

Coop's Scoops #117, Tuesday October 20th

Yesterday, October 19th, was the major Feast Day of St. Luke the Evangelist. I was the Priest at St. Luke's in Thunder Bay for eight years. To this day, I celebrate that Feast in special ways. Usually involving a Eucharist, but not this year of 2020. St. Luke was the academic historian who wrote not only the Gospel but also the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. He was the "roving reporter" of his time, interviewing, gathering facts, checking other resources...all to record the glorious words and deeds of Jesus and the transforming power of Pentecost which sent the earliest disciples tumbling into the streets to preach and witness to the Resurrection and Lordship of Jesus. Paul refers to Luke as the "beloved Physician". An educated doctor, and learned educator, Luke might have spent his time in relative comfort, doing good, but home with a family rather than wandering around from town to town subsisting on the alms of strangers and perhaps an occasional payment for some "doctoring". We celebrate Luke for his journalism in reporting the Gospel of Jesus' life, and for writing the comprehensive history of how the apostles began their preaching at Jerusalem and moved westwards with the Gospel until they reached the very center of the Roman Empire.

The Parish of **St. Luke** in Thunder Bay also loved to tell the story of Jesus. They **studied, they served, they did street-mission,** they were inclusive and welcoming. And oh the feasts! Having a large number of indigenous parishioners ensured that food was plentiful and delicious..... Elder Dolores Wawia made the best bannock I have ever eaten and our menus included many other traditional Ojibway foods. She was also a profound storyteller for our children's stories.

Photos from St. Luke's



Enough nostalgia! The people of St. Thomas and Lake of Bays also love to hear and tell the story....involving the community with outreach services such as Messy Church and the LOB Winter Pantry. I've included two pictures from my St. Luke's days so you can see how I looked before I got ten years older!

News Updates:

There has been some confusion about the coming weekday Eucharists being offered in Browning Hall. Some were thinking they could come each week or even twice a week, however these services will be rotating parishioners so that all who wish to come know **when** to come. So if "Suzy" comes on Wed the 21st at 10am she will then have to wait until we've gone through the entire list of people who indicate they want to come before she can come again to another service. The cycle will probably take about two weeks. That would mean 40 people wanting to attend. If it is less, then the cycle will be shorter. "Church by appointment" sounds dreadful, and certainly hasn't been done before. Covid has caused us to redo things in many ways. You will be called and offered a date, or you can call the office at 645 3486 and request the next available time slot. The services should be about 45 minutes in length. We will share in the Word, the Sermon, the Prayers and the Eucharist! We will not however share in coffee time afterward or music.

Daily Bread: The Daily Bread booklets for November, December, January have arrived. They are in sealed pouches on the bench just outside the main St. Thomas Church doors. Please leave a dollar if you can to cover costs. We'll bring the cash inside each day.

There will be an **on-line Deanery Service of Evening Prayer** on November 1st, All Saint's Day. The Rev. Heather Manuel is putting the service together, and Ven. Kelly Baetz will be preaching. If you would like to do a reading or participate in any way, please be in touch with Rev. Heather. Rev. Margaret will be participating as well.

Joke for the Day: (all about kids today)

My sister thinks she's so smart.

She said onions are the only food that makes you cry. I threw a coconut at her and proved her wrong.

What's the difference between an all-you-can-eat restaurant and dinner at grandma's house?

At the restaurant, *you* get to decide when you've had enough.

My Uncle used to say, "When one door closes, another opens."

He was a decent philosopher, but a lousy cabinet maker.

Scripture for the Day: 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view;^[a] even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view,^[b] we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,^[c] not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Homily:

This passage sums up why it is that Luke and Paul and all the disciples became the storytellers; the ones who spoke up and told their world that Jesus is the Christ, and Jesus is the One who reconciles them to God. They were speaking ALL GOOD NEWS! That proclamation has now been passed along to us. WE – just as we are – are AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST. We are to do pretty much what worldly ambassadors do....represent their King, speak well of Him at all times, work toward His goals to bring justice and peace, and welcome people to come to see for themselves the beauty of the Kingdom they represent. And when we do that, we will never be hurling condemnations, shaming, blaming, manipulating or hurting anyone in any way. We are to tell people that they are reconciled to God because of Jesus who became sin so that they, and we, could be deemed to be righteous. Then we are to invite them to get into AMBASSADOR TRAINING so they can let others know the good news as well. AMBASSADOR TRAINING usually involves joining a faith community, studying the Word of God, learning to pray,

and living the Beatitudes way. Not as “how” they can be reconciled to God, but because the “are” reconciled to God. It is all God’s work. It is ours, or theirs, to receive and believe or not. We are not AMBASSADORS for our own Church, or denomination, or for ourselves...we are AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST. The Holy Spirit will shape us and teach us just how it is that we ourselves as individuals are to share the story....it will be in many different ways. But however that may be, let’s JUST DO IT! Amen.

Prayer for today: These are the words of an old old hymn. Please “tell” God how much you love and long to be a good ambassador by reading it out loud and making it your prayer:

I love to tell the story
Because I know 'tis true
It satisfies my longings
As nothing else can do

I love to tell the story
‘Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and his love

I love to tell the story
For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting
To hear it like the rest

And when in scenes of glory
I sing the new, new song
‘Twill be the old, old story,
That I have loved so long.



Blessing:

May God the Father enlighten your minds, May God the Son embrace your spirits and may God the Holy Spirit equip you in every way to be an AMBASSADOR for the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and may the peace of God be with you always.

Blessings!
Judie+

