

St. Luke's News

March 2024

Vol. 7 #3



ANGLICAN CHURCH

of

ST. LUKE

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We are coming up to an interesting Anniversary. It was on March 8th, 2020 that we had the last in person service in our church building before we were shut down by Covid. This meant that in 2020 and 2021 all our Holy Week and Easter in person services were cancelled. It was not until September 11th 2022 that we were able to regularly meet together in our church building. We give thanks that this year we are again able to celebrate this great feast in person in our church buildings. This year there is a return to the noon ecumenical services. The schedule for the Holy Week services, including the noon services is in this Newsletter under Upcoming Events. Consider attending as many of the Holy Week services as you can. This year the Easter Vigil is being held in our church building. Do not let the term 'vigil' scare you away, thinking it is a long solemn event. In religious terms, a vigil is a 'religious service held during the night leading to a Sunday or other feast day.' The rubrics (ritual or ceremonial directions) of the BAS state that it **"is the first service of Easter. It is celebrated at a convenient time between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter morning."** It is a great celebratory service. At the beginning of the service the Paschal Candle for the next year is lit and carried in to the church. The service ends with the administration of Easter Communion. It is a traditional service for baptism. Easter is the "greatest and oldest feast of the Christian Church." (Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church) The rubrics of the BCP state **"It is the duty of every confirmed person...to partake of the holy Communion frequently, and particularly on the greater Holy-Days, of which Easter is the greatest."**

Submit items for the April Newsletter by March 26th to website@oldchurchrd.com.

Incumbent Priest/Pastor:

The Ven. Noel Wygiera
vicar@oldchurchrd.com

Vocational Deacon:

The Rev. Deacon Tracey Stagg
deacon@oldchurchrd.com

Incumbent's Warden:

Debb Mann
incumbentswarden@oldchurchrd.com

People's Warden:

Michael McAuliffe
peopleswarden@oldchurchrd.com

Pianists:

Judy Miller
David Blackwell
Terri Radke

Organist:

Jo Wygiera

Service Schedule

In person

Sunday: 10:00 am

Thursday: 2:00 pm

Online

Sunday: 1:00 pm Worship Service

7:00 pm Compline

WEBSITE
www.oldchurchrd.com

Visit it often to check for news and upcoming events. If anyone has an item they feel might be appropriate for inclusion on the website please send it to website@oldchurchrd.com.

if you change contact information, eg. address, phone number or email address, make sure that you notify the office at: office@oldchurchrd.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday 10:00 am: Eucharist

Sunday 1:00 pm On line Service:

Sunday 7:00 pm: On Line Compline:

If you do not receive an email link to the on line services and would like to attend, contact vicar@oldchurchrd.com.

Thursday 2:00 pm: Said Eucharist

Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday March 24th: **Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**
10:00 am in person and 1:00 pm on line

Noon (12:00 pm) Services:

Monday March 25th: St. Luke's Anglican Church, Preacher: Pastor John Lentz
Followed by a soup and bun lunch

Tuesday March 26th: Sunnybrook United Church: Preacher: Pastor Peter Rockhold
Followed by a soup and bun lunch

Wednesday March 27th: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church:
Preacher: The Rev. Chris Roth

Bring your own bag lunch

Thursday March 28th: Knox Presbyterian Church: Preacher: The Rev. Leila Currie
Followed by a soup and bun lunch

Maundy Thursday March 28th: 7:00 pm Good Shepherd Lutheran Church:
Preacher: The Ven. Noel Wygiera
(In Person and on YouTube)

Good Friday March 29th: 11:00 am St. Leonard's Anglican Church:
Preacher: Pastor John Lentz
(In Person and on Zoom)

The Great Vigil of Easter March 30th: 7:00 pm Anglican Church of St. Luke:
Preacher: The Rev. Chris Roth

Sunday March 31st: 10:00 am Easter Sunday Eucharist

OTHER EVENTS:

**March 1st: 2:00 pm World Day of Prayer (Palestine)
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church**

March 9th: Men's Group Breakfast 9:00 am

March 10th: Daylight Saving Time Begins—Set clocks ahead one hour

March 12th: Parish Potluck Dessert and Conversation:

Parish Council cordially invites you to an evening of food and fascinating conversation about who we are, where we're headed, and how we might get there.

Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 pm

St. Luke's Church Hall

March 14th: Parish Tea: The Parish tea is open to everyone in the congregation

and is held the second Thursday of the month following the 2:00 pm service. If you would like to attend or know of someone who would like to attend but needs a ride to get to the church, please leave a message with the church office (403-346-3402) as we have a couple of members in our congregation who are willing to drive.

March 14th: 7:00 pm "Joint" Choir Practice: A chance for members of the congregation who like to sing but do not wish to be in the choir to come and practice with the choir and can help lead the singing in the congregation. On Sunday March 17th all the hymns will be from our new book, Sing a New Creation and will include some we have not done before.

