



Christmas Newsletter 2017

Christ Church, Nanton



Greetings to from The Bishop's Warden

What to say?

Garnet, Rob, Gerry, Dave and Brenda have contributed profound messages of Hope, Love, and Joy, tenets of our faith, which I am unable to express.

I would only add a request that:

- you keep Bishop Greg Kerr-Wilson (truly God's man) in your prayers.
- you join us for worship any Sunday morning at 10:00 am (we need you).

The messages and time honored prayers brought by Gerry, Garnet and Rob are, for sure, worth hearing. Rev. Jane Mitchell has offered her services and we look forward to greeting her in the near future. Enclosed is the annual Promoters schedule. We deeply appreciate your support of this and other events: i.e. Shoeboxes, Plant Sale, funeral receptions, Christmas Tree project and Christmas Luncheon. Also enclosed is the 2018 Parish List. Clergy and Spiritual Support Team is included.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All! Audrey Egger (Bishop's Warden)

Greetings to from our Treasurer



As I write this note in November for our annual Christ Church Christmas Letter, the season of Advent is rapidly approaching. Advent is a time to reflect on the events of the past year and a time to "prepare" for the celebration of Christ's birth. It is also for those of us at Christ Church, a time to wish all who will read this newsletter a very "Merry Christmas" and with God's grace and guidance a "Happy and Healthy New Year". I have taken on a new role in Parish Council as your treasurer. I am enjoying this change in responsibility as it is reinforcing to me the importance of stewardship, in all its meanings, in our closely knit community. From a financial standpoint we continue to operate on a shoestring budget, paying particular attention to our monthly overhead expenditures. Though the number of parishioners attending services is small, we remain an active parish. Because of this, "to this point" we have been able to maintain our financial status. Increased attendance and support is vital however. Each year that passes, drives home the fact that keeping the parish vital within the Nanton Community is a huge challenge. Right now we are able to provide a location for Adult Day Support, continue to serve Promoters, put on our annual Plant Sale, provide the Christmas Tree Program, and our Christmas Luncheon to name a few. It has been mentioned in numerous annual Christmas newsletters, and it remains, that we need to attract new parishioners to our Anglican/Lutheran weekly services and encourage members on our parish list to come to church. You are invited, and the challenge remains. Come and participate in our most meaningful and enjoyable worship services. The doors are open and we want you to join us. In closing, May God bless you and yours this Christmas Season, and in the months ahead in 2018.

Yours in Christ. Dave Williams, Treasurer





Christmas Greetings from our Lutheran Pastor

It is reported that, as Christmas approaches and family plans were being discussed a child remarked, “Do we have to go to Hawaii again this Christmas?” A clear indicator that something has gone a-miss in the Christmas Story! Whether here or in Hawaii, the Advent Season and its’ climax in the Festival of Jesus birth, should cause us to step back and think deeply about Christ’s Mass, for it surely is the “miracle of miracles?” That God, the Creator, Lord of Heaven and Earth, the Alpha and Omega, the Holy One of Israel is delivered into the world in the flesh and form of a baby in a cold and unwelcoming world, is indeed the foundational miracle of God’s love for each one of us. John’s Gospel 3:16, has it right when it’s well-known words echo over the gifts and celebrations that surround our own Christ-masses; also, the less well known John 3:17 – “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him!” Our heavenly Father is aware that there is enough “condemnation” to go around in the world. Witness the guilt, alienation, envy and strife that attends the media hour daily. In this kind of world God’s coming amongst us in the flesh brings an overwhelming positive that wipes away the negatives and frees us from self-condemnation. That freedom, forgiveness and new life in Spirit is so amazing, it’s no wonder that heaven itself, breaks out and angels come to sing the Opening Chorus at Jesus’ birth; for there is God’s own warm beating heart in the message of Bethlehem. The miracle of miracles! Christ’s-mass invites us again and again, to gather, sing and cherish this old, old but always new story of Jesus and His love.

