

April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of
Easter

St. John's Lutheran Church,
Mahone Bay





St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (SJELC)
South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry (SSLSM)
Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia
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Sunday April 26, 2026 – Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday of Easter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Statement *(read by lector)*

We are honored to be worshiping here today in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People, and we acknowledge them as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land.

Here at St. John's, we intentionally welcome all to worship and participate in our community. We believe we are drawn together by the love of Jesus Christ, our care for each other, and our passion for our community. At St. John's, all people are welcome, and we seek to worship in a way that respects and inspires our diversity. We believe that all people are created in the image of God, that all people are of sacred worth, and that Christ died, and rose, for all people. We believe that God's radically inclusive love excludes no one. We welcome everyone without exception, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender identity, sexual orientation, family or socioeconomic status, educational background, political affiliation, physical or mental ability, faith history or life experience. We believe that the diversity of God's creation is part of what makes it beautiful. We are a church where it is safe to have differences and still remain united in the love of Jesus. No matter who you are, where you're from, or what you believe, you are always welcome at St. John's.

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

Amen.

Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.
You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.
Amen.

Opening Hymn ~ ELW 807
~ Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE ~ p. 184

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:42-47

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

PSALM: PSALM 23

¹ The Lord | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

² The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures

and leads me be- | side still waters.

³ You restore my | soul, O Lord,

and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:19-25

It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ p.188

The Holy Gospel according to John
Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: JOHN 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again, Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Pastor Annette

Special Music ~ St John's Choir
~ The Lord is My Shepherd

Installation of council members: Judy Verge, Melinda Kerwin, Trudi Inglis, David Eisnor, Tim Aulenback, Sara Whynot, Jean Rodenhiser and Heather Hirtle.

APOSTLES' CREED ~ p. 105

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God,
draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creator God,
by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Righteous Judge,
strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Great Physician,
walk with those who are grieving and anoint those who are ill or injured, especially Jocelyn Wentzell, Florence Slauenwhite, Shelley Ernst, Donna Naugler, Wendy Keddy, David Conrad, Bruce Parks and Diane Fancy. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit.
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Good Shepherd,
continually seek us out as lambs of your flock and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Living God,
we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

OPEN SPACE FOR PRAYER

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Sharing of the Peace with one another

OFFERING

Offering presented by our Greeters

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving ~ ELW p. 190

God be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise

PREFACE

SANCTUS - Holy, Holy, Holy ~ ELW p. 190

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Loving One, compassionate Three,
we offer our praise and thanksgiving:
for your good creation,
for your presence in our brokenness,
for the stories of the ancestors,
and the hope your companionship inspires.

On this day,

as we turn to you in public worship,

we remember:

the coming of Jesus in poverty and oppression,
the feeding and healing he shared,
the stories of ordinary things which point us to you,
and his embrace of the suffering and the dying.

We especially remember

on a night of betrayal and desertion,

that Jesus took bread and gave thanks,

broke it and gave it to those he was with, saying,

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

And he took the cup after supper,

again gave thanks,

and gave it for them to drink saying,

This is the covenant, renewed in my blood,

poured out for you and for all,

for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Therefore, loving One, compassionate Three,
we do remember, and we proclaim again:
his life of service and solidarity,
his dying and rising,
and his promise of new life,
given and renewed each day.
By the coming of your Spirit,
in this meal, in our gathering,
and in every daily interaction:
strengthen our faith in your promise,
inspire our grateful response,
and fire us with hope for the world.
By the promise and presence of Jesus,
break open our hearts to share the love you are;
pour us out in service to your hurting world;
bring creation to fulfillment and make us new.
We offer these prayers in the name of the Loving One,
trusting the faithfulness of the compassionate Three,
now and always. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER p. 145

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

LAMB OF GOD ~ ELW p. 191

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

Communion Hymn ~ ELW 789

~ Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
in the name of Jesus,
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✝ bless you now and forever.
Amen

SENDING HYMN~ ELW 774

~ What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

**Jocelyn Wentzell, Florence Slauenwhite, Shelley Ernst, Donna Naugler, Wendy Keddy,
David Conrad, Bruce Parks and Diane Fancy**

Remember to pray for all those who we know ~ family and friends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Practices:

- **Choir Practice:** April 23rd @6:15, May 17th @12:15, May 24th @10:15

Upcoming Events:

- **Fellowship Sunday:** April 26th following 11:00 am service
- **Camp Mush-A-Mush:** Spring clean-up, May 9th @ 9:00 am

Other:




- **Protect the progress around Lake Chad:** Funding for nature-based solutions, including CLWR's Friends of Creation project around Lake Chad, is at risk with the next federal budget. Use your voice now to let the government know you care about this work and want to see it protected. Use CLWR's letter-writing tool to send an email to your MP in just three minutes. Find the tool online at clwr.org/advocate
- **Youth & Young Adult Retreat**

Peace, Be Still




YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

A weekend to step away from the pressure,
slow down, connect in community,
and be still.
Come as you are.

