



*a Faith Community in the
Anglican Church of Canada*

November 2021

Services for November 21 to January 2

Date	Time	Theme
November 21	10:00 am	Reign of Christ with Communion
November 28	10:00 am	First Sunday in Advent
December 5	10:00 am	Second Sunday in Advent
December 12	10:00 am	Third Sunday in Advent with Communion
December 19	10:00 am	Fourth 'Sunday in Advent
December 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve with Communion
December 26	10:00 am	Boxing Day with Communion
January 2	10:00 am	Lessons and Carols or Communion tba



Christmas Flowers



Advent is coming, and so is Christmas! I'm afraid to say it out loud, but it looks like we will be able to celebrate together this year! The Altar Guild is getting the sanctuary ready for this most wonderful day, but still with caution.

Deadline: Monday, December 13, 2021, to ensure placement of your dedication in the bulletins for Christmas services. Questions? Call Rose at 621-1205.

To Place A Dedication:

A. Contact Rose Jardine by email at roseanew@tbaytel.net, or by voice mail / text at 621-1205, with the wording for your flower 'dedication'. THEN: Make a cheque or money order out to: ALTAR GUILD, flag the envelope 'Altar Guild Flowers', and mail to the church address. Please include a written confirmation of your details, as above.

OR

B. Write up your Dedication, bring it to a regular service. Place the note and your donation into an envelope, label it 'Gathering Table Christmas Flowers'. Place the envelope into the 'Treasure Chest' near the office. Again, write cheques to ALTAR GUILD.

Thank You!



Wardens Notes

Hello everyone. We trust and hope that you are doing well at this beginning of winter after a long and lovely fall. As you know, it is a season of change for Gathering Table as well. George Porter presided at his last service on October 24, and it was a very meaningful and poignant time together. George is now the Incumbent at Southwick Community Episcopal church in Massachusetts. Nancy has returned to Thunder Bay and is packing up their belongings at the Rectory on Cameron Street in anticipation of the movers arriving around the 18th. We continue to pray for them as they make this major transition to life in the USA.

As you may be aware, the Rev Gail Clifton and Lay Readers have been presiding at our Sunday worship services. We will also have guest priests on occasion, including the Rev. Nancy Ringham on December 12 and the Rev. Gordon Holroyd on Christmas Eve. There will be no Christmas Day service this year. This “team coverage” of Sunday services will likely continue until we have a new Incumbent because we have been advised by Archdeacon Deborah Kraft that no interim priests are available. Pastoral care needs should continue to be directed to the Rev. Gail Clifton.

Regarding music at our worship services, we are working towards re-introducing some live music in addition to the pre-recorded music we have used for the past many months. Many thanks to our faithful tech. team, who have been dealing with many challenges with the sound and broadcast system.

You will be pleased to know that our Concurrence Committee has already submitted an updated parish profile to Archdeacon Deborah and Archbishop Anne. It did not require any changes, and is ready to be posted with incumbent job vacancy. The Wardens also submitted financial documents to the Diocese in support of our financial stability in the next five years. Please pray for the

right person to walk with us in our missions and ministries here at Gathering Table.

Speaking of finances, we are holding our own. Thank you for your faithful, continued support. All the bills are paid at this time, but we have an upcoming insurance bill next month in the order of \$12,000. Yikes! Please stay tuned for the roll out of our Stewardship Plan (hint: it’s not just about finances).

Part of the insurance bill comes from insuring the church buildings including the former rectory at 226 Pearl St, and the current rectory at 213 Cameron Street. We are investigating options – including demolition - of the former Pearl St rectory because it is beyond repair. It is likely that the Cameron St rectory will provide accommodation for the interim priest at St. Michael’s church, Bishop Victoria Matthews. When this time is ended, we will request that the Cameron St rectory be sold. This will decrease our insurance costs and the proceeds from the sale will be put into the Diocesan consolidated fund, which will generate interest to help pay the operating costs at Gathering Table.

As the pandemic continues, we are in pretty good shape here in Thunder Bay, with only a few active cases. However, this may change – particularly as we gather indoors more frequently during the colder months. Please continue to practice the essentials of staying safe: getting your vaccination – including a booster when available; wearing a mask when in a public indoor setting; maintaining physical distance of 2 meters, and practice good hand hygiene. Please note also that the Diocese has established a COVID-19 Vaccination Policy that we must comply with. Please see elsewhere in our newsletter for the highlights of it, and how it may affect your ministry / mission here at Gathering Table.

