

THIRD AVENUE UNITED CHURCH



FROM DEXTER'S DESK

Hello Everyone,

Facebook and other media keep telling me that according to the calendar it is still summer for a while yet. From my balcony I can see a tree that is completely golden without the assistance of Jack Frost. The tree knows that we are running out of light and that winter is not that far away. It is getting ready.

The fall is in my experience a really important season in the church. It is the time in which we get things done without the inconvenience and sometimes unpleasantness imposed by winter. Perhaps that is why many of the Sundays following the Season of Creation are specially designated Sundays. I think you will be able to learn more about those Sundays in another part of this newsletter.

This means that some of the fall involves some time spent planning ahead. In the midst of the fourth wave of the Covid-19 Pandemic the opportunity and need to plan ahead is for me an invitation to some optimism, a welcome invitation as COVID cases rise and the numbers of those in hospital increase.

I expect you know that Third Avenue continues to have in person worship on Sunday mornings and later posts an audio recording of that service on our website. We continue to encourage people to sanitize and to mask while entering and exiting and while singing and to follow as much as we can the distancing protocol. For those of you who might be wondering there are still some empty spaces. It helps us out if you call, e-mail or text ahead and preregister your intention to attend worship just in case we need to do some contact tracing.

In my weekly messages on our web-site I have from time to time offered some comments about how much this COVID thing has disrupted our lives and robbed us of many things that are a source of joy, happiness and support in our daily living. I admit there are many days when I could use and would gain great benefit from a hug and it will be a while before I take handshakes for granted if and when we can resume that practice.

These are challenging times in which to do the things that nurture and sustain Christian community. We are fortunate to have a variety of options to stay in touch with each other while face to face encounters may seem risky or unwise and some of those involve technology that we are all familiar with, pen or pencil, paper and a stamp, the telephone. So, in the next while I invite you to pick up the telephone and give someone you have not seen or spoken with in a while a call or send them a note just to make contact and brighten their day. Remember the greatness of God's love and offer a prayer that we will do the things we need to do to keep ourselves and others safe. And if it feels comfortable come and join with others as part of Sunday morning worship. May each of you and all of you know the blessings of this season that we call fall.

Your brother in Christ,

Dexter

SPECIAL SUNDAY SERVICES FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2021

October 03, 2021 World Wide Communion is a Sunday on which we celebrate The Lord's Supper (Communion) along with other congregations around the world and renew our relationship with God and with other followers of Christ, not just at Third Avenue or in North Battleford, not just in Saskatchewan or in Canada but around the world. We break and consume the bread, we share the cup, we remember Jesus and his great love



for us and for the world, and we give thanks. On this Sunday we start a special emphasis on collecting for the Food Bank. The current issue of the Broadview Magazine as part of an invitation to make a gift to help end hunger now with a gift to Mission and Service states that 690,000,000 people will go to bed hungry tonight. We can make that gift and we can also make a gift to our local Food Bank.

October 10, 2021 Thanksgiving Sunday A Sunday when we continue the tradition of a Harvest Festival Offering of first fruits that finds its origins in the book of Deuteronomy – chapter 26 and was picked up by the early colonizers of North America. It is a worship service that focuses around living with gratitude and the importance of saying, “Thank you.” As part of saying, “Thank you” the invitation to bring gifts for the Food Bank continues. Any donation or loan of garden vegetables and/or canning would be welcomed and included as part of a Thanksgiving Table Display.



October 17, 2021 World Food Sunday A Sunday on which we think about the problem of hunger and malnutrition; how we can get the food from where it has been grown to where it is needed; how we can equip people to grow the food they need? This will be the concluding Sunday of our special focus on the Food Bank and its needs which are on-going.

October 24, 2021 Peace Sunday This Sunday is an invitation to focus on Peace. Peace that requires us to be reconcilers and those who are also open to being reconciled. Peace that is more than the absence of conflict. Peace that is inclusion, wholeness, well-being, life - full and abundant. It is a time when we remember and reflect on Christ's invitation to each of us and all of us to be peace makers.



October 31, All Hallows' Eve or Halloween doesn't always fall on a Sunday. This is a day before All Saint's Day, a day on which all the minor Saints who do not have a special designated day of their own are honoured and celebrated. It is an opportunity for believers to remember all saints and martyrs known and unknown, throughout Christian history. Historically there have been a variety of beliefs about Halloween that have evolved into the present-day practices of Trick or Treating and dressing up so as to hide one's identity.

In the spirit of playfulness, you are invited to come to worship in costume on this Sunday this year.

November 7, 2021 Remembrance Sunday On this Sunday before November 11 our worship will focus on remembering the sacrifice and suffering that have been made by Canadians in two World Wars, the Korean War and the many Peace Keeping and Peace Making Missions since Canada became a nation. It is a time to keep faith with those who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives so that others could live in freedom and know peace.

