



“ The whole world waits in December darkness  
 For a glimpse of the Light of God  
 Even those who snarl ‘Humbug’  
 and chase away the carolers  
 Have been seen looking toward the skies.  
 The one who declared he never would forgive  
 Has forgiven  
 And those who left home  
 Have returned,  
 And even wars are halted  
 If briefly,  
 As the whole world looks starward.  
 In the December darkness  
 We peer from our windows  
 Watching for an angel with rainbow wings  
 To announce the Hope of the world. ”

~ Ann Weems

As we enter into this December darkness with nights getting longer, we enter also this season of Advent, looking forward to the messages of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love it brings. In the midst of Darkness, there is light, the light that illumines hope when all seems hopeless. Light that can shine through a persons’ call, or caring gesture. In the midst of darkness there can

be light that shines on peace. A peace that can calm our heart through the presence of a loved one as we go through a hard time, the light shines. In the midst of darkness we can experience the light of joy. Joy and despair can exist together and helps us cope with hard times. In the midst of darkness, the light can shine in love. Love experienced in so many ways as Christ breaks into our lives in that love. Hope, Peace, Love, Joy are the signs of Advent, the light of Christ whose coming we prepare for this season.

We hope that you will take advantage of our Advent opportunities in the Living Spirit Centre this season, all of which will be online and in-person – hybrid. Our LSC shared services include the Dec. 14 Advent Service using the sung liturgy of Holden Evening Prayer; the Blue Christmas Service Dec. 20, for those who find the season difficult for any reason including the loss of a loved one; and our Christmas Eve Communion service at 9pm with Bread of Life Lutheran Church.

We also offer opportunities to prepare with our Community Dinner and Carol Night Dec. 15, Carol Singing at Second Cup during my coffee shop office hours on Dec. 14, and a Carol Service during worship on Dec. 18.

Christmas and New Years are on a Sundays, and you are invited to worship together with other United Churches at Westminster on Christmas Day and Knox Metropolitan on New Years Day.

I hope that this season finds you engaged in the hope, peace, love and joy that can be experienced as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and Christ breaking into our lives and world in unexpected ways. May you have a blessed and wonderful Christmas season!

Blessings,  
 Russell Mitchell-Walker  
 Diaconal Minister



**LSC CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Dec. 24 **Lutheran:** 3:00 & 5:00 pm  
**United:** 7:00 pm  
**Shared:** 9:00 pm  
 Dec. 25 **Lutheran:** 11 am

**ADVENT SERVICES**   
 AT THE LIVING SPIRIT CENTRE

**Holden Evening Prayer**  
 Wednesday, Dec. 14 ~ 7:00 pm

**Blue Christmas**  
 Tuesday, Dec. 20 ~ 7:00 pm

**Sundays of Advent Worship**  
 Bread of Life - 9:30 am  
 Eastside - 11:15 am  
 Anglican - 7:00 pm

**United Church Holiday Worship**

<b>Christmas Day</b> 10:30 am Westminster	<b>New Years Day</b> 10:30 am Knox Metropolitan
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Join in-person or on Zoom using our usual worship link!



**Please note:** Living Spirit Centre offices will be closed December 26 - December 30.

All are welcome at Immanuel Anglican Church, 142 Massey Road, Regina for the 10:00 a.m. Sunday, December 18 Indigenous worship service, with Rev. Alexander Campbell presiding. There will be smudging between 9:30 a.m. and 9:50 a.m. The “Crowes” will be the drummers and singers. The guest preacher/ reflectionist will be Kookum/Elder Brenda Dubois. Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee, tea or juice after the service. The service will be livestreamed and available on Immanuel YouTube and Facebook.

We are deeply thankful to all those who give to Eastside, and would like to extend our special thanks to all who returned Response Cards for our Stewardship Campaign! Donating to Eastside couldn't be easier with our range of options:




- Sign up for PAR with Becca at the office!
- Send in your cheque or cash offering by mail
- We accept e-transfers! Send your offering to our email address: eastsideunited@sasktel.net
- We also have options online with CanadaHelps, through our website, or by using the offering plate on Sundays.



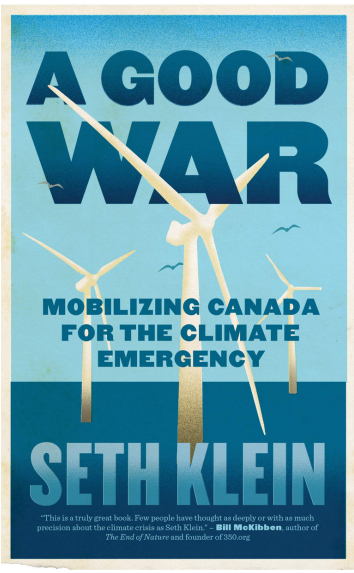
**Office Note:** Becca will now be working fulltime at the Living Spirit Centre in the position of Office Administrator for both Eastside and Bread of Life Lutheran Church. At this time, the LSC office hours will remain Tuesday - Thursday from 9:00 - 3:00.

