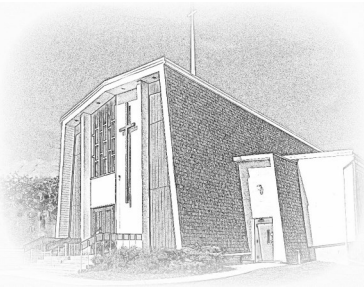


# HIGHWOOD HIGHLIGHTS

June/July 2023

The Newsletter of Highwood Lutheran Church



**Rev. Michael Wellman**

**Pastor**

**Rick Vander Woude,**

**Music Director**

**Liz Northam**

**Office Secretary**

**Highwood Lutheran Church**

419 Northmount Drive NW  
Calgary, AB T2K 3H7

**Office Phone:**  
403-289-8206

**Pastor's Phone:**  
403-282-1772

**Office Email:**  
secretaryhlc@outlook.com

**Pastor Email:**  
pastorhlc@outlook.com

**Organist Email:**  
highwoodorganist@gmail.com

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### One Needs to Know God Before One Can Know Yourself

One of the most profound and challenging questions that humans face is: who am I? What is my identity, my purpose, my destiny? Many people spend their whole lives searching for answers to these questions, often looking for them in the wrong places. They may try to define themselves by their achievements, their possessions, their relationships, their hobbies, or their opinions. None of these things can truly satisfy the deepest longing of the human heart: to know and be known by God.

Asking about the nature of one's personal identity is a question that dates back to the Greek philosophers. The most recent trend for asking such a question is traced to the existentialist movement in modern philosophy, which emerged in the 19th and 20th centuries. Existentialists such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, and Camus, explored the meaning and purpose of human existence in a world that seemed absurd and indifferent. They explored questions about the individual's role in creating their own identity and values and facing the responsibility and freedom of their choices. For Lutherans, such questions are pointless without first realising that we are bound to sin. Luther wrote the treatise *Bondage of the Will* in 1525 to argue against the idea of human free will in matters of salvation, and to expand the understanding that human beings are totally corrupted by sin and cannot choose between good and evil by their own power. He said only God can save people by changing their hearts and giving them faith in Christ. He based his arguments on the authority of Scripture and the sovereignty of God.

The way to know God is through Jesus Christ. And the only way to know ourselves is through knowing God. As Augustine famously prayed: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." We cannot know who we are apart from knowing who God is. We cannot know our role in His story apart from knowing His story, and we cannot know our value apart from knowing His love.

The Bible teaches that we are created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27), which means that we have a unique capacity to reflect His character, wisdom, love, and glory. But because of sin, we have fallen short of this original design and have become alienated from our Creator and from ourselves. We have lost sight of who we are and whose we are. We have become strangers to ourselves and God.

As Christians, we hold that God has not given up on us. Through Christ, he has made a way for us to be reconciled with Him and to rediscover our true identity in Him. He has done this through His Son, Jesus Christ, who came into the world to reveal God's nature and will to us, and to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus said: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). He also said: "If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him" (John 14:7).

Jesus is the perfect image of God (Colossians 1:15), and He invites us to follow Him and learn from Him. He promises to give us His Spirit, who will guide us into all truth and remind us of everything He has said (John 16:13-15). He also promises to give us a new heart and a new spirit, that will enable us to love God and obey His commands (Ezekiel 36:26-27). He says: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

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Join a local church and participate actively. The church is God's family on earth, and it is where we can experience His love, His grace, His truth, and His power. It is also where we can serve Him with our gifts, support each other with our resources, learn from each other with our experiences, and reach out to others with our message.

Seek godly mentors and friends who can help you grow in your faith in God.

Knowing God and knowing ourselves is a lifelong journey of discovery and transformation. Looking at the recommendations for an opportunity to enhance that quest, we can see that it is not a task to be made alone. As Luther describes, in his commentary on the third article of the Apostles' Creed, in the great German catechism, such faith is a gift and is not something that we can achieve by ourselves or by following a formula. Faith is something that we receive by grace. As we mature, faith continues as something that we grow into, lifted by prayer and by practice as we share with others by love and by our witness.

