



Lent and Easter 2019

THE BRIDGE

Bringing together the Parish of St. Joseph and St. George

St. John's
Hilton Beach

Holy Trinity
Jocelyn

St. George's
Echo Bay

Chapel of the Intercession
Llewellyn Beach

From the Incumbent's Desk

Perhaps you have plans to give something up as your Lenten discipline this year...coffee, chocolate, your favourite evening snack – whatever. Or maybe, as has been the trend in recent years, maybe you are going to take something on...extra prayer, a morning meditation, a Lenten Study of some sort.

Why do we do this? Why deprive ourselves? Do we think, in our suffering, that we are experiencing a little something of Jesus' suffering? Can we picture Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane saying, "Father, I'll give up chocolate for 40 days if you'll just let this cup pass from me"? No...I feel a little blasphemous even having just *written* that. We are broken people, living in a broken world.



We will *all* experience suffering of some sort. We certainly don't need to *choose* to suffer for 40 days each year and we will certainly never, thankfully, experience the agony and humiliation of being nailed to a cross.



So, what is the purpose of participating in the 40 days of Lent. Are we closer to understanding its purpose by taking something on? Do we think by increasing our burden a little for 40 days of the year we will be able to imagine a little something of the burden Jesus bore for us? Like Jesus said to James and John, "Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?" Again, the answer for us is "No." No, we will never know the burden of bearing the sins of the whole world. We will never know the experience of being scourged and mocked. No.

Well, if we can't ever suffer like Jesus suffered and we can't ever bear a burden even remotely like the burden Jesus carried for us, what are we doing? Believe it or

not, we are close to the mark – we are close to the purpose of participating in these 40 days of Lent – but, we've slid sideways a little bit. Let's dig deeper into this and figure it out.

Many people believe we fast for 40 days during Lent because Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert. But...*Why* was Jesus in the desert? *Why* was he fasting? To answer this, we need to rewind the story a bit. Jesus has just been baptized in the River Jordan. The Holy Spirit has descended upon him like a dove and God has acknowledged Jesus as his son... "This is my Son, in whom I am well pleased." Then, filled with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness, into the desert to prepare for his ministry. Ah, now we are on to something...Jesus was baptized, received the gift of the Holy Spirit, was commissioned for ministry, and then spent 40 days preparing to take on that ministry.

What does this have to do with us? Well, we, too, have been commissioned for ministry. We, too, have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. When did this happen? At our baptisms. On that momentous occasion, we, too, became God's children. We became a part of Christ's mystical body here on earth, heirs through hope of God's everlasting kingdom...And with that amazing promise came big responsibility.

Lent originally came into being as the final, intense period of preparation right before baptism. We are already baptized so what do these 40 days mean for us? As Christians, we have been brought, by the Holy Spirit, into relationship with God through Christ. This relationship changes us...we are transformed by God's love to become more like Christ. This **is** work and we **do** fall short. As we journey through Lent toward the celebration of our redemption by the death and resurrection of Christ, we make an effort to deepen and strengthen our relationship with God. Through practices of spiritual formation we open ourselves up to the transforming love of God, to become more like Christ. We can then continue, beyond the season of Lent, in this new depth and closeness of relationship.



I pray that you all experience a holy Lent and a joyous Easter,

Susan Montague Koyle

The Ladies of the Parish Annual Christmas Gathering at the Home of The Rev. Canon Rosalie Goos



Fun times and good food!

Ash Wednesday...what's that all about?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. We receive ashes on our foreheads as a symbol of our human frailty and mortality. We hear, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." These are the words that God said to Adam. Words that cut to Adam's heart. He had disobeyed God. He had sinned and he was paying the price. God was sending Adam out of the Garden of Eden, never to return. And God had made Adam mortal. Death would come to him. Adam must now toil in a world broken by sin and face his own eventual death. We are born into that broken world knowing that death is inevitable. But, for us, that is not the end of the story. The ashes are formed in the shape of a cross on our foreheads. The cross reminds us that, through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, we will have everlasting life with him.

Ash Wednesday Service...February 26th, 7pm, St. George's Echo Bay

Rock-A-Thon Success!



Pictured Left are the "Rock-a-Thonners" at St. George's. Left to right: Cindy Huffels, Glenis Johnstone, Susan Montague Koyle, Jennifer Falkins, and seated is Liz Christie. Thanks Ladies!

Pictured below are some of the items gathered and laid out at the Town Hall in Richards Landing.



For the Rock-A-Thon this year, members of St. George's in Echo Bay, Holy Trinity in Jocelyn Township, and members of the communities knitted slippers and bought stuffed animals to give to the clinic in Richards Landing, "pic line" sleeves for the hospital, and raised \$400 to give to Mackay's Pharmacy to help seniors pay their dispensing fees. Thank you to everyone who supported this project!

