

25 November, 2020



Hello everyone,
My Grandmother, who was raised in the Highlands of Scotland used to tell us of the joy she and her siblings felt when on Christmas Day they would receive, in an old darned sock, an orange. This was a precious once a year treat, so simple, so small by our standards today, and yet she looked forward to it with unbearable excitement.

We begin the Season of Advent this Sunday, and this year will clearly not be the same as others. And yet, perhaps that is the point of having these weeks of preparation before we celebrate Jesus' birth. Perhaps this will be the year we take time to truly reflect on the gift given to us by a God whose love was so deep and all encompassing. Perhaps we will set aside some of the frantic preparation that we often engage in this time of year, and instead stop and ponder the mystery of a baby born in simple surroundings, of poor parents who was the very embodiment of this love.

This year, we will build Advent around the theme of Light, beginning on Sunday with 'The Light of Love in God's Eyes'. As you are aware, there will not be a Cantata, however Terry Blois and Ian Fitzgerald are working with our choir to put together a virtual Christmas concert so stay tuned for details. We are also planning to host a Christmas Sing-along, again virtually. The Mewassin Sunday School kids will be leading the Advent candle lighting ritual, and we are hoping to gather outside at the McNab cabin for a sing song and visit.

Each year, we usually engage in an outreach project. This year, in Stony Plain you are invited to donate food (see the list on the back of this letter) that we will be using to build boxes for people who are struggling in these difficult times. If you are not able to drop off items in person please call the church and someone will come pick them up. You are also welcome to offer money that will be used to purchase food on your behalf. If you require more information, please call Heather 306 850-1511.

Thank you for your generosity. If possible, please consider food that is on the list.

In peace

Heather

SUGGESTED FOOD ITEMS FOR BOXES

Many of the people who reach out to us for assistance have growing children, so we are trying to focus on calories dense, nutritious food. The following are suggestions.

Peanut Butter
Canned soup
Dry pasta
Pasta Sauce
Other canned goods (baked beans etc.)
Canned Tuna
Canned Salmon
Personal Hygiene items (toothpaste, soap etc.)
Toilet paper
Canned fruit
Potatoes
Fresh oranges or apples.
School lunch items such as granola bars, fruit cups, crackers, pepperoni sticks (Hot Rods)



We will purchase quantities of items which can be frozen such as bread, as well as refrigerated items like eggs and cheese.

Once again, thank you and if you would like to help pick up items, please let me know.

Heather
(306 850-1511)