



# THE MESSENGER


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DECEMBER 2025

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The congregation of St. Peter the Apostle, Edmonton, celebrates the consecration of their new parish

## About this issue of *The Messenger*

Advent is a season of waiting and preparation for both Jesus' birth at Christmas and his future return.

The major themes of Advent—hope, peace, love, and joy—speak prophetically in a world that needs healing. When Jesus comes in glory, these Advent themes will outlive all pain and injustice.

In the meantime, the Christian community follows God's call to choose hope, peace, love, and joy in the midst of struggle. When we live with courageous compassion, work for justice and peace, and proclaim joyful hope, we participate in God's mission and God's Kingdom.

This season reminds us that God works through the stuff of earth. In frail and fallible humanity, God brings blessing and grace.

*For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in [Jesus Christ], and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Col. 1:19-20)*

## Edmonton Welcomes New Parish

PADI ERIC KREGEL  
St. Peter the Apostle, Edmonton

On October 4, a new Anglican parish began in the west side of Edmonton. St. Peter the Apostle Anglican Church became the 47th parish of the Diocese of Edmonton.

St. Peter has been a Filipino congregation of St. Matthias for 13 years. It has now grown in size and viability enough to become an official Anglican parish. Originally only for northern Filipinos (Igorot), this new parish seeks to embrace all kinds of people and to serve the common good of its neighbourhood (Aldergrove, West Henday, and the Hamptons). It will embrace a blend of Filipino and Canadian Anglicanism.

Before the service, Carys Kregel played hymns on the violin as many Anglicans from other churches came to support this consecration, along with those who have been blessed by the ministry of St. Peter. At 10 am, the doors were closed and the Bishop knocked on the door. He was invited in with a line of men from the church performing on gongs, a thurifer (the Rev. Jordan Giggey), and the Bishop's processional.

Bishop Stephen London presided over the consecration service. After the service, there was a day-long party with lunch provided. Many Bishops from the Philippines, including Bishop Richard Stone B. Banagui and Bishop Joel Pachau, sent letters of encouragement. Guests enjoyed *Gongsa* (gongs), country line dancing, games, and food in the hall of St. Matthias. They could also design their own book bag with their name and worshipful slogans.

The congregation's desire to be a parish came from wanting to be recognized as part of our Diocese, to be seen, and to be commissioned to serve the neighbourhood beyond the boundaries of an ethnic congregation.

"The people of St. Peter's have worked really hard to be a church and have asked,

from the very beginning, for a consecration. It is a joy to see this work recognized and included in our Edmonton Anglican Family! It is a joy to see all God has done with this church. We are grateful to God for this work and trust more will come as we become a Parish," Padi Eric, priest-in-charge, said about the day.

When asked about how the day went, People's Warden Marilyn Cosi-Santiago said, "Congratulations, I am so glad to worship with you today. It was nice to sing familiar hymns!" Michelle Kiwang, St. Peter's Treasurer, reflected, "It was amazing and wonderful, with the congregation, ministers and many guests coming together to support us".

This is the first of many more days for this new parish, as it seeks to be faithful to the calling God has for it in the west end.



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# Ordination and Celebrations in the Diocese of Athabasca

PETER CLARKE  
Athabasca Editor

The Anglican church welcomed Jaimie McIlvenna as a deacon. On Sunday, October 5, Jaimie was ordained at All Saints', Fort McMurray, during the Eucharist service presided by the Bishop, the Rt. Rev. David Greenwood. People from across the diocese attended the service and the potluck that followed.



On Sunday, October 19th, Bishop David Greenwood led a service of Holy Communion at St. Helen's Church in the Fairview Mall.

This wonderful church community is next to the Food Bank space and enables ministry in a broader context to the people of Fairview. After the service there was a time of food and fellowship with the Bishop and Benita Greenwood.



On Sunday, October 12, 2025, the Bishop had the joy of presiding at the Thanksgiving Eucharist Service at St. James Cathedral. It was a special occasion, marking the first time the Bishop was able to broadcast a service again now that the CCLI licenses across the diocese have been completed.

The day was also Clergy Appreciation Sunday, and the congregation warmly presented the Bishop with a card signed by parishioners as a token of their gratitude. Following the service, everyone enjoyed a time of coffee and fellowship together.



On Sunday, September 28, Bishop David Greenwood presided over the farewell Eucharist service for the Rev. Lloyd Nyarota at St. John's United Anglican Church in Manning. The church was so full that additional seating had to be arranged to accommodate those who came to give thanks and say goodbye.

Following the service, the congregation shared a potluck lunch and presented gifts to Rev. Lloyd in appreciation for his ministry and service to the parish. The event was warm and celebratory, reflecting the congregation's gratitude and best wishes to Rev. Lloyd.





# God Reconciles All through Love

I came back to faith in 1994 because I was asking the big questions of life. Is there a God? Does my life have meaning? But it wasn't because these questions were abstract. It was because I was a young person trying to make sense of my life at the end of the Cold War, while trying to find a job and make my way in the world. I believe all of us experience some version of this search. To ask why is a universal part of being human.

As you might suspect, the answers that ultimately spoke deeply to my heart were the answers of the Christian faith. What changed me was the vision that love is at the heart of all creation. Not love in a generic sense, but the very particular story of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God, crucified and resurrected. At the end of the Cold War, and absorbing the lessons of the two World Wars, I needed an understanding of life that was realistic and hard. A philosophy of life that saw clearly the pains, sufferings and evils of the world. But I also needed a vision of life that



Bishop STEPHEN LONDON  
Diocese of Edmonton

pointed to justice, hope and reconciliation, that love had the final word, even if it was a hard and difficult path to get there.

The teaching of the Christian faith is exactly this. We worship the God of love who enters creation in Jesus Christ to reconcile all things. The great purpose of God is to make things right even though the path to life is through the cross. It goes through suffering and death to the hope of resurrection. I believe this story is true in every sense of the word. I revisit this story because we

have arrived again at the season of Advent. Advent is the yearly reminder to us of why Christ is born at Christmas and why our daily struggle for holiness and justice is important. The theme of Advent is preparation and getting ready. Ready for what? For Christ to be born into this world crying out for justice and peace. For Christ to bring the grace and mercy that only God can bring. For Christ to be born in our own lives so that we can find the courage and

spirit necessary to be instruments of God's love. These teachings transform my life every day. Each morning when I wake up and drink my coffee, I remind myself of them. These are more than teachings; they are also the way of knowing God personally. I pray you find this grace this season.

May you all have a blessed Advent.

+ Stephen



Photo: Birmingham Museums Trust, Unsplash

# Justice from the Heart of God

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*  
- Micah 6:8, NRSV

Justice is such an interesting theme. What does God ask of us? To do justice (or "act justly"), to love kindness (or "love faithfully"), to walk humbly (or "with care") with God. But what is justice, loving faithfulness, and walking with care (or humility)?

When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth and their children (Jesus and John the Baptist) jumped in their wombs, Mary sang out her hymn of praise, the Magnificat. And in part of that, she announces,

*He (God) is merciful to those who fear him.... He has scattered those whose pride wells up from the sheer arrogance of their hearts. He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up those*



Bishop DAVID GREENWOOD  
Diocese of Athabasca

*of lowly position; He has filled the hungry with good things and has sent the rich away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, remembering His mercy ...*  
- Luke 1

This song has some echoes with the song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1-10), which includes,

*"Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth... He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts*

*the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. .... He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail."* (NRSV)

So, "justice" involves not pride nor arrogance, but raising the lowly, feeding the hungry, protecting the needy, cutting off

wickedness. It is related to mercy and to seeking what is healthiest. It is unhealthy for some to be overly wealthy, and it is unhealthy for some to be in need. Christ came to save the lost, to heal the broken, to kill death, to open the Kingdom of God. And He said, "As the Father has sent Me, so I send You." Not in pride or arrogance, but in humility and service, even sacrificially, with forgiveness. With care and with love. Acting justly.

