ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Minister: The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli
Music Director: Naomi Piggott-Suchan
Organist: Paul Suchan
December 14th, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

"And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing."
– Isaiah 35: 10a

As we gather, we are mindful of the fact that we meet on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Treaty Six First Nations and the traditional home of the Métis. We are grateful for the hospitality we have received as settlers in this place and recommit ourselves to the work of reconciliation and building good relations with the First Peoples of this land.



Prelude: Carols for Quiet Stops – arr. J. Fischer

Preparation for Worship:
We invite you to observe a time of quiet reflection prior to our service.

Welcome and Announcements - The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Lighting the Candle of Joy -Kirk Ready & Heather Shouse
(See PWS&D insert)

Prayer of Adoration

Praise: ***"Go, tell it on the mountain"*** ***#133***

Prayer of Confession: (**Unison**)

Gracious and loving God,
As we look around at the world around us, we are not always proud of what we see. People are quick to offer criticism and slow to give understanding, neighbours hold onto old hurts rather than seek peace with one another, faithful ones use human

dogmas to exclude one another and force out those they are called to love. Forgive us, O God. Move in our hearts with the same spirit that was in Christ Jesus to repair the breach between us.

Assurance of Pardon

Children's Christmas Presentation: - Led by the Children and Youth

Do You Hear What I Hear? – Gloria Shayne Baker (1923-2008)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 35: 1-10 -Kirk Ready & Heather Shouse

Luke 1: 46b-55

James 5: 7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11 - The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon: "…With Singing" - The Rev. Roberto DeSandoli

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem: Stille Nacht – Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)

Doxology (#830) and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below: praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Praise: ***"Away in a manger"*** ***#149***

Sung Benediction Oh Come, oh come, Emmanuel #122

Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

Postlude: All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth – Donald Yetter Gardner (1913-2004)

Greeters & Ushers: **Terry & Anne Drover**
Sharon Wiseman, Angie Smibert

Coffee Hosts: **Dorothy & Stuart Middleton**



A SPECIAL WELCOME is extended to our visitors this morning. Please sign the guest book in the entranceway, or fill out a visitor's envelope found in the pews. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider St. Andrew's.
HEADSETS with earphones and radio receivers (101.1fm) are available to those who require hearing assistance.
CHILDCARE: There is a nursery available in the lower hall.
LARGE PRINT Bibles, bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.
PARKING: There is courtesy parking in the Delta's underground parkade on Sunday mornings (for those who have St. Andrew's parking stickers).
CONTACT US: Phone 306-242-0525, Email office@standrewsyxe.ca, Website: www.standrewsyxe.ca
NORMAL OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Thursday, 9:00AM-2:00 PM

Announcements

Chapel Communion will take place immediately following the service.

Thank you Martha Fergusson!
St. Andrew's would like to give special thanks today for Martha Fergusson for her 10 years as Christian Education Coordinator. Martha has been an incredible leader and Christian witness to a generation of young people at St. Andrew's through her work in Sunday School, Youth Group, Canada Youth, Ecumenical gatherings, and beyond. Please help us in celebrating Martha's incredible time in this role, and bless her in her continuing and emerging opportunities.



Sunday, December 21 – 11am Worship – 4th Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 24 – 7pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 28 – 11 am Worship – 1st Sunday after Christmas



The Pilgrim's Journey: Walk to Bethlehem by Laura Van Loon, Pastoral Care Nurse
Advent is a season for looking from the darkness to the light – to prepare yourself for the coming of Jesus. Please watch for the Advent Walk which will start on November 27 and continue until December 24 when our volunteer walkers – that's YOU – reach Bethlehem where Christ the King is born. There will be a calendar of scripture readings each day for you to contemplate on your walk, or riding your stationary bike, or swim, or whatever exercise you choose that day. Let Laura know your steps so that we can be sure that collectively we make the 119 km to Bethlehem from Nazareth. Please text or phone me at 306-229-7846. My email is lauralene66@gmail.com You can pick up a copy of the Walk to Bethlehem in the narthex. It is also available as per the link provided from the church office.



2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available on the entranceway table. In each box there is a designated envelope that enables you to help offset the cost of the offering envelopes. ***If you would prefer to make pre-authorized remittances, please fill out a blue PAR authorization form (found on the entranceway table), attach a void cheque, and place it in the offering plate. E-transfers are also an easy way to donate, but please remember to use the new e-mail address: finance@standrewsyxe.ca***

Any donations that you wish to have included on your 2025 charitable donation receipt **MUST** be received no later than January 15th, 2026, and be dated 2025.

