

# Advent Newsletter



## Olds United Church

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Minister: Rev. Tammy Allan Council Chairperson: Joyce Quaife

### *Advent blessings to all!*

As I write this message the snow is gently falling, and making the world look like Christmas is coming! As we enter Advent, let us hold on to the traditional themes the season offers – hope, peace, joy and love. These past few weeks our world has been torn by the horrors of violence at the hands of extremists, and we are reminded of how very precious life is.

As we journey toward the birth of the Christ child, may we remember that his family experienced being ‘refugees’ as they escaped Herod’s reign of terror. Our country is known as a place of safety and sanctuary for so many people. May we do what we can to support our government leaders in continuing to provide refuge for those in need. May we too, as a community of faith, strive to be a welcoming place of warmth and love.

We have a lunchtime opportunity for Advent study and reflection, each Thursday at noon – shared with our Anglican, Lutheran, Nazarene, and Presbyterian neighbours in Olds. I invite you to join in those hour long conversations, over warm soup and beverages.

Also this year, I will be hosting a “Longest Night” service on the evening of December 20th, in Olds. This will be a quiet service of reflection around the reality that for some, it may be difficult to be ‘merry’ during this season. It acknowledges loss and grief, whether that is through the death of a loved one, changes in relationships, or loss through other circumstances. This service is open to all, so please feel welcome to join us, and invite friends and neighbours who may benefit from a time of quiet evening worship, acknowledging that God is present with us even in the darkest times of our lives.

There are other special events and activities planned for the season, in both Olds and Sundre – please invite others to share in them with us! It is a common fact that most people (more than 75 %) enter into a relationship with a faith community because a friend invited them to join them! Of special note, January 3<sup>rd</sup> our two congregations will worship together in Olds at 10:00 am. in order that we may celebrate the formal beginning of our relationship as a two point charge! Again, blessings and peace to you all, as we journey toward Bethlehem and the promise of new birth!

*Tammy*

### Upcoming Worship Services and Events

<b>Nov. 29</b>	Advent 1	Regular Worship
<b>Dec. 6</b>	Advent 2	Worship & Communion
	Olds & District Community Carol Festival	6:00 p.m.
<b>Dec. 11</b>	Christmas Caroling – 6:30 p.m.	Hospital; LTC; 7:15 p.m.

Sunrise; 8:00 p.m. Manor

- Dec. 13** Advent 3 White Gift Sunday *special gifts to Olds Christmas Angels Program*
- Dec. 20** Advent 4 Church School Program 10:00 am  
Longest Night Service 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Service 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 27** NO WORSHIP
- Jan. 3, 2016** Shared worship & communion with Sundre, hosted in Olds to celebrate officially becoming a two point charge!
- Jan. 10** Regular Worship
- Jan. 17** Regular Worship
- Jan. 24** Regular Worship
- Jan. 31** Regular worship
- Feb. 7** Shorter worship & communion followed by Annual Meeting

<u>Financial Summary</u>					
(Ten months ended Oct.31st,2015)					
	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Expenses</u>		
<u>LOCAL</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Shortfall</u>
	92,917	85,016	104,009	99,852	(14,836)
<u>M &amp; S</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Over/(Short)</u>	
Congregation	10,833	11,067		234	
UCW	2,083	2,500		417	

Note from the Treasurer

As we approach our year end, we remain some \$14,836 short of our needs. As November revenues appear positive, we are hopeful that we can erase this deficit by year-end. Thanks to those who have supported the "Anniversary Coin Jar Collection" of \$121 for 121 years. Submissions for that fundraiser can be turned into the church office by Nov. 30/15.

Thank you for your continuing strong support!

