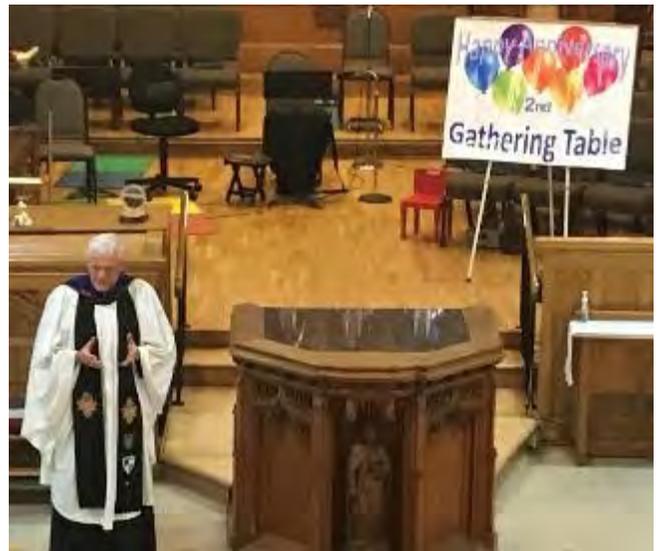


From Your Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

When I used to do more flying, I would sometimes find myself circling an airport in what was termed ‘a holding pattern’. At first, this made me quite anxious and many fearful thoughts came to my imagination. Eventually, while I came to accept this as a ‘normal’ part of air travel and accept the necessity of it. I can’t say that I ever fully relaxed when it happened.

It feels to me like we have been put into an extended ‘holding pattern’ in the church by measures necessitated by COVID-19. I can’t say that I am ‘relaxed’ exactly, but I have accepted the necessity. I am sure that I am not alone in feeling many things about this protracted ‘season’. I miss my family and my church family. I am frustrated by the limitations on pastoral care and other areas of ‘normal’ life in a community of faith. While ‘feasting on the Word’ has become a rich experience, sometimes I feel like ‘fasting from the Eucharist’ verges on a ‘sacramental famine’. Like many people, I feel a certain restlessness with the coming of summer. I suspect that this will only become more difficult as we see other parts of life – even other parts of the church – ‘re-opening’.



Despite all these feelings, however, I am grateful to Archbishop Anne and other leaders who have determined to be cautious and wise. Deciding on a path that is, in some ways, harder in the short haul, but safer in the long run is part of the hard calling of discernment. I was glad to learn that our sisters and brothers in the ELCiC have also chosen this road.

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I hear a good deal about ‘our rights ‘to do things and go places and see people, but I am reminded of the reality that the Apostle Paul touched on in the First Letter to the Corinthians: ‘Everything is permissible for me, but not everything is profitable.’ As the New Living Translation expresses this: ‘You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is beneficial.’ Even more strongly, he stressed that our freedom cannot bring risk or harm to others and that, to do so, would be a ‘misuse’ of that freedom. He was, of course, speaking of quite different circumstances, but I can’t help but imagine him saying something very similar to us in our current situation. It is, as G K Chesterton once wrote: “To have a right to do a thing is not at all the same as to be right in doing it.”

his road has been – and IS- as the song says in another context, ‘long with many a winding turn, that leads to who knows where’. We do know that the reality for those of us who call ourselves ‘Christians’ – who see ourselves as followers of Jesus and children of God lead by the spirit – that our calling is to look not only to our own interests but to those of others. That Hallelujah song goes on to say: ‘So on we go/His [her] welfare is of my concern/No burden is he [she] to bear/We’ll get there/For I know he [she] would not encumber me/He [she] ain’t heavy, he’s my brother [sister].’

We will get there, even if ‘there’ takes longer than we expect, and even if here’ looks quite different from what we imagine. In recent letters from Archbishop Anne – and now from the leaders of the ELCiC – there are words of encouragement and hope, as we move down the road toward re-opening and re-gathering. Discernment of a careful plan toward these long-expected realities is in process. I hope you are able to read the Archbishop’s letters, as well as those from our Lutheran sisters and brothers.

While it may seem like we are in a ‘holding pattern’, the reality is that there are many things going on. Nearly every week I try to do a long walk in natural surroundings. It is very evident to me that, beneath and behind what seems like a surface of ‘nothing going on’, MUCH is indeed happening, growing and emerging. There is, to paraphrase traditional sacramental language, evidence of the Creator’s ongoing presence ‘in, with and under’ these elements of nature.

