many aspects of social action within our church family. We pray also for all those who will receive Christmas Hampers this year.

Help us to remember the motto of our national church: "In Mission for Others". Amen.

## Monthly Manna (Canadian Bible Society)

✚ Day 7: "How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered." Psalm 139:17 (NLT)

✚ Day 18: "I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me like down in safety."  
Psalm 4:8 (NRSV)

✚ Day 31: "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life." Psalm 23:6a (NIV)

# HEY YOU(TH)! CHECK IT OUT!

## SK SYNOD YOUTH GATHERING

CAMP KINASAO, CHRISTOPHER LAKE

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2024



JOIN WITH YOUTH FROM ACROSS  
SK FOR A WEEKEND DESIGNED  
JUST FOR YOU(TH)!

COME EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY,  
TIME IN THE WORD & CREATION,  
AND A WHOLE LOT OF FUN.  
BRING A FRIEND!



DETAILS YOUR ADULTS WILL WANT TO KNOW:

AGES: 12-17      COST: \$115/PERSON (SUBSIDIES ARE AVAILABLE!)

NEED A RIDE? JOIN THE CHARTER BUS IN ESTEVAN, REGINA,  
SASKATOON OR PA! (FOR NO ADDITIONAL COST!)

A PARTNERSHIP EVENT PUT  
ON BY THE ELCIC SK SYNOD

## LEARN MORE AT [KINASAO.CA](http://KINASAO.CA)







### Augustana church council would like to thank:

- † **Everyone who supported the social supper**, particularly those who helped with set-up, meal preparation and clean up.
- † **Pastor Kirk** for his work in putting together the prayers for peace service on November 12 and the for the service on the seasons of the church on November 26.
- † **All the members of the congregation** have stepped up to fill roles in services over the past few months.
- † **Martha Ann Geransky**, Augustana's custodian, for keeping the space so neat and clean, with the increase in the use of the space.



PHOTOS FROM J.O.Y. SESSION NOV. 16TH, "Behind the Scenes of a National Geographic Expedition to the Amazon" WITH Alex Pelletier.

AND FROM "Being Church in the Community — A Round Table Discussion" ON OCTOBER 3RD WITH Dr. Mercedes Bachmann AND President Wilma Rommel FROM IELU, our companion church in Argentina and Uruguay.



*"As we await our coming Saviour, walk in love, be at peace, and may the joy you give to others come back to you."*

#### Church Office: 306-242-9553

Pastor: Kirk Tastad, [augustanapastor@sasktel.net](mailto:augustanapastor@sasktel.net)

Admin. Lorene Jewitt, [augustana@sasktel.net](mailto:augustana@sasktel.net)

Chairperson: Pat Blakley

Vice Chairperson: Larry Trenouth

Treasurer: Karen Wallace

Accountant: Monica Johnson

Custodian: Martha Ann Geransky

#### Augustana Previews

Please feel free to submit items for the newsletter to publicize events or activities in your group.

Digital pictures from events would be great!

**Information for the January 2024 Newsletter should be submitted by December 22, 2023.**

**Email: [augustana@sasktel.net](mailto:augustana@sasktel.net)**



# DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>3 Advent 1</b> 10:30 AM Worship & Holy Communion 12 PM Vision Session 3 2 PM NEST	<b>4</b> 7 PM AFG (AA grp)	<b>5</b> 10 AM Forever in Motion 1:30 PM Bible Study 6:30 PM Concordia Alpenrose Jr. Dancers	<b>6</b> 8 AM Men's Book Club (Zoom) 7 PM "The Living Room" NA Group	<b>7</b> 10 AM Forever in Motion 7 PM Choir	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 3 PM "The Tea 'Room'" AA Group
<b>10 Advent 2</b> 10:30 AM Worship 12 PM Christmas Hamper packing 7 PM AL ANON Open Meeting	<b>11</b> 2 PM ELW 7 PM AFG (AA grp)	<b>12</b> 8 AM Spiritual Growth Group (Zoom) 10 AM Forever in Motion 1:30 PM Bible Study	<b>13</b> 8 AM Men's Book Club (Zoom) 7 PM "The Living Room" NA Group	<b>14</b> 10 AM Forever in Motion 7 PM Choir 7:30 PM Blue Christmas (Zion)	<b>15</b> 11:30 AM J.O.Y. Group Christmas Luncheon, Aspira Village at Stonebridge	<b>16</b> 3 PM "The Tea 'Room'" AA Group
<b>17 Advent 3</b> 10:30 AM Worship & Holy Communion 12:30 PM Music Recital	<b>18</b> 7 PM AFG (AA grp)	<b>19</b> 10 AM Forever in Motion 1:30 PM Pre-tape Advent 4	<b>20</b> 8 AM Men's Book Club (Zoom) 7 PM Church Council 7 PM "The Living Room" NA Group	<b>21</b> 10 AM Forever in Motion 7 PM Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 3 PM "The Tea 'Room'" AA Group
<b>24 Advent 4</b> 10:30 AM Worship (online only) 6 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight (livestream) 8 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight (communion)	<b>25</b> 7 PM AFG (AA grp)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7 PM "The Living Room" NA Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 3 PM "The Tea 'Room'" AA Group
<b>31 Christmas 1</b> 10:30 AM Worship Lessons & Carols						