

St. Luke's News

June 2025

Vol. 8 #6



In June we will be celebrating Ascension Sunday, Ascension Day being May 29th, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. After Pentecost we enter the long period of 'After Pentecost'. You may sometimes hear it referred to as 'Ordinary Time'. It will last this year until November 29th, with November 30th being the First Sunday in Advent. During this time the liturgical colour is green, unless there is a special observance, such as Trinity Sunday, on one of the Sundays. It is also beginning of the summer season for the church. Here in Canada, and in many other parts of the world, the regular activities of the Parish are put on hold until the fall. It also is a time of reduced attendance at church, often because people are on holiday, or just away for the weekend. As noted further on in the Newsletter, it is important that regular giving continue. The cost of utilities tends to be less, but the regular expenses of the church continue. If you are travelling, remember that other places have Sunday services, and it can be very interesting to experience something that will be the same liturgy, but perhaps presented differently. You can either google 'Anglican church in', or if it is a small community drive around until you find a church. Hopefully they have updated their service time notice!

(Items for the July Newsletter should be submitted by June 23rd)

ANGLICAN CHURCH

of

ST. LUKE

4929 54th Street

Red Deer, Alberta

T4N 2G7

403-346-3402

email:

office@oldchurchrd.com

website

www.oldchurchrd.com

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 website for details of summer services

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

For full details of upcoming services, including the readings, go to <https://www.oldchurchrd.com/events>

June Sunday Morning Service: 10:00 am

June 1st: Holy Eucharist with Reserved Sacrament

June 8th: Holy Eucharist

June 15th: Holy Eucharist

June 22nd: Morning Prayer

June 29th: Holy Eucharist with Reserved Sacrament

Sunday online Service: 1:00 pm

Sunday Evening online Compline (Late Evening Prayer): 7:00 pm

June 1st and 8th only

If you wish to attend either of these online services and do not receive an email with the link, contact vicar@oldchurchrd.com

Thursday said Eucharist: 2:00 pm

OTHER EVENTS

Pub Night: Watch your email for the date of the next Pub Night. No questions are off the table. Get in touch with Br. Michael if you have any questions. 403-877-4644.

TUESDAY June 3rd: All Voices Choir Practice 7:00 pm. **NOTE CHANGE OF DAY** Come and join with the choir to learn some new music and practice some 'old' so you can help lead the singing in the congregation.

Sunday June 8th, 3:00 pm: Wedding Service for Torah Edu and Shawna Everett. All are invited. It will be followed by a potluck supper.

Saturday June 14th: Men's Group Breakfast 9:00 am. If you plan to attend notify Bob Dixon at bdixon1@telus.net so enough food can be prepared.

Thursday June 19th Parish Tea: The Parish Tea follows the 2:00 pm Service. Everyone is welcome to attend and join us for fellowship and food in the hall. In May nine parishioners along with the kitchen volunteers enjoyed tea and coffee with an assortment of cookies. We are still deciding on June's treats, but whatever we decide, it will be delicious. If you are free on a Thursday afternoon come out for the service and on the 19th join us for the tea following.

Saturday June 21st: **Ladies Group Breakfast 9:30 am.** If you plan to attend notify Joan Williams at office@oldchurchrd.com so enough food can be prepared.

Save the dates:

July 7th-11th 2025: **Good Shepherd Road Trip - On the Go With God...** and you are invited to join us!

We are looking for a host of volunteers to be a part of our favourite week of the year, **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!** This is a joint venture by Good Shepherd church, St Luke's and St. Leonard's churches.

There are all sorts of jobs to fill... big jobs, little jobs, and everything in between...

If you are willing and able to join us, please contact Teri or Darlene at the Good Shepherd office (403-340-1022) or Lynda Jordan (403-352-1640).

Church Garage Sale: **Saturday September 6th** we will be hosting a garage sale and BBQ in our church hall from 9:00 to 1:00. All donations will be greatly fully accepted. Set-up will take place on September 5 starting at 9:00 a.m. and items can be dropped off then. A sign-up sheet for volunteering will be posted in the hall in August.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Alongside Hope/PWRDF Announces Resilience Fund

How you can help:

Give to Alongside Hope. Donor to match gifts to Alongside Hope Resilience Fund up to a quarter million dollars

In the wake of massive cuts to international development assistance by the U.S. Government and some European governments, Alongside Hope partners are reporting that progress is being undone, programs are being forced to shut down, and families and communities are living in uncertainty about their futures. To maintain as many vital programs as possible, Alongside Hope is launching an urgent appeal to donors, the Resilience Fund. **Thanks to an extremely**

generous donor, all gifts made to the Resilience Fund by June 30, 2025 will be matched, up to \$250,000.

