

St. Luke's News

November 2025

Vol. 8 #11



ANGLICAN CHURCH

of

ST. LUKE

4929 54th Street

Red Deer, Alberta

T4N 2G7

403-346-3402

email:

office@oldchurchrd.com

website

www.oldchurchrd.com

On November 30th we celebrate the 1st Sunday in Advent, the church's "New Year". In previous Newsletters we have discussed that at one time Advent was as strictly observed as Lent, with fasting and prayer. In the Eastern church it has been called a 'little Lent'. This year I want to talk a bit about the Lectionary that we use. This is the list of readings used Sunday by Sunday. They are taken from what is called the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). The readings are divided in to a 3-year cycle, years A, B and C. This Advent we enter year A. Year A begins on the First Sunday of Advent in those years divisible by 3. ($2025/3=675$). The RCL replaced, in 1994, the Common Lectionary (CL) which had been released in 1974. The RCL was the result of a collaboration of leaders from all major denominations. Our BAS still lists the readings from the CL. The Gospel readings in Year A are usually from the Gospel of Matthew, those in Year B from the Gospel of Mark and Year C from the Gospel of Luke. Portions of the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout the year, often in special liturgical seasons where appropriate. You can look up the readings for any Sunday by going to <https://lectionary.anglican.ca/>.

(Items for the December Newsletter should be submitted by November 25th)

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 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.

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

Thursday said Eucharist: 2:00 pm. Note there will be no Thursday Eucharist November 13th and 20th.

OTHER EVENTS

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

All Voices Choir Practice: November 13th and 27th 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. On the 27th we will be looking at music for Advent.

Parish Tea: November 27th following the 2:00 pm Eucharist. All members of the Parish are invited to attend. **NOTE CHANGE OF WEEK**

Ladies’ Group Breakfast: 9:30 am November 15th. All ladies of the Parish are welcome to attend. If you plan to attend, contact the office at office@oldchurchrd.com so enough food is prepared.

Men’s Group Breakfast: 9:00am November 8th. If you plan to attend the breakfast contact Bob Dixon at bdixon1@telus.net so enough food is prepared.

SAVE THE DATE: **Saturday, November 22** we will be hosting our **3rd Annual Christmas Tea and Talent Sale** from **11:00 to 1:30** in our church hall. The Christmas tea has been well-received by our community and I am looking forward to this year's event. The volunteer sign-up sheet is up in the hall. If you can help in any way with the tea, please feel free to sign-up.

--Friday (21st) morning at 9:00 we will start setting up the tables for the tea and talent sale sides and then setting the tables for tea and setting up and pricing the items for the Talent sale

--Friday afternoon we will be wrapping and pricing the baking.

This year we are looking for donations of:

- baking
- crafts
- books
- gently used Christmas items.

Donations of books, crafts and Christmas items can be dropped off at the church on Sundays and placed in the cloak room where the boxes of books are. We will be accepting donations of baking on Friday morning (21st) starting at 9:00.

Thank-you to everyone for your support of this event.

2025	SEPT Actual	Year to Date Actual	2025 Year to Date Budget	Variance
Income	13,702.93	113,110.05	112,463.25	646.80
Expenses	16,981.74	148,839.89	160,307.54	11,467.65
Net	-3,278.81	-35,729.84	-47,844.29	12,114.45

Financial Update and Giving Sunday Announcement

There are a few different ways of looking at our most recent financial statement, all of which have their own merit, and shed their own light on how we are doing as a community. On the one hand, we can tune into the variance between our expenses and our overall income (which includes the lion's share of our giving, 50% of fundraising, and any rental income). Doing so will tell the story of how we are spending right around \$4,000.00 more a month than we are receiving. For most of us, that's not news, but it does still sting a little. It's tough to see a community we love—and a community that loves us—bearing this sort

of deficit. I imagine, though, that this sort of information has the potential to spur on some worthwhile reflection on how the story of St. Luke's intersects with our own stories, and what part we might get to play in overcoming this shortfall. But I also imagine that this information also has the potential to strike us with feelings of anxiety, and uncertainty, and the occasional desire to throw up our hands and be done with it all—or maybe that's just me.

On the other hand, we can draw our attention to the variance between our projected deficit and our actual deficit. This line tells a little bit more palatable of a story, about how we have spent right around \$11,500.00 less than we had anticipated at this point in the year. When we take this into consideration along with our slightly higher-than-expected income, it's looking like we will finish out the year with a much lower deficit than we originally anticipated. And that's good news—not because it means we are out of the woods (which we are not), but because it means that we are just a little bit closer to our deficit-reduction goal than we thought we would be at this point.

