

St. Andrew's Times

January, 2026

LACOMBE, ALBERTA

Leto's Luncheon



Eighteen members of St. Andrew's went for lunch at Letos on January 7, 2026. Members of Worship, Lift Someone into the Light, and the Men's Breakfast group came together to take off the decorations from the tree outside, remove the Nativity Scene, and take down the decorations and trees in the Sanctuary and the Hall. Everyone had a great social time as we worked together!

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MEN'S BREAKFAST!

START YOUR DAY WITH US!

KICK OFF YOUR MORNING WITH OUR DELICIOUS BREAKFAST

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 21
9 AM**



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Circles of Care



Circles of Care is a group of caring St. Andrew's congregants who work with the Church pastoral care ministry. They visit, phone, and pray for individuals from the Lacombe United Church community that are elderly, shut-in, in nursing homes, or just need some extra attention and love from someone who cares. Contact: Tilly Meyer 403- 896-6767 or Church Office.

MONDAY FEB 2

Monday Feb 2, 2026, Circles of Care, St. Andrew's, invites you to join Reverend Dave Holmes at any of his church services at:

- Royal Oak, 9:30 am,
- Lacombe Lodge 10:15 am
- Long Term Care Lacombe Hospital 11:00 pm.

Anyone is welcome. Come join and engage with our seniors at these care centers."



Note from Finance

Going into December we were faced with a significant deficit but thanks to the generosity of our community of faith, our year end balance is just over \$20,000. We are blessed to be in such a positive financial position.

On another note, a Financial Stewardship Committee has been struck which will be focusing on our overall financial stewardship as a church. They are currently looking at ways to ensure the long-term sustainability of our finances through legacy giving's of our congregation. You can expect to hear more about this initiative in the months to come.

Thank you for all your generous support of St Andrew's. - Finance Committee

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17 5:00-7:00 PM

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GREEN TEAM LOOKS TO THE FUTURE!

Wow! Did we ever get a lot accomplished! Thank you to the twenty people who attended the Green Team's Vision Workshop on Saturday, January 17th.

Cecile Fausak, co-chair, opened the meeting with a history of the Green Team at St Andrew's, including a synopsis of the accomplishments so far.

The team, in looking to the future, was hoping for ideas on where next to direct our energy. Led on a 'gallery walk' by Green Team member, Elco Vandergrift, the attendees explored and answered several concise questions about the Green Team and environmental concerns. Suggestions, concerns and possibilities were written on chart paper and then prioritized by each person. Solar energy, recycling, partners and education were repeated words. Elco is collating all this information and will present it at the next Green Team meeting.

The next meeting is at 10 am on February 11th in the Parlour. We are currently looking for new members to go with us on the journey of 'greening together'. If you are interested, talk to us 780-675-7723. Or, if you can, come to our next meeting, meet us, see what we do - no commitment. You may be who we need - and we may be who/what you need!

Dianna MacLeod, Co-chair, Green Team

Green Team



We received this lovely note from Fran and Jim Kimmel... "Living directly behind the new Woodland Sanctuary, we've had a front-row seat to this beautiful transformation. We wanted to share how delighted we are to see the space being used so often and so widely—by dog walkers, old and young folks, moms and kids, and even teenagers who seem to be geocaching. It's been wonderful to watch this once-empty space become such a vibrant part of our community. It really does show that if you give people a path, they'll take it."

Above picture is from when the path was being laid out, before anything was planted - they used a hose to measure and put the flags in to mark where to mow the path.

Offset your carbon travel footprint by supporting Kenyan communities addressing climate change. Flying somewhere? Air travel significantly contributes to your carbon footprint.