That is also the ongoing sacramental reality of the church as a community of faith. When I meet via Zoom weekly with both our leadership team and other clergy throughout the deanery, the talk is often less about what we can’t do and more about what we can do – indeed what we ARE doing.

In fact, one of the things Archbishop Anne’s very pastoral letters stress is the need to be careful of our own lives and not become overextended. She is calling us to both continue to minister faithfully in worship and mission, but at the same time make these summer months a ‘Sabbath time’ – a time of rest and renewal. We are now in a process of trying to prayerfully discern how we live that out. Undoubtedly it will look different for each of us – perhaps even differently for different parishes. I recall Jesus saying in the Gospel that ‘the Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath.’

We have just observed Pentecost, celebrating the presence of the Spirit to renew and recreate both God’s church and God’s world. We have just pondered the mystery of the Holy Trinity in which God draws us in some way into the great dance of the very life of God. In these coming days which are sometimes called ‘Ordinary Time’, we are invited to remember the presence of God-with-us by which we ‘order’ our ‘time’ to live the abundant – the full and eternal – life for which we were created, for which Christ has set us free and in which the Spirit becomes a fountain within our innermost being. Somehow, this is the Sabbath we are being called to discern and live into in these days of summer.

Godspeed. George+



2020 Summer Musings from your Wardens

Summer is here! We hope and trust that everyone will be able to get outside and enjoy the warm “sweater-less” season – whether it is at camp, down to the marina, your neighbourhood, or wherever you can be outside. Getting some fresh air is particularly good medicine in these physical distancing times. While the Covid-19 numbers in Thunder Bay don’t seem to be very high, we encourage parishioners to continue practicing measures to stay safe: regular handwashing, physical distancing, and wearing a mask when near others.

Direction from Archbishop Anne is that we will not be opening our buildings for in-person worship until September. Specific measures to reduce the risks will need to be in place, and we expect direction from the Diocese very soon. We will keep everyone updated as decisions are made.

In the meantime, we will be carrying on with on-line worship services at 10:00 am, with thanks to Sharon Corston, our current faithful tech team. The worship may also be accessed through Facebook and YouTube, and we are looking into the possibility of phone-in church to enable those who do not have computer access to hear the Sunday services.

The need to maintain social distancing these past few months has made it difficult for us to support families and each other in our usual fashion during the loss of four valued members of our church family. We were sad to say farewell to Dolores Wawia, our faithful friend (Frog Lady), parishioner, storyteller, champion of Indigenous education initiatives in Thunder Bay and the province, and recipient of the Order of Ontario. For those who may not

have been able to attend the heartfelt on-line funeral service for Dolores on June 13, please go to our website to access the recording.

Thanks are due: to our faithful garden and lawn crews, the church yard looks great – it even has some lovely patches of unmown lawn – where wildflowers grow and feed the pollinators; to Dave for refinishing both the hall floor and the front door; to our Food Cupboard team who have been carrying on with their ministry every second and fourth Sunday; to our prayer chain team; and to many others who faithfully carry on their ministries.

As mentioned in our last note, Camp Gitchigomee will not be having any children’s camps, or the 75th anniversary celebrations this year. But this ministry carries on as well, with upgrades to the Dining Hall and other cabins, and behind-the-scenes work for the 2021 season. This will include preparations for an accreditation visit from the Ontario Camps Association, and will undoubtedly include having upgraded infection control measures in place. Please pray for our newly-elected and all 10 board members.

Financially, we are doing OK, but summer months typically see a decline in offerings, so we encourage everyone to please continue their donations as they are called to do so. Sharon will also be providing parishioners a financial update elsewhere in the newsletter.

Wishing you and yours a wonderful summer.

Your Servants

Marg, Marjorie, Sheila, Jim



Treasurer’s Note

Through the Diocese, all churches have been reporting their incomes in an effort to capitalize on some of the Covid-19 monies on offer. Doing it in this fashion is good to an extent but may not reflect the current financial status of each individual church. To date, we will be receiving monies for

one month only. We do not know what that may be.

There is a steady decline in revenues and we are heading in to summer which are our lowest giving months.

Please consider your givings, in order to have doors to open when we are allowed to gather together, we need to have revenue coming in to pay the bills.

Sharon Corston, Treasurer



The Altar Guild continues to work “behind the scenes” during this time of the church closure and live streaming of Sunday services.

