St. Andy's Newsletter

September 2026

This Month's Highlights







100th Messy Church!

On September 11 we celebrated our 100th Messy Church!

Active Living Fair

On September 9, Our Messy Church Crew had a table to advertise at Lacombe's Active Living Fair!



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MESSY CHURCH MINISTRY



Our first Messy Church was held in October 2013. September 2026 was our 100th Progam!

As many activities do at St. Andrew's, Messy Church relies heavily on volunteers. This year, in addition to many adult volunteers, 10 youth from St. Andrew's and the community contribute their time in making this prayer and gathering time successful.

Families who participate have told us that they appreciate the youth involvement with their children.
This family-oriented ministry runs from 5 to 7 p.m. the first Friday of each month. The participants are greeted and welcomed at the door, directed to the prayer station and the bulletin board and then on to other activities. From 5 to 6 p.m. everyone becomes involved with arts, crafts, and activities geared towards the monthly theme.

At 6 p.m. we all move into the Sanctuary where the minister, or a facilitator, tie everything together in a lesson. St. Andrew's is blessed in that Reverend Dave and Brenna take part. Not all Messy Church programs have ministry personnel involved. We sing 2 or 3 songs, say grace, and then move back to the auditorium for a meal and fellowship.

Karen O'Hare, Rhonda Easton, and Lawrence Hrycan have been involved with Messy Church since the beginning.



Volunteers are always welcome, whether it be assisting with a craft, a story, a game, a song, or with the food in the kitchen. Everyone is welcome to come and simply see what the buzz is all about. Feel free to come and take part in this monthly Messy Church program.

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MESSY CHURCH WELL WISHES!

... on the 100th aniversity!

A small bird whispered in my ear that your MC celebrates your 100th MC-session! Wow! Thats so great.

I live and is a part of a Messy Church in the northern part of Sweden, close to the artic circle.

I just want to send my best wishes to you and your MC. And also i would lika to give you a verse from the Bible. Its a verse that has ment alot to me during my life. Its in the letter of Hebreews 4:14-16. A versse to walk with in life.

God Bless!

Mikael Dapefrid
Församlingspedagog, Mariakyrkan Sävast
0921-775 76



Dear Brenna and all the Messy folk at St. Andrew's United Church in Lacombe, Alberta

Huge Congratulations on reaching your 100th Messy Church gathering. We celebrate with you and cheer you on!

We give thanks for your calling to reach those in your community who might not otherwise experience a Christ-centred community.

We give thanks for your perseverance to keep going when it's easier to give-up.

We pray that people of all ages will continue to grow in Christ through your creativity, hospitality, and celebration.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (holding out my hands as though I'm receiving a present) And the love of God (placing my hands on my heart) And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (holding hands with you from around the world!) Be with us all, now and forever Amen (flinging my hands in the air in celebratory praise)!

You're all awesome!

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MORE MESSY CHURCH WELL WISHES!

Happy 100th Anniversary St. Andrew's Messy Church!

On behalf of Messy Church Canada, we send our very best wishes for your continued sharing of Christ's ministry through Messy Church.

100 Messy Churches is quite a milestone. Your care for the community and for each other is an inspiration.

100 Messy Churches of crafts and games and snacks and stories and songs and worship and prayer and welcome and...mess!

Thank you for everything you do! May you know God's love around you always.

Blessings,
Carol Fletcher
on behalf of Messy Church Canada's leadership team of
Norma Collis, Gail Purcell, Brenna Trimble and Anne Williston

Heard through a little birdy that your messy church is having a big celebration. Congratulations!

Praying for a wonderful celebration – all the way from New Zealand.

Claire Wyeth



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NOTE FROM REVEREND ROSS SMILLIE

Friends,

Many of you, I am sure, have heard the troubling news that a young man who grew up in this congregation has been charged with offences related to child pornography. I am struggling to wrap my head around that, as I am sure many of you are as well.

Many years ago, in a different congregation, I had a similar situation, where an active member of that congregation (not St. Andrew's), a teacher, was arrested and charged with molesting one of his students. His wife told me that one of the most helpful things that someone shared with them at that time was a fridge magnet that said, "Shit happens; it may wash off; it will leave a stain."

That message was appreciated because it summarized their situation so briefly and accurately, but also because those who sent it reached out in a supportive way without minimizing the challenge of their situation.

Our situation is that we want to be supportive of this young man and his family, without minimizing the seriousness of the crimes of which he is accused. We don't know whether his is guilty or not. That is not for us to determine. The police and legal system have an important role in protecting children and holding those who abuse them to account so that they are prevented from continuing the abuse. Protecting children is the most important thing, and we have to respect the legal process as they do that. We also have a robust child protection policy to prevent abuse from happening in our congregation.

Part of respecting that process is respecting the rights of the accused. That will mean that we must respect the legal advice the accused and his family will have been given not to speak about the case to anyone but their lawyer. We might want explanations that they cannot provide. They may need privacy as they learn how to deal with this devastating news.

But that does not mean that we cannot be supportive. It is not our role to condemn or judge the guilt or innocence of the accused. We are not to cast the first stone. The accused is a child of God who is loved unconditionally, whether he is innocent or guilty. Love does not excuse criminal behaviour, but it does point beyond it.

This family will be hearing a lot of horrible abuse and condemnation. They don't need more of that from us. What they need is support and friendship. We can reach out, with cards, messages, letters, and in other creative ways. Let's surround this family with love, with support, with encouragement. Let's remind them of God's grace.

Peace, Ross

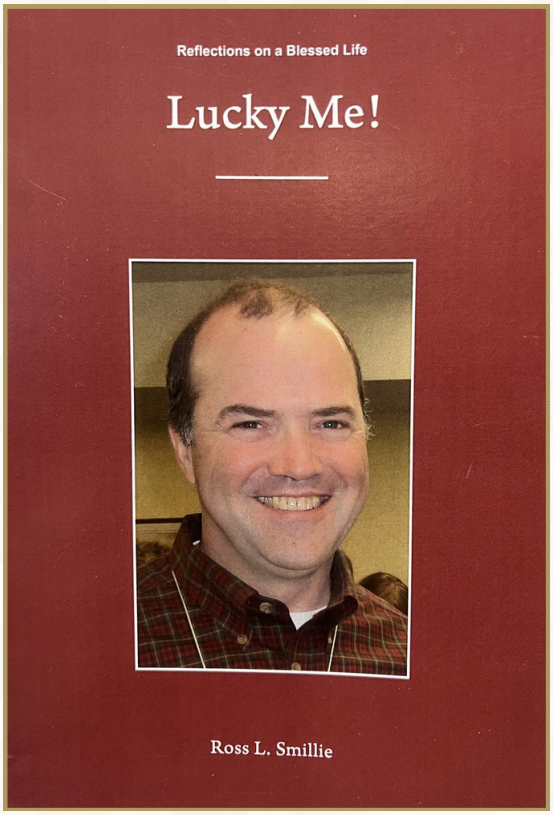
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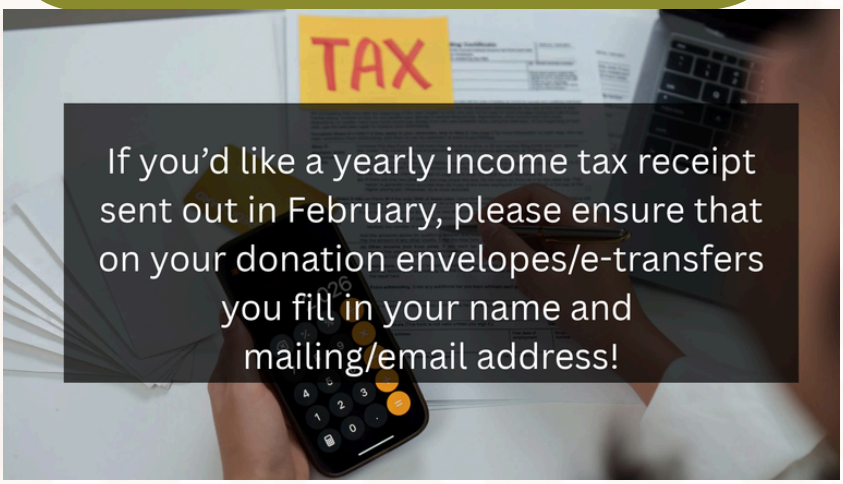
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Lucky Me!

