

# St. Luke's News

**August 2025**

Vol. 8 #8



“Summer time, and the livin’ is easy”\* Or is it? I recently read an article in the New York Times that said that one of the common questions at the beginning of the summer is “What are you doing this summer?” and at the end of the summer it is “What did you do this summer?” These questions imply that you are going to, or have done, something exciting. Not everyone is able, or wanting, to do something exciting. It may be that you just want to curl up in your favourite chair with a good book. With the state of the world these days--environmental disasters, wars, starvation in so many places—you just want to crawl in a hole and cover yourself up. I recently spoke with someone who said they have totally stopped reading or listening to any news as they find it so distressing. Another friend told me that he accidentally forgot his cell phone when he went on holidays and after an initial withdrawal, had one of the best holidays he has ever had. You may not be able to do that—you may not be able to take a ‘holiday’, but just going for a walk and contemplating nature, can be therapeutic. It is a way of connecting with God through His creation, and knowing that he is with you in whatever you do.

\*Aria from opera Porgy and Bess, lyrics: DuBose Heyward, Music: George Gershwin  
(Items for the September Newsletter should be submitted by August 25<sup>th</sup>)

## **ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**of**

**ST. LUKE**

**4929 54<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Red Deer, Alberta**

**T4N 2G7**

**403-346-3402**

**email:**

**[office@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:office@oldchurchrd.com)**

**website**

**[www.oldchurchrd.com](http://www.oldchurchrd.com)**

### **Incumbent Priest/Pastor:**

The Ven. Noel Wygiera

[vicar@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:vicar@oldchurchrd.com)

### **Vocational Deacon:**

The Rev. Deacon Tracey Stagg

[deacon@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:deacon@oldchurchrd.com)

### **Incumbent's Warden:**

Debb Mann

[incumbentswarden@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:incumbentswarden@oldchurchrd.com)

### **People's Warden:**

Br. Michael McAuliffe

[peopleswarden@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:peopleswarden@oldchurchrd.com)

### **Pianists:**

Judy Miller

Terri Radke

### **Organist:**

Jo Wygiera

### **Service Schedule**

**See website for details of summer services**

## **WEBSITE**

### **[www.oldchurchrd.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:office@oldchurchrd.com)**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

For full details of upcoming services, including the readings, go to <https://www.oldchurchrd.com/events>

**August Sunday Morning Services: 10:00 am**

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>: Morning Prayer, Br. Michael presiding and preaching**

**August 10<sup>th</sup>: Holy Eucharist with Reserve Sacrament, Rev. Deacon Tracey Stagg presiding and preaching**

**August 17<sup>th</sup>: Morning Prayer, David Stagg presiding and preaching**

**August 24<sup>th</sup>: Holy Eucharist, Ven. Noel Wygiera presiding and preaching**

**August 31<sup>st</sup>: Holy Eucharist, Ven. Noel Wygiera presiding and preaching**

**Sunday online Service: 1:00 pm**

If you wish to attend the online service and do not receive an email with the link contact [vicar@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:vicar@oldchurchrd.com)

**Thursday said Eucharist: 2:00 pm. August 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.**

## **OTHER EVENTS**

### **St. Luke's Hiking Trip:**

This year's Hiking Trip will take place the weekend of August 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the link for further information or contact Michael McAuliffe at 403-877-4644 or [peopleswarden@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:peopleswarden@oldchurchrd.com)

[file:///Users/michaelthain/Downloads/2025%20St.%20Luke's%20Hike%20\(2\).pdf](file:///Users/michaelthain/Downloads/2025%20St.%20Luke's%20Hike%20(2).pdf)

### **Annual St. Luke's Picnic Fundraiser:**

Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup>: This year this event will be at Mallard Ponds. More information will be forthcoming.

**Save the dates:**

**Church Garage Sale:** **Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup>** we will be hosting a garage sale and BBQ in our church hall from 9:00 to 1:00. All donations will be greatly fully accepted. Set-up will take place on September 5 starting at 9:00 a.m. and items can be dropped off then. A sign-up sheet for volunteering will be posted in the hall in August.

