

red deer lake



united church

community report

2021



you're welcome wanted & accepted - join us on this journey

who we are ...

we aspire to be an inclusive & affirming community of faith full of people of different ages, perspectives, & stories, who come together to connect with God, each other, and ourselves, and through Jesus, experience a new way of being human and alive in the world - the transformative way of truth, joy, belonging, peace, and love.

our guiding values ...



spirituality

We gather to explore and grow in the faith and spirituality of Jesus. We understand Jesus shows us a new way of being human and alive in this world, and we gather to become more like the kinds of people he invites us to be: people of love and peace who have joined in on what God is doing in the world.

justice

We believe we are called to make a creative difference in the world, doing what we can to not only learn about justice issues, but actively do our part to make this world more like the one God created it to be.

hospitality

We understand hospitality isn't just coffee and saying 'welcome!,' but the work of making people feel at home. It is an outward posture of creating space for people to belong and connect with God, others, and themselves.

community

We are an inclusive and affirming Christian community that celebrates and honours diversity. We strive to be people of belonging, where people are loved for who they are, where friendships are forged, and where everyone is made to feel at home.

compassion

We aspire to be a people and place that recognize and respond to the spiritual, emotional, and communal needs of ourselves and one another, and where space is made to learn how to navigate life well, at all its stages.

a note from our minister ...

2021 was tough, wasn't it? I don't say that to be a downer but to make what I'm about to say that much more impressive: despite all the things that made it tough and despite all we had to learn, navigate, struggle with, consider, grieve, persevere, and balance, we were always the church. Despite it all, we chose faithfulness and courage and continued to be a source of light, life, and love. And that? *That* is what matters. What matters is that through it all we chose to be the church together.

As we the road will also be tough, this report is meant to affirm and encourage us. It's meant to celebrate how we've been the church; to remind us that God isn't finished with us yet; that there's so much to build off of; and to encourage us to keep going forward, wherever the Spirit will lead.

It's meant to do all of that because that's what will help us move ahead. It's not how much money we have. It's not who is here. It's the *why*: *why are we here?* And the answer is to be the church - to be that community of people we've always been: people who follow Jesus and strive to make the world more like the one God made it to be.

So as you read through this, our hope is that you see our purpose and the difference we are making, and that it inspires and excites you, and makes you want to keep going, get involved, and keep being the church together.

While the last year was tough, I am so proud of where we are, of what we accomplished, and of how we did it. Thank you for being such a gracious and courageous community.

**grace and peace
n.**



**there is SO
much to celebrate!**

here are some of our highlights of 2021.

13,641

We had over 13,000 views of our online services and content. That's 3,000 more than the previous year! People have watched from all over the world including across Canada, USA, Singapore, Philippines, the UK, Australia, & New Zealand.

This year our Hospitality Team and volunteers made over 720 delicious and healthy home-made meals that got delivered to individuals each and every month.



People continued to discover they can connect with God and one another online, finding there meaning, hope, and purpose.



6

Ministry to kids & young families went from once a week to six, providing them even more opportunities to learn and grow in their faith at home during the pandemic.

Our Angel Tree program raised over \$10,000 that went towards clean water, food security, gender equality, and small business loans for women. Thanks to World Renew for their programs!





We safely transitioned back to some in-person services and learned how to be a hybrid church (a church that exists online and in-person).



We have 31 people contributing poems, letters, art, prayers, and stories to our monthly Church @ Home magazine that goes to 95 people each month



We aren't just making a difference on youtube or at our in-person services. Our website had over 11,000 visits, many from around the world!



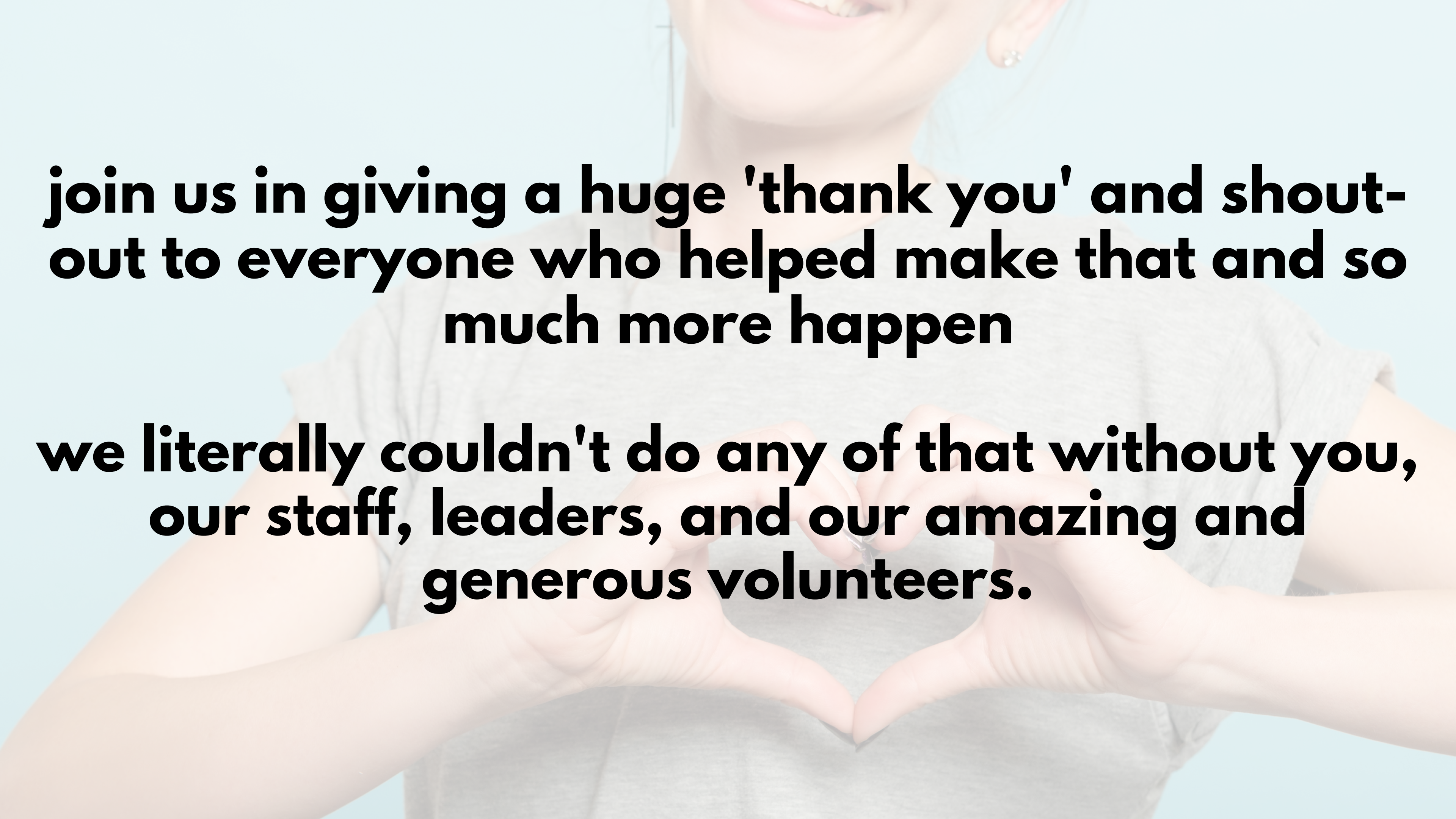
We have new tenants using our building, including an amazing kindergarten. The kids have brought so much life and joy into our space and we're so proud to have the school call us 'home.'

