

St. Luke's News

April 2026

Vol. 9 #4



ANGLICAN CHURCH

of

ST. LUKE

4929 54th Street
Red Deer, Alberta

T4N 2G7

403-346-3402

email

office@oldchurchrd.com

website

www.oldchurchrd.com

How many people are 'put off' attending the Easter Vigil because of its name? It is often associated with long and mournful activities. We use it to describe someone's vigil at the bedside of a sick relative, or in the context of a candle light vigil to honour and remember those involved in a some tragic event.

The word derives from a Latin word for 'awake'. In religious terms it is a service held during the night leading to a feast day. The Christmas Eve service could be called a Christmas Vigil. As Noel pointed out to us in church recently, the Easter Vigil is the principal celebration of Easter. It's observance has changed over the history of the church. In about the year 225 it lasted all night and became associated with baptism, where the baptism would occur at the morning cock crow and then be followed by the Eucharist. In the 10th century it was moved to Saturday afternoon and in the 14th century it was moved to Saturday morning, which lost the point of its symbolism. In 1951 the Roman Catholic church moved it back to Saturday night. (The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church: Oxford University Press: 2nd Ed: 1978) The rubrics of the BAS state that **"It is celebrated at a convenient time between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter morning."**

Rather than being a solemn service it celebrates the passage from darkness to light and from solemn silence to joyful alleluia.

There are basically four parts to the service.

First is the Service of Light, where a fire is kindled outside the church, or carefully inside the church. The Paschal Candle (see note under around the church) is lit from this and brought in to the church which is in darkness and processed up to the Sanctuary. The other candles are then lit and the lights in the church are turned back on.

The second part of the service is the Liturgy of the Word. At least three of the suggested ten readings from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament are read.

The third apart of the service is Christian Initiation. This year, we will be celebrating a Baptism. There is also a Renewal of Baptismal Vows for the congregation.

The fourth part of the service is the Holy Eucharist with the administration of Easter Communion.

It is a wonderful and joyful celebration of Easter. Plan to be there and celebrate.

(Items for the May Newsletter should be submitted by April 27th)

Incumbent Priest/Pastor:

The Ven. Noel Wygiera
vicar@oldchurchrd.com

Vocational Deacon:

The Rev. Deacon Tracey Stagg
deacon@oldchurchrd.com

Incumbent's Warden:

Suzanne Blackwell
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 Services: 10:00 am

Note: April 12th: Morning Prayer

April 19th: Eucharist with Reserve Sacrament

Sunday online Service: 1:00 pm

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

Note: There will not be any Compline in April. It will resume May 3rd.

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 is no Thursday Eucharist April 16th and 23rd.

LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES:

April 2nd: Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm St. Leonard's on the Hill.

Preacher: The Ven. Noel Wygeira

April 3rd: Good Friday: 10:30 am Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Preacher: The Rev. Chris Roth

April 4th: Easter Vigil: 8:00 pm Anglican Church of St. Luke.

Preacher: The Rev. John Lentz

April 5th: Easter Eucharist: 10:00 Anglican Church of St. Luke

OTHER EVENTS

Pot Luck Lunch: Following the morning service on April 12th.

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

Thursday April 9th: 7:00 pm All Voices Choir Practice

Saturday April 11th: Men's Group Breakfast: 9:00 am. If you plan to attend the breakfast contact Bob Dixon at bdixon1@telus.net so enough food is prepared.

Thursday April 9th: Parish Tea following the 2:00 pm Eucharist. All members of the Parish are invited to attend. **Note: Back to second Thursday of the month.**

Saturday April 18th: 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.

SPRING TEA AND TALENT SALE, SATURDAY APRIL 25th: Our Spring Tea will be taking place on Saturday April 25th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The Talent part will include crafts, books, plants and baked goods and we are looking for donations of these items. The sign-up sheet for volunteering will be up in the hall Easter weekend. Friday April 24th we will be setting up in the hall and prepping for the tea. On Friday, please feel free to come down and help even if it is only for a short time. If you would like to help on Saturday but cannot work a full shift, please speak with Judy and we can make arrangements. Please let your family and friends know about our tea as the monies raised are split 50/50 between church operations and our community ministry. Last year we were able to donate \$2500.00 to the Mustard Seed from our fundraising events.

Pastoral Care Course: The next diocesan pastoral care course will be run this year from **May 6-June 17** by zoom. This is an opportunity to explore pastoral training for either personal or parish use. A pastoral community will be established as we learn together. More information is available at pastoralcare@calgary.anglican.ca. This course tends to fill quickly.