If you haven’t already been back to our in-person worship services, please consider doing so. We still can’t gather afterwards for coffee and a good chat, but it is quite lovely to worship together and connect with people we haven’t seen in many months.

Take care and stay safe.

Your Servants,

Marg, Jim, Sheila, Michelle

FOOD CUPBOARD

Adapts and Serves

The Covid pandemic has not stopped Gathering Table's food cupboard from performing its missional function. While there have been many adaptations to comply this continually revising guidelines, the volunteers have been able to structure the operation to conform. The clients have been most understanding and patient as they were restricted to waiting outside in all kinds of weather.

The new commercial Fridge and Freezer units, financed through a government grant, have greatly improved our ability to provide nutritious foods on a regular basis. RFDA and our other supporting congregations—Hilldale, Our Saviour, and St. George's—plus non-parishioner donations have enhanced the support provided by Gathering Table parishioners.

This year the cupboard computerized its registration process. This links Gathering Table's registration with that of other food cupboards in the city and allows RFDA to compile statistics that it uses to seek community and government support. The 'Link 2 Feed' program provides data showing the usage of food distribution outlets individually and city wide.

We are providing food, on average, to about 60 family units made up of about 80 individuals (adults and children). Many come only when absolutely necessary and there is a regular turnover of new clients. Most only take what they see as needed. There is little, if any, abuse. There are loads of appreciation.

Some foods are received in excess of demand: chick peas, lentils, and black beans. Rather than letting them go out of date we transfer the excess to Dew Drop Inn or the Salvation Army. Some foods are donated well past their 'best before' date. We dispose of expired and open products that are donated. Almost all donations are distributed to clients of Gathering Table's food cupboard.

As the food cupboard moves into the new year there will likely be new requirements to adapt to. Hopefully it will be adaption to a new normal that will enhance the fellowship aspect of the food cupboard. Whatever it be, all effort will be made to continue the mission of feeding those in need.

Submitted by: Dale Sparkes (Chairperson)



A Brief Summary of the Synod COVID-19 Policy

An additional COVID-19 Vaccination Policy has been distributed to the Diocese. This new policy has been enacted in order to "better ensure the protection and safety of our parishioners, clergy, employees, and all we serve in the name of our Lord ..." and has been developed with the guidance of health advisors

With this policy, all parish employees and volunteers will be required to be immunized with two doses of a COVID Vaccine and to provide proof of vaccination. The proof in-

cludes the date of the last dose which needs to be 14 days before volunteering. The person must have received the first dose of the vaccine by Nov. 8, 2021 and the second no later than December 10, 2021.

This policy applies to staff and volunteers but not to those entering the church to attend a worship service.

For the Food Cupboard, clients will not be required to show proof of vaccine however all volunteers working at the Food Cupboard will need to.





PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund

Working towards a truly just, healthy and peaceful world.

Archbishop Anne Germond in her charge to Synod in the fall of 2021, talked about the importance of the PWRDF'S VACCINE EQUITY FUND; a resolution to support this project was passed by Algoma's synod. When you receive your vaccine, "Pay it forward" and make a donation to PWRDF'S VACCINE EQUITY FUND. Your gift will support PWRDF partners in the most vulnerable parts of the world as they prepare for vaccination rollout, including work already underway to supply PPE, thermometers, sanitation and hand washing facilities, and accurate public health information. After you make your donation, you will receive a Christmas ornament at Gathering Table as a thank you; this is a Deanery initiative. You may donate online, over the phone by calling Donor Relations Officer Mike Ziemerink at 416-822-9083, or leave a voicemail toll-free at 1-866-308-7973 and someone will return your call. Or send a cheque with "Vaccine Equity Fund" in the memo field to PWRDF, 80 Hayden St, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 3G2

Returning to the Charity Intelligence Top 100 list for 2021 is PWRDF. PWRDF is noted for its international aid, transparency and accountability. When you make a donation to PWRDF you can be assured that your contribution is well spent and put to a good cause.

