



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

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 |
|------------------|------------|

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

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|----------------|-----------|
| Family Camp II | Aug 10-15 |
|----------------|-----------|

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!

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 Ropcean ("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
kristian@kuriakos.ab.ca

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