



# HOLY SPIRIT HAPPENINGS

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church  
A Welcoming Christ-Centered  
Community

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

## CONTACT US



(780) 434-4012



church@holyspiritlutheran.ca



11223 - 51 Ave NW  
Edmonton, AB T5H 0L5



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

## GENERAL OFFICE HOURS

**Mon - Thurs 9 am - 3 pm**

**Fridays 9 am - 1 pm**

Church Office Closed:  
Monday, September 1

## 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 EVENTS

### September 7, 10:00 am - Rally Sunday, Blessing of Backpacks, & BBQ



Join us Rally Sunday for a time of worship, connection & celebration as we return to our fall schedule! Service at 10 am followed by hot dogs and activities. Bring your backpack for a special blessing during Children's Time in the service.

### September 9, 7:00 pm - Confirmation Family Info Night

All parents and students are invited to attend to register and hear more about the upcoming classes. Ages 12-14.



### September 10, 12:00 pm - Yesterday's Youth Bag Lunch

Come for fellowship and laughter. All are welcome! Bring a bag lunch, coffee/tea and dessert are provided. Performances by the ICAN Senior's Association will follow lunch.



### Ponder That! Chat Group

All are welcome! Meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month (Sept 10 & 24) at 7:00 pm in the Church library. Bring your ideas to our first meeting as we will decide what format to use for the fall.



### Bible Study

Meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month (Sept 11 & 25) from 9:30 to 11 am. Time to visit and discuss the upcoming Sunday's lectionary readings. All are welcome!



### September 14, 10:00 am - Sunday School Teacher Installation

Join us this Sunday to welcome and bless our teachers!



### September 28, 10:00 - Truth & Reconciliation Sunday

Wear orange to show our support for Truth & Reconciliation.



### October 25 - Congregational Life Event in Red Deer

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*"Trust in YHWH with all of your heart and don't rely on your own understanding; acknowledge God in everything you do, and God will direct your paths."*

Proverbs 3:5-6, The Inclusive Bible Translation

I invite you to consider the verses above from the book of Proverbs...

When was a time when your own understanding wasn't enough? Or, when have you looked back on your life with wonder at the unexpected twists and turns, dips and peaks?

I can tell you, God has guided me along pathways I couldn't have even imagined. That includes getting to serve as your new pastor in this vibrant, welcoming, and wild congregation. A congregation which happens to be 25 hours away and in a different country from where I grew up!

God has made the way for Jerome, my husband, and me, along with our 10-year-old husky dog, Luna, and two cats, Loki and Jaeger, to be here. We both look forward to settling in and getting to know HSLC and the community. So far we have been to the Fringe Festival, Heritage Festival, and the Old Strathcona Farmers' Market. We also spent a couple of days camping at Twin Lakes Campground (south and west of Edmonton).

A little bit about Jerome and me. We both grew up in the US, Jerome in New Mexico in the southwest and me in Minnesota and Iowa in the midwest. New Mexico, the land of spicy food and hot weather, meets Minnesota, the land where salt is considered "spicy" and the summers are sweltering and the winters are freezing. We've been married for 3 years, during which I've discovered the joy of green chilis and am still waiting for Jerome to use the word "uff da" (a midwest expression you will hear me use) in a sentence. We both love to travel and spend time outside in nature.

One of the things I am most excited about being your pastor and living in Canada, is learning from and with you. New foods, new words and phrases, and different ways of doing things are fun to discover and learn.



More meaningful, however, is experiencing the life-changing love of God in Jesus through the gifts, insights and lives of others. God's love is wild and expansive, a tenacious and resilient force that moves and inspires. You at HSLC are dedicated to paying attention to God's love and asking the Holy Spirit to make this Church one that is open to the kind of welcome that only God gives. It is such a privilege and joy to join you in this ministry and way of life.

As you, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, and I begin this new chapter of ministry together, may we *trust in YHWH with all of our hearts and not rely on our own understanding; may we acknowledge God in everything we do so that God will direct our decisions, words, actions, and paths. Amen.*

— **Pastor Liz Bell**

## COUNCIL UPDATES

There has been a lot of activity at HSLC over the past few months! And a lot is still going on!

We have had to say Goodbye to three members of Council recently.

