

Lutherans Up North

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Wishing you a
Blessed Christmas
and a Joyous New Year!*

*From the Church
Council
and Pastor
Libby*

Calendar December 2018 – February 2019



December

- 2 Advent Sunday Holy Communion (LBW)
- 9 Advent 2 Holy Communion
- 16 Advent 3 Service of the Word
- 23 Advent 4 Holy Communion
- 24 Christmas Eve Holy Communion 3.00pm
- 30 Christmas 1 Carol Service & Holy Communion



January

- 6 Epiphany Holy Communion (LBW)
- 13 Baptism of our Lord
Service of the Word
- 20 Epiphany 2 Holy Communion
- 27 Epiphany 3 Holy Communion



- 3 Epiphany 4 Holy Communion (LBW)
- 10 Epiphany 5 Service of the Word
- 17 Epiphany 6 Holy Communion
- 24 Epiphany 7 Holy Communion

Our services start at 10.30am

Please come and join us in worship in the church

and for coffee in the Social Room after the service.



Do you have an Advent Calendar?

I know that recent research confirms that time really does seem to go faster as we get older, but I can still hardly believe that I'm preparing the last 'Lutherans Up North' for 2018, and getting ready for Advent and Christmas..... Lists are being made, menus being prepared, gifts are being planned, and the search for just where the safe place is that I used when I packed the decorations away last year, is underway. But at least I've found the Advent calendar, so the countdown can really begin!

I wonder how you feel about Advent calendars? Perhaps you don't have one, or maybe you have one that comes out every year, or you might get one specially each year, or possibly you even treat yourself to one containing little chocolates. Mine is made of fabric, shaped like a Christmas tree with 24 little pockets to hold whatever I choose to put in them.

According to 'Wikipedia', the Advent calendar was first used by German Lutherans in the 19th and 20th centuries when families started counting the days until Christmas by tallying chalk marks on a door or wall. Some families began making homemade Advent calendars to accompany their countdown and by the early 1900s, a few publishing companies and newspapers had produced simple printed calendars.

Their popularity spread with the help of a printer called Gerhard Lang, who had grown up with a homemade calendar. The adult Lang began designing cardboard calendars and, in the 1920s, came up with the idea of cutting out little doors that could be opened each day. Hidden behind these was a devotional picture or Bible verse. So, with this innovation, Lang is now considered the father of the modern Advent calendar.

Despite the secularisation of the season today, the meaning behind the Advent calendar remains deeply religious for many people, and marking the days of Advent serves as a time of spiritual reflection and can really help us in our preparations to celebrate the gift of God's Son at Christmas. I wonder if you were making a homemade Advent calendar today what pictures or verses you might use? Perhaps it's something you might think about as you prepare for Christmas during the approaching Advent season.

Pastor Libby

Heritage Open Days

Many thanks to Eon Michaelides for once again organising the Open Days at St. Luke's early in September. Over 30 people came to visit our church, and Eon received some very interesting information about the house from Michael and Eveleigh Bradford, who were among our visitors.

Prior to that, all I know about our building was that it was originally called Oak Bank and attributed to the architect Cuthbert Brodrick in around 1860. As he had designed Oakfield House (7 Alma Road) in 1859, this seems quite likely. In 1852 Brodrick won a competition for the design of Leeds Town Hall, and was also the architect of Leeds Corn Exchange (1860-3) and the Mechanics' Institute (1860-5) which became the Civic Theatre which is now the home of the Leeds City Museum.



Cuthbert Brodrick

Thanks again to the Bradfords for the following information:

“The land on which the house was built, indeed all the land along both sides of Alma Road, divided into large building plots for substantial villas, was offered for sale for development in 1851/52 onwards. That was when the road was first created; it was named after the battle of the Alma (1854) in the Crimean War.

All the land had belonged to the Earl of Cardigan, who was Lord of the Manor of Headingley: this was the notorious seventh Earl who was involved in the disastrous Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava. He was a prodigious spender and the land sales in Headingley helped to pay off his debts and fund his extravagant life-style!

Its first recorded resident – probably the man who had it built – was Alfred Brigg (1809-1875) who was a cloth manufacturer and merchant, with a successful business originally in Blenheim Square but later based at Carlton Cross Mills in Woodhouse Lane (in the area near the inner ring road). He was a Wesleyan Methodist. He obviously made plenty of money, and by the time of the 1871 census was living in the house with his wife and three children, and two live-in servants. He was described as employing 63 men, 30 women, 17 boys and 1 girl, so over a hundred people. He died in 1875 but the family seemed to go on living there into the 1880s.”

If **you** have any additional information or photographs, please let me know as I would like to prepare a small information booklet about the church and the house over the next few months.

Finnish Carol Service

We were pleased to welcome friends from the **Finnish community** to their annual carol service on Saturday November 24th. This has become a regular event at St. Luke's which began with Deacon Seija welcoming our visitors, and has continued with both Pastor Mark and Pastor Libby acting as hosts. As we have regular contact with a number of Finnish families through the Finnish Language School held at St. Luke's each month, this provides a great opportunity to get to know each other better. This year Pastor Libby spoke about Christingles and presented each of the children with one to take home. It was good to see the church filled with adults and children enjoying carols and singing games together.



Service of the Word

Many thanks to Nev Mosey and Conrad Volker for volunteering to lead a Service of the Word each month to enable Pastor Libby to have a regular break, and to Lukas Tampulbolon for providing the organ music at our services when Nev is away.

LCiGB Women's Retreat

Eleven women from different congregations of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain met at Launde Abbey for the annual retreat.

One of the evening activities on Saturday was to paint stones to either represent the theme “Bloom where you are planted”, or a design inspired by the weekend. Some were used to decorate the altar at the communion service on Sunday morning.



Thanks to Tracey Maroskey for this photograph

Next year the retreat will again be held at Launde Abbey and 15 people have already signed up, so if you would like to join us, please let Pastor Libby know as soon as possible.

House Trust

Special thanks to the members of the Trust, especially Peter Sandeman, the chair and Sue Moore, the administrator, for “keeping the faith” over the past very difficult months, when so many of the rooms in the house have been empty, and there hasn’t been any income for necessary upkeep, or for any repairs or improvements. Thankfully, the rooms are all now occupied, at least for the time being, and hopefully financial matters will improve to allow work on the house to continue. There has already been some maintenance carried out to the cooker, and some redecoration and new curtains in one of the rooms, so already things are looking up. We pray that the house continues to flourish, together with the church, as a Lutheran presence and place of welcome in Leeds..

LCiGB Mission Offering 2018

This year’s offering will be used to support the Lutheran World Federation's work with South Sudanese Refugees in Uganda. The target is to raise £950 between all our congregations to send to LWF for this work.

Bishop Martin has written the following prayer of support for the Mission Offering:

O God of mercy, we pray to you for all the thousands of your friends who are forced to leave their homes in South Sudan and become refugees in neighbouring countries. Come with your Spirit to all these people, to all children, women and men, and help them to find a meaningful life in those fragile conditions offered to them.

We pray for all co-workers in the Lutheran World Service, for their endurance in helping those who arrive to Northern Uganda with temporary shelters for the accommodations and with all core relief items given to those in need.

O God, who knows everyone of us better than we do ourselves, give your humanity the wisdom and vision to find ways to support these refugees. Bless your people again and again so that all human beings may live the life you want.

Give us faith of your faith, hope of your hope and love of your love.

We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen