



The Messenger

October 2020

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia
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Fall Greetings,

It is my delight to introduce myself as the new pastor here at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know you all.

Within the last year, I graduated with a Master of Divinity from Martin Luther University College in Waterloo, Ontario. Before my master degree, I completed a Bachelor of Education from the University of Regina. I enjoy teaching all grades with grade nine to twelve being my favourite grades. My favourite subjects to teach are history and outdoor education. During my education degree, I had the opportunity to study abroad and complete a summer history program in Estonia and Latvia. I was recently ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. It was an incredible and meaningful milestone in my faith journey and my life.

I am truly a flatlander, being born and raised in Saskatchewan. Balgonie, Saskatchewan has been the town that raised me, living there with my mom, Beverley, dad, Brian, and sister, Brittany. I attended pre-k to grade twelve in Balgonie and participated in the community in a variety of ways from sports to volunteering.

From a young age, I felt called to ministry. Around grade seven, I started vocalizing that I

wanted to become a pastor and have been on that journey ever since. This journey has lead me to Mahone Bay and Upper Northfield, Nova Scotia. What continues to ground me and provide me comfort on the journey of life is God's unconditional grace. I look forward to experiencing how God works through the communities of St. John's and Mount Calvary to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world.

Outside of Church, I enjoy playing ringette, slo-pitch, and Ultimate Frisbee. I also like cross country skiing, walking, and biking. I am a lover of the outdoors and enjoy almost all activities that take place outside. Back-country camping is one of my favourites activities. I am an auntie to



three wonderful children, Logan (9), Lawson (4), and Ellis (1.5). They make me smile everyday with their discovery and joy of creation. I have a passion for travelling and experiencing different ways of understanding and knowing. I love art and enjoy going to art galleries and museums.

I am looking forward to getting to know everyone and working together to share God's light in our community and world.

With the joy of a sunflower field,

Pastor Brooklynn

Living our **FAITH**
PRAY READ WORSHIP LOVE

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

At the 2019 National Church Assembly in Regina, Saskatchewan; our National Bishop Susan Johnson announced that she is personally inviting members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada to spend four years striving to deepen our discipleship. She said, "God is calling us into a deeper relationship – a call to live out our baptismal covenants." This new initiative is called, **Living Our FAITH**, and will focus on **Prayer, Reading, Worshipping** and **Loving**.

From September 2020 – August 2021; Lutherans from coast...to coast...to coast are being encouraged to commit themselves to daily reading of the Bible..

- ✓ Set aside a bit of time each day to read the Bible. In this busy and hectic world, find time each day and commit to spending 5, 10, 15 minutes or more focusing on reading the Bible. Add it to your calendar so it becomes a regular part of your daily life.
- ✓ October 2020 is the book of Deuteronomy. Take the month of October and work through the whole book at your own pace.

- ✓ Do not feel like reading? Listen to the Bible online for free. Checkout the website *The International Bible Society* or use link below.
<https://www.biblica.com/bible/niv/deuteronomy/1/>
- ✓ Write down any questions, connections, or big aha moments that you have.
- ✓ Print or highlight verses you connect with and put them on your fridge, office wall, or somewhere you will see them daily.
- ✓ Find bible questions and an introduction to Deuteronomy at ELCIC Living Our Faith. Link is here-
<https://elcic.ca/livingourfaith/biblebookclub.cfm>
- ✓ At the end of each month, we will get together and discuss what we have read. For October, this will happen on **Thursday, October 29 2:00pm**. The Bible study will happen in person and online. Please contact Pastor Brooklynn for Zoom information.

+Return to In-Person Worship

Exciting news! We are returning to in-person worship Sunday, October 4. Come and join us. Check out the Re-Opening COVID page on website.

+Fall Family Faith Night To Go

Tuesday, October 27 pick up a pumpkin kit to go! A kit with a little pumpkin, paints, and paint brushes will be ready and waiting! Please pre-register by October 20



to secure a pumpkin kit. Pumpkin pick up will be October 27 from 9:00 to 5:00 at St. John's or an arranged time with Pastor Brooklynn. Pre-register by contacting Pastor Brooklynn at pastorbrooklynn@gmail.com or 902-624-9660.

+ Sunday School

Our Sunday School program is still suspended as Sunday School is not recommended during the amber stage. As we start to rethink opening Sunday School, we are looking for volunteers and

a new Sunday School Coordinator. If you are interested in helping, being a coordinator or know of someone who you think would be a great coordinator please talk to Pastor Brooklynn.

