Linking St. Leonard's on the Hill

4241 44 Street, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 1H3 Phone: 403-346-6769 Fax: 403-986-2799 e-mail: stleonardsanglicanchurch@gmail.com Website: stleonardsonthehill.org Facebook: St. Leonard's on the Hill Anglican Church



December 2025 January 2026



The most important part of <u>Christ</u>mas is



Highlights

- *Advent Celebrations (Lighting of Candles)
- *Midweek Holden Services on Wednesday's at St. Leonard's alternating with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church—November 26th –December 17th at 7 pm (Poster attached)
- *ACW Ladies' Social—Saturday, November 29th, 1-3 pm (Poster attached)
- *ACW Nativity Project—December 2nd to 6th, (Poster attached)
- *Diocesan Advent Study online by Zoom— December 2nd to 23rd at 7 pm (Poster attached)
- *Lesson and Carols Service—Sunday, December 21st at 10 am (Poster attached)
- *Annual Reports Due—January 8th, 2025

AGM—Sunday, February 1st, 2026 (tentatively booked after the 10 am Service/bring bagged lunch)
Parish Council 2026 Application Form attached.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

St. Leonard's/Hillsdown

November 30 Advent I 10:00 am Family Led Service

Lighting of Advent Wreath

December 7 Advent II 10:00 am BCP Service

Lighting of Advent Wreath

White Gift (Adopt-a-Family) Sunday Blessing

December 14 Advent III 10:00 am BCP Service

Lighting of Advent Wreath

December 21 Advent IV 10 am Lessons and Carols Service

Lighting of Advent Wreath

December 24 Christmas Eve

4:30 pm St. Paul's Hillsdown Candlelight Service

7 pm St. Leonard's Christmas Eve Service

December 25 Christmas Day

10:00 am Christmas Day Service

December 28 10 am BCP Service

First Sunday after Christmas



Usual Sunday Service Times:

10:00 am Eucharist Service (BAS) 9:30 am Morning Prayer—Monday and Friday online by Zoom. 9:30 am Wednesday Morning Midweek Eucharist Service with Incense



December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
	1	2	3	4	5	6					
	9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom	Nativity Project 1-6 pm at St. Leonard's 7-8:30 pm Advent	9:30 am Midweek Service for all the Saints with Incense Craft Group 1-3:30 pm in Lounge Nativity Project 1-6 pm at St. Leonard's Advent Joint Holden service—at Good	10 am Choir Adopt-a-Family White Gifts Due Nativity Project 1-6 pm at St. Leonard's 1:30 pm Aspen Ridge Services	9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom Nativity Project 1-6 pm at St. Leonard's	Nativity Project 1-4 pm at St. Leonard's					
		Study by Zoom	Shepherd Lutheran Church 7pm	1.1	1.0	1.0					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13					
10:00 am BCP Service Blessing of the White Gifts	9 am Delivery of the Adopt-A- Family gifts 9:30 am Morning		9:30 am Midweek Service for all the Saints and with Incense	10 am Choir 1:30 pm Aspen Ridge Services	9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom	Ultreya Service 1 pm at					
All Gift Cards and gifts must be in the Office before 9 am for	Prayer by Zoom Poinsettias-		Craft Group 1-3:30 pm in Lounge			St. Leonard's Church					
Salvation Army Families	Orders due	7 0:20 mm Advent	Parish Council 5:30 pm								
		7-8:30 pm Advent Study by Zoom	Advent Joint Holden Service—at St. Leonard's Anglican Church 7pm								
14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
10:00 am BCP Service	9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom	Inglewood Service at 3:15 pm	9:30 am Midweek Service for all the Saints and with Incense	10 am last Choir Meeting in 2025 1:30 pm Aspen	9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom						
		7-8:30 pm Advent Study by Zoom	Craft Group 1-3:30 pm in Lounge Advent Joint Holden	Ridge Services							
	Krista is on Holidays	Krista is on Holidays	Service—at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 7pm (Rev. Chris is Preaching)	Krista is on Holidays							
21	22	23	Krista is on Holidays	25	26	27					
10:00 am Lesson and Carol Service		7-8:30 pm Advent Study by Zoom (Rev. Chris)	4:30 pm St. Paul's Hillsdown Candlelight Service	10 am Christmas Service	20	<u> </u>					
			7 pm St. Leonard's Christmas Eve Service and by zoom	2 pm Christmas Dinner at St. Leonard's							
20	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed							
28	29	30	31								
10:00 am BCP Service	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed								

Regular Sunday Service Times:

10:00 am Eucharistic Service

7:00-7:30 pm Sunday Contemplative Evening Prayer

7:30 pm Disciple Night –TBD

9:30 am Morning Prayer—Monday and Friday by Zoom

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Midweek Service for all Saints with Incense



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1 Office is closed	2	3	
10:00 am Eucharistic Service 7:00-7:30 pm Contemplative Prayer	5 9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom	6	9:30 am Midweek Service for all Saints with Incense Craft Group 1-3:30 pm in Lounge	8 10 am Choir 1:30 pm Aspen Ridge Services All Annual Reports Due	9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom	10	
1 1 10:00 am Eucharistic Service 7:00-7:30 pm Contemplative Prayer	9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom 10:00 am A.C.W. Meeting	13	14 9:30 am Midweek Service for All Saints with Incense Craft Group 1-3:30 pm in Lounge	15 10 am Choir 1:30 pm Aspen Ridge Services	16 9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom	Men's Breakfast 8:30 am Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
18 10:00 am Eucharistic Service 7:00-7:30 pm Contemplative Prayer Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	20 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Parish Council Meets 7 pm	9:30 am Midweek Service for All Saints with Incense Craft Group 1-3:30 pm in Lounge Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	22 10 am Choir 1:30 pm Aspen Ridge Services Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	24 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
25 10:00 am Eucharistic Service 7:00-7:30 pm Contemplative Prayer	26 9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom Link Articles Due	27 Rev. Chris's Prayer Day (away from the Office)	28 9:30 am Midweek Service for All Saints with Incense Craft Group 1-3:30 pm in Lounge	29 10 am Choir 1:30 pm Aspen Ridge Services	30 9:30 am Morning Prayer by Zoom	31	

BEHIND THE BEARD



We are starting a new year in the Church's Calendar. The Church year always begins with Advent. Advent is a season that brings a certain level of tension for liturgical Christians. The malls are in full Christmas mode. Children are lining up to see Santa. Christmas parties are beginning, and we are encouraged to partake of holiday goodies and eggnog.