To offset your carbon emissions, you can support Kenyans who are using nature-based solutions to increase food security and ensure sustainable livelihoods in communities affected by climate change. This project is supported by UCC Mission & Service and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

Suggested donations based on flight duration:

- \$15 Short haul roundtrip (1- 3 hour) flight
- \$25 Medium haul roundtrip (3 - 6 hour) flight
- \$50 Long haul roundtrip (6 – 9 hour) flight

You can donate (be sure to specify it is for travel offset):

- Online <https://united-church.ca/donate/climateimpact>
- By phone using your Visa or MasterCard: Toll-free: 1-800-465-3771
- By cheque or money order with gift amount to:

The United Church of Canada
PO Box 8746, Stn A
Toronto, ON M5W 3C2

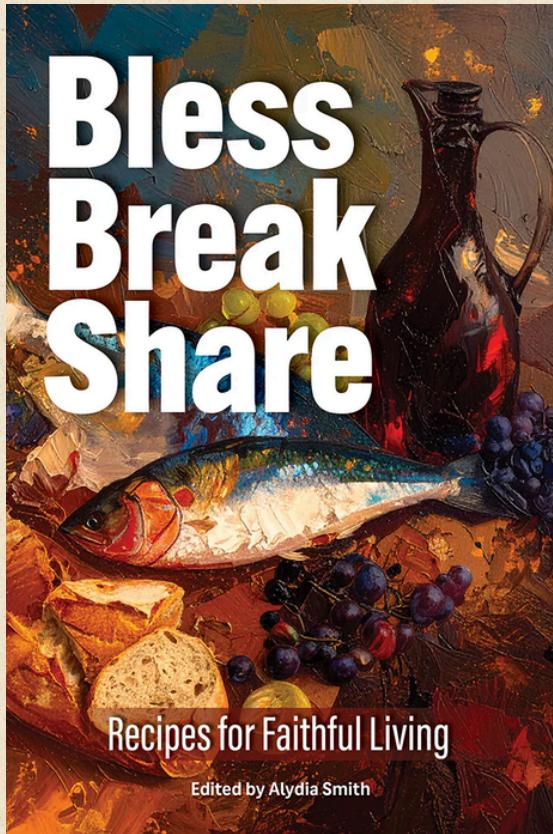


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Lenten Study/Devotional



Our Lenten devotional group will run Tuesdays from Feb. 24 - Mar. 31 with lunch being served at 11:30 a.m.

in St. Andrew's parlour. The devotionals will be streamed starting at noon. This six week devotional will be led by UCC Rev. Christine Jarrett using the book,

Bless, Break, Share!

Sign up sheet in the hall or contact Dave Hnatiuk

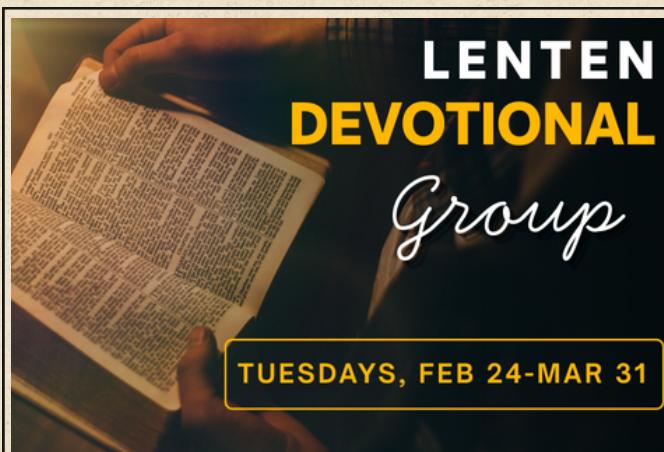


Ministry & Personnel (M&P) Vacancy

The M&P Committee of St. Andrew's is a committee of trust and confidentiality that provides support, assessment of and consultation with all ministry personnel and non-ministry staff of the church. Comprised of individuals from the congregation appointed to 3-year terms, the committee provides a liaison between and among the congregation and the ministers and other staff of St. Andrew's. As an advisory body, the committee makes recommendations to the church board on ministry and personnel matters. The M&P Committee is represented on the Church Board.

Our membership for 2025 was: Sandra Smith, Ron Gish, Bob Jenkins, and Barry Brouwer.

