

March 2019 - Lenten-Easter Letter for Bethany

Dear Bethany

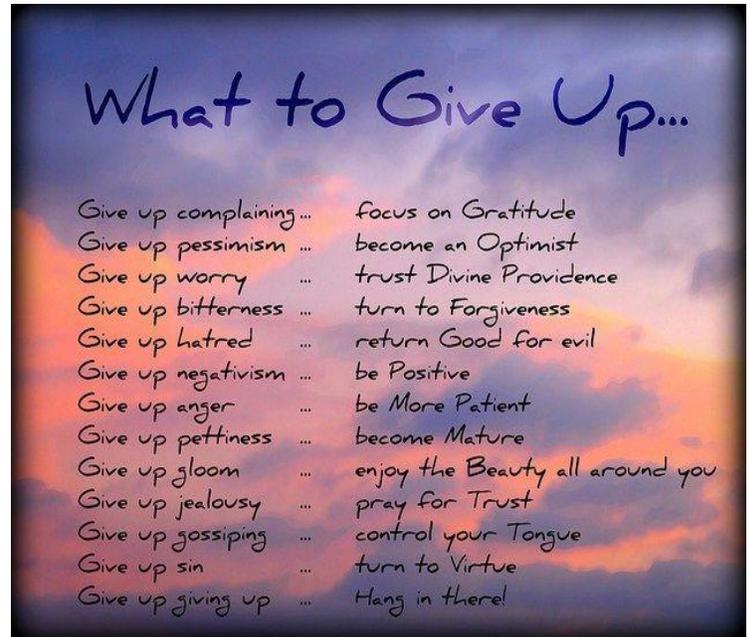
Lent always offers a challenge. We begin the season with these words from the Gospel, *“Jesus was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the Confuser. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The Confuser said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”* Bread is good. Bread is delicious. Bread is filling. But how much bread do we need? Has God not provided enough bread to feed our broken world? So why do we always want more? Why are we tempted to live beyond the needs of the covenant (See Genesis)? Do we not trust God to provide enough? Our Lenten services will focus on how we learn to trust God and know what is enough.

In my three and a half years at Bethany I have heard and seen a lot of stories that captured “enough”. We’ve opened up our programming with a high degree of intentionality to include the community around us. Community meals, Walk and Talk, ISANS talking circles, film nights, even our faith studies have attracted people who go to other churches, or none at all. And of course there is Sunday morning and Jazz Vespers. People routinely come in to our sanctuary to “kick the tires” and give us a look see. One gift we offer to those are searching is this sense of “enough”, that we are enough for each other, our presence in community, our sense of being together, is enough to fill us. We do not live by bread alone, we live in the covenant of God’s grace-filled love and that is truly enough.

Please look over the events and services that are upcoming, they appear in chronological order on the other side of this letter. On Good Friday the powers of Jesus’ day sought to silence our Saviour, prevent him from setting the captives free so they would know they were part of “enough”. For the powers the Roman Empire decided who and what was enough. But to those of us touched by God’s love we know only God knows what is enough, Jesus is enough and the Spirit shows us the way.

You are all enough. Know this and take heart.

Peace, Kevin





Lenten and Easter Events and Services

Walk and Talk every Wednesday at 10 am. Good conversation, great coffee and excellent walking conditions inside the church...

Meditation with Yvonne Macor All Thursdays till April 18 at 12 pm MacKinnon Chapel.

Muffin Club Sundays March 17,

31 & April 14, 28 845 am in the Parlour. Muffin Club is a lay-led Bible Study. All are welcome to attend. For more information please call the Office.

Bethany Community Meal Monday March 25 & April 29 Supper. Nutritious food, all welcome to help cook meal, prepare meal and eat the meal. You decide! Cost \$10 per person.

Bethany Annual General Meeting Sunday March 31, after the worship service ends.

Jazz Vespers Sunday March 31 @ 7 pm. Lenten time "Ain't Got Time to Die". All welcome.

JOY LUNCH CLUB Tuesday April 2 at 12 noon, healthy meal by Chef Tim, speaker Kevin Little sharing recent experience of trip with daughter Lucy to Winnipeg to receive her award from the Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. All welcome.

Men's Club Wednesday April 3 at 6 pm. Meal prepared by chefs Tim and Dave, speaker Carl Yates General Manager, Halifax Water. Topic: the Daylighting of Sawmill Creek in Dartmouth.

Palm Sunday Confirmation and Transfer Sunday April 14 @ 10:30 am. Youth and Adults joining the church will be welcome. Cake!

Friday April 12 at 7 pm Ewen Moase Fellowship Hall Bethany Variety Show. Come and see the talents we have, the gifts we want to share in community. All are welcome!

Good Friday April 19 @ 7 pm. A somber and reflective time to consider the sacrifice of Jesus, what it meant to his followers, what it means to us.

Easter Sunday April 21 @ 10:30 am. A time of celebration of new life, the joy that comes when we experience Jesus' resurrection anew.

Sunday April 28 @ 3 pm. Easter Concert: A Time to Remember Janet Paton with special music from our gifted choir.

Faith Study Wednesdays May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 @ 7 pm - A Faith of Your Own by Ronald Allen. MacKinnon Chapel. Opportunity to discuss various approaches to the deep questions of faith.