



The Messenger

**November and December
2020**

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

I hope October treated you all well and you had time to celebrate Thanksgiving and enjoy the leaves changing colour to vibrant oranges, yellows, and reds. For me, October was a time of thanksgiving. Looking back over the last two months and the start of my time here at St. John's and Mount Calvary, I have a quite a bit to be thankful for. I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I received upon arriving here. From people gathering in the parking lot to say hello, to meals, phone calls, cards, house supplies and much more, you all went above and beyond to welcome me into the communities. I cannot say a big enough thank you for all that you did and how much it made me feel welcomed into the communities. Thank you.

In regards, to worship and service, currently at this time, congregational singing is strongly discouraged by the province and the Eastern Synod does not recommend singing. We are continually checking the COVID restrictions and guidelines and monitoring the situation. Until, restrictions relax, we look forward in hope, waiting for the time when we can embody our faith through congregational singing, handshakes, and hugs. And we wait, we wait knowing that we are helping and protecting our

neighbours and communities by following COVID restrictions and guidelines.

As we head into November and December, we await the Advent season and Christmas. Both will look different this year. As I sit and envision, the coming of Christ and Christmas Eve, I am comforted by the humble birth of Christ. In the midst of COVID, and trying to figure out how Christmas will be, may we be guided by the humble birth of Christ, knowing that God's love will be present this Christmas season, however it unfolds.

Lastly, this week I heard an inspiring quote from a neighbour. "Walk as fast as your feet allow each day." In the weeks ahead, as we journey together let us be guided by these words. Sometimes we will be able to walk fast and complete everything we would like to in a day and other days we might only be able to complete one or two things. The important thing is to take one step at a time and do what we can each day. As numbers increase in Nova Scotia and Canada, remember to take one step at a time and walk only as fast as your feet will allow.

With the wonder of a snowflake,

Pastor Brooklynn

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.
- ✓ November 2020 is the book of 1 Kings. December 2020 is the book of Psalm. Take the month 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 both books on our weekly email or at ELCIC Living Our Faith. Link is here-

<https://elcic.ca/livingourfaith/biblebookclub.cfm> December information is not out yet and will be made available when it is ready.

- ✓ At the end of each month, we will get together and discuss what we have read. For November, this will happen on **Thursday, November 26 2:00pm**. The Bible study will happen in person and online. Please contact Pastor Brooklynn for Zoom information. **December Bible study will take place Thursday, January 6, 2:00pm.**

+Christmas Eve Services

St. John's will have two Christmas services. The first service will be at 4:00pm and the second service will be at 10:00pm. Pre-registration is required for Christmas Eve services. Please pre-registration at stjohnsmahonebay@gmail.com or by calling the church office (902) 624-9660. When you pre-register, please list the people in your party/bubble that will be attending service together.

+Advent at Home

Towards the end of November, pick up an Advent calendar to help us wait and prepare for Christmas. Each day the Advent calendar will offer a word or phrase for reflection as we await the coming of Christ.



Photo by [Markus Spiske](#) on [Unsplash](#)

+ Blue Christmas Service

Join us Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30pm for a Blue Christmas Service at St. John's. All are welcome to attend.

"For the most part, Christmas is a time of celebration and joy. For many, however, this is a difficult time of year. Many people are carrying significant weights: grief, loss, depression, anxiety, financial stress, unemployment, uncertainty, aging parents, sick children, recent diagnoses, unknown

illnesses. The public tone of the season does not resonate with many people's private experience. The shape of worship offered here begins by gathering in honesty about grief and hearing the consolation found in God's presence and love." – Advent Unwrapped

+ 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.

+Endowment Update

As things start to go to a new normal, I thought I should give you an update of the endowment fund accounts. As of September 30 2020, the Burgoyne Fund has a balance of \$190,365.03 and the St. John's account has a balance of \$51,363.12, for a total of \$241,728.15.

At the last meeting at Paul's house, before he passed away, Paul and myself talked about the Burgoyne Fund and the St. John's fund. There was a time that both funds needed to be separate but enough time has passed that there are no longer any restrictions on the Burgoyne account. We had one meeting after this time and the endowment committee will be recommending to council that we combine the Burgoyne and St. John accounts.

I have also received word from Paul Ernst's executor, of his will, that we should have the \$200,000 endowment that Paul left the church without any restrictions, in the next two weeks. The hope is that we combine all the money and rename the fund the Ernst/Burgoyne Endowment, in honor of Paul's very generous gift.

The church still has about \$17,000 of restricted money that we can only spend the interest on and the hope is to take another \$8,000 and send it to Synod to invest in the ELFEC investment fund. The minimum buy in is now \$25,000. This way we are supporting synod and removing the restricted money from the general investment account. Then, there is no chance in mistakenly

spending it. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask anyone on the committee.- Melinda Kerwin

Update: payment of the bequest was received this week.

+Home Visits

At this time, limited home visits are 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.

+ 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 November is 1 Kings. 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://congregationsong.org/guide-hymnals-at-home/?fbclid=IwAR0KFA76GsSzJ2cv4RrLmTyjaG6iHMnKkEsp163d9oVVsl4RRx-7VgMnBTA>

+Children and Family Online Christmas Pageant

We are doing an online Christmas pageant! This is a multi-generational Christmas pageant. Everyone is welcome to participate. Please send in a video of you, your children, your family, your grandchildren, whoever is participating, answering one of the two questions.

- 1) Who is Jesus?
- 2) What does Christmas mean to you?

Please have your video sent into Pastor Brooklynn by December 9, 2020. Email the video to pastorbrooklynn@gmail.com. After all videos

are collected, the videos will be clipped and edited together to make the Christmas Pageant.