In June, Reis Cooper and his family moved to Lethbridge. We miss Reis' leadership, enthusiasm, insights, and communication skills. We also miss Amy who was Treasurer for a long time in addition to leading and serving on the Stewardship Committee. We wish Amy, Reis, and their family the best as they settle in their new home.

Eric Davidson has juggled music, hockey, Grade 12 studies, and applications for post-secondary, all while being on Council and working on the Communications Committee! His youth, wisdom, and energy have been a key part of the work done over the past year and a half. Congratulations to Eric for the incredible accomplishment of continuing his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Enjoy many more successes!

Our farewell to Pastor Prema was on August 17. Pastor Prema joined our HSLC family less than a year ago as interim pastor. She jumped in with both feet, providing insights and leadership for Council as well as all the Committees. We knew she would be leaving us one day, but in her short stay we have come to love Pastor Prema and her family. We will miss her and wish her well as she continues her work.

As you know much of our focus over the past months has been to call a new Pastor. We are now at the end of that journey and we are so thankful to the Call Committee for their time and energy spent going through the long and sometimes tedious process.

So now, we have new people to welcome to our staff! Pastor Liz and Jerome are here and we are very excited to have them join us. Welcome Pastor Liz and Jerome!

Our Admin Committee was busy posting an ad for and ultimately hiring a new Part Time Communications & Administration Assistant. We are super happy that Darian Neufeld is working with us at Holy Spirit. Welcome Darian! We are looking forward to great things from our revitalized office.

In addition to having Worship in the Park, we had people attending the G7 People's Forum in Calgary, and the Pride Parade in Edmonton. It is so great to see our church active and alive in the community!

While we work to Disappear the Deficit, we also have the Mortgage Renewal coming next March. IMS, who currently holds our mortgage, will no longer extend mortgages to churches. But not to worry! They have recommended other institutions that we can use. Lori and Belynda are working on identifying and recommending the best option to Council long before March is here. And we are working on plans for how we might pay down the principal.

Fall is a time of renewal - we start new school years and new programs after the refreshing summer break. We are looking forward to renewal here at Holy Spirit too - as we welcome back our Sunday School, our ongoing and new programs and events, and especially welcome our new staff! We have a lot to look forward to - and a lot to be thankful for!

Thanks be to God!!

— Karen Oko on behalf of Congregational Council

### Welcome Pastor Liz & Jerome

On August 24 Pastor Liz Bell gave her first official sermon at Holy Spirit and the entire congregation was thrilled to welcome her and her husband Jerome. Pastor Liz, Jerome and Luna the dog moved into their apartment July 22 with some congregational help. They have had a bit of time to enjoy camping in Alberta and getting to know their new community. We have been impressed by their friendliness, optimism, and kindness, and wish them well in their new endeavours with HSLC.



## Thank You Pastor Prema

Sunday, August 17 was the last day of Pastor Prema's tenure as Interim Pastor at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. At the end of the service, all the Samuel-Lyseng family was thanked for being a wonderful blessing to HSLC. There was an excellent turnout of the congregation and after the service coffee and cake were served to all in the gym.

As a congregation, we humbly thank Pastor Prema for jumping in last September with joy and enthusiasm, helping to shepherd us through a tumultuous year. Who could forget her bare feet, her love of superheroes and her seemingly endless energy. She has surprised and challenged us, laughed with us, and helped us to continue to thrive while we mourned losing our pastor, and helped prepare us to be excited to welcome a new pastor. We see the hugs she shares with many and the smiles on our faces and we know that she has done her job so very well, and that we are going to miss her very much.

Pastor Prema is going to provide interim relief at Trinity Lutheran Church while Pastor Erin continues her recovery. We wish her good luck in her future endeavours and much love on her future journey.



## Welcome Darian

HSLC is welcoming Darian Neufeld to work part time with Pastor Liz and Lori.

Darian comes to us with a range of experience working in communications consulting, design, digital communications, and customer service, as well as a BA in Communications and Media. Working 15 hours per week, he will coordinate HSLC communications, create media to support HSLC events, and provide administrative support as needed.



