



OPEN MINDS. OPEN HEARTS. OPEN DOORS.

Horizons

Newsletter of Eastside United Church



Advent 2016

Advent Reflections by Russell Mitchell-Walker

With recent political changes, especially to the south of the border, many may be feeling we are moving into a time of darkness. It can be a scary and fearful time when those who are vulnerable and marginalized are feeling attacked and unsafe. This is something to be concerned about. The question is what is our response?

We can feel safe, secure and even smug that we are in Canada but we are not immune from the movement that the US is experiencing, as we can see in the Conservative Party leadership race, and racist graffiti in different parts of the country, including Regina. So it is important to draw on our faith and faith communities for strength and support. As we move into Advent and prepare for the Christmas season, it is important to remember that our faith story at this time, the birth of Jesus, takes place in a very dark time. Israel was occupied by the Romans. People were heavily taxed, any resistance was brutally suppressed

and the poor and marginalized were extremely vulnerable. Into this reality, comes the birth of Jesus, in a humble setting to poor parents. The birth of a child who gives hope to many for a world of peace. It is really an astounding story of unexpected love breaking through in a time that was filled with much hate.

As you move through this time, and particularly this season, may you find opportunities to pause and really take in the message of love, hope, peace and joy that is Advent. May the offerings here at Eastside help you to embrace this message and give you light in the midst of the darkness you may be feeling. May we all come together to celebrate the meaning of this season, in ways that offer support and hope to all who need it, including ourselves. May we face the darkness and see the Light that calls us to Love.

Russell Mitchell-Walker

Diaconal Minister

*Too often our answer to the darkness
Is not running toward Bethlehem
But running away
We ought to know by now
that we can't see where we're going
in the dark.*

*Running away is rampant....
When are we going to learn
that Christmas Peace
Comes only when we turn
and face the darkness?
Only then will we be able to see
The Light of the World*

By Ann Weems,
[Kneeling in Bethlehem](#)



The Opportunities and Challenges of Shared Space and Shared Ministry by Russell Mitchell-Walker

Some who have been a part of Eastside for a number of years may wonder why we no longer have as many shared worship services with our Living Spirit Centre partners on Sunday mornings. Over the years that I have been here, we have been identifying and working through a few challenges. I, and my colleagues in ministry, felt it was important to offer some reflections and share our understandings and realities that we face within our denominations. To this end, Carla Blakley, the Pastor at Bread of Life Lutheran, has written an article about the ministry staff in the three congregations and the differences we now have (page 4). I wish to explain the challenges from a United Church perspective to help us all get to the same understanding.

The most basic challenge that we face relates to worship times. In the past,

shared worship services took place at 10 am. We have identified that it is difficult for both Bread of Life and Eastside to change our worship times due to the size of our congregations. Regardless of our communication efforts, there is always someone who doesn't get the information and comes at the wrong time and misses the service. The other reality for both of us, is that we have newcomers each Sunday and it is next to impossible to communicate the change in worship time to someone we don't know. We can change the time on the website but they may not get the information. As a result, a newcomer could come to worship and not find a service, which would not be very welcoming. This summer, when we were worshipping at 9:30 am, I spoke with a young family who had never come to worship here. They contacted me about bringing their child for baptism and planned to come to worship on Sunday. I

indicated that our worship service was at 9:30 am but when they arrived, they saw the sign outside said 11:15 am. Because that time didn't work for them that day, they went home. Luckily I already had contact with them and we continued to be in touch.

Another, larger issue is the reality that I am a Diaconal Minister (like a deacon or deaconess in other churches). In The United Church of Canada, Diaconal Ministers have a focus of ministry on Education, Service, and Pastoral Care. Ordained Ministers have Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care as their emphases. Diaconal Ministers are commissioned into the ministry and have to receive permission to administer the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. In Saskatchewan, this permission is standard and automatic when a Diaconal Minister is called to a pastoral charge (a

Eastside United Church
invites you to our 6th Annual

Holiday Cookie Walk
Saturday, December 3
From 10 am to 1 pm
(or until the cookies are all gone!)