A blessed Advent and Christmas
Pastor Garnet Leach

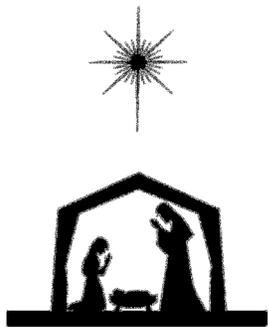
Christmas Greetings from our Anglican Deacon



I rather suspect that age has something to do with it, but it seems to me that the years are moving much faster than they did previously. It feels like such a short time ago that we were preparing the 2016 Christmas newsletter. But, here we are, with the activities centred around the Christmas season in full swing. Shoe boxes have been filled, Christmas trees are ready to be decorated, and the season of Advent is upon us. And so it is time, once again, to acknowledge the thoughts, prayers and regular assistance that I receive from all of my dear friends in this great little parish of Christ church, Nanton. I am ever so grateful. On behalf of all members of the congregation, a sincere “thank you” for administration, music, altar preparation, cleaning and team ministry that keeps this church functioning. Christmas Eve we will once again be holding a combined Anglican/Lutheran service. We hope that you will find time in your busy holiday schedule to join us. The service is at 4:30 P.M. allowing plenty of time following the service to carry out your traditional Christmas Eve festivities. This is always a beautiful, moving service and a great way to begin your celebrations. We hope that you will plan to attend.

I would like to share with you, this Christmas prayer: *Eternal God, this joyful day is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Bless us and the feast that You have provided for us. Let us be thankful for the true gift of Christmas, your son. Amen*

Rev. Deacon G. Skeet



Christ Church Anglican-Lutheran Church Christmas 2017 *Brenda Schlaht, People's Warden*

As we rejoice in the Season of Advent, and prepare to celebrate the First Coming of Jesus, it is an honour to serve as People's Warden at Christ Church. In my six years in Nanton, I feel enriched by the warm and wonderful Parishioners and Officiates whose dedication to Christ Church and devotion to worship is most admirable.

I had the pleasure of being a member of Rob Cowie's discernment committee over the spring months, which was inspiring, empowering, and humbling, to say the least. Congratulations to Rob, whose journey toward the Diaconate is moving forward, as supported by our Archbishop, Greg Kerr-Wilson.

Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, and although many Christians around the world celebrate his birth, there are people who do not. My family participates in holiday activities, offer gifts to others, send Christmas cards, gather with friends and family, sing in choirs and attend Church teas and Christmas concerts, donate to food banks and the less fortunate, bake special goodies, and follow our own traditions and customs.

There are people who do not engage in celebrations. There are those who do not worship God. They may worship other entities or Creators, or have unique belief systems.

In Matthew 7:12, there is guidance to show respect for others and their beliefs. Respecting the perspectives of others, and not passing judgement, is reaffirmed in

Isaiah 11:2-4: *"The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Jesus... He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes".*

Jesus sets the example for us, modelling righteousness and justice, fairness and compassion.

My wish for others is to show genuine love for one another, and appreciate our differences. Jesus was a man of warmth and compassion; he was impartial, fair, humble, and sensitive. Like Jesus, each of us might aspire to be encouraging and empathic, offer prayers and assistance to others, and seek to understand the perspectives and interests of others.

The Dalai Lama writes: *"Only the development of compassion and understanding for others can bring us the tranquility and happiness we all seek."* There is such wisdom in his words.

To close, one of my favourite hymns to play on the organ is *"The Church's one foundation, is Jesus Christ her Lord..."*

I am grateful for my "church family" at Christ Church Anglican-Lutheran, and in awe of their passion and devotion to serve the Lord.

"Christmas Blessings, Thanks, and Praise!"



