

I wait.
I watch.
I hope.
Advent

ST.

Advent
2025

ANDREW'S *Advent*

Celebrating our 5th year of Lift Someone Into The Light!

Members of the community were asked to place a picture, a name of someone special, or a special memory into an ornament which they then decorated with bright shiny bits and bobs. These were hung on the tree that had been placed outside of the church. This has become a treasured addition to the City of Lacombe's 'Light up the Night Festival'.
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A Season of busyness and blessing!

Reverend Dave Holmes

Advent
2025

A very blessed Advent and Christmas season to all of you!

There is so much going on in this end-of-year season: if the cluttered state of my desk is any indication of my life (or yours) then there are lots of things on the go, none of them completed, a couple of important things that have gotten lost under a pile, the anxious feeling of having kind of lost control of life. Of course, I also need to recognize that an awful lot of what overwhelms me are good things – a healthy active church, positive change, a rich time of worship and service, families gathering, friends gathering, real celebrations...

So my first note to myself, that I'll share in case it resonates with you, too, is to remember to savour this season. May we be present to the good things, with gratitude, and not simply overwhelmed by the tasks. Too busy we may perhaps be – but if we're busy with good things, at least let's enjoy the goodness!

I am aware that this season is hard for some – in fact, it may be all of the above, busy, good, hard, sad, scary... We try to recognize these complexities in our Blue Christmas/Longest Night service on the evening of December 21, and this year our service will include healing prayer, for those who wish it. Thanks to the Healing Pathway for their involvement! But if this season is hard for you, this year or always, remember that it is for you, especially, that Christ is born. The celebrations may leave you cold, but the light shines for those who walk in darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

This is also a season of generosity – gifts for family and friends, certainly, but also it's a time when we offer support to various community groups – Santas Anonymous, the Food Bank and Fill-A-Fridge, the Benevolent funds both for our congregation and the FCSS, and the Broom Tree foundation supporting women. Our own church typically rolls into December carrying a deficit, depending on the extra generosity of our own people to meet our expenses and climb back into the black. Our church and our partner organizations are important in this community: sources of inclusion, formation in hope, peace, joy and love, good news for the poor and healing for our society. Thank you for all you do and give, to be a blessing in this place and time. So, in the midst of a messy desk, I am grateful. Grateful for you! And as we lift others into the light, as we sing and worship, as we give to support others and our own ministries, as we bake and gift and celebrate, in our programs, groups, and even in our struggles – may we remember to savour the profound gifts of life and love that this season is all about. Blessed Advent and Christmas!

“The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come.”
 -Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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Setting up the
 Nativity Scene!

Every November members of the Mens Breakfast Club come together for some socializing and fun. They put up the Nativity Scene and lights on the outdoor trees and then go out for a meal. This year they went to Milly Oak after the job was complete.



Financials...

Income	YTD	Budgeted
Contributions	\$218,533	\$260,000
Other	\$21,412	\$27,900
	\$240,476	\$287,900
Expenses	\$273,838	\$335,977
Deficit	\$33,362	\$48,077

Lift Someone Into The Light!

A little history: A city in the Netherlands has a celebration known as Joris' Christmas Tree. People gather in the town square to decorate and hang ornaments on a huge Christmas tree. There are other events going on at the same time all around the square. Five years ago, Anneke introduced this idea to a few people with the hope that we could try something like it here at St. Andrew's. We did and **'Lift Someone into the Light'** was born.



A huge **Thank You** goes out to all who helped make this night a success. So many people; our cookies and hot chocolate makers (a definite hit), our servers, our ornament making helpers, our fire minder and our choir such beautiful music. We would also like to thank Doris Thesenvitz for the use of her fire pit for the last 4 years and to Pat and Tom Crozier for gifting us one to use from this point forward.

*Advent is an invitation
to see
the world beyond
yourself*



Lift Someone Into The Light!

Advent
2025

Thank You to Hans Haeffliger for obtaining our beautiful tree and to the Men's Breakfast crew for installing the Nativity Scene and lighting up the tree and shrubbery around the church. Thank you to Anneke Kassies, once again, for spearheading this project and to Dianna MacLeod, Pat Halberg and Rev. Dave for all of their work in making this such a success.



Hope ✨ Peace ✨ Joy ✨ Love



White Gift Sunday!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

White Gift Sunday is coming up this Sunday, December 7! Here's all the different ways you can give...



This year we are again supporting Santa's Anonymous, to allow those who cannot afford it to share in the gift giving and receiving this Christmas. Bring a gift or a toy to our December 7 service, usually they are lacking gifts for older children/teens!

We are also supporting the Lacombe Food Bank, they do issue receipts for cash/cheque donations, please ensure your address is included with any givings!

Lacombe foodbank
Let's Make a Difference

You can either bring food to donate (any week, but particularly on White Gift Sunday December 7) or cash/a cheque payable to the Food Bank.

Food Items	Other Items
Lunchbox Items ✓	Baby Diapers ✓
Specialty Items ✓ (canned salmon etc.)	Toiletries ✓
	Dish/Laundry Soaps ✓
	Hygiene Products ✓



White Gift Sunday!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Lacombe & District FCSS Fill A Fridge!



We are supporting the FCSS Fill-A-Fridge Program, recognizing that some of us in Lacombe and area are food-insecure. Bring cash or cheque payable to Lacombe FCSS, with "Fill A Fridge" in the note section along with your address. FCSS will issue tax receipts. You can also drop off a cheque at the FCSS office in the LMC.

We are supporting the Broom Tree Foundation this year, any offering not designated to the church or otherwise at our Christmas Eve Services will be given to the Broom tree Foundation, supporting women in need here in Lacombe.