over 5000 people were specifically prayed for during the year by our Prayer Team. They offered prayers of love, grace, healing, and comfort for over 100 people per week.

5256



In 2021 we celebrate 5 years of being an affirming church that welcomes, wants, and accepts everyone and anyone!

A smiling woman with her hands forming a heart shape in front of her chest. She is wearing a grey t-shirt. The background is a light blue gradient.

join us in giving a huge 'thank you' and shout-out to everyone who helped make that and so much more happen

we literally couldn't do any of that without you, our staff, leaders, and our amazing and generous volunteers.

favourite stories ...



It's been so wonderful to actually meet some of the people who have been joining us online. Andy is one of those people. He went from driving by the church, to joining us online, to not only showing up in-person, but to helping out and volunteering! Thanks Andy for being your amazing self and being a part of this community.

Our hospitality and congregational care teams made more than 60 three-course homemade meals every month for people who are lonely, struggling, and in need. These meals have been delivered by 30 volunteers along with 75 care packages. There has been tremendous creativity and love abounding in creating items for these care packages from both staff and volunteers. It's been a joy to see people contribute their artwork, letters, cookies, trivets, bookmarks, plants, fridge magnets, rock art and so much more.



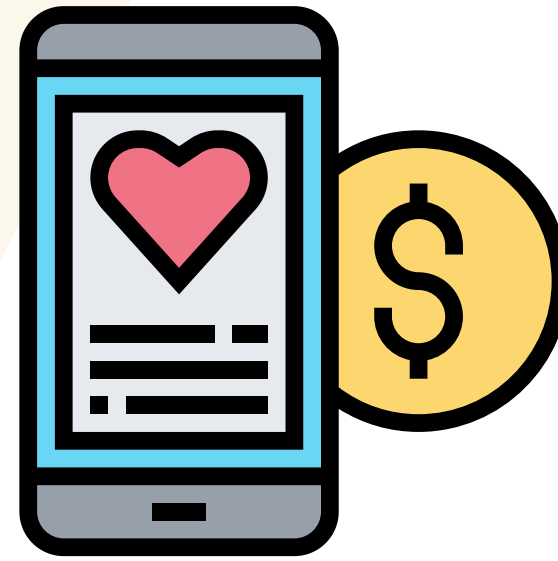


"Thanks to each and every one of you who contribute to our wonderful care package. It is always a special day when it is delivered to us. We so appreciate the as sermons, messages, stories, the beautiful art and crafted items and photography. To the cooks and buyers and deliverers - a BIG THANK YOU. The food is most delicious. We truly feel loved and cared for...you are angels amongst us. You are all so special to give of your time and talents for us. God Bless You All and Love."

- a love note from someone who received a package

lets be the church together

**visit our website
or call the office to donate
and help this great work
continue!**



donate online

support our work through recurring payments or by donating whenever you are able.



donate by cash or cheque

visit the HUB on Sundays or the church office during the week to drop off any cash or cheques.



volunteer

donate your time and energy. contact us to get involved and help us do this amazing and important work.

here are some more ways to support rdluc:



marketable securities

A financial donation may be made to RDLUC by way of a gift of marketable securities. This is a tax efficient method of donating larger amounts.



donate a vehicle

donate a vehicle to be sold at an auction or recycled and RDLUC receives a cut of the profit.



gift cards

buy gift cards to your favourite stores through us and we receive a percentage of the purchase.

**find out
more ...**

**as we look over the past year
and look ahead,
we couldn't fit everything in
here we wanted to.**

**head to our website for our
2022 financial package.**

connect with us

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sign up online for our weekly newsletter

go in peace

go in love

go & do it loudly