Brenda Schlaht

What an honor, blessing and privilege it has been for me to act as one of the Lay Readers at Christ Church again this year. I offer my heartiest thanks to all members of the parish for providing me, and trusting me, with this inspirational opportunity. I am humbled to lead Morning Prayer and Reserved Sacrament worship services with you on a monthly basis. Most of all, I offer my heartiest thanks to God for the way He has led me to, and in, this ministry. I pray He will continue to guide me and all members of the parish through the year ahead. May we honor and glorify Him in everything we think, say and do. ***The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. – Psalm 28:7***

In recent years, a Canadian group of Christian university researchers has surfaced known as *Flourishing Congregations*. Their mandate is to discover and examine what is working in churches that seem to be doing well in a time when church attendance has dwindled. The single most important factor in the research focusses on numbers in the pews on Sunday morning. At Christ Church, we too are sometimes concerned with the number of folks in attendance but we carry on, fully confident that we will see the day when the pews will be full. In order to achieve this goal, I humbly invite anyone reading this message to come to church on any given Sunday; I am sure you will not be disappointed. You will find a small group of worshipers who are “flourishing” in the Spirit. ***Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. – Hebrews 11:1***

I invite you take a moment to check out our website where you can find updates on upcoming events, photos of past and current events, inspirational messages, parish council minutes, this newsletter and much more; everything you need to know about Christ Church Anglican Lutheran. This year I have added a new section to the website; a daily piece titled “***Thought for the Day***”. With hope that this section will bring glory to God and attention to His Word, you are invited to check the page every day for a piece of scripture, thoughts on the verse(s) and a prayer. I pray the ideas presented will bring you fulfillment as you continue your journey with Christ. Check it out at: www.christchurchnanton.com ***If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.***

As Advent and the Christmas Season approach, I would like to wish everyone in the parish and in the community of Nanton, a joyous celebration of the Savior’s birth with all the bountiful blessings and gifts therein. May you and your families enjoy a wonderful Christmas and may He richly bless you all in the New Year ahead. ***For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the weight of government shall be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. – Isaiah 9:6***

Yours in Christ’s love,
R. Cowie
Lay Reader
Postulant to the Order of the Diaconate
Anglican Church of Canada



Promoters Schedule 2018

DATE	CREW	SUGGESTED MENU	PHONE #'S
January 9	Dave/Wendy Williams Leslie Birrell Deb Loree	Ham	646-0122 646-5540 646-5659
February 13	Leslie Birrell Dan/Serena Smith Terri Coull	Casserole/stew/hamburger	646-5540 369-5705 395-2376
March 13	Louanna Jones Louise Adie Sherri Barrett Janice Slade	Roast Beef	601-3434 601-0361 646-2344 498-4447
April 10	Dave/Wendy Williams Deb Pearce Betty Lowe(cook only)	Poultry	646-0122 646-2012 646-2506
May 8	Brenda Schlaht Heather Ludwig Deb Loree Lynn Cowie	Pork	485-8349 603-0057 646-5659 646-2946
June 12	Louise Adie Deb Pearce Allison IsBell Joan Cooper	Casserole/stew/hamburger	601-0361 646-2012 601-1236 646-2642
July 10	Karen Crawford Gladys Miklos Louanna Jones	Cold Meat	646-5808 646-2845 601-3434
September 11	Lynn Cowie Janice Slade Sherri Barrett Allison IsBell	Poultry	646-2946 498-4447 646-2344 601-1236
October 9	Karen Crawford Gladys Miklos Joan Cooper Brenda Schlaht	Salmon	646-5808 646-2864 646-2642 485-8349
November 13	Heather Ludwig Terri Coull Dan/Serena Smith Audrey Egger(cook only)	Roast Beef	603-0057 395-2376 369-5707 549-2453

22 Promoters Eat at 7:00

- Please feel free to try new menu ideas or different combinations
- Crew rotations have changed. If you are unable to work you are responsible for finding your own replacement. You might exchange with someone who works in another month or only once: Betty Lowe or Audrey Egger.
- **Convenors** are listed in **Bold**. Please call your group at least one week in advance to plan the menu.
- **Promoters Box:** The key to the Community Center is in a plastic container in a plastic tub under the counter at the Parish Hall. The box is stocked with essentials (napkins, placemats, sugar, soap, etc.). **This group of men do not drink coffee therefore you may choose not to make it.** If stores are depleted please restock for the next crew. Pick it up a few days early. Don't forget to check for a tablecloth, dish towels, and tea towels. You will need to shop for butter, rolls, pickles and condiments if none are in the fridge at the Hall. The men set up the tables. There is a notepad in the box in which convenors may record their menus and make pertinent comments. Repetition can be avoided by checking the notebook.
- **Everyone:** We have an account **#147** for Christ Church Anglican/Lutheran at Super Valu Foods. You may charge any food used for catering. If you choose to donate food, **THANK YOU!** If you shop elsewhere and would like to be given a tax receipt or reimbursed, **hand your receipts to Dave Williams or mail them to him at Box 1126, Nanton AB. TOL 1R0**

