

St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church

110 Francis Street, Cambridge ON, N1S 2A1

“KEEPING IN TOUCH – December 2024”

Website: <https://www.stthomascambridge.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Thomas.the.Apostle.Cambridge>

A FEW DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesdays (1pm)

Bible Study: The weekly joint bible study will be held at St. Luke's for the month of December.

Note: The study is based on the upcoming week's readings, so you do not need to have attended in the past to join in. It's a very lively group and everyone is welcome!



Thursdays (1pm)

Midweek Holy Communion Service: Pastor Craig invites you to join him every Thursday afternoon for a smaller, quieter gathering for worship followed by a time of discussion and learning.

Thursdays (1 pm)

ACW Meetings: For December they will be having a special Christmas Lunch on the 5th at ZAZ Bistro on King please contact Pat or Marlene if interested (Usually every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.)

Tuesdays (10am-2pm)

Learn how to make milk bag rugs at St. Paul's Lutheran church, beside Trinity, and/or bring your dry & clean outer milk bags to be used. Contact Marlene Mercer for details.

Wednesdays during Advent 7pm

Join Steve Robinson playing Christmas music on the piano. Craig will also be there to offer individuals healing (same as your monthly healing service). Please enter and leave respectfully in silence

Sun Dec 1st (10am)

Joint Service with St. Luke's: Pot Luck Luncheon and Fellowship to follow service. **NOTE The service time change**

Sun Dec 8th (1:30-3pm)

Annual ACIC Christmas Carol Singalong: Followed by hot apple cider & treats. Free admission, just come and relax.

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve (4pm)

Christmas day (10am)

Greetings to my dear family of St. Thomas the Apostle,

Christmas is such a joy-filled feast of the Church – no wonder that the world has adopted the holiday as its own! Just as the Earth is darkest, its days the longest, lights are wound around evergreen trees to express our creaturely desire for light. Many people set up “Christmas trees” hoping to share good times with family & friends, but with little to no hope for any more than some love & peace for a time.

As Christians, we light candles & string up lights with a wider awareness, & so with wilder expectations. What better way to remember God, who not only made the sun but gave his very own son, Jesus, the Christ (Emmanuel, “God with us”), to be born, to grow up, & in the prime of his life, to give himself for us? “Glory to God in the highest heaven, & on earth, peace among those whom he favours” (Luke: 2:14). What better way than joining with the Father and the Son, living in the heart-strengthening, life-giving Light of Jesus Christ? The lights on the trees, the candles, the words & acts of mercy, compassion, peace & love — each fairly represents our Lord, Jesus Christ, reflecting God's love for all people. Out of this Light, peace & love flow unstoppable.

As you prepare to keep this Christmas feast, first remember that you are a deeply loved, precious member of Christ's body! Don't omit remembering this. It is very important to know God's love personally, to feel it intimately, in order to share it fully & abundantly. Bask in the light of Jesus' love, then go shine, shine, *shine* -- shining every place you go, “remembering” who you are, bringing that awareness wherever you find yourself this Christmas. That way, even while many others gather with us without our glowing, *warming* awareness of Emmanuel, we will keep the feast in our hearts, praying for those weighing on us, that all shall come to share in the deep, transforming love of Christ. It is up to you & me to be faithful.

This Christmas, let us wait and watch together -- in Spirit, in person, each day honouring God's presence with us, continually renewed by the Holy Spirit, seeing daily signs of heaven's radiance. And let us *really try* to be anxious about nothing. The meal will be ready in its own time, and God will answer our prayers in his.

Blessings in Christ,
Craig+

The Food Bank Needs Your Help

The donations we receive help us serve over 2,500 families in need this holiday season. The fact is, we are facing the highest demand we've ever seen in our 39-year history —and we need help to meet it.

How You Can Help:

[Donate online](#) to make a difference now or send an e-transfer to give@cambridgefoodbank.org.

To receive a tax receipt, donors are asked to include their full name, address, phone number, and email address in the e-transfer notes.