A third way of looking at this data—and what I think is the most valuable way—is to zoom out a little bit in order to put all this giving and spending in the context of what it represents for us as a community. And what I think these dollars represent is growth in mission, and investment in hospitality, and the welcoming of many new people into the family of God. I remember back at the beginning of the year as our Meeting of Parishioners approached, and we knew we were going to be presenting a pretty ugly budget, and I was full of anxiety. Despite believing strongly that presenting a deficit budget was the best way to direct our hearts and resources towards our mission, it was no fun putting that much red ink in front of you folks—and I know it was no fun to look at it either. But as that really heavy part of the meeting came to a close, we landed on a thought that I remain convinced of as I look back at where we've been this year: we are asking a lot of us because we believe that God is up to something big here. Now as we approach the end of 2025, we can see a little more clearly what some of those big things have been.

One indication that God is on the move here at St. Luke's has been the way our Sunday mornings have changed. On a typical Sunday for most of 2024, there would have been between 40 and 50 people in our pews; a typical Sunday in 2025 has been between 50 and 65. This growth has included the gifts of many new children, and the opportunity to make room for neurodiverse parishioners and folks from different parts of the world, as well as many people who are new to faith, or newly returning to the faith of their youth. The fact that we get to be

the place where these folks have found a home and a community is a huge honour, and one that we can't take lightly.

At the same time as we have welcomed all these new faces into our family, this has also been a season of experimentation with new ways of serving and engaging our neighbours by both moving beyond the borders of our little building, and inviting the people of Red Deer into our space, and around our tables. There have been some big wins along the way—people from the neighbourhood joining us for community meals and even coffee on Sundays, dinner service at The Mustard Seed, guests from the Seed participating in Alpha with us—and also some stumbling, and recognition of areas where we need to learn and grow. All in all, it seems to me that we are starting to get into a new groove of what it looks like to live out our mission as God's people in this particular time and place, and I am as convinced as ever that God is inviting us to dream and imagine and take part in his Kingdom coming right here in downtown Red Deer.

And it's in light of all this that I get the opportunity to invite you to join us as we begin to prepare for Giving Sunday. Here at St. Luke's we've gotten into the habit of dedicating time through the month of November to ask how God would have us use our financial resources to join in on what God is up to around here. This little season of intentional prayer and discernment comes to head on the first Sunday of Advent—what we have deemed *Giving Sunday*—as we give special offerings to say 'thank you' for all that God has done throughout the year, and 'yes' to whatever God might have next for us.

There are two parts to this invitation. First, I invite you to spend time asking God for a number that God would have you give on November 30. If you've been around the last couple of years, you're probably used to this part of the invitation by now: set aside some time to listen to the Lord, and then be faithful to give whatever amount settles in your heart. Second—and we really want to emphasize this second part this year—I invite you to spend some time this month thinking and praying about what you could give on a *monthly basis* come 2026. Noel will have more to say about the value of this kind of planning from a budget perspective, but from my end, I want to encourage you as you listen for what the Spirit might be asking you to give on November 30, to also be listening for how the Spirit would have you join God's work at St. Luke's throughout the coming year.

Here's what all this could look like. Over the next few weeks, dedicate some time—maybe a couple five minute blocks a week—to sit in silence. Get it in the calendar if that's helpful for you, or if you're a mom or dad with some amount

of children running around, maybe you use your shower time to make this happen. Start off with a prayer like the one at the end of this note, and then just be quiet, noticing what numbers, ideas, and emotions come up for you. As this practice goes on over the coming weeks, be on the lookout for if an amount settles in your mind consistently, or if there's a number that brings you joy or peace. Then, when you've landed on an amount, just be faithful!

You'll notice specific Giving Sunday envelopes and prayer cards in the pews on Sundays throughout November. Take these home as reminders to set time aside to pray, and be sure to use these envelopes on November 30. If you're someone who likes to give electronically instead, be sure to stick *Giving Sunday* in the message section of your e-transfer. If you have other questions about how to pray, or why to give, or what Giving Sunday is all about, don't hesitate to reach out to me at either 403-877-4644, or peopleswarden@oldchurchrd.com.

Thanks for joining us as we seek to say 'thank you' to the Lord, and 'yes' to God's call on this community in this time and place. I pray that as you spend time this month asking how God would have you give, that this would be a time of excitement and joy at the gift it is to be a part of his Kingdom coming right here in Red Deer.

