

Happy Thanksgiving

News Around the Flock

The Church of the Good Shepherd

Anglican Parish of Lancaster

Thanksgiving 2024 Newsletter



Regular Service Times

Holy Communion on
Sundays at 10:30 AM

Phone: (506)635-8145 (Office open Tue-Fri 9-Noon)

facebook "Church of the Good Shepherd, Saint John, NB"

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We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

Happy Thanksgiving



THANKSGIVING 2024

Dear Good Shepherd church family,

"Thank you." Simple. Profound. Hearing it can lift your spirits.

But saying it is life changing. It draws us out of ourselves. It admits the impact of another upon us. It admits another into our lives. It celebrates that entry. It enjoys the effect of the other upon us. And we are the richer for it.

That's why scripture speaks so often of thanking God. Here's a small example.

"...so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you for ever." Psalm 30:12 [NRSV-A]

The most profound experience of giving thanks is in the Eucharist. The word itself - the Greek word for *eucharist* - means of thanksgiving, as we hear in the words of Jesus in giving us this sacrament.

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take and eat. This is my body." ²⁷ He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from this, all of you." Matthew 26:26,27 [CEB]

Here we receive of the very life of God, in Jesus Christ. For such a gift of God's grace into our lives we can only express to God great and heartfelt thanks.

Happy Thanksgiving

"Thank you." Simple. Profound. Say it to God. And that can renew your life.

A blessed Thanksgiving to you and yours, especially as you give thanks for the many ways in which God impacts your life, now and for all of eternity.

Most sincerely,

Keith Joyce

Keith Joyce (Fr)

Interim Priest-in-charge

Our Dearly Departed

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen

Richard Burpee, April 17

Glenna Jack, May 18

John McHarg, Mary 27

Judith Campbell, August 1

Elaine Geary, September 23

Happy Thanksgiving



LIFT

LIFT once again provided a cute Easter Surprise for the congregation to enjoy.



In April the LIFT group made bird feeders out of the mason jar rings from the jars used for our Christmas Candles. The congregation was invited to take these home and enjoy visits from feathered friends.

In May a special basket was created for our fellow LIFT member Edith as she recovered from an illness.



At the beginning of the summer the gardens were spruced up and a few annuals planted to add a bit of color. Two beautiful planters of were placed on either side of the front doors, many thanks to Joyce Mitchell for preparing these.

Our Lift group started meeting once again in September. We continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm in the Small Hall.

The **Caring Card** project continues. Please remember to let LIFT know if you know of someone who needs a "LIFT", is celebrating one of life's special moments or perhaps should be recognized for an accomplishment, please let our Lift members know.

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ALTAR GUILD

Submitted by: Sharon Titus

The altar guild met in May with 8 members in attendance, as well as Father Keith.

We discussed re-purposing the fabric from the altar curtains into cushions for the choir pews, and agreed to look into finding a sewing group that might help us with this project.

We also decided to order some gluten free communion wafers, which are now available. If this is of interest to anyone, please let me or Father Keith know, and we can make arrangements to have them ready.

We also had a demonstration of how to iron the altar cloths. It's easier than it looks!

If you have noticed the candles on the altar are standing up straighter, it is thanks to an item we found that stabilizes them in our somewhat challenging candle holders.

We are always happy to welcome new members. Training is at your own pace and help is available until you feel comfortable.



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MUSIC

The choir hosted a Choir Café at the church on September 21, 2024, for anyone interested in becoming involved with the choir, either on a regular basis or for special occasions such as the yearly presentation of selected music at Christmas.



Happy Thanksgiving

WE HAVE HEARD CHRIST'S TRUMPET SUMMONS

By David R Mitchell

For CHRIST THE KING Sunday

We have heard Christ's trumpet summons;
We have seen His banners rise.
We have seen Salvation riding
On a cloud-white steed today.
He, our Captain, clothed in splendour,
He, our Morning Star and Friend.

