

St. Thomas' Anglican Church



**EASTER
BLESSINGS**

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

April 7th & 8th, 2012

Come and worship with us on:

Thursday—10:00 a.m.—Quiet Communion

Thursday—7:00 p.m.—Maundy Service

Friday—10:30 a.m.—Good Friday Service

Saturday—5:00 p.m.—Contemporary Communion/Holy Saturday

Sunday—8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion EASTER

Sunday—10:30 a.m.—Holy Communion EASTER



Weekly Notices



Mission to Seafarers' Fundraising Dinner will be April 30th. Tickets are available from our reps, Margaret Irwin and Garry Barker. Further details are on the poster in the entry.

Our new **HOUR OF PRAYER** sessions have begun. Tuesdays from 11:30—12:30 in the Chapel. Prayer is offered for our city & nation, family & friends, our church, and much more. Everyone is welcome to join in this important work of our church.

Save Your Fleas & Elephants—Mothers' Union is having a Flea Market/White Elephant Sale in late April / early May (date T.B.A.). So when you are Spring cleaning, save your fleas and elephants! (No clothes please). For more information, call Georgine @ 475-0139. Proceeds to go to M.U. and Camp Gitchigomee.

There will be **Sunday School for the Senior Kindergarten** Children (5 years) and under on Easter Sunday. Older children may stay in church to participate in the Easter Service.

The **church office will be closed** on Good Friday, April 6th.

The **2012 Women of Faith Event**, "Celebrate What Matters", will be in St. Paul, MN Oct 19-20! **Janis Barker** is our contact for further details. Registration is requested by April 30th so that transportation arrangements can be confirmed.

There will be an **A.C.W. meeting** on Tuesday, April 10th @ 1:30 p.m. in Haddon Hall. All are welcome.

The **A.C.W. Spring Deanery meeting** is in Nipigon on Tuesday, April 24th. A bus is being chartered so that all may enjoy the ride. The cost will be approximately \$10 per person. Contact Joyce Fossum @ 577-7381.

Altar Guild Members' service of Corporate Communion will be on April 15th.

Weekly Notices continued...



Special Holy Week Services at St. Thomas'

Maundy Thursday—April 5th—7:00 p.m.

Good Friday—April 6th—10:30 a.m.

Holy Saturday—April 7th—5:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday—April 8th—8:30 and 10:30 a.m.



Those who wish to help beautify the church for Easter with **Easter lilies** may drop them off at the church **before** 10:00 a.m. on Holy Saturday, April 7th.

Mother's Union will be putting on a **Soup Lunch** after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, April 22nd; either sit down or take out; by freewill offering. Takeout will be available after the 8:30 a.m. service as well.

Please encourage youth aged 13-24 to register early for this year's **Diocesan YOUTH SYNOD** to be held at Camp Manitou, Whitefish Falls, Ontario, Saturday, August 4th—Tuesday, August 7th. For more information and registration forms, contact Ellen in the Parish Office.



The following email was received from Janice Koza:

"Greg and I attended the joint Anglican/Lutheran service at Hilddale Lutheran Church on Tuesday night. We enjoyed it very much and it was a nice addition to Holy Week services. It is very interesting to see how different churches conduct their services. We were warmly greeted at the door and treated to refreshments afterwards. Archdeacon Kraft preached and it is always a pleasure to hear her. I encourage anyone who has the time, to take in other services that are available to us. We can always learn something new and it gives us a great appreciation of the blessings we have at St. Thomas'.

In just a few short days, we will celebrate Easter—the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! And the question we should ask ourselves is: “Do we really understand what this means?” In other words: “Do we get it?” As much as I love to decorate the house with ‘Easter things’ and when the kids were still home, I looked forward to the Easter egg trail with the basket of treasures at the end, it couldn’t be my focus. As a Christian, I had to remind myself of what Jesus had just done for me. He had washed away my sin and brokenness. He had set me free. He had healed and restored my life and filled me with joy and exhilaration! It may have taken some time and I may not have understood at first, but eventually, I came to understand the Scripture that says, “Jesus Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4). I have a new life. I have to live differently. I get it!

It’s sad to say, but sometimes we miss the point of Easter. We just don’t get it! How often as parents have we said that about our children? The toddler that won’t toilet train—the parent says, “she just doesn’t get it!” The teenager who doesn’t call when he’s going to be late—the parent says in frustration, “he just doesn’t get it!” I don’t know if it’s our lack of understanding, our need for control, our immaturity, our insecurities, or what, but all of us at some time in our life ‘miss the boat’ in certain situations. For some reason, we ‘just don’t get it.’

The disciples had the same problem. Even after they spent all that time with the Jesus, witnessing His many miracles and hearing His amazing teachings, they often did not grasp or understand what it meant to be a follower of Jesus. Throughout His entire preaching and teaching ministry, the disciples often showed that they had barely learned anything. They just didn’t get it!