In large part, our society seems to have largely given up on seasons of fasting. Though, fasting seems to be a growing trend for health reasons. Traditionally, Advent has been like Lent. It is a time of spiritual preparation. The traditional themes for reflection in Advent are the four last things:

death, judgment, hell, and heaven- Which are pretty intense themes! I don't see a lot of those images around this time of year. Those aren't the names of our four Advent Candles, for example. We much prefer naming them "hope", "peace", "love", and "joy". So, our society is ready for Christmas (and seems to have been jumping into 'Christmas land' since Halloween), but the Church is in Advent. Instead of hearing heart-warming stories about the baby Jesus or pregnant Mary on her way to Bethlehem, we hear readings calling us to repentance, and warning us to prepare for a coming judgment.

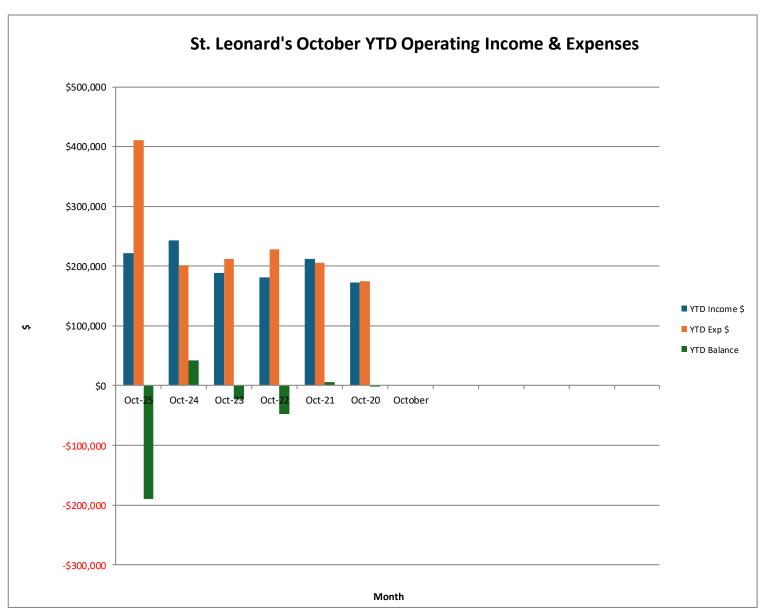
Hopefully, we can hold onto some of this season of preparation and self-reflection as we look forward to the coming of our King. Let's not hold this as a burden, though. This is a gift. Advent reminds us that waiting is not wasted time. It is a sacred space where we open our hearts to transformation.

On the other side of the glorious feast of Christmas, where we celebrate the incarnation of God the Son, we often cut it short. I grew up thinking Boxing Day meant it was the day we box up the tree and decorations. But Christmas lasts for 12 days! I would love for us to rediscover the 12 days of Christmas and spend time in the glow of the recognition of God coming to us as a human being!

I pray you all have an Advent that allows time for reflection; a Christmas that reminds you of God's love for humanity by uniting with our human flesh; and a happy New Year!

Peace, Rev. Chris Roth





October YTD	INCOME	EXPENSES	SURPLUS (DEFICIT)
2025	\$221,658	\$ 411,284	(\$189,626)
2024	\$243,179	\$201,469	\$41,710
2023	\$188,992	\$212,352	(\$23,359)
2022	\$180,780	\$228,045	(\$47,266)
2021	\$211,700	\$205,543	\$6,157
2020	\$172,905	\$174,978	(\$2,073)

Comments:

Our year to date deficit for October 2025 is (\$ 189,626). We have completed our necessary maintenance projects this year. We have spent \$193,918 in maintenance expenses for the year of 2025. This is not something that we have normally done in the past. These were necessary projects to continue to maintain our Church. We were able to pay for these projects out of cash we had in the Church Bank Account, which we are truly blessed to be able to do this.

We continue to be vigilant regarding our financial status. We hope to be in a better financial position by year end.

Please don't hesitate to contact Krista or myself if you have any questions related to St. Leonard's financial status or any suggestions or comments you may have regarding the Financial reports.

Marg Marrett Parish Treasurer

St. Leonard's on the Hill - Nativity Project 2025

Warmest greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

As the busy Christmas season approaches, St. Leonard's church felt inspired to launch an initiative designed to focus our attention on the true reason for the season. As a result, the Nativity project was born. We ask you to share the details of the project with your church members, neighbours and friends and encourage them to stop by St. Leonard's at 4241 44 Street Red Deer.

What: The Nativity project will be a display of nativity scenes and everyone is welcome to come to the church for a quiet time of prayer and contemplation. This will be a time outside of Sunday services for spiritual growth.

Where: The nativity scenes will be located throughout the sanctuary area of the church.

When: The first week of Advent Dec. 2nd through Dec 6th, 2025. Hours are on the attached poster.

Why: Advent anticipates the "coming of Christ." Using a variety of nativity scenes and soft music, we are offering an opportunity to step back from the busyness of Christmas and "re-charge our souls." This is truly a chance for each of us to set aside time to focus on what is profoundly important in our lives. The Nativity Project is inviting you to "**Be still and know that I am GOD.**"



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

On November 30th Renee and Larry Williams celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary.





Happy Wedding Anniversary to Stephanie and Peter Rodger on December 16th.



<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>

Happy Birthday to Sadie Roth on December 4th.

Happy 87th Birthday to Bob Duce on December 5th.

Happy Birthday to Elaine King on December 11th.

Happy Birthday Geoff Oslund.

Happy Birthday Chris Grauman on December 13th.

Happy Birthday to John Bearsby on December 19th.

