



ST. ANDREW'S LEARNING TO LOVE WITH GOD

AUGUST 2025



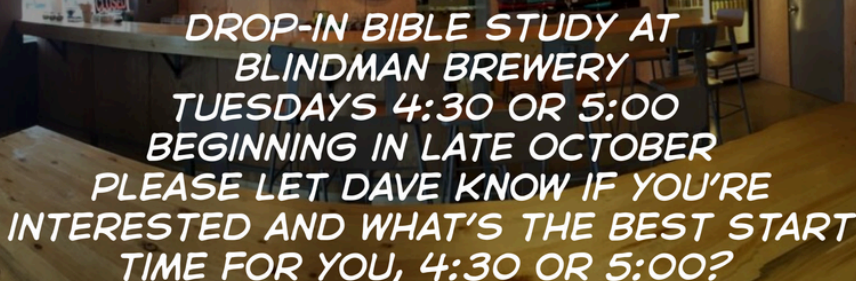
THE GREEN TEAM IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A \$2000 GRANT RECEIVED FOR MORE "HABITAT STRUCTURES" FROM THE ECHO LACOMBE ASSOCIATION

Fresh Start in FAITH



OUR FRESH START IN FAITH GROUP WILL BE STARTING UP TUESDAYS OR THURSDAYS, FROM THE THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER. PLEASE LET DAVE OR THE OFFICE KNOW IF YOU'RE INTERESTED!

PUB BIBLE STUDY!



DROP-IN BIBLE STUDY AT
BLINDMAN BREWERY
TUESDAYS 4:30 OR 5:00
BEGINNING IN LATE OCTOBER
PLEASE LET DAVE KNOW IF YOU'RE
INTERESTED AND WHAT'S THE BEST START
TIME FOR YOU, 4:30 OR 5:00?

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ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

And...suddenly it's September!

It has been a summer of leave-takings: Monique, Norm and Evelyn, Helen, Florence, and one more, Alastair (involved at St. Andrew's of late but often in the background, but known to many of us as one of the creators of Kavacchino's) who have moved away from Lacombe for a variety of reasons. Wow, will we miss you all, but bless you in the next chapters of your lives. And of course Barbara, now in retirement (congratulations!), who will stay in Lacombe but whose relationship with this church will be different. All of these people have blessed this congregation in profound ways, and we are very, very grateful.

We've also discovered, as we embark on a discernment and hiring process, and deal with various challenges from the summer, that we have some kinks to work out in our new organizational system – the one we approved at our last annual meeting. I still think this will help us a lot – and actually, it already has, since it empowers those who are actually doing the work in the church to make the practical decisions. But we still have some learning to do, which makes for moments of confusion, some mistakes, and some dropped balls. But again, once we get the hang of it, I think our new system will work quite well.

I have for quite some time wanted to spend a bit more time in study groups! This fall there are two in particular in my sights. I'd like to do a **Fresh Start in Faith** group again this fall, likely starting in later October. This is for those new to St. Andrew's (it could be used as membership or adult baptism preparation) but it is also for those longer-term folks who would like a fresh look at the practice of faith. I'm thinking of either Tuesday or Thursday evenings for this group; if you're interested, call Jana in the office and let her know which evening(s) work for you. I'd also like to try what is often called a **lectionary Bible study** – a study group focussed on the Biblical text for the next worship/sermon. We're thinking of doing this at Blindman Brewing (though I have yet to arrange things with them!) on Tuesday afternoons at 4:30. This will be a drop-in study; each session stands alone, so come when you can!

Finally, I have a request. Things will be quite different with Barbara no longer on staff! One of the things we will miss is her visiting, and the care she offered in a very personal way. I won't be able to do the regular visiting that she did. My request is that if you would like me to stop by, for whatever reason (and it doesn't need to be a crisis!), **please call Jana or myself to request a visit.** It is much easier for me to respond to a request than to figure out who might need a visit – so if you call us, that's a huge help to me.

So... forth into the fall! Things will be different, but blessings await in the adventure that is always new!

Dave

"The pain of a hard goodbye is the heart's tribute to the privilege to love."

-Beth Moore

**The Walking Group invites you to join! We walk every Monday from 10:15-noon. Our first walk will be Monday, September 8 and we will go to Aspen Beach. For more info, please contact:
Anneke: 403-302-0829
Carol 403-356-9257**



ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

Reverend Barbara:

It's time to hand in my keys to the front door of the church.

After twenty years of being on and off connected to St. Andrew's community of faith, as either a student for diaconal ministry, or a diaconal minister, the time has come to retire. I go with huge gratitude for this amazing community, feeling richly blessed by the faith filled work we have done together. I, also, was privileged to be part of a wonderfully supportive staff team. THANK YOU!

It's not easy to leave, for you allowed me to follow my passions in ministry, supported me along the way, and celebrated life in community with me. However, after prayerful discernment, this feels right.