Pray for our neighbours all over the world

Advocate for increased funding by contacting your Member of Parliament

Finances:

2025	April Actual	Year to Date Actual	2025 Year to Date Budget	Variance
Income	13,609.10	51,054.18	49,983.67	1,070.51
Expenses	17,199.50	67,683.70	71,247.80	3,564.10
Net	-3,590.40	-16,629.52	-21,264.13	4,634.61

As we head towards the halfway point of the year, our finances are doing a little better than we expected. We have both received a little more than we anticipated receiving, and have spent a little less than we anticipated spending, leaving us about \$4600.00 ahead of our projected deficit as of the end of April. We are still in the thick of it, and will still need to dip into our reserves at some point in order to stay in the black, but this is encouraging news. As we consider the current state of things, I want to highlight two factors that have kept us ahead in the first half of this year.

First, in terms of our spending, I think it is worthwhile to point out that we have saved about \$2500.00 this year thanks to Joan Williams's desire to serve as our office administrator on a volunteer basis. This gift of her time has enabled us to keep things running smoothly while simultaneously cutting our expenses. We are heartily grateful for the work she does here, largely behind the scenes.

Second, in terms of your giving, I want to draw your attention to a couple of trends that seem to be developing right now. Over the first four months of the year, monthly donations were both a little *higher* and a little *more predictable* than the previous two years. While there are probably a few factors that contribute to these trends, one thing I think they suggest is that the folks who have joined our community over the past year are feeling at home here, and are looking for ways to take part in the work of their new community. And that gets me excited.

Back at our Annual Meeting of Parishioners, we put forward a set of five strategies aimed at reducing our operating deficit over the next few years. One of

those strategies centres on our practice of hospitality towards everyone who might pop into St. Luke's on a Sunday morning. If I'm right that these trends in giving demonstrate a growing sense of home among folks who are newer to St. Luke's, then I think we are on the right track with this one. And so I want to encourage you to keep at it: keep saying good morning, keep asking questions, keep inviting for coffee—keep showing hospitality, and so welcome our neighbours into God's life here at St. Luke's.

Finally, as we head into the summertime, I want to invite you to consider the method by which you give to St. Luke's. Pre-authorized monthly giving and options for giving electronically can help ensure that our summer holidays don't get in the way of our practice of financial stewardship. It's easy to sign up for automatic monthly withdrawals by either filling out the form located at the back of the church (the greeters or one of the wardens can get you one), or by scanning the QR code on the electronic giving pew cards. These cards also give instructions for how you can donate via e transfer (don't worry, no one will make a stink about you pulling out your phone during the offertory hymn). My thanks to all of you who give your time, your resources, and your skills to the work of God at St. Luke's. I'm so glad to be in this together.

Peace,
Michael McAuliffe
People's Warden

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 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.

AROUND THE PARISH: We have been saddened by the news of the death of Don Blackwell. Don has been a regular supporter of this parish for many years. An announcement will be made about funeral arrangements.

Baby shower:

As a parish family we often acknowledge life events for members of our family. Birthdays and anniversaries are often celebrated. One such celebration was held on May 4th when a baby shower was held to honour the two youngest new members of our family. Tureme, son of Toreh and Shawna, and Christopher, son of Josh and Heather.

Thanks:

-To all who contributed to the Lenten Outreach project collecting feminine hygiene products to be taken to The Mustard Seed.

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 the 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.

Choir:

If you are interested in joining, the choir practices at 7:00 pm Thursdays at the church. **June will be the last month for choir practices until September.** 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. If you are interested and would like more information, contact either Joan Williams at choir@oldchurchrd.com or Judy Miller at jhalnil@hotmail.com for more information. **See the note under Other Events regarding the ALL VOICES practice on JUNE 3RD.**

Servers:

At this time, we have a schedule to the end of June. If you are interested in taking part in this ministry next fall, contact servers@oldchurchrd.com or speak to Michael Thain. We will have another training session in the fall.