There are a couple of reasons this role is important. For one, our church is very busy - we have a lot of people in and out of our doors daily, and lots that we ask the church office, aka Lori, to do. As a responsible employer, we need to help her manage this workload. Additionally, this role will help us enhance our social media and broader communications presence. Darian's skills and expertise should go a long way to make Holy Spirit alive and vibrant in the digital world, to ensure clear and consistent messaging, and to support our many activities through strong communications with our neighbours! We will be more visible in the community, able to reach and invite more people to Holy Spirit.

Darian joins Lori and Pastor Liz in contributing to an environment of hospitality and welcome for staff, congregation members, renters, and visitors. You should be able to find him in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday from 10 am - 3 pm.

# Community Engagement Committee Update

It has been a wonderful, albeit all-too-short summer! We celebrated as four of our families had their pets blessed. We held a farewell and thanks for the last year worshiping with Pastor Prema. We just welcomed Pastor Liz as our called pastor and are looking forward to getting to know her and Jerome as we all continue our journey together.

In August, we participated in the Pride parade. I talked to some of our participants, and one stated "It was like we had won the Grey Cup." This excitement and energy was felt both in the crowd and in parade participants. I thank those who helped with the signs and decorating. We are glad to introduce HSLC as being safe and accepting to our fellow neighbors.

As for upcoming Events, **Rally Sunday will be on September 7<sup>th</sup>**. We are hoping to build excitement and a further sense of belonging with plenty of opportunities to either help or participate in new activities!

The Christmas Market is planned for Saturday, November 15th. We are still working on putting this event together again — **If you would like to have input on the Market, the next meeting will be September 17<sup>th</sup> at 3pm**. We have room for a few more Vendors. If you are interested call Margie or Email – [events@holyspiritlutheran.ca](mailto:events@holyspiritlutheran.ca)



## FINANCIAL UPDATES

### TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

	Income	Expense	+/-
January	23,719	29,342	-5,623
February	27,306	27,849	-543
March	32,135	30,019	2,116
April	22,388	28,873	-6,485
May	29,934	29,629	305
June	28,975	29,545	-570
July	<u>31,292</u>	<u>31,514</u>	<u>-222</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>195,748</b>	<b>206,771</b>	<b>-11,023</b>

Monthly Budget \$36,847

### BUDGET ACCOUNT POSITION AS AT JULY 31, 2025

Budget Surplus (Deficit) as of Dec 31, 2024	-( \$5,981)
Current Year Surplus (Deficit) as of July 31, 2025	-( \$11,023)
<b>Total Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>-( \$17,004)</b>

**Question: What does this look like?**

**Answer: INCREASED GIVING!**

## DISAPPEAR THE DEFICIT "2.0"

**our goal:**  
**Zero Deficit by**  
**Thanksgiving**

~moving from -\$17,000 to  
\$0 will free us to sustainably  
be and do our ministry!~



~Our monthly giving is around \$25,000.

~If, on average, we each increase our giving by 20% between now and Thanksgiving, we can clear the deficit!

~With recent "extra" gifts in the amount of \$2,500, we are off to a good start.

**Yup, that's it. No designated offerings.**  
**No splashy campaign. Just giving more.**  
**Boring, but so effective!**

...and we can finally have pompoms  
all the way to the top...





## Garden Update

Wow, where has our summer gone! It seems like only yesterday we were planning for a new growing season. The first stage of the garden revitalization project has been completed. We were successful in securing \$1,500 in grant money to help offset the cost of the project. We are grateful to Charitus for recognizing the contribution this project makes towards promoting the sustainable use of environmental resources. A big shout out to Lorie, a former gardener for researching grant possibilities, to Dave for writing the initial draft, to Sara for her editing expertise, and Lori for gathering the necessary supporting documents.

We have 12 tall garden boxes with plenty of space for easy navigation and access. Thank you to Anton and Kalle, youth who constructed the boxes, to Paul and others who contributed hours of labour to fill them and to Dorothy for her constant presence, assistance and cheerleading. Despite planting a little later than normal, all the gardens have produced some amazing veggies. The ICANSA have generously donated all the produce from their beds to people in our community facing food insecurity. Our grape buddies have done an amazing job caring for the vines and I expect there will be plenty of juice to enjoy this year.

On the west side of the garden we have a lovely new perennial bed with both edible herbs and pollinator friendly flowering plants. We are thankful to Abdul,

one of our community gardeners who has contributed plants, time, and endless energy in the creation of this space. Thanks as well to the ESL students who took their conversations outside to help weed, prune shrubs, and care for grapes.

