



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 182nd Edition - October 6 2023



From the Rector

What if Thanksgiving isn't about gourds, cornucopias, and turkey dinners? What if we've misunderstood the meaning of this celebration? What if it's about another kind of harvest?

Perhaps the earthly harvest is meant to point us to a greater reality. Perhaps it's about the seeds we sow among God's living soil—the people of the world—and the harvest they will bring.

In one of his poems T. S. Eliot says:

*I say: take no thought of the harvest,
But only of proper sowing.*

That's as close to a biblical message as you can get. Eliot's saying that what matters is how we live life: not always hoping for some far-off, unknowable future, but experiencing the here and now in such a way that we are always planting—always spreading—the good seeds of love and hope so that God's goodness may be known more and more.

Of course, it's difficult to speak of God's goodness, to say nothing of optimism, amid the darkness, despair, and desperation that every day seem to grow greater and more frightening. Many of us can't help but feel that no matter what we do, it just won't matter: we cannot make a difference; our world has somehow passed the point of no return. Although our religion tells us that the fields of promise beckon tantalizingly out of reach just beyond, we cannot see them, and so we do nothing, and as a consequence atrophy and wither.

Which reminds me of some words by another great poet—Edwin Muir:

*One foot in Eden still, I stand
And look across the other land.
The world's great day is growing late,
Yet strange these fields that we have planted
So long with crops of love and hate.*

The poet feels himself torn between the wasteland of our making and the fields of the original promise, captures the mood of dismay that infects all of us. Looking across the fields of centuries of human destruction and misery he sees not crops of untrammelled

promise and optimism, but a harvest mixing the wheat seed of love and the darnel seed of hate. The two seem inseparable. In the face of such a grim reality, what can any of us do?

What we can do—what we *must* do, even amid the despair and darkness—is to sow at least a little more of the good seed of the gospel in the time we are given. To sow, even timorously and tentatively, seeds of love and of hope is to respond, with an affirmative, life-giving action, to the still small voice that says that there is goodness at the heart of all things, that one foot in Eden, still we stand. The choice is ours to shift the balance of that harvest from weeds to wheat. Do we accede to the darkness and despair, or do we defy it? Do we live only for the present moment, intent on wresting from the world all we can get before we can get no more, or do we live a life characterized by love and selflessness in expectation of a brighter day? Do we sneer at the dispiriting harvest, or do celebrate even the tiny bounty of goodness when we receive it and do our best to increase it for others?

The answer is clear enough. Though we humans stand with one foot in the kingdom of death, which is to say in the kingdom of the old, old world which is passing away, and though time has seen most of the loveliest things of this creation burned to ashes, even among ash heaps new and tender flowers can bloom and bud and flourish. All is not lost—we know that. For we also stand with much of our weight in that other kingdom which promises always to be born in us and among us, even in the midst of tribulation and decay.

We may feel that time is short, but it is enough. There is enough time to be bold and daring for the sake of the gospel; there is time enough to rouse ourselves from our present lethargy; there is time enough to love. There is, in short, time to sow among the ashes of the world even one seed of hope. One seed will not bring forth a bumper crop that will forever eradicate the despair of the world, but it proclaims that there is reason to hope. And by such small acts, the greatest statements of faith are made.

* * * * *

And speaking of giving thanks, I am also giving thanks for my priestly vocation. I was ordained to the priesthood 20 years ago this coming Wednesday (11 October.) There are two services (as always) that day: Holy Eucharist at 10 am and Evening Prayer at 5 pm. I hope you are able to come to one of those services and help me celebrate.

The photo shows me as a beardless 30 year old offering a sign of peace on the day in question. The late Barry Hollowell (who was Rector of St George's in St Catharines before being elected Bishop of Calgary) is behind me.

Grace and peace,
Leighton



From the Wardens

October can be a special month! Colours changing, yard cleanup, some outside Fall touchups. It all makes THANKSGIVING more meaningful. We have so much to be thankful for living in Canada and especially here in NOTL. We do take so much for granted. Yet we must be mindful of those less fortunate, even in our own community. Please share by donating to Newark Neighbours, food banks, migrant workers and individuals who need our help although we might not always be aware.

The men's breakfast this week was attended by fewer than usual, however we were very pleased to have David Elkins discuss mediation which he has practiced for 40 years.

Wednesday at Evensong was the Blessing of the Animals service. Quite a sight! The Rector had a great influence on the pets as each was patted and blessed and those watching from the pews, including the four-legged ones, were silent. Outside afterwards the conversation flowed as people and pets mixed with friends and strangers. A repeat event for sure.

A reminder to consider making your donation to St. Mark's by debit or credit. You can set the donation schedule to weekly, monthly or any option you wish. It can be cancelled at any time. Donating this way helps us budget our givings. There is a small charge to St. Mark's, but not for those giving. Call Erin if you wish to do this. All your information is confidential.

An important volunteer objective is to have the church open at least Friday, Saturday and Sunday for tourists and other visitors. The time required is 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. A shift can be as short as 90 minutes. It is not possible for many reasons to leave the church open without volunteers. Please call the office if you will help.

"Faith is taking the first step even when you do not see the whole staircase."
Martin Luther King

Jr.

See you in church!

