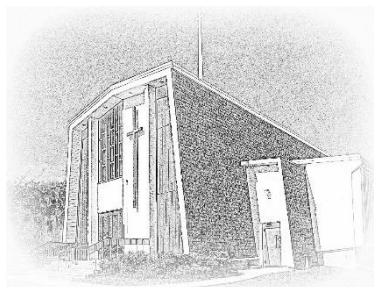


# HIGHWOOD HIGHLIGHTS

September 2024

The Newsletter of Highwood Lutheran Church



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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

### Music, the Soul, and the Lutheran Tradition; or Why We Sing

Ephesians 5:19 urges believers, "And speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord," a mandate echoed in Colossians 3:16, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." These verses, coupled with the theological insights of St. Augustine, provide a rich foundation for understanding the Lutheran emphasis on congregational singing.

In his narrations on Psalms, Augustine delves into the nature of music and its role in worship. He posits that music is an aesthetic experience and a spiritual discipline. For Augustine, singing elevates the soul, focuses the mind on divine things, and fosters a sense of communal unity. Augustine's understanding of music as a tool for spiritual formation aligns seamlessly with the Pauline injunctions.

The Lutheran Church, deeply rooted in the Scriptures and drawn in the patristic traditions of Augustinianism, has embraced congregational singing as a cornerstone of its worship life. This emphasis stems from several theological convictions. First, Lutherans believe that the Word of God is central to Christian life. As a vehicle for conveying biblical truths, music is a potent means of immersing oneself in Scripture. By singing the Word, believers engage their intellect, hearts, and souls, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's revelation. Music, therefore, plays a significant role in the worship life of the Lutheran Church, impacting the spiritual journey of its members.

As we express worship as the priesthood of all believers, congregational singing is a tangible expression of this doctrine, as all members of Christ participate actively in worship. It is not merely a performance by a select few but a communal offering to God. This egalitarian approach to worship stands in contrast to liturgical traditions that have often relegated music to a specialised ministry. Congregational singing fosters a profound sense of unity and communal participation among believers, making each individual feel connected and part of a larger community.

Lutheran emphasis on grace underscores the importance of joyful worship. With its capacity to evoke emotion and inspire praise, music is a powerful means of expressing gratitude for God's unmerited favour. The hymns of the Lutheran tradition are replete with themes of forgiveness, redemption, and the love of God, inviting worshippers to rejoice in their salvation and feel inspired by the grace they have received. These hymns lift their spirits and encourage them in their faith journey.

Music is intentionally chosen each Sunday as Lutherans focus on the sacraments as a means of grace. Indeed, we see hymns express, teach, and inform the church's more profound appreciation of the sacred. Singing operates to mark Kairos (an ancient Greek word meaning 'the right or critical moment') or Godly stages in preparation for worship stages and reception of the Eucharist by tuning the heart and mind through the stages of the worship service.

*Continued Page 2*

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At the conclusion of the service, the hymn is a post-communion meditation for the sending from worshipers, helping believers to dwell on the blessings received at the altar.

The Lutheran heritage offers a robust tradition of congregational singing with biblical and theological roots in Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16, and St. Augustine's writings. By engaging in corporate hymns, Lutherans seek to honour God, deepen their faith, and build a Christian community. While our musical practice is indeed a cultural artefact, it is also a living expression of the church's identity and mission, offering each member a sense of belonging and purpose in the church's larger mission.

Pastor Mike

## ON THE WEB BEYOND OUR WEBSITE

Here are some links that may be of interest to you:

The **Bishop's Message** for September may be found [here](#).

An article by Michael DeLashmutt *Viewing the Real Presence*.

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/596fdb751e5b6ce8d19328ff/t/59f12415d55b416b6943892f/1508975639524/2009-1\\_DeLashmutt\\_Viewing+the+Real+Presence.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/596fdb751e5b6ce8d19328ff/t/59f12415d55b416b6943892f/1508975639524/2009-1_DeLashmutt_Viewing+the+Real+Presence.pdf)

Luther's writing on infant baptism

<https://www.projectwittenberg.org/pub/resources/text/wittenberg/luther/catechism/web/cat-13a.html>

An article on the Apostles Creed

<https://www.lutheranlibrary.org/b06-the-apostles-creed-god-the-creator-of-all-things/>



### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Walter Anderson Sr.  
Joan Davis  
Mason Giacomini  
Emil Sribney  
Andres Torres-Ceron  
Owen Woycenko



### HIGHWOOD CHOIR

Choir practices resume on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. If you are interested, talk to one of the choir members or to our Music Director, Rick Vander Woude

### Hotshots Lunch and Movie

Join us on Tuesday Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM for our Movie: "Walk The Line" and a surprise Lunch. All are welcome and bring a guest or two.. Sign-up downstairs.



