



KURIAKOS

SYLVAN LAKE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP ASSOCIATION Report to Congregational Annual Meetings - January 2025

Kuriakos seeks to be accountable to the people, congregations and church bodies the Association serves. This report is for publication in your annual report or newsletters.

Join our Association! Visit www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/congregations
Membership is open to all Lutheran, Anglican, and Moravian congregations in Alberta.
Members are all congregations that have donated in the past year.
Current member list at [kuriakos.ab.ca/about/association](http://www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/association)

AGM: The 2024 financial review will be presented at the **Annual General Meeting at 2:30 pm, March 29, 2025 at Kuriakos.** Virtual attendance is available.

Thanks for your support of Kuriakos. We're privileged to work with your congregation.
Together, we are growing the next generation of leaders in our world and Church. At Kuriakos, we provide an opportunity for members of the Church to live together in a way that isn't always found in the outside world. Outdoor Ministry provides programs and facilities that bring people together in community, for connection, renewal, and re-creation. We look forward to using this special place, this holy ground, to support your leaders and members.

Get involved! visit kuriakos.ab.ca

- **Let neighbours and friends know** about the great community at Kuriakos
- Invite Kuriakos to lead a **Camp Sunday service at your church**
- **Volunteer for a Service Project or Committee** (we're looking for someone to replace the furnace chimney piping in the office trailer!)
- **Donate items for auction at Kuriakos Gathers Together**, and join us on April 26
- **Suggest to young folks in your community** to join our staff or volunteer teams



Above & Beyond Capital Campaign

In early 2023, we launched our Campaign to secure 11 acres of land to connect all of our property and allow space for the future of our programs and community. **Our pledge total currently is at \$1.1M, with over \$700k in hand. Three congregations (Church of the Master, Hope, and All Saints) have run campaigns in their community. Thank you!**

Your congregation is invited to be a part of this opportunity to build the Church together.
Our hope is that your congregation would set a time to conduct this campaign, sharing information and inspiration about Kuriakos and inviting people to make a gift. We are not asking for support in your budget for this campaign. Kuriakos has a team of people ready to Zoom into a Council meeting to share about this exciting campaign.

2024 in REVIEW

- **Each day started with First Word with all our campers** (in the past just for staff). This was a great chance to introduce the daily theme and begin our day together.
- **We again had a diverse team of fantastic staff.** They were well-trained and confident leaders who had a strong focus on the camper experience.
- **Campers participated** in planning and leading worship experiences.
- **View our Courier for more updates and messages from staff**
www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/contact-us, scroll to Kuriakos Courier

2024 Membership

Partners - 18 (We'll likely be at 25+ once everyone renews!)

Many congregations provide financial support as part of their annual budgets or through special gifts. Program revenue covers roughly 1/3 of the cost of hosting campers. This is a wonderful opportunity to bless kids and families in need, giving them the best week of their year. Consider promoting a Kuriakos retreat as a congregational event, or sponsoring camperships for your local community.

Program Participation

- Summer Camps – 15 programs with 364 campers
- Weekend Retreats – 15 programs with 323 campers
- Kuriakos Outdoor School – 14 events with 339 students
- Partner Programs – 8 events with 313 participants
- Guest Groups – 65 events, raising nearly \$270,000
- Community Campground – 41 bookings raising \$5400

2025 Program Dates

Winter

Homeschool Days	Last Monday
Campus Student Retreat	Jan 24-26
Confirmation Retreat	Jan 31-Feb 2
Men's Retreat	Jan 31-Feb 2
Family Day Getaway	Feb 14-17

Spring

Annual General Meeting	Mar 29
RENEW Women's Retreat	Apr 4-6
Kuriakos Gathers Together	April 26
Spring Work Week	May 12-16
Congregational Staff Retreat	May 13
Family May Days	May 16-18
Youth Retreat	May 30-Jun 1
Kuriakos Open House	June 22

Summer

Day Camps and Service weeks can be booked throughout the summer! Contact our office.

Week 1

Prime Time	June 29-Jul 4
Senior Youth	June 29-Jul 4

Week 2

Junior Youth	July 6-11
Leaders in Training	July 6-11

Week 3

Family Camp I	July 13-18
Kids' Adventure	July 13-18

Week 4

Junior Adventure	July 20-25
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Week 5

Kids' Camp (5 nights)	July 27-Aug 1
Mini Camp	July 30-Aug 1
NEW Day Camp	July 30-Aug 1

Week 6

Kids' Camp (4 nights)	Aug 4-8
Skills Camp	Aug 4-8

Week 7

Family Camp II	Aug 10-15
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Fall

LOFT Retreat (formerly ROOO)	Sept 12-14
Family Adventure Weekend	Sept 19-21
Fall Work Week	Oct 13-17
Thanksgiving at the Lake	Oct 17-19
Women's Retreat	Nov 7-9
Fall Confirmation Retreat	Nov 21-23
Christmas Retreat	Dec 5-7

Or book Kuriakos for your own community retreat!