Happy Birthday to Carol McAllister on December 20th.

Happy Birthday to Frank Webb on December 20th.

Happy Birthday Seth Asodike on December 28th.

If you would like to share your <u>milestones with the Link</u>, please let us know.

For your Information:

In Alberta, you can get money back from a registry for a medical test if you are a senior (age 65 or older) applying for a 25% discount on a driver's medical exam.

The standard driver's medical examinations are not covered by the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP), so you must pay the physician or nurse practitioner directly. The registry agent then processes the reimbursement as a discount.

Eligibility for the Discount

To be eligible for the 25% discount:

You must be an Alberta senior, aged 65 or older on the day of the exam. The driver's medical exam must have taken place on or after April 1st, 2024.

You must provide a valid receipt for the service.

How to Get Reimbursed

You must first pay for the exam at your physician's office and then visit an Alberta registry office to process the reimbursement.

Complete the exam and pay: Visit your physician or nurse practitioner for the exam and ensure you get a detailed receipt or proof of purchase. The receipt should include:

Your name, Date of service

Type of service provided

Physician's/clinic's details (address, phone number)

Amount paid for the service

<u>Visit a registry agent:</u> Bring your receipt to any Alberta registry agent.

Receive your money back: The registry agent will verify your eligibility and process the 25% reimbursement. The discount is issued as a government-issued cheque mailed to the address on your motor vehicles file within 10 business days.

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ULTREYA FELLOWSHIP

The December Ultreya for the Calgary Anglican Cursillo Movement will be held on Saturday, December 13th

beginning at 1 pm at St. Leonard's on the Hill Anglican Church.

We will have worship, a short talk from one of our members, more worship and a time of fellowship.

All our welcome to join us at 1 pm at St. Leonard's Church. Please plan to attend - we'd love to see you there!



ALONGSIDE HOPE (PRIMATES WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND) CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards can be purchased by contacting Susan Robertson. Below are this year's card designs.

Christmas card packages are \$25 each.

Susan Robertson will update the PWRDF Bulletin Board in the North Hall for upcoming events and information.



Hurricane Melissa-Jamaica

On October 20th, 2025, after days of anticipation and repeated deferrals of the expected landfall, Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica as a Category Five hurricane. Alongside Hope has been monitoring the situation and is in contact with the Anglican Church in Jamaica. At present, we are discussing the best way to allocate any emergency response funds. These plans need to be in place before Alongside Hope can begin to receive donations.

The Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands has formed a Response Task Force and is working with parish clergy and lay leaders to reach the worst-affected communities. An action plan covering immediate-, medium- and long-term phases will be shared as soon as possible. Alongside Hope is coordinating its response in Jamaica with other Anglican Alliance members and will announce details when available.

Please pray for the people of Jamaica and other parts of the Caribbean who were affected by Hurricane Melissa.

We will keep you up to date once we have more information.



St. Leonard's on the Hill Mission Statement

"The Anglican Church of St. Leonard's on-the-Hill is a Christian Community committed to building a Christ-like family of disciples through worship, prayer, study, fellowship and service".



JIGSAW PUZZLE LIBRARY

The Library is in the South Hall, puzzles are in the brown shelving unit. Take one and enjoy, return and take another.



Library

Over the Holiday Season, don't forget that we have two wonderful Libraries (one in the Upstairs Lounge and one in the NW corner of the in North Hall downstairs).

There are books for all ages and all tastes plus some CD's and even some DVD's (if you have the necessary equipment). Take a few home, find some "me" time and enjoy.

Joan Truckle has donated a very interesting booklet entitled "A Time to Live—Living with a Life -Threatening Illness" by Barbara Karnes. It is on the top Right Shelf of the Downstairs Library.

(P.S. Remember to return the books, CD's, etc., so others can enjoy them, too!)

THE CLEANING CREW

The Cleaning Crew is looking for a few people to help out specifically with cleaning the bathrooms at St. Leonard's. You can choose what day and time works best for you. Please contact Mary McCambley or Ioney Haye if you are interested.

"<u>BET</u> re you aw

"BETWEEN FRIENDS" MINISTRY

Are you aware that some small tasks are very difficult or impossible to do for some of our Parish members either because of

mobility limitations or recent surgeries?

We are compiling a list of the names of Parish members who would be willing to perform small tasks, either on a one-time or short-term basis, for another Parish member. (e.g. change higher light bulbs, small sewing needs, vacuuming, moving a heavy chair etc., etc., etc.— the list is long for some of our parishioners). If this Ministry is one you feel called to take part in please give your name to Brenda Clark at 403-346-3021 or clarkwbc@telusplanent.net.

We have been asked to put together a list of recommended tradespeople (ones that you have used and have been satisfied) - eg plumber, electrician, roofer, painter, lawn care /snow removal, housekeeping, hairdresser, furnace repair etc. If you can think of other services you would like to have on the list, please see me after Church.

"BETWEEN FRIENDS"

Sincerely, Brenda Clark

Please note: A 2nd year apprentice electrician is seeking employment.

(Please talk to Brenda if you can help)

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2026



Please let Krista know if you would like Offertory Envelopes for 2026. They can be provided upon request.

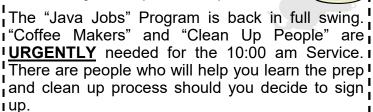
SNOW REMOVAL SCHEDULE



Now that Winter is here, the Snow Removal Sign Up Sheet is posted by the door in the North Hall.

All help is greatly appreciated during the Winter months.

Coffee Anyone? (Java Jobs)



The Sign-Up Book is by the coffee cups in the North Hall and it is also stored by the microwave in the Kitchen.

Donations of cookies would be greatly appreciated.

Deepest Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to Carol McAllister on the death of her uncle, Jim Tenhove, who is also Rev. Chris' great uncle. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family.



The Church Office Administrator will be away from the office starting Monday, December 15th-18th and returning, Monday, January 5th.