**Finances:** We will be having a financial update in the October Newsletter. That will reflect the situation to the end of August.

**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 or by e-transfer at [offerings@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:offerings@oldchurchrd.com). The suggested donation is \$25 for a day. This still about the average taken over all of last year. It is not just in the winter we encourage this, as the daily rate is averaged over the year.

**CAN YOU HELP? Choose a date:**

**Coffee Roster:** If you are able, please consider signing up for a Sunday. We thank those people who have stepped up at the last minute to make coffee and tea when no one was signed up. The fellowship is always enjoyed. If doing it for the first time, help is available.

**AROUND THE PARISH:**

**From the Deacon's Bench**

August 2025

As I write this, I am fresh off a week at Sorrento Center with David. It is a beautiful retreat and training centre just 25 minutes west of Salmon Arm on beautiful Shuswap Lake. The trees and gardens are an oasis in the middle of the busyness and confusion (both literal and figurative). You can camp, be in a cabana, lodge type rooms or apartments. The sun was shining, the fruit was fresh, the worship team brought a Celtic style of music and prayers this week. Each day we gathered to sing, to be fed in word and prayer and to be in community. It was just what I needed, and I am grateful. While we were there, we took a bit of a course on how to talk to secular (non church people) about God. It was interesting to hear



from different folks with all sorts of backgrounds on what this meant, how easy or difficult this might be or even if it is necessary.

Our world is no longer one of faith, but of a sprinkling of the faith connected.

Some people are connecting to a historical and comfortable faith and liturgy.

Others are looking to try almost anything that connects them to something they are searching for. I suspect many of us continue to search for connection and meaning in our lives as we live each precious day. Some questions or

wonderings might be bold and vulnerable like – **“Okay God, I am not feeling to connected at the moment, where are you....even if you are somewhere?”**

Perhaps – **“Dear Lord, I am needing to find my way at the moment, please show me a path, a way to navigate all that is going on, I am struggling.”**

Another – **“Thank you dear Jesus for the many blessings and people I have near me right now. I feel your presence and it matters.”** Or – **“Come, Holy Spirit, Come: I am lost and need to be found.”** Even – **“I am not sure what**

**all is important in my life right now Lord and I am feeling confused and unsure....”**

You may have all, some or none of these questions. This is the essence of faith, life, growing, leaning into God and others as well as a time of doubt. I suspect “we” need this all. Our lives change, the people in our lives change, our priorities move around, our questions of life may become broader or even more specific.

This is all good. What is also good is to have a community to reach out to and be able to have open, honest, forthright conversations with.

In an unchurched or secular world, it is essential to find a community in which to be able to speak openly about our faith, our struggles, our sense of direction, our own sense of being. We need to nourish ourselves and often that comes in community and perhaps, as it is for me, also in the sacraments.

So, I ask you a question: **“Who do you have/where in your life whom you can speak openly and honestly with about your faith – its strengths, its**

**struggles, its wonderings?”** I suspect many might say to themselves, I haven’t that person, group to do that with; yet, I suspect there is a longing to belong, to share. Our worship days can be service focused and then a time to socialize and move on. That has its place.

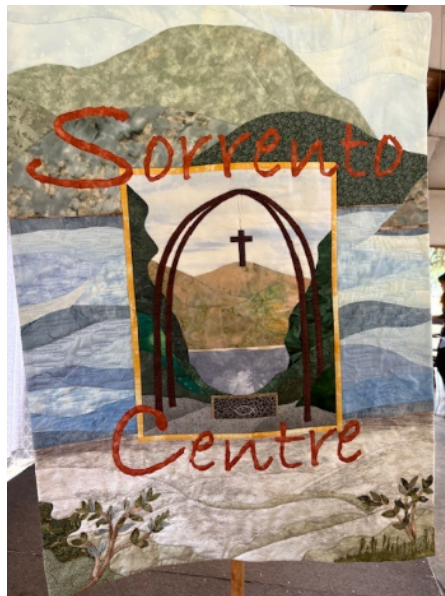
I have observed from both near and far, that there are groups within St. Luke’s that do touch on this opportunity. I have heard Pub night has good conversations. I have witnessed and participated in the ladies group beginning to be intentional with faith discussion. I have heard the men’s group is also providing opportunity to do the same, as well as the bible study group – sharing life and the word.

