

# St. Luke's News

May 2026

Vol. 9 #5



## **ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**of**

**ST. LUKE**

**4929 54<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Red Deer, Alberta**

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

Here we are coming into May. As I write this in late April it is snowing. Spring, certainly in Alberta, is an unpredictable season. We could very well get more snow in May (or any other month of the year, for that matter), but I think we are all waiting for some consistent warm weather. On the other hand, with so many years of it being dry, moisture in any form is welcome. As the snow melts it is going into the ground which is good news for the farmers.

We aren't, and haven't been, the only ones who hope for a nice May. In looking for a literary reference to May, I found one from William Shakespeare's play *Love's Labour's Lost*. In it, he has one of the characters say "At Christmas I no more desire a rose than wish a snow in May's new-fangled shows; but like of each thing that in season grows..."

Shakespeare was brought to my mind recently when I read on a 'This Day in History' site that it is believed that Shakespeare was born on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1564. That date has been felt to be his birthdate because it is known that he was baptised on April 26<sup>th</sup> of that year and the custom in the Church of England at that time was to baptise infants when they were three days old. His baptismal date is definitely known as it is in the baptismal records of Holy Trinity Church in Stratford Upon Avon. This made me think about how important church records are. It was unfortunate that some of our records were lost when our safe was stolen several years ago. When our record books are full, they are sent to the Diocese and they are archived there. They can be used to check dates of important events that have been recorded in church documents. They are often used in genealogical studies.

(Items for the June Newsletter should be submitted by May 26<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:

Suzanne Blackwell

[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 Services: 10:00 am**

**May 24th: Eucharist with Reserve Sacrament**

**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.**

**Note: There is no Thursday Eucharist May 7<sup>th</sup>.**

## **OTHER EVENTS**

**May 6<sup>th</sup>:** Poppy Rejuvenation. See note under ‘Around the Parish’.

**Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>:** **Men’s Group Breakfast and Spring Cleanup:** 9:00 am. If you plan to attend the breakfast contact Bob Dixon at [bdixon1@telus.net](mailto:bdixon1@telus.net) so enough food is prepared. More information will be sent out closer to the date.

**Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>:** Parish Tea following the 2:00 pm Eucharist. All members of the Parish are invited to attend.

**Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>:** 7:00 pm **All Voices Choir Practice**

**Ladies’ Group Breakfast Meeting:** **Cancelled** for this month. All are invited to join with the Men’s Group on May 9<sup>th</sup> to have breakfast and help with the cleanup. See note above under May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Retreat 2026 – Women of Faith:** **May 22<sup>nd</sup> (6:30-9 pm); May 23<sup>rd</sup> (9:00 am-4:45 pm)**

The deadline for registering for this event has been changed from May 4<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>, but there is a possibility that some spaces may still be open. If you want to

check this out or get further information you can contact Dorothy Comfort at 403-346-7374 or Tracey Stagg at 403-986-0555.

The facilitator for this St. Luke's Women's retreat is Carol Blair.

Carol Blair is a cradle Anglican who grew up on a farm in the County of Lacombe and now makes her home in the country near Millet. She attends Immanuel Anglican Church in Wetaskiwin, where she serves as Rector's Warden, a licensed Lay Reader, and Communications Liaison (a fancy name for newsletter editor!). Faith has been an important part of Carol's life since childhood, and her desire to keep learning has continued to deepen that faith over time. Along the way, she has experienced many reminders of the presence and guidance of the triune God in both ordinary and unexpected moments. She is especially interested in how faith grows as a living relationship with God and takes shape through attention to everyday life and care for others. A health professional who refuses to retire, Carol continues to lead her consulting company, Carol Blair and Associates. Her work reflects a lifelong commitment to helping people recognize their strengths and grow into the possibilities before them. During this retreat, Carol will serve as a facilitator and fellow learner, inviting participants to reflect together on how faith deepens through our stories, through noticing God's presence in daily life, and through compassion for one another.

**Pub Night May 25<sup>th</sup>:** 6:30-8:30 pm at *The Troubled Monk*.

**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](mailto:pastoralcare@calgary.anglican.ca). This course tends to fill quickly.

### **Finances:**

Due to a communication error there is no financial update at this time. A full 6-month review will be in the June 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 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:**

#### **Poppy Rejuvenation**

Our poppy display has become a signature in the City of Red Deer during Remembrance Week. It was created by parishioners as well as community members in 2022, and has been noted not only in the city and province, but images have been shared across the country as well as across oceans. The mesh poppy panels have become somewhat tattered in areas over the years, and the poppies themselves are crumpled and hanging downward. The display is in need of some maintenance and repair. We are hoping that parishioners will come out on Wednesday afternoons, 1:30 - 3:30, beginning May 6 and continuing each Wednesday as we work our way through the poppy panels. If you have some time to lend to this project, it would be gratefully appreciated. Questions? Contact Carolyn Dixon or Deb Mann.

