

St. Luke's News

February 2026

Vol. 9 #2



ANGLICAN CHURCH

of

ST. LUKE

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Over the past few weeks I have, as I am sure a lot of you have, been distressed and concerned about the ongoing situation in the United States. It is hard to put into words how we feel or how to respond. In looking for some help with this I found the following from the Roman Catholic Church in the U.S. On a recent Sunday, Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, reminded the faithful that "Peace is built on respect for people." He then quoted the message from Pope Leo XIV that said "The Gospel must be proclaimed and lived in every setting, serving as a leaven of fraternity and peace among all individuals, cultures, religions and peoples." Archbishop Coakley then went on to say "It is with this in mind that I prayerfully urge calm, restraint, and respect for human life in Minneapolis, and all those places where peace is threatened. Public authorities especially have a responsibility to safeguard the well-being of people in the service of the common good." Then in speaking to his American audience he said "As a nation we must come together in dialogue, turning away from dehumanizing rhetoric and acts which threaten human life. In this spirit, in unity with Pope Leo, it is important to proclaim 'Peace is built on respect for people!' The Episcopal Bishop of Minnesota, Bishop Craig Loya, and other national church leaders have decried the "random and reckless cruelty" of federal actions in Minnesota. They have described these actions as part of a "racially narrow lens" and a "cruel delight" in violence. Bishop Loya called on faith leaders to "disrupt with Jesus' hope" and to "turn the world upside down with love".

Our response must be to hold up in prayer all those involved and affected by what is going on in Minnesota and other places where violence and hatred seem to have overtaken love.

(Items for the March Newsletter should be submitted by February 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 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.

Wednesday February 18th: 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service at St. Luke’s

OTHER EVENTS

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

Thursday February 5th: 7:00 pm All Voices Choir Practice

Saturday February 14th: **Men’s Group Breakfast:** 9:00 am. If you plan to attend the breakfast contact Tim Murray at twomurrays76@gmail.com so enough food is prepared.

Thursday February 19th: Parish Tea following the 2:00 pm Eucharist. All members of the Parish are invited to attend.

Thursday February 19th: 7:00 pm. All Voices Choir Practice

Saturday February 21st: **Ladies’ Group Breakfast:** 9:00 am. 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.

Wednesday February 25th: 7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer at the Church of the Good Shepherd

Advance Notice

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners:

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the Parish of St. Luke Red Deer is scheduled to take place in St. Luke's Church Hall on **Sunday, February 22, 2026** immediately following the 10:00 am service of Holy Eucharist. At that time all baptized persons regularly attending Services of worship in this Parish and receiving communion or otherwise regularly receiving the administrations of the clergy of this Parish are entitled to attend.

At this meeting we will be electing or appointing Lay Members of Synod (Delegates) and Parish Council Members.

Lay Members of Synod

With regard to Conventions of the Synod of the Diocese, it shall be the duty of each Lay Member of Synod

- (a) to ensure that prior to conventions of the Synod, matters of policy to be discussed by Synod are considered and discussed by Parish Council;
- (b) to attend Conventions of the Synod, to be present during debate, and to vote according to personal conscience; and
- (c) to report to the Parish Council as soon as possible after a Convention of Synod.

Parish Council Members

It shall be the duty of a Parish Council Member

- (a) to attend the meetings of the Parish Council and of the Parishioners and participate in the deliberations at such meetings;
- (b) to be conversant with the affairs of the Parish;
- (c) to represent the best interests of the Parishioners and the Parish in all matters that come before Council for decision;
- (d) to communicate to Council the concerns and opinions of Parishioners on matters concerning the work of the Church in the Parish and Diocese; and
- (e) to participate in the execution and implementation of decisions taken by the Council or the Parishioners.

