



# Resurrection Lutheran Church

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[www.resurrectionlutheranchurch.ca](http://www.resurrectionlutheranchurch.ca)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/resurrectionsaskatoon](https://www.facebook.com/resurrectionsaskatoon)

Office Hours: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

**Pastor Sean Bell**

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**Secretary/Treasurer:** Elaine Leite

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**Council Chair:** Betty Harper

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## December 2025 Newsletter

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I've recently discovered something alarming: at the age of 49, I appear to have become... well...mildly old and *delightfully curmudgeonly*.



mid-November, shaking my fist internally at a fully decorated Christmas tree *with matching throw pillows and an assortment of NEW creatures that have little to do with my beloved memory of Christmas!* I found myself muttering to no one in particular, *"In my day, we didn't do this until December! DECEMBER!"*

I didn't mean to! It sort of crept up on me. One minute I was a reasonable and positive adult, and the next I was standing in the middle of a store in



Of course, when I was a kid, I also assumed the world made sense in a simple, tidy way. Snow fell, lights went up, and life ticked along in neat little categories. I didn't realize yet how complex the world was going to be. Now, I'm 'older,' supposedly wiser, and yet I still find myself longing for that uncomplicated timeline when things had their proper order: first Halloween, then Remembrance Day, *then as late as possible*, Christmas ornaments...*just like God intended!*

But here we are, surrounded by twinkle lights while the leaves are barely off the trees. Outrage! Chaos! A mug of eggnog before Advent has even begun? The scandal!

...Or maybe... just maybe... people are decorating early because they need to feel some warmth and hope right away. Maybe for some, waiting is a privilege, and holding out for the "right" time is a luxury. I'd love for everyone to pause and reflect...dive deeply into waiting and watching and ponder all the things that a robust Advent season asks of us. But maybe squeezing out a bit of joy wherever we can find it is not a sign of cultural collapse, but a quiet act of resilience in a world that is more confusing by the day. Maybe it's an invitation to ask "What do all these lights mean to you?" and in exploring the question the work of Advent could be done. Does our rush to Christmas lights indicate a lack of connection to neighbours who have no one to wait and watch with them through Advent?

And that brings me to where we actually find ourselves today.

Somehow November has slipped quietly past us—faster, perhaps, than we were ready for. In these last weeks, life in our congregation and city has been full. Our city-wide youth event gathered 25 youth with energy and laughter; international conflicts have continued to ebb and flow, pressing on our prayers and our longing for peace. In our own families and wider community, people were born and people died. Some were baptized into new life in Christ. Others retired and stepped into a new season of rest and re-orientation. Life has carried us forward, as it always does...full of both tenderness and brutal change.

And now, almost before we have caught our breath, the church year begins again. The title of the season "Advent" remains the same...but the lived experience of it will be different. Every Advent meets us right where we are in our hopes, in our questions, and in our yearning for God to draw near. It is a season of waiting...but not a passive or weary waiting. It is the kind of waiting that keeps watch, that stays awake to the small signs of grace, that turns its face toward whatever light is rising next. While our hearts are beating, while we still draw breath, while change in seasonal celebrations surrounds us we meet the challenge in new ways. In worship we do the work of Advent together...and maybe with your neighbours and all who will join us in conversation between Sundays, we will do the work of Looking for the Advent season to be true once more.



As we enter this new Advent season together, we do so with a different 'readiness' than all the other Advents. Don't become a curmudgeon like me! The nostalgia of the past, the 'right' ways of thinking and knowing will always be renegotiated anyway. Instead, watch for the new dawn...and find the courage to receive signs of light and joy whenever they arrive...

...even if it shows up in the form of Christmas lights on November 12.

Blessings to you in this holy season of hope.

Rev. Sean Bell – Resurrection Lutheran Church

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Sean Bell (*ex officio*)  
Esther Cherland, Vice-Chair  
David Kirton  
Brady Witt

Betty Harper, Chair (306-270-9186)  
Bonnie Semenoff, Secretary  
Elaine Leite, Treasurer  
Dolapo Akinsete  
Linda Simpson

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>; please forward any concerns/reports requiring Council response/review to Betty Harper ([harperbetty324@gmail.com](mailto:harperbetty324@gmail.com)) by Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

### PRAYER LIST



We pray for healing and wholeness for Emily Harper; Alannah Harper; Rose Schmid; Zoey Zalizniak; Linda Lee Paulson; Norm Ouelette for healing; Carrie Kiehn for healing; Kristen Weingartner for healing and strength; Irmgard Litwin for healing; Rebecca Gmeinwesser for healing; Lorraine Cowan for healing; Carol Rathgeber for healing; Terry Dizon for healing; Bob Semenoff for healing; Jim Rathgeber for healing.

We also remember in our prayers:

- Missing and murdered Indigenous Women in Canada, the children and people buried in unmarked graves at Residential Schools and First Nations lands, all who have suffered the trauma of residential Schools.
- Those around the world impacted by the trauma of war, natural disasters, food insecurity, racism and those seeking refuge.
- World leaders, as well as those leading us in our own country, province and city.

