



# St. Andrew's United Church

## REFLECTION

Grateful, grateful, grateful! What a wonderful day it was on Sunday – first day of Advent, with so many things on the go, and in the afternoon, the covenanting service. I was honoured and grateful to have my friend fly up from Tennessee to be here with us, grateful for the support of friends and colleagues from the Chinook Winds region, grateful for all who organized and took part in the service, and most of all, grateful that God has led me here to St. Andrew's and Lacombe. I am so pleased to be here, with you. The service was warm and creative and well done throughout, and reflects what I now know of this congregation! It feels good to be "official" now, and to have a growing sense of belonging here. I know there is good work to be done, and an abundance of leadership and energy with which to do it. I'm excited for what comes next!

And grateful. Lucky me! Thanks to you all...

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## BOARD CHAIR GREETING

Congregation members of St. Andrew's are continuing to do amazing things as we journey through the season of Advent. The amazing Advent Newsletter outlined the myriad of activities taking place, from the beginning to the end of Advent. If you need a copy, please contact Jana at the office.

About 55 people are attending in-person Worship services each Sunday. Another 15 to 20 join us live with a number of people choosing to watch later. Some of you have told me that you watch the service more than once.

The Covenanting Service for Reverend Dave Holmes was well attended with 60 people joining in the celebration in-person and 19 watching on-line through You Tube or Facebook. A huge thanks goes out to the Search Team for all their energy that they put in to bring a new minister to our faith family.

Thank you to the Men's Breakfast Club for putting up the Nativity Scene. It is on a timer and the Nativity Scene is in the spotlight from dusk until about 11 p.m.

"Lift Someone into the Light" held on Thursday, November 25 was extremely well received by members of St. Andrew's as well as the general public. We had approximately 200 people stop by to take part or to see what was happening. Over 75 put a decoration on the tree and told their story of who they were "Lifting into the Light". The free hot chocolate was appreciated as well. Although many members of St. Andrew's showed up to take part, we were outnumbered by community members who came to share. Some heard about it on the radio, some through the newspaper, some through the posters around town, and some through word of mouth.

Finance has an update in this newsletter and although times have been tough for all of us, both emotionally and financially, we know that we are there to take care of each other. For those able, please think about supporting St. Andrew's in the best way that you can.

Your Board continues to meet once a month. Please feel free to contact any Board member if you have suggestions for going forward. The next Board meeting is December 14.

In January, we will once again be looking for individuals to be involved with the various committees and board positions. Think about how you might contribute. Please feel free to call or email me on anything you wish to talk about.

Lawrence Hrycan: Email: [lhrycan@shaw.ca](mailto:lhrycan@shaw.ca) Telephone: [403-782-4076](tel:403-782-4076)



## COVENANTING CEREMONY

### A BEAUTIFUL COVENANTING CEREMONY WAS HELD AT ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH ON NOVEMBER 28 FOR REVEREND DAVE HOLMES!

Our guest speaker, Reverend Brian Wyatt was from First Presbyterian Church in Elizabethton, Tennessee. Dave and Brian met while pursuing their doctoral studies at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta.

Other honored guests included Reverend Steven Harper, Pastoral Relations Minister, from Chinook Winds Region, and Reverend Ray Goodship, the Regional Rep for St. Andrew's Search Committee.

It was a wonderful afternoon and thanks goes out to the Search Committee for putting it all together.







## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**LET'S SHARE THE  
COMFORT AND JOY TO  
BE FOUND IN THIS  
MINISTRY!**

St. Andrew's Prayer Shawl Ministry group want to remind you that prayer shawls are available in the Parlour for anyone wishing to bring comfort to someone who may be ill, hospitalized, grieving or merely lonely. These can also be given for celebrations and baby blankets are available to welcome new children. We thank all the knitters and crocheters for their beautiful creations, as well as all who contribute yarn to this ministry (there's even a few patterns).

## NATIVITY SCENE

**THANK YOU TO THE  
MEMBERS OF THE MEN'S  
BREAKFAST CLUB WHO  
CAME OUT TO PUT UP  
THE NATIVITY SCENE!**



Bob King, Dennis Ethier, Barry Brouwer,  
Ko Bruning, Howard Woodrow

## "LIFT SOMEONE INTO THE LIGHT"

**WOW! WHAT AN AMAZING EVENING WE HAD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY'S 'LIGHT UP THE NIGHT FESTIVAL'**



Our event was scheduled from 6:30 – 8:00 that evening. In reality, it was held from 5:30 – 8:00. We had many people seek us out or ...discover us before the parade and during the parade with the majority coming after. It was heartwarming to share special stories with so many people. Not only did we have many from our own congregation but a great many from the wider community as well.

We had every age group represented, from those so young they needed help as they put the name of their pet 'Linda' in, to those who used their life experiences in choosing their special person.