### 7 Months Ended July 31, 2024

#### Financial Summary

July current offerings were \$11,053 and church rental receipts were \$2,700. Synod benevolence receipts were \$25 and non-budget benevolence receipts consisted of \$125 for CLWR and \$50 for Calgary Foodbank. Total July 2024 offerings and church rentals of \$13,753 were \$2,755 lower than last year.

July expenses of \$15,072 were \$1,367 more than last year because of higher repairs /maintenance (washroom fan and roof repair), utilities and janitor supplies.

Highwood had a shortfall of \$1,319 for July 2024 compared to a surplus of \$2,803 last year. Year to date, Highwood has a shortfall of \$10,122 compared to a shortfall of \$3,211 last year. Church receipts for 2024 are \$932 higher than last year (\$2,354 lower on Offerings but \$3,287 higher on church rentals) and church expenses are \$7,843 higher than last year (up 7.6%) relating mainly to higher repairs & maintenance (up \$2,126 or 111%), Synod convention fees and Synod study conference (up \$1,695) and compensation costs (up \$3,655 or 4.9%).

Capital Fund – \$85 was donated to the Building Fund. The balance in the accumulated operating surplus account at the end of July was \$25,888.

Memorial Fund – No changes. The balance at the end of July was \$12,000.



# STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

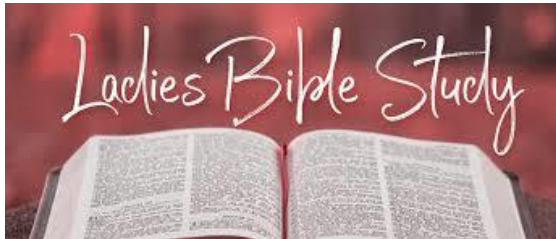
Our stewardship temple talks are scheduled for October 6, 13 and 27. It is time for us to think about how we can contribute to the success of our congregation with our time, talents, and treasure where we are able.

Do you remember last year when we were asked to let our lights shine brighter? Yes, you did! Thank you for your participation! Your actions have helped our congregation to maintain a stable position.

### **The Simple Path** *by Mother Theresa*

The fruit of silence is prayer  
The fruit of prayer is faith  
The fruit of faith is love  
The fruit of love is service  
The fruit of service is peace

The Simple Path reminds me about stewardship and the rewards we receive by participating. *Bill Strand*



Dear Ladies of Highwood,

Please mark your calendar for the first Bible Study starting on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. We meet downstairs, so use the back door as it will be unlocked. We are starting a new study (Growing Older and Wiser) and we invite all ladies to come, young and young at heart. Barb Patychuk will be leading our new study. Our gathering, study, business meeting and social time usually lasts a couple of hours. If you need a ride, please call Pat, Clarice or Helga. Also, bring a friend if you would like. Please come and join us, and if you have questions give us a call or talk with us at church.

Pat 403-282-6516  
Clarice 403-295-7424  
Helga 403-228-2023



# TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

### *The firstfruits of hope* (Rom 8:19-25)

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together for the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home. The "Celebration" **begins September 1**, the Feast of Creation, **and ends October 4**, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. The theme for Season of Creation this year is **to hope and act with Creation**, and the symbol is "the first fruits of hope," inspired by Romans 8:19-25.

### HIGHWOOD'S OUTDOOR SIGN

The council asked Jerry Rasmuson to investigate the removal of our current sign and replace it with an electronic sign. He enlisted the help of Art and Vern to ascertain the cost of such a project. Thanks to both for their assistance.

It appears that the impetus for the sign replacement is not that our present sign needs major repairs or replacement but rather it relates to the labour required to update the messages monthly.

They secured several estimates for a new electronic sign. We have one firm quote for \$ 40,600.00 full color or \$32,350.00 for one color that is reflective of all the estimates.

They did a study of several churches in our area, Northmount Baptist is the only one with an electronic sign (this was the installed through a single donation from one member). All the rest have street signs like ours or no street signs.

We believe that what is needed is a small number of volunteers to take turns to change the message monthly on our present sign.

It was suggested that an electronic sign with the ability to change messaging on a daily or weekly basis would draw new members to Highwood. This is not a proven method of congregational growth and given the huge investment it would appear to be beyond our financial ability at this time.

To reduce our electricity bill, we could change the present fluorescent lighting to LED tube lighting, Sam Sandau says this is a feasible alternative with a cost under \$1,000.00.