With the Easter season over, we then prepared for Pentecost with hanging banners and changing colours and this year our flower coordinator, Rose Jardine suggested balloons rather than flowers to celebrate the joy of Pentecost. They were a wonderful, bright and colourful additions and from the comments from others may well become an annual addition to our decorating.

We also prepared our church for a memorial service for Delores Wawia.

Additionally, this month, we displayed our Anniversary poster, recognizing Gathering Table’s second birthday and prepared the church for Indigenous Sunday on June 21.

While the Altar Guild has some tasks to do at present, we are in a bit of a holding pattern until we have specific direction from the Diocese. We know that once the churches reopen the way in which we prepare the elements for the Eucharist will definitely change so for now we are just waiting for the directions.



Church Garden Activities

The tulips and the trilliums put on a good showing in May and the honeysuckle bush by the driveway has almost finished blooming. Azalea bushes under the house windows and a rhododendron in the back as well as the purple lilacs are beautiful right now. There are many buds on three different varieties of rose bushes, two in the front and one in the back beside the budding peony bush. Two French lilac bushes in the back yard will also be out soon. No dull moments here!

Gardening is progressing well. Thank you to those who donated bedding out plants which are now at the edge of all the gardens along the driveway and in front of the old parish house. Currently we are getting rid of dandelions in all the beds and working on the garden that is adjacent to the end of the driveway. We are digging out many weeds and some plants that have taken over the space. A wonderful assortment of other perennials are being discovered and we are transplanting a few into empty areas. When we have this first area under control we will commence cleaning out the front garden along the casino fence.

What a joy that will be - it is full of the wild blue bell weeds that are choking the perennials.



We welcome anyone who enjoys digging with a shovel, while avoiding the good plants under foot, to join us. One or two mornings a week for 2 hours. When this garden is tidy we will consider moving some of the plants from the back gardens to the front to add more variety.

If time and energy permits we may tackle the rear gardens along the back and side of the lawn.

Due to the very dry spring we will need to begin watering for extended periods with sprinklers. A quick pass with the hose once or twice a week is just not sufficient. This comes with an increase to our water bills but it can't be avoided until we get more rain. Water barrels beside the garage have been set up for future use and possibly two more at the back of the house will be hooked up.

Thank you to Sheila Douglas, Sheila Chisholm and Anne Strand for digging in the dirt with me. Its amazing how quickly the 2 hours pass.

Erminie Reid



The newly formed prayer chain has been active for three months now.

We have 22 people connected by email who are diligently praying for the many needs that have arisen.

If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain or have any requests that you would like placed on the prayer chain, please contact:

Sheila Chisholm at
chisholmsheilak@gmail.com
or text or phone 306-240-0771.

All prayer requests will be confidential and if you are asking for prayer for someone other than yourself, please obtain prior permission.

Sheila Chisholm

Prayer Shawl
Ministry



Please contact me if:

- someone is in need of a prayer shawls;
- you are interested in knitting prayer shawls; or
- you would like to make a donation to buy more wool. Our prayer shawl funds are getting low and we would appreciate this help.

Gloria McKay
Prayer Shawl Team Leader
g.mckay@shaw.ca
807-344-0575



Property Report

During the Church services closure for the Covid 19 pandemic, much has been happening re the property. You may be aware that for insurance purposes all Church's in the Diocese had to be checked every 72 hours and many other systems checked. Since our office was still open and there was either Roberta Wolfe (Tuesday to Thursday) or Sharon Corston in the building and of course on Sundays for the service and broadcast some of the items on the list were not applicable. Here is a summary of ongoing activities.

Work or activities regarding property were as follows:

- Church and grounds were circle checked every Monday and Thursday.
- Garbage collection and pick up has been maintained.
- Heating was reduced in the entire building until the boiler was shut down at the end of May.
- Hall floor was re-waxed.
- Handicapped and Ladies washroom floors were stripped of wax build up and re-waxed.
- Grass has been mowed as required by volunteers.
- Basement has had a good tidy up.
- Vacuuming has been maintained, just not on a weekly basis.
- All fire extinguishers were recharged in April/May.
- Extinguishers, CO detector, smoke alarms and the emergency light are still checked monthly.
- The basement stairway and furnace hallway have been painted.
- New LED lights now light up the Gospel window behind the altar.
- Rain barrels have been installed by the house garage for garden watering.

continued on next page

Food Cupboard: Mission and Covid-19

COVID-19 has altered our normal life patterns, but Gathering Table is committed to its vision of helping people experience the unconditional love of Christ by reaching out to our community during this time. Implementing modified practices to meet new challenges has enabled your food cupboard to maintain services; albeit, without the standard of fellowship and variety of choice of the pre-Covid-19 operation. Nevertheless, there is a continuing sense of community with the guests, volunteers, and supporters that makes Gathering Table a vital part of identity.