Ten Wise Wishes for the New Year

I pray for:

- 1. A few friends who understand me and yet remain my friends.
- 2. Work to do which has real value, and without which the world would feel poorer.
- 3. An understanding heart.
- 4. Moments of leisure.
- 5. A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail may not be blazed.
- 6. A sight of the eternal hills and the unresting sea, and of something beautiful someone has made.
- 7. The power to laugh.
- 8. Nothing at the expense of others.
- 9. The sense of the presence of God.
- 10.And the patience to wait for the coming of these things with the wisdom to know when they come.



Check us out at St. Leonard's on the Hill Anglican Church.

Merry Christmas and blessed New Year to our Korean Catholic Church congregants.

Paperless Donations

Help the environment...go paperless.

St. Leonard's is offering an easy way to donate to the Church. Instead of using envelopes, you can fill out Pre-Authorization forms to donate. Forms can be requested by emailing

stleaonardsanglicanchurch@gmail.com or by leaving a voicemail on the Church office phone at 403-346-6769.

E-Transfers are available as well to donate. You can send an E-Transfer to stleaonardsanglicanchurch@gmail.com

Home Prayers

First Week of Advent...Hope

Dear God, through your Holy Spirit, You spoke to the prophets of a vision of Peace. You spoke to Mary and Joseph of a child who would

bring new life to the world. Speak to each of us this day, and fill us with Advent Hope as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.

Second Week of Advent...Peace

Loving God, give us the desire, the willingness, and the courage to be part of Your dream for a world of peace and justice. We ask this in the Name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Third Week of Advent...Joy

Dear God, so many people need Your healing and hope. In this season of giving, and on every day of the year, help us to say and do things that will help bring Christ's caring to others that all people may be filled with Your joy. Amen.

Fourth Week of Advent...Love

Loving God, we thank You for Your promise that you will be with us always. We rejoice in Your faithfulness. Give us courage to respond with the same love and compassion shown by Jesus. Amen.

Christmas Day...God with Us

Thank You, God, for coming to be with us in the person of Jesus. We rejoice that He lived as one of us, knew our joys and sorrows, our pains and hopes and dreams. As He came to show love to us, help us to show Your love to others all the year through. Amen.



Annual Reports & Annual General Meeting

Attention to all St. Leonard's Groups, Annual Reports will be **due on January 8th, 2026.** Annual Reports will be available to be picked up on Sunday, January 26th.

The Annual General Meeting will be tentatively held on Sunday, February 1st, 2026 after the 10:00 am Service.

Please bring your wisdom, enthusiasm and a bagged lunch.



PASTORAL CARE

It is so important for families to pull together and support each other. It is the same with our St. Leonard's Church family and

this became more apparent during the COVID Pandemic.

St. Leonard's has a number of ways of reaching out to each other. Please contact the Office at 403-346- 6769 if you are in need of help or if you are aware of any parishioner needing assistance of some kind.

If you are on St. Leonard's Parish List then your name will be connected to someone on Parish Council. This is the Official Parish List not the ACW List or the Men's Breakfast List but the actual Parish List — if you would like to be on this List please contact the Office.

We have a number of other ways of caring for each other:

We have someone who does hospital visiting. If you or a loved one is hospitalized and would like a pastoral visit, please contact the Office (403-346-6769) or Krista's cell phone number 403-598-7776. That is the only way we can know of this need.

ACW Card Ministry: If you know of someone who could use a little boost of caring please contact the Office and this Ministry will send out an appropriate card (Thinking of you. Glad you're feeling better, or a sympathy card).

Pastoral Care Team: Along with all of these other caring groups, St. Leonard's does have a Pastoral Care Team. This Group will do home visits to parishioners who, for various reasons, need to be personally contacted. If you are aware of someone needing a bit of extra care, please contact the Office.

Krista will direct the information to the right person (it might even be Chris (and/or Barb) as they are very much part of this Team). And again for various reasons it is not always feasible to actually visit some parishioners so they are sent —"Thinking of you" type cards throughout the year.

Thank you for being part of our caring Church family.

Marg Marrett 403-346-9215 and Margaret Roome 403-347-5500

Newcomers to St. Leonard's

If you are a newcomer to St. Leonard's and would like your name added to the Parish List, please email



stleonardsanglicanchurch@gmail.com or call the Office (403-346-6769).

Prayer Ministry at St. Leonard's

The Prayer Chain is looking for people who feel called to pray for those in need. Those praying will pray at home at a time of their choosing. If you are interested, or for more information, please contact Susan Robertson (susn381@gmail.com) or Laura May Doran (ddoran@shaw.ca).

Those requesting prayer for themselves, or for another, may contact the Church Office 403-346-6769 or

stleonardsanglicanchurch@gmail.com or fill out a Prayer Request slip and place it in the Prayer Box at the back of the Church or in the Offertory Plate.





Readers and Intercessors

Please contact us if you are interested in these Ministries and we will fill you in on the duties. Remember—many hands make light work.

Marney Holmes and Mary McCambley



Collection Plate

Please ensure the amount of your donation is listed clearly on the front of your Offertory Envelope. Thank you.

The Mustard Seed Report

The Mustard Seed is in need of these donations:

Water Bottles; Bottled Water; Backpacks; Sleeping Bags; Men

and Women's Underwear; Warm Socks; Blankets; Winter Coats; Gloves; Mitts; Scarves.

MUSTARD

Hygiene Items: Travel size Shampoo and Conditioner; Deodorant; Body Soap; Toothpaste; Toothbrush; Feminine Hygiene

Products; Individual packs of Tissues;

Throat Lozenges.

School Lunch Program: Deli meat, canned foods, carrots, celery, cucumbers, oranges, apples, granola bars and other wrapped snacks.

There are many opportunities for volunteering, from baking cookies to washing dishes to serving coffee. Please connect with me on a Sunday if you would like to explore where you could help out. (Even for just 1 hour a week or month would be helpful).

Thank you for your prayers, donations and your time to help our most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you, Pearl Franz

> You will never truly enjoy Christmas until you look into the face of the Father and tell Him you have received His Christmas Gift!



COFFEE AND CRAFTS



We meet in the in the Church Lounge on Wednesdays at 1 pm. You are invited to join us for coffee, tea and company whether or not a craft project

arrives with you.

