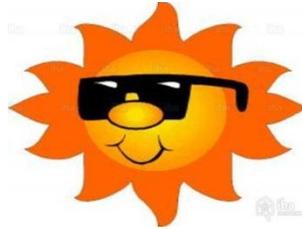


THE PARISH LIGHT

The Parish of the Northern Lights Newsletter ~ August 2020



What If

What if God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank him yesterday. . .

What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow him today. . .

What if God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as his day. . .

What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the rain. . .

What if God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others. . .

What if God took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today. . .

What if God took away his message because we failed to listen to the messenger. . .

What if God didn't send his only begotten son because he wanted us to be prepared to pay the price for sin. . .

What if the door of the church was closed because we did not open the door to our heart. . .

What if God answered our prayers the way we answer his call to service. . .

- Author Unknown -



The theme of the Gospel:
God will Provide all that we need, and then some.

“Send them away Jesus. We can’t provide for them, we can’t feed them. There are so many that need to be fed. We can’t do it. Let them find food somewhere else.”

These are the words of a practical people. These are the words of the disciples of Jesus.

5000 men plus women and children, many as much as 8000 people or more.

Overwhelming.

Their own supplies were meager: 5 loaves and 2 fish. Barely enough for the disciples themselves.

Jesus said to the disciples, “bring them here to me”. In other words give me what little you have and I will give it to the people.

You can just hear the disciples, “but what about us?”

An act of faith. The disciples gave what little they had to Jesus not sure what Jesus would do. Not sure what Jesus COULD do. Just trusting Jesus to do what is best.

Times have not changed. As a parish we have journeyed through some very hard times. The economics in this area has plummeted because of fires, falling oil prices, our youth leaving for other places to get work. Our population has gone down. Our jobs have disappeared. And just when we need the Church the most, it went all haywire. Between Bishop leaving, and a new one elected, our ministers not working out, seeming to do more harm than good. We seem to have lost confidence in everything. Then to top it off, Covid-19 shut us down. Shut our communities down, and seemingly shut our churches down.

As a parish, our income also plummeted. Many members have left, Those of us who have stayed no longer can give as we once did. Our once self-supporting parish is self-supporting no longer. Well at least nothing more can happen????

Surprise, Surprise. Now we are being asked to work with two other parishes and they are no better off than we are and one may even be worse off than we are. We are asked to share our leadership, our talents, our possessions with those in need.

But Jesus through the Church says give them to me. Trust them to me. I will use them. But what about us?

This is called an act of Faith. We do not have much to start with. Jesus says give them to me and trust me. We are not sure what Jesus will do with what little we have.

To be honest we are not sure what Jesus can do with what little we have left. It is barely enough to keep us going. Now there are 3 parishes.

Jesus said to the disciples, "give me what you have". The silent continuation of that sentence is "Then trust me".

Trust me to do what is right,

Trust me to Care for those who need us.

Trust me to care for you. Trust that I have not forgotten you.

In that act of faith so long ago at least two things happened.

Firstly the people were fed. Up to 8,000 or more.

Secondly, when the left overs were collected 12 baskets were filled. One for each of the disciples.

The people were provided for.

The disciples were provided for.

All because the disciples were willing to trust Jesus even though they did not know what he could do.

We stand before Jesus and he asks us for an act of faith.

Are we willing to trust Jesus? Are we willing to give what little we have?

Are we willing to step out in faith believing what Jesus will to do through us, His Church, the Body of Christ, what is best for us?

Jesus will do miracle through us, but only if we allow him to work through us, only if we are prepared to act in faith.

Only if we are prepared to trust Jesus to do what needs to be done.

Amen.

WAITING PATIENTLY

Sometimes it's hard to explain hope ~ just what is hope, anyway?

The cutest illustration of hope I've found is about a little boy who was standing at the foot of the escalator in a big department store, intently watching the handrail.

He never took his eyes off the handrail as the escalator kept going around and around.

A salesperson saw him and finally asked him if he was lost.

The little fellow replied, "Nope, I'm just waiting for my chewing gum to come back."

If your face is in the dust, if you are in a wringer situation, be like the little boy waiting for his chewing gum to come back.