### FINANCE REPORT

***Financial Report as of November 26, 2025 submitted by Elaine Leite***

**Bank Accounts as of November 26th:** Chequing \$11,303.24; Property Reserve Fund \$6,220.35; Social Justice \$293.04; Memorial Fund \$635.09; Youth Initiatives \$333.94.

**November Income to Date:** Givings \$10,060.00 (\$2,005.57 under budget); Loose Offering \$25.00; Christmas Hampers \$100.00; Youth Initiatives (Fall Supper) \$296.00; Charitus Investment Income \$2,962.88; Benevolence \$85; Rentals \$220; Daycare Rent \$3,000 and Shared Costs \$1,480.56 (includes their share of EPP settlement for City of Saskatoon water); Total Income: \$18,299.44.

**November Expenses to Date:** PAR Bank Service Charges \$16; Charitus Management Fees \$372.39; Synod Benevolence \$675; Office Supplies \$378.83; Telephone \$223.28; Insurance \$692.34; Kitchen & Cleaning Supplies \$579.35; Maintenance \$1,321.73 (Emergency Lights Repair \$1,091.55; Garbage & Recycle pickup \$230.18); Utilities \$705.00 (SaskEnergy \$235.00; City of Saskatoon \$470 new monthly rate up from \$430; no SaskPower bill as we had a credit at EPP settlement time, new monthly EPP starting in December \$411.00 - a reduction of \$41.00); Fire Monitoring System repair \$580.53; Cleaner \$758.54; Staff \$10,137.35; Stephen Ministry \$55.33; Musicians \$225; Piano Maintenance \$111.00. Total Expenses: \$16,834.72.

**Net Income as of November 26th:** \$1,392.72. Net income for the year: negative \$3,878.21.

### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

***Coordinator: Elaine Leite; Volunteer helpers: Brian Crawley, Bob Berikoff, Elaine Leite and Greg Rossmann; Submitted by Elaine Leite***

Besides the regular maintenance, here's what was done in November:

- Greg Rossmann and Linda Simpson continued to reupholster Sanctuary chairs.
- Emergency lights battery pack (in office hallway) repaired \$1,091.55.

**Maintenance to be done:**

- Need to further level out the concrete at the back door. Suggested contractor - Shercom.

**To keep in mind:** Possible replacement of 4 furnaces in the building – recent quote \$6,155 per furnace (possible fundraising campaign?).

**Deferred Maintenance (no funding available to do any of this work):**

- Move Projector screen / add another one or maybe put in big screen TV's
- Paint the Sanctuary
- Replace carpet in Sanctuary, offices, meeting room and office hallway
- Replace broken kitchen window & seal the other kitchen window
- Install automatic door opener for front doors
- Install lighting in parking lot
- Resurface/sealcoat front driveway
- Change lights in Sanctuary to LED (must be dimmable)
- Change lights in Meeting Room and Narthex to LED
- Repair foundation on southwest corner



### MINISTRY TEAMS NEED YOUR HELP FOR DECEMBER

Team John is on for December. We have six (6) services in December, including both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. As many travel during this time, help from any Ministry Team is very much appreciated this month.

### RESURRECTION BOOK CLUB

The **Resurrection Book Club** began meeting on Tuesday, November 25 at 1035 Moss Avenue. Thanks to all the good suggestions for books; the book we will begin with is: *The Perfection of The Morning* by Sharon Butala. If you are interested in joining us or need more information, please contact Judy Prociuk at: [Judyp1@sasktel.net](mailto:Judyp1@sasktel.net)

### PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA – PREVENTION OF MEASLES

The Public Health Agency of Canada has invited faith communities across the country to assist in the prevention of measles. Please find [attached](#) an information sheet on measles prevention from the Public Health Agency including the effective use of vaccines. For further information please go to: [www.canada.ca/measles](http://www.canada.ca/measles) or contact your local public health unit.

As we move into the winter months, we ask all Resurrection attendees practice the health-safe habits we honed during COVID, to ensure we all stay healthy.

### UP-COMING YOUTH EVENTS

- December 4 - Youth Dinner & Gathering at Augustana (6pm).

### CHRISTMAS HAMPER CAMPAIGN

**Social Justice Committee: Sharon Babcock, Audrey Gronsdahl, Judy Poellet, Linda Simpson, Shelley Witt, Anno Bell, Judy Prociuk & ex-officio, Pastor Sean Bell.**

The Advent season is upon us again and once again your Social Justice Committee is calling on the generosity of the congregation to help. We will again be working with the **Salvation Army** to assist families and anyone that we know of in the community who would benefit from a Christmas hamper during these difficult times. Unlike the past, the Salvation Army is only asking for monetary donations this year instead of both monetary donations and gifts. Also, if you know of anyone in our congregation or of anyone who you think would benefit from a Christmas food hamper, please contact either Sharon Babcock or Pastor Sean in confidence. All of the funds collected will go to the families in need. If anything is left over, some of it will be retained to support those who need it in our own Resurrection community.