Perhaps you have a trusted friend, family member, spiritual director, colleague or you are searching to fill that hunger and desire to more deeply be involved with

good God and faith conversation. I know I continue to hunger and had an opportunity this week to have great faithful, personal and theological conversations with different people. Also, there was plenty of space to just be alone with God in thought and prayer. I found these times grounding and energizing.

I also realize this takes a risk to be vulnerable and open. Go ahead, take the risk. Be like the disciples and ask the questions of people around you. I suspect you might be surprised as well as find a deep well of water to quench a thirst.

As our August continues, I urge you to find what you need for spiritual growth and nourishment: **“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”** Matthew 7:7-8 NRSV.



This is a quilted hanging of the center looking out on the lake as you sit in the Chapel (bordered in gold).

**VBS 2025 Report: A Road Trip with God** (Submitted by Lynda Jordan)

A very fun filled week full of games, crafts, science and stories from the Bible, was presented by The Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Leonard's and St. Luke's. It was held at the Church of the Good Shepherd. There were approximately 60 children ages 4-11, 16 Junior Tour Guides and 20+ adults in attendance. A Huge Undertaking!!

We started the morning with learning new songs that went with the programme—a total of 11 songs that followed us in our hearts and our minds. We then split in to age groups, each with 2 adults and 4 Guides and rotated into 4 different learning stations. My group started each morning with crafts. We made a bag to fill with crafts made over the week: a 3D car with balloon propulsion, Bingo cards about safety, a garage with a mini car on top with a magnet underneath to move it, and finally a stain glass window with a cross and heart in the centre.

Then we moved to the next station. Ours was outside games. We learned sharing and cooperation.

Then SNACK TIME. First was a Rice Krispy altar showing the sacrifice of Abraham and his son. The next was lemon cakes, nachos, Honey Combs and pretzels, meat and cheese and finally on Friday popcorn with chocolate and butterscotch chips. Enjoyed by all.

Off to our next station: Storytime. Each day had a different story. Abraham and Sara started our journey. Then came Moses travelling in the wilderness for 40 years. Then Elizabeth and Mary—the story of two babies, John and Jesus. Then Zacchaeus and finally Saul who became Paul.

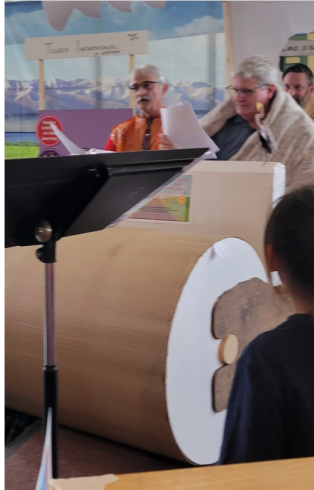
The last station of our day was Science. We learned about Newton's Cradle\*, the effects of vinegar, soap, water and food colouring and more. It was amazing to see young minds grab the lesson.

Then we went back to the body of the church for more songs and skits. Miss Bonnie was our energetic leader. We sang, danced and learned together.

The highlight of the day was when three travelers, Fred (Ven. Noel Wygiera), Barney (Pastor John Lentz) and their friend Joe (Rev. Chris Roth) arrived on the scene, lost as the other travelers had been. They drove a special "Flintstone Car" with foot power. I looked like the Flintstone car of our memories. Otto the mechanic had to fix it one day.

Laughter and friendships were made and old friends go together again. Mercy Daodu and I went from St. Luke's to help, learn and have fun. Thank you for your generosity and support of this programme, for some this is the only "Good News" that they hear. Come and join us next July!!

**\*Newton's cradle** is a device, usually made of metal, that demonstrates the principles of conservation of momentum and conservation of energy in physics with swinging spheres. When one sphere at the end is lifted and released, it strikes the stationary spheres, compressing them and thereby transmitting a pressure wave through the stationary spheres, which creates a force that pushes the last sphere upward. The last sphere swings back and strikes the stationary spheres, repeating the effect in the opposite direction. Newton's cradle demonstrates conservation of momentum and energy.