Reverend Ross Smillie has donated a book to St. Andrew's entitled, "Lucky Me!" If you'd like to check it out, please sign it out from our library!



Tax Note







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Children/Youth/Family Ministry!

🍂 Fall Is Here at St. Andrew's! 🍂

There is something special about the beginning of a new fall season at St. Andrew's! As summer winds down and our regular rhythms return, our church is once again filling with laughter, learning, fellowship, and opportunities to grow together in faith.
We are excited to welcome everyone back and to kick off another wonderful year of ministry with our children, youth, families, and entire church community!

🎉 Celebrating 100 Messy Church Services!

September 11, 2026
What a milestone! We celebrated our 100th Messy Church service at St. Andrew's!
Messy Church is all about gathering together, being creative, sharing a meal, learning about God, and—of course—getting a little messy! Thank you to everyone who has helped make these 100 gatherings so special.

📖 Kids' Sunday & Our Fall Kick-Off

September 13, 2026
Our children and youth helped us kick off the new programming year with a very special Kids' Sunday!
After an amazing week at camp, our campers had the opportunity to share what they learned with the whole congregation. We enjoyed hearing their stories, singing the songs they learned at Summer Camp, and sharing some of the parables they explored.
We also celebrated our youth in Grades 5–9 as they were presented with Bibles to use throughout the year at Youth Group. We are excited to see how these young people continue to grow in faith and community!

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Children/Youth/Family Ministry!

🙌 Youth Group Is Back!

September 18 & 25, 2026
Youth Group is back—and we can't wait to see everyone!
All youth in Grades 5–9 are welcome to join us in the Saucy Room. Our first gathering was a chance to come together and help plan the year ahead. Our first planned event is a trip to Kraay Farms on September 25th!

🍎 Sunday School Is Back!

September 20, 2026
Our regular Sunday School programming has returned!
We are excited to welcome our children back each week for another year of learning, growing, asking questions, making friends, and discovering what it means to live out our faith. A huge thank-you to all of our Sunday School leaders and volunteers who make this ministry possible!

☕ Parent & Tot Coffee Hour

September 25, 2026
Our Parent & Tot Coffee Hour is another wonderful opportunity to connect!
Parents, caregivers, and little ones are invited to come together for coffee, conversation, friendship, and fellowship. Whether you are a familiar face or joining us for the first time, you are welcome here!

🧡 Truth and Reconciliation Sunday

September 27, 2026
On September 27, we will gather for our Truth and Reconciliation Service as we recognize Orange Shirt Day. This is an important opportunity for our church community to listen, learn, remember, and reflect on the history and ongoing legacy of residential schools and the experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada. We invite everyone to join us as we continue the work of reconciliation through remembrance, education, listening, and relationship.

St. Andy's Newsletter



Children/Youth/Family Ministry!

❤️ A Personal Thank-You

As we begin another exciting season together, I also want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the congregation of St. Andrew's for the opportunity I have been given to serve in the Pastoral Care role.

It has been a privilege to walk alongside members of our church community during both joyful and challenging moments. I am incredibly grateful for the trust, kindness, encouragement, and support that you have shown my family.

Pastoral care is a ministry that reminds us of the importance of simply being present for one another—of listening, caring, celebrating, praying, and offering support when it is needed most. I feel truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to be part of that ministry at St. Andrew's.

Thank you for welcoming me, trusting me, and allowing me to serve alongside such a caring and wonderful church family. I look forward to continuing this journey together and seeing all that the year ahead will bring!

🍁 There's Lots Happening at St. Andrew's!