Finances:

Year-end Budget Insights: by The Ven. Noel Wygiera

As we look at where we ended up budget wise at the end of 2025, we see a significant difference between the anticipated deficit one year ago and the actual deficit at the end of 2025. The anticipated deficit was around \$50,000 and the actual deficit at year end, before transferring money out of reserves, was around

\$30,000. This is a significant improvement over what we were expecting. Much of the improvement can be attributed to our expenses being lower than anticipated. Parish council authorized a withdrawal of \$20,000 from one of our accounts in the Diocesan Consolidated Investment Fund (CIF). The remaining \$10,000 of the actual deficit was covered by the balance in our operating account.

Thanks to market performance in 2025, and the growth that it contributed to in our investment accounts, the difference in the value of the investments between 2024-year end and 2025-year end was only around \$10,000. This means, at least on paper, our \$20,000 withdrawal only cost us \$10,000.

When you factor all this together our realized deficit at the end of 2025 was around \$20,000, which is much better than the \$50,000 we were expecting a year ago. Good work, but there's still work to do as we continue our push towards a balanced budget where we don't have to depend on transferring money from our savings account to balance. Although the fund we draw from can help us balance budgets for many more years to come, we do not want to be dependent on it over the long run.

Preparing a budget is not unlike predicting the future by looking into a crystal ball. It is murky and not very precise, and we end up making best guesses based on past performance and future hope. While some of our expenses are known in advance, many are subject to market changes. We tend to budget on the high end for these and then are thankful when costs do not end up being as high as we anticipated. In terms of income, as a charitable organization, we are mostly dependent on donor contributions. We are usually pretty conservative when we budget for this income, and we base projections on past levels of giving. We are thankful when income is higher than anticipated.

This year we attempted to see if we could get a better sense of what we could expect in terms of income from donations. We sent out pledge letters to everyone on the parish list and asked that forms be completed and returned so that we could base our budgeted income on what parishioners are actually planning to give on a regular basis in the coming year. Thank you to all who participated by providing this information. Unfortunately, the level of participation overall was low, (much less than 50%), and although the information we gathered is helpful, we will once again be largely basing our income projections on past levels of giving.

The 2026 budget will once again be projecting a large deficit, although not as large as last year. While there is real improvement, we still have work ahead of us. We continue to live in hope and trust that God will bless us and be with us in our struggles.

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:

THE KITCHEN KORNER--submitted by Judy Ewart

It is hard to believe that we are already one month into our New Year. I hope everyone had a good holiday and are getting back into their routines.

January has been a quiet month in the kitchen. We held our Parish Tea on January 17th and had 15 parishioners in total enjoy no-bake cheesecakes with either lemon or strawberry topping or both. Due to the doors being installed in the hall that day, we held our tea at the back of the church and it went quite well. A number of people enjoyed the coziness of the space where we gathered. Our next tea will be February 19th when we will be serving cupcakes and everyone is welcome to attend.

Our Annual Meeting for our Parish will take place on Sunday February 22 after the church service. We will once again have a soup and bun lunch before the meeting. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the hall and if you would like to make a soup or donate buns, please sign up to do so. If you are making soup, we are asking that you make a pot big enough to serve 12 to 15 people. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (825-706-5808).

I would like to extend a big THANK-YOU to everyone who takes the laundry home after being in the kitchen. This is one of those jobs that often goes

unnoticed but I do appreciate everyone making sure that the tea towels, dish clothes and drying mats are clean and ready for the next group to use.

Flower Calendar:

A new Flower Calendar has been posted at the back of the church. There are no flowers in Advent or Lent. The suggested donation for the two bouquets is \$60.00. You will be contacted by the office the week prior to the Sunday you have chosen and you have the opportunity to have a dedication in the Sunday Leaflet if you so wish.

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. **All Voices practises will be held on February 5th and 19th.** 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.

AROUND THE CHURCH/HALL:

If you park in the lot to the east of the church, or if you spend any time in the kitchen and hall, you will have noticed two new doors.



The view from outside shows both doors. The one on the left is the door out of the kitchen and the one on the right is the exit door from the hall. It has a crash bar and no access from the outside. The cost of the new doors was shared by money from the Building Fund and a donation from the Men's Group. They are much more energy efficient doors.

Prayers

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.
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)