## VBS



### **Outreach-Mustard Seed:**

**Mustard Seed Dinner Service:** Thank-you to everyone who has taken part in volunteering for dinner service at the Mustard Seed the first Friday of the month. The response from our parish has been wonderful and we have had a full roster of volunteers each month to date. Sign-up sheets are in the hall and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak with Michael McAuliffe or Doug Ewart. Volunteer duties include serving the meal, preparing carrots for school lunches and helping in the dish pit.

### **Choir:**

**Choir practices will resume in September. A further note will be sent to give the exact date.** Do not hesitate to join just because you see all the chairs at the front of the church occupied. We will gladly rearrange things to allow for more! There is no need to be able to read music and there is no audition. If you are interested and would like more information, contact either Joan Williams at [choir@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:choir@oldchurchrd.com) or Judy Miller at [jhalmil@hotmail.com](mailto:jhalmil@hotmail.com) for more information.

### **Servers:**

If you are interested in taking part in this ministry this coming fall, contact [servers@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:servers@oldchurchrd.com) or speak to Michael Thain. We will have another training session in the fall.

### **Sunday School:**

Sunday School will be taking a break over the summer and will start again. On September 7<sup>th</sup>. Jo Wygeira



**Alongside Hope:**

In keeping with the name change of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) to Alongside Hope, the email address of our Alongside Hope parish representative, Vandy Bowyer, has been changed to:  
[alongsidehope@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:alongsidehope@oldchurchrd.com)

**Coming Alongside Hope With Light**

Alongside Hope want to supply Solar Suitcases to maternity clinics in Mozambique and Madagascar. These are suitcases with a solar light and a solar charger to put on the roof. They hope to raise \$320,000 and a generous donor will match donations up to \$150,000. More information can be found at:  
<https://alongsidehope.org/solar-suitcase/>

**Around the Church:** Nothing to report this month

**Prayers for the Parish**

Everlasting God, we ask that you would bless us here at St. Luke's with vision for the future and reverence for the past. Guide us each day as we minister to one another and to the world. Help us each day to bear witness to your name and to do your bidding, always mindful of your amazing love for us. **Amen**

**A Collect for St. Luke's, crafted by Brother Michael**

Holy Spirit, You have led your people with a pillar of cloud and fire, and you have spoken to your people with a still small voice. Now as we come to seek where you are leading us to serve this world you dearly love, will you make us attentive to the sounds of your voice, and will you soften our hearts so that we may respond to your leading with joy and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who reigns with you and the Father, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Prayer for our St. Luke's family**

We pray that we remain faithful as we strive to hear God speak to us as we discern the way He would have us go, and that we would be open to His guidance while we dare to dream about who He would have us be in a world that needs His love. Amen.

**Prayer from St. Teresa of Avila** (Spanish Nun of the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 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**

### **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 All Victims of War**

Merciful Father, your Son taught us to call the stranger “neighbor”. Our fallen are many—names we will never know, voices we have never heard, in lands we may never visit, yet brothers and sisters all. And so we pray for all victims of war, both past and present, caught in the crossfires of conflicts we could not quell; for soldiers and civilians, adults and children; we pray for those refugees seeking asylum from war, who died in a land that was not their home. For emergencies and calamities everywhere, and those who died amid chaos and confusion.

In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen** (Adapted from Catholic Relief Services)

### **A Prayer for the People of the United States**

O God, author and giver of peace,  
in whose image and likeness each of us has been created  
with a human dignity worthy of respect on earth and destined for eternal glory,  
we pray today for the people of the United States  
and all others who are affected by the current political situation  
with all the conflict, uncertainty and fear that has been created on so many levels.  
To all world leaders grant the wisdom  
to see beyond the boundaries of race, religion and nation  
to that common humanity that makes us all your children  
and brothers and sisters to one another.  
Grant the grace of conversion to a path of peaceful dialogue  
and constructive collaboration.  
Grant this through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord.  
Amen. (Adapted from [Jesuitresource.org](http://Jesuitresource.org))