



**Faith Country**  
Shared Ministry

# ***Faith Country Chronicle***

September 2016



## **September 2016 Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ –



Throughout 2016 I invite you to reflect with me on the theme of “Practicing Our Faith” as you gather for church council, adult study, youth group, coffee group, choir rehearsal and are engaged in learning, discernment and reflection together. Dorothy Bass has edited an excellent resource published several years ago by Jossey-Bass, *Practicing Our Faith*, which I will be using as a primary resource. Together with Don Richter, Dorothy Bass has also edited a second book, *Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens*, published by Upper Room Books, which is also an excellent resource. Each article will include a Scripture reference, thematic reflection, questions for consideration, and a prayer. Part 1 was available May 2016.

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Sing to the Lord a new song.  
God’s praise in the assembly of the faithful.  
Let Israel be glad in its Maker;  
...Let them praise God’s name with dancing.  
Making melody to God with tambourine and lyre.

Psalm 149:1-3

### **Singing Our Lives – Part 2**

At this past summer’s National Anglican-Lutheran Worship Conference, *Formation & Reformation: Worship, Justice, and God’s Mission*, presenter The Rev. Dr. Stephen Larson posed several questions as he began his first keynote address.

These questions stirred up my memory and caused me to reflect. Questions like: What is the first childhood prayer that you remember? What was your earliest awareness of the liturgy? When did you memorize hymns? Who are your musical mentors? Your liturgical mentors? What is the most meaningful season or day of the church year for you? What are your favorite hymn, carols, songs?

This last one sent me on a deep trip down memory lane. There are so many I thought. In fact, I have a list of favourites. “Children of the Heavenly Father” sung at every family funeral that I can remember. “Joy to the World” proclaimed on the Eve of Christmas. “Beautiful Saviour” sung without accompaniment and in four-part harmony...or more. The beauty and simplicity of “Jesus, Remember Me.” “Holy, Holy Holy” sung in Spanish and with friends from Colombia or El Salvador. Oh, the list goes on!

Over the course of my lifetime these texts and melodies have shaped my faith. I’ve sung them “by heart,” in the heart, and from the heart. Through the practice of singing, the dispositions and beliefs expressed in the words of the hymns – gratitude, praise, trust, lament, joy, hope – have been knit into my body, as integral parts of the theology by which I live.

These hymns and songs are carried – profoundly – deeply – within my bones.

This formation of an embodied theology happens whenever congregations sing, even though they do so in a great variety of ways from one culture to another – from one congregation to another.

**Read and Reflect:** Colossians 3:16

**Discuss and Reflect:**

What in this reading leads you to say, “I wonder about...”, or, “I noticed...”

Consider sharing (and singing) a song from childhood that is part of your faith tradition. What is the most powerful memory the song evokes? What does it say about the faith of your childhood? Are there connections to the faith of your adulthood?

Reflect on the various ways in which music is sung in worship.

Comment on the following: “Over the course of my lifetime these texts and melodies have shaped my faith.”

**Pray together:** Maker of creation’s choir, you sing the Song of Love to us. Breathe your Spirit into our singing until the rhythm of your mercy shapes all our music-making and we join with one another to give you thanks and praise. Amen. (Susan Briehl)

*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).*



The Primate’s  
World Relief and  
Development Fund

In Christ Jesus –  
Shalom,  
+Larry

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**



Campbell's "Labels for Education" program is being terminated by the company.

For many years, members of the Diocese of Edmonton, many of them A.C.W. ladies, collected Campbell's soup labels, (231,319 since 2000) which were used by Belmead Elementary School in west Edmonton to 'purchase' items from the company's catalogue. Labels will be collected until October 31, 2016, to enable them to be processed and forwarded to the school for redemption by year's end.

**7 THINGS THAT WILL HELP YOU GROW SPIRITUALLY**

1. LIVE and WORK to reach others each day as if you knew the world were going to come to an end next Sunday night. Think of that feeling of urgency and priority! (Read 2 Peter 3:1-12).
2. BE AS ENTHUSIASTIC about the church and its services as you would be if there were an overflowing crowd each time. Think of the interest, anticipation, and excitement of an overflow crowd!



The **Faith Country Chronicle** is published monthly from September through May by the partners in the Faith Country Shared Ministry:

Hope Lutheran, Forestburg  
St. John's Anglican - Sedgewick  
Trinity Lutheran - Lougheed

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September is Campus Ministry Month in the Shared Ministry. This is your opportunity to donate to this worthwhile work of the church and support our young adults.

All offering designated for Campus Ministry received during the month of September at Trinity or Hope will be passed along to the Lutheran Campus Ministry. Offering received at St. John's will be forwarded to the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton.

