



HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
A Welcoming Christ-Centered Community
April 2026

 (780) 434-4012
 church@holyspiritlutheran.ca
 11223 - 51 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5H 0L5
 Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

OFFICE HOURS
Mon - Thurs 9 am - 3 pm
Fridays 9 am - 1 pm
Church Office Closed:
Easter Monday, April 6

STAFF
Pastor: **Liz Bell**
Office Admin: **Lori Zeiner**
Admin Assistant: **Darian Neufeld**

WORSHIP TIME
Sunday Mornings at 10:00 am
In-person & live-streamed
on YouTube

ALL ARE WELCOME!
HSLC is an affirming and inclusive community, sharing together the joy and work of God's Love



Upcoming Meetings

Apr 7, 6:30 pm - Worship Committee
Apr 7, 7:00 pm - Admin Committee
Apr 15, 11:00 am - Ministry Committee
Apr 15, 3:00 pm - Community Engagement
Apr 23, 6:30 pm - Lifelong Learning Com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1, 12:00 pm - Yesterday's Youth Bag Lunch
HSLC's young-at-heart senior's group is meeting for their monthly bag lunch get-together! All are welcome – bring your own lunch, coffee and dessert will be provided. This month, Paul will provide the entertainment with a travel presentation of his expedition cruise around Newfoundland!

April 2, 5:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Potluck & Service
All are welcome to commemorate the Last Supper together with communion over supper, followed by worship & the stripping of the altar.

April 3, 10:00 am - Good Friday Tenebrae Service
We gather to worship in recognition of Jesus' crucifixion and God's ultimate act of loving mercy. All are welcome to worship together with the HSLC choir lending their voices.

April 5, 10:00 am - Easter Sunday Service
Come and worship with communion and choir, rejoicing in the wonder and glory of the resurrection!

April 8 & 22, 7:00 pm - Ponder That!
HSLC's weekly discussion group. On April 8th, Bonnie will be sharing slides from her 2017 trip to Germany, with the country celebrating 500 years since the posting of the 95 theses and the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

April 9 & 23, 9:30 am - Bible Study
Everyone is welcome to join the Bible Study group on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month to prayerfully discuss the week's lectionary readings.

April 11, 18, & 25, 10:00 am-3:00 pm - ICANSA Tax Clinic
The ICAN Senior's Association are holding tax clinics at HSLC throughout tax season! They will provide free tax services to indigenous peoples, newcomers, people with disabilities, seniors, youth, and anyone with a modest income.

Psst - there are 20 tiny Easter eggs hidden in this newsletter. Can you find them all?

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

From Hosanna to Hallelujah and Back Again



“So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord – the King of Israel!’”

-John 12:13

“Save us!” The people shouted as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on that donkey, a reminder of King David and of God’s promised future king. Palm branches in hand, they blessed Jesus and asked for blessing in return, shouting “hosanna!”, the Aramaic word for “save us.”

We might say the same thing today if Jesus came past us in a parade or procession. Save us, from ourselves as much as from others. We search for a way to fill our spirit without God, devouring and consuming the earth and its resources, setting up divisions of “us” and “them” that lead to violence and hate, finding false gods around every corner. Afraid, lost and overwhelmed, we shut down and focus on our immediate needs and ignore the cries of others. Save us from ourselves! Save us from sin!

Like those first palm branch wavers, we also look at the powers and principalities beyond our control, and cry out to God, “save us!” Save us from policies, rulers, and forces that crush, that dehumanize and do violence. Save us from illness, harm, and cruelty for which we have no ready cure. Save us from death and the power of evil!

Jesus heard the cries then and Jesus hears you now. Jesus doesn’t turn away or run. Instead, Jesus faces the powers and principalities, takes on death and evil, and absorbs the sin, all of it: yours, mine, that of our community, and that of the world. The pain, suffering, shame, and grief – Jesus bears it all.

It is a strange twist that as Christians we look to Jesus on the cross and we still whimper, “hosanna, save us.” It would seem more appropriate in that moment for Jesus to look for mercy and help. And yet, in Jesus on that cross we find deliverance, we find our savior.

During Holy Week we create spaces for worship and reflection that hold in tension our need for rescue from these times and God’s compassion and love that is demonstrated most clearly in Jesus, the light that banishes the darkness.

As we move through Holy Week to Easter, our hosannas (God save us) begin to mingle with hallelujahs (praise God). We say hallelujah, praise the one who breaks the darkness. Praise the one who stands up to injustice, death’s machines and evil’s machinations! Praise the one and only King of Kings, Jesus!

Easter gives way to the fullness of hallelujah. Love wins. The ways of sin that corrupt, destroy, decay and seed hate is upended. Jesus uses tools of radical love, empathy, courage, compassion and sacrifice to neutralize evil and open the way to abundant life, eternal life. This new way, this new creation is still in the process of becoming. So let’s praise Jesus our saviour! Praise God whose steadfast love endures forever! Praise the Holy Spirit who brings the abundant life and love into being. Hallelujah!