As we move forward into a time of easing Covid-19 restrictions we will face a new set of challenges. To a large degree these are unknown as we do not know the staged conditions for returning to "normal" church. "Normal" when referring to church may be a bit of a contradiction for an institution that seeks justice and reconciliation in society throughout time and in all places. What is "normal" is worship and mission, both are means of journeying with the Word into a renewed mind and new relationship. But both are dynamic and adaptable in time and place.

Regional Food Distribution Association will be ending its bimonthly hamper program at the CLE on 26 June. It will begin reinstating its distribution to local foodbanks in July. In July, Gathering Table will modify its 9am to 12:15pm distribute time to 11am to 12:15pm. This is still a longer time than our pre-Covid operation. Covid-19 operating practices will remain in place for safety. Maintaining safety while upholding relationships is an important facet of mission.

Relationships are integral to mission. As Christians we are relational because the Person of God is relational.

continued on next page





Well as everyone knows our work with the singers came to an abrupt end on March 15. The electric piano was moved out of the church and we brought it home.

We continue to work on music and have provided three videos so far for the Sunday Internet Ministry, the Anglican-Lutheran service and the memorial for Dolores Wawia.

It's been a pleasure but we sure miss those great voices. We'll be working on some more in consultation with George. We've learned a few things about making music videos and it's been good practice.

We wish everyone well and look forward to getting back to church in person when the time is appropriate.

Donna and Ted Hamill

Property Report continued from page 6

- The Pearl Street wooden doors were sanded and refinished with Spar varnish.
- "Bird Off" spikes have been installed on the overhead beam at the parking lot entrance ramp to help reduce pigeon droppings on our entry deck.

David Reid, Property Team Leader

Food Cupboard: Mission and Covid-19 continued from page 6.

Food cupboard is a series of relationships. Our relationship with God draws us to be guests, volunteers and supporters, each in their way seeking life, purpose, meaning, and fulfilment from the very ebb and flow of relationships at the food cupboard. As we restructure to meet the new challenges ahead, we keep in mind that we are all one community in God. Our joint efforts unite us and build us up as people of God doing our best to add to the common good. Food cupboard is a micro-example of our call to be good stewards in community and in connection with one another.



Postponed Indefinitely

The restrictions around safety related to COVID – 19 and the uncertainty about dates for different activities have made it necessary to postpone indefinitely the Nearly New Sale.

These past few months we have all been cleaning out basements and closets etc. and finding many treasures to donate. However, our sale has been postponed indefinitely and we have limited space for storage at Gathering Table so please keep the items at home until we are able to find a time for a future sale.

Thanks in advance for your understanding.



**Fresh
rhubarb
available to
share**

If interested give Gloria McKay a call (344-0575) or e-mail g.mckay@shaw.ca.

When we do this, we bring a level of flourishing to our neighbourhood and our community through our work, which reflects the glory of God to a world that is in desperate need of finding something greater than itself.

Flourishing only takes place in community and community only occurs with broad relationships. Gathering Table's food cupboard is a means of broadening relationships. As we return to new times, post-Covid-19, the mission of food cupboard remains.

Submitted by Dale Sparkes



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund

As an instrument of faith, **PWRDF** connects Anglicans in Canada to communities around the world in dynamic partnerships, to **ADVANCE** development, **RESPOND** to emergencies, **ASSIST** refugees and **ACT** for positive change. PWRDF is working towards a truly **just, healthy** and **peaceful** world.

PWRDF has recently responded to emergencies throughout the world, for example:

- PWRDF allocated \$200,000 to respond to **Covid-19** around the world and in Canada. The money will be spread across four partners: Partners in Health (global response), Village Health Works (Burundi), ACT Alliance's global appeal and HelpAge Canada, supporting vulnerable seniors here. Please read the whole story on the website.
- PWRDF is gratified to hear that Disaster Preparedness training with their partners at the Episcopal Church of Cuba is paying off. Originally designed with climate related disasters in mind, two years of training community members in disaster risk reduction has helped the diocese and its communities prepare for the COVID-19 crisis and communicate effectively with each other. The full story is on the website.
- In September 2019, Hurricane Dorian tore through the Bahamas. Canadian Anglicans rallied, donating more than \$200,000 to PWRDF to support recovery efforts. In February 2020, PWRDF's Humanitarian Response Coordinator visited many of the churches at the heart of the recovery efforts, which continue. See the video on the website.

