



## Thanksgiving 2015

### The Deanery of Sudbury/Manitoulin

***Lift up your hearts to the Lord,  
praise God's gracious mercy!  
Sing out your joy to the Lord,  
whose love is enduring.***

***(Roc O Connor- Lift Up Your Hearts)***

Dear friends in Sudbury/ Manitoulin deanery

All across the Diocese of Algoma this Thanksgiving, people are *Lifting up their Hearts* in celebration of God's goodness and generosity. In Bishop Stephen's charge to Synod this year he invited us all engage in a season of 'gratitude', and it began officially on October 4th.

In small rural congregations, and in larger urban centres, prayers and songs of praise are being offered, and people are studying the Scriptures and reflecting on themes of abundance, gratitude and giving with loving open hearts.

At home families with children, couples alone, and individuals are praying the daily devotions, journaling, and giving thanks for blessings great and small – clean water, a job, a leaf bouncing across the road, time with loved ones, renewed health, a walk with a friend.

At the Deanery ACW meeting on Saturday, groups of women worked together to compose songs giving thanks to God. We learned that as Christians we must, "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances – for this is the will of Christ Jesus for us.*"

(1 Thess. 5.16-18)

There's more! A sermon series, written by our very own Rev. Dr. Tim Perry will lead us through five weeks of a deeper theological understanding of just how awesome our loving and generous God is. There's always a question though – and here it is - What is my/our response as an individual or as a faith community to God who asks us to be generous in return?

I pray that yours is a congregation and a home where the resources so beautifully prepared for us by the *Lift Up Your Heart* team are being utilized. You can find all these resources on the Diocesan website – the links are on the homepage in the right hand corner. Thank you to this diocesan team for their hard work and creativity over the summer months.

As I reflect this Thanksgiving on the many blessings in my own life, I am also grateful for the gifted and generous men and women across this deanery who have said 'yes' to God's call in their lives and give so freely of their time and talent to their church community. Thank you!

God bless you all this Thanksgiving,

Archdeacon Anne

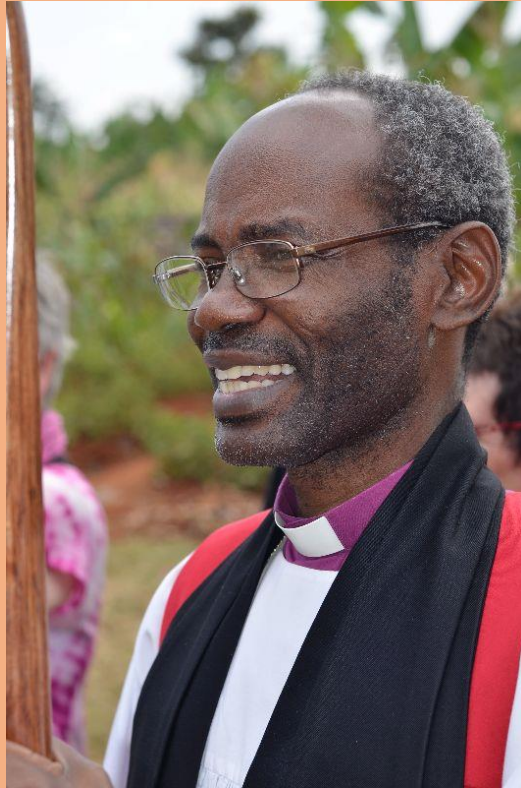
## ***Deanery News***

### **1. *The Fall Deanery Council***

The Deanery Council meeting takes place at the Church of the Epiphany on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Coffee time will be at 9:30am with the opening Eucharist at 10am. Clergy, Wardens, Synod delegates, and treasurers are all invited to attend this important meeting. Barbara Ingram will be installed as the Warden of Layreaders for the deanery, and the Rev. Doug Prebble as Regional Dean. Tom Linck and Gilles Tessier will be installed as the Lay Stewards at this meeting. This also serves as a reminder that any property matters which need to go to the November Executive Committee meeting, must be approved of by the Deanery officials, and be at the Synod office three weeks before the meeting. The deadline for applications for the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting is the week after Thanksgiving.

### **2. *A Visit from Bishop Mwita Akiri – October 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>.***

We are delighted that Bishop Mwita Akiri from the Diocese of Tarime in Tanzania, our partner Diocese, will be visiting our deanery on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October. Bishop Stephen will bring him to Sudbury on Monday and that afternoon he will be giving a lecture at Thorneloe University to the Religious Studies students. On Tuesday morning he will visit the Elgin Street Mission, where so many of us participate in outreach activities, and also have a tour of Barrydowne College, an alternative High School which the Ascension supports. At noon Bishop Mwita will join the Sudbury clericus for their monthly meeting.



**Bishop Mwita Akiri**

On Tuesday evening at 5pm you are all invited to the Ascension for a potluck supper and conversation with Bishop Mwita and Bishop Stephen. This is a great opportunity for us to get to know Bishop Mwita, whom one of the lay readers in my parish describe as energetic, interesting and interested in all aspects of our diocesan life. Please advertise this evening in your parishes and if any of your groups would like to make a contribution to the ongoing ministry and mission of the Diocese of Tarime, you can make your cheque payable to the Diocese of Algoma (memo line – Tarime) and Jane Mesich will be sure that Bishop Mwita is made aware of your donation.