We present this report to the council for consideration with a strong recommendation that an electronic sign is not an option currently. **Jerry Rasmuson**

## HIGHWOOD'S PIPE ORGAN

You all have seen the bulletin announcements stating that a committee was put together to start a fund to repair our aging pipe organ. You may also remember that in the winter, one of the notes on the organ could not be fixed but now is fixed. You rightfully might be wondering what is going on, so this article is meant to give you an update and hopefully clarify what is happening concerning our pipe organ.

First, I must give you a bit of context.

There are many pipe organs in Europe that are hundreds of years older than our instrument here at Highwood. These are being played and are doing well. Like our pipe organ, they are mechanical, made up of wood, for the connection from the notes to the pipes, metal (the pipes (though some are wooden) and connections, and leather (they seal up the parts that contain the air inside the pipe organ). Approximately every 100 years, all pipe organs undergo a major overhaul to clean out the dirt and dust, replace all the leathers because they have dried out and no longer contain the air, and replace worn out wooden or metal parts. The process requires the organ be taken apart and once the work is done, the organ is reinstalled and good to go again for approximately 100 years.

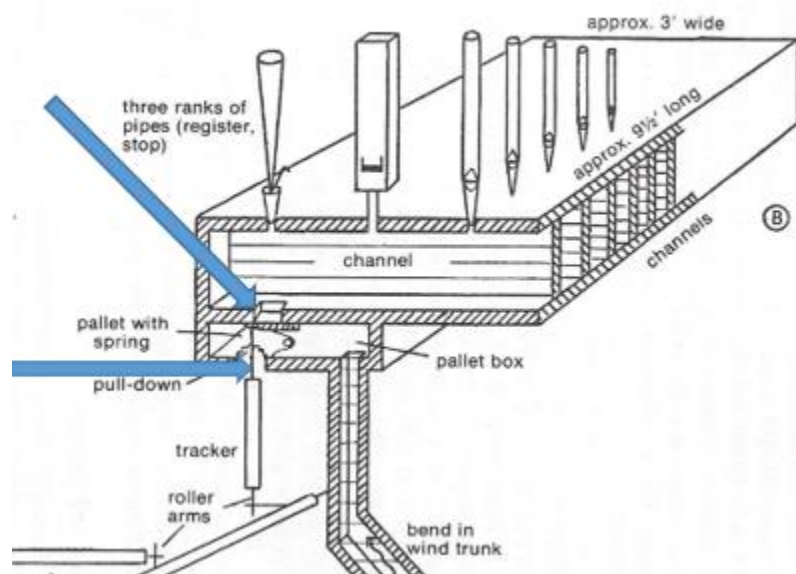
The Highwood Odell pipe organ is 154 years old this year. When the church bought the instrument from the Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Ossining, NY in 1967, the organ was in dire need of an overhaul as it was just shy of 100 years old (which is probably why we were able to purchase it for \$500). Some of that work was done when the organ was installed in 1968. More was done in 1980, as part of the 25th Anniversary of Highwood, by Alex Bernhardt and D. Leslie Smith. Over the last decade, we also have fixed the oboe rank of pipes and acquired a proper historic trumpet rank. However, I believe not everything was revitalized, namely, the inside of the chests on which all the pipes sit (the hardest part of any overhaul). This is where the air is held for the pipes and where the action is located to open the pallets, allowing air to the specific pipes. And, this is where the problem is: the wire connections (pulldowns) and the leather on the pallets are wearing out after 154 years of use.

In January, one of these wires broke and the only way to fix it was to get inside of the chest. Jason Barnsley, an organ technician in Calgary, identified the problem but could not fix it because access to the inside of the chest was not possible. So, in March, Jack Davis, David Richardson and I built a new platform in that part of the organ and improved the lighting and accessibility so that the repair could be done (thanks Jared Hanson for coordinating the materials). Steve Miller, a former congregant of Highwood, was able to do a temporary fix of the pulldowns and now we can easily do these temporary fixes. This alleviates the urgency for an immediate repair.

We are now getting quotes to overhaul the great chest. Once we have a quote, the committee appointed by Council will start a campaign to raise funds for this repair. In the meantime, regular small fixes and tunings continue so that the pipe organ continues to serve the congregation at Highwood well.



Great chest with pipes



The 2 arrows are pointing to the problem wires (pulldowns) and the surface (pallet) where the leather needs to be replaced. There is one of these pulldowns and pallets for every note on the keyboard (58 in total). So far, only 1 has broken.

*Drawing from "The Organ Handbook" by Hans Klotz, fig. 6.*

**Rick Vander Woude.**

**Editor's Note:** We already have an organ fund as part of the Capital Fund. If you wish to donate to the fund for the repair of our organ just mark your donation as "Organ Fund."