



LENT

A SEASON OF RENEWAL

Sunday, March 23, 2025



Lent is a time of reflection, contemplation, and preparation for what is to come. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5 and lasts until Easter, April 20. This year we are looking at Lent through the eyes of The Covenants God made. This is the Third Sunday of Lent and we reflect on God's Covenant of Love.

Our Vision

To live as Christ would have us live, in love, with compassion and seeking justice, by sharing God's grace, learning from scripture, growing through the Spirit and being transformed by faith.

There are many ways to get involved at St. Andrew's. Everyone is welcome so please reach out and step into places that inspire you the most. More details on our website.

FIND YOUR PLACE

WASHROOMS: A wheelchair-accessible and gender-neutral bathroom is located in the hallway North of the lower auditorium. It can be accessed by the elevator near the office or any of the stairways and is available to all 24 / 7. The Childcare and Nursery have full and exclusive use of the washrooms in the lower hallway Monday to Friday 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The use of the lower Narthex washrooms is for church use 24 / 7 plus the lower hallway washrooms may be used by all on evenings and weekends when the childcare and nursery are closed.

Today, we celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. Luca Alexander Munt is being baptized. Parents are Ryan & Katie Munt.

We are also celebrating the Adult Baptism of Michelle Thompson and the transfer of membership for Judy Bourcier, David & Lynda Collins and Zella Lozowy.

1JustCity sent a thank you for our gift to JAWS (Just A Warm Sleep) which provides a warm safe place for people to come in off the street in the winter. **Karen Richards** sent a thank you for welcoming her & her family when they attended St. Andrew's with Lisa Richards & family. Both cards are at the back of the church.

Make sure to subscribe to our weekly Online newsletter to know what is happening in the Church community!

<https://standrewsriverheights.com/news-4/newsletter/>



OUR LAND - We remember, as we celebrate God's presence in Worship that St. Andrew's River Heights United Church gathers in Treaty 1 land, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota peoples and in the heart of the Metis Nation. As Treaty people, we seek to live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with all our relations.

Lent 3

GATHERING MUSIC: *Aria* Paul Manz

WELCOME & WORK OF THE CHURCH

CENTERING WORDS

INVITATION TO WORSHIP: *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2025*

The Table is set. The banquet is laid.

Our soul's hunger and thirst for God.

Our gracious host welcomes us here.

God's steadfast love is better than life.

Sing for joy in the shadow of God's wings.

We have come to praise the living God.

HYMN: **VU114** *Forty Days and Forty Nights*

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY: *Gathering Resource for Worship, 2025, written by Christine Jerrett, Inwood, Ontario*

Read by Ben Dyck

PRAYER:

Covenant Keeper, your promise of unconditional love has upheld us ever since our birth and baptism. We know ourselves to be your beloved children. Throughout this Lenten journey, continue to make us strong to serve you, as Jesus was strengthened through an outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Grateful for Jesus' dedication to drawing humanity close to you, we draw close to Jesus, joining in and studying his ministry. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (see booklet)

Luca Alexander Munt child of Ryan and Katie Munt.

Hebrew Benediction **VU965**

**The Lord bless thee, and keep thee:
the Lord make his face shine up on thee,
and be gracious unto thee:
the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace. Amen**

CHILDREN'S TIME

ANTHEM: *God So Loved the World* (text, John 3:16, 17; music, W. H. Belyea)

God so loved the world,

That He gave His only begotten Son,

That whoso believeth in Him should not perish,

But have everlasting life.

But God sent not His Son to the world to condemn the world;

But that the world, through Him, might be saved!

ADULT BAPTISM: Michelle Thompson

Congregational Response:

As a baptized and baptizing church, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within the community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Judy Bourcier, David & Lynda Collins and Zella Lozowy

Congregation:

As your faith community we welcome you. We rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our friendship and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's River Heights United Church.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *The Abingdon Worship Annual, 2025*

Merciful God, when we suffer thirst, you refresh us with the waters of life.

When we set our jaws and lose our cool, you heal our hardness of heart.

Help us abide in your steadfast love, both now and forevermore. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

QUARTET: Loralie Friesen, Susanne Reimer, Ian Olson & Fred Cross - *O Come Everyone that Thirsteth* (text, Isaiah 55:1, 3; music, from "Elijah," Felix Mendelssohn)

O come, everyone, that thirsteth,

O come to the waters;

O come unto Him.

O hear, and your souls shall live forever.

SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 55:1-9 read by Carol Neufeld

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

HYMN: **VU356** *Seek Ye First the Kingdom*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Moment of Silence

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *This is the Spirit's entry now* (St. Bernard) arr. Andrew Fletcher

OFFERING/OFFERTORY SUNG RESPONSE:

VU116 *Giver of the Perfect Gift* vs. 4

♪ **Oh, may these our Lenten days, blest by thee, with thee be passed, that with purer, nobler praise we may keep thy feast at last.** ♪

OFFERTORY PRAYER

BLESSING

BENEDICTION: **VU113** *To the Desert Jesus Came* vs. 4

♪ **From the ashes to the hill, we'll travel on our Lenten road. Hand in hand we'll cross this sand, and share each other's heavy load. Together through the valley, we'll watch the changing sky. Together through the valley, as Easter's dawn draws nigh.** ♪

POSTLUDE: *Toccata in G minor* Johann Pachelbel

Music Note

Today's anthem is written by Warren Herbert Belyea, a familiar name to many of you in the congregation! Herb served as Music Director of this church beginning in 1971. He was a busy musician throughout his life, singing, conducting, composing, and teaching in Winnipeg and beyond. "God So Loved the World" comes from the larger work, "A Search for Truth," which Belyea describes as 'a short ecumenical cantata.' It draws on texts from a few different religious traditions and his own poetry (written as A.C. Darke), to explore the answer to the question posed in the first movement: "Whence comest thou, O Man, and why? And whither goest?"