On this day the Son arises,
Stirs Himself and darkness flees.
Kings and armies run before Him,
Fly from His colossal might;
While with singing and rejoicing
Comes behind the blood-bought band.

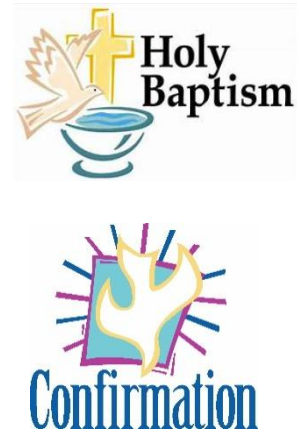
Hear the chanting hosts around us,
Those that praise their Saviour's name;
Armed with all their heavy heav'nly armour
Brother, sister, parent, friend;
One in Christ and in His gospel,
On to glory they are led.

Hear our song for all the ages:
WORTHY! WORTHY IS THE LAMB!
Worthy is the world's Redeemer;
Son of God and Son of Man.
BLESSING, HONOUR, GLORY, POWER
Crown Him now and ever more.

Tune: NEREPIIS

Happy Thanksgiving

WORSHIP



In May we welcomed Bishop Edwards who came to baptize and confirm Mariha Germaine. Congratulations Mariha!

During our Service on September 22, Livna spoke about her time at Camp Medley this past summer. She had a wonderful time!



Happy Thanksgiving



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School began again on September 8 after a well-deserved summer break. We thank Laura Janes for agreeing to continue as our Sunday School educator. Sunday School is held during the Sunday morning services.



“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.”

Corinthians 12: 4-6 (NKJV)

Submitted by: Rev. Rick Cunningham

Recently I was asked to contribute to this newsletter by writing about how in my Christian experience a platoon captain in the fire service came to be drawn towards ministry. This journey for me began many years ago as a teenager, but only began to come to fruition in 2018 when I could no longer dismiss the increasing nudges from God. Throughout my whole life I have always felt drawn towards serving others, especially the less fortunate and marginalized. That is how I came to be a volunteer at Romero House and George’s Café, which I believe were the first steps towards realizing my vocational calling in the Church. In ministry I am blessed with the opportunity to journey with people as they move towards being in a closer relationship God. As a firefighter I get to serve others by assisting them in their moments of most urgent need.

Having worked in both ordained ministry and firefighting I have come to recognize that both callings have many aspects that complement each other. Both professions are a calling and individuals from all walks of life with unique skill sets are called to do them. My experiences and the skills that I have gained in firefighting have helped form me for ministry, while ministry has made me a better platoon captain. In my experience, firefighting and ministry are both intense, exciting, and rewarding callings. Both have provided me with the opportunity to serve people in their time of greatest need. As a firefighter this ministry of presence is often a momentary one of stabilizing people’s immediate situation during an emergency, as opposed to ministry where there is often more of an opportunity to be present with someone on a more personal level over a longer period.

When I read the Gospels and contemplate the nature of Jesus's earthly ministry it often occurs to me that Jesus was personifying the role of the first responder. Today in our society when a person experiences a medical emergency, or their house is on fire, their first instinct is to call 911 so that paramedics or firefighters come to assist them in their time of need. That was not the case two thousand years ago as there were no emergency services to speak of. But consider how Jesus took on the persona of a police officer when he calmed the angry crowd of men who wanted to stone the woman caught in adultery and thus saved her life. Imagine Jesus as a paramedic as he revived the dead and healed the multitudes of people of their afflictions with his healing intervention. Finally, consider the Apostles Creed that we recite that speaks of Jesus descending into hell after his crucifixion. It is not hard to imagine Jesus as a firefighter in the flames of hell pulling Judas Iscariot and others from the eternal fires and bringing them back into the safety of God's loving embrace.

