ANGLICAN PARISH OF NEW LONDON

Rector: Reverend Shirley Cole For Pastoral Emergencies: 902-954-1665 Rev. Shirley's email: sjcole61@gmail.com Parish Office: 56 Woodleigh Drive P.O. Box 760 Kensington C0B 1M0 Office Phone: 902-836-3303 Office email: nlparish@eastlink.ca Website: www.nlparish.org



September 24, 2023

Welcome to everyone gathered here today. Special welcome to those visiting with us! Please make yourself known to the greeters.

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Readings: Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer In Nova Scotia: St. John the Evangelist, Sackville Provincial Prayer Care Diocese of Montreal – Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson Council of the North Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh: Bishop Lydia Mamakwa DCS Cycle of Prayer – St. John's, Milton Prayer Partner - Parish of Timberlea-Lakeside

October 1 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost (green)

Readings: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32 Readers: Sandra H, Grafton C; Jean R, Hilda J; Savannah M, Marie M Prayers of the People: Jim E, Lola MO, Doris M Worship Times: 9 am – St. Mark's 11 am – St. Thomas' 11 am – St. Stephen's

SPECIAL SERVICE TODAY – September 24

2:00 p.m. at St. Elizabeth's Church with Bishop Sandra Fyfe.

This Service will include: the Celebration of the 175th anniversary of St. Elizabeth's Church, the Consecration of the new cemetery land, and the Renewal of Baptismal Vows. The Bishop will also be preaching and socializing with us following the service. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

St. Stephen's Church Council - Wednesday, September 27 – 7:00 pm Parish Council - Monday, October 16, 7:00 pm at St. Stephen's. For everyone elected or acclaimed into roles, please note: We appreciate your attendance at Parish Council, and/or Church Council meetings, both because we do need a set number to have Quorum, and as importantly, your input and ideas are critical (regardless of whether you would technically have a vote on a particular issue).

Bible Study is being held every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., in person at the Rectory and online. All are welcome to attend!

Clinton View Lodge worship service will be held on Wednesday, September 27, at 2:15 p.m. Please consider joining as you are able!

Seamen boxes – In the very near future, we will start to think about filling boxes for seamen. A list will be posted when it is available. Stay tuned!

Food Bank Sunday – October 1: All donations are appreciated. **FundScrip** – If you wish to place an order, contact Doris Moase.

<u>COLLECT</u> (p 381)

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth, and ourselves in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS (p 382)

God of power, the glory of your works fills us with wonder and awe. Accept our offering this day, and help us to live in peace and harmony with all your creation, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (p 382)

Ruler of the universe, all creation yearns for its fulfilment in your Son. May we who have shared in holy things grow into maturity in him. This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

KISH KD Lunches! Kensington and St. John's New London Presbyterian congregations are looking for volunteers who'd like to cook and serve lunches, as well as those who'd like to supply cookies (we need 4 dozen nut-free cookies per week). The KD lunches are Thursdays (10:30-12:30) in the basement of Kensington Presbyterian Church. If you'd like to be a part of this ministry or have any questions please call and leave a message at the church office: 902-836-3266. Please note: A current police check is needed for those working in the kitchen. A letter can be provided to obtain one.

Highlights from Parish Council Meeting held on September 11

- Attendance was great and this led to lots of discussion and ideas. Churches will continue to encourage attendance at Church Council meetings as well.

- The **Future of the Rectory Committee** reported back to the Council that they have considered the following.

- 1) Doing nothing further than regular maintenance
- 2) Making energy efficiency upgrades
- 3) Renovating to support a rental arrangement in the basement
- 4) Selling the rectory

After much discussion, it was suggested the Committee continue to gather information on doing energy efficiency upgrades and renovating to provide a rental unit and bring back costing and other particulars of both.

- A **Brochure for the Cemeteries** is being developed by a Committee. It will include overall common guidelines and note there are also particulars in each Church.

- A Safer Church required **Food Service Course** is still in works for late fall.

- Options are being considered to address the **absence of Organists** in the churches where this applies. Rev'd Shirley will explore further.

- Churches have been asked to review their **Insurance Policy** to ensure they are still comfortable with coverage options in place.

- DCS and Christian Council meetings are upcoming.

- Ideas around **Missional ministry** were discussed briefly, to be explored further.

- A review of **Worship times** for fall was raised and it was agreed for follow up with Church Jr Wardens. Upon follow up with them, it was agreed the following will commence October 1:

- return to one month at 9 and two months of 11- continuing to alternate weekly between HE and MP with Parish Services on 5th Sunday in month.

 $\label{eq:october-9} \textbf{ october-9 am-St. Mark's} \quad \textbf{MP-1 and 3, HE-2 and 4}$

11 am – St. Thomas' MP - 1 and 3, HE- 2 and 4

11 am – St. Stephen's MP - 2 and 4, HE- 1 and 3

There will be a Parish Service on October 29 - Fifth Sunday.

October 8 (Thanksgiving) - 7 pm at St. Elizabeth's HE

(last service for the season)

November- 9 am – St. Stephen's MP- 2 and 4, HE- 1 and 3

- 11 am St. Thomas' MP-1 and 3, HE-2 and 4
- 11 am St. Mark's MP- 2 and 4, HE- 1 and 3
- **December-** 9 am St. Thomas' MP- 1 and 3, HE- 2 and 4 11 am – St. Stephen's MP- 2 and 4, HE- 1 and 3
 - 11 am St. Mark's MP-1 and 3, HE- 2 and 4

There will be no Morning Services on Sunday December 24,

with Christmas Eve Services held at 5 pm, 7 pm and 9 pm.

There will be a Parish Service on December 31- 5th Sunday.

A READING FROM EXODUS 16:2-15

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD." Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling."" While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. The LORD said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.""

That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

A READING FROM PHILIPPIANS 1:21-30

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

"About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

"Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

"The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

"But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."