ST. ANDREW'S CONTACT LIST

Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who helped with today's service—we couldn't have pulled it off without you. Thank you to our singers, the quartet of Loralie Friesen, Susanne Reimer, Ian Olson, Fred Cross, and our scripture reader, Carol Neufeld. Thank you to our candle reader, Ben Dyck

Clergy	Rev. Karen Lumley	klumley@standrewsriverheights.com
Choir Director	Katy Harmer	music@standrewsriverheights.com
Organist	Wes Elias	weselias.mail@gmail.com
Sunday School	Jan Demeduk	j.demeduk@hotmail.com
Council Chair	Rob Siddall	rgs123@mymts.net
Treasurer	Bill Craddock	wjcdlc@mymts.net
Church Office	Charlotte Lindsay	office@standrewsriverheights.com

Announcements

Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 9:30am and Sundays after Church in the lounge. We will be studying Sacred Reflections on Music and Faith Week 3, Pages 28-40.

Upcoming Services

- Sunday, March 30 - Lent 4, Guest Preacher, Rev. Doug Martindale
- Sunday, April 6 - Lent 5/10th Anniversary of Affirming

Outreach Group Speaker Series on Sunday, March 30, 9-9:45 am. Come and hear about Bell Tower with Linda Williams, one of the co-founders with Michael Redhead. They had been at the funeral of one of their youths and realized the community had to do something to help one another. It was up to them. So, Meet Me at the Bell Tower on Selkirk Ave was created. Now 14 years later, Linda will share about creating a community of Love in partnership with the Bear Clan and other initiatives. Meet with us in the lounge; there will be muffins and coffee. Bring a friend!

If you would like to subscribe or renew your subscription to the Broadview Magazine, please contact the church office by Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Please make your cheque for \$30.00 payable to St. Andrew's River Heights United Church. You are also welcome to pay via e-Transfer. *Broadview* is an independent Canadian magazine featuring award-winning coverage.

1JustCityOak Table Tour, located at 444 River Avenue in Osborne Village, on Friday, April 4th at 9:00 am. Meet at the church at 8:20 am and leave at 8:30 am to carpool. Please sign up to attend. If you can drive how many people can you take in your car? St. Andrew's helped to pilot this Breakfast Program and financially donated money for this. Come and see it in action.

Memorial Flowers: What is the Memorial Flowers Fund? Every year during Lent, St. Andrew's raises money for the St. Andrew's Flower Fund in memory of loved ones. Donations can be made in amounts of your choosing and you can name as many people as you wish. All loved ones named will be listed in an 'In Memoriam' section in our order of service on Easter Sunday. This fund is used to purchase flowers/plants to decorate the church during special times of the year. If you would like your 'In Memoriam' to be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin, please forward the form and your donation to the church office **no later than Monday, April 14th, 2025**. Any donation to the Memorial Flowers Fund will be included in your yearly income tax receipt. Forms can be found in the narthex.

Holy Week Services

- Palm Sunday, April 13 at 10:30 am
- Maundy Thursday at Westworth, April 17 at 6:15pm
- Good Friday at St. Andrew's with Westworth, April 18 at 10:30am
- Easter Sunday Communion, April 20 from 10:00am-10:15am
- Easter Sunday Lessons & Carols, April 20 at 10:30 am

The Fellowship Group hosts coffee time after church most Sundays but needs assistance. On the first Sunday of every month, a volunteer is needed to prepare the coffee time. If you are available, please sign up. Thank you very much.

Walks on Tuesdays with Westworth continue every week at 1pm.

If you would like to be informed about the routes of these walks and would like to have your email provided to the organizers, please let the church office know.

Coming Up...

MONDAY, MARCH 24

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

Wes organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

Rental—River City Sound

(auditorium) @ 5:15pm

Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6:15pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Handbell choir practice (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Piano Tuner Stan (sanctuary) @ 9:30am

Rental—Virtuosi (sanctuary) @ 4pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Rental—Virtuosi (sanctuary) @ 5:30pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Outreach Speaker Series (lounge) @ 9am

MONDAY, MARCH 31

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Wes organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

YOUR GIFTS MATTER.

Get the benefits of a Tax Receipt for your Donation! Let us know who you are and sign up for PAR. Pre-authorized remittances throughout the year make it easy to donate to the United Church.

Donations are always accepted either through your weekly giving envelopes, the weekly worship offering, through E-transfer by contacting Bill Craddock, our Treasurer at 204-488-1130 just leave a message on the phone and Bill will return it, or can be dropped off at any time through the church office.

Check out our website for more information and forms. The church is very grateful for any and all donations. Thank you so much.



In a generous act of hospitality, God invites us into ministry. How shall we then respond?

Worship meeting (board room) @ 1:30pm

P&A meeting (board room) @ 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

Rental—River City Sound

(auditorium) @ 5:15pm

Rental—Joy Cooper (lounge) @ 6:15pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Handbell choir practice (lounge) @ 6pm

Choir practice (sanctuary) @ 7:30pm

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Rental—AFG (lounge) @ 7pm

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Wes organ lessons (sanctuary) @ 10am

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Bible study (lounge) @ 9:30am