Plates of the best Christmas baking fill the tables of the Living Spirit Centre Lower Hall. You "walk" along and fill a supplied cookie box at the price of \$8/lb.

~ Come early for the best selection! ~

3018 Doan Drive, Regina, SK  Info: 306-761-0556

Eastside United Church invites you to

A Night of Carols
Thursday, December 8 @ 7 pm
Living Spirit Centre
3018 Doan Drive, Regina

Join us as we welcome the arrival of the holiday season with the singing of some favourite old carols, and a few new ones too!

The best way to spread Christmas cheer, is singing loud for all to hear.
~ Elf

church). Diaconal Ministers are also fully trained in our education program to administer sacraments. The focus of the training is experiential education (learning by doing and reflecting on the doing) with three separate years study in Educational and Liturgical Ministry, Social Justice, and Pastoral Care settings or focus, including an eight-month field placement typically within a congregation.

In the Lutheran and Anglican churches, Deacons are not allowed to preside over Communion. This extends to Diaconal Ministers in the United Church. Both Bishops have been very clear that I, as a Diaconal Minister, cannot preside over Communion at a shared service (or any other Lutheran or Anglican service). For the purpose of sharing services with the Anglicans, such as during the summer months, St. Philip has permission to attend and receive Communion at a United Church service. I cannot lead an Anglican Communion service. This creates challenges for sharing together,

especially when the Anglicans have been without a priest and Deacon Rita is in a similar situation as I am with regard to ministry and not being recognized to preside over sacraments. Traditionally the three congregations, when sharing, would each take a part of the service: the liturgy, the preaching, presiding over Communion. This is no longer possible.

It is also easier for Lutherans and Anglicans to worship together as they have a full Communion agreement, the Waterloo Accord, which identifies that they can share Communion liturgies, pastors, and priests between the two denominations. We do not have this kind of agreement with either church. There is a United Church-Anglican Church Dialogue that has been taking place for the last five years. I have just been appointed as a United Church representative to that Dialogue.

As a result of these challenges and realities, we have moved away from Sunday morning shared services. I have been exploring possibilities of other ways

we might share special services such as Earth Day. We will continue to offer our *Blessing of the Animals* service and the Wednesday evening Lenten services, and are open to considering other ways we can share together, particularly fellowship opportunities. We will look to other ecumenical ways of sharing such as during the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year we are awaiting a new priest for St. Philip, who will start in January, so we will look to next year for that kind of shared service.

I am open to conversation and questions you may have about any of this. We recognize our primary sharing is the fact that we share space together. This, in and of itself, is significant. We will continue to look for opportunities and ways that we can share, most often outside of Sunday mornings, acknowledging that we are three separate (and very different) congregations, with our own programs and goals and mission. These are the challenges and opportunities that being together present.

Come celebrate the season with us...

Christmas Eve Worship
Family Service 7 pm
Candlelight Communion 9 pm

Christmas Day
At *Broadway United Church*
10 am

New Year's Day
Shared with St. Philip Anglican
11 am



IMCF Breakfast

Eastside continues its involvement with Indian Metis Christian Fellowship by preparing and serving breakfast the fourth Saturday of each month, from 9 am to 12 noon.

Six volunteers are needed to help make this happen. If you are able to spare any time at all, as your schedule allows, you are more than welcome. Volunteers typically help with setting up tables and chairs; laying place settings at the tables; preparing and cooking breakfast; clean up including washing dishes and putting away tables and chairs. All volunteers are invited to join in for breakfast and conversation, the emphasis is on fellowship. IMCF is a very family oriented facility; please talk to me if your children would like to be involved.

Our next breakfast is the morning of Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24! This promises to be an extra special breakfast with lots of festive spirit. If you are looking for a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas and a way to give back to your community, we need volunteers on this date. Please contact [Peter Braun](mailto:peterbraun@myaccess.ca) if you are interested in helping on this or a future date.



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you would like to volunteer with the IMCF Breakfast please contact:

PETER BRAUN

peterbraun@myaccess.ca

306-789-3830

Jesus was not born to be the patron saint of fourth quarter earnings.