Some next steps for the garden include adding wood chips and crush to different areas to help with weed suppression and mobility, the building of a new composter, and the addition of signage. A big thanks to Bart for taking the lead designing and printing the signs. In the future we also hope to replace some fruit trees and add some edible shrubs for community use.

Thank you to everyone who has shared their gifts of expertise, time, labour, encouragement and materials. The Holy Spirit garden is a space that will continue to grow to meet the evolving needs of our community.

— Wanda



## Holy Spirit Church Community Fund - Call for Proposals!

Do you have an idea that would benefit our Holy Spirit community? Would some funding help? Church Council invites proposals for use of \$730 between October 2025 and August 2026!


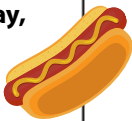






A bit of background: HSLC holds a modest endowment fund through the Edmonton Community Foundation. This year, the endowment will yield \$730. The grant states that these funds are to be used to "support the activities, outreach, priorities and operations of the congregation of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church." There's lots of room there for your creative ideas!

Applications are available online by clicking [here](#) or you can get a paper copy in the narthex. The application will ask you for a short description of the project, along with a budget and timeline. **Please submit by September 26.**

The Administration Committee of Church Council will review proposals and announce the lucky recipient(s) by mid-October. If you have questions about the application process, please feel free to reach out to Sara D. at [sdorow@ualberta.ca](mailto:sdorow@ualberta.ca) (Administration Committee Chair, HSLC Council).

We look forward to receiving your ideas!

# September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>12 Pentecost</b> 10 am Service of the Word 11:30 am Choir Practice	<b>1 Labour Day</b> Office Closed  9 am ESL Class	<b>2</b> 9 am ICANSA	<b>3</b> 9 am ESL Class 9 am ICANSA 3 pm Community Engagement Meeting	<b>4 Staff Planning Day</b> 9 am ICANSA 7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting	<b>5</b> 9 am ESL Class	<b>6</b> 10 am Myeloma Alberta Support Society 10 am Ostomy Canada Support Group
<b>7 13 Pentecost Rally Sunday, Blessing of Backpacks, &amp; BBQ</b> 10 am Service of the Word 	<b>8</b> 9 am ESL Class 6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>9</b> 9 am ICANSA 4 pm Food Depot 7 pm Admin Committee Meeting 7 pm Confirmation Class - Parent & Student Info Night	<b>10</b>  9 am ESL Class 9 am ICANSA 12 pm Yesterday's Youth Lunch 7 pm Ponder That!	<b>11</b> 9 am ICANSA 9:30 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting	<b>12</b> 9 am ESL Class	<b>13</b>
<b>14 14 Pentecost Sunday School Teacher Installation</b> 10 am Service of Holy Communion 	<b>15 Lori Off</b>	<b>16</b> 9 am ICANSA 4 pm Food Depot 4:15 pm Confirmation Class	<b>17</b> 9 am ESL Class 9 am ICANSA 3 pm Community Engagement Meeting 6:30 pm Ministry Committee Meeting	<b>18</b> 9 am ICANSA 7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting	<b>19</b> 9 am ESL Class	<b>20</b>
<b>21 15 Pentecost Stewardship of Creation Sunday</b> 10 am Service of the Word 	<b>22</b> 9 am ESL Class	<b>23</b> 9 am ICANSA 4 pm Food Depot 4:15 pm Confirmation Class	<b>24</b> 9 am ESL Class 9 am ICANSA 7 pm Ponder That!	<b>25</b> 9 am ICANSA 9:30 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Al-Anon Meeting	<b>26</b> 9 am ESL Class	<b>27</b>
<b>28 15 Pentecost Truth &amp; Reconciliation Sunday</b> 10 am Service of the Word 	<b>29</b> 9 am ESL Class	<b>30</b> 9 am ICANSA 4 pm Food Depot 4:15 pm Confirmation Class	<b>General Office Hours</b> 9 am - 3 pm Monday - Thursday 9 am - 1 pm Fridays Call: 780-434-4012 email: church@holyspiritlutheran.ca 			
						 <b>HSLC</b>