White Gift Sunday!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

We are supporting both the FCSS Benevolent Fund and St. Andrew's Benevolent Fund. Bring a cheque payable to the Lacombe FCSS or to St. Andrew's with "benevolent fund" in the note section!

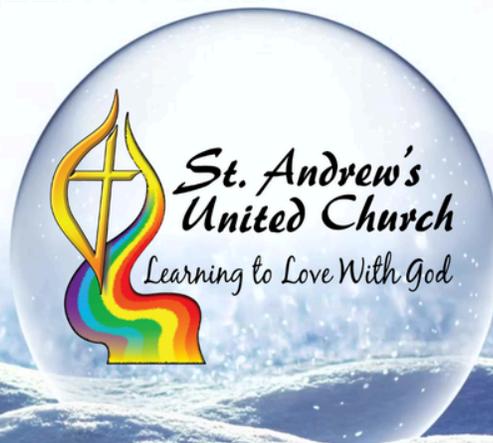
FCSS BENEVOLENT FUND:

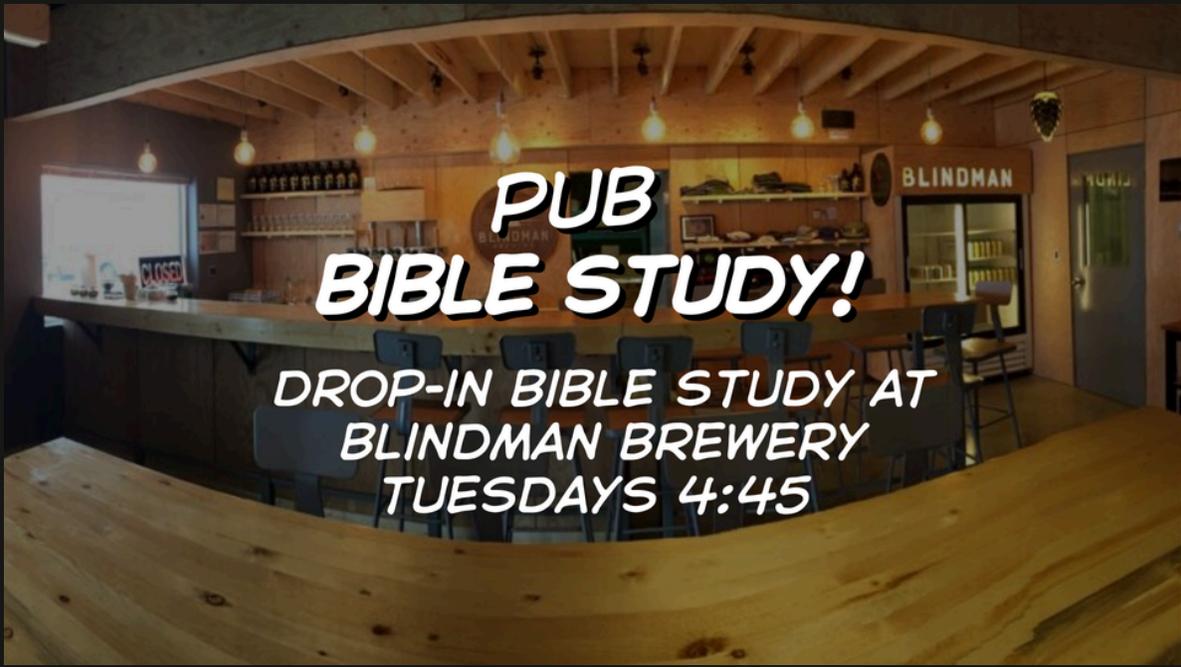
Supporting people outside of our congregation who "fall through the cracks" and aren't served by other programs.



ST. ANDREW'S BENEVOLENT FUND:

Designed to help our own people (or folks connected to a congregation member), who find themselves in need.
May also support congregants to access leadership training they might not otherwise be able to afford.





PUB BIBLE STUDY!

**DROP-IN BIBLE STUDY AT
BLINDMAN BREWERY
TUESDAYS 4:45**



**Friday, December 5 at 5!
SEE YOU HERE!**

**CERTIFIED ORGANIC PALESTINIAN OLIVE OIL
COMING SOON!**

OLIVE OIL \$26/BOTTLE

**Bob Settle will be selling
the last few bottles after
church this week!
Great Christmas gift idea!**





**ADVENT POTLUCK
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
Following the service!**



**DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
DECEMBER 7, 1:30 PM**

The Lacombe Palliative Care Society invites you to attend the Day of Remembrance. Bring a decoration for the Christmas Tree and take a moment to remember someone special to you.

Kozy Korner, Lacombe
For more info. please email:
lacombepalliativecaresociety@gmail.com

**WRITE
4
RIGHTS**

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 10
2:00 - 5:00 PM
IN THE PARLOUR**

COME & WRITE
FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS!



Miracle
on 34th
Street



FRIDAY
DECEMBER
19TH
ROSEBUD
THEATRE!

Pickup LMC @ 8:15 am

Buffet Lunch in Rosebud, AB @ 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Miracle on 34th Street Production @ 1:30 pm – 3:45 pm
Price is \$145

Contact Stephanie @ 587-782-6710 or email @ cabustours@gmail.com

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS CANTATA

A service of warmth, cheer, and festive delight

Sunday, December 21st

As the clock chimes 10:30 AM



Blue Christmas
Service

Sunday, December 21, 7 PM





Join us for our
**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICES**

24

7:00 & 9:00 PM



Christmas on the Farm!

Sunday, December 28

6:30 PM

Cookie donation request!

**Please contact the
office for directions!**



**HEALING
PATHWAY**

**Healing Pathway sessions on
the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each
month. Please contact
Marlene: 403-782-4327 or
Pat: 403-598-9310**