Pastor Mike

"The heart overflows with gladness, and leaps and dances for the joy it has found in God. In this experience the Holy Spirit is active, and has taught us in the flash of a moment the deep secret of joy. You will have as much joy and laughter in life as you have faith in God."

— Martin Luther

## **THE SEVEN MARKS OF THE CHURCH ACCORDING TO MARTIN LUTHER**



Martin Luther, the German theologian and reformer who challenged the authority and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, in 1539, wrote a treatise called *On the Councils and the Church*. In this he outlined his doctrine of the church and its characteristics. For Luther, the church is not a visible institution or hierarchy, but a spiritual community of holy believers and sheep who hear the voice of their Shepherd, Jesus Christ. He identified seven marks or signs by which one can recognize the true church:

1. **The Word:** The church possesses and proclaims the holy word of God, which is the source and norm of faith and life.
2. **Baptism:** The church administers and receives the holy sacrament of baptism, which is a means of grace and a sign of regeneration and incorporation into Christ's body.
3. **The Lord's Supper:** The church celebrates and partakes of the holy sacrament of the altar, which is a means of grace and a sign of Christ's presence and forgiveness.
4. **Discipline:** The church exercises and submits to the office of the keys, which is the power to bind and loose sins, according to Christ's command and promise.
5. **Biblical Offices:** The church consecrates or calls ministers, such as bishops, pastors, and preachers, who are entrusted with preaching, teaching, and administering the sacraments.
6. **Worship:** The church prays, praises, and gives thanks to God, in public and private, using liturgical forms that are faithful to Scripture and tradition.
7. **Suffering:** The church bears and shares in the holy possession of the cross, which is the mark of discipleship and participation in Christ's suffering.

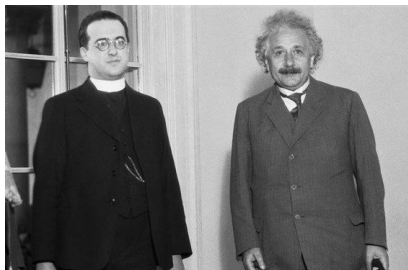
These seven marks are not exhaustive or exclusive, but they are essential and distinctive for Luther's understanding of the church. They help us to discern where God's people are gathered around his word and sacraments, and where his grace is at work in their lives.

### **MARTIN LUTHER: HERETIC**

A BBC movie starring Jonathan Pryce may be watched on YouTube at this site: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=cuT-SDDdRVU>

## SCIENTISTS WHO WERE CHRISTIAN

With the commemoration of George Lemaître this month, We thought you might like to know who he was and highlight of some additional Christians who were scientists.



Lamaitre and Einstein

**George Lemaître** was a Belgian physicist and mathematician best known for proposing the Big Bang theory of the universe's origin. He was also an ordained Catholic priest who sought to reconcile science and religion.

Lemaître was born in 1894 in Charleroi, Belgium. He studied physics and mathematics at the Catholic University of Louvain and served as an artillery officer in World War I. After the war, he pursued his doctorate in physics at Cambridge University under Arthur Eddington, who introduced him to Albert Einstein's theory of relativity.

In 1927, Lemaître published a paper in which he applied Einstein's equations to cosmology and derived a solution that implied an expanding universe. He also suggested that the expansion could be traced back to a singular point of high density and temperature, which he called the "primaeval atom" or the "cosmic egg". He later coined the term "Big Bang" to describe this event.

Many scientists initially met Lemaître's ideas with scepticism, including Einstein, who famously said, "Your math is correct, but your physics is abominable". However, his theory gained support in the 1930s with the discovery of cosmic microwave background radiation and the redshift of distant galaxies.

Lemaître was also interested in theology and philosophy and wrote several books on the relationship between science and faith. He believed that science and religion were complementary ways of understanding reality and that God was the creator of nature and reason. He died in 1966 in Leuven, Belgium.