March 16th: Ladies' Group Breakfast 9:30 am

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: 10:00 am in the church hall

For the next while this will be in the form of a guided reflection on the Lord's Prayer.

Coping – A St. Luke's Lenten Series: Wednesday evenings through March 20, 6:30-8:30 pm in the church hall. Stress, anxiety, depression, fear, and anger. Come and explore concrete, evidence-based strategies that can change your emotional direction and bring you closer to God. Come for yourself or come and learn how you can help someone you care about. For more information contact Joanne Wygiera at 403-877-5327.

Holden Evening Prayer: 7:00 pm Wednesdays to March 20th

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 40 Holmes Street

Lenten Outreach Project:

As a Lenten outreach project, we will be collecting assorted feminine hygiene products for the women in our shelters. I think it is especially appropriate to collect these on March 10, known as Mothering Sunday and it is Rose Sunday, where rose vestments are able to be worn. I believe supporting women in this way is important. There will be a pink box placed at the back of the church to collect these items, should this be of interest to you. Thank you for your continued support. Tracey+.

Images of Spirituality: April 5th to 11th

Images of Spirituality is a Christian ecumenical gathering of women – a weekend of spiritual nourishment, refreshment, and fellowship for all Christian women, in the long Christian tradition of 'taking time away'. It's an occasion for women to come away from their daily pre-occupations, reflect on their own spiritual journey, and return home rejuvenated by the weekend experience.

This is your invitation to the 34th annual Images of Spirituality gathering at Entheos Retreat and Conference Centre, southwest of Calgary. The weekend begins **Friday, April 5**, with registration at 6:00pm and the program beginning at 7:00 pm. The gathering concludes after lunch on **Sunday, April 7**.

The theme this year is: **Cultivating a Garden of Contentment. “I have everything I need – the secret of being content”**. The Session Leader for the weekend is Faye Reynolds from Lethbridge. Faye is a retired pastor from the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada.

The weekend will include sessions with Faye, small group discussions, meal breaks (all meals are included), some craft time, as well as singing, worship and fellowship.

Registrations forms are at the back of the church. Register before March 5 for the Early Bird rate.

If you would like to hear more about Images or have questions, please speak to Carolyn Dixon.

FINANCES:
Financial Statement:

	Jan 2024 Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Income	9,222.38	9,222.38	16,921.92	7,699.54
Expenses	17,700.36	17,700.36	16,921.92	778.44
Net	8,477.98	8,477.98	0	8,477.98

This is the financial picture to the end of January. Interestingly it is not a lot different from January of last year. The first couple of financial summaries are always a bit discouraging as giving is usually lower in the first month after Christmas and utilities tend to be higher in the winter. The cost of our insurance has also gone up from last year. This is through no fault of ours, but the rates have just gone up. We are insured through the Diocese which gives us a very good rate. Because of the type of budget passed at our Annual Meeting, there is a bigger than usual variance at this point. As the year goes on, we anticipate this will improve. This said, **we give thanks for all who, in whatever way possible, contribute to the help cover the expenses of keeping the church building and all its programmes functioning.** If you are interested in changing to pre-authorized giving, please contact Barb at the church office and she will provide you with the necessary form. **The advantage of pre-authorized giving is that it gives us a bit more stable giving each month.** We are also continuing to pick up donations weekly from the mailbox at the church and a number of parishioners are making donations via Interac e-transfer. If you would like to use this method, please enter offerings@oldchurchrd.com as the recipient email address. If you are usually an envelope user, you can enter your envelope number in the comments section or if it is for a specific use, such as Heat the Church or Flowers, you can mark that in the comments section. This is an automatic deposit so there is no security question.

Heat the Church: Just as it is important to continue giving our regular donations to the church, those who wish to contribute to this fund can do so by putting an envelope marked Heat the Church in the offering plate on Sunday, under the donate button on the website or by e-transfer as outlined above. The suggested donation is \$25 for a day. It is not just in the winter we encourage this, as the daily rate is averaged over the year. In terms of the heat in the Hall, if you or your group have an event and you turn up the heat, **please turn the thermostat back to 18 when you are finished.**

Flower Donations:

Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God. There are 42 Sundays plus Christmas in a year and there are no flowers during the 10 Sundays during Lent and Advent. Following the main Sunday service, the Altar Guild gives the flowers to someone in the parish, a gift saying we care for one another.