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

April was a little busier month in our kitchen as we had a church potluck on April 12<sup>th</sup> and our monthly Parish Tea on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Our potluck after the service on the 12<sup>th</sup> was a huge success with a wide variety of food brought and plenty to go around. It was wonderful to see everyone joining in and the room was buzzing with conversation the entire time. Thank-you to everyone who helped in the kitchen with the clean-up and all those who helped get the tables and chairs put away – many hands made the work go quickly.

Our April Parish Tea was well attended and we had fourteen people join us in the hall afterwards for carrot cake and coffee and tea. Elizabeth provided the carrot cake and received many comments on how good her cake was – some even saying it was the best carrot cake that they had had. Our next Parish Tea is May 14<sup>th</sup> and we will be serving a variety of cookies. Everyone is invited to attend and if you would like to attend but need help getting to the church, please call the

office and let us know.

I would like to thank everyone for the great job everyone is doing in keeping the kitchen clean and tidy. Our dishwasher washes and sanitizes the dishes so that when the dishes come out, we do not need to dry them, just let them sit for a few minutes and then put them away. The floor around the dishwasher can often become quite wet and a slipping hazard, so a quick mop helps to keep the floor safe.

### **Spring Tea:**

What a weekend it was for our Spring Tea – not very springlike weather – but I am thankful that the winds died down by Saturday and we just had to deal with snow. In spite of the winter weather we had a good turnout for our tea and made over \$700 in profit of which 50% will go to operations and 50% to community mission. Bob and Suzanne who served coffee/tea and hosted told me that many people told them they enjoyed our teas and kept coming back. There was a buzz in the hall and many people came and enjoyed the tea and stayed for a while visiting with family and friends. It was very heartwarming to see all the members of our congregation who came out to help with the event. We had a number of people there to help set up on Friday and then a good number of people to work the sale and tea on Saturday. Thank-you to everyone who helped with the tea: to those who donated items for the sale, to those who worked the Tea and Sale and to those who let their family and friends know about the event. While raising funds for our church and community mission is one part of our Tea and Sale, for me the biggest part of these events is the opening of our church to the community and inviting them in to join us and see that we are an active and dynamic church in their neighborhood and finally it is an opportunity for members of our congregation to get to know one another better through working side by side. My thanks again for all that everyone did to support this event!

### **Flower Calendar:**

The Flower Calendar is at the back of the church on the north wall. There you can choose to donate flowers on a particular Sunday. 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 some Sundays available.**

### **Choir:**

The choir practices Thursday evenings at 7:00 in the church, **with the exception that the practice will be held on Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. That week there will not be a Thursday practice.** 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 May 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:choir@oldchurchrd.com) or Judy Miller at [jhalmil@hotmail.com](mailto:jhalmil@hotmail.com).

### **AROUND THE CHURCH:**

You may have noticed that the font (from the Latin *fons*, 'spring of water') has been left at the front of the church since the baptism on Easter Eve. During the baptismal service the water in the font is blessed by the priest and then poured over the head of the candidate, a process called affusion. Interestingly, fonts were originally made of stone, as is the large font at the back of the church. We have been unable to find out any history of this font but it was probably made for the original church. It is very heavy and difficult to move. It would have been close to its current location as baptisms were often held at the back of the church, symbolizing the passage from the outside world in to the family of God gathered in the church. Now it is allowed to have the font in any part of the church so that the whole congregation can participate in the baptism.

Unfortunately, the stone font has become unstable and is considered a hazard, which is why it is now fenced off. The plan is, at some point, to move it to the garden area on the south side of the church building where it can be stabilized and then may be used as a bird bath. The water that has been blessed is now 'Holy Water'. The use of the water for purposes other than baptism can be traced back to the 4<sup>th</sup> Century, and 'Holy water stoups' at the entrance to churches became common. The stoup is a basin near the entrance to the church which contains the holy water so that the faithful can sprinkle themselves with it or make a sign of the cross on their forehead or chest. In some churches the stoup is built in to a small niche in the wall. In other churches it is a separate bowl or it may be the font. If you have attended services at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, you will have seen such a bowl containing Holy Water just as you enter the nave of the church.

As the entrance to our church is small and crowded, it has been decided to leave the font at the front of the church. It is then accessible either as you come up or return from the communion rail or you can come up to it after a service. Periodically fresh water will be put in the font and again blessed.

## **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 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.  
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)