Finances: As stated last month, at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners on February 22nd, the proposed 2026 Budget that was prepared by the Corporation (Incumbent, Incumbent's Warden and People's Warden), the Treasurer and Parish Council was accepted. It is still a deficit budget, but the projected deficit is less than the one projected for last year. A further analysis of the financial status of the Parish will be in the May 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. 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:

2026 Mission Action Plan -- Submitted by Br. Michael

In the first quarter of every year, the good folks down at the Diocese ask each parish to fill out what's called a *Missional Footprint Document*. This document is meant to help facilitate reflection on how our parish has impacted the world around us in the previous year, and provide a framework for planning how we will continue to serve and invite our neighbours into the family of God in the coming year. It's one of those things that would be very easy to fill out, send off, and promptly forget about. But it's also one of those things that, if taken seriously, can serve as a helpful tool for encouraging us to refine what we are already doing, and stimulating the development of new ways of engaging our city.

This year, we decided to skip the top-down elements of putting this together, and jumped straight into hosting a gathering open to anyone from the Parish to come reflect and dream together, focused on the bottom portion of the document: the development of a *Mission Action Plan (MAP)*. We began with a time of silence and reflection on scripture, posing questions about how Jesus's teachings on The Sheep and the Goats and The Great Commission fit into the particular context of Red Deer and St. Luke's. We went on to consider the past year: how we have impacted our neighbours inside and outside the Parish, what signs of the Spirit's work among us we're noticing, where we are struggling to gain traction, and where we are noticing gaps. Drawing on the recently published Deficit Reduction Strategy Update, we then presented seven ideas to capitalize on the momentum from 2025 and explore new ways of serving and engaging our neighbours. After honing these down to a few key priorities, we spent some time dreaming about the future and where the Spirit might be giving us vision for down

the road. By the time we shut things down, we had spent a solid two hours talking through our Parish's vocation, and it felt like the room was alive. The article you have in front of you is not meant to give a comprehensive picture of what was covered at this gathering, but to synthesize some of the key ideas that were resonating amongst those present and to put forward our top three missional priorities for the year. This will be followed up by a handy-dandy visual snapshot in the Sunday bulletin sometime soon. If you have questions about any of this, or something strikes you and you want to get involved, or you just want to keep the conversation going, we encourage you to get in touch with Michael at 403-877-4644 or peopleswarden@oldchurchrd.com. You could also consider checking out a Council meeting on the third Tuesday of each month in the hall. We would love to have you.

The People of God in the City of Red Deer

When we met a year ago as Council to hash out our Mission Action Plan, one of our big takeaways was that for us to continue to grow as a people on mission in Red Deer, it will require that we continue to grow in our sense of identity as God's people. In our gathering a couple weeks ago, the consensus was that this is happening. We can point to several signs that we are growing not only in Sunday attendance, but in depth of discipleship, in willingness to take risks, in enjoyment of one another, in capacity to serve, and in our sense of ourselves as the people of God. We are more and more operating out of a sense that we have Good News to share and a community at our backs. Of course, there are exceptions to this—places where we are bogged down, discouraged, or feeling a little run of the mill—but in the midst of this, we seem to be experiencing a bit of a growth spurt.

As we discussed what it could mean to lean into these areas of growth, it was interesting to see where the conversation went—what ideas surfaced again and again, and what seemed to ring true. We noted how in our particular time and place, isolation and loneliness appear to reign, particularly among young people, transient people, and people from other parts of the world. In addition to this deep spiritual need, these people are often disproportionately impacted by physical poverty—food insecurity in particular. Oddly enough, a lot of these reflections sprang out of a bit of a flopped strategy from last year of exploring ways that we could engage students from Red Deer Polytechnic. It was also interesting to see the way that our conversation kept moving inward—not in an insular or selfish way, but in recognition of the reality that we seem to be at our best missionally when we are intentional about taking care of each other. In this regard, we noted the key role that hospitality work plays for our people, but also a few areas we need to grow in. There are some gaps in our

communications and our ways of identifying and encouraging potential leaders, and we are currently lacking opportunities to seek the Lord together in prayer. With all of this in mind, we present the following three missional priorities for the year.

Community: The many being made one through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Priority 1 - Communicate profusely about mission, defining it through the lens of the Five Marks, with an emphasis on tapping into the latent passions and leadership potential in our community. Included in this is a charge for the leadership of the Parish to explore and report on the tangible and spiritual needs of the people of Red Deer, and particularly our immediate geographic neighbours.