Peace,
Michael McAuliffe
People's Warden

Almighty God, I give you thanks for all the gifts you have given me, and for your invitation to join in on what you are doing at St. Luke's and in this city. Now, as I get ready for Giving Sunday, I ask that you would show me [and my family] how to say 'thank you' for your kindness, and 'yes' to your call. Would you give me a number for Giving Sunday, and would you guide me as I think about how to give in 2026. Lord, let your Kingdom come and your will be done in my life, and in this city of Red Deer; through Jesus Christ, to whom all honour is due. Amen.

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 have been saddened by the death of our sister in Christ, Susan Tennant. May she rest in Peace and rise in Glory. We pray for Jerry and their family.

Thankyou

A big 'thankyou' to all those who came out and helped with the fall cleanup on October 25th.

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 All Voices practices November 13th and 27th at 7:00 pm** in the church. On the 27th we will be looking at music for Advent. 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 or Judy Miller at jhalmil@hotmail.com.

Secret Prayer Sisters:

A new match has been made with 16 ladies participating in this ministry. For the ladies taking part, the information sheet about your new SPS is in your church mail file. Elizabeth Thain, coordinator

Anglican Church Calendars

Thank you to everyone who purchased a 2026 Church calendar. They are all sold and Altar Guild thanks you for your support.

Elizabeth Thain

THE KITCHEN KORNER - submitted by Judy Ewart

October was a quiet month in the kitchen with our only event being our monthly Parish Tea where we had 9 parishioners join us. This month we celebrated pumpkin and had pumpkin cookies, pumpkin tarts and gluten-free pumpkin squares. The Parish Tea is open to all members of our congregation. For those who might not be able to make it to a Sunday morning service and are free on Thursday afternoons at 2:00 the afternoon service may be an option for you. **For the month of November we are moving our Parish Tea back a week and it will be on the 27th.**

This month I would like to talk about the recycling program at our church. As many of you know, we have a recycling station in the kitchen with 2 different bins. On the front of each bin is a list of what can go into that bin. One bin is for actual recycling and the other bin is for those items for which a deposit has been paid (drink containers). We have two volunteers that look after these bins. I would ask that when placing items in the bins to make sure that you are placing your item in the correct bin and that anything that goes into recycling be washed or rinsed out before being placed in the bin. While glass jars can be recycled, they cannot be recycled through the regular program and need to be taken to the recycling stations set up around town. If you have any glass recycling, please leave it on the counter beside the fridge and I will make sure that it is correctly recycled. Thank-you for your attention to this as it makes the jobs of our two volunteers much easier.

I would like to say thank-you to everyone who has signed up for coffee over this month. It is great to see the list filled. For anyone who is doing coffee, there are 3 or 4 packages of muffins in the freezer that can be used.

Around the Church: Memorial Boards

WW2



WW1



As we approach Remembrance Day, I thought it would be interesting to feature some information about our memorial boards at the back of the church. The large memorial is for those from the parish who participated in WW1. It was unveiled and dedicated January 20th, 1920. There are 144 names on the board. The crosses by names indicate those who died. There are 22 names with a cross. Michael Dawe, in his book *Red Deer: The Memorable City*, reports that around 700 people from Red Deer and district enlisted in WW1 and 118 were killed. The impact on the parish and the city must have been huge. It was estimated that 20-30% of the 1911 population of Red Deer enlisted. The smaller board for WW2 has 92 names on it with 6 marked with a cross. One thing caught my eye on the WW1 Memorial Board. There is one woman listed. All the other surnames are preceded by initials, but one is listed as Isobel Nash. With the help of Jillian Staniec, Archives Coordinator, and Lindsay Ballagray, Archives Specialist, at the Red Deer Archives, I was able to get some information. Isobel Nash was born in London, England January 1, 1891, to Arthur B. Nash and Maria Nash. She was one of four children, the youngest 4 months old, who came to Canada in 1895 with their parents (and their English Bulldog). They travelled by train from Halifax to Red Deer. It is unclear why they chose Red Deer. She left Red Deer to study nursing at the Medicine Hat General hospital, graduating in 1914. She nursed briefly in Revelstoke, BC, until the war broke out when in 1916, she enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served as a nursing sister with the Canadian Army Medical Corps. Following the war, she married Captain W. H. Steed, from New Brunswick, and died in Miramichi in 1967. Her father farmed north of Red Deer and was instrumental in bringing a school to his district. He was also involved in some businesses in Red Deer and local politics..Nash Street in Red Deer is named for him.

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 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)