If, on the other hand, you need a spot of help with a craft project we will do our best to find a way to help.

Stephanie Rodger 403-346-2922

Audio/Visual Booth Volunteers URGENTLY Needed



We are in need of volunteers to assist in the Audio/Visual Booth. We are looking for 4 more volunteers who are comfortable working with one another. These volunteers would help out in the booth once or twice a month.

Volunteers would be trained so that they would feel comfortable in the booth.

Please contact Krista at 403-598-7776 if you are interested in learning how to become an Audio/

ST. PAUL'S HILLSDOWN CANDLELIGHT **CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

The Hillsdown Candlelight Service will take place on Tuesday, December 24th at 4:30 pm. All are welcome to join.



Lessons in Life #215

Winter Lights

This is the time of year when the darkness seems to creep up on us before we realize it. "Can it really be that late?" we ask, looking at our watches in surprise. Often it is still what we call afternoon but the darkness has unexpectedly come about us and caught us unprepared?

Thankfully, we live in an age when the flick of a switch can chase away the darkness. The strings of lights hanging from eaves troughs and climbing the peaks of houses and trees shout to the darkness, "Go away. We choose to live in the light."

The lights of the winter are an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual desire to live in the light. We do not want to spend out life wandering about in the spiritual darkness, wondering why we are here and what we are about. Our hearts seek answers, our souls seek the Light.

Almost 2000 years ago, John, the Apostle wrote a letter in which he said, "This is the message Jesus has given us to announce to you: God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all." Our wandering ceases when we enter into a relationship with God.

Jesus put it this way, "I am the light of the world. I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in Me will no longer remain in the darkness."

When we enter into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, we are saying to the darkness, "Go away. I choose to live in the light."

While we admire the lights which brighten the winter nights, let us remember with great joy the light of Christ who has brought us out of spiritual darkness into God's own marvellous light.



LAST OUT??

If you are last out of the Church, please remember to set the alarm when you are leaving and turn off any lights.

When entering the Church via the parking lot door, please ensure that the door is firmly closed.

Christmas Day Dinner—December 25th, 2025

Carole Anne Berger will be hosting her Annual Christmas Dinner for those Parishioners who find themselves alone on Christmas Day. **Dinner begins at 2 pm sharp at St. Leonard's Church.** (Snacks are welcome).

Please don't sit home alone on such a Blessed Day, come and enjoy a wonderful dinner and the warmth of friends.

Please RSVP to Carole Anne Berger at 403-348-1757 by Monday, December 15th, 2025.





<u>Hospital Stay???</u> <u>Housebound by Illness???</u>

In order to keep Rev. Chris and our Pastoral Care Visitors in the loop, please advise Krista (Church Administrator 403-346-6769) if this applies to you or a family member.



(FYI—Religious affiliations are no longer asked for at the Hospital Admission. You must also advise them if you wish a visit from Pastoral Care).

THE ADVENT WINDOW

Advent is the first season of the Church year. The Advent Window will be the first window on the South Side in the nave area (where the congregation sits).

There are four Sundays in Advent. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Each Sunday is represented by a candle. The blue candles symbolize hope and peace and Joy. The red candle symbolizes love. In the top right corner is a Rose. The rose (Alberta rose) is a symbol of the Nativity and of the fulfilling of the Messianic prophecy.

This window is a Parish memorial to Gwen Carney. Gwen worked hard to help us receive the stained glass windows which are already in the Church.

Because of the lack of information, we would very much appreciate knowing if you or a family member contributed to any of our stained glass windows. Please let Krista know!





THE NATIVITY WINDOW



The Nativity Window reminds us that the angel told the shepherds to go to Bethlehem where they would find Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus.



EPIPHANY WINDOW

The Epiphany window reminds us that Jesus came for all people and our response is to bring Him our gifts.



These windows were made possible by donations from the Lampard family and the Joel family, and are given in memory of loved ones.



White Gift Program Adopt-a-Family



St. Leonard's will be reaching out to help our community by taking part in the Salvation Army's Adopt—A-Family Program as in previous years. All tags can be found in the North Hall on the bulletin board on Sunday, November 9th.



There have been some changes to the Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family program. Due to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) regulations we can not give one family a direct sponsorship, so your gifts will be put in the options of gifts for parents of multiple families to choose from.

"Did the donor ask for the gift to be directed to a specific person, family, or other non-qualified donee. A donor can not choose a specific beneficiary for their gift or ask the qualified donee to give the gift to another non-qualified donee. However, a donor can ask that their gift be used in a particular program of the qualified donee as long as there is no benefit to the donor or anyone not at arm's length to the donor. The qualified donee must be able to use the gift within the particular program as it sees fit. If the donor retains control, the donation is no longer considered a gift at law and a receipt cannot be issued."

The gifts you donate will go into our Gift Room, where parents will personally select presents for their children. This means your donation may help one or several families, depending on the needs. Please do not wrap gifts.

We will not be assigned a specific family as in previous years. This means we will not receive a designated family number. Instead, we will be provided recommendations on the areas where help is most needed, along with a comprehensive list of toy and gift suggestions based on what parents and children have requested.

In addition, we will be looking after a few families within our own Church community, who we call our White Gift Families. We are asking for Gift Cards for families. This makes it much easier for our sorters and allows our families who are being adopted more freedom to be able to purchase items for themselves. All Gifts and Gift Cards must be returned to the Church by Thursday, December 4th.

If you are not able to go out and purchase gift cards or gifts, you may donate money and note on the memo line of your envelope or e-transfer. Krista will shop for you, please let her know if you want to purchase an item or gift card for the White Gifts Families or the Salvation Army Families. This year with the changes from the Canada Revenue Agency, we are not able to provide tax receipts for gift cards for our White Gift Families. I have spoken to the Calgary Diocese to make sure that we are following the changes that CRA has put in place for Charities. As a Church we adopt specific families and that no longer follows the new rules from CRA.

My apologies for those who have already purchased gift cards for our Church Families. Now that we are aware of these changes, we will be making some changes for next year.