After serving in this team since 2013 (12 years = 4 consecutive terms), Sandra Smith is leaving the team. We will miss her! This creates an opportunity for someone else to join our team and support our employees and contractors. We invite anyone who is interested to contact any of the four of us for more information about the position, or to put your name forward. Members are appointed by the board.



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Love in our Church

Dear Church Family,

As Valentine's Day approaches, we are planning a fun and interactive Valentine's Day Bingo during coffee time, celebrating love in all its many forms within our church community.

To make this possible, we are inviting you to share a photo that reflects love in your life. This could be a wedding photo, an engagement photo, a picture of you and your spouse or partner, or a photo of you with someone you love. All expressions of love are welcome and encouraged. If you are willing to participate, please email your photo by February 5 and include a few details about the picture, such as:

- The names of the people in the photo
- Where the photo was taken (for example, where you were married)
- How many years you have been married or together (if applicable)
- Any other detail you would like to share

We are also especially hoping to hear from couples who were married at St. Andrew's, as we would love to highlight and celebrate that part of our church's story. By sending in your photo, you are giving permission for it to be shared within the St. Andrew's church community as part of our Valentine's Day Bingo game and related displays.

Please send all pictures to anneriedunnewind@hotmail.com Thank you for helping make this a joyful and meaningful celebration. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

With gratitude, Annerie Dunnewind

Men's Breakfast Group



The St. Andrew's Men's Breakfast group meets monthly, the next one will be held on Saturday, February 21 at 9 AM!



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Christian Development

As we begin a new year, I want to take a moment to remind us why we are here and why the work we do together truly matters. As a small church, one of our greatest strengths is that we know one another, care for one another, and learn together. The life of our church is shaped not only through worship on Sunday mornings, but through the many ways we grow in faith and community — through Sunday School and youth group, through Messy Church, Bible studies, and through shared conversations like this one.

These spaces are where relationships are formed, questions are welcomed, and faith is nurtured across generations. They are often where people first feel a sense of belonging, where children and youth discover that church is a place for them, and where adults find encouragement, learning, and connection.

How wonderful it is that we get to serve on a committee that is so deeply interconnected with the life of this church. The decisions we make and the care we offer ripple outward into so many parts of our community. What we do here helps shape how faith is lived, taught, and experienced, both now and in the years to come.

Thank you for bringing your time, your thoughtfulness, and your commitment to this work. Together, we help create a church that is welcoming, curious, and grounded in love.

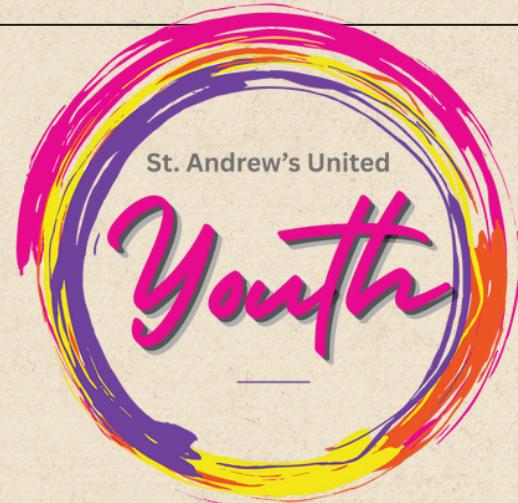
If this work speaks to you, and you feel a nudge to learn more about the Christian Development Committee, we would love to talk with you. Please feel free to connect with Annerie Dunnewind to learn more about what the committee does and how you might be involved. There is always room for new voices, ideas, and gifts as we continue this work together. Annerie Dunnewind – Chair of CD Committee

St. Andrew's Youth!

We at St Andrew's are blessed with a growing number of incredible youth that are seeking opportunities for involvement and community!

As a response, our first youth group meeting was held on Friday January 30th! This inaugural meeting gave us the opportunity to set goals for our time together and plan some activities that are both meaningful and exciting for everyone involved! At this time we are hoping to plan one meeting each month. Thank you to Laura for volunteering to help us as a Youth Mentor!!

Stay tuned for more information about the St. Andrews Youth Group which does next!"



