

Dear Family and friends! Merry Almost Christmas!!!!

In mid September, Gregg and I hopped onto a 'new to us' stretch of the Red Deer River with our kayaks for an evening paddle. As confident paddlers on a short run, we were looking forward to time to connect, so getting a later start didn't phase us. For the first hour we floated and fished, but as the sun lowered, we decided we better get paddling. An hour and 45 minutes later in near total darkness, we heard the roar of rapids ahead; the only light to be seen was the glimmer of the moon downstream, and until we began listening we didn't know we were in the rapids. In one of those "time slows down" sort of moments while I was navigating the disorientation of waves pushing from multiple directions and splashing over top the boat, I lost all sense of direction. In that moment, the Lord reminded my heart to orient myself toward the light and trust my boat to stay above the water. **In all seasons, but especially those that feel disorienting, we can remember that He is the boat holding us above the waves, and we are invited to keep ourselves oriented to the light; HE IS THE LIGHT!** As we move in and through Advent season, we are reminded that the Light of the World has come to bring hope and restoration, and it truly is a privilege to speak that truth to youth and young people who might not have had anyone else in their life sharing this good news!

From Gregg: This year has been so fun continuing to build relationships with youth from previous years and getting to meet and mentor new youth as well. Currently, I am helping out with food programs in two high schools, running a Grade 4-6 Boys Group and a Grade 4-6 Drop-In, a Grade 7-12 Drop-In, and an outreach & discipleship night called Life360 for Grades 7-12. I'm also in student recruitment mode for spring missions trips to Mexico and Vancouver, and I'm excited to be going back to Mexico.

One of the highlights this fall is a new relationship with a young homeschooled man who just turned 14 and comes by the youth center at all hours of the day pulling on doors and seeing if he can hang out with any adult around. He literally comes to every program he can. In a very short time, we've had real deep conversations about who Jesus is and how to follow his life's example.

From Char: With around 50 staff, I relish the opportunity to work with our team to foster the skills, resilience and health to remain in the lives of youth and young people for the long haul. Getting to see the fruit of Gregg's ministry of youth over 20 years (including youth who have long graduated!) makes me even more passionate about the importance of longevity in the ministry. Many youth have become accustomed to seeing the adults in their life leave, give up, or emotionally abandon them, and it takes a lot of time to build trust. **Supporting our staff through the joys and challenges of ministry, personal and family life fosters the longevity that leads to the long term trust and discipleship which is where we see amazing fruit!**

As we share our ministry with CAYU, we can't help but be extra grateful for the team of partners who stand with us. We have the privilege of having face-to-face conversations and connections with youth, young people, staff, and volunteers, but **when you pray for, encourage, and/or financially support, you become part of the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in the lives of those we serve. Thank you so much!! We would love to grow our team of partners and invite you to consider how you might be a part of that growth.** To become one of our prayer partners, please email one/both of us to be added to our respective prayer lists. If you would like to become or increase your role as a financial partner, you can complete the form included, hop onto <https://www.cayu.ca/give> and select us from the drop-down menu, or scan the QR code below. Thank you so much for your support—you are making a significant impact in many lives throughout Central Alberta!

Advent Blessing of Love, Joy, Hope, and Peace Upon You,



Gregg and Char Lockhart
Lacombe Youth Engagement | Director of People Care



Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

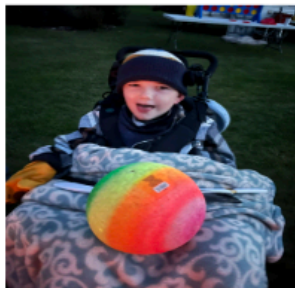
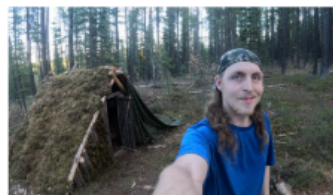


Gregg and I got to celebrate 24 years of marriage in October; we made a big day of it and went to Costco on a date. (We are fancy like that!) We also enjoyed a few paddles down the river, and lots of camping over the summer. We also learned making this letter that we don't really take many pictures of 'us'. Gregg has reffed football again this year and Char has been playing Parahockey and Coaching Jr. Parahockey. We also got to bring Fox with us to our regional retreat where we led a Where's waldo Game for the other YFC Staff

Elly has had a great year and is especially enjoying her role as an EA at the JS McCormick School. Miss Elly, as she is called is working with a pre-K class and also subbing for various schools when she's not in for her regular shifts. It has been so fun to watch her flourish and become more independent.



Caleb continues to work at Clean Cut Fab in the Plasma Bay and loves all things bush craft. This summer he went out each long weekend to the Nordegg area and built a shelter with only hand tools. He almost finished before the snow came!



A big milestone for Mattea this year was obtaining her license and getting her first car! She has completed all her life guard training and has also been a respite provider for a couple of families. In free time, Mattea is with friends, in the water, or singing up a storm.



Fox is such a joy and lights up every room. He loves camping and fires, baths and silly faces! We focused our time this summer on making memories and are thankful his health allowed so many amazing days!



The grandkids are growing like crazy too and full of spunk and joy!