As we await the fullness of Jesus’ return, we live in a time where hallelujah and hosanna meet. We still cry out “God, save us!” while at the same time we sing “Praise God!” We follow the way of Jesus with hallelujahs and hosannas ready because the way of Jesus is not easy, but it is good because God is good. We boldly declare hallelujah trusting God’s promise that the hallelujahs will outlast hosannas. With firm faith in this promise, we join in the ancient Easter greeting: **Christ is Risen, Hallelujah! Christ is Risen Indeed, Hallelujah!**

 **Pastor Liz Bell**

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

Our new 2026 Council met for the first time on March 10, 2026. The primary focus of the meeting was to elect officers and liaisons for each of the committees. Positions for President and Vice President are by Ecclesiastical ballot.

The following elections were held and accepted:

- **President - Karen O.**
- **Vice President - Sara D.**
- **Treasurer - Belynda K.** (non-council position)
- **Financial Secretary - Kaitlyn A.**
- **Secretary - Arvid P.**

Committee Liaisons:

- **Administration - Sara D.**
- **Property - Arvid P.**
- **Communications - Brent A.**
- **Community Engagement - Suzi P.**
- **Lifelong Learning - Kathryn E.**
- **Ministry - Vacant**
- **Worship - Margie N.**
- **Stewardship - Kaitlyn A.**

Thank you all for taking on these roles for Holy Spirit Lutheran Church!

Other business included planning for the council's year, including scheduling a Council Retreat in May.

The Property Committee is determined to have repairs to our roof in 2026. Council agreed to the first step in this process: the Property Committee will obtain three quotes to complete an inspection of our roof and prepare a report that outlines the roof's deficiencies, recommendations for repairs, and potential contractors who can complete the work. The goal of this report will be to provide a clear understanding of what is needed to resolve the issues and set expectations for the cost so we are able to hire a contractor to complete the work as the report recommends.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2026			
	Income	Expense	+/-
January	<u>26,528</u>	<u>31,764</u>	-5,236
Total	26,528	31,764	
Monthly Budget \$38,341			
BUDGET ACCOUNT POSITION AS AT JANUARY 31, 2026			
Budget Surplus as of Dec 31, 2025			\$2,718
Current Year Surplus (Deficit) as of Jan 31, 2026			(\$5,236)
Total Surplus (Deficit)			(\$2,518)

Lutheran Teacher Seeking Short Term Housing

My name is Hannah Rude and I am a teacher at St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary and Junior High School in the Desrochers neighbourhood in Edmonton. Due to my landlord selling my current place, I am looking for a place to rent near the school (I take transit) for June, ideally with the potential to rent it during July and August as well until I know where I will be working in September.

I don't mind sharing common spaces (kitchen, laundry, etc.) and have my own bedroom furniture if needed. I would be glad to pay rent and any shared utilities.

If you may be able to help, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via text or call at (403) 922-1022.

— Hannah

Tai Chi

OPEN BEGINNER CLASS

Tuesdays
in the gym
9:30 AM

All are welcome!



April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>General Office Hours 9 am - 3 pm Monday - Thursday 9 am - 1 pm Fridays</p> <p>Call: 780-434-4012 email: church@holyspiritlutheran.ca</p>			<p>1</p>  <p>9 am ICANSA 9 am ESL Class 12 pm Yesterday's Youth Bag Lunch</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Maundy Thursday 5 pm Potluck & Service</p>  <p>9 am ICANSA 7:30 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Good Friday 10 am Service</p> 	4
<p>Easter Sunday 10 am Service of Holy Communion</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Easter Monday Office Closed</p> <p>9 am ESL Class 9:30 am ICANSA 7:30 pm Malmo Community Choir</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9 am ICANSA 9:30 am Tai Chi 2 pm FD drop off 4 pm Food Depot 6:30 pm Worship Committee Mtg 6:45 pm Kickboxing 7 pm Admin Mtg</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>9 am ICANSA 9 am ESL Class 7 pm Ponder That!</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>9 am ICANSA 9:30 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9 am ESL Class 9:30 am ICANSA</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>ICAN Seniors Association 10 am - 3 pm ICANSA Tax Clinic 10 am Myeloma Support Society</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Easter 2 10 am Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>7 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pr. Liz on Vacation</p> <p>9 am ESL Class 9:30 am ICANSA 6:30 pm Council Meeting 7:30 pm Malmo Community Choir</p>					<p>18</p>  <p>10 am - 3 pm ICANSA Tax Clinic 10 am Ostomy Support Group</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Easter 3 10 am Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>7 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9 am ESL Class 9:30 am ICANSA 7:30 pm Malmo Community Choir</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9 am ICANSA 9:30 am Tai Chi 2 pm FD drop off 4 pm Food Depot 6:45 pm Kickboxing</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Staff Planning Day</p>  <p>9 am ICANSA 9 am ESL Class 7 pm Ponder That!</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>9 am ICANSA 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Scouts 6:30 pm Lifelong Learning Mtg 7:30 pm Al-Anon</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9 am ESL Class 9:30 am ICANSA</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>10 am - 3 pm ICANSA Tax Clinic</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Easter 3 10 am Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>7 pm Pickleball</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9 am ESL Class 9:30 am ICANSA 7:30 pm Malmo Community Choir</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 am ICANSA 9:30 am Tai Chi 2 pm FD drop off 4 pm Food Depot 6:45 pm Kickboxing</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9 am ICANSA 9 am ESL Class</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9 am ICANSA 7:30 pm Al-Anon</p>	 <p>Holy Spirit Lutheran Church ELCIC</p> 	