Please drop off your Gift Cards in an envelope in the Church mailbox or in the Offertory Plate on Sundays. This will allow Krista time to sort and organize for the blessing on Sunday, December 7th and the delivery of the items on Thursday, December 11th. Please watch for more information via email, Facebook and the Church Website.

The Salvation Army will issue tax receipts for Gift Cards **over \$20** in total bought for the Salvation Army families. If you are interested in a tax receipt, please contact Krista.

For further information on this program please contact the Church Office at 403-346-6769 or email stleonardsanglicanchurch@gmail.com

SCENT FREE CHURCH



Our Church is Attempting to be a Scent Free Space and we continue to try to honour this.

We are asking those who are donating Church Altar floral arrangements on Sunday to refrain

from adding lilies. We have several Church family members who react to the scent of lilies. **At the same time**, please be conscious about shampoo and conditioners, hairsprays, deodorants, colognes and aftershaves fragrances and perfumes, lotions and creams, potpourri, industrial and household chemicals, soaps, cosmetics, air fresheners and deodorizers essential oils, candles, diapers, some types of garbage bags, laundry fragrance enhancers and dryer sheets.

It is important to remember some products which claim to be scent free may have only masked the scent by use of an additional chemical. Be sure to research the product carefully if using scented products around those who are sensitive.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

St. Leonard's Parish Council

HEARING ASSISTANCE

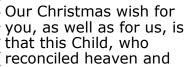


Anyone requiring hearing assistance, please request it at the Audio Booth in the back of the Sanctuary.

MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YE

FROM YOUR LINKERS

Our Christmas Wish





Have a very blessed and joyful Christmas and may 2026 be filled with many blessings.

SHARING SHELVES

St. Luke's Anglican Church will partner with us in keeping our shelves stocked. Marg Marrett-Julian will be the conduit with Judy Ewart and Joan Williams at St. Luke's as supplies are needed. God's work continues to grow. God Bless you all for your generosity. This has allowed us to maintain the Sharing Shelves Outreach Ministry for over 15 years.

Please check the dates on the food items before you donate to the Sharing Shelves. A lengthy best before date would be appreciated.

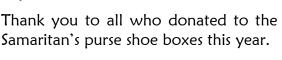
Here is a list of much needed items: canned fruit, plain pasta (spaghetti, penne, etc..) pasta sauce, coffee, plain granola bars, peanut butter, fruit cups, paper towel, toilet paper and cleaning products.

We appreciate all your help. Brent and Carol McAllister continue to sort and keep the shelves organized.

Please contact Marg at 403-346-9215, or Krista at the Church Office, if you are able to help. God Bless, and thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Krista Kusmire and Marg Marrett

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes





Mary McCambley

<u>Men's Breakfast</u>



The Men's Breakfast will meet again on January 17th, 2026 at 8:30 am in the North Hall.

The men met in November and voted to donate \$200 to Ronald McDonald House and \$200 to the Salvation Army.

They are also planning to provide a dinner to the folks that are staying at Ronald McDonald House in 2026.

A.C.W. News

All women who attend St. Leonard's are members of the Organization known as Anglican Church Women (ACW).



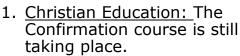
We have our Christmas Ladies Social on Saturday, November 29th from 1-3 pm. This is a fun filled afternoon and all Parish Ladies are most welcome.

The Nativity Display is in the works. A Poster is attached for more information.

Looking forward to a Christmas season filled with many blessings and to the New Year.

Brenda Clark

SNIPPETS FROM COUNCIL





- 2. <u>Parish Maintenance</u>: Smaller maintenance jobs are being taken care of.
- 3. Pastoral Care: On Sunday, Nov 23rd, the Pastoral Care Team met with Rev. Chris. With Hospital visits, we are not aware of those in hospital care unless someone lets us know. The Hospital is not allowed to share that information.
- 4. <u>Hospitality:</u> Guess Who's Coming for Dinner– We had lots of positive feedback. Most dinners were 3-4 hours long. We will host another one in 2026.
- 5. Talent Show Was a success.
- Christmas Services: <u>December 24th, 2025</u>; 4:30 pm St. Paul's Hillsdown; 7 pm St. Leonard's Anglican Church <u>December 25th, 2025</u> at 10 am St. Leonard's Anglican Church.
- 7. The Church Office will be closed from December 22nd to January 1st.
- 8. Jim Young has ordered 12 Poinsettias.
- 9. Nomination forms to be a part of Parish Council will be put in the Link and a copy of the Parish Council Handbook will be left in the Narthex for those who are interested in applying.
- 10. Our AGM is tentatively set for Sunday, February 1st, 2026.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Like a tiny pebble that, dropped into a pool, spreads its gentle ripples far and wide; like a tiny acorn that, planted in the soil, flourishes into a mighty oak — the Prayer Shawl Ministry at



St. Leonard's started as a simple, humble idea. It has grown into a powerful manifestation of God's power, might, love and warmth!

Our dedicated Craft Club at St. Leonard's started knitting prayer shawls years ago— knit three, purl three — as a symbol of the blanket love provided by the Trinity. Each lovingly crafted stitch incorporates our Lord's promise to always take care of us — His children.

These shawls are there for anyone who wishes to remind a loved one of God's promise as they battle illness or any of life's valleys and troughs. This ministry has now spread from the Craft Club and is being supported by other members of our Parish! The ripples continue!

Each Shawl comes with a prayer card. Then they are blessed by the Minister.

May God continue to bless and guide this growing ripple as it continues to cover not only the growing pairs of hands that craft these shawls, but also the growing number of those who receive their warmth and love.



Memorial Christmas Poinsettias

To order your 2025 Memorial Poinsettias please drop off an envelope containing your \$17 in

the Church Mail Box or e-transfer to the Office at

stleonardsanglicanchurch@gmail.com before Monday, December 8th.

Please include the names of those whom you wish to honor.

PARISH COUNCIL APPLICATION FOR THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Parish Council meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. If

you are contemplating joining the Parish Council, please take time to pray on it before submitting your application form. (The application form can be found in this Link.)

