

# St. Mary's Pastoral Charge

The United Church of Canada  
189 Hwy 347 Aspen NS B0H 1E0



Dear Friends,

I do not believe there has ever been a greater need for the church than right now. Constant change, great uncertainty, fear, frustration, anger, grief and impatience pervade our world. People are searching for something to hold onto, something that is firm and secure, something that offers hope and peace. We as Christians, we "the church," know the answer! Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Psalm 18:2 says, "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, in whom I take refuge, my shield, my salvation, my stronghold."

People need the Lord! It is the church's job to introduce people to Him. We are doing that by teaching (worship, bible study, men's and women's groups, youth programs), by pastoral care (home visits, hospital visits, offering spiritual support, funerals, marriages), by providing space for community to grow (facilities, opportunities for socialization, friendship, fellowship and fun), by reaching out and serving (meeting physical needs, justice and missions work, online presence), and by modeling God's unconditional love and care for all.

We are a small pastoral charge, but together we accomplish much! Never underestimate how vital this work is, especially at such a time as this. Thank you for your faithful and generous support, presence and prayers.

As we count our blessings and offer to God our thanks, may we be challenged to commit ourselves anew in answering God's call to be the church, bringing real hope to a world in need.

Amanda, Josh, Zach and Julia join me in offering God's abundant grace to you this Thanksgiving!

In Christ's Service,

Derek G. Elsworth  
Minister

# Called to Be the Church

**For Thanksgiving...** Monetary donations or non-perishable food items will be received for St. Mary's Food Bank. Also personal care kit toiletry items for St. Mary's Hospital.

**Women's Bible Study...** 10am Thursdays at St. John's in Sherbrooke!

**Men's Group...** 7pm Thursdays at St. John's in Sherbrooke!

**Youth Group (Grades 6-12)...** 7:30-9pm every second Friday at Kirk in Glenelg!

**JAM Club – Jesus And Me** (Our Charge's Program for children and all ages Sunday School)... 2pm, every second Sunday at Kirk! This year's theme: Celebration!

**Thank You...** to everyone who contributes to the life of our wonderful pastoral charge in any way. We have so many amazing volunteers, and people give generously of their time, talent and treasure. You are appreciated – God bless you!

**Financial Update as of September 2021...** Our gifts are an act of worship and thanksgiving for God's blessings. Please continue to prayerfully consider you're giving's to Christ and His church. Ask about PAR, Pre Authorized Remittance! This would be greatly appreciated!

Kirk                    Offering to Date: 22,290.00 (Annual Budget Goal: 31,600.00)  
                          M&S to Date: 1,940.00 (Goal 2,000.00 – Total 2020: 2,765.00)

Bethany                Offering to Date: 14,517.50 (Annual Budget Goal: 24,000.00)  
                          M&S to Date: 1,091.00 (Goal 1,200.00 - Total 2020: 1,049.00)

St. John's              Offering to Date: 19,300.00 (Annual Budget Goal: 29,500.00)  
                          M&S to Date: 2,823.00 (Goal 2,000.00 - Total 2020: 3,126.50)

*An envelope has been attached to this letter for a special Thanksgiving Offering.  
This additional gift along with your regular giving will help to sustain the church's vital ministry in our community!*