~ John Boykin

Ministry at the Living Spirit Centre

by Pastor Carla Blakley

The Living Spirit Centre is a "tri-parish" Centre but what does that mean for the congregations involved? Pastor Carla Blakley interviewed her fellow pastors at the LSC. Here's what she learned:

Three congregations, Eastside United, St Philip Anglican, and Bread of Life Lutheran, all call the Living Spirit Centre home and share the space. Over the years shared ministry and worship have happened, but there are many variables to this taking place. In the eleven years I have served as Pastor at Bread of Life, I have had the privilege of working with Anglican Priests, Rev. Dave Nevett, Rev. Blair Dixon, Rev. David Kaiser, Rev. Del Bornowsky and two United Church Pastors, Pastor Dawn Rolke, Pastor Noboko Iwai and now a United Church Diaconal Minister, Russell. St Philip is currently without a Priest, but have a locally ordained deacon, Deacon Rita.

Eastside United Church

Russell Mitchell-Walker is a Diaconal Minister. Russell is trained in experiential learning and Commissioned to a ministry of Education, Service and Pastoral Care. He has been granted permission to preside at sacraments in the United Church. United Church Diaconal Ministers are paid on par with Ordained Ministers. Russell has a B.Comm. from the University of Calgary and a Diploma in Educational, Social, and Pastoral Ministry from the Centre for Christian Studies. Russell can wear his stole diagonally.

St. Philip Anglican Church

Rev. Rita Bran, Deacon, was ordained by the Bishop as a Vocational Deacon. Rita will not go on to be priested. She is locally ordained, and trained by weekend seminars. Rita is licensed to preside at weddings, funerals, and all

other sacraments, with the exception of Communion. Rita is non-stipendiary (not paid) and wears her stole diagonally.

Bread of Life Lutheran Church

Rev. Carla Blakley is an ordained Lutheran Minister. She has a B.A in Religious Studies (major in Islam), and M.Div from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and an M.A in Religious Studies from the University of Regina. Ordained Clergy wear the stole around the neck, hanging straight down, it is a symbol of ordination as a pastor.

There are denominational restrictions about our participation in each other's worship. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) signed a formal agreement in 2001 with the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) called the Waterloo Declaration. In the Waterloo Declaration we recognize that we have similar heritage as catholic churches of the Reformation, similar ecclesiology, and similar understanding of the orders of ministry. Ordained Priests in the Anglican Church and Ordained Pastors in the Lutheran Church can entertain calls in each other's denominations and preside at each other's tables. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada has an order of deacons, but they are set aside for education and service. They cannot preside at sacraments, nor are they licensed to marry. Anglican Church of Canada has deacons, who are locally trained in a parish and are supervised under a priest. They cannot preside at Eucharist in their denominations or others, but can preside at weddings and funerals.

At this time, the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada do not have a formal agreement with the United Church of

Continued next page

Ministry at LSC continued

Canada. While there are ongoing talks, the differences in the ways in we celebrate the sacraments, select, train and order sacramental ministers, and exercise the ministry of oversight, have been the greatest challenges. At a national level, there is no mutual recognition of ministries between the Lutheran and United churches at this time.

Orders of Ministry have changed greatly in the last ten years at Living Spirit Centre. These changes have influenced how we have been able to continue in shared ministry, specifically worship. Deacons (United or Anglican) cannot preside at Lutheran Communion Services, although Ordained Lutheran

Clergy may preside at United and Anglican Communion Services. As clergy, we are bound to uphold our denominations' decisions on these matters.

At the LSC, all three congregations participate in various events, according to the ability and interests of their members. While shared worship at the Living Spirit Centre is challenging because of changes in the orders of ministry over the years, many aspects of life together have not changed. Fellowship events, pie socials, eating together, mutual support of each others' ministries, delight in our shared building, and the witness of living together, are all things that members of each denomination can continue to support and be proud of.

Jingle bells, Christmas elves, Santa's on his way!

by Amanda Tessier

As the most wonderful time of year is approaching, Sunday School is gearing up for Christmas Eve. During the next four weeks of Advent, we are preparing the Christmas Eve service with the children. The service will be a slideshow of the Christmas story, with scenes taken over the next few weeks of different parts of the story. It's especially important for Eastside kids and families to come celebrate and prepare with us as much as possible over the next four weeks. We are so excited about this little project. All are welcome to help out!