The Broom Tree would love to welcome some new volunteers!

Applications may be found on their website, upcoming training will be held on Feb. 3 & 4!

<https://www.thebroomtreefoundation.com>

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Building Use

There is once again a team working on increasing the use of our church building. We're looking for your help! Here's where we are at present:

There are two primary users of our church building.

First, of course, is us! We're in the sanctuary and hall every Sunday, as well as at least two of the rooms downstairs for Sunday children's programs. We seem to be expanding Sunday school to two classes now, an older and younger group. We use the office floor M-F mostly in the day, the parlour for meetings periodically, and various parts of the church for various programs and events (Messy Church, Healing Pathway, choir, summer camp...). This of course is first priority for the building.

The second primary user is the Loving to Learn preschool and daycare. They have their dedicated space below the sanctuary, and periodically use the hall and other parts of the church during the day.
(Loving to Learn is NOT planning on expanding at this time.)

There are many regular and occasional renters and users of our space, mostly in the evenings. Our sanctuary is host to regular practices for two community choirs, and recitals for a few groups. We are the bad-weather venue for Music in the Park. Cubs, Scouts, 4H and Guides regularly use our building, as do a variety of other community groups for monthly or occasional meetings and gatherings. Our basement rooms occasionally even become "Escape Rooms" for a local business, and there's a line dancing group that alternates between daytime and evening lessons.

Building use for ministries of the church is increasing (ministry teams, be sure and book your space!). Much of this is in the evenings, which is also when most of our renter and community group are here. Most evenings there are 1-3 groups in the building. We believe there may be ways that we can make better use of our building, either for our own ministries, to support community partners, or to provide financial support for the church. (Continued...)



the Sweet Delilah SWIM CLUB
By Jamie Wooten, Jessie Jones & Nicholas Hope

Saturday, March 28

Sat, Mar 28, 2026 | The Sweet Delilah Swim Club |
Kasota East Camp Benefit Brunch
Please see Winnie Chesney-Settle for tickets!

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Building Use Continued

So we're asking our congregation and ministry teams for thoughts and ideas.

- Do you have any suggestions for community partnerships that fit with our mission and values?
- Does your ministry team have possible future uses for currently under-used parts of our building?
- Do you know of anyone who may wish to rent space from us on a more commercial basis, that still fits with our mission and values?

For reference: our mission, vision, and values... You can find these on our website: [Mission/Vision | Lacombe United Church](#)

Learning to love with God
Mission statement

St. Andrew's United Church strives to be a caring Christian Community that nurtures love of God and neighbour through worship, fellowship, learning, and service.

Values
AFFIRMING
INTEGRITY
TRANSFORMATION
PROGRESSIVE THEOLOGY
RESPECT
SUSTAINABILITY
COMPASSION
JOY
PARTNERSHIP

Vision: missional priorities

- to nurture St. Andrew's as a healthy, welcoming, affirming spiritual community.
- to nurture St. Andrew's as a community of spiritual practice, growth, healing, and transformation.
- to nurture St. Andrew's (and its people) in service to the community – encouraging involvement, training for leadership, and helping to organize (partnering with) the wider community.
- to nurture the institutional health of St. Andrew's, such that we can be confident of its sustainability into the foreseeable future.

There are some key issues around which there appears to be energy right now, within the church community. These are the issues around which our ministry is likely to gather:

- Environmental sustainability and climate change
- Affirming ministry
- Economics
- Division and peace

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Bruning Family

Lacombe County farm family up for award
Josiah Navratil, CentralAlbertaOnline.com | Monday, Jan 19 2026, 3:12 PM

The Bruning family of Hillside Poultry Farm has been named Lacombe County's nominee for the Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards. The award is presented by the Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies, with the winner set to be announced Feb. 7 during the association's annual convention.

"Farm families are the heart of our rural communities," said AAAS chief executive officer Tim Carson. "Through these awards, we want to shine a light on the incredible contributions Northern Alberta families make — not just to agriculture, but to community life, rural leadership and the future of our province."