Quantity Guidelines

Meat	Beef	25 pounds
	Ham	¾ pound per person
	Pork	25 pounds, rolled and lean
	Steak	½ pound per person
	Turkey	1 pound per person
Vegetables	Potatoes	20 pounds, mashed or scalloped
	Fresh or frozen	8 pounds
	Canned	one standard can for six people
	Marinated	one ice cream pail for 8-10 people
Salad	Head lettuce	one solid head for 10-12 people
	Cabbage	two large heads plus other ingredients
	Romaine	one large head for 8-10 people
		(These younger men eat a lot of salad)
Dinner Rolls	Depends on menu (whole wheat preferred) two dozen plenty.	

Enjoy each other's cooking and company!

Have fun and THANK YOU very much for donating you valuable time and energy.

2018 Parish List - Christ Church, Anglican/Lutheran, Nanton

ADIE Bruce, Louise T0L 1R0
ATKINSON Terry, Patty
BARRETT Quentin, Sherri
Colton, Riley, Kasey
BLAKE John, Pat
BIRRELL David, Leslie
BRADBURN: Ronice
CLUETT Rosa
COMSTOCK Jean
COOPER Gary, Joan
COULL Tom, Teralee, Troy
COWIE Rob, Lynn
CRAWFORD Karen
DUDAS Colleen
EGGER Cliff, Audrey,
HOULTON Ken
HAINES Lynne
ISBELL Allison, Marvin
Shayne, Alayna, Keifer
JONES Darrell, Louanna
Dalton, Skylar
LEACH Joanne, (Rick Irnie)
LIVELY Harry, Linda
LOREE Murray, Deb
LOWE Jim, Betty
LUDWIG Heather, Peter
MAYNARD Ed, Doug,
MAYNARD Steve
MIKLOS Gladys, Emil
NORMAN Lea
PEARCE Deb, Kayla
PITT Elaine
SCHLAHT Brenda, Steve,
SHANDLEY Dennis, Sally
SLADE Travis, Janice
Cassidy, Brooke, Jarrett
SMITH Dan, Serena
SOUTHGATE Dustin, Brenda
Dalyn, Morgan, Trey
STAGG David, Tracey
WILLIAMS Dave, Wendy

2018 Christ Church Ministry Team

CLERGY

BEEMAN: Rev. Dianne 652-2271 dbeaman8@telus.net
Home: 652-2535 FAX: 652-2209

CRANCH: Rev. Gordon 485-2714 gcranch@telusplanet.net
485-2437

EBSWORTH: Michael 327-3473

GATEMAN: Rev. Pilar Christ Church, Fort Macleod 553-3746
(*Regional Dean*) revpilar@gmail.com

GETTY: Rev. Alan 933-3620(*cell 894-7578*) revalangetty@gmail.com

KOCHENDORFER: Larry Synod of AB and NWT 780-439-9836
(*Lutheran Bishop*) 780-439-2636
lkochendorfer@elcic.ca Edmonton

KERR-WILSON Gregory Anglican Diocese of Calgary
1-888-999-1551 243-3673
(*Anglican Bishop*) FAX: 243-2182
diocese@calgary.anglican.ca

LEACH: Garnet 210-0436 garnetleach78@gmail.com

MITCHELL: Jane 403-580-2733 revjanemitchell@gmail.com

SKEET: Rev. Gerry 652-7087 gskeet@shaw.ca

Lay Ministry

COWIE: Rob 646-2946 rob.cowie@telus.net

MOORE: Denise 652-2124 (*cell 465-1433*) bcorcoran@nucleus.com

Christ Church Parish Hall 646-2726