In addition, we will take time to reflect on the true meaning of the season and why it truly is the most wonderful time of the year. Through prayers, games, and fancy crafts we experience the birth of our Saviour. Don't miss out!

Sunday School is taught by Taylor Balfour with the help of Emma. If you have questions feel free to contact Amanda Tessier the SS coordinator at a.c.tessier@hotmail.com.



LSC Women's Breakfast, Saturday, December 10 from 8 to 10 am

Join us for breakfast and conversation!

On the Christmas theme of gift sharing, we are going to each bring a book we have read and enjoyed, give a brief "book report" about why we liked it (without giving away the entire story!), and then gift the book to the group. We may draw numbers to see who gets first pick! Please bring a book (doesn't need to be new, you can find books at thrift shops, book sales or the book sale table at the church). Bring a note book so you can record any of the books you'd like to read later. You will go home with a book to read over the holiday. Also would be okay if you wish to bring a second book in case someone brings a guest, decides to come at the last minute etc.

All women are welcome. Please bring a toonie to cover breakfast costs.

Join us for a

Longest Night Service

at the
Living Spirit Centre
Wed. Dec. 14
@ 7 pm

Especially for those who
have experienced loss in
the past year.



Worship at Wascana Rehabilitation Centre

On the third Sunday of every other month, Eastside United Church volunteers hold a worship service for residents at the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre. The service takes place at 1:30 pm and volunteers arrive at the Centre a half-hour ahead of time to usher worshippers from their rooms to the chapel.

Our next service is scheduled for Sunday, December 18. If you are able to assist, please contact [Shelly Williams](#).

This important outreach ministry provides one of the only opportunities for patients at the Centre to attend a worship service. Thanks for your support!

HOLY YOGA CLASSES at the LSC: Winter 2017

Are you interested in registering for the Winter 2017 session of Holy Yoga at Living Spirit Centre?

Holy Yoga classes are offered at Living Spirit Centre on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday noon and are offered on different days at All Saints Anglican Hall. Classes will start the week of January 17/2017 and registration is ongoing starting now.

Holy Yoga is exercise, stretching, relaxation and prayer all in one enjoyable class.

For further information, please visit www.bigfishyoga.ca. You may also phone Connie at 306-551-6933 or email mokerw@sasktel.net.

Rainbow Youth Centre Project

This Advent, Eastside is again collecting items in support of Rainbow Youth Centre (RYC).

This December, RYC will be holding its Annual Christmas Celebration for participants. The celebration includes a traditional Christmas supper and the distribution of Christmas Stockings to the youth and the young adults (including their infants and toddlers) who are regularly involved with programming. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 300 Christmas stockings given to participants this year.

On Sunday, November 27 and Sunday, December 4, the Christmas tree in the East Sanctuary will be decorated with candy canes. Each of these will be labeled with the name of an item to be donated for RYC stockings. Items include things like toques and mittens, toothbrushes, toothpaste and shampoo, as well as children's books, colouring books and crayons.

All donations need to be returned to the LSC by Monday, December 5.

RYC is a multi-cultural, community-based organization providing support services for young people aged 11 to 25 years in the City of Regina. Programming at the Centre includes: educational, social, and recreational activities for youth 11 – 19 years; and employment preparation, and parenting programs for youth up to 25 years.

Thank you for supporting this project in keeping with the true meaning of Christmas!



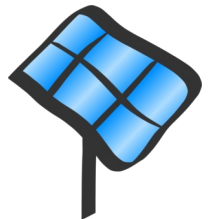
Last year's donations to the Rainbow Youth Centre overflowed a massive box. What Christmas spirit!

Have you heard about the LSC Solar Panel Working Group?

The purpose of this group is to explore opportunities to provide alternative energy sources for the Living Spirit Centre, in order to reduce the Centre's environmental impact. In November 2015, a presentation was made on the possibility of installing solar panels on the Living Spirit Centre roof by the Property and Maintenance Committee to the Living Spirit Council. In October 2016, a Solar Panel Working Group was formed with the purpose of exploring the feasibility of installing solar panels and to inform the Living Spirit Council and the congregations involved.