### MITTEN TREE



There will be large gifts bags under the Christmas Tree in December for your donations of mittens, scarves, toques and socks (new or gently used). These donations will go to the Haven House, the STC Wellness Centre and the YWCA Crisis Shelter for Women. Please help fill up the bags. All the donations will be delivered before Christmas. Thank you!

### SAFE THE DATE!

- Saskatoon's only male-voice choir, the **Saskatoon Men's Chorus**, presents "A Canadian Christmas," on Sunday Dec. 7 at 2:30 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church (foot of the Broadway Bridge). For tickets (\$25; children under 12 are free), contact Resurrection members of the Chorus (David Eaton, Bruce George, Art Davis) or purchase on Eventbrite; a limited number of tickets will be available at the door.
- The **Cecilian Singers** winter concert is Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at Grosvenor Park United Church. The theme is **Do You See What I See?** Our director is Matthew Praksas and our accompanist is Connor Elias. Our special guest is Kateryna Khartova, a Canadian-Ukrainian soprano. Choir members (Brenda Craig & Brenda Thiessen) are selling advance tickets for \$30. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$35 (cash) or online through Eventbrite.ca. Children 12 and under are free. We'd love to have you join us.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY



*You are Invited to  
A Candlelight Service of Remembrance  
and Healing*

*You, your family and friends are invited to  
a Candlelight Service of Remembrance and Healing  
on Thursday, December 18, 2025*

*at 7:30 p.m.*

*Zion Lutheran Church  
323 4th Avenue South*

*Christmas without a loved one can be a difficult time for those left behind. Other losses, such as the loss of a relationship, health or job can be the cause of loneliness in the midst of Christmas celebrations. Please join us in a service of prayer, scripture, communion and music knowing that God is present. May we find hope and comfort in knowing that we are not alone at this time.*

*Refreshments to follow hosted by Saskatoon Lutheran Stephen Ministers.*



## FOOD BANK WAGONS

Please be reminded that the Food Bank requires donations all year! Please continue to help fill up our wagons so we can help those in need. Non-perishable foods such as infant formula, soups and stews, whole grain pasta and cereals, canned vegetables, beans, and proteins, 100% real fruit juice. Other items needed: basic toiletries, dishes, and household cleaning supplies. Thank you for your continued support.



Church rentals are managed by Elaine Leite: [resurrectionchurch@sasktel.net](mailto:resurrectionchurch@sasktel.net). Newsletter items can be forwarded to Betty Harper at [harperbetty324@gmail.ca](mailto:harperbetty324@gmail.ca). In order to be published with the December 26<sup>th</sup> bulletin, please forward January Newsletter items by noon on Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. Visit our website at <http://www.resurrectionlutheranchurch.ca> and like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/resurrectionsaskatoon](http://www.facebook.com/resurrectionsaskatoon)

DECEMBER 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church @ 10:00 am				Stephen Ministry-FH: 7-9	Men's Breakfast-8am Lawson Smitty's	
				Youth Dinner & Gathering @ Augustana 6pm		
30-Nov	01-Dec	02-Dec	03-Dec	04-Dec	05-Dec	06-Dec
Church @ 10:00 am Communion Stn Men's Chorus 2:30-Zion Cecilian Singers 3-Grosvenor United	AlAnon-FH: 7-8pm	Quilting-FH: 9-3 Cantare Rehearsal S-7-9pm	Artists-FH: 10-2 TOPS-FH: 5:45-8	Council Mtg-MR: 7-9pm	Men's Breakfast-8am Lawson Smitty's	
07-Dec	08-Dec	09-Dec	10-Dec	11-Dec	12-Dec	13-Dec
Church @ 10:00 am POTLUCK after service!	AlAnon-FH: 7-8pm	Quilting-FH: 9-3 Cantare Rehearsal S-7-9pm	Artists-FH: 10-2 TOPS-FH: 5:45-8	Stephen Ministry-FH: 7-9	Men's Breakfast-8am Lawson Smitty's	Redeemer Advent Christmas Market 10am-3pm
14-Dec	15-Dec	16-Dec	17-Dec	18-Dec	19-Dec	20-Dec
Church @ 10:00 am Communion	AlAnon-FH: 7-8pm	Quilting-FH: 9-3 Cantare Rehearsal S-7-9pm	Christmas Eve Church @ 10 am Communion	Christmas Day Church @ 10 am Communion	Men's Breakfast-8am Lawson Smitty's	
21-Dec	22-Dec	23-Dec	24-Dec	25-Dec	26-Dec	27-Dec
Church @ 10:00 am	AlAnon-FH: 7-8pm	Quilting-FH: 9-3 Cantare Rehearsal S-7-9pm	Artists-FH: 10-2 TOPS-FH: 5:45-8		Men's Breakfast-8am Lawson Smitty's	
28-Dec	29-Dec	30-Dec	31-Dec	01-Jan	02-Jan	03-Jan
Note: Cleaners typically in on Sunday ~1pm and Thursday mornings before 10 am						
Legend: FH: Fellowship Hall K: Kitchen MR: Meeting Room S: Sanctuary						