

## **Alongside Hope Province-wide weekend May 22-24, 2026**

As your Parish Rep I travelled with 2 other Calgary parish Reps to St Albert, a 3 1/2-hour drive, to the Star of the North Retreat Centre. 4 others came from our diocese, also reps from Edmonton and Athabasca. 18 were in attendance.

It was a very informative and interesting weekend. We heard directly, via a link to Zimbabwe, from partners there who are helping farmers to diversify and enabling women to grow food for their families. Lois Reid spoke about her trip to Kenya and our partner there who continues to build wells, so that women no longer must walk miles daily to collect water. We are also funding 407 solar panels for St Luke's in the West Bank at a cost of \$352,000. This will be matched by an anonymous donor. So far \$22,653 has been raised.

Fundraising was an important topic. We are to be commended for our efforts so far. I had not realised we are one of the bigger parishes – some attendees were representing parishes of 20 or so people. Thank you for your donations to our Lenten and Advent fundraisers.

The Alongside Hope website is a mine of information:

<https://alongsidehope.org/get-involved/waystogive>

Alongside Hope accepts e-transfers ([etransfer@alongsidehope.org](mailto:etransfer@alongsidehope.org)) directly from your bank account if you would like to donate that way, or by credit card, or over the phone 866-308-7973.

If you would like to set up crowdfunding for a special occasion or memorial, contact Anslim Hameed in the Toronto office at 416-924-9199 ext. 228.

If you have any further questions please contact me at church, or at [heatherp.mk@gmail.com](mailto:heatherp.mk@gmail.com).