Please submit all invoices for payment in 2025 to the church office asap.



The church offices will be closed over the holidays; Thursday, December 25 – Sunday, January 4, inclusive.

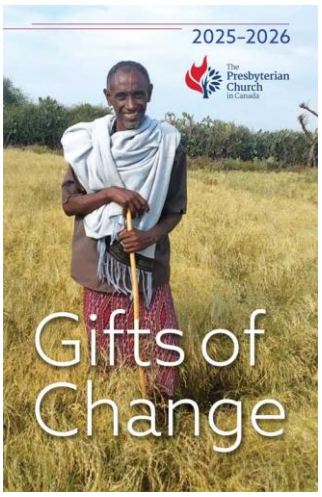
Beginning January 2026, all donations to **Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry** must be sent directly to the Mission, as St. Andrew's will no longer be accepting and issuing receipts for SNCM. Here's how you can donate:

- Mail a cheque to SNCM, and we will issue you a tax receipt.
  450 20th St. W
  Saskatoon, SK S7M 0X4
- Send us an EFT at sncm1981@gmail.com, and we will issue you a tax receipt.
- Donate through CanadaHelps, and download your tax receipt.
  www.canadahelps.org

Thank you for your continued support.
Blessings,
Anne Drover
Chair



Each Sunday you witness the offering plate being passed in the sanctuary. Do you sometimes wonder why people do not put something on the plate? I love Reverend Roberto's call to give of our time, talents, and tithes. Many congregants give of all three to the congregation. Some people in tough economic times, may simply not be able to support the church financially. Other people may give at different frequencies - once a month, quarterly, or even once a year. There are many ways to give to the church: Cheque, Cash, Electronic Fund Transfer, PAR (an offering that is set up to come out of your bank regularly), stock donations, and giving through our clover device. Dorothy has just printed new offering cards. These are available in the narthex where the offering plates are stored. If you are more comfortable putting a representation in the offering plate, please feel free to use one of these each week.



Gifts of Change (What to buy for loved ones that don't want any more stuff)
Are you are struggling to find things to buy for those hard to buy for loved ones this Christmas? Are you having problems coming with a wish list to give those that are asking you for your list? Check out the Gifts of Change Catalogue provided by the PCC. There is something for every interest:

· Health care—training maternal health care workers, providing medicines for leprosy, feeding the starving
· Education, including skills training
· Food security— training in agricultural practices, livestock, seeds
· Resources to set up woman-lead small businesses
· Water, sanitation, hygiene
· Training and equipping ministers in developing countries
· Supporting Ministries for Indigenous communities and youth in Canada
· And more…check it out

There are gifts in every price range, and all of the items in Gifts of Change are part of the bigger story of hope that is unfolding around the world through The Presbyterian Church in Canada and our partners. Catalogues were included as an insert in the fall issue of Connections and there are a few copies of the catalogue in the church entrance. For those looking online—see https://presbyterian.ca/donate/gifts-of-change/ or you can phone 1-800-619-7301. E-transfer to gifts@presbyterian.ca is also an option.
Happy Shopping



OPERATION SANDWICHES: is an ongoing outreach mission program, in partnership with Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. SNCM has a lunch program in our inner-city neighbourhood, and we get to help on the second and fourth Sunday of the month! Help out with a "sandwich making party" in the church kitchen, or make a donation to help with the cost of sandwich ingredients. Just mark your donation "Operation Sandwiches", and place it in the offering plate.

Muffins

Our muffin ministry is once again open for business. If you would like to help with this important ministry, or if you just like baking muffins, we would encourage you to sign up on a sheet that we have left in the entryway. Select a month that is convenient and let us know how many muffins you will be able to supply. It may seem like a small thing, but it means a lot to some very stressed (and hungry) students.



We are attempting to provide 10-12 dozen muffins to the Ecumenical Chaplaincy's Good Breakfast program at the U of S on the third Sunday of each month.
All muffins should be brought to the church on the date noted on the sign-up sheet and the Outreach committee will make sure that they get to where they need to go.
It is important to note that we have been asked to not provide any muffins with either nuts or icing.
If you have any questions, please contact one of the Outreach committee.



Advent Appeal

Thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Advent Appeal. This Sunday is the official end to our appeal, to allow us time to deliver all of the gifts, but if you still have something that you would like to donate, please let one of the committee know and they will help you out. Any monetary donations can still be made at any time up until Christmas. If you wish to help with the gift delivery, please talk to one of the committee.
We are: Al Ireland, Donna Fenton, Linda Dietz, Rachel Giesbrecht, and Ezra Giroth.