Members- 3

FINANCES - The tentative budget for 2025 proposes an annual operational revenue of \$776,435. We have seen increased costs, particularly in staffing and supplies, and have raised program and rental rates accordingly. **Camperships are available for all programs,** particularly for children and youth. We believe no one should miss out on camp! We do not anticipate acquiring any new debt.

Percentage of Operating Revenue *(as reflected in the 2024 preliminary statements)*

Donations + Fundraising 28% Programs 32% Guest Groups 33% Operational Grants 6% Property Income 2%

Kuriakos Debt Load	Dec 31/2024	Dec 31/2023	Dec 31/2022	Dec 31/2021	Dec 31/2020
	\$405,110.71	\$447,174.26	\$505,835.31	\$523,535.12	\$540,323.23

Staffing

In the past year, we've welcomed **Rev. Kristian Wold as our new Executive Director.** He is back at work and eager to dive in after a leave of absence last fall. We're looking forward to working with him into the future. **We'd like to express our gratitude to Rev. Art** for his 10+ years of service and his ongoing administrative support. We wish Art happy returns to his home in Texas.

Pam Ropean ("Handy Pam") has also joined our team, as Property Director. She brings a wealth of experience in facility management and enthusiasm for working with volunteers. She'd love to talk with folks who have skills and time! And, **Ruben Thalathoti**, a summer team member last year, has committed to supporting us through the year as our Intern. Thanks!

Our Association continues to be served by **Kendra as Program Director, Amber as Hospitality Director, and Paul as Assistant Director.**

Volunteer Support

Our community depends on volunteer involvement. We benefitted from over 100 volunteers offering over 5000 hours! This includes nearly 500 hours for our governance Board and Committees, plus 1100 on Property projects and 3000 in support of programs.

CURRENT KURIAKOS BOARD

 (Term: March 2024 – March 2025)

Chairperson: Rev. Phil Penrod (Beaumont)

Vice-Chair: Leah Wetter (Calgary)

Treasurer: Ben Ledene (Calgary)

Secretary: Michael Gillingham (Sherwood Park)

Vision Committee: Gabby Laughland (Edmonton), Kurt Hanson (Calgary)

Governance Committee: Rev. Doug Heine (Hinton), Rev. Matt Gillard (Hanna) – Currently seeking additional volunteers

Stewardship Committee: (2 vacant Board positions, staffed by non-board volunteers)

Additional volunteer working groups are established to assist staff with duties, including Capital Campaign, Property, Total Inclusion and KGT. **These committees are generally short-term and focused on a specific task or event. We'd love to add you to our teams!** Contact paul@kuriakos.ab.ca to get matched up with a job.

Camp Sundays

Our team would love to join your congregation for worship, as a part of our partnership in ministry. We can help lead songs, share a devotional message, or lead activities for kids. Then we'd join announcements at the end and hand out S'More kits to go. Contact ruben@kuriakos.ab.ca to set up a date!

Looking ahead to 2025

- **Congregational Staff Retreat Day on May 13** – We're hosting a free retreat and networking day. Enjoy lunch and the afternoon at camp, plus time to learn, reflect and share with colleagues and peers. Or, send your staff for a free weekday retreat in Dana Lodge (depending on availability, you provide your own meals and program).
- **Day Camps and Service Teams** – Congregations are invited to request teams of 2-3 Kuriakos Summer Staff to come to their congregation for a week, to join in their ministry. We can support your program or take care of activities and registration. We'd love to line up a few day camps for August!
- **Work Weekends** at May Long Weekend and after Thanksgiving are a great gathering of our community... and essential to keeping our property and facilities operating. Come as a family or congregation to join the fun!
- **Community Camping** – Book a tent or RV campsite at Kuriakos for your family! Available on select weekends in the summer.
- **Kuriakos Gathers Together Fundraiser.** Join us in-person or online on April 26th for our annual celebration and auction.
- **Family Camps** – (2 in July and August). Come for 1 day or stay for the whole week. All ages welcome, with or without kids.
- **Looking for Great Staff:** We appreciate referrals of summer staff, SITS (age 14-16), STANDS (age 16-18), GAPS (age 18+), Interns, spring and fall programmers, nurses, and resource people. Apply online or email kendra@kuriakos.ab.ca for more info.

God's Blessings,
Rev. Kristian Wold
Executive Director
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