Our justice is not a self-determined justice, nor a socially constructed justice. It is justice from the heart of God. It is important, therefore, to stay humble, to stay focused on Christ, to be careful and loving - to realize with gravity we are showing the heart of God, we are presenting an Image of Christ, and to stay true to that. Such is the promise of Christmas; such is the realization of Easter.

Merry Christmas to you, to your loved ones, and to all across our two dioceses. May you be greatly blessed this season as you celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, and may you be empowered to act justly, love faithfully, and walk humbly with Him.

+ David

We welcome letters to the editor, news, stories, and book reviews (max 500 words), event notices and high resolution photos (min 1 MB, 200 dpi)

Submissions are due one month prior to the issue for which they are intended, for example: November 1 for December 2025.

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transparent and respectful communication. We seek to provide encouragement and inspiration to all who are building loving, inclusive, Christ-centered communities. We respect the dignity of every human being, endeavouring to lift the voices of people who are marginalised. We are committed to the quality of our content, reserving the right to edit all contributed material. We immediately correct factual errors. To report an error, please email anglicanmessenger@gmail.com





# Honouring Our Shared History: Rundle Park Pipe Ceremony Sparks Joyful Intercultural Celebration

BETTY KAAHWA  
St. Faith, Edmonton

A beautiful autumn day set the stage at Rundle Park Edmonton on Sunday, September 28, 2025. Organized by Verna Fisher and team, the event was a remarkable gathering of community and culture.

What began with a sacred Indigenous Pipe Ceremony blossomed into a vibrant, day-long celebration, filling the park with joy, fellowship, and a stunning array of global traditions.

The morning began in a good way, with a Pipe Ceremony led by Elder Russell Auger from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Participants gathered in a circle for this sacred time, which was followed by heartfelt prayers, powerful honour songs, and a meaningful land acknowledgement, grounding the day's events in respect for the territory.

The energy continued to build with captivating cultural performances, starting with the Ballet Mexico Lindo dancers. Elder Gordon Gladue shared his wisdom at 11:30,



followed by a performance from Rabbits Three Cultural Connects.

At noon, the smell of BBQ filled the air as everyone was invited to share in a free meal, with plenty of hot dogs and hamburgers for all. This shared meal perfectly captured the spirit of the event: community.

The afternoon was a spectacular showcase of global cultures. The park came alive with the distinct rhythms and colours of Metis dancers, Buganda dancers from Uganda, traditional Indian dancers, the energetic Chinese lion dancers, and both Mayan and Aztec dancers. The event was also graced with words from guest speakers, including Elder Bert, and a speech from then-Mayor of Edmonton Amarjeet Sohi, and a vibrant display from Pow Wow dancers. The day formally concluded with closing remarks and prayers by the Ven. Travis Enright at 3:00 PM.

The true importance of the day was felt in the joyful interactions. This event was a powerful example of what happens when people from all backgrounds are able to fellowship together. It was incredible to see such a rich diversity of cultures sharing their traditions, building bridges, and meeting one another in a spirit of happiness and mutual respect. Adding to the atmosphere, various displays also offered cultural crafts and paraphernalia for sale.

By all accounts, the event was a wonderful success. The beautiful weather perfectly complemented the spacious Rundle Park site. Highlights included the sheer number of different cultural and traditional dances. It was a meaningful experience to witness the performances and note the threads of connection between cultures, such as the

shared concept of "dreaming" and the use of similar elements in traditional regalia.

While the venue was lovely, it was noted that the distance was inconvenient for those relying on public transportation, a point of consideration for future planning.

Overall, it was a day filled with joy, connection, and vibrant culture, leaving participants with a renewed sense of community and a deep appreciation for the many peoples who call this land home. May Almighty God bless you all.



Photos: Derek Fisher

## Embracing Tawâw-Welcome

THE REV. ANDREAS SIGRIST  
St. Matthias, Edmonton

My name is Andreas. I am the priest at St. Matthias Anglican Church Edmonton. I am an immigrant from Germany. As a newcomer to this land, I am grateful to the trees, the rivers, and the Indigenous people of this land who have said again and again, *Tawâw*, which means, "Welcome, there is space".

That's the invitation of reconciliation: knowing ourselves welcomed to walk on this land together in a good way.

That's the spirit I experienced at the TRC event at Rundle Park. We come from different walks of life, with different stories. But together we can honor our shared stories. We can remember that every child matters in a good way. As one elder put it, "We are all God's children."

We must remember that part of our shared story is the attempted genocide of the Indigenous people of this land. Still, as a newcomer, I have consistently been met in this spirit of *Tawâw* when responding to the call for reconciliation. This makes me wonder about who was there, who wasn't, and why.

As the season changes and the trees let go of the leaves, the prayer for us as the Diocese of Edmonton that kept being impressed on my heart in response to this TRC event is from the Church of England Prayers of Confession and Healing: "Grant us courage to renounce the false teaching that we can somehow know you without being committed to justice for all people."

May we hear and follow the Spirit's leading and invitations with open minds and open hearts ready to pray (and actually mean it) "your will be done on earth as it already is in heaven."



## How to Do Advent Alongside Hope



JEFFREY HANGER

Alongside Hope Representative, Edmonton

**M**y name is Jeff Hanger and I am the Diocese of Edmonton representative for Alongside Hope, the International (and Canada) development charity of the Anglican Church of Canada. My role is to support the Parish reps across from the Diocese as they promote the great work of the charity. Here are some ways Alongside Hope is practicing Advent this year:

- While some are writing hundreds of Christmas cards, Alongside Hope has joined the Kairos Jubilee 2025 Campaign to try to get 100,000 signatures to petition to reduce the debt of some of the poorest countries.
- While some will be spending a considerable amount of money on gifts they can't afford, Alongside Hope will be supporting microfinance initiatives around the world to help women become more self sufficient.
- While some will be spending their nights silently wrapping gifts, losing sticky tape and surrounded by gift wrap, Alongside Hope has provided Solar Suitcases so that midwives in Sub-Saharan Africa can deliver babies safely at night.

- While some will be spending hours decorating trees, losing decorations and getting tangled in garland, Alongside Hope will be helping to plant, nurture and grow trees around the world (see Uganda, Cuba and Columbia in World of Gifts).
- While some will find themselves out of eggnog, wine or other drinks over the Christmas period, with Alongside Hope you can help support dairy and poultry production in Kenya (World of Gifts p. 4), or help purchase solar water pumps in Haiti (World of Gifts p. 2).
- While some will be planning a Christmas dinner for 5 or 6 family members, at Alongside Hope we bring regenerative agriculture through the TSURO trust to whole communities in Zimbabwe.
- While some will be cooking for this gathering—juggling a 25 lb turkey, with enough potatoes to feed an army and stirring the gravy, Alongside Hope will continue to improve nutrition for thousands of people; see critical food production in Burundi, distribution of biodigester ovens in Columbia, and briquettes for fuel in Uganda (in World of Gifts).

- While some will think their kitchen is a disaster after this meal, Alongside Hope will have loans prepared for communities in Canada facing natural disasters
  - While some are playing a donkey in a local Nativity play, Alongside Hope provides real donkeys to help women and children gather water and firewood in Kenya (World of Gifts p. 3)
  - And as we get to Christmas Eve, we remember Mary in the stable. Alongside Hope has a number of projects to support mothers and their newborns, from Lesotho to Mexico and Peru
  - And finally, the Prince of Peace is born. And at Alongside Hope we share this peace with communities around the world, remembering those caught up in conflict, war and natural disasters.
- Enjoy Christmas everyone  
Jeffrey Hanger

*To support these initiatives through the Alongside Hope World of Gifts campaign, visit <https://wog.alongsidehope.org/world-of-gifts>*

## All Saints' Cathedral Celebrates 150 Years of Ministry

THE VERY REV. ALEXANDRA MEEK  
All Saints' Cathedral, Edmonton

**O**n November 1st, as we celebrated the Feast of All Saints, we also gathered in celebration of 150 years of ministry of All Saints' Cathedral.

