

# St. Luke's News

October 2025

Vol. 8 #10



## ANGLICAN CHURCH

of

**ST. LUKE**

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

I was recently asked a question to which I did not have an answer. "Why is the Gradual Hymn called that?" This prompted me to look it up and I then thought there are some other terms that we use that may raise similar questions. First: **Gradual**: This word comes from the Latin *gradus*, or 'step'. Originally the Gradual was a psalm, but is now usually a hymn. The name derives from the practice of it being sung either from the altar steps or while the deacon went up the steps of the 'ambo' to read the Gospel. The ambo was a raised platform from which scriptures are read. One was on the south side of the church for the reading of the Epistle and one on the north side for the reading of the Gospel. These evolved into the lectern and the pulpit. We follow the custom of the Gospel being read in the middle of the nave, representing the bringing of the Good News to the people. Another rather obscure term, which you may only see if you have a church calendar or use Forward Day by Day. That is **Ember Day**. The term derives from an Old English word that refers to a yearly circuit and a Latin word referring to four seasons. Ember Days are the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday following the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, the first Sunday of Lent, Pentecost, and Holy Cross Day. The original purpose is obscure, but they are considered days of fasting and prayer. Three of them may have taken over from pagan festivals connected with harvest, vintage and seeding. (Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

(Items for the November Newsletter should be submitted by October 27<sup>th</sup>)

### 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 Upcoming Events in this

Newsletter or go to the church

website, [www.oldchurchrd.com](http://www.oldchurchrd.com)

## **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 go to the website now you can see Season 1: Episode 2, of ‘*The Crossing (How Red Deer Shaped Alberta’s History)*’** This episode features St. Luke’s church. There is also a link to the whole series on YouTube.

**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>

**Sunday Morning Eucharist: 10:00 am**

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

**Compline (Evening Prayer) online: Sundays at 7:00 pm**

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

**Thursday said Eucharist: 2:00 pm.**

## **OTHER EVENTS**

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

**All Voices Choir Practice:** October 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the church. Anyone interested in learning some of the new music and helping the singing from their place in the congregation is invited to attend.

**Parish Tea:** October 16<sup>th</sup> following the 2:00 pm Eucharist. All members of the Parish are invited to attend.

**Ladies’ Group Breakfast:** 9:30 am October 18<sup>th</sup>: All ladies of the Parish are welcome to attend. If you plan to attend, contact the office at [office@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:office@oldchurchrd.com) so enough food is prepared.

**Men’s Group Breakfast and Fall Cleanup:** 9:00 am on October 25<sup>th</sup>. All men of the Parish are invited to the breakfast and then stay and help with the fall cleanup. If you plan to attend the breakfast contact [bdixon1@telus.net](mailto:bdixon1@telus.net) so

enough food is prepared. Anyone interested in helping with the cleanup is invited to come at about 9:45-10:00. Watch for further announcements.

**Alpha Course: Started Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>; 5:30-7:30 pm, in the church hall.**

“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)

It is not too late to start attending. If you have questions, you can contact Br. Michael at 403-877-4644

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study:** Started **September 24<sup>th</sup>**, but you are still welcome to join up. 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 24<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**October 16<sup>th</sup>:** Parish Tea following the 2:00 pm Eucharist. All are welcome.

**SAVE THE DATE:** **Saturday, November 22** we will be hosting our Annual Christmas Tea and Talent Sale from 11:00 to 1:30. We will be looking for donations of baked goods and crafts to sell in the talent sale. A volunteer sheet will be posted in the hall in early November for those who would like to assist with this event.

**Finances:** Because of technical issues, we do not have a financial report for this Newsletter. We plan to have one in the November Newsletter.

**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.

**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:**

**GARAGE SALE WRAP-UP:**

Our garage sale has come and gone and was a great success. My thanks go out to Barb Coutts, garage 'saler' extraordinaire, for agreeing to lead this fundraiser with me. The response of the congregation to this was awesome with many items being donated. While it is a fair bit of work to organize, we were blessed to have some great individuals come down to help us sort and price with the work being accomplished much quicker than we anticipated. Our thanks go out to everyone who helped – those who donated items, those who let their friends and family know about this, those who helped to sort and price items, those who worked the garage sale, the men who ran the BBQ, the ladies who donated muffins, the ladies who worked in the kitchen and everyone who helped with the packing up and taking the left-over items to the thrift store. Everyone working together made this happen and together we raised \$1484.55 for our church – half of which will go to church operations and half to our community ministry fund. THANK-YOU!

**Choir:**

The choir practices Thursday evenings at 7:00 in the church and welcomes new members. 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. **There will be an All Voices practices October 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** in the church. Anyone interested in learning some of the new music and helping the singing from their place in the congregation is invited to attend.

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).

### **Servers:**

If you are interested in taking part in this ministry this fall, contact [servers@oldchurchrd.com](mailto:servers@oldchurchrd.com) or speak to Michael Thain. There will be a training session after the service on October 5<sup>th</sup>, but other times can be arranged.

### **Sunday School:**



Another season of Sunday School started 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, whether you're a seasoned teacher or simply curious about getting involved, contact Jo Wygiera at [thewygieras@gmail.com](mailto:thewygieras@gmail.com). Let's make this year meaningful and memorable for our children and youth!

**Secret Prayer Sisters:** A new match for the **Secret Prayer Sisters** is starting soon. The sign-up/ information sheets will be available at the back of the church for the next couple of weeks. This programme is open to all the ladies in the parish. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Thain at [ethain@telus.net](mailto:ethain@telus.net)

**The 2026 Church Calendars** are here and will be available from the Altar Guild in the hall after the Sunday morning service. The cost is \$10. This is the only fundraiser that Altar Guild has and we thank you for your support.

### **THE KITCHEN KORNER:** submitted by Judy Ewart

September was a busier month in the kitchen with one funeral and the resumption of our monthly Parish Teas and the start of the Alpha Program. We had 6 parishioners join us in the hall for the Parish Tea. Elizabeth made an apple crisp for us all to enjoy. For those of you with good memories I had said that we would have a dessert with peaches but as Michael and Elizabeth had a

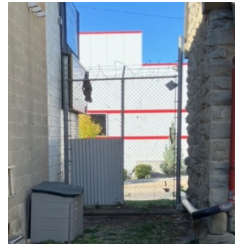
bumper crop of apples, we went with apple crisp. Our next Parish Tea is on October 16 and everyone is welcome to come out and join us.

My thanks go out to Debb Mann for covering Ron Mapletoft's funeral for me as I was away and to everyone who helped out that day and donated baking for the luncheon.

If you are interested in helping out in the kitchen for funerals or other events by either working the event or donating baking, please feel free to call me (825-706-5808) or speak with me at church. New volunteers are always welcome and it is a great way to meet members of our congregation.

### **Around the Church:**

Thanks to all those who came out to clear the brush and vines from the area south of the church. This now gives clear site lines from front to back and hopefully will discourage illicit use of the area.



### **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/Poem from St. Teresa of Avila** - attributed (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. 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)