The Brunings were recognized locally as Lacombe County's 2025 Farm Family of the Year.

Theo and Claudine Bruning, along with their children Kaiden, Emma and Madison, operate Hillside Poultry Farm, a poultry and grain operation east of Lacombe. The family was also recognized locally as Lacombe County's 2025 Farm Family of the Year.

Originally from the Netherlands, Theo and Claudine each immigrated to Canada on separate paths before building their farm together. Theo moved to Alberta with his family in 1997, settling near Joffre. In 2002, he began farming full-time with the support of his parents and later completed the Agriculture Production program at Olds College. Claudine's family immigrated from the Netherlands to Manitoba in the 1980s before relocating to Alberta, where she grew up on a pig farm near Penhold.



Hillside Poultry Farm raises approximately 52,000 broiler chickens and farms more than 3,000 acres in partnership with Theo's brother, Jack.

Theo and Claudine married in 2011 and have since grown Hillside Poultry Farm into a large-scale operation raising approximately 52,000 broiler chickens and farming more than 3,000 acres in partnership with Theo's brother, Jack.

The Northern Alberta Farm Family Awards will be presented during the AAAS convention, running Feb. 6 to 8 at the River Cree Resort and Casino in Edmonton. Lacombe County plans to send a representative to the event.

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Coming Soon!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
IS LOOKING FOR
SNACK & JUICE
DONATIONS FOR
SUNDAY COFFEE TIMES!



Game Nights!
JOIN US IN THE ST. ANDREW'S HALL
FOR GAME NIGHTS!

Friday, Feb. 13, Saturday, Mar. 21, Saturday Apr. 11 - 7:00-10:00 PM

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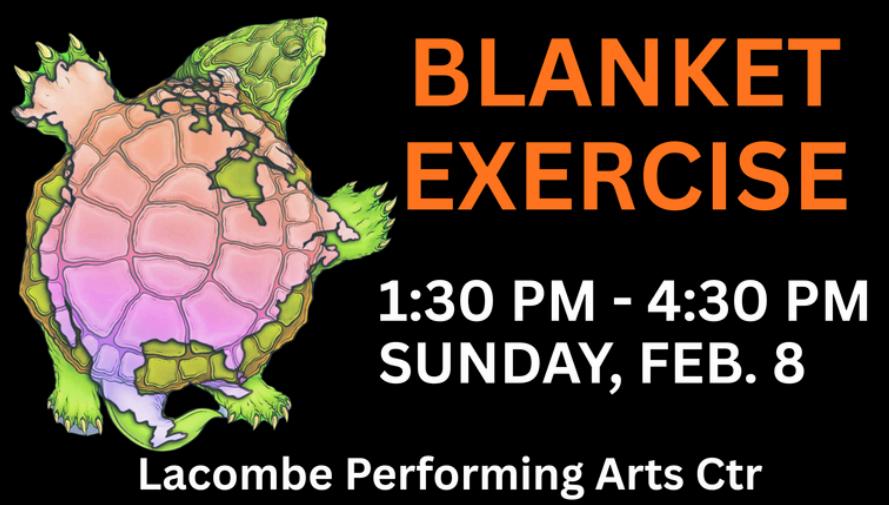
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LACOMBE, ALBERTA

Coming Soon!

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member at St. Andrew's, please speak with Dave or let the office know!



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LACOMBE, ALBERTA

Coming Soon!



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



DECOLONIZATION
IS A COMMUNITY ACT
A retreat for church leaders and young adults
February 17-20, 2026 at
Camp Fircom on Gambier Island

Camp Fircom is geographically located on the South East corner of Chá7elkwnech (Gambier Island) in Átl'ka7tsem (Howe Sound). Chá7elkwnech lies in the unceded, traditional and ancestral territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Uxwumixw (Squamish Nation).



You're invited to the
**Festival of
Faith North**
STRONGER TOGETHER:
COOPERATIVE MINISTRY
April 17-19, 2026
Trinity United, Prince George