



## Our Vision

To be the recognized leader  
in applying Christian values to  
financial services. - Psalm 24:1

Build on a solid foundation by  
investing in **Common Shares\***  
and make a difference in the  
lives of more Christians.

Read the CEO message or visit  
our website for more details.

\*Some conditions apply.



### In This Issue:

- Update from John Veldkamp, CEO
- Spring Loan Campaign Winners!
- Introducing the Business Banking Team
- Is My Work Life Insurance Enough?
- Scholarship Winners

**Serving all of Alberta!**  
**Toll Free:** 1.877.426.0506  
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PM 43554019

Find **contentment** with your finances.



## Update From the CEO

by John Veldkamp

Soon it will be Thanksgiving Day – a day when we reflect on our blessings and praise God for His goodness. Yet some may be asking: how can we be thankful when challenges and frustrations have been a significant part of all of our lives during the past couple of years? Ongoing tensions between different points of view and concerns over the many ways our families have been impacted during the past year and a half has resulted in stress and anxiety for many people. Where do we turn to find inspiration for thanksgiving at a time such as this? We can turn to our loving God and Father who understands our emotions and needs better than we understand ourselves.

In the book of Ezra, the Israelite exiles returning from Babylon to their homeland were also dealing with a challenging and frustrating situation. The countryside was ravaged by both the effects of war and 70 years of neglect, the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the once-beautiful temple of the Lord was in ruins. The people were few and the surrounding nations opposed their attempts at rebuilding. I am sure it was difficult for the returning exiles to express thanksgiving. Nevertheless, in Ezra 3:11 it says:

*With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord:  
“He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.”  
And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.*

Just like the foundation that was being laid in Ezra 3, the foundation of the Kingdom of God is being laid today with a view to the completion of that kingdom when Jesus returns on the clouds of heaven. Our Credit Union strives to be a small part of the laying of that foundation by helping families and organizations find contentment with their finances. Since we expanded our membership base in 2018, we have been laying the foundation for growth. We believe that many Christians and Christian organizations can benefit by applying biblical principles to their financial management and our results are proving that our belief is correct.

In addition to last year’s membership growth, we are also on track to meet our membership goals in 2021 despite the challenges presented by the pandemic and the time and effort involved in successfully converting to a new digital banking platform. (Thank you to our members for your patience with the change to new digital banking. Change can be hard but by far most of our members appreciate the improved platform.) In addition to our membership growth, our assets are the highest in our history, we are on track to meet our 5% loan growth target and our financial planning asset and revenue growth is exceeding our targets.

We are very thankful for all this growth and yet it leads to a new challenge – we need to increase our capital to keep pace with growth. Most of our capital is made up of retained earnings from previous profits but the current interest rate environment means that we cannot generate enough profit to keep pace with our growth. As a result we are asking our members to consider investing some of their money into common shares at the Credit Union. Investing in common shares will support our ability to grow and support the Christian community in Alberta but you will have to keep in mind that common shares are not easily accessible and are not guaranteed by the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation. We will be working on additional ways to increase investment in capital at the Credit Union over the next several months. Stay tuned!

We are also laying a foundation by investing in scholarships for Grade 12 graduates. A list of our scholarship recipients can be found later in this newsletter. We are thankful to support another group of young people who all express a desire to apply biblical principles to their financial choices. We pray that God will richly bless each of these young scholars!

If you are interested in helping us build on the foundation of our 69 years of operation, we are currently looking for candidates to serve on our Board or on our Board Committees. If you are interested in being part of setting the direction of our Credit Union, please be sure to express your interest by contacting me or any one of the Board members.

Thanks to each of our members for your confidence and support. We give thanks to God for the privilege to serve you and we hope that you will find many reasons for thanksgiving this October. Our prayer is that you will be able to praise our loving God by saying with the returning exiles in Ezra: *“He is good; His love towards [his people] endures forever.”*

Soli Deo Gloria

## Staff Notables



Congratulations to **David van Berkel**, Financial Advisor, who recently celebrated 5 years of service. David has been recognized for his commitment and professionalism in providing financial planning advice to our members. His passion for serving our members is valued and appreciated.