I think it is important for each of us to remember that everyone is called by God to do something in the work of the Church. We as Christians are called through our baptism to be servants of God, and as such, we need to be open and receptive to what God maybe calling us to do. It maybe you are called to a more prayerful life as a part of the Prayer Tree ministry, visiting seniors at home, serving on vestry, organizing a lunch program for local high school students, or directing the church choir. Each of these ways of serving in the Church are unique ministries and are just as important as a calling to ordained ministry. I believe it is important for all of us to be attentive to what the Lord is calling us towards and to be prepared to act. Finally, we can be confident that God will provide us the unique skills and talents that we will need to serve his Church.

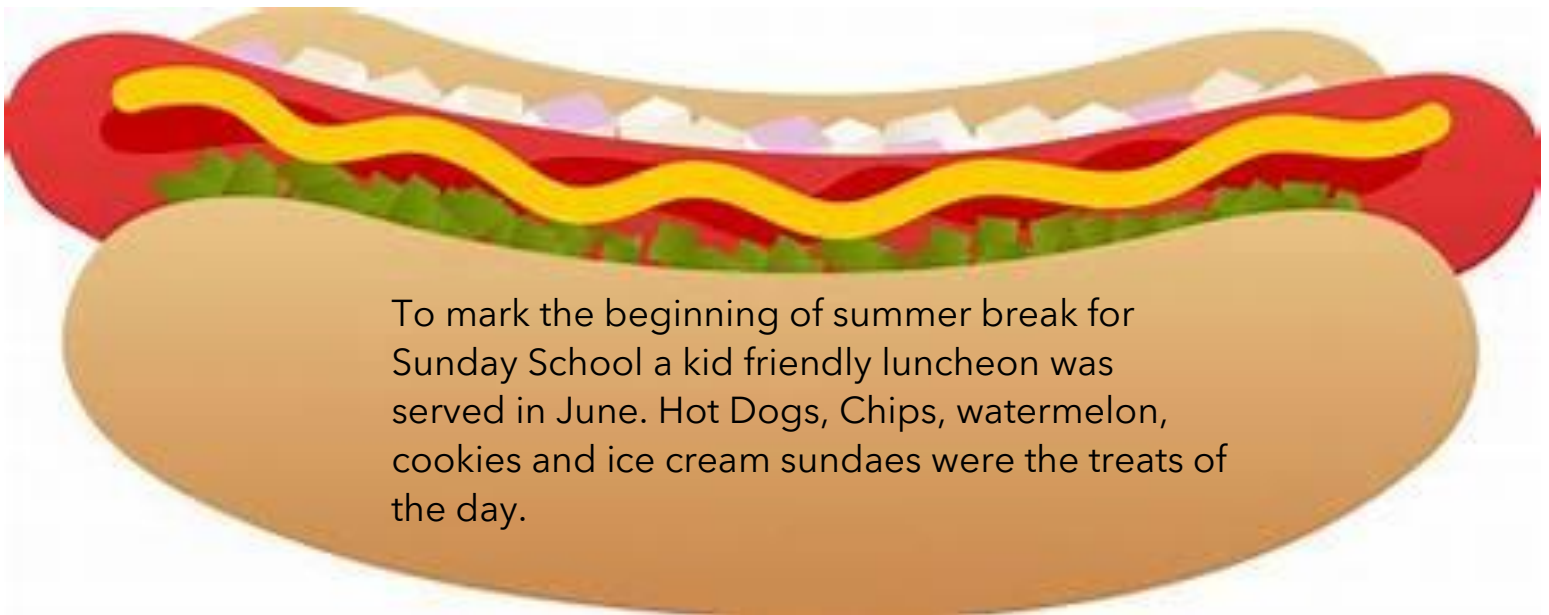
Happy Thanksgiving



HOSPITALITY



In May we celebrated not only Mother's Day but the baptism and confirmation of Mariha. A lovely plated lunch was prepared and served



To mark the beginning of summer break for Sunday School a kid friendly luncheon was served in June. Hot Dogs, Chips, watermelon, cookies and ice cream sundaes were the treats of the day.