We have a routine in our home with the dogs. After their breakfast, they go outside to do their ‘business’ and when they come back in there is always a ‘treat’ waiting for them in their bowls. It might be a scoop of applesauce, a baby carrot, a biscuit, whatever, but there’s always something there. When I open the door, Maggee comes charging in and runs straight to her bowl. Bailee, on the other hand, saunters in and stands in the middle of the kitchen floor looking up at me. It’s not until I say to him, “go look in your bowl” that the light goes on. Even after all these years, he just doesn’t get it! And I just shake my head in disbelief.

I wonder if God is shaking His head at us sometimes? Does He look at us in disbelief when we don’t comprehend what it means to follow Jesus? Does He shed a tear when we fail to understand that life in the kingdom of God is about humbly serving others? And yes, serving others in Jesus’ name can be uncomfortable, humbling, painful, and even costly! As one devotional writer put it — “Bringing glory to God can be inglorious to ourselves.”

The Resurrection story is not to be taken lightly. We’ve been given a clean slate so to speak, a new beginning, an opportunity to ‘get it right’ this time. So if we do ‘get it,’ what does that look like? Well, it means that as we transfer the gifts and talents that we’ve been given to the work of the Lord, we do so wisely and with reverence. I know how easy it is to forget that our ‘church’ is a ‘holy place’ where we come to gather and give praise to God. Those in leadership, like the pastor, the archdeacon, the bishop, etc. have callings, not jobs. This is serious business. Just as it’s “serious to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb. 10:31).

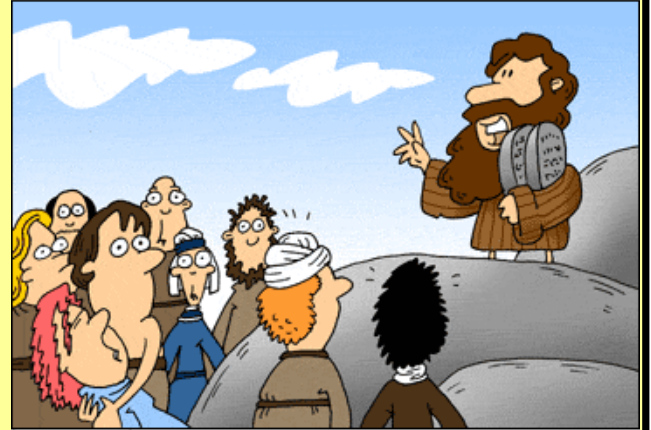
So does that mean we can’t laugh and have fun? I sure hope not! We are filled with the joy of the Lord. God doesn’t want us to serve Him with ‘grumbly faces.’ The world is watching us—so smile! At the same time, we prepare the altar with reverence as we hold the holy vessels, we serve as Lay readers and Eucharistic assistants and servers being spiritually well prepared and with respect to our Lord. We sing with excellence and joy, praising the Lord and always remembering to Whom we are singing our praises. We run our meetings, beginning and ending in prayer, always keeping in mind why we are gathered and what our mission is. We bring our years of experience in leadership, management, and organizational skills to the Lord’s work, with humility, never forgetting that we are here to serve others and fulfill God’s plan.

May we all reflect on why we come together each week and why we celebrate Easter. “In claiming to be the Resurrection and the Life, Jesus has set us free and has called us into a whole new existence.” It’s a new beginning, a new opportunity to ‘get it.’ As the Redeeming Lamb and Prince of Life has conquered sin, we have hope. When the mind falters in its understanding, we have the Holy Spirit to set us straight. This is our faith, this is our hope, this is our vision, this is our mission, this is our church. Do we get it? I think we do.

~ Lesley Joy McClure



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Exodus 34)

02-07-2003

I WAS JUST MESSING WITH YOU ON THAT LAST ONE ... CHOCOLATE AND PIZZA ARE STILL OK

The 12 Rules of Chocolate

1. If you get melted chocolate all over your hands, you're eating it too slowly.
2. Chocolate covered raisins, cherries, orange slices and strawberries all count as fruit, so eat as many as you want.
3. **The problem:** How to get two pounds of chocolate home from the store in a hot car. **The solution:** Eat it in the parking lot.
4. **Diet tip:** Eat a chocolate bar before each meal. It'll take the edge off your appetite and you'll eat less.
5. A nice box of chocolates can provide your total daily intake of calories in one place. Isn't that handy?
6. If you can't eat all your chocolate, it will keep in the freezer. But if you can't eat all your chocolate what's wrong with you?
7. If calories are an issue, store your chocolate on top of the fridge. Calories are afraid of heights, and they will jump out of the chocolate to protect themselves.
8. Money talks. Chocolate sings.
9. Chocolate has many preservatives. Preservatives make you look younger.
10. Why is there no such organization as Chocoholics Anonymous? Because no one wants to quit.
11. Put "eat chocolate" at the top of your list of things to do today. That way, at least you'll get one thing done.
12. Chocolate is a health food. Chocolate is derived from cacao beans. Bean = vegetable. Sugar is derived either from sugar beets or cane, both are vegetables. And, of course, the milk/cream is dairy. So eat more chocolate to meet the dietary requirements of daily vegetable and dairy intake.



How are you
celebrating
Easter?