Welcome to **Cal Nordlee**, Personal Banking Advisor. Cal studied Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan and has over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry.



**Jamie VanMaanen** (above) celebrated 5 years of service in September. As a Business Banking Assistant, Jamie works closely with advisors and helps members with their business banking needs. Congratulations!

Welcome to **Rebecca Kindt**, **James Hornett**, and **Christine Pronishen**, who are new Business Banking Advisors. Each of them has extensive experience working in financial services and we are excited to have them on our team.

Congratulations to **Lysa Van Herk**, who has accepted the position of Investment Advisor to cover for the maternity leave of **Jessica Macwan**. Lysa has extensive experience serving our members as a Personal Banking Advisor. She recently earned her Mutual Fund license and is working towards her Certified Financial Planning designation.

Farewell to **Hanna Vandenberg**, **Izzie VanEe**, **Melissa Wielenga**, and **Mikayla Taylor** who have decided to pursue new career opportunities. Thank you for your dedication and service to our members. We wish you God's blessings in your future endeavours.

**Christian Credit Union continues to be blessed with growth and new career opportunities are expected in the future. Visit our website to learn more!**

## Spring Loan Campaign Winners!

Congratulations to **Jacob and Loretta Stadt** who are the grand prize winners of a BBQ Pellet Smoker and everything they need to get started from the Lethbridge Stove Pipe Company!



Winners of runner up prizes including various patio and BBQ related items include **Cameron Kuit**, **Susanna Guenther**, **John & Bernice Ooms**, **Casey and Donna Scheurkogel**, and **Lena Beekman**. Congratulations!

## New Digital Banking Experience

We hope you're enjoying the many features and benefits of the new platform and we want to ensure you are having a good experience. If you require assistance, please call our 24-hour Technical Support at **1.855.642.5715**.

Visit the **New Digital Banking Experience** page on our website for helpful how-to videos and other great resources!





# Introducing the Business Banking Team

Did you know that Christian Credit Union has a team of Business Banking professionals dedicated and ready to support you with your small business banking and lending needs? Whether you are looking for Business Banking solutions for your small business, church, charity, organization or non-profit – we are here to help. Our team of Business Banking Advisors are professionals who are dedicated and committed to our philosophy of five biblical principles to help you make wise financial decisions. With your best interest in mind, we are devoted to providing personal and friendly service to our existing membership and branching out to the broader Christian community all over Alberta.

As part of the bigger Christian Credit Union team, I am excited to introduce you to our team of Business Banking professionals who are ready to serve you and support you with all your Business Banking needs:



**Lynn Urquhart**  
**Business Banking Manager**  
Lynn came to Christian Credit Union in January 2018 and now has 15+ years of banking experience at various financial institutions. She started her career as a part-time teller and worked her way up to her current position of Business Banking Manager. She works closely with the Business Banking team to ensure that our membership receives exceptional service in all aspects of their relationship with Christian Credit Union. Lynn's passion is supporting the entire team at Christian CU to provide the best possible service to all members and feels blessed to be able to do so in an environment that fosters a relationship with God.



**Jamie VanMaanen**  
**Business Banking Assistant**  
Jamie is a Business Banking Assistant in the Lethbridge branch who supports and works closely with the Business Banking Advisors to help our business members with their financial service needs. Jamie started at the Christian CU in 2017 as a Member Service Representative and Personal Banking Assistant, shortly after receiving her Bachelor of Management from the University of Lethbridge. She changed roles from Member Service Representative/ Personal Banking Assistant to splitting her time between Personal and Business Banking Assistant in 2018. In 2019, she accepted a full-time role as Business Banking

Assistant. Jamie is dedicated to helping and serving our members, working with her team members, building relationships, and serving God in all she does.



**Christine Pronishen**  
**Business Banking Advisor**  
Business banking is Christine's passion! With over 20 years in the Financial Services Industry and coming from a long line of entrepreneurs, she is well equipped to assist with all your business needs. Be it streamlining payments to your suppliers, introducing a time saving payroll service, financing that new office or shop, and offering operating capital as you wait for receivables, Christine is ready to assist with strengthening and growing your business. She believes that the relationship with your Business Banking Advisor is an essential part of your business success.



**James Hornett**  
**Business Banking Advisor**  
James joined our team this past June and has been in banking for 12 years in various roles. He has been a Business Banking Advisor for five years which is where his passion lies. He enjoys helping and guiding businesses to see them succeed and he is excited to meet and learn about your business, church or nonprofit. Outside of work James is involved in the community serving as a Finance Director of a local non profit which helps at risk youth.



**Rebecca Kindt**  
**Business Banking Advisor**  
We are excited to have Rebecca join Christian Credit Union as the Lethbridge Business Banking Advisor. She has been in the financial industry for 15 years and has a background in personal, retail, and investment banking. She has been blessed to work in banking in Southern Alberta and has met amazing people over the years. Rebecca is looking forward to serving, building relationships, and meeting new and existing members of Christian Credit Union. She loves to travel and explore new places and is always up for a new adventure.

As we work together to explore options, discuss opportunities, set goals, and grow your business, our focus is to always honor Him and grow His Kingdom in all we do.

Please contact us to discuss all your Business Banking needs.

- Pete Peters, Director, Member Experience

# Instagram Giveaway

Riverbend Gardens is a family-owned business that grows a 45 acre garden in Northeast Edmonton. They sell at 9 farmers markets and have a community supported agriculture program which delivers weekly vegetable bags to several locations around the city for subscribers to pick up. We are so blessed to have the opportunity to work with Riverbend to help them achieve their financial goals. We asked them why they chose to bank with us:

*"We have always had a close relationship with Christian Credit Union. Whether it be business banking, business loans, or personal banking, Christian CU has always been there with friendly service and advice for our financial needs."*

We partnered with Riverbend Gardens for an exciting Instagram giveaway. **Janae Vriend** and **Stacey Bell** are the winners of \$50 Riverbend gift certificates and promo items!



**Follow us on Instagram for more opportunities to win!**  
If you are a business member and would like to partner with us for a giveaway, please contact Phil Geusebroek, Marketing Director at [pgeusebroek@christiancu.ca](mailto:pgeusebroek@christiancu.ca)!



# Do you wish all good things were **unlimited**?



## Try a banking account with **unlimited** Interac e-Transfers.\*

\*Some conditions apply. Ask a team member for details.



# Is My Work Life Insurance Enough?

by Ryan Van Niejenhuis

Most Albertans have at least some life insurance coverage from their group benefits plan. A common amount of group life insurance coverage is around one times your annual salary. Getting coverage for free is great, but is it enough to protect your loved ones? And will it be there when you need it?

If you are single, without a mortgage, have dependents, or other financial obligations, then your group life insurance coverage MAY be sufficient. But if you are married, have dependent and or debts, the group coverage typically is not enough. Completing a comprehensive insurance needs analysis is the best way to discover how much coverage is sufficient for your specific needs.

Are you one of the many Albertan's that are coasting on group life insurance? Some surprises are fun, but like coming home to water in your basement... discovering your spouse has insufficient life insurance coverage when it is too late, is NOT a fun surprise.

Let's look at how your family's expenses will change if you are no longer around. Starting with your housing costs:

- Mortgage payment
- Property tax
- Utilities
- TV
- Internet
- Streaming services

It is unlikely that your family will be able to cut down on these expenses if you were to pass. Because these expenses do not change much depending on the number of people in the household, we call them fixed expenses. You may not realize it, but fixed expenses typically make up over 30% of your monthly expenses. This means at least 30% of your family's expenses will remain the same after you pass.

I'm sure you are thinking: "that still leaves 60 – 70%. What are those expenses?" If you are a typical family, you probably spend this piece of the pie on tithing, donations, food, transportation, clothing, sports, personal care and other discretionary expenses (like vacations, dining out/ ordering in, fancy coffee and/or designer shoes). Some of these expenses will decrease with one less person in the house, but they won't drop significantly. I estimate that 60% or more of these expenses will remain for families with a single income.

When you do the math, you can see that your family will still have to cover around 70% of your monthly expenses after you pass. Receiving one times annual income as a life insurance benefit will be nice, but it will likely not be enough to allow your family to maintain their lifestyle. There are some cases where your group life insurance coverage may be enough; if your spouse has a large income and you have managed to save a lot for retirement. Or if you have sufficient disposable assets in the family to fund your lifestyle. But wait, before you throw your family into this pool, I highly recommend completing an insurance needs analysis, to ensure you do not require an extra life jacket.