Because of Covid restrictions, we were unable to do the usual Cookies and Caroling, with hot chocolate served. However, Circles of Care persevered, and set up a station outside to serve hot chocolate during the 'Lift Someone into the Light' event. Success! It became a gathering point as people got their hot drink and found a quiet little patch of ground to visit with friends and neighbours. We were so thankful to be able to provide this piece of warmth and comfort.

Throughout Advent there will be time for you to hang your own ornament honouring that special person in your life. The ornaments and all the materials needed to make your own will be made available in the parlour Sundays after church as well as after the Christmas Eve services.

This is our first year holding this event and looks to be the first of many in the years to come.



## "LIFT SOMEONE INTO THE LIGHT"





## LINDA KEMPT AWARDED LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**"I WANT TO THANK MY FRIENDS FOR THEIR SUPPORT BY NOMINATING ME, LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE SUPPORTED ME OVER THE YEARS," SHE SAYS SIMPLY. "WHEN YOU GIVE TO THE COMMUNITY, THE COMMUNITY GIVES BACK."**

It was hard to catch up to this year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Linda Kempt because she is always on the go.



Helping others out comes naturally to her, starting when she and her husband first moved to Lacombe. They settled into an apartment above what is now NOWCO Home Hardware and befriended some older residents that lived on their own.

A longtime Lacombe resident, Kempt has been active for many years around the town with the Kinnette's, her church group and the local Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) Canada.

Her volunteering isn't restricted to just organizations around town. She also finds herself driving around Lacombe, dropping off lunches, picking up groceries, she's even been known to fix a TV or two and mow a lawn.

Which she all genuinely loves. She says the people she helps quickly become friends and soon she finds herself checking in regularly and becoming invested in their family and lives.

"When you're retired your life is different when you don't go to work everyday," she says. "You have things you do and I do things for other people and you have to do more than one thing."

True to her word, Kempt has more than one thing on her plate at any given moment.

She also has a book sharing group, where she keeps track of authors and recommendations and who has read what, she spearheads a crafting group that meets once a month and somehow manages to find time to go to the gym and relax with a good book.

## DIANE HAYDUK 'ONE OF THE GREATS'

### CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Named Citizen of the Year through the 2021 Lacombe & District Chamber of Commerce Awards, Hayduk said that when the chamber called her at the end of August she was very surprised.

"Someone said 'I want to nominate you', and I was like, 'yeah whatever there's a few thousand other people to nominate'."

Hayduk didn't get involved in the community for the glory. When she found herself in an empty house and with more free time, she decided she needed to find something to do to keep busy and it snowballed from there.

"I was an empty-nester, I started running and doing ultra runs and death races. I've been doing that for a while and then I thought it might be time to do something else."

Now, Hayduk is the vice president of the Bill Nielsen Trail Society in Lacombe and is also involved with FCSS and the Lacombe Athletic Park Association.

In past years Hayduk has taken an interest in the winners of the awards, but never considered herself one.

The award is a nice wrap up to the strange year she has had though, says Hayduk. She has also been battling cancer this year, which would slow down others but for Hayduk the passion is enough to keep her going.

"When you're passionate about something, like the trails and running, it's just automatic," she says. "Things come into your life and you're like, sure I'll give it a shot!"



## VERNA & ED SCHMIDT CELEBRATE THEIR 71ST ANNIVERSARY

Recently Verna and Ed Schmidt celebrated their 71st anniversary. There was a big celebration in the hospital. Happy Anniversary!





## FINANCE

To our St Andrew's Church family:

First, we want to thank those members who have faithfully been supporting the church, either through PAR, Interac transfer, or good old-fashioned cheques/cash in the mail or in the collection plate on Sunday! Consistently about 25% of our giving are PAR and the proportion of Interac has increased to almost 10% - convenient solutions for our members and the church office both. We look forward to the time when our in-person services can return to a more "normal" format - whatever the new normal may be.

At this time of year, the Board is involved in the budgeting process, and finance puts all the committee "wish lists", M&P wage requirements, and estimates of ongoing expenses like utilities and maintenance costs, into the PowerChurch program to generate a tentative budget for 2022.

Like your home/personal budget, we have a good idea what our costs are going to be....but unlike your personal budget, our "income" is strictly dependent upon the generosity of our church family! Finance committee/board members have little to no control over that amount: only you, the congregation can decide if St. Andrew's is providing a service to you, your family, or the community at large - and donate accordingly. The church has fixed expenses (utilities, maintenance, cleaning, office equipment, etc.) whether we are in the building or not, as well as salaries, that average over \$20,000/ month.

The financials from 2020 have finally completed the audit process, and we ended that year (December 31, 2020) with an income total of \$225,813 and expenses of \$208,214 for an excess of income over expense of \$17599.