Drop-Off: Donations can be dropped off at 54 Ainslie St S., Cambridge Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Donation Pick-Up: The food bank can arrange to pick up monetary donations for those who contact Sarah, our Donor Development Manager at stooze@cambridgefoodbank.org or call 519-622-6550, ext. 10

Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.
- Desmond Tutu

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PWRDF



**Don't stop
be-leaving!**
Every gift is
matched up to
\$110,000!

Look for PWRDF's **World of Gifts** guide in your Anglican Journal. Use the order form in the guide, call 1-877-936-9199 during business hours or choose your gifts 24/7 at pwrdf.org/worldofgifts



AN ADVENT CALENDAR "CHALLENGE"

(win a great "snack basket")



Instead of a traditional Advent calendar, here's a list of things to do as Advent activities to celebrate the coming of Christ. Every family is different, so there are many to choose from. Try to pick at least 1, in any order, every day in Advent and mark off each one as you finish it. Either complete the "tear off" form below and put it in the offering plate on Sunday, December 29th, OR call Rev. Craig and let him know how many you completed.

The person or family who completes the most will win a large basket of snacks!

- ___ Set up your nativity set at home and thank the Lord that you have a home to live in
- ___ Make a hot "comfort drink" (*hot chocolate / tea / ? your choice?*) and thank the Lord for always caring about you and staying by your side
- ___ Make an advent wreath (3 purple candles, 1 pink outside & 1 white in the centre)
- ___ Bake cookies and give some to your neighbours. Tell them it's an Advent gift.
- ___ Put on some Christmas music and sing, dance or just sit back and enjoy it. Be thankful for this Advent season which allows us to prepare in happiness and excitement for the celebration of the arrival of Jesus in our world.
- ___ Make a new Christmas decoration which reminds you of the true meaning of Christmas
- ___ Pray for each person in your family; for their relationship with God and their well being
- ___ Pray for your neighbours; for their relationship with God and their well being
- ___ Pray for our church St. Thomas and for the 4 other Anglican churches in Cambridge (St. James', St. Luke's, St. John's and Trinity) and for each individual member of our congregation



- ___ Watch a Christmas movie & eat popcorn. Thank the Lord for "down time" to rest and regenerate.
- ___ Read about Jesus' birth in the Bible (Luke chapter 2)
- ___ Make a list of all the blessings you have been given and thank the Lord for them!
- ___ Drop off an anonymous gift for someone who needs cheering up, with a note saying it's an Advent gift.
- ___ Drive around just to look at and enjoy Christmas lights and remember Jesus is the light of the world!
- ___ Have a family game night and thank God for your family
- ___ Make paper snowflakes (or other Christmas decorations) to hang on your windows
- ___ Read a Christmas book as a family
- ___ Call or Zoom Grandma & Grandpa (or someone else in your family) and sing a Christmas song ("Christmas carolling" by phone)
- ___ Take a nature walk and thank God for the beauty
- ___ Buy a few extra items at the grocery store and donate to the food bank
- ___ Pay for a coffee for the person behind you in a Tim Horton's lineup or drive-thru. Tell them it's an Advent gift.
- ___ Buy and donate a toy to the local Christmas toy drive
- ___ Collect old towels, sheets & blankets and donate to the animal shelter
- ___ Make an ice lantern to put on your front porch (*Google "practically functional ice lantern"*) Very pretty & very easy!
- ___ Take extra time with your prayers today and feel God's love envelop you
- ___ Write a thank you note to someone who is not expecting it
- ___ Write a letter, send an email or make a phone call to someone who needs it



___ Make a "hand out" food bag to keep in your car for people standing at the roadside asking for money (instead of money, enclose things like a cereal bar / single serving fruit cup & plastic spoon / crackers & cheese in a packet / juice box) and add a note saying you're praying for them



___ Make Christmas cards for children in hospital? nursing home? women's shelter? Argus House? Call first to make sure they are able to accept them and find out how many they can use

___ Shovel someone else's sidewalk (if they catch you, tell them it's an Advent gift)



___ Carry a neighbour's empty garbage can & recycling bins to their door for them

___ Give a thank you note and small treat to your paper carrier

___ Tape change to a laundromat washer or dryer with a note saying it's an Advent gift

___ Feed the birds and thank the Lord for them while you watch them eat



I completed _____ of the Advent activities! 😊

NAME: _____ TEL #: _____

Call Rev. Craig or put this in the collection plate on Sunday, December 29th

Good luck!