Happy Thanksgiving

Our monthly luncheons started again on September 22. Lovely sandwiches were provided by some of our parishioners. Leftover sandwiches were packed up and sent to Harbourview High School on Monday as an extra treat!



Starting with our September lunch a Free Will Offering basket will be on our refreshment table. Proceeds this year will be used to assist Rick Cunningham on his ministry journey.

Happy Thanksgiving



COMMUNICATION

Are you enjoying the newsletters? Would you like to see different content? Would you like to enter an article for the next publication in December? Please let us know: goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca.

Do we have your contact information? If not, you may be missing out on important notices. Please contact Lori in our office to update your information. Don't worry, your contact information is kept confidential.

Don't forget to check out our website, www.goodshepherdsj.ca, and our Facebook page "*Church of the Good Shepherd, Saint John, NB*".

Did you know up to date news from the Diocese of Fredericton can be found on their website? Check it out at <https://nb.anglican.ca/news>

MISSION PROJECTS UPDATE

We are still accepting donations for our **Shepherd's Cupboard** and will make every effort to get these in the hands of those in need. Thank you for your continued support of this mission.

Please note that we are still accepting clothing and small household items for the Hillcrest Baptist **Caring Closet**. Please keep this mission in mind as you change over to your Fall/Winter wardrobe. Volunteers continue to transfer the items to Hillcrest Baptist on a regular basis.

Happy Thanksgiving

Please remember the **West Side Food Bank** and their clients in your prayers. You can donate to them directly or through an offering - just make sure to note on your envelope that the monies are designated for the food bank. At the end of the month the Church sends these donations to the food bank. Please leave any food items for the food bank in the small bench just inside the main doors. A volunteer will transport these to the food bank.

Harbourview High School Lunch program

started again September 8. Four teams of volunteers take a turn to make 50 lunches per week and another 4 teams of volunteers rotate delivery to the school. Thank you to our parishioners and volunteers for supporting this endeavour that blesses and enriches the lives of students in need.



Items used to prepare weekly lunches for Harbourview High School (minus the fresh fruit). It is estimated that 10% of a school's population are living in poverty.

Besides monetary donations, donations of bottled water are greatly appreciated.

Your Donations Were Much Appreciated! Margaret Ann Reid, who has been involved with the **Girl Guide program** for many years, was thrilled to receive \$300 that was donated by our parishioners. Your money will be used to buy uniforms (T-Shirts and scarves) for those that cannot. Uniforms are an important part of making the girls feel like they truly belong in the Guiding organization.



It is that time of year again when we start thinking of our annual **Christmas Basket** campaign. Though this doesn't officially start until after Remembrance Day we realize that many like to shop the sales. Below is a list of the standard grocery items we fill the baskets with.

We also accept monetary donations. The funds are used to bump up if needed, nonperishables, buy fresh vegetables, milk, bread etc closer to the day of distribution and provide a gift card so the families can purchase a Turkey, Ham, or Chicken.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS NON-PERISHABLE LIST

Item	Required	Item	Required
Peanut Butter	30	Canned meat (ie.Pram)	30
Jam	30	Uncooked Pasta	30
Pancake Mix	30	Can/Jar Pasta Sauce	30
Syrup (for Pancakes)	30	Fruit Cocktail	30
Box of cereal	30	Cookies	30
Canned Juice	60	Canned Corn	48
Canned Soup	120	Canned Peas	48
Saltine Crackers	30	Cranberry Sauce	30
Canned Spaghetti	30	Stuffing Mix	30
Kraft Dinner	120	Christmas Candy	30
Canned Beans	40	Box of chocolates	30
Canned Tuna	30		

Please mark your donations "Christmas Baskets" if bringing them to the church before December. Thank you for your continued support!

Happy Thanksgiving



SUMMER STUDENT



We were thrilled to have Ellie Snow working with us again this summer. She did a fabulous job mowing the church and cemetery properties while keeping our building clean for three months.