At the end of November 2021, our income total has been \$188,414 and our expenses have been \$212,612, so we are presently showing an excess of expenses over income of more than \$24,000. December has traditionally been a month of strong contributions, but we have a ways to go.....

St. Andrew's has supported other community charities by acting as a conduit for their good works. In the past year, over \$40,000 has been shared with the wider community.

Again we thank our St. Andrew's family for continuing to support our physical plant and operations with your dollars, but also for supporting our hard-working staff and volunteers - and one another! - with your prayers and connections.

Please feel free to contact anyone from the finance committee with any concerns that you may have, or any suggestions for how we may take advantage of government programs that we may have missed.

We are all volunteers together, so we do what we can to make this family stronger and happier together!

On behalf of the finance committee:

Hans Haeffliger, Henk Kassies, Linda Hueppelsheuser



## FINANCE

PLEASE NOTE: All donations must be to church office (or online donations) by December 29 to be included in 2021 charitable receipting. If you wish to donate to one of the flow-through charities we support, please have your donation in before Christmas to allow for us to issue cheques to the recipients! Thank you for your cooperation in this way....

Financial Team

### Financial Update as of November 30/21

2021 30-Oct	Current Month	Year To Date	Pro Rata Budget
Contributions & Other	\$19,220	\$165,047.12	\$194,083.00
Expenses	\$15,903	\$183,523.00	\$232,634.00
Net Income (Loss in red)	\$3,317	<b>(\$28,226.00)</b>	<b>(\$38,551.00)</b>

2021 30-Nov	Current Month	Year To Date	Pro Rata Budget
Contributions & Other	\$23,117	\$188,414.00	\$213,491.00
Expenses	\$13,093	\$212,612.00	\$255,897.00
Net Income (Loss in red)	\$10,024	<b>(\$24,198.00)</b>	<b>(\$42,406.00)</b>

NO EXPENDITURE IN NOVEMBER FOR WAGES - ADP ISSUES

Est \$11,000

ACTUAL NET RESULT W/B **-\$1000** FOR MONTH NOVEMBER

M&S Donations to date that have not been remitted: \$4,924

These will be remitted late December to capture the remainder of the year. We have already sent \$14613 to M&S (some from 2020; Jan-July of 2021)



**WHITE GIFT DROP-OFF****DECEMBER 5-8: 9:30-11:30 AM****Santa's Anonymous:**

Unwrapped gifts for ages up to 16  
 \*Especially pre-teen/teen items such as sports balls (basketball), hoodies and gift cards (ex. local cinema)

**Lacombe Food Bank:**

Regular non-perishable food items, toilet paper, laundry & hand soap

**Optional Drop Off Dates/Times:**

**Mon-Wed December 6-8th, 9:30-11:30  
 at the church.**

**ROTARY CAROL FESTIVAL****TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7: 6:30-8:30 PM**

Join local church carolers and sing along! Special guest singers, Flashback Freddie and Randi Boulton. Cookies and hot chocolate will be available. Donations for the Lacombe Food Bank and Santa's Anonymous will be accepted.

**FILL A FRIDGE**

The Worship Committee has teamed up with FCSS in an exciting fundraising program to Fill a Fridge! The Fill a Fridge Program enables eligible families to purchase groceries of their choice this Christmas season. Last Christmas season 590 local individuals accessed the Fill a Fridge Program. Worship will set up a fridge in the sanctuary and place an ornament on it each time someone donates. Please consider donating this season as FCSS has stated this is a very high need this Christmas in Lacombe. Donation envelopes will be available at both entry doors of the church as well as the church office. **Please add your name and address to your envelope and FCSS will mail out a tax receipt in January.**

## WRITE FOR RIGHTS

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10: 2:00-5:00 PM**

Once again we are joining Amnesty International and its members around the world to Write for Rights. The 1948 UN International Declaration of Human Rights is still not followed in many countries and so we write to stand with those who are being wrongfully accused, incarcerated, threatened and killed. We will host this event Dec. 10, 2-5 PM in the church parlor. We will be physically distanced and follow the Covid protocols. If anyone wants to write from home we can give you the information you would like. Please call the church or Winnie at [403-348-9777](tel:403-348-9777) to let us know if you are planning on coming.



## ADVENT 3

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12: 10:30 AM**

Sunday Worship: This Sunday, the Sunday of **Joy**, we'll look at Genesis 28: 10-17. This is the story of "Jacob's Ladder," the time when Jacob, fleeing from the wrath of his brother, stopped for the night at a holy place, without knowing it, and encountered God in a dream. The story behind this story is interesting. What Jacob stole from his brother was a blessing, the blessing of their father Isaac. But what both brothers learned through their lives is that they each had their own blessing, and that God was with them both. In the end, Jacob restored to his brother Esau the blessing he supposedly stole, recognizing that God's blessing is deeper than anything that can be taken away. Our practice this week is **blessing** - offering the no - strings - attached goodwill of God to another (and recognizing it in ourselves), even in times that seem hard. It's funny: you'd think it was being blessed that would bring joy, but as Jacob found out, it's actually offering blessing that often creates more joy in us.