These are several of many projects in the world. Please visit the website to see the various ways in which PWRDF and its partners are providing humanitarian aid and to read the stories.

Donations to PWRDF can be made on the website. Please visit the online donation page. If you make your gift to Emergency Response, you can indicate COVID-19 in the message box, You can also donate by special church envelope, EOP (electronic offering program), or by phone 1-866-308-7973 toll free or 416-822-9083. You can use mail and please make



Caring for seafarers
around the world

Port of Thunder Bay

Your contributions are gratefully accepted; for additional information contact the Seafarers' Centre (807)

344-8241.

Contacts : The Revd Canon Ed Swayze
Seafarers' Centre, Suite 450
100 Main Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6R9

Telephone: +1 807 344 8241

Mobile: +1 807 626 2571

Local website :

www.missiontoseafarers.ca/thunderbay

Opening times : Mon 13:30-14:30;
Wed 10:00-12:00 by appt

June

29 9:30 am Meat Orders due at the Seafarers' Centre

July

8 10:00 am Board of Directors meeting;
12:10 pm Eucharist and Lunch

8 2:00 pm Meat Orders picked up
12 Sea Sunday - please pray for seafarers and the organizations that minister to seafarers: Mission to Seafarers and the Apostleship of the Sea

August

5 cancelled Eucharist and Lunch

September

2 10:30 am Board of Directors meeting

2 12:10 pm Eucharist and Lunch

27 1:30 pm-4:00 pm Open House at the Seafarers' Centre, a light lunch will be provided. ***
*to be confirmed at the beginning of September****

cheques payable to PWRDF. The address is: The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, The Anglican Church of Canada, 80 Hayden Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2

- See the **World of Gifts Guide**, on the website or the insert in the Anglican Journal. For a unique meaningful gift at any time of year, you can order seeds for farmers, livestock and contribute to projects worldwide, etc.

For further information go to www.pwrdf.org
Linda Rintamaki (rep)

Reminder about Visitations:

Pastoral care visits will be restricted to emergency situations – please call the office or the Rectory if such a situation arises. Telephone prayer ministry will be ongoing.



If you are interested in a copy of the current issue of Our Daily Bread, please call the office at 345-6898 and a copy will be mailed to you.



The Craft Group

Our few keep those knitting needles clickety clacking making toques, neck warmers and mitts.

In this time of isolation and not being able to meet on Friday mornings the group has produced more items.

We keep in contact, if only to check how much the other has completed!

Brenda Coopman



Archbishop Anne has issued a pastoral letter introducing "Loving Our Neighbours"

On June 17th, Anglicans throughout the province will be receiving "Loving Our Neighbours", a 'guiding document' to begin the process of re-entering our church buildings for corporate worship following this pandemic period.

Pages 10 through 14 outline where we are at this stage.

The Mission to Seafarers: Port of Thunder Bay

Meat Fund-Raiser 2020

Meat supplied by European Meats a Thunder Bay company

Mild Legion Sausages	5 lbs	\$28.00
Hot Legion Sausages	5 lbs	\$28.00
Cheese Legion Sausages	5 lbs	\$35.00
Pepperettes	8/pkg, 1 lb/pkg	\$ 8.50
Garlic Chub (Kielbasa)	2 lbs	\$17.00
Lenkki (Baloney) Ring		\$12.00
Ham and Garlic Ring (Kielbasa)		\$14.00
Chicken Breast (unseasoned)	4 kg	\$55.00
4 oz Beef Patty	42 pcs	\$58.00
Strip Loin Steak	8 pcs	\$80.00

People appreciate the quality of the meat we sell through this fundraiser. European Meats suppliers are in Murillo and Western Canada. The meat is gluten free and it has no additives or preservatives and European Meats makes the sausage using a mixture of beef and pork. The hamburger patties are gluten-free.

Orders must be prepaid, a cheque is payable to 'The Mission to Seafarers'. Orders must be placed by Monday, June 29th and they will be delivered on Monday, July 8th.

