



The Messenger

April 2019

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia

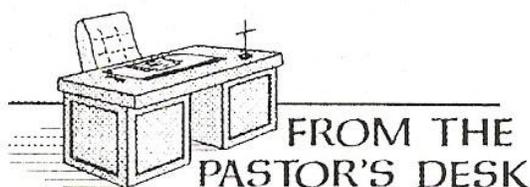
www.stjohnsmahonebay.ca

Church Office: Phone - (902) 624-9660

Pastor Adam: Phone - (902) 212-0439

Email - stjohnsmahonebay@gmail.com

Email - adamgsnook@gmail.com



*All earth is hopeful, the Saviour comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task;
this, the labor of people, who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set everybody free.
(ELW 266 - All Earth Is Hopeful)*

Recently, somebody remarked to me that the season of Lent felt particularly daunting this year. They made this remark in reference to the fact that while the church descends into the growing shadows of Lent which leads us to Holy Week...the world around us is actually getting brighter!

She had a good point.

Indeed, it was true. As we within the Christian tradition descend deeper into the solemn acts which mark the death of our Saviour - the world around us has already begun to welcome the return of life. The days are lengthening. The snow is clearing. The trees are budding. The temperature is warming.

But, and to be honest, I don't find this daunting at all. In fact, I find it hopeful.

I find it hopeful, even in the face of darkness: that the light of life is intensifying all around us.

I find it hopeful, even as we mark sin's sadness: that the land within our midst is being cleared for the next season of creation.

I find it hopeful, even when surrounded by bare altars and barren sanctuaries: to glimpse the buds of fresh birth that refuse to be stopped.

I find it hopeful, even as we speak of cold stone tombs: to know...and to believe...and to trust...and to have faith in a God who surrounds us with the warmth of God's grace.

What we needn't forget, dear friends, is the promise that our God is the God of life. This story which so solemnly guides our Lenten journey does not end with betrayal in the garden. This story doesn't end on the cross at Golgotha...nor does it end as the stone is rolled into place to close the tomb.

Rather this story...God's story...and the story that we so love to tell: leads us beyond the garden, past the cross, through the tomb...and all the way to the resurrection. Our God is a risen God...and we are a people of that same resurrection! We must never forget that! The hope which meets us in the mist of this journey, as hymn #266 reminds us, is the hope that our saviour will rise...that the furrows do lie open...that people will see...and that our risen God has, does and always will set us free.

May this hope, this joy, and these promises accompany us into the days ahead.

Blessed peace be yours.

Pastor Adam

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

There are a rich variety of worship opportunities throughout Holy Week. You are invited to make use of these services as a means of preparing your heart for the joy of Easter.

Passion Cantata - April 14, 7pm

Inspired by Jesus' earliest followers who gathered to mark the hours between his death and resurrection, our 2019 Passion Canatata, *Tenebrae: Jesus, Light of the World*, invites us into a time of sacred reflection and prayer.

Maundy Thursday - April 18, 7pm

Gathered in a candlelit sanctuary, we will recall our Saviour's final moments through the ancient washing of hands, breaking of bread, and stripping of the altar.

Good Friday - April 19, 11am - Lutheran

Good Friday unites us into one community as we gather for an ecumenical worship service at St. John's Lutheran Church. Hear again our Saviour's words from the cross, and enter prayerfully into the mystery of faith.

Stations of the Cross - April 20, 11am-1pm

As we await the glory of Easter, St. John's welcomes you to pray the stations of the cross as facilitated by Barbara Februar's 2018 Lenten series. Come and go as you are able. Direction provided.

Easter Breakfast - April 21, 9am-10:30am

Join us on Easter morning from 9am-10:30am for our annual Easter Breakfast. Enjoy sausages, pancakes, hard-boiled eggs, fruit, a variety of baked goods as well as tea, coffee, and juice. Freewill offering.

Easter Sunday - April 21, 11am

We gather in stillness, as we await to hear the joyful proclamation that our Lord has risen! Rich music, ancient story, and sacred liturgy guides us from the font to the table as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

All Are Welcome!

There is a place for you at St. John's!

+ Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Following the success of last year's program, we will once again be offering a soup and bread supper on Wednesday evenings at 6pm (*note the revised time*); with a service of Holden Evening Prayer following at 7pm.

Our 2019 Mid-Week Lenten theme will be **Praying With The Saints**. Through story, song, prayer and scripture, we will rejoice in God's saints and reflect on what it means for us to be in mission and ministry for others.

Each Sunday, *Barbara Februar* will be painting contemporary 'Icons' that will then be used as a focus for Wednesday evening worship.

If you would like to provide a pot of soup or a loaf of bread, please sign up on the sheet in the Christian Education Centre.

+ Easter Memorials

Anyone wishing to place a memorial in the church in memory of a loved one for Easter is asked to contact the Church Office by Friday, April 12.

+ Camp Bursaries

Once again this year, the Mahone Bay Interchurch Council will be offering bursaries to any local child who wishes to attend a faith-based camp. To apply, please use the applications posted on the bulletin board. For more information, please speak with Pastor Adam. Applications are due May 17.

+ Fundraising Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in our fundraising events in the month of March. Our Gift Card program combined with the Paint Night and Breakfast events raised \$1,500.00 in support of the ministries of our congregation. A special word of thanks to everyone who participated, supported, organized and facilitated these events. More new and exciting events have been planned for the coming months. More details will be announced as they become available.