The beginning of fall is always a busy and exciting time, and we are so grateful for the many people who make these ministries possible—from our volunteers and leaders to our parents, children, youth, and the entire congregation.

Whether you've been part of St. Andrew's for years or you're looking for a church community to call home, there is a place for you here.

So grab your calendar, invite a friend, and come join us this fall!
We can't wait to see you at St. Andrew's United Church! ❤️

Brenna

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Welcome

Sunday Sep. 27, our Living into Right Relation group from St. Andrew's held a service on "Remembering the Children". A list of the children known to have died at Red Deer Industrial School was read. A very moving acknowledgement.

Truth & Reconciliation Day is coming up. Wed. Sept. 30







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Volunteer Day!

September 17 was Volunteer Day for Burman University. The sign up sheet gave students the opportunity to help clean up plants in the Woodland Sanctuary. Twelve students along with several non-students spent several hours pulling weeds and grass from around the forbs in the Sanctuary.





We were finding that the grass around the forbs were growing up and over many of the forbs so we worked to give them more light. The volunteer help was great since with the work from these 12 students we were able to clean up most of the plants in the Woodland Sanctuary. The cinnamon buns served were a great incentive; Mr. Delafield said " if we serve cinnamon buns again next year we may have 50 volunteers :)"
Thank you Burman Uni students!!





Outreach Report

Canadian Foodgrains Bank

The local growing project raised almost $83,000 from its 137 acre field of yellow peas. So, YEAR 31 is complete and once again we want to thank all the local farmers, agri-businesses, churches, donors and supporters that have been by our side since 1996.

Friends of Guatemala (FRoG)

After the World Food Day service on October 18, the FRoG committee is serving up pie as a fundraiser. Our next monthly meeting is October 8 at 7 pm at St. Andrew's.

Living Into Right Relations

We are supporting the Lunch and Learn sessions for 6 consecutive Tuesdays starting September 29 that are in recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.At the Kinsmen Room of the LMC starting at 12 PM to 1.30 PM (Please bring your own lunch)

Volunteer Link

This continues to be a valuable service at no cost for seniors in Lacombe and area. We drive individuals to medical and dental appointments when they have no means to get to these appointments. Talk to Bob Settle if you can spare a few hours per week or month to complete some volunteer driving.

Meals on Wheels

St. Andrew's each July provides volunteers to deliver meals to individuals in Lacombe. Talk to Doug Maas or Ko Bruning if you wish to assist next year. Meals on Wheels is administered through FCSS in Lacombe.

Submitted by: Doug Maas

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Property Report

- The men's toilet downstairs was not working and had to be replaced. Civic Mechanical was called to do this.
- The safety light in the narthex was buzzing and Pyrotech was called to replace the battery.
- The gym door was not programmed correctly and was leaving the door unlocked at certain times – Red Deer Lock and Key came and reset program.
- Don Fraser has volunteered to take care of the lawn for the month of September. Biil Conley, who has been taking care of the lawn, had a back operation and is taking time to heal.
- The windows on the daycare side of the church in the basement were stuck and did not open properly. The outside door leading to the elevator also needed repairing. Don took care of both these issues for us. Thank you, Don.
- Thanks to Greg Pallister for helping with the renovation planning for the basement and the new windows. Greg has been instrumental in meeting with Bullseye and checking out costs.

  Windows – overall cost to replace all windows in the church = $70, 791.60
  Parlour – 2 windows at $2,394.05 each for $4,788.10 and 2 windows at $2,069.92 each for $4,139.8 Total of $8,927.94
  Kitchen – 2 windows at $2,394.05 each for $4,788.10 Total cost of $13,716.10 to do the parlour and kitchen. Thank you to UCW 2 who have have committed $10,000 to this project.
- $115,000 has been donated by the Hueppelsheuser family in Dennis' name to do the renovations downstairs which includes upgrades to the bathrooms. We are hoping the work for this renovation can start sometime after Christmas. Thank you to the Hueppelsheuser family for this generous donation.
- Linda has also paid for the trimming down of the pews in the sanctuary to make our space more accessible to all.