Stand firm, be patient, and trust God.

Then get busy with your life.....there is work to do.

.....Barbara Johnson, Stick a Geranium in your Hat and Be Happy

The Story of the Praying Hands

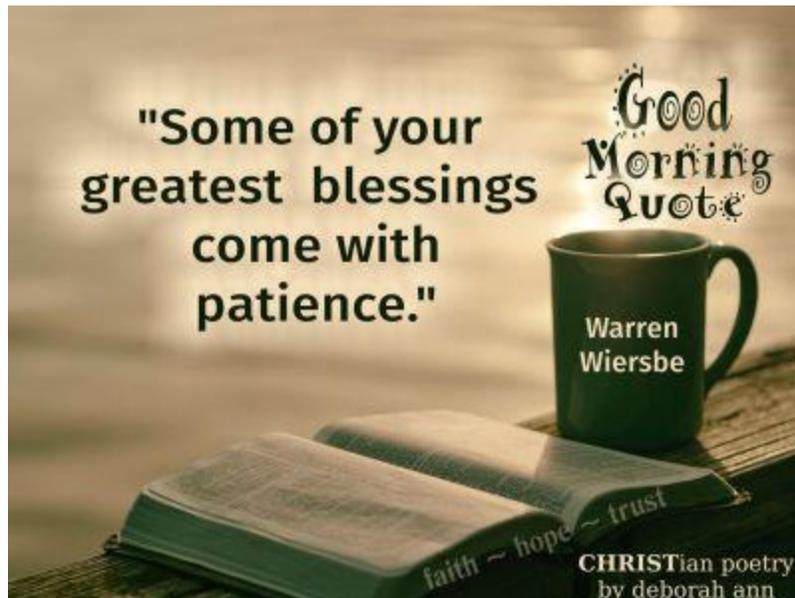
For years people have admired the art masterpiece known as "The Praying Hands". Behind this work of art is a fascinating story of love and sacrifice.

In the late fifteens century two struggling young art students, Albrecht Durer and Franz Knigstein, worked as laborers to earn money for their art studies. But the work was long and hard and it left them little time to study art.

Finally they agreed to draw lots and let the loser support them both while the winner continued to study. Albrecht won, but he agreed to support Franz after achieving success so his friend could finish his studies.

After becoming successful, Albrecht sought out Franz to keep his bargain. But he soon discovered the enormous sacrifice his friend had made. As Franz worked at hard labor, his fingers had become twisted and stiff. His long, slender fingers and sensitive hands had been ruined for life. He could no longer manager the delicate brush strokes so necessary for executing fine paintings. But in spite of the price he paid, Franz was not bitter. He was happy that his friend Albrecht had attained success.

One day Albrecht saw his loyal friend kneeling, his rough hands entwined in silent prayer. Albrecht quickly sketched the hands, later using the rough sketch to create his masterpiece known as "The Praying Hands."



Be patient with God, He knows what He's doing sometimes to our prayers He takes His time moving.

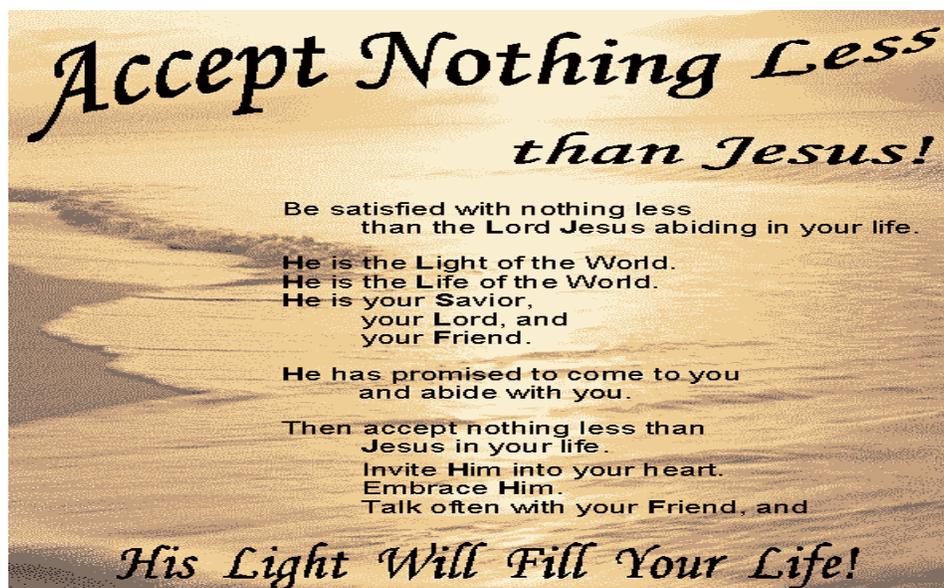
Be patient with God, enjoy the time waiting for the answers to our prayers He's carefully delegating.

