

# St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church

110 Francis Street, Cambridge ON, N1S 2A1

“KEEPING IN TOUCH – February 2025”

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 February. Note: 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)**

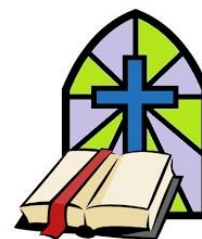
**ACW Meetings:** every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

**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.

**Sun Feb 9<sup>th</sup> (9am)**

**Morning Prayer**



**Thurs Feb 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Baking for the Bridges:** Once again this month we will be baking for the Bridges. Baking will be collected during the ACW meeting and delivered by Rev. Craig after.



## Bishop Todd's Visit / Joint Service & Lunch at St. Luke's

Bishop Todd Townshend is scheduled to visit St. Luke's on **Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup>** at **10:30 a.m.** and they have graciously invited us to join them for a joint service, followed by lunch. St. Luke's will be providing chicken and beef stew for the main course and would be very grateful if St. Thomas parishioners could provide squares or pies for dessert. *Please see **Marion McKersie** if you would like a ride or if you can provide a ride for someone.*



or

## Minister's Pondering

Ministry is often misunderstood to be one way service, where care is given by the minister and received by the one being served. But those who serve gladly know better, confident that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7), mindful of the ways that serving others brings us meaning and joy. Each of us is called to ministry. As you go about yours, be sure to look for the meaning in it and to savour the joy. And give thanks to God for the opportunity to take part in Christ's ministry, sharing the New Life with those in need.

Craig+

## Morning Prayer Schedule 2025

February 9 — BCP

March 23 — BAS

April 6 — BAS

May 11 — BCP

June 1 — BAS

July / August — tbd

September 21 — BCP

October 19 — BAS

November 9 — BAS



## Loving Others Well *(a reflection by YouVersion)*



Do you know what love means? Many people grow up with imperfect pictures of love. It can be difficult to think about when we may not have ever experienced true love. It can be even harder to love others when we aren't sure what that means.

Jesus spoke a lot about love, and He also commanded His followers to love people. More than that, Jesus modeled love in His life and ministry. He gave us a picture of what pure love looks like.

Jesus instructed His disciples multiple times to love one another. The Old Testament also contains commands to love others. Jesus' command is new, not because it was the first time it had ever been said, but because He uses Himself as the standard.

He doesn't command us to love people until we're tired. He doesn't say to love others until we don't feel like it. He says to love others in the same way He has loved us.

Jesus loves us unconditionally. He does not hold anything back from us. Instead, He gave His entire life up for us. And He didn't do this to please other people—but because He loved His Heavenly Father, and His Heavenly Father deeply loved us. It was unconditional love that led Jesus to the cross. Jesus cares about the quality of our love toward others, and the measure of the quality of our love is Jesus, not people. We shouldn't compare our acts and thoughts against other people, because the only person we're called to be like is Jesus Himself.

Think about the past few days and reflect on how loving you were toward other people. Did you go out of your way to help someone? Were you selfless in showing love? Consider a few practical ways you can love others the way Jesus loves you. Spend some time in prayer, and then take a step toward showing someone love.



If you have the chance to make people happy, just do it. Sometimes people are struggling silently. Maybe, your act of kindness can make their day.



## The PWRDF is changing it's name to *Alongside Hope*. Watch for that in the future.



Amidst the devastation of the war in Ukraine, Mikhailo is fighting for a decent life in Kherson, a city damaged by Russian troops for the third consecutive year. Despite his challenges of living with a disability, he remains determined to survive and thrive.

Mikhailo's journey has been marked by hardship and resilience. After two complicated surgeries following a hip fracture, his condition failed to improve, and he now relies on a walker to move around. His attempts to qualify for more assistance were thwarted by the occupation forces, leaving him without adequate support.

Winter brings additional challenges for Mikhailo, as he has to plan every detail of his day to survive. With limited job opportunities in the war-torn city, it's nearly impossible for an elderly person with a disability to earn extra income. His pension barely covers his needs, making meeting basic needs an everyday struggle.

In 2022, PWRDF began partnering with Fight for Right to address the critical needs of people with disabilities in Ukraine, who were disproportionately affected by the conflict. Through PWRDF's \$64,000 grant, Fight for Right's efforts to provide evacuation assistance, medical and psychological support, accommodations, and financial aid to those in need were supported. Specifically, PWRDF's funding helped establish a 24-hour hotline, which enabled Fight for Right to respond to requests for safe evacuation, medical supplies, and assistive technologies such as wheelchairs and hearing devices. As a result, Fight for Right was able to evacuate or assist over 645 people with disabilities.

In 2023, PWRDF supported Fight for Right's TEPLO project to provide essential items to people so they could survive the cold winter. Mikhailo received a heater, thermos, and solar-powered lantern to help him navigate power outages.

The project offers essential supplies like warm clothing, power banks, and heating units to internally displaced people with disabilities, helping them survive the harsh winter conditions. With the support of partners and donors, the TEPLO project has made a significant impact in the lives of 750 families of PWDs, providing them with the necessary resources to face the challenges of war and displacement.

### How you can help

Please continue to keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers. To make a donation to this response, use your blue envelopes, or go to [pwrdf.org/give-today](https://pwrdf.org/give-today) and click on Ukraine Relief. You may also donate by phone at 416-822-9083 or leave a voicemail toll-free at 1-866-308-7973 and we will return your call, or mail your cheque to PWRDF, 80 Hayden, 3rd floor, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 3G2.

## PRAYER BEFORE BED

**Dear Lord Thank you for seeing me through another day. As I lay down to rest, I ask for your peace to calm my mind and your presence to surround me. Forgive me for any wrongs I may have done today, and help me to forgive those who may have wronged me. I trust in your protection through the night and ask that you renew my strength for tomorrow. May I wake up with a grateful heart, ready to face a new day with you by my side. God, thank You for never giving up on me. Thank You for loving me in my weakest and most helpless moments! Even though I am unworthy. May the new year bring new joy and opportunities. If God has been good to you, Don't forget "Amen."**