Along with a very lovely luncheon, the Cathedral invited local historian Tim Marriott to speak on the history of this church. Tim began by admitting that he felt the task was daunting, as the audience was currently living the history of the Cathedral for themselves, but he set about the work and told our story with thoughtfulness and care. Tim shared the history of All Saints' through the lens he felt emerged again and again: that All Saints' was a church for those searching for home. It was a beautiful, and I think, true descriptor.

Tim reminded those gathered that the history of All Saints' was not an easy one but rather this is a community that was formed through challenge. From the first missionary, Canon Newton, who had no place for a home let alone a church building, to the multiple times this church has changed locations, to the fire that burned down the building, the lack of insurance funds, the delay in building, All Saints' has not had an easy history. Over and over again, what the congregation might have wanted was not the first version of their story. And yet here this church stands and here these people of God remain, following the call of God to care for one another and their community in the name of Jesus Christ.

The celebrations continued on Sunday as we shared in Holy Eucharist together and gathered in the evening for a beautiful service of choral Evensong. It was a wonderful weekend of festivities, that recognized the gift of the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before. Those saints who, beautiful and flawed, had faith that God would lead them forward. As we look to the future of this church, we ask God to continue to lead us through the challenges that we know we will also face. We ask God to give us strength and courage to walk the path ahead, knowing that whatever we meet, God will be with us.



Top: Canon Barbara Burrows and Dean Alex Meek

Above: Cathedral members gather to celebrate 150 years of ministry. Photos: All Saints' Cathedral



# A New Gospel for a New Year

## Meeting Jesus as Messiah and True King in the Gospel of Matthew

THE VEN. JORDAN HAYNIE WARE  
Good Shepherd, Edmonton

Advent begins a new Church year. As we await the coming of Jesus in Advent, we turn to a new Gospel appointed in the lectionary to serve as our primary guide to the stories of Jesus for the coming year. Back when I was in seminary, a friend introduced me to his practice of sitting down in the first week of Advent to read that Gospel straight through with no interruptions, and I've made it my own.

Every year, on the Monday in 1 Advent, I sit down to read the Gospel as a complete story. I'm a big reader of novels, and to encounter Jesus and his disciples by reading the whole narrative through is a great way to refresh myself on themes, hear again old favorite vignettes, encounter beloved characters, and remind myself that the story is bigger than the weekly snippets we are served by the lectionary suggest.

Matthew is a great Gospel to read this way. Matthew is a careful writer, and he has designed his collection of Jesus's teachings, handed down orally by the first followers of Jesus, in a very intentional way to illustrate his point: Jesus is the promised Messiah, coming king, foretold by the prophets and a fulfillment of God's promises made to our ancestors.

Matthew organizes Jesus's teachings into five major Discourses, and precedes each block of teaching with stories of miracles and encounters that Jesus will "sum up" in the Discourse that follows. But he also frames the whole thing with the story of Jesus's birth, and the story of his crucifixion and resurrection. These major theological, salvific events take up much less space in Matthew than the proclamation of the kingdom and the "proof" that Jesus comes from within the tradition he's received, and is not a deviation from it.



Mosaic of St. Matthew c. 950 AD  
Photo: Wikimedia Commons

But they also reaffirm and emphasize Jesus as the Son of David, a son of Abraham, the new Moses whose teachings expand and build on the foundation that has already been laid.

