For the Special Session of Synod 2022, the Spiritual Development Committee asked what thanksgiving and deep desire or dream each congregation in the Diocese has so that they and others could pray more specifically for our Diocesan family.

Here is an overview of some of the Thanksgivings and Desires (identified by several congregations):

## **Thanksgivings**

That we have learned the church is the people, not the building. We have learned we can be flexible and worship in new ways.

We give thanks for our locally ordained clergy and licensed lay ministers who keep us going and for the willingness of people in the congregation to continue to support our ministries both within the congregation and in the community.

We are grateful for all who volunteer who donate both time and talent without any hesitation or thought of recompense.

For a COMMUNITY that cares -- really cares! That people are working together to develop a new shared ministry.

We are thankful for new partnerships with other parishes and community organizations in the region for food production and distribution.

We are thankful that we can be in our building again.

## **Desires**

Our deepest desire is to be able to continue to share the love we have together within our communities and the communities around us.

To have meaning and purpose in a world that is pushing against the church as an Institution.

To grow in Christ, live in love.

Survival.

Reconcile grief of the past, let go of the stress of the future, and find joy in the Present.

That we are able to continue as a congregation in some way in order to be able to worship together and gather as a spiritual family.

To make connections with our First Nations neighbours

Wish for continuing to make music for God together.

We hope to keep our church building.

Our dream is to be even more engaged with the neighbourhood around us, and to increasingly draw in students and young people, building our future while providing them with a faith community.