The 2021 **World of Gifts** guide arrived with your October Anglican Journal. (And it will come again in November and December too.) This year marks the fifth anniversary of the World of Gifts, and another opportunity for you to support PWRDF and its partners in climate action, food security, emergency relief, clean water, gender empowerment and Indigenous programs. And yes, there are goats galore! You can also download the World of Gifts guide or shop online to make your gifts 24/7.

Spread the good news of PWRDF with beautiful Christmas cards containing the message "Christmas Peace" in Oji-Cree, Inuktituk, English, French, Japanese, Spanish and Kiswahili. When you say Merry Christmas with a PWRDF card, you are supporting it and its partners. Order your cards online through the PWRDF website.

When you visit the PWRDF website you will discover the many other worthwhile projects worldwide that PWRDF is involved in.

Linda Rintamaki (rep)



Seeking Volunteers to work on the Technology Production Team

If the past year has taught us anything, the Sunday broadcasts are an integral part of our services and church life. To this end, we are in need of volunteers to make the experience an even better one.

The roles are: **Camera and Media** using Vmix (2) and **Projection Media Visuals** using Powerpoint (2) and **Sound** (2) using an Allen & Heath QU Chrome Edition Mixer via an iPad.

Please, if you are interested or if you know of someone who would be interested, please contact Sharon Corston at 355-1549 or sjcorston@gmail.com.





Caring for seafarers
around the world

Mission to Seafarers – Thunder Bay

MTS-Thunder Bay is celebrating it's 60th Anniversary on December 6, 2021!

A **St. Nicholas Day Eucharist** will be held at **11:00 am** on **Wednesday, December 8th** at **Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**, 10 Farrand Street (at River).

The Chair of the board of MTS-TB for 2021-2022 is Pastor Matthew Diegel.

For further information visit www.missiontoseafarers.ca/thunderbay or call (807) 344-8241.

In Christ's service,

Ed

Canon Ed Swayze, *Chaplain, Mission to Seafarers: Port of Thunder Bay*

Stipend Endowment Update

Last Vestry the congregation committed to a partnership based on the idea of mutual stewardship. The 'idea' was that church members acting as stewards to and for Gathering Table would establish an endowment fund to guarantee the financial responsibility of providing the incumbent with security of salary (stipend).

A fully financed endowment would generate income making Gathering Table (GT) a more attractive place of employment for a clergy presider, it would move GT from just getting by to self sustaining, it would alleviate obsession on finding operating funds, and it would, most importantly, liberate GT to fulfill its missional inspirations. The Stipend Endowment's goal is to provide a long term secure source of income to pay for incumbent salary. The position of clergy person is

essential to having a vibrant missional church. And, being a vibrant missional church is essential for the continuing creation of and survival of Gathering Table.

To date, the Fund has received the start-up funds (\$1000) pledged by the Vestry and it has received \$2050 from a few congregant donations. This is insufficient mutual support to make the Fund a viable contributor to the health of GT. There are multiple ways parishioners can contribute through mutual stewardship to increase the capability of the Fund to execute its purpose: occasional donation envelopes dedicated to the Fund; an EOP commitment to the Fund; in-memory donations to the Fund; a dedicated insurance policy bequeath; and/or, a legacy commitment in a Will. Mutual stewardship perceives lasting value in the activity of Gathering Table as a vehicle of grace that helps and shapes people's lives.

As we move to close out the year, we approach the Christmas season. It can seem ironic to close the year with a ritual about new beginning, but that is what Christ and Christianity are about—endings and new beginnings—the process of life. We enter the new year with fresh inspiration and thanks for blessings received over the past year and beyond. The creation of the Endowment Fund can mark the recognition of and commitment to the changing life and needs of parish of Gathering Table. The creation of the Endowment Fund can only nurture the changing life and needs if the parishioners participate in mutual stewardship.

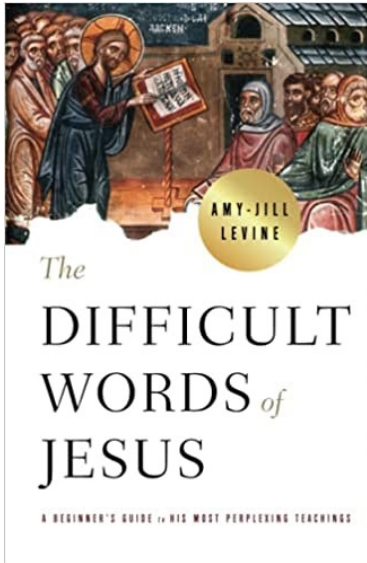
As Christ comes more fully into our lives, as we realize incarnation, we will have the fire of Spirit in our hearts. Let us leave the present year and enter the new year full of expectation and in a partnership of mutual stewardship.