Contact Jonas Riauka to place your order at

630-7769 or 577-2566

Please help support our ministry to the seafarers.



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

From the Archbishop

A Pastoral Letter to the Faithful in the Diocese of Algoma

June 17th, 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

Today Anglicans around Ontario will be receiving the template document attached to this letter, “Loving Our Neighbours”, intended as a ‘guiding document’ to begin the process of re-entering our church buildings for corporate worship following this pandemic period. It is a cautious and measured approach, as promised, as we adjust to the new normal in the midst of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

The template was created as a collaborative effort through numerous conversations between the Ontario House of Bishops, the Executive Officers of each Diocese, and in consultation with Epidemiologists and Chancellors, all of whom have given a great deal of time to this work. Together, we have embraced this template and see it as a faithful work of corporate discernment which has at its heart the theme of loving our neighbours and caring for those who are most vulnerable and susceptible to the virus, while also returning to our sacred spaces for worship and fellowship.

I have always appreciated the collegial working relationships that exist within our Provincial House of Bishops. As we have met weekly over the last three months for mutual support and encouragement and to do the difficult work of leading our dioceses through a period of pandemic, the ties that bind us together have grown stronger.

I commend this high level document to you with the understanding that it will be adapted **diocese by diocese depending on each dioceses’ local context. I am grateful to the Ven. Dr. Jay Koyle and the Ven. Kelly Baetz for their willingness to prepare the more detailed document for Algoma over the summer months, with specific guidelines and protocols, as we make our way through the RED, AMBER, and GREEN stages of the re-entry process.** Archdeacons Jay and Kelly will be working in consultation with clergy and lay leaders from around Algoma, and with input from other dioceses and denominations who are also undertaking this work.

As of today, Algoma is in the RED STAGE, and God-willing we will enter the AMBER STAGE on September 6th, 2020.

619 Wellington Street East ✻ Sault Ste Marie, Ontario ✻ P6A 2M6 ✻ Canada
Telephone: (705) 256-5061 ✻ Fax: (705) 946-1860
Web site: www.dioceseofalgoma.com ✻ E-mail: bishop@dioceseofalgoma.com

"Who is my neighbour?" (Luke 10.29)
The one who showed mercy.

Love of neighbour is a gospel value and is one that I have witnessed being lived out through the "Saints in Algoma" over the last challenging months as the pandemic spread through our nation and the world. Love of neighbour is often a costly, sacrificial love which always places the needs of the other before their own.

I have witnessed 'love of neighbour' through the ministry of the 'Peters and the Pauls' who have continued to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through online services of worship, the sending out of sermons and prayers, and in ongoing teaching and fellowship.

I have seen it through the loving care of Good Samaritans whose works of mercy included the preparation and delivery of meals to the lonely and isolated, the distribution of food for the poor and homeless, the making of masks for all of their neighbours.

I have seen it in the 'Marys and Johns' who stood at the foot of the cross praying for the suffering and with the bereaved, lonely, and sick without being able to offer a consoling hug. Their gospel words of reassurance and hope brought comfort and healing to the weary and worn.

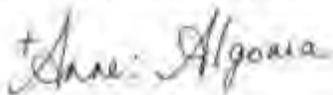
I have seen it in the 'Barnabases' whose ministry of encouragement resulted in gifts of money being offered to their parishes, to those who found themselves out of work, and to worldwide organizations caring for those in need. The Book of Acts describes Barnabas as a 'good man, full of the Holy Spirit, and faith.' (Acts 11: 24) The Diocese of Algoma is filled with good men and women, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and I am enormously proud to be your bishop.

The Book of Acts also says that, during this time, **the 'hand of the Lord' was with them all and a great number became believers and turned to faith.** Through our internet ministries, new believers have tuned in and prayed with us for the healing of the world.

In the midst of great trials in recent months there have also been moments of great grace.

For all these ministries and for so much more, including your prayers and support for me, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I wish you all the gift and blessing of a safe and happy summer in the company of those you love.

"Therefore my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain." (1. Cor. 15.58) And may the peace of Christ which passes all understanding remain with you and keep you in love,



The Most Rev. Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma



The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

The Anglican Church of Canada

A Template for the Safe Reopening of Our Churches

June 17, 2020

The provincial House of Bishops has decided that our churches will not be reopening for in-person worship until at least September. This decision was made in consultation with public health experts as well as our diocesan executive officers and chancellors, with the well-being and safety of all our parishioners and the communities we serve uppermost in our hearts and minds.