**Horizons: Eastside United Church Newsletter**

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 @eastsideunitedchurch





Craft/Study resumes this January! We will be joining in reading A Good War by Seth Klein. The reading schedule for next session is now available below! Copies of this book are available in the office - paperback copies cost \$25. If you have not yet requested a copy be ordered for you, please let our office know and we will pick up some more! Join us Thursdays at 1:30 pm.

- |                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| January 12 - Chapter 1  | March 2 - Chapter 8            |
| January 19 - Chapter 2  | March 9 - Chapter 9            |
| January 26 - Chapter 3  | March 16 - Chapter 10          |
| February 2 - Chapter 4  | March 23 - Chapter 11          |
| February 9 - Chapter 5  | March 30 - Chapter 12          |
| February 16 - Chapter 6 | April 20 - Chapter 13          |
| February 23 - Chapter 7 | April 27 - Conclusion/Epilogue |

We are looking for a new name for our "Craft/Study" group! Got some ideas? Send them to us anytime!



Film and Faith will continue in 2023! Screen times and movie are to be selected from theatre showtimes closer to the following dates. Check out the upcoming schedule and join us for a movie and fellowship:

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| January 27  | March 31    |
| February 24 | February 28 |



Eastside Leadership Team and Faith Formation Committee have decided to change our Communion schedule. We have previously shared in Communion at the beginning of each month, but will now have a different schedule with emphasis on Christian celebrations:

- Advent I ~ November 27
- Christmas Eve ~ December 24
- Lent I ~ February 26
- Palm Sunday ~ April 9
- Pentecost ~ May 28



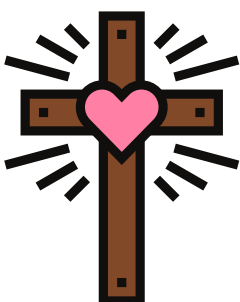
First Sunday of October (World Wide Day for Communion)



Did you know? Russell has fifth Sundays off. We will be worshipping at another congregation on these days - join us in worshipping at Sunset United Church on January 29. Service begins at 10:30 am.



Courageous Faith will be continuing in January! Each week, we join together to listen to faith leaders around the world share stories and lessons. Each session is on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm (no sessions on Community Dinner nights). If you are interested in joining Courageous Faith online, please let our office know! Upcoming speakers include Brian McLaren and Jim Keat. New year sessions resume January 12.



Community Dinners are continuing monthly in-person and online! We wish to invite those in our area of the city - we ask you to take a Community Dinner Card and invite a neighbor who may not attend church, but you think may enjoy this experience of fellowship, meal, and discussion. Get your cards from the back table after dinner or the office. Volunteers are also needed to help with set up and clean up. Please let Russell know if you can help! Our schedule for the new year is:

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| January 19  | March 16 |
| February 16 | April 20 |

JOIN EASTSIDE UNITED CHURCH FOR

# COMMUNITY DINNER AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS

**DECEMBER 15 - 6:00 PM**  
**MENU: HAM AND SCALLOPED POTATOES**  
 PROVIDED BY MUNCH CATERING

**RSVP BY DEC. 11 BY TEXTING "RSVP" TO 306-517-6797**  
 NO COST \* 3018 DOAN DRIVE \* IN-PERSON AND ONLINE  
 MORE INFORMATION: EASTSIDEUNITED@SASKTEL.NET



INI Café will be resuming in the New Year! Join us at Indigenous Christian Fellowship on January 13th for entertainment and conversation. We will be joined by Dennis Hendricksen of Christ Lutheran Church playing jazz. Doors and canteen are open at 6:00 pm with performances to begin at 7:00. Let us know if you would like to register for this event! Text "CAFE" to 306-517-6797.



Eastside is looking for volunteers, we have many opportunities available! Do any of these opportunities speak to you?

- Leadership Team (including the position of Chair)**
- Faith Formation and Christian Education**
- Stewardship/Gratitude Team**
- Affirming Ministry**
- Community Dinner Support**
- Indigenous Christian Fellowship Baking**
- Indigenous Christian Fellowship Saturday Breakfasts**

Let our office know if you would like to learn more about these committees or volunteer opportunities - your time and talents are a treasure to us and our community!



We still have some t-shirts available. Are you interested? Contact the Eastside office! Shirts cost \$30 and come in blue and red.

