

St. Luke's News

December 2021

Vol. 4 #12



ANGLICAN CHURCH

of

ST. LUKE

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Happy New Year! With the first Sunday in Advent we start our new ecclesiastical year. It is wonderful that we have been able to worship in our church building again, even with restrictions.

Interestingly, the 1st Sunday of Advent is determined by the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Day, November 30th. This guarantees four Sundays before Christmas. The first clear references to Advent come from the latter half of the 6th C. At one time Advent was kept almost as strictly as Lent, and while fasting is no longer formally ordered, festivities are discouraged. We now use blue hangings in Advent, replacing the purple or even black hangings used at one time to emphasize the solemn character of the season. There is some 'lightening' of the observances on the 3rd Sunday, when in some churches pink hangings and vestments are used. We acknowledge this with a pink candle in our Advent wreath and a pink Advent banner. "The season is observed as a time of preparation not only for Christmas but also for the Second Coming of Christ as Judge at the Last Day" (The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church)

In keeping with the intent of Advent, Noel has provided some information regarding plans for a specific programme of prayer and fasting in Advent. Preliminary information about this is in this Newsletter in Noel's Reflection and Invitation.

Submit items for the January Newsletter by December 29th.
mthain@telusplanet.net

Incumbent Priest/Pastor:

The Ven. Noel Wygiera

Incumbent's Warden:

Eric Nyrose

People's Warden:

Deb Mann 403-350-4798

Pianist:

Judy Miller

Organist:

Jo Wygiera

Service Schedule

Sunday

08:00 am Said Eucharist

10:00 am Morning Service

1:00 pm On Line Service

7:00 pm Evening Service

(On line)

Thursday

2:15 pm Said Eucharist

Check the website for further information regarding these services

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 change contact information, eg. address, phone number or email address, make sure that you notify the office at: office@oldchurchrd.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship: 08:00 am, 10:00 am (in person); 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm (on line)

Midweek Worship: Thursday 2:15 pm (in person)

Ladies' Group Meetings: Watch the Website and emails for further dates

Men's Group Meetings: Watch the Website and emails for further dates

Wednesday Morning Bible Study 10:00 am: See the website under 'Events' for further information.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE: 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm Eucharists

CHRISTMAS DAY: There will be no Christmas Day service

DECEMBER 26TH: 10:00 am Eucharist

1:00 pm On Line Eucharist with Spiritual Communion

Because of COVID restrictions there will be no Children's Service this year.

Information regarding in person worship:

For in person worship, masking is required and physical distancing between cohorts is also required. The church has been set up with the use of every other pew.

-Indoor social gatherings such as coffee hour, are not yet permitted.

If you wish to attend one of the on line services and do not receive an email invitation, contact vicar@oldchurchrd.com.

Noel's Reflection and Invitation:

Prepare the Way of the Lord – Prayer and Fasting in Advent. Every great feast is meant to be preceded by a deliberate fast. Advent is a season of fasting and prayer which is both a sign of anticipation and preparation. On the one hand, it is meant to centre us spiritually in the hope in which we live as we anticipate Jesus' return. We are reminded that we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the

Lord. On the other hand, on a practical level, it helps prepare us to celebrate and appreciate the Feast of Christmas which is just around the corner. I am extending an invitation to you to join me in a season of prayer and fasting. We will explore different ways that we can fast, from literally changing our eating patterns, to making deliberate decisions to live more simply. As we learn to set aside things that we usually think we can't live without, we open ourselves to the possibility of depending more on the word of God as we enter into the ancient rhythms of prayer found in the Daily Office (Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, etc.). More information is to come. In the meantime, I recommend the book "The Complete Guide to Fasting" by Jason Fung, M.D. while it does mention spiritual practices and traditions of fasting, it is not a spiritual guide. It is a practical guide to the mechanics of fasting. It is very helpful in dispelling myths and misinformation about fasting as it recommends numerous patterns and schedules and explaining their benefits. It offers encouragement that enables readers to confidently enter into times of fasting. For a spiritual exploration of the benefits of simplicity, I recommend "Abundant Simplicity: Discovering the Unhurried Rhythms of Grace" by Jan Johnson. It explores choices we can make regarding resources like time, energy, and money, and how these decisions can energize our connection with God, or be lifedrainning and separate us from God. In each chapter the author provides small experiments with simplicity as well as questions for discussion or reflection to get you started. While we have a wealth of resources available to us in our prayer books to guide in the use of the Daily Office, for those of you who are tech savvy and love your apps, I recommend the Daily Prayer app from the Church of England. It provides daily office lectionary readings and presents complete services for the various times of day, with variations for the days of the week. It's kind of like an automatic prayer book.

Noel+

If you wish to explore more about this, contact Noel at vicar@oldchurchrd.com.

Advent Outreach:

This year's Advent Outreach Program will run from November 28th through to December 19th. This year St. Luke's is sponsoring two families, a single mom with four children and a single mom with 7 children.

Both families celebrate Christmas and have just recently arrived in Canada with very little. We will be creating non-perishable food hampers, donating warm clothing (mitts, hats, socks) and purchasing small gifts for the children.

Further information on the families and options for giving will be made available by email and on the church website.

Advent Resources:

PWRDF's Advent Resource:

Ideal for personal prayer or group study, *Thread of Hope* ties together a diverse array of writers, viewpoints and activities suitable for adults and youth alike. Each week of Advent begins with an illustration and scripture passage that takes us through the

familiar Advent story, from the angel messengers and the journey to Bethlehem, to the shepherds responding to the call and the birth of Jesus.

- Sundays you'll read a reflection from a PWRDF partner, volunteer or staff member, followed by a guided meditation from Rev. Cheryl Barker (read or listen!).
- During the week, a different writer will reflect on a scripture passage and offer a prayer for each day, followed by a PWRDF story.

