

St. Luke's News

April 2024

Vol. 7 #4



Photo credit: Gordon Armit

April is here! Some of you, like me, may think of the quote “April is the cruelest month” when this time of year rolls around. I had always assumed it was because, while giving a promise of spring, it often fails us. This year I decided to look it up and I found that it is the first line of T. S. Eliot’s poem *The Waste Land*, written by him in 1922.

There are various interpretations of what he may have meant. One is that, as it was written shortly after the end of WW1, it is a metaphor for the process of regrowth through which the west was having to go, and that it was so difficult that it was easier to retreat into winter and stay asleep. I like this interpretation.

What he says is:

*“April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.
Winter kept us warm, covering
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding
A little life with dried tubers.”*

This is quite like the opening of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*:

*“When April with his showers sweet with fruit
The drought of March has pierced the root
And bathed each vein with liquor that has the power
To generate therein and sire the flower...”*

Chaucer felt that April was the perfect time to start a pilgrimage. So, make of it what you will—April is here. If you think you have never read or heard any of T. S. Eliot’s works, but know Andrew Lloyd Webber’s musical *CATS*, it uses Eliot’s poems from his work *Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats*.

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

ANGLICAN CHURCH

of

ST. LUKE

4929 54th Street
Red Deer, Alberta

T4N 2G7

403-346-3402

email:

office@oldchurchrd.com

website

www.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 Worship Service

Sunday 7:00 pm: On line Compline

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

Thursday 2:00 pm: Said Eucharist

OTHER EVENTS:

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

April 9th: "Future forum" at 7:00 pm in the church hall. This is a follow-up to the meeting on March 12th. You do not need to have attended the previous meeting to bring your ideas to this one. More information will follow.

April 11th: 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.

NOTE: The May Parish Tea will be on May 2nd, rather than the 9th.

April 12th: Ham and Bean Supper. More information to follow

April 13th: Men's Group Breakfast 9:00 am

April 18th: 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. We plan to try and have one Sunday a month when all the hymns will be from the book Sing a New Creation.

April 20th: Ladies' Group Breakfast 9:30 am

April 27th: Spring Tea at the church. Further details to come!

May 4th: Missional Workshop. Further details to come!

June 1st: Parish gathering and carriage rides at the Carley's. Once again, more information to follow.

FINANCES:
Financial Statement:

	Feb 2024 Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Income	10,971.08	20,193.46	33,843.83	13,650.37
Expenses	16,454.78	34,155.14	33,843.83	311.31
Net	5,483.70	13,961.68	0	13,961.68

This is the financial picture to the end of February. Income did improve over January and the expenses were less. The first couple of financial summaries are always a bit discouraging as giving is usually lower after Christmas and utilities tend to be higher in the winter. Because of the type of budget passed at our Annual Meeting, balancing income and expenditures, there is a bigger than usual variance at this point. As the year goes on, we anticipate this will improve. That said, **we give thanks for all who, in whatever way possible, contribute to 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. **Particularly, there are several dates in May, October and November, with a few in the other months.** 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:

Community Ministry:

A quick note of thanks to everyone who donated feminine hygiene products as part of our Community Ministry, targeting Mothering Sunday in Lent. All of the donations went to the Mustard Seed. They were so grateful to receive it all. Thanks also to those who have donated laundry supplies which will also be given to local agencies. Brother Michael is now looking after this and can be reached at communityministry@oldchurchrd.com

Palm Crosses:

On March 24th, members of the Altar Guild met to clean the brasses in the church and also to make the Palm Crosses distributed on Palm/Passion Sunday. We thank them all for their ongoing ministry in our parish.



PWRDF Representative:

With thanksgiving we are pleased to announce that Vandy Bowyer has agreed to take on the role of our Parish Representative. If you have questions, she can be reached at pwrdf@oldchurchrd.com.

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. The next group practice is **April 11th**. 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 is providing 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 are being 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:

If you are still wondering why we had Mothering Sunday in March on the 4th Sunday of Lent, it is based on the traditional (BCP) Epistle reading for that day from Galatians, which begins “Jerusalem which is above is free; which is the mother of us all.” Observance of the day began in England as a day when, if possible, one returned to the church in which you had been baptised. If this was not possible, you would attend services at your diocesan cathedral, which is the mother church of the diocese. If this was also not possible, it was expected that you would go to your local parish church. This led to it being a day when servants were given the day off so they could travel. As the place of baptism was usually, in those days, where your mother lived, it included a visit to your mother. The 4th Sunday in Lent is also known as Laetare Sunday. Laetare is related to the Latin word meaning rejoice, and comes from the Introit, or traditional opening sentences at the Eucharist, which on that Sunday were from Isaiah 66, “Rejoice ye with Jerusalem”. It is a day when certain relaxations of the penitential observances of Lent are allowed, for instance the wearing of rose-pink vestments, as Deacon Tracey did, instead of the traditional purple of Lent. In some churches all the hangings are rose-pink. It also allows some relaxation of Lenten fasting, which led to another name for the day, Refreshment Sunday. After our service we were treated to Simnel cake, courtesy of Deacon Tracey. Simnel cake is a rich fruit cake with a layer of almond paste in the middle and on top and traditionally with 11 balls of almond paste on the top representing the 12 Apostles, minus Judas. Tracey’s cake had 12 on the top, with the 12th representing Jesus.

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