As we contemplate reopening safely, we offer a common template for Anglican dioceses in the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, to be adapted locally as pandemic conditions in our communities warrant the safe reopening of our church buildings.

We recognize that a decision to move forward from one stage to another, or back to an earlier stage, will be affected by the course of the pandemic, which is dynamic; and that subsequent waves are possible, along with regional variations.

As things unfold, the Bishops will meet and consult regularly and will seek counsel from our advising epidemiologists: The Reverend Michael Garner (Public Health); Dr. Rob James (Consultant); and Dr. Bill Gardner (Research).

The enclosed template is unanimously endorsed by the provincial House of Bishops:

The Most Reverend Anne Germond
The Right Reverend Michael Oulton
The Right Reverend Susan Bell
The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil
The Right Reverend Dr. Todd Townshend
The Right Reverend Shane Parker
The Most Reverend Fred Hiltz
The Right Reverend Peter Fenty
The Right Reverend Riscylla Shaw
The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson
The Right Reverend Jenny Andison

The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario
619 Wellington Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2M6
Telephone: 705-256-5061 Email: bishop@dioceseofalgoma.com



Loving Our Neighbours: A Template for the Safe Reopening of Our Church Buildings

The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

All directives of the Government of Ontario (and Quebec, where applicable) and local public health authorities must be followed at all times, including the following foundational pandemic hygiene guidance: washing hands often; staying home if feeling ill; practising physical distancing and where not possible, wearing a face covering.

During all stages, public health directives and diocesan guidelines must be followed and rigorous deep cleaning and disinfecting must happen on a regular basis. Where discrepancies exist between local, provincial, diocesan guidelines and the template below, the more restrictive guideline should be followed.



RED STAGE

- Corporate worship continues to be livestreamed or pre-recorded and made available online.
- Small weddings, funerals and emergency baptisms are permitted.
- One on one, in-person essential pastoral care by clergy and pastoral visitors is permitted.
- Offices may reopen for staff and lay leaders where physical distancing is possible.
- Small meetings may occur where physical distancing is possible; online options are preferred whenever possible.
- Vital food security and community ministries to vulnerable populations are permitted to operate, with appropriate diocesan/local public health approval.
- Church buildings are closed to the public, except in circumstances where tenants or licensees are permitted to operate according to provincial, local, and diocesan guidelines.
- Food and beverages are not to be served or shared.



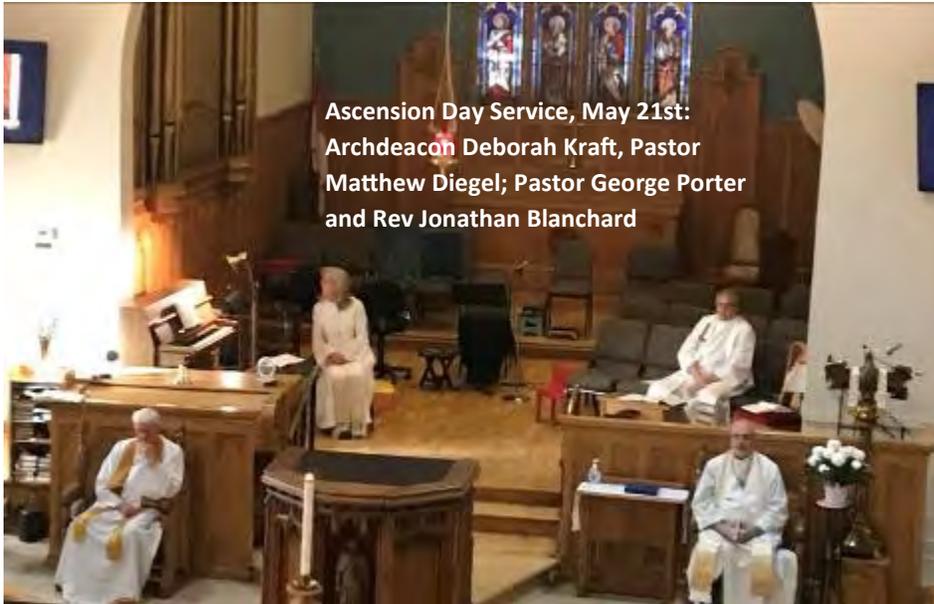
AMBER STAGE

- Corporate worship may be conducted in-person; the wearing of face coverings is strongly encouraged, unless contraindicated:
 - The Eucharist may be celebrated, with distribution of the bread only.
 - Singing by soloists or small ensemble/ small choir may be permitted with appropriate physical distancing. No congregational singing.
 - The Peace will be shared using non-contact gestures from pews.
- Online services continue to be offered in addition to in-person worship.
- Larger in-person meetings may resume where physical distancing is possible.
- Food and beverages are not to be served or shared at coffee hours, meetings, pot-lucks.
- Routine pastoral care visits may resume, observing heightened hygiene practices.