WISH LIST 2025

Friendship Inn

If you are going to donate food items, and want us to deliver them, please bring the items in on the last Sunday (Dec 14th) so that they can be delivered as soon as possible

- Garden vegetables (Potatoes, peas beans, carrots etc)
- Coffee (ground or beans)
- oatmeal
- Tea
- Juice
- Dried seasonings: Cinnamon, Garlic Plus, pepper, parsley, lemon pepper, dill, thyme, rosemary, sage, cumin

Personal Items

• Baby formula	$20-$60
• Socks	$5-$20
• Tooth brushes & paste	$5-$25
• Shampoo & conditioner	$5-$10
• Deodorant	$2-$10
• Razors	$2-$20

Egadz

Hygiene

• Toothbrushes & Toothpaste	$5-$25
• Shampoo, Conditioner	$5-$10
• Deodorant, Disposable Razors	$2-$20

School Supplies

• Pens, Pencils and Erasers, Pencil Cases	$2-$10
• Looseleaf	$10-$20
• Calculators, Geometry Sets, Rulers, etc.	$5-$50
• Markers, Pencil Crayons, etc.	$5-$15

Bed and Bath

• Quilts and Duvets	>$50
• Sheets and Pillows	>$30
• Towels	$10-$30
• Sleeping Bags	$25-$60
• Alarm Clocks	$5-$25

Babies and Children

• Baby and Toddler Clothing	$5-$30
• Strollers	$60-$200
• New Car Seats	$70-$200
• Baby Formula and Bottles (unused and unopened)	$20-$60
• Disposable Diapers	$20-$40
• Toys and Games	$5-$50
• Quilts and Blankets	$5-$30

Clothing

• Youth- and Teen-appropriate Clothing (jeans, t-shirts, hoodies, etc.)	>$20
• Winter Jackets, Ski-Pants	>$20

- Gloves, Mitts, and Headbands $5-$30
- Socks $5-$20
- Shoes, and Boots $20-$60
- New Underwear $10-$20

Sport/Recreation/Crafts

- Beads and Beading Supplies $5-$15
- Sleeping Bags $30-$60
- Youth- and Child-appropriate DVD Movies $5-$15
- Paint and Paint Accessories $1-$10

Interval House

ALL ITEMS BELOW SHOULD BE NEW OR VERY GENTLY USED ITEMS

- Socks and underwear $5-$50
- Nail files/Clippers $5-$10
- Winter Boots $20-$60
- Hats/Toques/Mitts/Gloves $5-$30
- Cell phone chargers $5-$20
- House Coats $15-$30
- Children's clothing (all sizes, boys and girls) $5-$50
- Tupperware containers $5-$30
- Pencil crayons/markers $5-$15
- Paints/brushes/general art supplies $5-$10
- Women's sweatpants (all sizes) $10-$30
- Shampoo/Conditioner/Bodywash $5-$10
- Pajamas for women and children $10-$20
- Lip balm $3-$5
- Large drinking glasses $5
- Nightlights $3-$10
- Large bath towels $15-$50
- Bathroom loofahs $5-$10
- Movie passes $10-$50
- Women's and children's socks (all sizes) $5-$15
- Slippers (women and children's) $5-$30
- Gift Cards (Wal-Mart, Superstore, Co-op, Gas Cards $10-$100
- Inside and outside play toys (no aggressive toys) $5-$50
- New books (all ages) $5-$30
- Assorted women's running shoes (size 5-10, most commonly 7, 8, 9) $20-$100
- Adult Coloring Books $5-$20

Haven Family Connections

Gift Cards

- Grocery store gift cards $20-$100
- Gift cards/certificates for children's outings and events.
    - Bowling, minigolf, swimming, movies and kid's play villages $20-$50
- Co-op $20-$100
- McDonald's $10-$50
- Tim Horton's $20-$50

- Canadian Tire $20-$50
- Home Sense $20-$50
- Fuddruckers/RUCKERS $20-$50

Clothing items

- New or gently used children's clothing from birth to 12 years) $10-$100

Elizabeth Fry Society

- Toothbrushes/toothpaste* $5-$25
- Shampoo/Conditioner* $5-$10
- Combs/brushes $5-$25
- Soap/body wash* $5-$10
- Feminine hygiene products* $10-$30
- Underwear (all sizes)* $5-$20
- socks $5-$10
- mittens $5-$10
- Journal notebooks (no coils) $5-$15
- Reusable water bottles, travel mugs, and bags/totes $5-$25
- Backpacks $15-$50
- Stamps and envelopes $5-$10

*If you would like to do something on a continuing basis, Elizabeth Fry is constantly in need of feminine hygiene products. You can donate these items during Advent, but if you feel that you can supply them at other times of the year please contact someone on the Outreach committee and we will either drop them off for you, or will put you in touch with someone at Elizabeth Fry who would be more than happy to take them off your hands.