## ADVENT TEAM REQUESTS VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers to participate in advent candle lighting by answering one of the following questions in a short video (one or two sentences) and then lighting the advent candle (this can be in the church or at home, with traditional candles or a tea light):

- How does your experience of God bring you joy in this season of pandemic?
- Where do you find the love of God in this season of pandemic?
- How does the birth of Christ bring light into your life?

Arrangements can be made to have someone video for you and candles can be provided if desired.

### Weekly Advent Themes:

- **Joy:** Sunday December 12
- **Love:** Sunday December 19
- **Birth:** Friday December 24

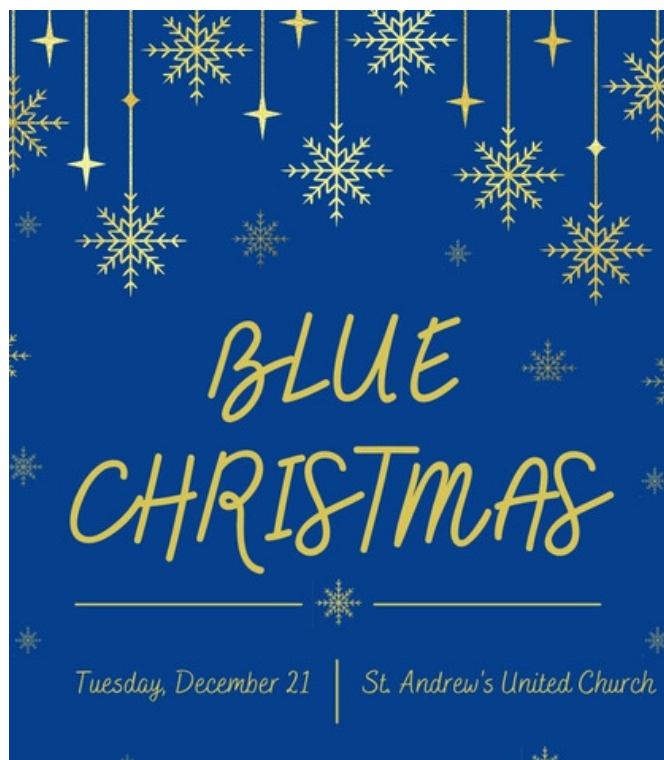
If you are interested in participating, please contact Annerie Dunnewind at [anneriedunnewind@hotmail.com](mailto:anneriedunnewind@hotmail.com) 403-302-0846 for more details.

## ADVENT 4

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19: 10:30 AM**

Sunday Worship: We're getting close to Christmas now! This Sunday, the Sunday of **Love**, we'll be looking at Luke 1:46-55, the passage known as the Magnificat. It's actually a controversial passage, about the reversal of fortune that Jesus often talked about - the last becoming first, and the first last. That may sound threatening, at first - especially for people like most of us, who are relatively prosperous. The rich sent away empty? That sounds bad. And yet...a little bit of "empty" for those of us whose lives are over-full may be just what the doctor ordered. This Sunday we'll try to lift our perspective to consider the common good. What may seem challenging at first may turn out to be the best for all of us! Our practice this week: **seeking the common good**, or, in a word, living in love. Sometimes, in the dark, we may feel lonely and isolated. But once again, we may discover that what makes us most alive and what banishes loneliness is not the receiving of love, but the giving.





## BLUE CHRISTMAS

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21: 7PM**

Tonight is the longest night of the year, and it's often when we celebrate "Blue Christmas." We know that Christmas is not merry for all of us, all the time - and this year, depending on our ability to gather as families, it may be harder still. So this night we recognize that Christmas can be hard for many reasons - grief, family strife, unemployment, COVID, illness... Still: Jesus was born to poor parents, in a stable, in an occupied territory. If Christmas is hard, Jesus was born exactly for us.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at St. Andrew's United Church & Online Youtube Livestream Friday, December 24

This is the celebration of the birth of Christ, the incarnation of God - God with us. If there is anything that we have been trying to express all through Advent, it is that God remains with us, profoundly, lovingly, even in the midst of what we think of as darkness. So tonight we celebrate the light that shines in the darkness, and which no darkness can overcome.

## Messy Church

**December 24: 5:00 PM**

## Family Service

**With Lift Someone Into The Light**

**December 24: 7:00 PM**

**\*\*\*Due to past attendance at the 7:00 PM service, pre-registration will be required in order to follow COVID protocols. Please inform the office if you plan on attending the 7:00 PM service.**

[office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca)  
[403-782-3148](tel:403-782-3148)

## Evening Service

**December 24: 10:00 PM**