Teaching: The stories, practices, and ideas that shape us into God's People

Priority 2 - Create opportunities for all the people of St. Luke's—young and old—to explore the gifts God has given them and the ways they could use these gifts to become personally invested in serving our neighbours and one another. This may include new opportunities to pray and seek God together, small group opportunities, the creation of devotional resources, and finding new ways to empower and coach our youth to become a key part of fulfilling our mission.

Invitation: The proclamation of the Good News that God is inviting all of creation into his life

Priority 3 - Host three community meals, exploring how to best invite students from RDP and the people who live and work in downtown Red Deer to have a seat at our table, demonstrating that St. Luke's is a community in which they could belong.

The Road Ahead

Perhaps the funniest part of our gathering was towards the end when we shifted from talking about fulfilling our mission and shaping our parish culture here and now to putting forward our no-holds-barred dreams about the future. So many great things bubbled up when we opened this part of the conversation: ideas about empowering the kids of the Parish to lead and serve and have fun together, a challenge to become better celebrators, a desire to expand our music ministry, and a vision of our sanctuary so full for worship that we need to renovate to increase capacity. The key moment, though, came when one of our participants shared that they dream of a day when *St. Luke's is central to the life of this part of the city*. Bam. I think that's it: I think that's the direction we need to be heading.

In some ways, what we've put forward in this year's MAP starts us down this road, but I think there's still lots more conversation and refinement ahead to get

us on track. In particular, I think that this will require us to reimagine our priorities for how we use our property—our building, our new parking lot, and the courtyard. This reimagining of our facilities was a recurring theme towards the end of the evening: that St. Luke’s would have a revolving door, open all the time, full of people every day of the week; hosting organizations, making meals available, providing childcare—garnering a reputation for helping our neighbours get what they need; open gates on the courtyard, vegetable gardens, barbecues; more staff to make this way of using our space possible. It’s a big dream, it’s probably a ways off, but I think it fits. And I think it’s worth starting to plan for now.

As we start to imagine what this could look like, we want to hear from you. We want to hear your dreams, your wildest dreams, and what small steps you think we can start to take to make them happen. The plans we’ve put forward here are not meant to shackle us, but to inspire us. If we end up scrapping everything in this article by July because we’ve got some momentum towards becoming central to the life of Downtown Red Deer, we will call that a success. So take courage, and dream big, and pray for our little community as we strive to take the next step together. And be warned: to open ourselves to saying yes to the leading of the Spirit in this way is more often than not an invitation to the unexpected.

THE KITCHEN KORNER--submitted by Judy Ewart

March was a very quiet month in our kitchen with just our monthly Parish Tea taking place. This month we had 9 guests join us for food and fellowship in the hall after the 2:00 service. As our tea was close to St. Patrick's Day we had shamrock shaped sugar cookies for our treat. Our Parish Tea in April is moving to the second Thursday – April 9th – and Elizabeth is going to surprise us with our treat for that day.

One of my responsibilities with the kitchen is ensuring that we have the supplies needed for our various events. If you notice that we are running low on something needed (coffee, tea, sugar, napkins), please call me, text me (825-706-5808) or send me an email (jaewart60@gmailcom) and let me know what is needed. I do stockpile some items and can let you know where they are in the kitchen/hall or I will purchase the needed supply. Thank-you for your help in this matter.

Flower Calendar:

A new Flower Calendar is at the back of the church. 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. **There are still available Sundays in April and May.**

Choir:

The choir practices Thursday evenings at 7:00 in the church, **with the exception that practices will be held on Wednesdays March 11th, April 15th, May 13th and June 17th at 1:00 pm. Those weeks there will not be a Thursday practice. There will not be any choir practice the week of April 19th.**The choir always welcomes new members. There is no need to be able to read music and there is no audition. **An All Voices practises will be held on April 9th** at 7:00 pm. Anyone interested in learning some of the new music and helping the singing from their place in the congregation is invited to attend. You can even come with your favourite hymn and we can sing it.

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:

If you have been in church recently, you will have noticed a change in the 'furnishings'.

The choir pews, which had been behind the Altar have been moved into the north side of the Nave of the church. This allows better seating for the choir. It necessitated the removal of the front pew on the that side of the church.



The moving of the choir pews has allowed the Altar to be moved back closer to the east wall and up a step. This has created a lot more space in the Sanctuary, in front of, and behind, the Altar.



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 Lent (from the Book of Hours, 1514)

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God by in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

The most familiar musical setting is by Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941). It is the setting that was in our old hymn book. This a link to the music:
<https://youtu.be/LQ5GF3gVlbc?si=53chG06jHpVhXV1p>

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)