How much does life insurance cost? Well, it all depends on your needs (and possibly your health), but a \$750,000 20-year term policy for someone in their 30's will cost around \$50/month (standard rates). For a lot of people, that can be enough coverage to keep their families protected.

The most important time to make sure you have sufficient life insurance coverage is when someone depends on you financially. For most people this is when they get married and/or start having children. When you are young and healthy, you will be able lock in life insurance premiums at a very inexpensive rate. The older you get the more health issues typically arise, which in turn can increase your premiums.

Can anyone qualify for life insurance coverage? Yes. Even if you are seriously ill, there is coverage you will qualify for. As a broker, I have access to numerous insurance companies; this allows me to shop the market for you and find the best possible coverage at the lowest premium.



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\*Credential Financial Strategies Inc. offers financial planning, life insurance and investments to members of credit unions and their communities. ©Credential is a registered mark owned by Aviso Wealth Inc. and is used under license.

# Scholarship Winners

We support grade 12 graduating students at participating Christian schools with \$1,000 scholarships. Students are required to write an essay emphasizing the meaning of "Biblical Stewardship" and how it applies to their life. In addition, the student should provide a brief outline of their accomplishments, volunteerism, life and career goals.

Congratulations to this year's winners!



**Renee Bennik**  
**Tyndale Christian School**  
"I believe our everyday lives are where true biblical stewardship shines. Even the words we use can be part of our calling to live as Godly stewards. 'Our merciful Lord does not value the gift but rather the attitude behind it'- 2 Corinthians 9:7

reminds us of this when it notes that God loves a cheerful giver".



**Anika Guillaume**  
**Edmonton Christian High School**  
"Genesis 2:15 says "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and take care of it." God has placed us in charge of caretaking for his beautiful creation, this involves taking care of nature and being

aware of how we can live sustainably but also taking care of our neighbours, who are also carefully created by God."



**Emily Hofsink**  
**Coaldale Christian School**  
"Biblical stewardship is taking care of all that is in your life with the knowledge that is not yours, but God's. This responsibility stretches beyond the basic care for our material, earthly things such as health, money, possessions, environment, and neighbors".



**Jaden Milne**  
**Calgary Christian School**  
"I have been challenged in being a servant of God by letting go of what I thought I wanted and accepting that God has a plan and will use me and my gifts for his glory and honor."

**Jason Van Esch**  
**Calvin Christian School**

"We must remember that all riches come only from God, regardless of what we try to do to get more. It may be easy to see it as the fruit of our own labors, but in the end, we must give God the honor."



**Brittney Peters**  
**Covenant Canadian Reformed School**  
"As Christians we believe that everything we have has been given to us out of grace by God. This gives us all the more reason to devote all that we have to Him".



**Heidi Van Eeden Petersman**  
**Providence Christian School**  
"God placed Adam in the garden to take care of everything He had made. Similarly, we are created to work under God's control and do whatever tasks He wants us to complete. We are called to be careful stewards of everything God created."



**Katelynn Schalk**  
**Immanuel Christian High School**  
"As I grow in my faith, I feel encouraged knowing that even small contributions to my community glorify God. By leading a group at church or taking time to participate in senior home worship with the elderly, I am choosing to steward time in a way that serves God's people".



**Anneke van Dyk**  
**Parkland Immanuel Christian School**  
"The Bible teaches me not to work solely for the money, but as a way to glorify God with my talents and serve my neighbour".



# SHRED EVENT

Thanks to everyone who visited our Lethbridge branch for free paper shredding, lunch from Authentic Southern Barbecue, and the opportunity to win great prizes! It was great to meet with you in person again!

Visit our website or follow us on social media for highlights of the Edmonton Shred Event on September 11!



## Bringing HOPE

Streets Alive Mission exists to provide for the physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the poor, to empower them to change their lives through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This summer we attended the unveiling of a new Streets Alive mural in downtown Lethbridge. Christian Credit Union is pleased to sponsor a tile and support the various community outreach programs offered by the Streets Alive Mission.