Again, we are grateful to the NB SEED program who funded 12 weeks of her employment. Ellie is entering her last year of university and hopes to go to law school next year.

FINANCE UPDATE

Financial results for the end of Sep. are currently showing as unfavourable to both our 2024 budget as well as the 2023 YTD actuals. We are currently showing a loss of \$14,905 versus our budgeted loss of \$9,521.

YTD offerings are 6.4% below budget. Also contributing to our unfavourable results is the fact that we are over budget in several areas, including Church Repairs, Printing costs, Furnace Repairs, and Natural Gas. For Natural Gas, our budget was set based on 2023 actuals, but we were contacted by Liberty Gas in March that our account was accidentally linked to a meter that was not ours. As a result, they presented us with an estimate of our usage based on our actual meter, which, of course, was higher than what we had been paying. This meant our budget for 2024 was already too low, but also that we owed arrears for the unbilled usage from 2023. We negotiated with them to have approx. two-thirds of that forgiven, but did pay an additional \$4,631.

On the plus side, our rental income is favourable to budget, most notably due to the rental to a film crew as discussed in more detail below.

For those of you on e-offering, special occasion envelopes are available in the Narthex.



	<i>Jan - Sep</i> 2024	<i>Jan - Sep</i> 2023	<i>Jan - Dec Forecast</i> 2024	<i>Jan - Dec</i> 2023
Offerings	97,283	99,185	138,209	145,359
Rents	15,950	11,900	17,340	14,100
Interest	2,210	2,210	4,420	4,420
Misc Income	-	-	-	-
Total Income	115,443	113,295	159,969	163,879
Salaries	62,681	58,532	86,350	77,675
Church Bldg & Office	44,584	36,604	57,981	44,583
Rectory	2,665	2,609	4,041	2,945
Worship & Programs	1,864	695	2,365	1,557
Shared Ministry	18,553	18,771	24,738	25,027
Total Expenses	130,348	117,210	175,475	151,787
YTD Surplus/(Loss)	(14,905)	(3,915)	(15,506)	12,091

If we can hold expenses, and income for the last 3 months are close to budget, we're forecasting year-end results to be not far from current Sep results, with a net loss of \$15,506.

Happy Thanksgiving



REVIVAL

Ready Set..... ACTION!

In September our church was one of the many locations in and around the Saint John area where the TV series Revival is being filmed. This generated rental income for the church and provided a boost to west side eateries for a few days!

Revival is a series that will be shown on NBCUniversal, American SyFy cable TV channel in about a year's time. It is set in a small town in Wisconsin Wausau (which coincidentally is also the name of our paper towel dispensers our bathrooms).

Location directors and set designers, descended on the church on Tuesday; lighting specialists, film crew, makeup artists, caterers, actors/actresses etc. came in a flurry on Wednesday; set designers and clean up crew were back on Thursday to breakdown the sets, followed closely by a cleaning agency on Friday for a final spic and span. We were told by the location director the first 5 episodes would be filmed in 45 days in 32 different locations.

Two scenes were filmed in the church, a baptism and a funeral and two others were filmed in our small hall, a jazzercise class and a support group meeting.

The crew were quite taken with the beauty and quaintness of our building, its history, and its many nooks and crannies. They were very respectful of us and our church.



We were happy to lend some of our Christmas decorations for both sets to boost their set designs.

Happy Thanksgiving

UPCOMING EVENTS

There will be **no luncheon in October.**

Please join us on **November 3** as we welcome Bishop David Edwards for the confirmation of brothers **Rudolph and Ralph Stephen**. Lunch will be served after the service.

On **December 7, at 7pm**, LIFT will be hosting a concert by the **Cool Chick and Ugly Doclings**. Come early and enjoy a social hour to catch up with friends over hot apple cider and cookies - included in ticket price. Doors will be open at 6pm.



Many thanks to all who contributed to
this newsletter.

Product Code: 174-013

Happy Thanksgiving



**May the grace our of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.
Amen**

We hope to see you at our Worship Services.