November 14, 2021 Children's Sunday This is a Sunday to celebrate children and to remember the important place they have in our families and communities, including our community of faith. It is a time to celebrate the gifts children share with us and the things they teach us. It is also an opportunity to think about the gifts we have to share with them.

November 21, 2021 Reign of Christ Current scholarship invites us to look more closely at the conflict between Jesus and the Roman Empire, between the kingdom or commonwealth of God and its values that Jesus lived, preached and taught and the values of the Roman Empire. Then having looked at that conflict to look at our own times and to explore how following Jesus might require us to resist Empire and Empire values in our world and lives today.

November 28, 2021, Advent 1 – The Hanging of the Greens The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new year in the life and worship cycle of the church. We celebrate that new beginning by decorating the church in our preparation to celebrate God's coming to the world in Christ (Christmas). And so, we begin our preparations to celebrate Christ's birth and to tell the old, old, story in ways that make it new and fresh.

A Non Partisan Story

While walking down the street one day a "Member of Parliament" is tragically hit by a truck and dies. His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance.

'Welcome to heaven,' says St. Peter.

'Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we're not sure what to do with you.'

'No problem, just let me in,' says the man.

'Well, I'd like to, but I have orders from higher up. What we'll do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then you can choose where to spend eternity.'

'Really, I've made up my mind. I want to be in heaven,' says the MP.

'I'm sorry, but we have our rules.'

And with that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell. The doors open and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him.

Everyone is very happy and in evening dress. They run to greet him, shake his hand, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people. They play a friendly game of golf and then dine on lobster, caviar and champagne.

Also present is the devil, who really is a very friendly & nice guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a good time that before he realizes it, it is time to go. Everyone gives him a hearty farewell and waves while the elevator rises....

The elevator goes up, up, up and the door reopens on heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him.

'Now it's time to visit heaven.'

So, 24 hours pass with the MP joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns, 'Well, then, you've spent a day in hell and another in heaven. Now choose your eternity.'

The MP reflects for a minute, then he answers: 'Well, I would never have said it before, I mean heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell.'

So St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell. Now the doors of the elevator open and he's in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage.

He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls from above. The devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulder. '

I don't understand,' stammers the MP. 'Yesterday I was here and there was a golf course and clubhouse, and we ate lobster and caviar, drank champagne, and danced and had a great time. Now there's just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable. What happened? '

The devil looks at him, smiles and says, ' Yesterday we were campaigning..... Today you voted.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE Lorna Reimer

Our Committee continues to include Theresa Bacchetto, Ken Holliday, Peggy Maunula, Lorna Reimer and Sarah Wood.

With guidance from the Board and the Worship Committee we will continue to provide lessons for parents and children to use for "At Home Sunday School".

Since COVID numbers are rising among unvaccinated people in Saskatchewan we want to provide a safe alternative to in person Sunday School classes.

Lessons and hands-on materials will be delivered to each home twice a month. With parents' assistance, the children can continue to learn about Bible stories and the life of Jesus.

Our Sunday School teachers do an excellent job of providing these lessons.

We greatly miss meeting with the children in person and will be very happy when COVID protocols allow that to happen in the church.

During the last week in September and continuing through October, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food for a Thanksgiving donation to the Food Bank. In recognition of World Food Day on October 17, 2021 we want to extend the collection of food and make it an on-going project throughout October

We are thankful for the support of the congregation in such an important community outreach.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE – Shannon Lindgren

Christmas Garage, Bake Sale and Tea Nov. 27

Another Christmas Garage sale will be held this year. We will setup for the sale on Friday Nov26 at 9.00 and the sale will be held Sat from 9:00 until 3:00.

We will also hold a bake sale from 9:00 to 3:00 with Val Fitzgerald convening.

Jean Deyell will convene the tea from 2:00 until 4:00.

Please collect Christmas items no clothing except Christmas sweaters. These can be dropped at the church or call Shannon Lindgren at 445 5114 for pickup.

If you are able to help on either day (or both) please contact Shannon at 445-5114 or the church.

WORSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP – Lorenzo Bacchetto

Welcome friends to the latest installment of Third Avenue's Newsletter. Our committee had a great meeting in September to make plans for the rest of the year. Much of this still needs to be fleshed out and may have to be adjusted due to circumstances beyond our control. The church choir is looking at resuming its position in the choir loft, and Bible Study has resumed on Wednesdays at 10 am.

Food collection will start in October culminating in World Food Day on Oct 17. As we all know, hunger will not stop on the 17th, so food collection will continue beyond this day. As we get closer to Christmas, we will be adding warm clothing and personal hygiene items to the list of items collected.

Live every moment,
Laugh every day,
Love beyond words.