The cost for 2 bouquets is \$60, which is the suggested donation when someone chooses to sponsor a Sunday. At the back of the church is a beautiful Flower Calendar with Sundays still available. The sponsor may choose to make a dedication and this will be noted in the leaflet that week. You will receive an email from the office prior to your Sunday to ask if you have a dedication. Payment is made to St. Luke's Church by e-transfer to offerings@oldchurchrd.com, with 'Flower Donation' in the comments section, or by cheque or cash in an envelope in the offering plate at church, again marking it as 'Flower Donation'. Thank you to everyone who sponsors a Sunday. Please contact me if you have questions. Elizabeth Thain

AROUND THE PARISH:

Pancake supper: Thanks to all who prepared the food and to those who were able to come to make this Shrove Tuesday event a success. As a side note to the consideration of Shrove Tuesday, the name comes from the old word 'shriving', which means to listen to and forgive someone's sins and then forgive them. In the middle ages, Christians would go to church on Shrove Tuesday to confess their sins and be forgiven. In other words, they would be 'shriven'. In Britain the idea of using up all those things which you would not eat during Lent, by preparing pancakes, began in the 16th century.

Choir:

The choir practices on Thursday from 7-8 pm at the church. We are exploring new music in a new supplement to our blue hymn book as well as new music from our present book. If you do not wish to be in the choir but would like to come and learn the new music and then be able to help lead from in the congregation, there will be certain Thursdays advertised and you are invited to come on those days. Watch your emails for the date of the next group practice. If you have questions, contact Joan Williams at choir@oldchurchrd.com.

Reminder - Pastoral Care Ministry:

Prayer Chain Ministry: The Prayer Chain Ministry at St. Luke's Church has been initiated to provide a one-on-one connection to individuals with emergency situations

through the gift of prayer. Prayer requests for yourself, or "consented to" prayers for others, are kept in strictest confidence and can be handwritten and placed in the prayer box at the back of the church, or submitted by contacting the Prayer Chain Coordinator at prayerchain@oldchurchrd.com. (email addresses are kept confidential and never shared with others) Prayers will be initiated within 24 hours following receipt of the request and continued on a daily basis for two weeks. After that time the Prayer Chain Coordinator will contact the requestor to determine whether further prayer is required, or if the prayer request needs to be updated. *"For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you."* Jeremiah 29:11-12. If you are interested in joining this ministry contact prayerchain@oldchurchrd.com.

Visitation: This part of the programme is to provide urgent and confidential in-person care and support to members of St. Luke's, as well as their families, friends, and loved ones. If you would like to have a visit, or are interested in joining this team, contact pastoralcarevisits@oldchurchrd.com.

Card Ministry: Over time, cards of greeting and encouragement will be sent to all members of the congregation.

If you wish more information contact Tracey at deacon@oldchurchrd.com.

Coffee Roster:

We still need volunteers to sign up on the Coffee Roster. Please consider this if you can. There is no need to supply food at any time, and during Lent there is no food provided. Instructions for making the coffee are available in the kitchen. You can sign up on the form by the kitchen.

AROUND THE CHURCH: You will have noticed that since Ash Wednesday the crosses in the church have been veiled and the brass candle sticks have been replaced by wood and we have not used the offering plate. This is done in Anglican, Roman Catholic and some Lutheran churches. There is a lot of variation and reasoning given for doing this. There is some thought that it began in the middle ages so the congregation, who were mostly illiterate, would know it was Lent. In some churches it is only done from Passion Sunday to Easter Eve. "The theological significance of the veils is found in how they offer an outward and visible reminder of the penitential nature of the season. The thin material allows for a distorted, incomplete view of the sacred images, reminding us that our sins prevent us from seeing the fullness of the joy and gladness God desires for us. The removal of the veils at Easter serves to remind us of where our Lenten disciplines have sought to bring us, and that is to a place of renewal, refreshment, hope and a clearer vision of the Kingdom of God." (Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Columbus, South Carolina)

Prayers

Prayer for the Parish

(BCP p. 44)

O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful: Sanctify this parish by thine abiding presence. Bless those who minister in holy things. Enlighten the minds of the people more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel. Bring erring souls to the knowledge of God our Saviour; and those who are walking in the way of life, keep steadfast to the end. Give patience to the sick and afflicted, and renew them in body and soul. Guard from forgetfulness of thee those who are strong and prosperous. Increase in us thy manifold gifts of grace, and make us all to be faithful in good works; O blessed Spirit, whom with the Father and the Son together we worship and glorify, one God, world without end. Amen

Prayer from St. Teresa of Avila (Spanish Nun of the 16th C.)

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands.
Yours are the feet.
Yours are the eyes.
You are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours. Amen

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
We pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for those who fear for tomorrow,
That your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
For wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
That you would hold and protect them.
We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen. (from Archbishop Justin Welby and Archbishop Stephen Cottrell)

A Prayer for the Middle East

God of mercy and compassion,
of grace and reconciliation,
pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East:
Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis.
Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope,
oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation,
that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces,
and peace and justice could be experienced by all. Amen