

## Changes for St. Peters Ecumenical in Slave Lake

It is with great sadness that the congregation at St. Peter's Ecumenical Church in Slave Lake says goodbye to Pastor Blessing and his family as he moves on to a new calling at St. John Evangelist in Edmonton.



The Shambare family arrived in Slave Lake in a cold January of 2016 from their native Zimbabwe. The three children had never seen snow, so it was quite a cultural shock! They soon began to embrace their new way of life, learning how to skate, and even attempting to play hockey. They became involved in the community in a variety of ways, including the local Ministerial Association and the Multicultural Society. The children were active in sports, swimming for the Slave Lake Shark swim club.

The congregation wishes them blessings on their move, but we all agree that we are going to miss them! Pastor Blessing was a frequent

visitor to the seniors' centre, often providing communion services. He brought new people to our congregation and introduced us to some favorite songs. Some of them were presented in *Shona*, one of the common languages in Zimbabwe.

To mark their departure, St. Peters held a supper, inviting the whole community. Along with delicious food, there were songs, speeches and stories, and special gifts. St. Peters



presented them with a framed photo of our lake, so they always have a visual memory of their time spent in Slave Lake.



Parishioners and friends bless the family as the Shambares prepare to move to Edmonton.