The structure of Matthew is really clever—and fascinating! If you'd like to learn more, watch the videos at The Bible Project for a full explanation. But I'd like to highlight another element that arises when we approach Matthew as a complete work: Jesus's healing. The healing miracles as shown in Matthew are a direct rebuke to Rome. Those people asking for healing are people who have been harmed by Empire—starved, maimed, cast aside by a

brutal occupying power. And when Jesus sees them and heals them, he is inaugurating a new kingdom that has the power to heal the harms caused by the old one. Jesus's kingdom causes no collateral damage. Jesus centers those whom the world has pushed to the margins. And in Matthew it is this healing and feeding that draws Rome's attention to him. The scribes and the Pharisees first plot to kill him after Jesus heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath. Jesus begins to tell his disciples of his coming crucifixion in the context of feeding the multitudes. According to Matthew, Jesus is the Son of God, who was promised to our ancestors to be the true king who will heal the sick and feed the hungry who have been made sick and hungry by an Empire that doesn't care for them, that casts them aside.

This Advent, I invite you to join me in reading Matthew all the way through. What new stories catch your eye as you read the story all the way through? What passages will you look forward to? And how can you live out the teaching Jesus brings in this story—teaching about his upside down kingdom where the hungry are fed and the injured are healed, where the last will be first and the first will be last? In an age where a new empire rises to injure and starve, keeping our eyes on the Jesus Matthew portrays will be key. Let's read his story together.

Further reading:

- *The Bible Project*. <https://bibleproject.com/videos/matthew-1-13/> and <https://bibleproject.com/videos/matthew-14-28/>
- *Matthew and the Margins: A Sociopolitical and Religious Reading* by Warren Carter
- *Matthew* by Stanley Hauerwas
- *The Seeds of Heaven: Sermons on the Gospel of Matthew* by Barbara Brown Taylor

# Awakening Your Purpose

A CONFERENCE TO HELP DEEPEN YOUR DISCERNMENT OF GOD'S CALL

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

**10 AM - 3 PM**

at Good Shepherd, Edmonton

more information to come



Anglican Diocese of  
Edmonton

Awakening the Gospel • Making Disciples • Fulfilling the Kingdom





# Created for Community

The 34th Ecumenical Mission of Strathcona County



Collaborative  
Community



THE VEN. CHELSY BOUWMAN  
St. Thomas, Sherwood Park

For more than thirty years, Christians across Strathcona County have come together each fall for the Ecumenical Mission, a collaboration among Ardrossan United, Glory Lutheran, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic, Salisbury United, Sherwood Park United, and St. Thomas Anglican churches.

The Mission began in 1990, inspired by Father Tom Ryan (Roman Catholic) and Father William Darby (Anglican), whose shared vision was to foster unity among Christians at the grassroots level. Since then, the Mission has become a living witness to shared discipleship: hosting speakers from diverse traditions, supporting local charities, accompanying Syrian refugees, and organizing transportation to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings in Edmonton.

This year's Mission centred on the theme "Practices of Healthy Community." Over several days of worship, learning, and conversation, participants gathered in one another's churches to explore what it means to live faithfully together in a complex and divided world.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, recently retired Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, led the Mission, guiding participants deeply into what it means to live as God's people invited into the divine community of love that is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We were reminded that creation itself is our first encounter with that invitation. The beauty of sunrise, the changing leaves, and the cry of a newborn are moments that draw us into awe and relationship with our Creator.

Together, we reflected on both the joy and the struggle of Christian community—the ways we support, challenge, and sometimes wound one another. We saw how God's grace holds even our brokenness, and how healing



Top: Archbishop Linda Nicholls  
Above: St. Thomas, Sherwood Park

begins when we face pain with honesty, humility, and hope.

We learned about the call to welcome the stranger—to embrace those who are different, to listen across divides, and to recognize in one another the image of God. In doing so, we are drawn into a wider, richer experience of divine love.

As the week continued, we turned our attention to the practices of healthy community, learning from the early Church how discernment, deep listening, prayer, and respectful conversation sustain the body of Christ. We were reminded that true community takes courage: the courage to be vulnerable, to forgive, to stay at the table even when we disagree, and to trust that the Spirit still leads us forward.