### **3. A Visit from the Sisters of St. John the Divine**

Joining us at the Deanery Council meeting in October will be two sisters from the Sisters of St. John the Divine in Toronto. Sr. Constance Joanna and Sister Louise will be given some time to speak about their ministry and work. Later that afternoon, at 3:30pm they will be speaking at the Thorneloe Chapel about a new program the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine is planning. For some years the sisters have had an "Alongsiders" program at St. John's Convent in Toronto where women can spend a year (or two in some cases) living, praying, working, and creating community with the Sisters.

Sister Constance writes: *The goals of the Alongsider program are mutual - the Alongsiders use their unique gifts and skills as they assist in the Sisterhood's ministry and are formed in the ancient-future monastic values that they can take back into their lives in families, churches, school, and work places;*

*and the sisters experience their own formation, as we learn from our Alongsiders how God is calling us to transform our own community life and ministry to the changing needs of the church and God's world.*

*Beginning in the fall of 2016, we are planning to morph the Alongsider program into something more intentionally along the lines of the new monasticism. We wish to invite young women to spend a year with us, forming community within their own cohort and also with the sisters, deepening their own life in Christ as they assist the sisters in reaching out to the world God loves.*

*The Sisterhood's Intention, as expressed in our Rule of Life, is as follows:*

*Our Rule is based on the Rule of Benedict, and we seek a balance between the contemplative and active life.*

You are warmly invited to attend this presentation at the Thorneloe Chapel and asked to forward this to anyone who might be interested. The sisters will be preaching at the Eucharist at Deanery Council and at the Church of the Epiphany and the Church of the Ascension on the 18<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **4. ACW Deanery elections**

At the ACW Meeting on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October elections were held. The following people are the new Executive for the coming two years. Please pray for these women as they assume these roles in the deanery.

President: Beverly Vanderjagt

Vice President: Kath Greenidge

Secretary: Cathy Jewell

Devotions: Thelma Smith

Treasurer: Betty McLeod

Family Life – Sherry Freuwald

Social Action – Linda Goodale

Communications – Marion Collinson

Honourary member – Anne Trimmer

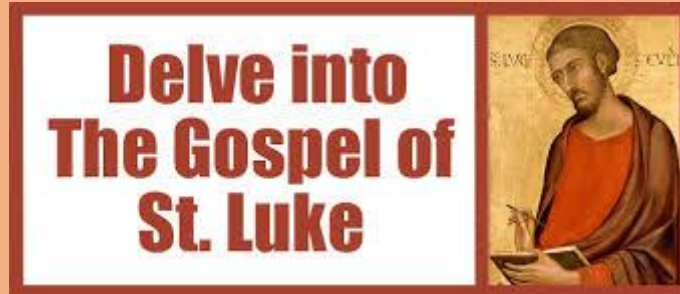
The women of the various ACW groups in our deanery will be planning the ACW Annual meeting next May (30<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>)

#### **Deanery Teaching Series.....**

**Credo** – The Rev. Dr. Tim Perry is teaching a series on The Creed on Wednesday evenings at the Church of the Epiphany. It begins at 7pm and concludes with Compline at 8:15pm. This is an excellent way to learn about what we mean when we say, “I believe.” Every week Tim takes a different aspect of the Creed and those attending are finding it to be a rich and rewarding

experience. You do not have to have attended previous weeks to join now. For more information contact the Rev. Dr. Tim Perry at the Church of the Epiphany – 705.675.2279.

### **What is the Gospel of Luke?**



Join us on Wednesday November 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Church of the Ascension, as the Rev. Dr. Robert Derrenbacker, Provost of Thorneloe University and a New Testament scholar prepares us for Year C by leading us in an evening's lecture on the Gospel of Luke. Clergy, layreaders and laity are all welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **Youth Alpha**

Youth Alpha is coming soon to the Deanery of Sudbury/Manitoulin! Leaders are the Rev. Jeff Hooper and Cora Felbel (Deanery Youth Coordinator)



### **Farewell to Rev. Sherry De Jonge**

The Rev. Sherry de Jonge will be leaving the deanery and the parishes on Manitoulin Island in November. Rev. Sherry has been appointed as the incumbent of Northern Lights Parish. We give thanks for Rev. Sherry's ministry on Manitoulin these last two years and assure her of our

prayers as she begins this new ministry. Please pray for the Island parishes as they begin the process of appointing a new incumbent.

**Congratulations are in order for** – Thelma Smith, who graduated from Thorneloe University this fall with a Bachelor of Theology degree, and to Beverly Vanderjagt, who graduated with a Diploma in Theology.

### ***Gratitude for the Little Moments***

Gratitude, yes, for all the big things that stand tall,

Thick with abundance, joy, fruitfulness.

I cannot help but applaud their presence.

But thankfulness for the bite sized pieces of my life?

I had not thought of them, those little snippets of time so easily consumed in a hurry and blur of pretentious days.

The little moments, assumed and presumed, slip quickly through the fingers of my busy life.

The fall gestures with a wrinkled brown hand, beckons me wisely to consider those fleeting moments of grace, in things quickly passing:

A walk on a musky wooded path,

A cup of coffee silently savoured,

A birdsong in the squeaky hours of dawn,

The gentle touch of a liver spotted hand,

A loving letter from a grateful stranger,

A fading crescent moon in a royal blue sky.

I turn to gather finely layered remnants like these in the come and go of my days,

And discover with surprise how quickly my inner room is a harvest place of gold.

(Joyce Rupp)

***Happy Thanksgiving!***

# What are YOU Thankful For?