Mark Your Calendar

Oct 3:	World Wide Communion Sunday
Oct 10:	Thanksgiving Sunday
Oct 17:	World Food Day
Oct 24:	Peace Sunday
Nov 7:	Remembrance Sunday
Nov 14:	Children's Sunday
Nov 28:	1 st Sunday in Advent (<i>Hope</i>) – “Hanging of the Greens”
Dec 5:	2 nd Sunday in Advent (<i>Peace</i>) – Guest performance by The Children's Youth Choir
Dec 12:	3 rd Sunday in Advent (<i>Joy</i>) – White Gift Sunday and Communion
Dec 19:	4 th Sunday in Advent (<i>Love</i>) - Carols and Lessons with church choir participation
Dec 24:	Christmas Eve Service – 4 pm and 7 pm. “The Fable Stable” story continues
Dec 26:	No Service at the church. Check the church website for a special recorded service.
Jan 2 2022:	Service at the church

The Picnic

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

“This baked ham is really delicious” the priest teased the rabbi.

“You really ought to try it.”

“I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden!”

“You don't know what you're missing.”

“You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham.”

“Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?”

The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, “At your wedding.”

RE-OPENING COMMITTEE – Lorenzo Bacchetto

Our Re-Opening Committee for Third Avenue consists of the Worship Committee plus Pat Gotto, Allie Raycraft, and Barb Truemner. As a committee, we have met three times. The first was early in the pandemic where we developed Third Avenue's health protocols around COVID-19. The second time was in June, after the Saskatchewan Government announced the lifting of all health restrictions for the province. We met the third time in August.

At the second meeting, with the health of our congregation foremost in our thinking, the committee took a “wait and see” approach to our health protocols. We wanted to see how COVID numbers would react to the lifting of provincial health restrictions, so a mid-August meeting was set. As I'm sure most of you know, COVID numbers in Saskatchewan and North West region started to steadily rise around July 21 and haven't stopped since.

After much discussion and debate, the Re-Opening Committee unanimously decided to maintain the health protocols of masking, hand sanitizing, physical distancing, contact tracing, and limiting the number of

congregational members attending. Up until now, masks could be removed once you were seated and physically distanced from others, but had to be worn while singing. However, **effective Friday, September 17, 2021 an interim province-wide mandatory masking order was implemented for all indoor public spaces** at all times. As a committee, we discussed whether the choir should return and decided they could, as long as masking was in effect.

It has been said many times that vaccination will be our way out of this pandemic. Since all the major political parties, both provincial and federal, are encouraging vaccinations, I feel it is safe to add my endorsement. The vaccines that we use in Saskatchewan have been proven to be both safe and effective. If you are already fully vaccinated, my heartfelt thanks to you. If you are hesitating, please don't. You may have the right to choose not to be vaccinated, but you also have a civic duty (some would say a moral duty or an ethical duty) to get vaccinated. Remember, it's not only your health at stake, but that of your family, friends, neighbours, and community. As our hospitals fill up with COVID patients, more and more surgeries are being delayed. In John 15: 13, Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." I'm not asking for your life, just your vaccination. Stay safe, stay healthy, and God bless.

"Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many."

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE – Pat Gotto

The pastoral care committee are in contact with people via phone calls during COVID.

Administrative Support

We would like to update you in regards to the 2021 Underground Pipe and Asphalt Replacement (UPAR) that was slated to happen this summer. We were notified by the City of North Battleford that this would not go ahead this year but is now proposed for 2022 as they were unable to obtain the necessary materials to proceed.

Third Avenue is having some Roofing Repairs done on selected spots and the shingles sit on the roof waiting to be placed! There will be a fundraising project to help replenish the monies spent for the repair, the cost which will be upwards of \$16,000.00. We will welcome donations to this project at any time!

Another investment Third Avenue has made, is the purchase of 2 – 65" TV's for use in the Sanctuary for viewing and recording of funerals, and to be used if overflow is required in Logie Hall. Necessary cameras, camcorders etc. still need to be purchased. The televisions and other equipment will be a cost upwards of \$3,500.00 - \$4,000.00 and donations to defray costs are welcome.

Administrative Support would like to thank everyone for their continued financial support during this past year of Covid-19 times and hope you are able to continue financial support throughout the next few months ahead.

Happening at Third Avenue!

We are having another Curbside or Take Out Roast Beef Supper Sunday, October 24, 2021 from 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm. If you are interested, you may call the Office at 306-445-8171 to reserve your ticket. This will also be a Celiac Friendly meal including a dessert (Fluffy Fruit Cloud).

Finally, we enclose a small Financial Statement for you:

August 31, 2021 Year to Date:

Local Offerings:	\$76,528.00
Other Revenue:	9,990.06

TOTAL REVENUE:	\$86,518.06
TOTAL EXPENSES:	(89,805.42)

Excess Income/Expenses \$	(3,287.36)
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