



KURIAKOS

SYLVAN LAKE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP ASSOCIATION Report to Congregational Annual Meetings - January 2026

*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 2025 financial review will be presented at the **Annual General Meeting at 2:30 pm, March 21, 2026 at Kuriakos.** Virtual attendance is available.

Thank you 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 www.kuriakos.ab.ca for the latest news and information.

- **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**
- **Join us for Kuriakos Gathers Together**, our annual fundraiser, on April 25
- **Suggest to young folks in your community** to join our staff or volunteer teams



Above & Beyond Capital Campaign

In 2023, we launched our Campaign to accomplish several goals: 1) secure 11 acres of land to connect all of our property and allow space for the future of our programs and community; 2) improve accessibility of the Kuriakos Centre, especially the washroom facilities; 3) improve staff housing and office spaces. **In 2025 we accomplished goal one: we bought the land!** ...in the same way you buy a house: with a down payment and a mortgage still to pay off. We have until 2029 to pay the balance of \$1.1M. **Your support is still needed!** At the same time, we now have the ability to move forward with our next goals of the campaign.

Look for improvements in the coming year!

2025 in REVIEW

- We saw many staff changes, saying goodbye to **Art** (late 2024) and welcoming **Kristian** back to the role of Executive Director; welcoming **Cera Yorke** on board as our Administrative Director; saying farewell and godspeed to **Paul Kopjar** and **Kendra Freeland**.
- A largest-ever group of high-school-aged **Leaders in Training** took part in our program, with many interested in returning as staff in 2026.
- **Family Camps** were the best-attended in a decade as a new generation of camp alumni returned with young families, and new-to-Kuriakos families also came for recreation and renewal.
- **\$12K of camperships** were offered, enabling more kids than ever to enjoy the gift of camp - thanks to the generosity of individuals and congregations.
- Total number of campers has steadily climbed since 2022.
- New fall retreat programming like **Worship by Heart** brought some people to Kuriakos for the first time.
- More schools participated in our **Kuriakos Outdoor School (KOS)** programming than ever before.
- **View our Courier for more updates and messages from staff**
www.kuriakos.ab.ca/about/contact-us, scroll to Kuriakos Courier

2026 Program Dates	
	Winter
Homeschool Days	Last Mondays
Campus Student Retreat	Jan 23-25
Confirmation Retreat	Jan 30-Feb 1
Men's Retreat	Jan 30-Feb 1
Lenten Prayer Retreat	Feb 20-Feb 22
	Spring
Annual General Meeting	Mar 21
Leaders-In-Training Retreat	Mar 27-29
Holy Week Individual Retreat	Mar 30-Apr 3
RENEW Women's Retreat	Apr 10-12
Kuriakos Gathers Together	April 25
ABT Synod Youth Gathering	May 1-3
Spring Work Week	May 11-15
Family May Days	May 15-17
Congregational Staff Retreat	May 19
	Summer
Prime Time	June 28-Jul 3
Senior Youth	June 28-Jul 3
Junior Youth	July 5-10
Leaders in Training	July 5-10
Family Camp I	July 12-17
Wilderness Camp	July 19-24
Kids' Camp (5 nights)	July 26-31
Mini Camp (2 nights)	July 29-31
Kids' Camp (4 nights)	Aug 3-7
Skills Camp	Aug 3-7
Family Camp II	Aug 9-14
	Fall
Living Our Faith Together retreat	Sept 12-14
Family Adventure Weekend	Sept 18-20
Worship by Heart retreat	Oct 8-10
Fall Work Week	Oct 12-16
Thanksgiving at the Lake	Oct 16-18
Fall Confirmation Retreat	Nov 20-22

Or book Kuriakos for your own community retreat!

2024 Membership

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

Members- 3

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.

FINANCES - The tentative budget for 2026 proposes an annual operational revenue of \$898,475, fifteen percent larger than 2025. We have seen increased costs, particularly in staffing and building maintenance, and have raised program and rental rates accordingly. And we continue to rely on the generosity of our Kuriakos community, congregations and individuals to support our operations. **Camperships are available for all programs**, particularly for children and youth. We believe no one should miss out on camp!

Percentage of Operating Revenue (as reflected in the 2025 preliminary statements)

Donations + Fundraising	25%	Program Registrations	41%	Guest Groups	21%	Grants	10%	Property Income	2%
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Kuriakos Debt Load	Dec 31/2025	Dec 31/2024	Dec 31/2023	Dec 31/2022	Dec 31/2021	Dec 31/2020
	\$387,231	\$405,110.71	\$447,174.26	\$505,835.31	\$523,535.12	\$540,323.23

STAFFING

We are thrilled to announce the hiring of **Sarah Shentaler** and **Ruben Thalathoti** as our new **Program Leads**. Sarah has served as a program staff member and coordinator since 2022; this winter she has been our intern. Ruben was a cabin leader in 2024 and our **Leaders in Training Coordinator** in 2025. Both bring a commitment to the mission and values of Kuriakos, experience with our programs, and passion for trying new things. As Program Leads they will together be responsible, with the guidance of the Executive Director, for the overall planning and delivery of all our programs - summer camp, retreats, and KOS groups. Please pray for them in this new role, and for the whole staff team as we head in to another program season.

CURRENT KURIAKOS BOARD (Term: March 2025 – March 2026)

Chairperson: Rev. Phil Penrod (Beaumont)

Vice-Chair: Leah Wetter (Calgary)

Treasurer: Ben Ledene (Calgary)

Secretary: Gabby Laughland (Edmonton)

Vision Committee: Kurt Hanson (Calgary), Anna Henkelman (Sylvan Lake)

Governance Committee: Rev. Matt Gillard (Hanna), Rev. Doug Heine (Hinton), Heidi Miller Zerr (Airdrie)

Stewardship Committee: Lana Costello (Calgary)

At our 2026 AGM we'll be electing **new board members**. **Is God calling you to this role?** Please reach out to Kristian for conversation.

Additional volunteer working groups are established to assist staff with duties, including Capital Campaign, Property, Bylaws Review 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 kristian@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 sarah@kuriakos.ab.ca to set up a date!

Looking ahead to 2026

- **February 20-22, Lenten Prayer Retreat.** Facilitated by Carmen Beck, this retreat will focus on prayer practices and include lots of time for individual prayer and reflection. A perfect way to prepare for the season of Lent!
- **Congregational Staff Retreat Day on May 19** – 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.
- **Day Camps and Service Teams** – Congregations can have teams of 2-3 Kuriakos Summer Staff to come for a week, to join in their ministry, perhaps a VBS. We can support your program or take care of activities and registration.
- **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!
- **Kuriakos Gathers Together Fundraiser.** Join us in-person or online on April 25 for our annual celebration and auction.
- **Family Camps** – (2 in July and August). Come for a 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 sarah@kuriakos.ab.ca for more info.

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KURIAKOS
OUTDOOR SCHOOL