**Werner Karl Heisenberg** was a German physicist and Nobel laureate who significantly contributed to quantum mechanics, nuclear physics, and particle physics. Heisenberg was born in Würzburg, Germany, on December 5, 1901. He was raised in a

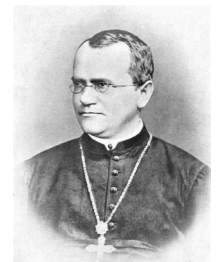


Lutheran family and attended a Lutheran school. He showed an early interest in mathematics and physics and studied under some of the most eminent scientists of his time, such as Max Born, Niels Bohr, and Arnold Sommerfeld.

He is best known for his uncertainty principle, which states that it is impossible to measure both the position and momentum of a particle with absolute precision. Heisenberg was also involved in the German nuclear weapon project during World War II. Thomas Powers, author of the 1993 book "Heisenberg's War: The Secret History of the German Bomb," writes that Heisenberg sabotaged the project. After the war, Heisenberg said he had done his best to sabotage Germany's nuclear program by hiding information from Nazi leaders about how to build an atomic bomb.

Heisenberg's work has influenced science, philosophy, literature, and popular culture. One of his most famous admirers was Gene Roddenberry, the creator of Star Trek. Roddenberry named one of the main devices in his science fiction universe after Heisenberg: the Heisenberg compensator. This device allows the transporter to beam people and objects across space without violating the uncertainty principle. Roddenberry never explained how the Heisenberg compensator works, saying it was "a mystery for future generations".

**Gregor Mendel** was a 19th-century Austrian monk and scientist widely regarded as the founder of modern genetics. He conducted experiments on pea plants in his monastery garden and discovered the basic principles of heredity, such as dominant and recessive traits, segregation and independent assortment. His work was largely ignored by his contemporaries but was rediscovered and appreciated by later generations of biologists. Mendel's scientific contributions have earned him the title of "the father of genetics".



**Blaise Pascal** was a brilliant French mathematician, physicist, inventor, philosopher and writer who lived in the 17th century. He made remarkable contributions to various fields of science and mathematics, such as probability theory, projective geometry, fluid mechanics and pressure. He also invented one of the first mechanical calculators, called the Pascaline.



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## SCIENTISTS WHO WERE CHRISTIAN

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Pascal was also a devout Catholic who had a profound religious experience in 1654 that changed his life. He became interested in defending Christianity against its critics and exploring the role of faith and reason in human life. He wrote influential works on theology and apologetics, such as the Provincial Letters and the Pensées.

Pascal's wager is one of the most famous arguments that Pascal developed in his Pensées. It is a pragmatic argument for believing in God based on the idea that it is better to risk losing nothing than to risk losing everything. Pascal argued that if God exists and one believes in him, one will gain eternal happiness, but if God does not exist and one believes in him, one will lose nothing. On the other hand, if God exists and one does not believe in him, one will suffer eternal punishment; but if God does not exist and one does not believe in him, one will gain nothing. Therefore, Pascal concluded that it is rational to believe in God even if there is no conclusive evidence for his existence.

**Carl Friedrich Gauss** was a German mathematician and physicist who made significant contributions to many fields of science. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest mathematicians of all time. He was also a devout Lutheran who saw his scientific work as a way of glorifying God.



Gauss was born on April 30, 1777, in Brunswick, Germany. He showed remarkable talent for mathematics from an early age. He taught himself arithmetic and algebra and reportedly corrected his father's calculations when he was only three. He also discovered the method of least squares and the law of quadratic reciprocity before he was 18. Gauss studied at the University of Göttingen, where he received his doctorate in 1799. His dissertation proved the fundamental theorem of algebra, which states that every polynomial equation has a complex root.

Gauss worked on various topics in mathematics, such as geometry, analysis, differential equations, probability, statistics and algebra. He also made important discoveries in astronomy, physics, geodesy and magnetism. He invented the heliotrope, an instrument for measuring angles by reflecting sunlight, and the electromagnet. He also developed the Gaussian distribution, the Gaussian elimination method and the Gauss-Bonnet theorem.

As a man of profound intellect and deep faith, he once said: "God does arithmetic." He also wrote: "It is not knowledge, but the act of learning, not possession but the act of getting there, which grants the greatest enjoyment."