Submitted by: Stipend Fund Administrator Dale Sparkes



Advent Book Study—The Difficult Words of Jesus

Author Amy-Jill Levine



Your host—By The Rev'd Gail Clifton M. Div
 The Study will run Tuesdays from 2:00-4:00 pm November 30, December 7 and 14 in the Parish Hall and by Zoom.

The Book can be purchased from Amazon. Kindle has a price of \$14.99 or a paper copy for \$20.99.

Please Contact Rev. Gail Clifton at 768-9865 or gailx2@shaw.ca.

(all COVID-19 protocols will be adhered to)



During this time of social isolation and uncertainty, it is more important than ever to pray for one another. If you would like to be a part of the Gathering Table prayer chain or you have any needs or concerns that you would like placed on the prayer chain please contact heila Chisholm at chisholmsheilak@gmail.com or text /phone 306-240-0771.



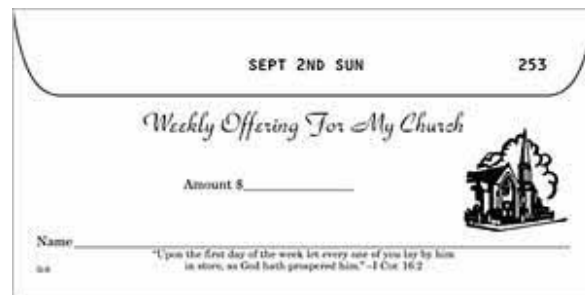
Pastoral care visits will continue to be restricted to emergency situations.

You may contact Rev. Gail Clifton at 768-9865 or gailx2@shaw.ca or leave a message at the office 345-6898 or office@gatheringtable.ca if such a situation arises.

Available at the Office



Our Daily Bread for September to November and December to February



2022 Offering Envelopes are now available at the office.



Christmas offering envelopes are available if you wish to make a special offering.

Age Friendly Conversations

Teleconference Kickoff

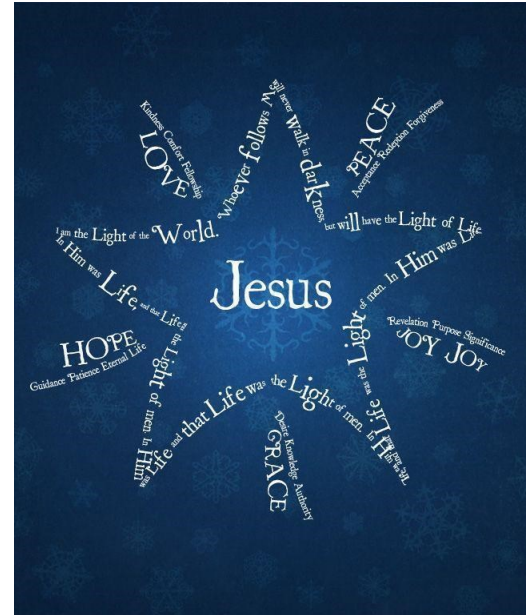


With Dr. Ella Goodman

Wednesday, Nov. 10th
11:00am to noon eastern

COVID-19:
prevention & self-care for
people over the age of 55

Toll-free number: 1-855-436-3635
Dial-in access code: 2108008



NorWest Community Health Centres
Centres de santé communautaire NorWest

age
TH

// November 1st-30th //



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN TO DO THIS MONTH?

Join Us!

Join Rannon & Amy on Zoom through March of Dimes for fun workshops and afternoon activities!

- Resume Tips & Tricks
- Create a Goal Workshop
- Job Maintenance
- Self Care Workshop
- Coffee Talks
- Wheel of Fortune
- Jeopardy
- Online Bingo
- Karaoke Friday's!



TO REGISTER

Contact Rannon or Amy by email or phone.

Email:
rnt11@mc.marchofdimes.ca
aweedin@marchofdimes.ca
Office: 807-345-6595 ext. 121
Cell: 807-355-7410