YWCA Crisis Center

- Towels and face cloths $10-$30
- New Shampoo/Conditioner/Bodywash (unscented) $5-$10
- Feminine Hygiene Products $10-$30
- Pajamas (new) for women and children $10-$20
- New socks for women and children $5-$20
- Disposable diapers (sizes 4-6) $10-$40
- new swim suits for women and children $10-$40
- Combs and brushes $5-$10
- Disposable razors $2-$10
- Small toys for children $5-$20
- Baby blankets $5-$10
- Slippers/Flip flops $5-$30
- Board games, puzzles $5-$25
- Grocery gift cards $10-$100

SNCM

NEW Long underwear (all sizes) $5-$20
NEW Tights for women (all sizes) $5-$15
Warm clothing

- Parkas, sweaters, boots, snowpants, shoes etc. $0-$70
- Shirts, pants $0-$30

Gloves, Mitts. $0-$30
*The mission is currently looking for gloves, mitts, and men's toques at this time but women's tights and mens long underwear would also be greatly appreciated.

St. Mary's Warmup Center (from website – www.stmarysoutreach.com)

- Snacks
  - (granola bars, juice boxes, cereal bars, individual packs of cookies or crackers) $5-$20
- Boots and clean, gently used coats and blankets $0-$60
- Gift Cards (No Frills, Walmart, Tim Hortons, McDonalds $10-$50

If you go to their website (www.stmarysoutreach.com/our-current-needs) there is a direct link to Amazon, highlighting needed items if you wish to donate directly.

The Mustard Seed (https://theseed.ca/?form=donate&recurring=once&designationId=ECTBGLLX)

Seasonal Items

- Winter Jackets >$20
- Warms gloves, mitts and toques $5-$30
- Warm socks $5-$20
- Warm boots $20-$60
- Slippers (with a grip on the bottom)
- New Long johns and or tights $5-$20
- New underwear $10-$20
- Travel sized shampoo, conditioner and shaving cream $0-$10
- Deodorant $2-$10
- Razors $2-$20
- Unscented body soap $5-10
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes $5-$25
- Hairbrushes and combs $5-$25
- Feminine hygiene products $10-$30
- Hand and foot warmers $10-20
- Blankets $5-$30
- Reusable water bottles and travel mugs $5-$10
- Bus tickets or transit passes $25-$100

Housing Items

- Comfort items (cozy throws, hot water bottles, neck pillows, or heated rice bags) $10-$50
- Activity items (activity books, adult colouring books, pencil crayons and markers, journals, books and DVDs) $10-$30
- Gift Cards (from Tim Hortons, Dollarama, Walmart or Shoppers Drug Mart) $5-$10
- Snacks (Granola Bars, instant noodles, oatmeal packets, hot chocolate, tea bags) $5-$10
- Laundry Supplies (small packs of detergent pods, dryer sheets, and laundry bags) $10-$20

The Amazing Stuff

- Set the table during Lent Priceless!
- Make your bed without (too much) complaining “”
- Be especially nice to your sister/brother “”

- Shovel the walk after it snows OR sweep the walk if it doesn't "
- Keep your room tidy (my wife's personal favourite) "
- Do you know someone who is isolated? Give them a call! "
- Invite someone to take part in Kidz Klub "
- Invite someone to participate in our on-line service "
- Surprise your mom and clean up her room. "
- Be especially nice to everyone around you during Advent. "
- Rake the leaves in your yard?? (Before it snows works best) "

If you have things in your life for which you want to thank God, or things that are challenging in your life for which you need support, share it with the Prayer team of 15 people who are willing to spend time in prayer with God to support you.
All information is confidential. If you are asking for someone else, please make sure you have their permission to do so.
Share your requests and updates with the Team through Margaret Wilson by email ma.wilson@shaw.ca or text 306-227-7100



