



SYNOD OF ALBERTA + AND THE+ TERRITORIES

Incorporated as Alberta Synod

The Office of the Bishop

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*Spirit-Led
Leadership*

*Hope-Filled
Discipleship*

*Innovative
Tradition*

*Collaborative
Partnerships*

SYNOD FINANCIAL APPEAL Lakeland Lutheran Church



The exterior appears relatively undamaged; it is only as you enter the church, that you see the extensive damage caused by a suspicious fire in the early hours of July 2, 2022, at Lakeland Lutheran Church (Cold Lake AB).

Though thankful that no one was injured in the blaze or fighting the fire, the congregation and Pastor AnnE Zimmerman continue to deal with the aftermath: cleanup, investigation, insurance claims, hurt and “church homelessness”. They greatly appreciate the many calls and emails, and the recent visit from Bishop Larry (July 14), wide-spread prayer support, and the immediate support of the Cold Lake faith community. The structural integrity of the building remains undamaged, but the sanctuary (site of the fire) and main floor of the building are presently being stripped of what was destroyed or damaged—flooring, drywall, pulpit, etc. Amazingly, the baptismal font, the altar, and the Christ candle and stand were undamaged and, following cleaning, will be among the few items saved from the sanctuary.



Photo by Lila Wollman

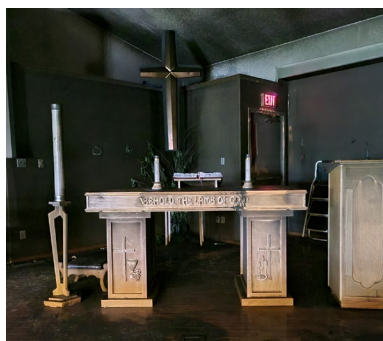


Photo by Lila Wollman

Photo by Bishop Larry



Pastor AnnE, on July 2, wrote to her congregation, reminding them that “A church building is precious in a faith community. Yet...the church truly is the people....be reminded that in surprise, shock, and upsetting concern – God is ever present holding us and others within Cold Lake who may have seen the damage occurring. We pray for those who did this as well”

Please continue to remember in prayer members and friends of the congregation, Pastor AnnE, and the workers who labour to clean and repair the damaged portion of the church and other areas affected by smoke and water. The congregation has been welcomed with open arms by St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church who immediately offered worship space. It is anticipated that the Lakeland building will not be usable for some time.

If you are interested in helping Lakeland financially, funds will be welcomed for incidental items not covered by insurance. Immediate needs include worship resources such as pew editions of *EvLW* (app. \$35 per copy) and *All Creation Sings* (app. \$21 per copy), Accompaniment Editions of both worship resources, as well as other music and supplies for worship. Initial funds received will be used to cover the cost of such items which will be furnished with a bookplate stating the names of individuals or congregations responsible for funding their purchase. Additional funds will be used as the congregation deems necessary.

Funds may be remitted through your congregation or directly to the Synod office (10014 – 81 Ave NW Edmonton AB T6E 1W8); please clearly mark them for Lakeland Lutheran. Cheques sent directly to office must be endorsed to “Alberta Synod, ELCIC”. Gifts may also be designated for this project through Canada Helps on our Synod website; be aware that a processing fee is taken from the funds donated in this way.

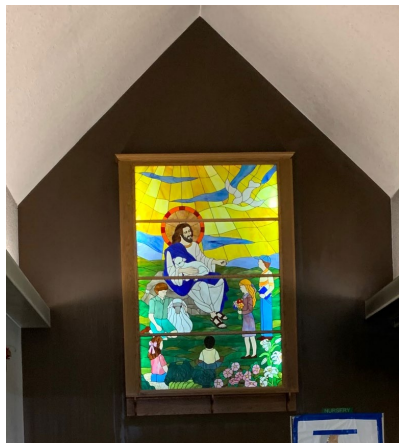


Photo by Bishop Larry

Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

“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,

+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories