



News Around the Flock

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Anglican Parish of Lancaster

Easter 2025 Newsletter

Holy Week

The Sunday of Passion: Palm Sunday, April 13, 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday April 17, 7:00 pm

Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar. Prayer Watch - time to pray - to "keep watch with Jesus" - after the service to 10:00 pm (come & go as you'd like - whenever and for however long)

Good Friday, April 18, 12:00 pm

Celebration of our Lords Passion

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day

Sunday March 31, 10:30am

Holy Communion

Regular Service Times

Holy Communion on
Sundays at 10:30 AM

Phone: (506)635-8145 (Office open Tue-Fri 9-Noon)

Email: goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca

facebook "Church of the Good Shepherd, Saint John, NB"

Website: www.goodshepherdsj.ca



We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) and Mi'kmaq Peoples.



CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

GOOD FRIDAY and EASTER 2025

Dear church family of the Good Shepherd,

Jesus Christ! You hear this name said so many times, by all sorts of people, for so many reasons, and often with great intensity!



That name is so powerful, that's why. The evidence of that power is the empty tomb - God had raised Jesus bodily from the dead, the One who had been crucified and then buried in that grave. Death could not destroy him.

Yet the effectiveness, the power of the resurrection of Easter Day is intimately connected to Jesus' death on Good Friday. The hold of sin and death was defeated in Christ's dying on the cross. That victory from the cross - *God's restoration, forgiveness, healing, salvation and eternal hope* - is made clear and available to us and to the whole world should we wish to receive it.

The shards of our fractured lives can be brought together into His wholeness because His body was broken for us and then raised to new life. In the midst of our doubting, our pain, our tragedies, we can **"taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who trusts in Him"** because he says to us, **"Take! Eat! This is my body broken for you!"** When we eat, we eat the food of healing, renewing life - it is the food of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.



Let our minds and our souls be marked profoundly by both the crucifix and the empty tomb, the power of Christ's death on the cross and the joy of his rising from the dead. There's nothing more important in this world, and there is nothing more important for the world.

Have a blessed Holy Week and a truly joyful Easter.

Expectantly in Christ,

Keith Joyce

Fr Keith Joyce
Interim Priest-in-Charge

Our Dearly Departed

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen

Kay Upton, January 6

Kathleen Janes, January 10

Lillian Atkins, January 16

Helen Adams, February 27

Bea Conley, April 3



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Parish of Lancaster was held on Sunday February 23 after a delicious, bagged lunch. With 52 parishioners in attendance the annual report was reviewed and discussed, vestry members were voted in and delegates to the Synod were selected. Special thanks to Fr Keith Joyce for officiating, Terry Ricketts for taking minutes, all those who provided reports, the lunch and parishioners who attended.

Wardens

Susan Jack
Terry Ricketts

Vestry Members 2025

Janet Brown
Shayne Galbraith
Beverly Janes
Jeff Maker
Heather Masson
Barry McQueen
Evelyn Mishra
Prabin Yesudhasan

Synod Delegates

Beverly Janes	Synod Delegate
Patti Skidmore	Synod Delegate
Ann Stone	Synod Alternates
Patti Vaughan	Synod Alternates

Please support these parishioners who have offered to serve our congregation and prayerfully consider if you are called to one of these roles in the future.



LIFT

In January, LIFT created some wonderful Valentines Cards which were sent to some of our congregants.



We also voted in January to provide \$25 Birthday gift cards from Walmart to the students who participate in the HVHS Lunch program. The coordinator will distribute these to the students during their birthday month on our behalf.

The ladies want each of these students know that they special and celebrated by our group and the church.

Our February fundraiser, Bakeless Bakesale, was a success once again. Money raised from this year's fundraiser will be used to support the Harbourview Lunch Program.



LIFT also supported the Coverdale Centre for Women this spring with a \$200 donation towards their important services and added 3 goats to our PWRDF Lenten herd!

The ladies are currently working on an Easter surprise for the congregation. 😊





WORSHIP



HOLY WEEK

Holy week will soon be upon us and several services marking the journey to Easter morning are planned.

Upcoming services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, the Prayer watch, and Good Friday will prepare us for the celebrations for Easter Day.



Stations of the Cross vigils were held on March 14 and April 4, 2025.



LENT OFFERINGS GO



TO THE GOATS

As we approached the season of Lent, Fr Keith reminded us that we are “invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.”

For our almsgiving this Lent we will be giving support to a program in Kenya sponsored by PWRDF (now known as Alongside Hope) and an Anglican Church of Kenya development agency, ADSWE.

Our giving’s will be used for the purchase of female Galla goats to families who are food insecure and have low incomes. The Galla is a unique breed of goat common in Ethiopia and Kenya that has a reputation for surviving droughts, a high resistance to disease and produces a high yield of protein-rich milk. Galla goats are relatively easy to care for, require less land and breed quickly, often producing twins.

Our church family has always risen to support those in need, and you have done it once again. Your almsgiving this Lent has, thus far, supported the purchase of 29 goats, which will be matched by the Government of Canada thru the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.



HOSPITALITY

Monthly Luncheons Continue.....



Chili was on the menu for our **January** luncheon, thank you to Susan Jack for being the head chef.

In **February** our annual bag lunch was served prior to the Annual General meeting. Special thanks to Ann Stone, Terry Ricketts and Janet Brown for preparing these lunches which included a tasty deli sandwich, grapes, and brownies. As always, there was lots of coffee and tea available to fortify everyone throughout the meeting.





Our **March** luncheon included homemade beans, accompanied by hot dogs (and buns). Many thanks to Susan Jack, Lina O'Toole and Carmen Webb for the delicious homemade beans!



Please join us for our upcoming luncheons:

- April 27
- May 25, Celebration of Confirmation of Livna and Laura
- June 8, Farewell and Thank you to Keith.
Final luncheon until the fall.



MISSION PROJECTS UPDATE

Our **Shepherd's Cupboard** mission continues helping families during these winter months. We need financial contributions as we typically buy bread, milk and eggs (fruit if there are children) upon delivery. Thank you for your continued support of this mission.



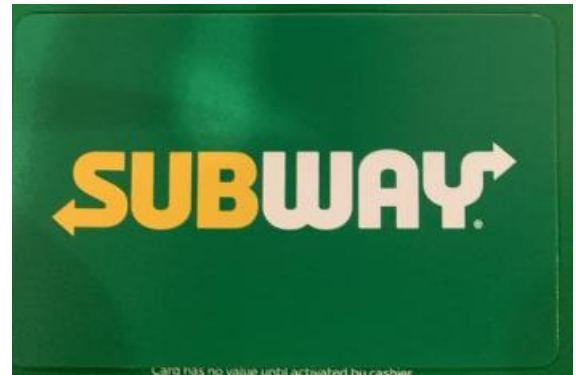
The **Hillcrest Caring Closet** now open and receiving items once again. A few changes, their donation drop off times are 9am to 12 pm Tuesdays and Fridays only. Going forward the Caring Closet will be focussing on the following items:

- Clothing & accessories
- Footwear
- Bedding, linens, blankets, pillows
- Bathroom items especially towels
- Kitchen items - nothing bigger than a small microwave
- Children's Toys
- Christmas items



We were fortunate to have funds remaining from our Christmas Basket campaign to purchase Subway gift cards for students who benefit from the **Harbourview Lunch Program**.

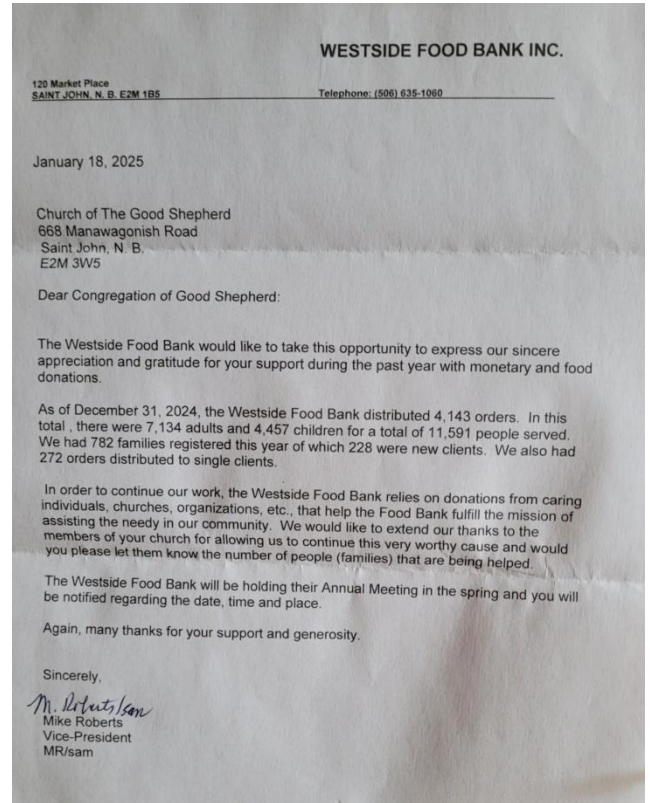
These were given in time for March break so the students would be able to continue to have a sandwich on us while away from school.



50 reusable water bottles were purchased for and distributed to the **HVHS lunch program**. This will eliminate the need to purchase single-use water bottles weekly and lighten the load for deliveries. We took into consideration the possible stigma of having all one style of bottle, so we purchased as many different styles and colours as possible.



Our church family continues to support The **West Side Food Bank**. The food bank is very grateful for all our contributions.



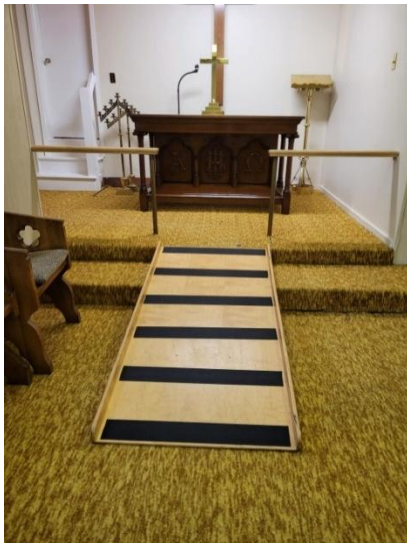
The **Seafarers Mission** outreach project happened in January. The boat was delayed making an appearance in early January due to a couple of funerals at the church. We were happy to see that this did not deter the donation of items, and several bags of items were sent to the mission office. Thank you for supporting this mission.



BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE



Bathrooms in the gym recently received a freshening up.



The ramp in the chapel received a couple of adjustments to decrease the possibility of falls. The ramp now has anti-slip strips and hooks on the sides to anchor it to the existing structure so that it does not move and cause a gap.

The roof above the office needs replacement. After reviewing the quotes, it was thought that a team of volunteers could tackle this saving us \$\$\$\$. Please contact Shayne Galbraith or Barry McQueen if you would be able to help. Without volunteers we will have to employ a roofing company.



A Little Good Shepherd History



An unassuming black framed picture hangs beside the stage in the small hall.

At first glance one would think this was taken of a typical Christmas Pageant.

However, in 1949, on the very stage by where the picture hangs today, an Easter Pageant was performed by various congregation members of the time. Janis Maguire shared that her mother and uncles performed in the pageant.

DO YOU KNOW?

We are looking for any information regarding this Altar.

We know that this was not part of the original altar to the chapel, nor has it been used in our sanctuary.

If you have any information, please contact Terry Ricketts or Susan Jack.





FINANCE UPDATE

Financial results for the end of March show a small loss of (\$3,162), which is slightly worse than our budgeted loss of (\$785). This is primarily due to timing differences in the way the annual budget was broken down into monthly components. The variances that we're seeing in a couple of the expense lines should smooth out as the year progresses.

Being just a little over 3 months into the year, and with unknowns about what the year will present when Keith returns to his retirement, and our search for a full-time rector, any forecast we might come up with wouldn't be any more accurate than our original budget. Therefore, the right 2 columns show the 2025 budget and the 2024 year-end actuals for comparison.

	<i>Jan - Mar 2025</i>	<i>Jan - Mar 2024</i>	<i>Jan - Dec Budget 2025</i>	<i>Jan - Dec 2024</i>
Offerings	36,354	35,199	153,380	142,587
Rents	5,950	6,500	26,000	20,190
Interest	-	-	4,420	4,420
Misc Income	-	-	-	-
Total Income	42,304	41,699	183,800	167,198
Salaries	20,721	20,721	111,926	86,126
Church Bldg & Office	17,719	13,659	52,818	58,912
Rectory	108	714	5,628	2,414
Worship & Programs	902	1,375	4,400	3,031
Shared Ministry	6,016	6,016	24,063	24,738
Total Expenses	45,466	42,484	198,835	175,220
YTD Surplus/(Loss)	(3,162)	(785)	(15,035)	(8,023)



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Comic Relief

"God so loved the world that he did not send a committee."



**May the grace our of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.
Amen**

We hope to see you at our Worship Services.

Wishing you a Blessed Easter!

~The Good Shepherd Vestry