GREEN STAGE

- Corporate worship continues to be conducted in-person:
 - The Eucharist may be celebrated, with communion in both kinds (no intinction).
 - Choir and congregational singing fully resumes.
 - The sharing of the Peace and other liturgical practices resume with modifications.
- Online services may continue as an extension of our worship life.
- Meetings, coffee hours, hall rentals, and social and fundraising events may resume.



Offering Options

At this time when Sunday worship services have been suspended, we are providing a number of ways that you can continue to financially support our mission and ministries at Gathering Table. Of course, these methods are unnecessary for parishioners currently using the Electronic Offering Program (EOP). But if you wish to begin the EOP or modify your existing EOP, please contact the Diocesan office at: <https://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/about-the-diocese-of-agloma/electronic-offering-programme/>.

1. Drop it off at the church office at 228 Pearl St. Office hours are Tuesday to Thursday 10 – 2 and Friday 8 – 12 noon. Just buzz the door, identify yourself, and the door will be unlocked. Give it to Roberta or Sharon, who will record the offering.
2. Mail it in to: Gathering Table, 228 Pearl St., Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E4. Please ensure to not mail cash.
3. Send an e-transfer by setting up a profile with your own financial institution, indicate the recipient is Gathering Table church, and use the church email address of office@gatheringtable.ca Use the security question “What is the first name of our Pastor?” (answer: George) In the message box, please include your envelope number or mailing address, and the Sunday date you wish the offering to be applied. For example:

With appreciation,

Marg, Marjorie, Sheila, Jim

Envelope No: 999 for
Sunday, March 22, 2020

Connections



Address: 228 Pearl Street,
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E4
(807) 345-6898

Email: <mailto:office@gatheringtable.ca>

Web: <http://gatheringtable.ca>

- On Line Worship: Sundays 10 am
- Zoom Coffee: Sundays, 11:30 am - email Jim at <mailto:fsutton@tbaytel.net>
- Zoom Man Alive: Wednesdays, 7 pm; email Jonas at <mailto:jrironman45@yahoo.ca>
- Zoom Table Talk: suspended until the 3rd Thursday in September
- Find us on Facebook and Facebook live
- Prayer Needs? Email Sheila at <mailto:chisholmsheilak@gmail.com>
- Daily Readings: <https://lectionary.anglican.ca/>

Pastor: The Rev. Canon George M. Porter, D.Phil.
Phone: (807) 626-9650 or Cell 355: (807) 355-5454
Email: <mailto:porter.george@gmail.com>

Hon. Assist: The Rev. Gail M. Clifton, M.Div.
Phone: (807) 768-9865
Email: <mailto:gailx2@shaw.ca>

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**





228 Pearl Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E4

Keep in Touch

Watch our Sunday Service during the Covid-19 crisis at:
<http://gatheringtable.ca/services/> and clock on Streamspot.

Phone: 807-345-6898
E-mail: office@gatheringtable.ca
Facebook: Gathering Table

Hall: 807-345-6088
Web: gatheringtable.ca

Service Time: Sunday at 10:00 am
Food Bank Open: 2nd and 4th Sundays starting at 11:30 am

Pastor: The Rev. Canon George M. Porter, D.Phil.
Phone: 626-9650
Mobile: 355-5454
Email: porter.george@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Gail M. Clifton, M.Div.
Phone: 768-9865

Lay Readers: Frances Bennett-Sutton, Kim Bienvenue,
Rose Jardine, Brenda O'Neill, Jim Sutton and
Frances Bennett-Sutton

Rector's Warden: Marg Boone
Deputy Rector's Warden: Marjorie Tutkaluk
People's Warden: Jim Sutton
Deputy People's Warden: Sheila Chisholm

Co – Music Directors: Vacant (Organist) and Donna Hamill (Pianist)