

This Week At St. Andrew's

Parable of the Pastor

Sunday is World Communion Sunday. Churches worldwide will be celebrating Holy Communion on this day to emphasize our relationship as the Body of Christ. As we partake of the elements to emphasize that we are indeed One Body, One Faith, One Lord, we are reminded that there is more that unifies us than divides us!

I hope you will be present Sunday to celebrate communion in person that we will not partake of again until December. Whether you worship in-person in sanctuary or worship via our livestream worship, please prepare to partake of communion wherever you are. If you are at home, prior to turning on the livestream, take time to have bread or a cracker, juice or even water. As the elements are blessed, shared and consumed, please participate wherever you are.

Participate fully in worship. Sunday, I noticed during the reading of the Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, the Lord's Prayer, and the response following the scripture how few were really participating in worship. Many were listening but not responding. Worship is not a spectator activity in which you come to watch, listen, and go home. Worship is participating actively in the prayers, readings, and scripture. When you read the Call to Worship and the Prayer of Confession, you are not reading to me or to your closest neighbour, you are replying and responding to God. When scripture is read, and the affirmation given after the reading, "The Word of the Lord" is our our praise to God for these holy words and our response is spoken to God, "Thanks be to God." Please worship as a participant and not as a spectator, wherever you worship!!

As noted in the worship this past Sunday, we have resumed the presentation of our offering during worship. The elders will be bringing the offering plates forward during worship again to emphasize that our giving and receiving of our tithes are, indeed, a public act of worship. Please do not neglect to participate in the opportunity of giving to God a portion of what God has given to you.

Finally, on October 9, Session has declared that mask wearing will now be optional during worship but not required. For those who will remain cautious and continue to wear masks personally, the south side of the sanctuary will continue to be roped with spaces between every other pew. As we have practiced since the beginning of the pandemic, our first commitment is keeping our membership safe. We will monitor the current COVID trends and hope that the loosening of regulations will be sustained if numbers remain low.

Peace to each of you and God's richest blessings.
- Pastor Mitch

Music Notes

Prelude for this Sunday is "Schmucke dich, o liebe Seele" Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness by Gustav Merkel. It is based on the hymn which was written in the 17th century by Johann Franck and Johann Cruger as a communion hymn. Gustav Merkel was a German Romantic composer who wrote mainly for the organ.

The postlude is a Prelude & Fugue in G major by Johann Kuhnau who lived from 1660-1722 and was active as a novelist, translator, lawyer and music theorist. He was able to combine all those activities and hold the position of Thomaskantor in Leipzig for 21 years. He is known today primarily for his musical compositions.

Lectionary Texts

The readings for the week are:

- ☐ Lamentations 1:1-6
- ☐ Lamentations 3:19-26
- ☐ Psalm 137
- ☐ 2 Timothy 1:1-14
- ☐ Luke 17:5-10

Truth and Reconciliation Day

This Friday, September 30th, is Truth & Reconciliation Day in Canada.

We share a collective responsibility to learn and understand how the residential school program had a traumatic and profound impact on communities, families and individuals.

It is also a day to honour those children and youth who did not return home.



Happy 100th Birthday to Stella Higgins!

This is an amazing milestone - but not as amazing as you are! May this day be filled with sunshine, smiles, laughter, and love. Happy Birthday from all of us at St. Andrew's!

Bulletin Board

Journey for Hope: On October 1, Together in Motion, our Victoria team, is fundraising in the Journey for Hope in support of PWS&D's food security projects. The 17 Victoria team members are from St. Andrew's, Trinity and Knox. They are joining together and will be walking or cycling to raise funds for this worthy cause. Still time to join! Raised so far: \$2,800.00 Fundraising goal: \$4,000.00 Donate at: WeRespond.ca/support-together-in-motion or on the standrewsvictoria.ca website. Go team!

Washrooms: Please be aware that the main floor washrooms in the Kirk Hall will be closed starting August 22nd for renovations. The second floor washrooms will remain in service. This work is expected to take approx three weeks.

Last Laneway Social: Thursday, the 29th will be the last Laneway meet for this summer. Thank you to all those who helped to make this possible and all those who dropped in for a visit. See you next summer.

Service Meet: following the Oct 2 service, meet to plan for a Fall event - "Building Community Together"

Building Community Together: Please mark Nov. 19th on your calendar to attend our Fall event "Building Community Together". Updates and ticket information to follow so watch for new information. Plan on attending and invite family and friends.

Christmas Tea & Luncheon: On November 19th there will be a reserved ticket, pre Christmas Tea/Luncheon with entertainment by Ballet Victoria and opportunities to shop. Please join us to plan and to see how you can volunteer to help.