It was decided that three areas needed to be examined more fully before proceeding:

- 1) technical and financial feasibility,
- 2) funding options, and
- 3) branding LSC as "good" environmental stewards.



In the coming months, discussion and research will focus on these three themes. Stay tuned for future updates! The next meeting of the Solar Panel Working Group will be January 19, 2017.

We wish you an Advent Season filled with hope, peace, joy and love!

A Bible Verse for Advent! Mark 1:1-3

This is the beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as the prophet Isaiah wrote:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you.
 He will prepare your way."
 3 "There is a voice of a man who
 calls out in the desert:
 'Prepare the way for the Lord.
 Make the road straight for him.'"

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the 10 differences between these 2 pictures of Mary & Joseph going to Bethlehem?



Financial Update: Jan 1 - Sept 30, 2016

By Jim Fallows

Eastside incurred a deficit of \$2,081 during the first nine months of 2016 (see below), however this does not include the full amount that has been raised to date to reduce the mortgage. Only \$7,500 has been used from the mortgage fundraiser for the quarterly mortgage payments; the remainder of \$22,850 (\$17,850 of cash plus \$5,000 of pledges) has been carried forward to make future mortgage payments.

As shown below, revenue is comparable to both 2015 and 2013. In addition, expenses are comparable to previous years, other than 2015, in which Eastside received a one-time reduction in contributions for Living Spirit Centre (LSC) costs. It should also be noted that the deficit at March 31, 2016 was \$3,480, so Eastside posted a surplus of \$1,399 between April and September!

Looking ahead to the last quarter of the year, Eastside appears to have a good chance of avoiding a deficit for 2016, particularly now that the mortgage payments for the year have been covered. Operating expenses may decline in the fourth quarter, as it appears that LSC expenses will come in below the budgeted amount. In addition, Eastside will also receive the benefit of some pledges of increased monthly PAR giving that resulted from the mortgage fundraising drive.

Longtime members of the congregation know that Eastside has struggled financially in recent years, however the generous giving to date in 2016 has things moving in a positive direction. Let's keep the momentum for the remainder of the year!



Eastside Family Dinner Thursday, December 1 at 5:30 pm

Families have been loving the chance to get together and visit, to have a meal provided on a busy weeknight, and to let the kids run around and have a blast!

December's Family Dinner will have an Advent theme! Parents with kids, and grandparents with grandchildren are all welcome (bring your kids too if you can!).

RSVP to [Russell](#) by Monday, November 28. This event can't happen without help to provide the delicious meal. Please let [Wanda](#) know if you can lend a hand.

Can't make it to this one? Eastside's Family Dinners take place the first Thursday of each month.

Eastside United Church				
Statement of Surplus (Deficit) for January 1 - September 30				
	2016 Actual	2015 Actual	2014 Actual	2013 Actual
Revenue to Support Eastside United Church	\$ 105,896	\$ 104,288	\$ 113,059	\$ 104,328
Revenue to Support Mission & Service Fund	10,615	9,994	10,640	10,035
Total Revenue	116,511	114,282	123,699	114,363
Eastside's Operating Expenses	(107,977)	(99,534)	(106,541)	(106,855)
Contribution to Mission & Service Fund	(10,615)	(9,994)	(10,640)	(9,823)
Total Operating Expenses	(118,592)	(109,528)	(117,181)	(116,678)
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (2,081)	\$ 4,754	\$ 6,518	\$ (2,315)
Less: Mortgage Payments (principal & interest)	(7,500)	(11,025)	(9,150)	(12,000)
Add: Drawdown from Mortgage Fund	7,500	0	0	0
Equals: Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (2,081)	\$ (6,271)	\$ (2,632)	\$ (14,315)

LSC Meditation Group
Monday evenings at 7 pm
in the East Sanctuary

Join us to quiet
your mind and
body during
this busy time
of year.

All are welcome !

Horizons: The Newsletter of Eastside United Church

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