Coffee hour has resumed.
A sign up roster can be found in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Charles Roy at 306-361-1976 or by email cl.roy@shaw.ca

AVAILABLE ON THE ENTRANCEWAY TABLE:

- ❄ Copies of the fall issue of the Presbyterian Connection
- ❄ Contact Information Forms
- ❄ The latest edition of "*Saints Alive*", the newsletter
- ❄ 2026 Offering Envelopes

Missed out on a worship service?
If you are looking for a service you missed, or want to see information in a previous bulletin, simply follow these steps:
1) Visit standrewsyxe.ca
2) Scroll down just below this week's video until you see the date of the service you are looking for and click on it
3) You can now click the video box to watch the service and the "(date)_bulletin" to see the bulletin

In Our Wider Community

Prairie Centre for Ecumenism:
Ecumenical Advent Prayer
Join us as we prepare our hearts during advent. These online prayer and reflection session will be held on Zoom, weekly for four weeks, starting Tuesday, November 25-Tuesday, December 16 from 7:00-8:00pm. We will be led by four different presenters, representing four different denominations. Register here - https://bit.ly/PCEAdventPrayer



Third Sunday in Advent

Joy

Voice 1: Mary praised God who entrusted her with a sacred role. Great things God has done!

Voice 2: With Jesus' birth, the world will never be the same again.

Voice 1: The powerful will be toppled from their thrones. The hungry will be lifted up and joy will break through in unexpected places.

Voice 2: Every time a child is born, the world changes for someone. Our lives changed when a humble young woman gave birth to the One who would save us. On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of joy.

The candle of joy is lit.

Let us pray together:

Living God, gift us with Mary's trust and readiness to accept your purpose. May we celebrate your coming, as we say with joy: Come, Lord Jesus.

Brenda Gains Confidence in Nicaragua



Brenda Francisca Méndez Ñurinda is an entrepreneur and mother of two, living in Nicaragua.

"I come from a large family with few economic resources, but very hardworking," she explains.

During her first years of motherhood, Brenda experienced domestic violence. After leaving the abusive relationship, Brenda looked for work at the local market, where she earned minimal pay for her efforts.

To improve her family's future prospects, Brenda participated in a program implemented by PWS&D's local partner, INPRHU. Through the training she received, Brenda developed the knowledge and confidence to start her own small shop.

"Each workshop strengthened me. I found a space to share, learn and improve my self-esteem as a woman and mother. My children are my greatest motivation. I decided to resume my high school studies on Sundays, and I am proud of my achievements. Now, I am an entrepreneur," she shares with excitement.

This Advent season, faithfully respond to help families build sustainable livelihoods and advocate for their rights.

Presbyterian World Service & Development

WeRespond.ca
50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
1-800-619-7301 | pwsd@presbyterian.ca

MISSION MOMENT **Sunday, December 14**



Shaibu Mohammed, a 7-year-old boy from Gbanterago in northern Ghana, was born with a disability caused by prolonged labour, and has never walked. Due to a lack of transportation, his parents were unable to enroll him in school. One day, Shaibu's mother walked to the PWS&D-supported Community-Based Rehabilitation Programme (CBR) office to report her son's situation and seek help. After a home visit and assessment, the CBR team provided Shaibu with a tricycle. Additionally, the Inclusive Education Officer coordinated with Gbanterago Primary School for his enrollment. Grateful, his mother said, "My child can now go to school like other kids in our community. What a great relief! Thank you so much for this kind gesture."

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 14 (3rd Sunday of Advent) Give us joy, O God, as we prepare to welcome Christ among us again.

Monday, December 15 We pray for military chaplains who bring guidance and support to our troops and their families. May their presence be a constant reminder of God's presence, especially at those times when people feel estranged from home and family.

Tuesday, December 16 We pray for those who serve in ecumenical leadership; may our shared witness persevere, rooted in grace, justice, and reconciliation.

Wednesday, December 17 We give thanks for the Presbyterian Heritage Centre in Carlisle, Ontario. May it serve as a monument of God's enduring faithfulness to The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Thursday, December 18 (International Migrants' Day) We pray for outreach ministries such as the Newcomers Mission in Peterborough, ON, that offer care, encouragement, and practical support to newcomers to Canada.

Friday, December 19 We pray for Knox College students as they complete the fall semester and journey through this Advent season to Christmas. We ask for rest and renewal in time spent with family and friends.

Saturday, December 20 We pray for all who are travelling during Christmas holidays, that they remain safe and enjoy their respite time.