

St. Luke's News

September 2025

Vol. 8 #9



ANGLICAN CHURCH

of

ST. LUKE

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We are now entering the season of Autumn, a time of year when a lot of things start up again. Children go back to school. (Barring a strike or lockout) Universities start their first semesters. Hopefully crops can be harvested from the fields and we may be harvesting from our gardens. We see the leaves changing colour—this year earlier than they would normally, apparently due to the heat and dryness. The days are getting noticeably shorter.

In the church a lot of things that have been on hold over the summer start up again. There are notes in this Newsletter about programmes that are starting up again. If you have not been involved before, you may consider joining one of them now. There is some comfort in returning to routines. Children, although they will not admit, are often anxious to return to their routine of school. It means getting together with friends they may not have seen all summer. I know that parents are often thankful for this time of year!

There is some debate about the origin of the word *autumn*. With the association of 'v's and 'a's, it may come from the Latin *autumnus* which is related to *Vertumnus*, the Roman god of the changing seasons. There is also a relation to the Latin word *vertere*, meaning 'to turn'. Whatever the source, we should look on autumn as a season for change, regrouping and even renewal, rather than just a prelude to winter.

(Items for the October Newsletter should be submitted by September 24th)

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:

Br. Michael McAuliffe

peopleswarden@oldchurchrd.com

Pianists:

Judy Miller

Terri Radke

Organist:

Jo Wygiera

Service Schedule

See Upcoming Events in this Newsletter or go to the church website, www.oldchurchrd.com

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

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

Sunday Morning Eucharist: 10:00 am

Sunday online Service: 1:00 pm

Compline (Evening Prayer) online: Sundays at 7:00 pm starting on September 7th

If you wish to attend the online services and do not receive an email with the link contact vicar@oldchurchrd.com

Thursday said Eucharist: 2:00 pm.

OTHER EVENTS

Church School planning meeting: Thursday evening **September 4th** at 7:00pm in the church hall.

Church Garage Sale: **Saturday September 6th** we will be hosting a garage sale and BBQ in our church hall from 9:00 to 1:00. All donations, household items, books, clothes, tools and kitchen items, will be greatly 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 is posted in the hall. **See the additional note under Around the Parish**

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Starting **September 10th** at 10:00 am in the Parish hall. All are welcome.

Men's Group Breakfast: There will **not** be a meeting in September. Meetings will commence again in October

Ladies' Group Breakfast: **September 20th 9:30 am.** All ladies of the Parish are welcome to attend. Watch for further notices.

Alpha Course: Starting Sunday September 21st; 5:30-7:30 pm. “The Alpha Course is created to emphasize the essentials that all denominations agree on. We believe that what unites us is infinitely greater than what divides us. The Alpha Course is an effective way to share the Good News of Jesus when done by and through the local church. By focusing on the essentials of the Christian faith, it opens the door for Alpha to be used in almost any context so that everyone has the opportunity to see their friends’ lives transformed by the gospel.” (Alpha Course Canada)

More information will be sent out by email. If you have questions, you can contact Br. Michael at 403-877-4644

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: Starting **September 24th** Do you sometimes feel like the world's gone crazy? Do you ever wonder whether God has things under control? The book of Revelation was written during such a time. The author of Revelation used colourful imagery common to the time to reveal what was going on in the heavenly realms and to assure the church that God was in fact in control. Come join us for a small group Bible study on the book of Revelation. We will be looking at the broad themes and images of Revelation so we can better understand its message. We will learn that Revelation is not a speculative code book about the end of time but rather an encouragement to live as followers of Jesus in time when many people are not. The group will meet Wednesday evenings 7:00-8:30 pm in the living room of Eric and Pam Nyrose beginning the last Wednesday of September, the 24th. We will finish the study before Advent begins. If you are interested in joining us, contact Eric, Pam or one of the current group members.

September 18th: Parish Tea following the 2:00 pm Eucharist. All are welcome.

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. 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.

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.

AROUND THE PARISH:

We were saddened by the death of Ted Hayden on August 11th. We continue to uphold Alice and the rest of his family in our prayers and actions.

Choir:

Choir practices will resume at the church at 7:00 pm September 11th:

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 or Judy Miller at jhalmil@hotmail.com.

Servers:

If you are interested in taking part in this ministry this fall, contact servers@oldchurchrd.com or speak to Michael Thain. We will have another training session later in the fall.

Sunday School:



Sunday School Kickoff – September 7th! We're excited to launch another season of Sunday School starting **Sunday, September 7th!** It's a wonderful time to come together, grow in faith, and support one another in learning and fellowship.

If you're interested in helping out, sharing ideas, or just want to be part of the

planning, we'd love to have you join us for a **planning meeting on Thursday evening September 4th at 7:00pm in the church hall**. Whether you're a seasoned teacher or simply curious about getting involved, your presence and input are truly valued.

