

St. Luke's News

December 2025

Vol. 8 #12



ANGLICAN CHURCH

of

ST. LUKE

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Red Deer, Alberta

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www.oldchurchrd.com

As we move through Advent to Christmas, I thought that sharing a poem would be helpful. It has echoes of one of our Advent hymns.

O Emmanuel -- Malcolm Guite

*O come, O come, and be our God-with-us,
O long-sought with-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name,
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness,
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling bands.*

(Sounding the Seasons: Canterbury Press Norwich 2012)

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(Items for the January Newsletter should be submitted by December 28th)

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

December 7th, the Second Sunday of Advent: [Advent Carols and Lessons Service](#).

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.

Christmas Services:

**Christmas Eve: 5:30: Children's Service-for the young and young at heart
7:30: Christmas Eucharist in the context of Christmas lessons and Carols.**

Christmas Day: Christmas Eucharist

OTHER EVENTS

Alongside Hope Advent Program ([November 30 - December 21](#))

This year, as part of our Global Outreach, St. Luke's is raising funds to purchase beehives for women in rural Colombia. The beehives provide honey and give women the opportunity to raise income for their families. At the same time bees pollinate nearby food crops enhancing the quality of fruits and food. Each beehive costs \$120.00 and we are aiming to purchase 5 beehives. There will be an Advent Giving Tree at the back of the church with suggested donation amounts. It is optional to take the tag from the tree as these are just suggested amounts. It is suggested that if you take a tag that you hang it on your tree at

home as a reminder to pray for this ministry and those communities for whom the beehives are being purchased. Do not return the tag to the tree with any personal information. Please make donations through St. Luke's e-transfer to offerings@oldchurchrd.com with "bees" in the memo. Donations by cheque should be made to St. Luke's with the memo Alongside Hope Advent Program (bees). If you would like to give a cash donation, or have any questions please contact Vandy (alongsidehope@oldchurchrd.com).

Thursday December 6th: 7:00 pm All Voices Choir Practice

Men's Group Breakfast: 9:00 am December 13th. If you plan to attend the breakfast contact Bob Dixon at bdixon1@telus.net so enough food is prepared.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: 10:00 am in the Parish hall. All are welcome. There will be no Bible Study December 24th and 31st.

Monday December 15th: Church Decorating: At 1:00 pm the members of the Altar Guild will be decorating the church for Christmas. Anyone who wants to help is welcome to come. Further to the decorating, if someone wants to contribute to the additional cost please speak to Elizabeth Thain.

December 16th, 7:00 pm: In the Spirit of Christmas: An evening of music and readings for the Christmas Season.

December 17th: It is that time of year when we start to plan for the **Christmas Baking boxes** which will be handing out to seniors and other members of our congregation for Christmas. We are looking for baking, fruit (mandarin oranges) and any other treats you think our recipients would enjoy. The boxes will be packed the **afternoon of December 17th** and the boxes will be handed out at the Parish Tea on December 18th. We are looking to make up 35 boxes. If you have any questions, please speak with Judy Ewart (825-706-5808).

December 18th: Parish Tea following the 2:00 pm Eucharist. All members of the Parish are invited to attend.

Ladies' Group Breakfast: 9:30 am December 20th. 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.

Finances: The next full financial report will be in the February Newsletter. Before then, there will be an update about Giving Sunday.

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 is 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 each 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:

Welcome:

We welcome the newest member of our parish family, Arya Diane, daughter of Hannah and Luke Vander Roest and granddaughter of Jo and Noel Wygiera. Arya was born November 20th.

Thanks:

Thank you to everyone who helped, donated items, attended and helped spread the word about the Christmas Tea and Talent Sale. Working together we raised \$1,254.60. 50% will go to church operations and 50% to the Community Ministry Fund. Special thanks to Judy Ewart for organizing and coordinating this event.

Flower Calendar:

A new Flower Calendar will be posted in December. There are no flowers in Advent or Lent.

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. **An All Voices practise will be held on December 6th.** Anyone interested in learning some of the new music and helping the singing from their place in the congregation is invited to attend. This will be a special one to look at the hymns for the Advent Carol Service.

If you are interested and would like more information, contact either Joan Williams at choir@oldchurchrd.com or Judy Miller at jhalmil@hotmail.com.

Around the Church:

See the note above regarding church decorating on December 15th.

Prayers for the Parish

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/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)