+ Father Chad's Benedictine Vows

On Tuesday, April 9 at 7pm, the Anglican Bishop of the Diocese of NS, NB & PEI will preside at a special service at St. James. At this time, Father Chad will profess his vows to the Order of St. Benedict. Please remember Father Chad in your prayers.

+ Cantata: Tenebrae

It began, "In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people." (John 1:4) For centuries, believers gathered as the sun set on Good Friday. They gathered to recall those hours of darkness that covered the world at the crucifixion of the Son of God. We invite you to rediscover the depth of meaning and blessing of such an evening brings. In such simplicity, the story we all know so well, of a babe in a manger and a man on a cross, touches something deep inside each of us. Join us on Sunday, April 14 at 7pm. In the growing shadows, you will hear that still, small voice that whispers, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12).
Excerpt from: Tom Lawson & John E. Coates.

+ KAIROS: Streams of Justice

KAIROS, representing 10 religious denominations in Canada, will be offering an Atlantic Gathering from May 2-5, 2019 at Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB. **Streams of Justice** will focus on Indigenous Rights, Migrant Justice, Women of Courage, Ecological Justice and the KAIROS Blanket Exercise. This is your opportunity to delve deeper into the social justice commitments that are close to your heart, in the company of others equally committed to working for positive change. This three-day event, open to all, will build the Atlantic ecumenical social justice movement, increasing participation, diversity, effectiveness and commitment. For more information, please visit: <https://www.kairoscanada.org/atlanticgathering>

+ Common Table Update

Our Common Table program will recess during the Lenten Season. Our next event will be held on Wednesday, May 15 at 5:30pm. If you would like to help cook/serve/clean for our May event, please speak with Pastor Adam.

+ Bluegrass Unit Concert

The local band, *Bluegrass Unit*, will perform at the Upper Northfield Community Hall on Saturday, April 27 at 7pm (doors open at 6pm). Admission is \$10. Merchandise and a canteen will be available. This event is in support of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church.

+ Spring Adult Education

Our Spring Adult Education program will begin on May 7 at 3pm...and continue for five weeks. Due to the overwhelming interest expressed during our fall session, we will continue our study of non-canonical writings...or Biblical-Age writings that weren't included in the Bible as we know it. Our Adult Education Program is intended to be a welcoming, hospitable, and light-hearted place to discuss matters of faith while also addressing materials which broaden our understandings. Come for one...or all of the sessions! All are welcome!! The coffee/tea will be on!

+ Joy Journal

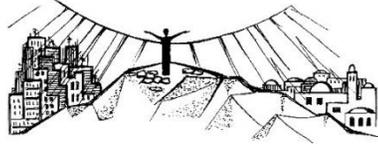
Birthday greetings are extended to the following in the month of March;

April 1	Melanie Nauss
April 3	Joel Martell
April 6	Azelyn MacAdam Luke Aulenback
April 8	Marjorie Barry Greg Inglis
April 10	Angela Zinck
April 11	Heather Hirtle Joshua Wawin
April 13	Jocelyn Wentzell
April 15	Juliana Barry
April 16	Wilfred Wentzell
April 17	Lance Knickle Jason Winchcombe
April 18	Lillian Temple
April 22	Ken Knickle
April 25	Logan Norman Trudi Inglis
April 27	Justin Oickle-Demone
April 28	Colin Ernst Spencer Achenbach
April 29	Megan Demone
April 30	Terry Naugler

Anniversary Wishes are extended to the following couples in the month of April:

April 8	Arnold & Susan Fralick
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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church + April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Additions to the calendar will be printed in the bulletin. An updated calendar can be viewed on our church website. Announcements for the May 2019 calendar are due to the church office by <u>April 23, 2019</u>.</p>						
	1	2 9am-2pm - Office	3 6pm – Soup Supper 7pm – Midweek Lent	4 9am-2pm-Office 6:30pm – Choir 8pm - Handbells	5 9am-2pm - Office	6
Synod Council Meeting - Pastor Adam Away						
7 LENT 5 11 am – Worship (Service of the Word) 11am – Sunday School	8	9 9am-2pm - Office 7pm - Father Chad Benedictine Service	10 6pm – Soup Supper 7 pm – Midweek Lent	11 9am-2pm – Office 6:30pm – Choir 8pm - Handbells	12 9am-2pm - Office <i>Easter Memorials Due to the Church Office</i>	13
14 PALM SUNDAY 11am – Worship (Communion) 11am – Sunday School 7pm – Passion Cantata	15	16 9am-2pm - Office 7pm - Endowment Committee	17 10am - Nature Walk/Stations of the Cross (Wentzell Lake, Upper Northfield)	18 MAUNDY THURS. 9am-2pm - Office 7pm - Worship	19 GOOD FRIDAY 11am – Worship (Lutheran) 12pm – Hot Cross Buns (Anglican)	20 HOLY SATURDAY 11am-1pm – Stations of the Cross
21 EASTER SUNDAY 9-10:30am - Breakfast 11 am - Worship (Communion) 11am – Sunday School	22 EASTER MONDAY	23 9am-2pm - Office 7pm - Council	24 2:30pm – Mahone Nursing Worship	25 9am-2pm – Office 10am - Clergy Mtg. 6:45pm – Choir 8pm - Handbells	26 9am-2pm - Office	27
28 EASTER 2 11 am – Worship (Word) 11am – Sunday School	29	30 9am-2pm - Office 5pm - VON				
<p>This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)</p>						