Let's make this year meaningful and memorable for our children and youth!
Jo Wygeira

Secret Prayer Sisters:

All the ladies in the Parish are invited to participate in this prayer ministry. Each lady is matched with another and secretly prays for her each day, remembers her notes of encouragement. This match will start following the Ladies September Breakfast and will last until January 2027. The information sign-up sheets will be available at the breakfast. For more information please contact Elizabeth Thain, 403-347-2114.

The 2026 Church Calendars are here and will soon be available from the Altar Guild. The cost is still \$10. This is the only fundraiser that Altar Guild has and we thank you for your support.

Garage Sale:

Thank-you to everyone who has donated items to our garage sale so far – we have had an amazing amount of items donated. Barb and I met at the hall on Thursday August 28 to do a preliminary sort and we have a wide variety of items to offer for sale. If you have items to be donated, they can be dropped off at the church on Friday September 5th, starting at 9:00 am.

You may have noticed that we have not posted a finishing time for Friday's set-up as we would like to head home when the job is done. We would ask that you drop items off as early as you can on Friday but if you cannot be there until later, please contact Judy (825-706-5808) or Barb (403-596-3596) to make sure that someone is still at the church.

Our garage sale will just be on Saturday and we will be packing up when the sale ends. If you have donated something and would like it back if it does not sell, please be at the church hall around 1:00 on Saturday to pick it up, otherwise all items not sold will be donated.

Please let your family and friends know about our sale. We will also have back bacon-on-a-bun and drinks for sale outside the hall and muffins, coffee and tea available in the hall.

Thank-you once again to everyone for their great support of this event! Judy

THE KITCHEN KORNER--submitted by Judy Ewart

August has been a fairly quiet month in the kitchen. We had one funeral luncheon and my thanks goes out to everyone who helped with this event – to those who set up tables and chairs, donated baking, helped in the kitchen and with the clean-up.

September will be a little busier as we have the Garage Sale on September 6th and will be selling muffins, coffee and tea in the hall. Our Parish teas resume in September as well and our first tea will be Thursday September 18th and will feature peaches in our treats for the tea.

Earlier this summer, Debb and I met in the church hall to tackle the white cupboard in the back corner of the hall. We went through all the decorations and kept those ones that we feel we can use in the future. If you are hosting an event in the church and would like to decorate the tables, we have decorations for the following holidays:

- Easter
- Valentine's Day
- St. Patrick's Day
- Remembrance Day
- Thanksgiving/Harvest
- Christmas

All the boxes and bins are labelled and we would ask that if you do use the decorations that you would return them to their proper bins and same spot on the shelf where you got them.

Around the Church:

Church Architecture: Have you ever wondered what the various parts of the church are called, or been confused by different names? Our church, as do many others, has an outer porch. An interesting historical note about that part of the church is that in medieval times, when a couple came to be married at the church the actual marriage service took place in the porch, or if the church did not have a porch it would take place outside. Then the newly married couple would come in to the church for a celebratory Eucharist.

From the porch we go in to the area of the church known as the **Narthex**. (The porch can also be called the exonarthex.) The Narthex is the gathering area where people will greet each other before and after a service. It is the area that bridges the 'secular' from the 'sacred'. In many larger churches this area will be separated from the main body of the church by columns or a wall with doors into the church. When we go from the Narthex in to the church we enter the **Nave**.

This is the part of the church where the congregation sits. The word is derived from *navis*, the Latin word for ship, which was one of the earliest Christian symbols of the church as a whole. In churches in certain parts of the world ships are hung from the ceiling. This is one of the ships hung in the Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel in Montreal.



Proceeding up from the Nave, we enter the **Chancel**. The steps up to this level are often referred to as the chancel steps. The name derives from a Latin word meaning 'lattice'. This refers to the screen which in some older churches separates the Nave from the Chancel. It is a screen that the congregation can see through, but separates the congregation from the clergy and other participants in the liturgy. In a traditional church, the choir pews would be the first thing in the Chancel. Some of you will remember when this was the case in St. Luke's. The immediate area around the altar is the **Sanctuary**. This word derives from the same source as *Sanctus*, or 'holy'. The Sanctus ("Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might,...") is said or sung in each of our Eucharistic prayers.) In the middle ages a criminal could claim *Right of Sanctuary* by entering a church, going into the sanctuary and touching the altar. Even for capital offences, of which there were many, the criminal could, within 40 days take an *Oath of Abjuration*. They then had to proceed to the nearest seaport and leave the country with no right of return. Right of Sanctuary for crimes was abolished in 1623 by James I. We may still hear the word used when someone says they are "seeking sanctuary", meaning they just need to get away from it all.

(References taken from *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*: Oxford University Press, 1974)

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 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 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. Amen.
(Adapted from Jesuitresource.org)
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)