As always, a reminder to advise the office of anyone who requires assistance, including a phone call, food delivery or some phone companionship. Even a chat over the fence!

Called to Life-Compelled to Love

Allan Magnacca

Andrea Douglas

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS





Parish Updates

In-Person Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

On Duty this Week

October 8, 2023 - Greeter(s)- Douglas and Colleen Hunter

October 8, 2023- Reader - Steve Hinchliffe

Intercessor - Jamie Mainprize

Altar Guild - Eve Wylie, Gene Anne Smith and Jennifer Smith

Order of Service

The Order of Service can be found on our website: [Order of Service Web Site Page](#)

Church Bells

A reminder to all that the Church Bells play on Sundays at 12:05 pm. Enjoy!

Staying Up to Date!

Click on this link to find this and recent copies of our E-News: **[View our recent E-Newsletters](#)**

Click on this link to view our Calendar: **[Visit our Calendar](#)**

[Click here to access St. Mark's Anglican Church Facebook page](#) You can also access our Facebook page when on our website by clicking on the Facebook icon that looks like an "f".

Cookbook Project ***A reminder from Susan Peacock***

This is a reminder to please submit your favourite recipes for inclusion in a St. Mark's cookbook, which we hope to have available for sale at Cherry Festival 2024.

Recipes do not have to include cherries. This time of year you may think of recipes for pickles or other preserves, apple or pear desserts, or dishes that are part of a Thanksgiving meal.

Please email any recipes that you are willing to share to speacock23@hotmail.com.

If your recipe comes from a published source, please include the name of the publication and the author, if you can. I'll be sending out more reminders from time-to-time to encourage contributions from all seasons.

**Bethany Mennonite Church
Wednesday October 11th at 7 p.m.
presents
The Klassens**

A freewill offering will be taken

The poster features a central photograph of a woman and a man smiling. The woman has shoulder-length brown hair and is wearing a dark top. The man has short grey hair and is wearing a white shirt with a dark patterned tie and a dark jacket. The text 'The Klassens' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the middle of the photo. Below the photo, it says 'Paraguayan Folk Harp and Keyboard'. At the top right of the poster, it says 'A Silver Fox sponsored Concert'. At the bottom left, there are two small inset photos: one of a man playing a harp and one of a woman and a man. The text 'featuring Renowned Harpist and Storyteller Edward Klassen and Christine Klassen on keyboard' is written in a cursive font across the bottom of the photo area. At the bottom of the poster, it says 'BETHANY MENNONITE CHURCH', 'Corner of Creek Rd. and East-West Line, Virgil', 'WED. OCT. 11 AT 7:00 P.M.', and 'A Freewill Offering will be taken.'

The St. Mark's Directory 2023 will be available soon. We will announce in the E-News when the directories are ready for pick up.

Wednesday Morning Eucharist - 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Prayer - 5:00 p.m.

In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Doug and Colleen Hunter, Janet James, Gavin and Joyce James, and Chris and Jeanne Jennings and their families.

We pray for the sick, especially remembering Margaret Stimson, Terry, Jan Brown, Lisa, Sharon, Dick, Bev Garrett, Jodey Porter, Sean, Joshua, Ben Buholtz, Marilyn Worrall, Maggie Hammerling, Gail and Murray Paton, Elizabeth Channing and Peter Manning.

We pray for those shut in their homes, Fred Habermehl, Fred Dixon, Selina Appleby, Joan Draper, and Alexander Hood.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for All Saints, Erin; the Reverend Canon Ralph Blackman, Priest-in-Charge; the Reverend Deacon Irene Walback, Deacon; and the people of that parish.

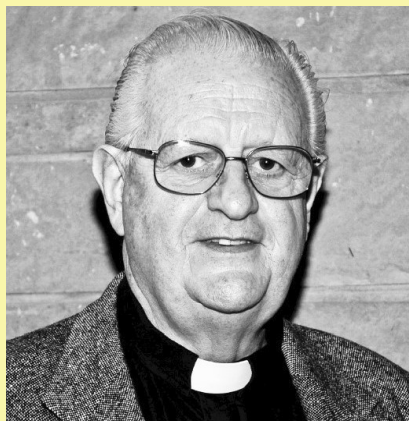
In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Rt. Rev. David Lehmann, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Caledonia, the dean, council, and congregations of the North Region of the British Columbia Synod, and people and ministries working to address issues of poverty, homelessness, and affordable housing.

Bible Study via Zoom

We are sending Zoom invites via Constant Contact to those who regularly join the Bible Study group. If you would like to attend Bible Study via Zoom, please contact the Rector to have your name added to the distribution. rector.stmarks.notl@gmail.com

Did you know

that Canon Ian Dingwall's mission as rector was to mitigate the unrest in the parish and to make everyone feel an integral part of the parish.





Happy Thanksgiving to one and all.

The office will closed on Monday October 9th, reopening on Tuesday October 10th at 9 a.m.

Please note if you unsubscribe from any email sent from St. Mark's Church via Constant Contact, you will no longer receive any emails or information from us. If you wish to unsubscribe from a specific mailing list (ie, Bible Study, E-News), please email the office at stmarks@cogeco.net Thank you.

[St. Mark's Anglican Church Website](#)



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