+ Service of the Word from CLWR

Have you seen our new Service of the Word video series?

We've now added a full transcript for our first video, which features Palestine, making it easier to follow along with the service.

We hope you will welcome us, and the special guests featured in this service, into your homes to worship together and share this important work.

Visit clwr.org/worship for more information

Carla Blakley, Community and Donor Relations Director
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)



+ Lutheran, Anglican Leaders Express Deep Concern For The Violent Situation Unfolding In Regard To Mi'kmaw Fishing In Nova Scotia

Dear Prime Minister, Premier, Ministers, and Deputy Minister:

We write out of urgent and deep concern for the violent situation unfolding in regard to Mi'kmaw fishing in Nova Scotia. As the safety and well-being of Mi'kmaw people is threatened, their fundamental human rights—embodied in the Friendship Treaty of 1752, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the 1999 affirmation of their Treaty Rights in the Marshall Decision—are minimized, ignored, or denied. The denial of the full humanity of the Mi'kmaw people by those who refuse to recognize these treaty obligations is at the base of this hatred and violence. Anything that is less than an urgent response by those who share in the protection of

these rights risks a complicity in a great evil.

The honour and character of Nova Scotia and Canada are at stake. If Indigenous justice is not possible in this instance, a basic commitment to an ideal of truth and fairness is demonstrably absent. The moral integrity of Nova Scotia fisheries is at stake. If the well-being of the industry is premised on injustice, there is no way that it can receive or sustain the respect and commerce of people concerned about truth.

We understand that all parties have expressed both the need and willingness to consult about a livable and sustainable future for all involved in these matters. In pursuit of this, we make the obvious point that Mi'kmaw people must be protected. We also wish to underline that without a foundational concern for Indigenous human rights and justice, no real solution is possible. You have the ability and responsibility to act towards a just and equitable solution to this crisis. We ask that you intervene immediately in this situation to provide safety for all and to counteract the violence and terror being experienced by the Mi'kmaw people yet again as they live out their sovereign rights on their lands and waters.

We pray for your well-being as you pursue these matters. We pray for the well-being of justice and the full recognition of human rights in our Land. May the God who is the sovereign of Creation and history aid you all to articulate and fulfill the truth and goodness that is surely the calling of this Land.

Sincerely,

The Most Rev. Linda Nichols
Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

The Most Rev. Mark MacDonald
National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, the Anglican Church of Canada

The Rev. Michael Pryse
Bishop of the Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

The Rev. Sandra Fyfe
Bishop-elect, Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince

Edward Island

The Rev. Canon Gordon Redden
Administrator, Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince
Edward Island

The Rev. Lori Ramsey
Administrator, Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince
Edward Island

The Very Rev. Paul W. Smith
Administrator, Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince
Edward Island

(@atlanticlutherans) This page posts events offered by Lutheran churches across the Atlantic Ministry Area. The posted events are your invitation to attend.

+ Joy Journal

Birthdays greetings are extended to the following:

Nov 2	Rebecca McDow Ethan Frowd Joanne Zimmer
Nov 4	Gerry Bowles Gary Wentzell
Nov 6	Grace Young Lucas Kelley
Nov 9	Charlie Strong
Nov 17	Karl Nauss
Nov 18	Cameron Joudrey
Nov 21	Peter Demone
Nov 24	Sara MacKinnon
Nov 28	John Kerwin
Nov 30	David Barry Lori Knickle Audrey Silver Courtney Lohnes
Dec 5	Amy Wamboldt Rachel Winchcombe
Dec 7	Marilyn Wentzell
Dec 8	Wade Ernst
Dec 12	Holly Snook
Dec 14	Brian Andrews
Dec 16	Jason Mailman Sophie Marriott
Dec 28	Nicholas Lowe
Dec 31	Cheryl Nauss

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?

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church + November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Sunday 11am-Service of the Word Worship	2	3	4	5 9am-2pm - Office	6 9am-2pm - Office	7
8 Pentecost 23 11am - Worship (Communion)	9	10 9am-2pm - Office	11 Remembrance Day	12 9am-2pm - Office	13 9am-2pm - Office	14
15 Pentecost 24 11am - Service of the Word Worship	16	17 9am-2pm - Office 7pm -St. John's Council Mtg.	18	19 9am-2pm - Office 10am - Clergy Mtg. 7pm -Mt. Calvary Worship/Council Mtg.	20 9am-2pm - Office	21
22 Christ the King 11am - Worship (Communion)	23	23 9am-2pm - Office	25	26 9am-2pm - Office 2pm -November Bible Study	27 9am-2pm - Office	28 10am -Worship Mtg. 6:30pm -A Night of Jazz and Blues
29 First Sunday in Advent 11am - Worship (Communion)	30 9:30am - Atlantic Ministry Bishop's Meeting					

*Updates to the November/December 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 January/February newsletter is due to the church office by December 27, 2020.*

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church + December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9am-2pm – Office	2	3 9am-2pm – Office	4 9am-2pm – Office	5
6 <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> 11am – Service of the Word Worship	7	8 9am-2pm – Office	9	10 9am-2pm – Office	11 9am-2pm – Office	12
13 <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> 11am – Worship (Communion)	14	15 9am-2pm – Office 7pm -St. John's Council Mtg.	16 Blue Christmas Service 6:30pm	17 9am-2pm – Office 10am – Clergy Mtg.	18 9am-2pm – Office	19
20 <i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> 11am – Service of the Word Worship	21	22 9am-2pm – Office	23	24 9am-2pm – Office Closed Christmas Eve Service 4pm and 10pm	25 Christmas Day	26
27 <i>First Sunday after Christmas</i> 11am – Worship (Communion)	28	29 9am-2pm – Office Closed	30	31 9am-2pm – Office Closed		

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