*(Continued from page 2)*

3. **COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.** Make a list of the things you are thankful to God for and thank Him for them one by one as you pray in your closet. This will help you to be grateful (Philippians 4:6). It will also help you to realize your dependence on God (Acts 17:24-25,28; John 15:5).
4. **MAKE & MAINTAIN A LIST OF YOUR FAULTS.** And pray for forgiveness and help to overcome them as you truly strive to overcome them. This will help us see that we are really not as good as we think we are and how very much we really do need Christ for Savior. It will also help you to sympathize with the faults of others (James 5:16; Galatians 6:1).
5. **KEEP A QUIET TIME.** Set aside 30 minutes every day to spend with God in prayer, Bible study, and meditation. If you really love someone or a game you want to spend some time with them. Just so, if you truly love God you want to spend some time alone with Him. (Psalms 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1). First century Christians kept an "hour of prayer" (Acts 13:1).
6. **VISIT SOMEONE FOR CHRIST EACH WEEK.** Visit some member you do not know very well; or a sick person; or a visitor to our services; or a weak member who needs encouragement; or someone who needs to become a Christian.
7. **REACH ANOTHER PERSON (RAP).** Conduct a Bible class in your home once a month and invite your relatives, friends and neighbours to attend.

The preacher or elders will assist you if you want them to. Matt. 5:12-15; James 5:20; Daniel 12:3. There are 168 hours in a week. If you were to attend Bible Study, morning worship, and evening worship on Sundays and Bible study on Wednesday, and 30 minutes 6 days a week in Bible reading, prayer, and meditation, and conduct an hour long study once a month, you would be giving God less than 10 hours a week, leaving you 158.

Grover Stevens



Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief

## Join The ELCIC Reformation Challenge!



### 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

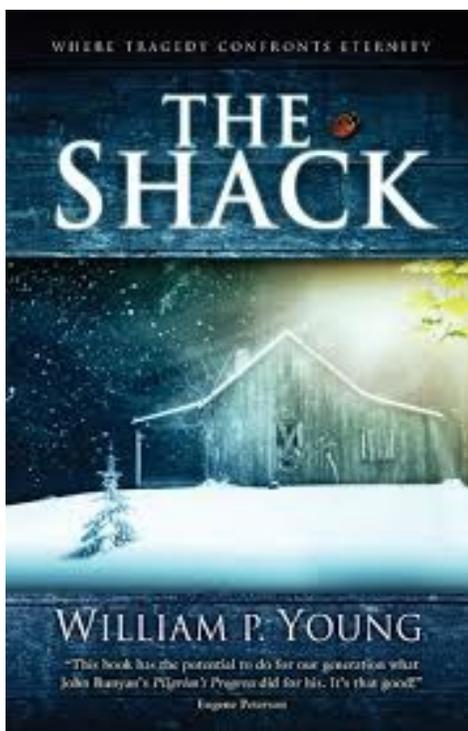
The Lutheran World Federation encourages Lutherans around the world to lift up this commemoration.

Join with Lutherans across Canada and take the Reformation Challenge as we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and demonstrate our excitement for the theme Liberated by God's Grace.

#### The Reformation Challenge calls us to:

- Sponsor 500 refugees to Canada
- Provide 500 scholarships for ELCJHL schools
- Plant 500,000 trees
- Give \$500,000 to the LWF Endowment Fund

**Register your commitment or donate through: [www.elcic.ca/remationchallenge](http://www.elcic.ca/remationchallenge)**



### Fall Study Group

“The Shack” presents its readers with an interesting and thought provoking perspective on the Trinity.

We will be organizing a study group beginning this October to read and discuss this most interesting book.

Please register for the group session by contacting Pastor Rick.



# FAITH COUNTRY SHARED MINISTRY

~ September 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 10:30a-11:30a Trinity Communion Service	<b>5</b> Labour Day Labour Day (Canada)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10a-2p Clericus Meeting 10a-10:30a Galahad Care Center Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:15a-10:15a St. John's Eucharist Service 11:15a-12:15p Hope Communion Service	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10a-10:30a Galahad Care Centre Service 10:30a-11:30a Galahad Pastoral Care	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:30a-11:30a Trinity Song Service	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:15a-10:15a St. John's Morning Prayer 11:15a-12:15p Hope Communion Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7p-7:30p Big Knife Villa Service - communion	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Notes:</b>



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~ October 2016 ~

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						1
2 10:30a-11:30a Trinity Communion Service	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:15a-10:15a St. John's Eucharist Service 11:15a-12:15p Hope Communion Service	10 Thanksgiving Canadian Thanksgiving Day Day of Thanksgiving (Canada)	11	12	13 10a-10:30a Galahad Care Center Service	14	15
16 10:30a-11:30a Trinity Song Service	17	18 10a-10:30a Galahad Care Centre Service	19	20 7:30p-9p FCSM Council @ Hope	21	22
23 9:15a-10:15a St. John's Morning Prayer 11:15a-12:15p Hope Communion Service	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween Reformation Day	<b>Notes:</b>				