

# This Week At St. Andrew's

## Parable of the Pastor

Will there be a white Christmas? With four days to go, we certainly have had a white Christmas week. A good Samaritan stopped by this AM with snow shovel in hand to help clear our driveway (Thanks Jerry!!!). The sun reflects off the glistening snow on our rooftop! Will the rain replace the snow on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day? The weather person believes that to be the forecast.

What is your Christmas forecast? Not in terms of the weather but more in terms of your heart. Many of you are anticipating the arrival of family from distant cities. For others you are preparing to leave town to join family elsewhere. Some are spending their first holiday without a dear loved one. It creates an unwelcome and strange feeling that makes an expected season of joy anything but.

On Christmas Eve, during our Christmas Eve worship service at St. Andrews, we will visit the manger. Our purpose will be to pause there, not so much to see the all-too familiar sights of mother and child, shepherds and sheep, wise men and wrapped presents, but to imagine how much like us are the participants in the first Christmas drama. Around the manger were the unexpected, the unloved, the outcast, and the unwelcome. Their stories could just as well be our stories. Come and see for yourself in the ancient story on Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM.

On Sunday, December 25 we will do what we always do on Sunday morning at St. Andrews. We will gather for worship at 10:30 AM. But this day we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The service of hymns and carols will retell the stories and sing the carols so familiar to us on Christmas morning. Where else would you and your family have a more sacred experience than with your St. Andrew's family on Sunday morning?

Linda and I are grateful for each of you and for the love and commitment you continually bring to the St. Andrew's community. We wish you a joyful Christmas and look forward to seeing you for Christmas Eve and Christmas day worship.

Heartfelt Blessings

Mitch

# Share the Joy of Christmas

Thank you, everyone, who has donated to St. Andrew's Share the Joy of Christmas 2022 campaign! As of today, Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, we have received enough donations to fund 28 Christmas hampers for needy people in Victoria area this holiday season!

The food hampers are put together by the Mustard Seed Street Church, which runs a food bank and has commercial contacts that enable each dollar donated to be stretched to the max, to provide nutritious items for financially struggling families and individuals. Small Christmas gifts are included with each hamper along with enough food to feed 4 persons.

So, doing the math (4 X 28), St. Andrew's Share the Joy campaign will help make Christmas brighter for 112 persons in Victoria this year. Thank you all again for your generosity and good will!

Debra Verwey,

On behalf of the Mission and Outreach Committee

## CONTROLLING A SLIDE

If your back wheels are sliding due to ice and your car starts to spin, it's known as oversteer.

### Remember

#### Don't hit the brakes.

Braking is one of the most common mistakes drivers make during a slide on an icy road. **Braking** can not only trigger a slide, it **will make a slide worse**.

1



DON'T PANIC

2



Turn into the slide with your steering wheel **to ensure the entire car is being straightened out**. It will alleviate the skid and put you back in complete control of your vehicle.

3



Over-steering can perpetuate the problem, so **maintain a cool head** to prevent a knee-jerk reaction.



#### A matter of practice

Consider taking a winter driving course, so you can develop these skills and have more confidence when you face dangerous road conditions.

#### Additional tips

-  Avoid dangerous trips
-  Reduce your speed
-  Keep a safe distance

canadadrives.

# Soup for the Inclusive Christians

As you may know I serve as the Presbyterian Chaplain (Spiritual Care Provider) at the University of Victoria Multifaith Centre on behalf of the Presbytery of Vancouver Island. One of our key programs is Inclusive Christians – Around the Table. This is an ecumenical communion service hosted by Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United chaplains on Wednesdays at 5:00pm. The simple service focuses on reading and reflecting on the gospel, prayer, song, silence and sharing bread and wine. While this service is centered on students, all are welcome. After worship everyone is invited to enjoy a meal. We usually have 20-30 participants.

I need help providing these meals. If you, or a group from your congregation, would like to help prepare a meal in the coming term, please be in touch with me as soon as possible. The dates I am responsible for are February 1, March 1, March 22 and April 5. The meal is simple – vegetarian/vegan soup or chili, bread & butter, and salad, fruit or veggies. I can give you all the details to help you in participating. Thank you for considering supporting students and Inclusive Christians on campus in this way.

Laura Kavanagh

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## Christmas Eve Service

**7:00 pm Saturday December 24th**

collection taken at the door / no coffee hour afterward

## Christmas Day Service

**10:30 am Sunday December 25th**

collection taken during service / no coffee hour afterward

## Bulletin Board

**Open Church Christmas Week:** : Open Church is from 12 - 1 pm every day during December 18th - 25th. Meditation hour is still Wednesdays from 4:30 - 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

**Coffee Hour:** There will be **NO COFFEE HOUR** after Christmas Eve (Saturday December 24th), Christmas Day (Sunday December 25th), or New Year's (Sunday January 1st) service!

**The Link Deadline:** the January Link deadline will be January 1, 2023. Send your contributions to [thelink@shaw.ca](mailto:thelink@shaw.ca).

**Jam for Sale:** Get some of Anne Lambie's homemade preserves for stocking stuffers! All proceeds go to St. Andrew's. \$5 for one jar, \$20 for 5 jars. Variety of flavours available. Contact the office to place your order!

**In the Salon of Mme Brillon Concert:** The Early Music Society presents In the Salon of Mme Brillon at St. Andrew's Church on January 7th at 8:00 pm. For tickets go to [earlymusicsocietyoftheislands.ca](http://earlymusicsocietyoftheislands.ca)

**The Rabbie Burns Tea:** Join us for an afternoon celebrating the Great Bard with tea and Scottish entertainment. St. Andrew's Kirk Hall, January 22 2023, door at 2:00, entrance by donation. Limited seating - please RSVP with the church office!

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church acknowledges and thanks the Lekwungen People – WSÁNEĆ, Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations – on whose traditional land we meet and worship.**