

# Good Shepherd Church

## Mission Statement

**Good Shepherd Community Church:  
Where God loves, Christ leads and people serve.**



## 2019

Sunday Worship  
10:00a.m.  
Sunday School during  
Worship

Fellowship Coffee  
Following Worship

**-Joint Board Meeting  
Jan. 8 at 7pm**

**-Shepherds meeting  
Jan. 16 at 1:00**

**-Seniors Social  
Jan. 18 1:00pm**

**-Jan. 27 Annual  
church meeting**

**Pastor:**

**The Rev. Rick Beck  
6311 Norfolk Dr.  
Calgary, AB  
T2K 5J8**

Phone: (403) 274-4888

Fax: (403) 451-1556

Pastor Phone:  
(403) 274-2494

Prayer Tree Request  
Line 274-2494

email: [moravian@telus.net](mailto:moravian@telus.net)

Web address

**Www.**

**goodshepherdmoravian.org**

Joint Board Chair:

Anita Jones

Building: John Dyck

Congregational Care:

Shirley Klockow

Treasurer:

Steve Clarke

## Steadfast and Faithful

Calendars have a strange impact on us. On December 31 we reflect on the past year with gratitude for the blessings we've enjoyed or hope that a better year is before us. Then we turn the page and our focus is only on the future. But as we all know, we don't live in the past or the future. All we have is the present. The gift in looking at the past and future is that it informs how we live in the present moment. This threefold experience of life is the rhythm of breathing. So, while we anticipate the coming year, let's reflect on one portion of our past.

The first Sunday of each year we invite everyone to select a passage of scripture to guide us through the year. We also selected a passage to guide the congregation as a whole; Psalm 89:1 "I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth. I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations." How did we do?

This is a challenging commitment for many of us. Speaking about our faith in public can be uncomfortable. Even our outgoing members express a reluctance to talk about their faith. Maybe we're shy, or we've had a negative experience of evangelists. Maybe our faith is growing, and we don't yet have words to articulate what our heart knows to be true. Part of the challenge is that we live in a culture that wants proof, but the proof of God is not imposed. It's realized.

"I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth." It's important to note that this phrase doesn't command us to tell people what to believe about God. It inspires us to sing of how Divine love has touched or transformed our lives. Who doesn't like to talk about the good things that happen in life. God language simply acknowledges that life is defined by a generous love beyond our comprehension. People that "proclaim (God's) faithfulness to all generations" usually have had a God-experience that is too great to keep to themselves. The desire to share God's influence in their life overshadows the fear of speaking to people who might be critical of God-talk.

The result of expressing what God has done in your life is that talking about God stimulates growth in God. We relive the blessings of God when we speak of these blessings. If speaking about God's presence in your life is uncomfortable, then the best way to begin is by talking to a trusted friend, someone who will listen to and savor your life/God experience.

This is what spiritual direction groups offer. This is a monthly opportunity to gather with others who long to celebrate their faith without anyone analyzing, judging or attempting to fix your life. In spiritual direction groups we respect the life of others and trust that God is at work for the benefit of all. If you are interested in knowing more about a group such as this, please speak with me.

Sunday, January 6 we will be choosing new watchwords. Maybe this is the beginning of a new chapter in your faith journey. Join us for worship. Let God speak to your heart as we sing together of God's steadfast love and proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

**Happy New Year  
Pastor Rick Beck**