Parish Council Handbooks can be found in the Narthex of the Church or Krista can email you a copy.

Names to be submitted by Thursday, January 8th, 2026 to the Church Office by email stleonardsanglicanchurch@gmail.com or drop off the Application Form in the Church mail box.

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.



PARISH

COUNCIL

Sidespeople and Greeters

Please contact us if you are interested 🖈 in participating in these Ministries.

We will fill you in on the duties.

★ Remember—many hands make light work.

Margaret Day and Barbara Coltman

Thank you

Thank you to Dayna and Pearl for all their hard work and gifts in transforming the Narthex space.



Church Office Holiday Closure

The Church Office will be closed December 24th, 25th, 29th, 30th, 31st and January 1st.



ADVENT STUDY

"How Beautiful Are The Feet: Receiving and Proclaiming the Good News"

Begins Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025 at 7pm by Zoom to December 23rd. Please register for Zoom at blabrecque@calgary.anglican.ca Poster is attached.

Cost to participate is free.



A Sunday School class of first Graders was asked by their teacher to write their own version of the Nativity. They had the Joseph, the Three Wise familiar cast: Men, the Star, and an Angel propped up in the background.

Everything else was modernized. were some bales of straw, behind which Mary was apparently in labor. Suddenly the "doctor" emerged from the "delivery room" with a big smile and exclaimed: "Congratulations, Joseph, it's God."

~Via Rev. Felix A. Lorenz Jr., Dearborn Christian Church, Dearborn Heights, Michigan~

<u>Talent Show</u> <u>Saturday, November 22nd, 2025</u>

A huge thank you to all who helped in making our 2025 Talent Show a success on Saturday, November 22nd. This event brought together both longstanding AND new members in all areas of the evening:

-The set-up and clean up volunteers

-Our Office Administrator, Krista, for creating and producing the posters and program sheets -The generous donations from Church Family members for our Intermission refreshments

-The ACW ladies who manned the Refreshment table

-The performers..."old" and new..who shared their amazing talents

-Our witty and charming MC, Colin Trevors who kept the program running on time and on track

-And most of all to all who came out to enjoy an afternoon of true fellowship and fun!

Thank you all,



ACW Winter Wonderland





PARISH COUNCIL 2026 APPLICATION FORM
NAME:
I wish to let my name stand for the position of
I have read the Parish Council Handbook, and am familiar with the duties and expectations of this position.
I am baptised.
I have been a member of the Parish of St. Leonard's for a full year and have attended Sunday Services regularly (Zoom or in Person).
a) What talents or gifts do you have that you feel would make you a good addition in becoming a Member of Parish Council: i)
ii)
iii)
AND/OR
Why do you feel your experiences would be beneficial for this position?

Lutheran & Anglican Joint Mid-Week Services



Wednesday Evenings @ 7pm Holden Evening Prayer

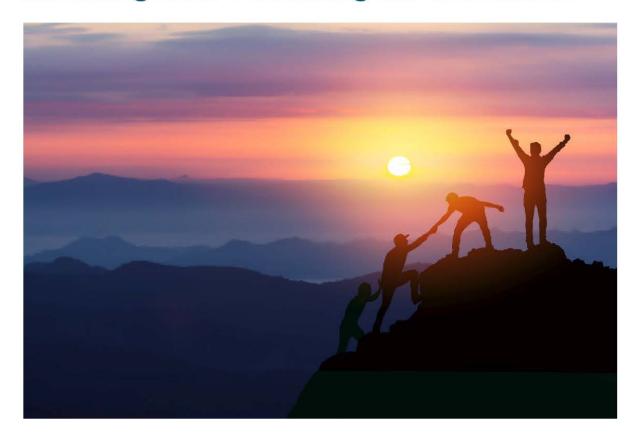
Nov 26th—St. Leonard's Dec 10th—St. Leonard's

Dec 3rd—Good Shepherd
Dec 17th—Good Shepherd

(Blue Christmas)

Diocesan Advent Study

How Beautiful Are The Feet: Receiving and Proclaiming the Good News



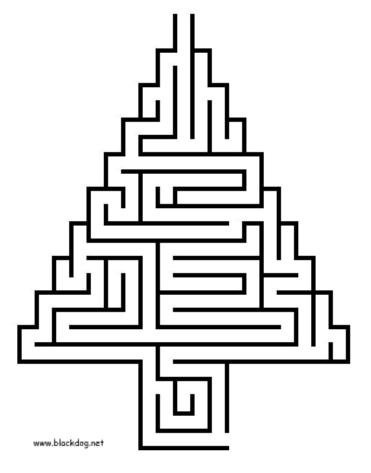
"How beautiful on the mountain are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Join with other members of the Diocese through Advent as we discuss what it means to receive and share the Good News. We will look at four passages of scripture and hear from the Prophet Isaiah, the Angels, Jesus himself, and Paul's message to us, Christ's Disciples. Each week a different facilitator will lead our reflection and discussion.

Tuesdays, December 2 to December 23, at 7:00 pm
On Zoom

Contact blabrecque@calgary.anglican.ca to register and get the Link

KIDZ KORNER



Christmas Decorations Word Search Puzzle

The words can be forwards or backwards, vertical. horizontal, or diagonal. Circle each letter separately, but keep in mind that letters in each Christmas Decorations word may be used in more than one word. When the Christmas Decorations Word Search puzzle is complete, read the remaining letters left to right, top to bottom, to learn an interesting fact about a traditional Christmas Decoration.