+Home Visits

At this time, in home visits are not taking place. Pastor Brooklynn will visit via telephone 306-550-1408, email correspondence, Skype, driveway/porch visit or set up a Zoom call with you. Communion-to-go can be dropped off at your door. Please do not hesitate to call Pastor Brooklynn if you would like a visit.

+ Thanksgiving Foodbank Offering

On Thanksgiving Sunday, please consider bringing a non-perishable foodbank donation in addition to your regular offering. As part of our worship, we will be collecting these items to share from the bounty we ourselves have received. Thank you for ensuring that all members of our community have lots to be thankful for this fall!

+ Fall Term Adult Education

As mentioned above we are reading a book of the Bible each month. We will meet at the end of each month to discuss what we have read. The book for October is Deuteronomy. For more information, refer to the Living Our Faith bullet above.

+ Hymnals at Home

If you are worshipping from home and would like to take a hymnal home, please talk to Pastor Brooklynn. Additionally, check out the following website, *Sing! The center for Congregational Song*, to see how you can use a hymnal at home.

<https://congregationalson.org/guide-hymnals-at-home/?fbclid=IwAR0KFA76GsSzJ2cv4RrLmTyjaG6iHMnKKesp163d9oVVsl4RRx-7VgMnBTA>

+ Mount Calvary Turkey Burger Fundraiser

Purchase a \$25 gift card for the Turkey Burger! Some of the proceeds go towards Mount Calvary. Gift cards can be used for anything on the menu and expire October 2021. Gift cards are available

starting October 11. If you would like to get a gift card talk to Pastor Brooklynn or Janice Joudrey.
Pastor Brooklynn-306-550-1408
Janice Joudrey 902-543-8496

+ Communion in Amber

On the evening of Saturday, March 14th I sat down to prepare a guest sermon I was to deliver the next day at St. Peter's Church in Kitchener. Writing a sermon this late is unusual for me but I thought it wise to wait, given the rapidly shifting situation of the novel corona virus. Around 8:00 pm I received a call from Pastor Mark Ehlebracht informing me that the service would be cancelled with online worship starting the following week. Nothing has been the same since then. You, of course, have your own memories of that week.

Churches were asked to do the seemingly impossible: gather without gathering. This has taken place across the synod, nation and globe in a variety of formats – live-streamed, recorded, or the sharing of written materials – involving a diversity of content. Some congregations have used Service of the Word, while some have had virtual communion, but all have had to be exceedingly inventive as we gather for worship. People, however, pine to worship face to face in their buildings. This moment is upon us. We may imagine that our experience of worship in the Amber Stage will be more real than our present virtual worship. But worship upon return will be drastically different from what it was pre-Covid. Some will find the experience of communion in one kind (bread alone) to be disorienting. Many of us will have had that disorienting experience in sharing communion virtually, asking ourselves: is this really communion? In responding to that question, it is important to revisit what Lutherans believe about communion.

First, Communion is a gift and the content of that gift is the presence of Jesus who unites the divine self with us in a tangible, fulsome, and empowering way. However, Lutherans do not understand communion to be necessary for salvation. God in Christ also meets us in the sermon, in baptism, and in the mutual care we offer one another. Communion is, however,

empowering, and might be likened to a hug from God, for which many of us ache.

Further, communion is a coming together of a community. When I draw near to God, and you draw near to God, we draw near to one another. Many of us have sorely missed this aspect of communion and look forward to that intimacy of face to face worship.

Communion, in sum, is God's "Yes!" to us. It has been described as a visible word. The gospel word of unconditional love in the sermon is now seen and smelt, tasted and felt in the meal. But we might ask, is this "Yes!" compromised when we only taste one element? When our gathering is distanced? When the hug feels more like a handshake? Will this really be communion?

In answering this question, it is important to look at our past experiences of communion with an honest gaze and ask: Has communion always felt like a gift? Have we always found joy in our sibling at the table? Have we always walked away from the communion rail feeling that we have heard God's "Yes!"? Of course, the answer to these questions is "no." Communion is about relationship and relationships are messy, fractured, and uneven. This is the nature of life.

Our experiences at the altar upon return to churches will be broken, as have been our experiences of virtual worship, as has been our experiences of pre-Covid 19 communion. What makes communion fulsome is not our experience of communion, but God's promise that this meal is "for you." God promises the divine presence in Jesus and with him the presence of our siblings in Christ – those alive and those beyond life in eternal life. This promise is the power of the "Yes!" And Luther was insistent that God's gospel work regularly is done in fractured and broken experiences. This is the surprise of the gospel. What might this mean for a return to Amber Stage worship?