Sunday School:

Sunday School is going wonderfully but we still have plenty of opportunities for volunteers. Even if you can join us just once, it would be incredibly helpful as we follow the "rule of two," ensuring two adults are present with the children at all times. No worries if stairs are an issue; we can accommodate and plan our activities in the church hall. You're welcome to participate, plan an activity, or simply come and observe. All you need is a criminal record check (ask Noel for the signed letter) and to sign up on the sheet at the back of the church. Come hang out with us and be part of this wonderful experience! Jo Wygeira **2025**

Mission Action Plan:

See the pages after “Around the Hall”.

Around the Hall:

As was noted last month, repairs to the foundation/wall at the bottom of the basement stairs were required. This has now been done. They reinforced the foundation from the outside by digging down and pouring more concrete. They then put in metal bracing to hold up the ceiling joists that were beginning to sag because of the crumbling foundation. They determined that the foundation wall itself below the upper section was still in good condition in spite of some surface crumbling. Because of this, they were able to bolt the metal support to the existing wall. They felt that the rest of the wall down the stairs was in good condition and made some suggestions about what could be done to make it look better. The cost for this, which came in less than the original quote, was paid from the Building fund with a generous donation from the Men’s group.

Before



After



2025 Mission Action Plan

Community - Teaching - Invitation - Service - Worship

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, which we usually discuss as Corporation with input from Council, is meant to help parishes reflect on how they have impacted the world around them in the previous year, and to plan for how they will do so 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, could become a helpful tool for refining our current practice, and stimulating the development of new ways of engaging our city.

One way we hope to use this tool more effectively this year is by sharing some of the plans we've put together with you. In the spirit of brevity, we will skip all the reflection and conversation that went on behind the scenes, and will focus on describing a handful of strategies that will be put in place over the course of this year. That being said, if you are interested in reading more about how we got here, Michael McAuliffe would be happy to send that information your way.

Without any further ado, what you have in front of you is a sketch of this year's Mission Action Plan. You can expect to hear more about each strategy closer to its launch. Keep your eye on the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter to be sure you stay in the loop. You can also talk to any of the point people listed if you have questions about the strategy they oversee, or reach out to any member of Parish Council as we plan to revisit these strategies as a part of our monthly meetings moving forward.

01. Service

The giving of ourselves for the good of the world around us

Launch Stewardship Team

Create a team to explore creative ways to use and invest our resources to more effectively serve the mission of the church.

Point Person:
Noel Wygiera

Launch Date:
March

Service Small Groups

Initiate a couple of small groups to serve together with our partners at The Mustard Seed.

Point Person:
Doug Ewart

Launch Date:
January

Exploring Our City's Needs

Engage people and organizations serving in Red Deer about the part St. Luke's could play in meeting tangible and community needs.

Point Person:
Michael M.

Launch Date:
Spring

Community Ministry Panel

Host a panel to help us think through how we could meaningfully participate in community development and justice in Red Deer.

Point Person:
Michael M.

Launch Date:
Fall

02. Invitation

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

Develop a Welcoming Plan

Streamline our way of welcoming newcomers to ensure everyone who comes through our doors has the opportunity to belong.

Point Person:
Corporation

Launch Date:
March

Community Meals

Regularly host community meals throughout the year, focusing on inviting our immediate neighbours and hosting them well.

Point Person:
Men's Group

Launch Date:
TBA

01. Teaching

The stories, practices, and ideas that shape us into God's people

Develop a Discipleship Plan

Develop and launch a discipleship plan aimed at providing opportunities to explore the Christian story and the Christian life more deeply.

Point Person:
Michael M.

Launch Date:
September

Prayers for the Parish

Everlasting God, we ask that you would bless us here at St. Luke's with vision for the future and reverence for the past. Guide us each day as we minister to one another and to the world. Help us each day to bear witness to your name and to do your bidding, always mindful of your amazing love for us. **Amen**

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.

And from our weekly intercessions, for our St. Luke's family

We pray that we remain faithful as we strive to hear God speak to us as we discern the way He would have us go, and that we would be open to His guidance while we dare to dream about who He would have us be in a world that needs His love. Amen.

Prayer from St. Teresa of Avila (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)