Throughout the Mission, participants spoke of how meaningful and inspiring it was

to gather across denominational lines once again to learn, sing, pray, and share stories together. Many found Archbishop Linda's gentle wisdom and deep faith especially moving, describing her teaching as both challenging and grace-filled. The warmth of hospitality offered by each host congregation and the visible spirit of cooperation among churches were signs of the unity this Mission has nurtured for more than three decades.

Next year, the Ecumenical Mission will be hosted by Glory Lutheran Church and Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. Dates and guest speaker are yet to be announced. For more information about the Mission, including updates and resources, please visit [www.ecumenicalmission.wordpress.org](http://www.ecumenicalmission.wordpress.org).

Year after year, the churches of Strathcona County continue to bear witness that Christ's reconciling love can hold us together across difference, renewing us in faith, hope, and community.





**Purposeful  
Discipleship**

## Huron Subscription Allows Diocese of Edmonton to Offer Free L.Th. Courses in 2026

CANON SCOTT SHARMAN  
Strategic Plan Animator, Edmonton

Two major Guiding Principles of our Way Through the Wilderness strategic work plan in the Diocese of Edmonton are “Purposeful Discipleship” and “Vital Congregations”. Within these two pillars of the plan there is a strong desire to see lay leaders in our parishes and across the diocese supported in living out their vocations in ministry and sharing their gifts for the building up of our church and its witness to the Jesus way of life. We want people to have a clearer sense of how their unique passion in ministry fits within our diocesan family, and for them to have all the tools, experiences, and education they might need to support them in living that out in their settings.

To that end, one of the steps that the Diocese of Edmonton is taking is to enter a subscription model partnership with the Anglican theology department at Huron

University in London Ontario to provide access to their online catalogue of Licentiate in Theology course offerings for interested people in the Diocese – completely free of charge!

The L.Th. is well suited for lay disciples and anyone who wants to engage more deeply with their faith, understand theology and scripture, support their parish, or serve in leadership roles. The program stresses that ministry takes many different shapes, and every disciple's growth and formation for that ministry is important and valued.

Courses are typically six weeks long, with around 2-3 contact hours per week (though online and intensive formats are also occasionally offered) making it more accessible for busy people trying to fit this around other things in their lives. Subjects cover foundational topics such as scripture, theology, church history, worship, ministry practice, and more. These can be applied to fulfill the requirements of particular Certificates such as the Certificate in Parish

Leadership, the Certificate for Lay Readers, the Foundations in Diaconal Ministry Certificate, etc., or they can be taken individually simply for personal interest – so you don't have to commit to a full program unless or until you choose to do so.

If you are a lay member of an Anglican parish in the Diocese of Edmonton and you'd like to deepen your faith, grow in your effectiveness in ministry, or explore a sense of some future ministerial calling, all in a flexible, affordable way, then the L.Th. is an excellent option for you.

You can read more about the program in general at <https://huronu.ca/programs/theology/life-long-learning/>.

Additional information on course offerings throughout 2026 will be forthcoming soon from the Synod Office and regular communication channels.

If you have questions,  
email [ssharman@edmonton.anglican.ca](mailto:ssharman@edmonton.anglican.ca)

## THE LICENTIATE IN THEOLOGY DIPLOMA PROGRAM (LTh)

### ENABLING LEADERS AND LEARNERS ACROSS CANADA

- Certificate in Parish Administration and Leadership: designed for church wardens, congregational leaders and administrators
- Certificate in Theology for Licensed Lay Readers
- Foundations in Diaconal Ministry Certificate
- Theological preparation for Priests for Specialized Ministry/Locally Raised Clergy

**Huron**  
AT WESTERN



## Take Our Communications Survey!

The Synod Office of the Diocese of Edmonton is eager to hear how you interact with our communications channels.

Please scan the QR code or use this link to complete our 5-minute Communications Survey.  
[synodoffice.breezechms.com/form/475aee](https://synodoffice.breezechms.com/form/475aee)

If you would rather complete the survey by phone, please call the Synod Office at 780-439-7344.

Do you receive The Messenger, read the Synod Scene, or follow our socials from outside the Diocese of Edmonton? We need your input too.