Maundy Thursday



A lot sure happened on this evening in Jerusalem about 2000 years ago. This was the night that Jesus had the **Last Supper** with his disciples in which he said the words we use each time we celebrate Holy Communion together. This is my body, given for you... This is my blood, shed for you... At the Last Supper, **Jesus washed his disciples' feet** in order to show them what he had been teaching

them - we must love and serve each other as equals. The power structures of this world - wealth, social status, military might - are not the power structures of the kingdom of God. Love, compassion, humility...that's true power. This was also the night that Jesus went to the **Garden of Gethsemane**, with his disciples, to pray before his arrest. Jesus knew he was going to die a horrible death and yet he gave himself willingly to the soldiers who showed up in the garden. **Maundy Thursday** is an ancient English name for Holy Thursday. It comes from the Latin, *Mandatum novum da nobis* and means "I give you a new commandment," (John 13:34). That commandment? **Love one another as I have loved you.**

Our Maundy Thursday Services:

Holy Trinity, Jocelyn: 5pm, April 9. We will share a meal, much like the one the disciples shared with Jesus; we will celebrate Holy Communion together, wash the feet of those who so desire, and strip the altar of its furnishings as we hear the story of Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

St. George, Echo Bay: 7:30pm, April 9. Service of Holy Communion. There will be footwashing for those who so desire and we will strip the altar of its furnishings as we hear the story of Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Lenten Lunches Starting Soon!

Dates: Wednesdays during Lent (March 4 – April 8)

Where: Zion Lutheran Church, Sault Ste Marie (189 Upton Rd)

Time: 12 – 1pm

Enjoy soup and sandwiches followed by a time of reflection and probably some singing too! Free will offering to go to Pauline's Place.

THE CHURCH CLOSET

Saturdays through the summer months, beginning May 9th

Hours of Operation: 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Place: St. George's Church Hall in Echo Bay

Featuring: Gently used clothing all sizes and genders, small household appliances, bedding and linens

If you have items to donate or would like to help out on a Saturday, please phone Marie Eggesfield at 705-782-6813

Your Lay Delegates to the Special Diocesan Synod this May are Gloria Riddell and Janet Arnold.

Thank you, ladies, for giving your time to represent our parish.

Our **Good Friday** (Apr.10) walk begins at Harmony St. Mark's United Church in Richards Landing at 10am. We will walk to Holy Trinity, Jocelyn Township, where there will be a service at about 2:30pm.

Please join us in remembering that this is the day Jesus hung on a cross, dying to defeat sin and death itself, to give us life everlasting.

We will have refreshments afterward. This year marks 50 years of walking together.



Our Easter Services:

Holy Trinity, Jocelyn: 6:30am Service of Holy Communion; Presider – The Ven. Hugh Hamilton
11am Service of Holy Communion; Presider – The Rev. Rosalie Goos

St. George, Echo Bay: 9am Service of Holy Communion; Presider – The Rev. Rosalie Goos

If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in memory of loved ones, please phone me (Susan) at 705-253-6456

Coming Events...More Details Will Be Advertised as the Dates Approach:

The next Joint Service – Sunday, March 29th, 10:30am at St. George's in Echo Bay

Echo Bay For Sale – Saturday, May 2nd, 8am – 1pm.

Joint Service at W.I Park in Richards Landing – Sunday, August 30th at 10:30 a.m. The Presider will be Archbishop Anne Germond. The service will be followed by a potluck picnic in the

We Did It!

The Coldest Night of the Year Annual Fundraising Walk for St. Vincent Place



Our team - the Trinity Trotters - raised over \$1000 to help end hunger and homelessness in our area. Thank you very much to everyone who supported us!

Pictured (Left to Right):

Susan Montague Koyle (Incumbent for the Parish of St. Joseph & St. George); Anita Niessen (Peoples' Warden for Holy Trinity, Jocelyn Township), Betty Sim (a member of Emmaus' Walking Angels); and Jennifer Falkins (Incumbent's Warden for St. George's)

We had a great time walking - it was definitely warmer (and sloppier) than last year!

Hey...Did you know we're "Duty Officers"? That's what parishes are called when they donate between \$100-249 to The Mission to Seafarers in Thunder Bay.

Thanks go to our ACW for getting us on the roster!

The Church Closet, when it closed for the season, also sent 5 large bags of leftover clothes to the Mission!

Your 2020 Parish Officials are...

Incumbent's Wardens: Arthena Hecker (Holy Trinity) and Jennifer Falkins (St. George)

People's Wardens: Anita Niessen (Holy Trinity) and Janet Arnold (St. George)

Treasurer: Gloria Riddell

In addition, on Parish Council we also have...

Susan Montague Koyle Incumbent/Chair)

Kathy Clark

Lynn Goulding

Carol Trainor Kent

Thank you for your ministry in the Church!

These people, and many others not listed here, are the members of Christ's body - the Church - who enable us to be God's mission to the world.

One last thing...If you would like to contact me, here is my info:



Susan Montague Koyle

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