Be patient with God, He is working out His plan you will need a lot of faith to fill in the time span.

Be patient with God, give Him the time He needs not all of His answers come at rapid speeds.

Be patient with God, trust Him and be still He's working out for you what is His perfect will.

Be patient with God, your times are in His hands and for you He is working on His awesome, amazing plans!



Job Descriptions

St Michael's Church was getting organized. They had written a mission statement, designed a flow chart, and the office was now working on job descriptions. The following is the first draft.

Senior Pastor

Is able to leap tall buildings in a single bound; Is more powerful than a locomotive; Is faster than a speeding bullet; Walks on water; Gives policies to God

Associate Pastor

Is able to leap short buildings in a single bound; is as powerful as a switch engine; Is just as fast as a speeding bullet; Walks on water if the sea is calm; Talks with God

Educational Director

Leaps small buildings with a running start; Is almost as powerful as a switch engine; Is faster than a speeding BB' Walks on water if he knows where the rocks are; Talks with God if special request is approved.

Music Director

Clears a Quonset jut; Loses races with a locomotive; Can fire a speeding bullet; Swims well; Is occasionally addressed by God

Youth Director

Runs into small buildings; Recognizes locomotives two out of three times; Used a squirt gun in college; Knows how to use the water fountain; Mumbles to himself

Church Secretary

Lifts buildings to walk under them; Kicks locomotives off the track; Catches speeding bullets in her teeth; When God speaks, she says, "May I ask who's calling?"

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## What I Could Do If I Really Wanted To

If I wanted to, I could help make this church the most wide awake and working church in all the world.

If I wanted to, I could show more devotion in worship and receive much more good from the services myself.

If I wanted to, I could visit members who are sick or homebound and find other ways of helping them.

If I wanted to, I could attend Bible studies regularly and encourage others to do the same.

If I wanted to, I could profit more from the sermons by not resenting the truth when it reveals some of my weaknesses.

If I wanted to, I could tell others about Christ and His church and lead them to him.

Of course, this all depends on what I want to do. I could be an honored servant of the greatest of all kings. I have the ability – if I really want to.

- Author unknown

## **Our Churches Are Now Open!**

The churches in the Parish of the Northern Lights are now open for services.

St Thomas, Perryvale on Sunday at 9:00 am

St Andrew's Zion, Colinton on Sunday at 10:30 am

St Paul's, Boyle on Sunday at 10:30 am

Christ Church, Wandering River on Sunday at 1:30 pm

Everyone is welcome!! We ask that you please wear a mask as per our Covid-19 health instructions.

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We wait in anticipation for the arrival on September 1st of our new Associate Priest, Rev. Rose Howell. She will reside in the Rectory in Athabasca.

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*If you have any needs or questions, here is a list of those who might help you.*

Bishop Larry Robertson – 780-213-4099

Rev. Bill Creaser – 780-213-0094

Lay Reader Deana Lemke – 780-713-8903

Lay Reader Joanna Muzyka – 780-689-8053

Lay Reader Sheila Robertson – 780-213-4205

Lay Reader Mike Griffin – 780-675-5515

Lay Reader Bruno Wiskel – 780-689-1176

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A Moment With Him

We mutter and sputter, we fume and we spurt;
We mumble and grumble, our feelings get hurt.
We can't understand things, our vision grown dim;
When all that we need is a moment with Him.