**Gottfried Leibniz** (1646–1716):

He was a philosopher who developed the philosophical theory of the Pre-established harmony; he is also most noted for his optimism, e.g., his conclusion that our Universe is, in a restricted sense, the best possible one that God could have created. He also made major contributions to mathematics, physics, and technology. He created the Stepped Reckoner and his Protogaea concerns geology and natural history. He was a Lutheran who worked with convert to Catholicism John Frederick, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg in hopes of a reunification between Catholicism and Lutheranism.



Famously, Leibniz clashed with Isaac Newton over the invention of calculus. Historians now believe that the two men discovered calculus independently, though it's Leibniz's elegant and compact notation system, not Newton's clunkier version, that we use today.

(Source: Wikipedia , Photo : Britannica)

**John Bachman** (1790–1874): wrote numerous scientific articles and named several species of animals. He also was a founder of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and wrote works on Lutheranism. He was an American Lutheran minister, who served the same Charleston, South Carolina church as pastor for 56 years.



Bachman was also a social activist and naturalist who collaborated with John James Audubon to produce *Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America* and whose writings, particularly *Unity of the Human Race*, were influential in the development of the theory of evolution. He was married to the painter Maria Martin. Several species of animals are named in his honor.

Bachman was a social reformer who ministered to African-American slaves as well as white Southerners, and who used his knowledge of natural history to become one of the first writers to argue scientifically that blacks and whites are the same species.

(Source: Wikipedia , Photo : Britannica)

## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Highwood Lutheran Church Transportation Committee is a newly formed committee that is responsible for connecting our volunteers, who are giving their time and service, with members in need of a ride to and from church on Sunday and other special occasions at the church. We are a welcoming church and making members feel welcomed and connected is one of the driving forces in forming this committee.

Members needing a ride to church on Sunday are encouraged to call or text the Coordinators Bill Strand at **403-239-9894** or Elizabeth Anderson at **587-897-0548** a day or two prior, so they can contact our dedicated volunteers and give them ample time to plan before the day.

We do understand that sometimes situations arise beyond our control, but don't worry the coordinators will contact members and make life easy for all members. Thanks so much to all the volunteers for giving their time and service to enhance the smooth running of our church. May God bless us all.

## UKRAINE REFUGEE FAMILY

We want to extend a huge thank you to all who contributed to the refuge family from Ukraine that we are helping. They are doing very well. They have everything they need and, in some cases, more than they need. They have jobs: Konstantin in a warehouse and Kristina in a pizzeria as well as their 18-year-old son Max. The other two children and grandmother are also doing well.

Vern and Linda Schnell

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times."

— Martin Luther



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Sandra Beaupre  
Medinatu Conteh  
Mariette Erasmus  
June Fischer  
Shelly Ford  
Tiegan Ford  
Jarrod Hanson  
Jerry Laboret  
Ken McTavish  
Kelli Moen  
Vivian Morrison  
Bruce Nagel  
Matthew Whitehead  
Yosef Yohannes

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

Walterbeth Anderson  
Nelsy Ferreros-Salcedo  
Laura Mutschlechner  
Ruby Panser  
Jerry Rasmuson  
Monica Rasmuson  
Linda Schnell



## KNITTING CIRCLE

During the summer downtime, all yarn enthusiasts are encouraged to continue making items for the winter season for our less fortunate. Socks, mitts, tuques, and scarves are always needed by those less fortunate in our community.

## TREASURER'S REPORT



### 4 months ended April 30, 2023

April current offerings were \$14,009, Easter offerings were \$525 and church rental receipts were \$2,570. Synod benevolence receipts were \$305 and non-budget benevolence receipts consisted of \$395 for the Calgary Foodbank and \$220 for CLWR and \$375 for Lutheran Hospital Ministry. Total April 2023 offerings and church rentals of \$17,104 were \$1,315 more than last year.

April expenses of \$15,960 were \$1,488 over budget because of higher utility costs, office expenses and custodian supplies.