We need to be prepared to be surprised. Things will be different, but difference is not bad. God has written difference into the architecture of creation. Of course, we will lament what we miss but we will also need to dream, imagining how we

can make the most of new realities. Such dreaming is only possible when we allow ourselves to fail, knowing that as we explore this strange new world with our hearts open to God and one another, such failure will not be fateful, but rather, faithful to God's "Yes!"

A Pastor of the Eastern Synod

+ Summer Maintenance

A BIG thank you to Norman Whynot and the team at Kinburn Construction for spearheading the painting of the south side of the church. It looks fantastic!

+Kids Corner

Fall is a great time to enjoy God's creation. Get outside! Find all of the following and take a picture of your findings. Then send a picture to Pastor Brooklynn.

- Red leaf
- Brown leaf
- Orange leaf
- Green leaf
- Feather
- Rock
- Two sticks the same size
- Pine cone
- Acorn

+ A Message from CLWR

Below is a snippet of the WeCare update form CLWR. For the full article please see CLWR's website.

This weekend, Canadian Lutheran World Relief's (CLWR) Board of Directors, leadership team and denominational leaders gathered for our annual September meeting. As we came together — completely online for the first time in our history — we were all forced to confront the fact that we are working in a new reality, one that is marked by change and new circumstances. Everyone at CLWR is committed to meeting the challenges of this moment with humility and courage. We are steadfast in our responsibility to ensure CLWR can respond with integrity, efficiency and kindness in a time of soaring global need, and to make sure Lutherans in Canada can continue a

tradition of working toward justice and peace for all people. Based on those commitments, this weekend we made the decision to begin transitioning We Care, CLWR's long-standing and beloved commodity shipment program, with the intent that the shipping component of the program will be fully closed by the end of 2021. While many of us feel a deep, personal connection to this aspect of We Care, the decision was made with the unanimous support of everyone involved. Despite some sadness in making this change, we are united in confidence that this decision affirms CLWR's most deeply-held values, including responsible stewardship, shared learning and honouring the voices of those we are called to serve. We are encouraged and optimistic at the commitment everyone at CLWR has shown to being the most responsible, effective organization we can be on behalf of Lutherans in Canada.

+ Pastor Brooklynn's Office Hours

Come pop in and say hi anytime! Pastor Brooklynn's door is always open. Find Pastor Brooklynn in her office: **Tuesday 9am-2pm** and **Thursday 9am-2pm**. You can try anytime during the week, but she will be at her office Tuesday and Thursday 9am-2pm unless otherwise noted.

+ Joy Journal

Birthday greetings are extended to the following:

Oct 3	Jayden Joudrey
Oct 4	Tanya Frowd
Oct 6	Katherine Lowe
Oct 9	Thatcher Arenburg
Oct 10	Bonnie Duncan
Oct 12	Neva Wentzell
Oct 15	Kendra Ernst
Oct 17	Murray Aulenback Pastor Adam Snook
Oct 21	Doug Wentzell Liam Wamboldt
Oct 23	Brianna Andrews David Young
Oct 25	Brogan & Marissa Mason
Oct 27	Rachael Wawin
Oct 31	Jeffrey Knickle

If your birthday is missing and you would like it add to the Joy Journal let Kelly know.

+ Stay Connected!

Are you a member of the Atlantic Ministry Area - Lutheran ELCIC Facebook page? (@atlanticlutherans) This page posts events offered by Lutheran churches across the Atlantic Ministry Area. The posted events are your invitation to attend.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church + October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9am-2pm - Office	2 9am-2pm - Office	3
4 Pentecost 18 11am - Worship (Word)	5	6 9am-2pm - Office	7	8 9am-2pm - Office	9 9am-2pm - Office 2pm -Three Churches Foundation Meeting	10
11 Thanksgiving Sunday 11am - Worship/ Food Bank Sunday (Communion)	12 Thanksgiving Day	13 9am-2pm - Office 12:30-1:30 -Fall Atlantic Ministry Mtg.	14	15 9am-2pm - Office 10am - Clergy Mtg.	16 9am-2pm - Office	17
18 Pentecost 20 11am - Worship (Word)	19	20 9am-2pm - Office 7pm -Mt. Calvary Council Mtg.	21 2pm -Bishops' Company	22 9am-2pm - Office	23 9am-2pm - Office	24
25 Reformation Sunday 11am - Worship (Communion)	26	27 9am-2pm - Office 9am-5pm -Pumpkin Pick Up	28	29 9am-2pm - Office 2pm -October Bible Study	30 9am-2pm - Office	31

*Updates to the October Calendar will be announced in our weekly church bulletin.
Please contact the church office with any questions or for additional information about these notices.
Announcements for the November/December newsletter is due to the church office by October 23, 2020.*