This resource can be received as a daily message in your email or downloaded in its entirety.

To learn more or to subscribe, go to <https://pwrdf.org/advent2021>

Awaiting the King:

These devotionals have been written by Anglican clergy from across the country, including two from our Diocese. They are a bit longer, but well worth reading. They can be accessed at <https://dq5pwpq1q8ru0.cloudfront.net/2021/11/24/12/35/00/0550c6dd-9f6c-4a4a-b7f5-86e3b147cd8d/2021%20Awaiting%20the%20King%20Advent%20Devotional.pdf>

On Eagle's Wings Advent Reflections:

On Eagle's Wings is an ecumenical Christian ministry that proclaims Jesus Christ and serves the Church and individuals in remote and isolated areas of northern Canada. They produce a series of short Advent Reflections for each day in Advent. You can access these by going to their website www.oneagleswingsnorth.org and clicking on Resources.

Events of interest:

Against the Grain Theatre is an award-winning Canadian opera company committed to revitalizing the operatic art form by presenting an eclectic array of musical works in unconventional spaces and innovative ways. They are presenting two on line events that may be of interest to you. The first is a production of Mozart's *Requiem*. The first broadcast of this production was on November 27th, but is available for viewing until May 27th.

The second production coming up is called *Messiah/Complex*. It has the familiar music of Handel's *Messiah* and is being made available for viewing from December 12th to January 9th. This was first presented earlier this year and was shown worldwide and received high praise. Elizabeth and I watched it and it is really well done and worth watching. It is performed by Canadian artists filmed in their own locale as it was produced during the pandemic and the artists could not be together. Both these productions are free to view, with an option of making a donation. You can access the 'tickets' by going to their website <https://atgtheatre.com> and click on "Upcoming".

Church Calendars: Some 2022 Church Calendars are still available. If you would like to purchase one, notify either Elizabeth Thain (ethain@telus.net) or Debb Mann (debbmann@telus.net) and arrangements will be made to get them delivered if

necessary. The cost is \$10.00 each. The money made goes towards the work of the Altar Guild.

Finances:

Heat the Church--updated:

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 under the donate button on the website or by e-transfer as outlined below. To the end of October, we have had 45 days covered. Thank you to all who continue to support this. The suggested donation is \$25 for a day.

Financial Statement:

	Actual Oct 2021	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance
Income	11,260.03	112,722.85	141,766.67	29,043.82
Expenses	9,855.57	139,862.74	154,797.50	14,934.76,
Net	1,404.46	27,139.89	13,030.83	14.109.06

October was the first month in a long time that the monthly donations were more than the monthly expenses. Hopefully this trend can continue and we thank all those who are contributing as they are able.

Flower Calendar and Memorial Dedications:

As we are now back in the church, we will again be having flowers on the Altar. There will be a modified Flower Calendar up in the church. Note that we don't have flowers on the Altar in Advent, so the next time we will have flowers is Christmas Eve. The suggested donation is \$50.00. These donations can be accompanied by a specific dedication if you wish.

Apart from flower donations you can remember people and events as a **Special Dedication** on any particular Sunday. If you so choose, you can make a donation to accompany your memorial and these can be designated to the Memorial Fund, General Fund, or any other Special Fund of your choosing. **If you wish to make a donation**, it can be done in the same way as noted above under Gift Sunday. If you are going to send a cheque, please email the office at office@oldchurchrd.com to let them know about your dedication and the Sunday you would like it to appear. If doing an e-transfer, put in the message section your dedication, the date you would like it to appear and the fund to which you would like the money designated. Special Dedications, for flowers or otherwise will appear in the announcements on the designated Sunday.

Around the Parish:

Secret Prayer Sisters:

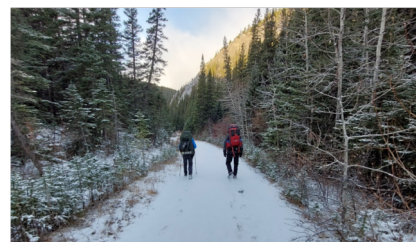
A number of women in the Parish participated in a match in the fall of 2019. At that time each lady joined by filling in a 'Get to Know Me' sheet. Each lady was then matched to one of the other participants and was asked to pray daily for this person, remember her frequently with words of encouragement and occasionally have a small gift for her. At the same time another Secret Prayer Sister was holding her in prayer. It is a very powerful responsibility to continually pray for another and quite humbling to know the same is happening for you.

Originally the match was for 18 months but Covid came along and we were unable to join together to Reveal who our matches were. Finally, a week ago we were able gather in the church hall, following Covid protocols, and Reveal who it was who was praying for us. People felt that this created a bond during a time when we did not have opportunity to see one another. It was special to have this 3 way connection keeping us a little bit closer together.

A new match will be organized at Easter-time. Watch for information if you want to take part. For more information contact Elizabeth Thain

Quaite Valley:

On November 5th-7th three of our intrepid St. Luke's hikers, Daniel Jerusalimiec, Mark Stang and Phil Wright, hiked in to the Quaite Valley. This is a hike that starts near Lac des Arcs. They had a variety of weather, including waking to -8 on the 7th. This is a selection of pictures from that trip.



Around the Church:

With some of the Covid restrictions relaxed, we have been able to start having some small recitals and concerts in the church. They must follow all the protocols we have for our in-person worship. For these groups it is the first opportunity they have had to have recitals in two years.

Prayer during a Pandemic

This is from St. Paul's Church in Lexington, Kentucky and was provided by the Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, to PWRDF, who posted it on their website.

May we who are merely inconvenienced

Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors,

Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home

Remember those who must choose between preserving their own health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close

Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips

Remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market

Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home

Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country

Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,

Let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbour.

Amen