Highwood had a surplus of \$1,144 for April 2023 compared to a shortfall of \$222 last year. Year to date, Highwood has a shortfall of \$3,859 compared to a shortfall of \$8,556 last year. Church receipts for 2023 are \$6,463 higher than last year (\$2,938 higher on Offerings (up 6.3%) and \$3,525 higher on church rentals) but church expenses are \$1,766 higher than last year (up 2.9%).

Capital fund – \$69 was donated to the Highwood Lutheran Women and \$130 to the Building Fund. The balance in the capital account at the end of April was \$46,186.

Memorial fund – No changes. The balance at the end of April was \$10,375.

## Bishop's Message for June

The message can be found online by clicking [here](#)



Highlights from the  
May Council meeting:

- Finances are stable thanks to an increase in regular church offerings by Highwood members. Over the summer, Council will be seeking more income (rent) from church user groups who do not contribute regularly.
- Trustees have installed a TV monitor in the basement hall area that is connected to audio video system. It can be used for Zoom council meetings, Movies (Hot Shots), Worship Service streaming, etc.
- Trustees will be converting the lawn cross planter to grass in June.
- Trustees will be building storage cabinets for user groups in June.
- Elders will plan and lead a Sunday School closing lunch (BBQ) event on Pentecost.
- Elders have set up a Sunday morning "taxi" service for shut-ins or anyone needing a ride to church on Sundays; led by Bill Strand and Elizabeth Anderson.

Council is taking a break for summer months - June, July, August. Regular (monthly) Council meetings will resume in September.

## THERE IS SOMETHING BEYOND

For many centuries the men and women in Europe looked out upon the

western sea, what we call the Atlantic Ocean, and they saw the sun coruscating upon the glittering surface of the waters and they wondered.

They wondered if there was anything beyond. Scholars said that you could sail off the edge of the world—there was nothing out there at all. In fact, inscribed on the escutcheons of the coat of arms of the nation of Spain was its national motto, *Ne Plus Ultra*, meaning, "There is nothing beyond."

One day Columbus went westering on the shiny waters. He sailed off into the sunset as people waited expectantly, and finally after a long time the sails reappeared and the crowds were exultant. They shouted with joy, and Columbus announced that there was a land beyond the sea that was rich beyond their dreams. It was a glorious paradise. The king of Spain changed the motto of that land until it reads as it does today, *Plus Ultra*, meaning, "There is more beyond."

For many centuries innumerable people stood beside the dark hole that we call a grave and watched the remains of their loved ones lowered into the earth, and they wondered: Beyond the dark waters of death, is there anything beyond?

Then one day, a young explorer went westering into the setting sun and descended into the blackness of the pit. He sailed off the edge of the world and crashed into hell. People waited expectantly. Finally on this Resurrection morning, as the sun arose in the east, the Son of God stepped forth from a grave and declared, "There is something beyond. There is a paradise beyond your greatest expectations. And there awaits a heavenly Father, waiting with outstretched arms to wipe away every tear from your cheek."

*D. James Kennedy*



June 18, 2023

Father's Day falls on the third Sunday of June, rather than a specific date. That's how Father's Day has been observed since President Lyndon B. Johnson's proclamation to designate the holiday on this date in 1966, later made into a national holiday by President Richard Nixon in 1972.

## FATHERS

"Blessed indeed is the man who hears many gentle voices call him father." *Lydia Maria Child*

"I've jumped out of helicopters and done some daring stunts and played baseball in a professional stadium, but none of it means anything compared to being somebody's daddy." *Chris Pratt*

"My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, 'You're tearing up the grass.' 'We're not raising grass,' Dad would reply. 'We're raising boys.'" *Harmon Killebrew*

"It's only when you grow up and step back from him — or leave him for your own home — it's only then that you can measure his greatness and fully appreciate it." *Margaret Truman*

"Sometimes the poorest man leaves his children the richest inheritance." *Ruth E. Renkel*

"To the world, you are a dad. But to our family, you are the world." *Unknown*

"To be the father of a nation is a great honor, but to be the father of a family is a greater joy." *Nelson Mandela*

A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way. *Unknown*

The power of a dad in a child's life is unmatched. *Justin Ricklefs*

Any man can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad. *Anne Geddes*

*From Good Housekeeping*