



St. Luke's Anglican Church

Anglican Network In Canada

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Fall 2014

Dear Friends in Christ,

Many of us are going through difficulties of one kind or another: health issues, financial stress, concerns for family, strained relationships, etc. The world is in a mess in a lot of ways. Evil seems to be on the rise and the Christian church faces mounting pressure in an often hostile environment. People are tired out. Many are speculating we may be in the last days with the Lord's return imminent. What do we do in times of trial?

We need to remember that our true enemy is not other people but the devil (Ephesians 6:12) and to act accordingly. Philippians 4:4-7 gives us a key: *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* As we approach Thanksgiving may we take time to count our blessings & to rejoice even in the trials, to thank and praise God for His goodness, to remain earnest in prayer, to seek the Lord's will, and to obey Him in love and service (including sharing the gospel of salvation with those who need to hear!).

At St. Luke's we have so much to be thankful for! We have an abundance of fantastic people and of spiritual and material blessings – may we never take these gifts for granted! I am grateful for each of you and for your prayers and gifts of time, talent and treasure as we seek to serve the Lord together. We had many highlights over spring and summer (e.g. the wrap up of our 3 year E100 sermon and bible study series, a great Parish Picnic, a wonderful Vacation Bible School, lots of activities and much work done around the church, and more!). We also are blessed with godly bishops as we said farewell to Bishop Don Harvey in his retirement (although I expect we will see him again) and now welcome Bishop Charlie Masters as our diocesan.

As always there is a lot happening at St. Luke's. Here is a partial list of what is planned this autumn for your prayers and involvement as the Lord leads:

1/ The Sermon on the Mount bible studies and sermon series – We will be looking at Matthew chapters 5 to 7 on Sundays and in weekly study groups. Watch for times and details for a group you can join starting Sept. 14.

2/ Interchurch Alpha Course – We are supporting an interchurch Alpha at St. Colombkille's Roman Catholic Cathedral on Thursday nights at 6pm starting Sept. 11 (you can join the course or invite a friend to this exciting program even if you miss the opening). There is also a Sunday night Alpha at Wesley Community Church.

3/ Women's Breakfasts take place the third Saturday of the month at 10am (except November when the breakfast is Nov. 22). **The Men's Group** will have an open meeting for all men Tue. Sept. 30 at 7pm to plan the year ahead.

4/ St. Luke's Fall Dinner takes place Sat. Oct. 4 from 4-7pm. Tickets are available at the church, and you are invited to bring along friends or family and/or to volunteer your help.

5/ Youth Group Launch "New Beginnings" Sunday Sept. 28 at 4:30pm - all youth and their families are invited to a night of fun, worship, pizza and planning (note that regular meetings will not likely be on Sundays)

6/ Contemporary Evening Praise on the first Sunday of the month 6:30pm

7/ St. Luke's Anniversary Weekend Nov. 14 – 16 with Bishop Charlie Masters. Watch for more details.

8/ Outreach Activities will include filling back packs for local poor people and, later in the fall, participating in the Christmas shoe box campaign. Also **we will be considering a mission trip to our companion parish in Brazil with Bishop Don Harvey to take place early in 2015 – interested people should speak to myself or a member of Outreach by Oct. 15.** We are also forming an **Ottawa Valley Church Planting Team** to consider how we might reach out to our surrounding towns.

9/ Several administrative projects are underway, including implementing the **ANiC Plan to Protect Policy** – we will hold information sessions **Oct. 23 & 30**, and **renewing our mortgage** – we will have an opportunity to make a lump sum payment at the end of November should anyone wish to make a donation (90% of the Fall Supper proceeds will go this cause). We have also been revamping our website.

10/ Other Special Sundays at all services:

Thanksgiving October 12

All Saints with special memorial for loved ones November 2

Remembrance Sunday November 9

In addition to this list we will try to keep you up to date with other activities and the ongoing life of the parish. Please find enclosed an offering envelope should you wish to make a special thanksgiving donation to the General Fund or to the Mortgage Fund - please mark your envelope clearly if you wish to designate how your gift is to be used.

Again I thank you for all your prayers and support. So many people do so much to make St. Luke's the wonderful parish it is. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office if we can be of any assistance to you or if you have an idea to share. And thank you for your understanding when we make mistakes or fall short of your expectations - the Lord asks us to be merciful to one another even as He is merciful to us.

May the Lord guide and bless each one of us, and grant us a grateful joyful heart along the way! I know Jane and Parish Council join me in wishing you a blessed fall and Thanksgiving,

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Archdeacon Tim Parent