I trust my respect and love for St. Andrew's will continue to grow, for whether in undemanding or challenging times, you encourage each other in "learning to love with God."

I still will make my home in Lacombe, but following good United Church retirement practices, will step back from St. Andrew's for at least four months, exploring what the next chapter of my life might look like. And yes, I will see family in Germany.

It is a beloved tradition to invite God's love and grace by blessing each other on departing:

"May God bless us and keep us. May God's face shine upon us and be gracious to us. May God look upon us with kindness and give us peace" (Numbers 6:24-26)

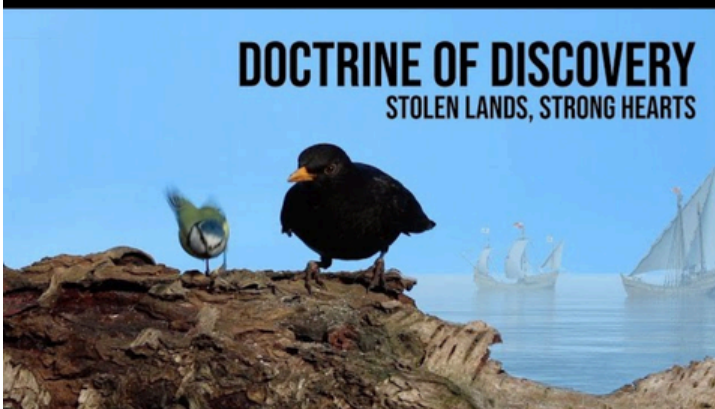
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Numbers 5: 24-26


St. Andrew's United Church Presents:


A Community Film & Conversation Evening

DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts



 Date: September 15, 2025

 Time: 7:00 p.m.

 Location: St. Andrews

 Admission: Free

ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER



Farewell gatherings for Florence Douglas, Helen Brooks / Evelyn & Norm Start



We will miss you

INTERIM PART-TIME POSITION

WE ARE LOOKING TO HIRE SOMEONE FOR A PART-TIME INTERIM POSITION TO HELP US, ESPECIALLY WITH SUNDAY MORNING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MIGHT BE INTERESTED AND QUALIFIED FOR THIS, PLEASE SPEAK TO DAVE.



THIS YEAR'S THEME:
STORIES FROM THE
BIBLE!

**MESSY CHURCH COMING SOON...
FRIDAY, SEPT. 12**

ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER



Reverend Barbara's Retirement Service




ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

Pride In The Park!

Lacombe Pride held another successful "Pride in the Park" weekend. The Affirm Team provided lemonade, cookies, & glitter blessings!



ST. ANDREW'S NEWSLETTER

We want to hear from YOU! 

The discernment team is moving forward after Rev Barbara's retirement and are looking for your input as we discern the needs of our community of faith

We would like to hear from you about where you see our strengths and where we can improve our strengths, as we search for a new permanent hire for our children's ministry and pastoral relations

RESPONSES
WILL
BE ACCEPTED
UNTIL
SEPT 22, 2025

Email to:
claudinepeters@hotmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!
The Discernment Team: Barry Brouwer, Claudine Bruning,
Carol Cornwall, Pat Crozier, Leila Currie & Dennis Ethier

Central Alberta Foodgrains Growing Project

Our 72 acre canola crop north of Bentley along Highway 20 is in good shape. It was seeded later than normal in May as heavy rains slowed seeding in that area, so will take more time to mature. Our Committee will meet in early September to plan harvest and the lunch we provide on the harvest date. We will keep you posted on the actual harvesting day.

Friends of Guatemala

First meeting after summer break is scheduled for September 11 at 7 PM at the church. Our next concert is set for November 29 in the sanctuary and we will see the return of the Wildrose Yodel Club to our stage.

LIRR

September 15 we will screen in the CE Hall, a documentary on the Doctrine of Discovery - Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts at 7 PM. At breakout tables after the showing, we will discuss our reflections on the documentary. This is open to the entire public. Posters will be displayed at various locations in Lacombe and area and press releases sent to the local media. Bring a friend to this thought provoking, educational evening. Refreshments will be provided.

Volunteer Link

We drive seniors to medical/dental appointments in Lacombe and area that have no family or friends to take them. No charge to the clients. We can always use more volunteers to add to the driving pool. Bob Settle is our contact person at St. Andrew's. This is such an important service provided in Lacombe.

Mission & Service

Mission and Service has aligned with the Canadian Foodgrains Bank on a project in Kenya. In Kitui County, nature based solutions like sustainable beekeeping and tree planting were incorporated to conserve water and strengthen communities against climate shocks. This project helps with food security and positively impacts the lives of 11,000 people.

Meals On Wheels

St. Andrew's did a great job in July delivering meals to clients in Lacombe. We have such a wonderful base of volunteers.