St. Andy's Newsletter

Property Report

- Rentals – we have many groups using the church this year – both our church groups and outside groups. The church is now used 7 days a week. Therefore, it was felt that locks needed to be placed on the rooms downstairs for safety reasons. Aurora Locksmith was called to put the locks on all rooms downstairs at a cost of $2500.
- Jill – painted and decorated the green room which is a main room used by the Sunday school. Thanks to Jill for making the basement look so welcoming and inviting.
- Healing Pathway now has their own storage space for their equipment on the east side of the church. Jill has been cleaning and painting space for them. Currently, they are storing their equipment on the daycare side.
- Furnaces – replacing 5 furnaces cost about $45,000 dollars. This Included restructuring vents so that heat vents could be placed in the front of the sanctuary. In the past, people in the back were hot and people in the front were cold. There will now be balance. The two furnaces used to heat the auditorium have been replaced. The 3 furnaces used to heat the narthex, and the sanctuary have been replaced. These 5 furnaces were continually in need of repair and parts were no longer available. The other 4 furnaces in the building, even though some of them are over 30 years old, have not given us trouble, and we hope they will last another 5 years or so. The two furnaces on the roof (HVAC) are good and should last for 10 years or so.

Thanks to Bob King for his invaluable help in working with the furnace people. McMullen's Refrigeration and Heating out of Red Deer installed the furnaces. The new furnaces are 2-stage.



Thank you to everyone for taking care of St. Andrew's!

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Fall Equinox Gathering

What a beautiful fall evening! Warm. Still. Comforting. Seventeen people came out to Create Forest Reflections at the Woodland Sanctuary. The event, co-sponsored by the St. Andrew's United Church Green Team and the Lacombe Art Guild, welcomed participants to a gentle time of wandering, quiet creativity and reflection.

Cecile Fausak greeted everyone and spoke briefly about the history of the land and the agenda for the evening.

Cynthia Pohl led us in a meditation facing the four directions and Fran Kimmel spoke about creating art in nature. Each person then had solitary time to walk, sit, meditate, and create before gathering again to share.

This was the Fall Equinox version of Creating Forest Reflections, our second such evening. Some of the poetry, prose, sketching, and photography will be published on the St. Andrew's United Church website – a journal of the evolution of the Woodland Sanctuary. This event is planned for each Solstice and Equinox of the year. The next one will be on December 20. Come. Join us.



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BRIEF NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

October 2026 – Financial Update as of Aug 31, 2026

	Jan – Aug Actual	Jan – Aug Budget
Income	$185,045	$204,133
Expenses	$213,440	$242,370
Surplus/Deficit	$-28,396	$-38,237

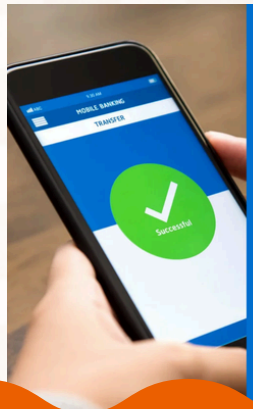
Our congregation passed a deficit budget going into 2026. We are currently $10,000 ahead of that budgeted loss but are coming close to the end of the year. The budget was revised in June to reflect original staffing costs. This adjustment reduced our year end budget from –$66,315 to –$57,356.

Reserve funds will be needed to cover our losses. The current reserve funds are being used for capital expenses to maintain our facility and have included the new furnaces that were installed this summer. If we continue to utilize reserve funds, intended for capital expenses, we will be come unsustainable. We need to be able to cover operational expenses with the income we receive throughout the year.

In an effort to move to a more sustainable position we would like to develop a Financial Stewardship Program. We are putting out a call for volunteers to help with this initiative. If you are interested in giving us a couple of months of your time to help develop a plan, please leave your name and contact information with the office and we will be in touch.

The board expresses their gratitude for all the donations received.

Thank you
Karen Yakimishyn



OUR E-TRANSFER EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

standrewslacombefinance@gmail.com