F	T	R	В	A	P	D	S	E	L	D	N	A	C	I
I	T	I	E	0	0	N	L	A	L	L	Y	C	Н	R
G	R	N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y	S	C	E	N	E
U	I	S	D	T	N	M	G	A	R	L	A	N	D	K
R	A	S	R	В	S	T	H	o	L	L	Y	R	E	C
I	E	S	o	W	E	E	T	E	R	A	E	S	E	A
N	T	W	P	U	T	P	S	N	o	В	В	I	R	R
E	S	A	E	N	T	N	D	W	D	T	E	C	o	C
S	T	o	C	K	I	N	G	S	R	N	R	A	T	T
E	D	0	N	T	A	C	L	A	Н	E	R	I	S	U
T	M	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	A	A	S	N
E	V	E	A	N	E	S	D	R	E	A	N	T	M	o
V	E	D	T	В	Н	E	D	A	Y	N	G	A	Н	F
C	Н	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	T	R	E	E	T	E
R	T	W	E	L	F	T	Н	N	I	o	L	G	Н	T

ANGEL BEAD ROPE **BELLS** BOWS **CANDLES**

FIGURINES GARLAND HOLLY LIGHTS TINSEL

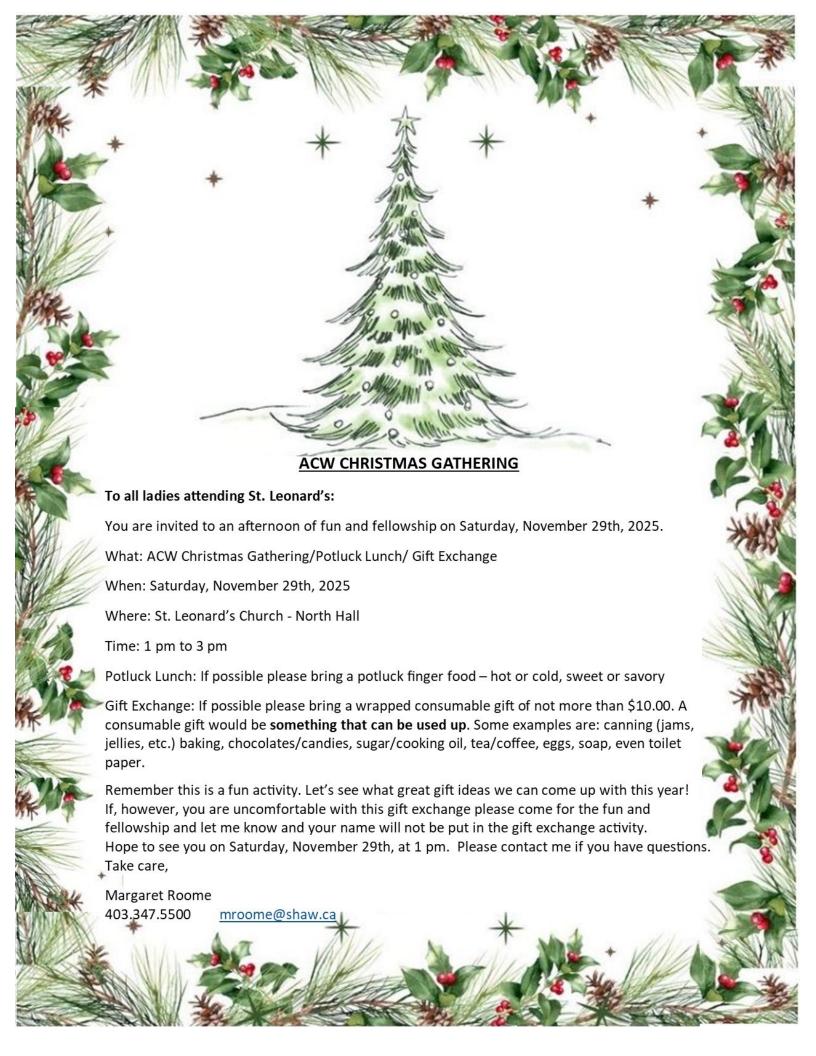
NUTCRACKER ORNAMENT BALLS **POINSETTIA** RIBBONS STAR STOCKINGS **NAVITIY SCENE**



White Gift Families/ Salvation Army Adopt-a-Families

All gifts/gift cards are to be brought in before Thursday, December 4th. Gifts can be placed into the correctly labelled bins. All gifts cards are to be brought directly into the office. Please don't place gift cards in the bins.

Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family receipts need to be brought into the office before Thursday, December 4th.





Celebrate the true spirit of Christmas with Lessons, beautiful music, timeless hymns, and community togetherness.



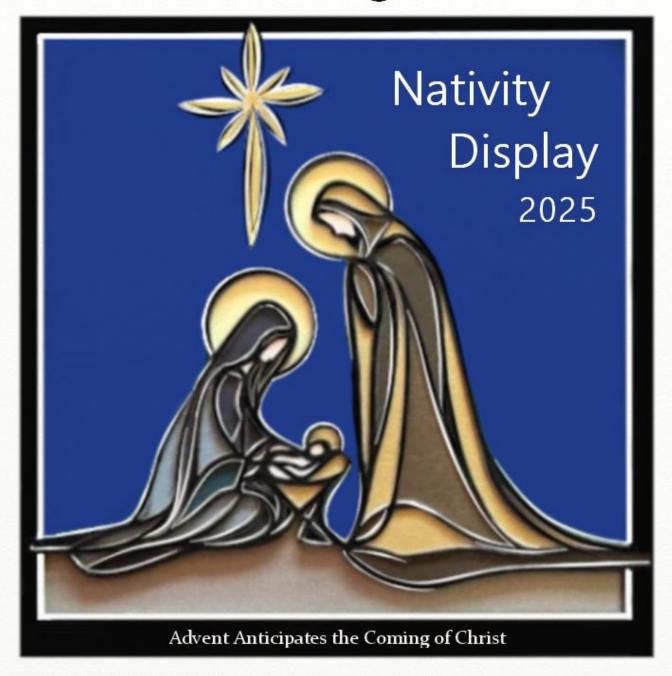
START AT 10:00AM

4241-44TH ST RED DEER, AB



ST. LEONARD'S ON THE HILL ANGLICAN CHURCH

St. Leonard's Anglican Church



THE CHURCH IS OPEN for a quiet time of reflection, with more than 70 Nativity Scenes from around the world. A wonderful way to add peace to your soul, at this busy time of year. Please drop by.

HOURS

Dec. 2 to Dec. 5 from 1 to 6 pm and Saturday, Dec. 6 from 1 to 4 pm

We're in Grandview and wheelchair friendly! 4241 - 44 Street, RED DEER