HOSTED BY SOUTH SHORE LUTHERAN SHARED MINISTRY

 JUNE 12 – 14 2026	 ARRIVAL FRIDAY 4:00 P.M.	 DEPARTURE SUNDAY 3:00 P.M.
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Space to connect. Time to reflect. Support when you need it.
Camp Mush-a-Mush staff will be available for individual and group support.
Participants will be divided into age-appropriate groups.

 WHO Grade 7 to Age 25	 COST FREE Hosted by South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry	 BRING Sleeping bag, pillow, personal items, and a shareable snack if you're able.
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And things going on in our shared ministry community:

Date & Time	Event & Church	Description
April 22nd & 29th 9:30am	Walking Group St John's, Mahone Bay	Meet at the Barn. Bad weather? Stay for fellowship at the Barn.
April 28th 1:30pm	Drop In: West Northfield Community Centre	Hosted by St. Andrews Lutheran Church on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month!
April 28th 4:30 – 6:00	Fed & Nourished Mt Calvary	Last Tuesday of each month
May 10th 11:00am	Cold Potluck Mount Olivet, Upper LaHave	2 nd Sunday a 11 am Cold Plate Potluck after service monthly. All welcome to stay/attend and share a meal
May 24th 2:00pm	Coffee Hour St Lukes, Rhodes Corner	Fourth Sunday Coffee and Conversation after 1pm service



PROVIDE RELIEF IN THE MIDDLE EAST

“No place feels safe. Families are fleeing with little notice...Children are sleeping in classrooms. Others remain in their homes, hearing bombs fall nearby.” This is what we’re hearing from our partners on the ground in Lebanon. The escalating violence in the region is causing displacement, fear and uncertainty in Iran, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinian Territories and beyond.

Please join us in prayer for peace across the region and for everyone affected by the violence. And consider donating today to provide emergency relief like food, clean water, blankets and psychological care for families experiencing trauma.

Donate today at clwr.org/middleeast



FEED HOPE SHARE LOVE

A MONTH OF GIVING DURING MAY

South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry invites you to take part in the ELCIC Day of Action by supporting local food banks and food pantries in the communities we serve.



Bring donations to your church throughout May and join us for our shared worship service. Donations can be brought there as well.



**SUNDAY,
MAY 31, 2026**



10:00 A.M.



**MAHONE BAY
CENTRE GYM**

The ELCIC Day of Action is a church-wide invitation to respond to needs in our communities through compassion, service, justice, and practical care.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Peanut butter • Canned soup • Canned vegetables • Canned fruit
Pasta and pasta sauce • Rice • Cereal • Oatmeal • Beans
Canned meat or fish • Mac and cheese • Crackers • Granola bars
Tea and coffee • Shelf-stable milk • Baby food • Diapers
Soap • Shampoo • Toothpaste • Deodorant



Please check expiry dates and ensure all items are unopened.

Join us as we share faith, generosity, and community support.

ALL ARE WELCOME.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada**
Living Out God's Grace &
Unconditional Love

Contact Information South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry

Pastor Annette Smith

emergency contact available 16-31st of each month

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Cell Phone: 902 605-0462

Pastor Victoria Featherston

emergency contact available 1-15th of each month

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Cell Phone: 902 605-0461

Hilary Scott, Administrator for SSLSM

Office Phone: 902 605-0460

Office days and hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

office email is sslsm.info@gmail.com

Messages & Emails are checked daily

Website: sslsm.ca

SSLSM Worship Schedule – Odd and Even Months

Odd Months Service Rotation		
January, March, May, July, September, November - times shown as time at location.		
Sunday	Pastor Annette	Pastor Victoria
First Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am at Mt. Calvary, Upper Northfield • 11:00 am at St. Paul's, Bridgewater • 1:00 pm at All Saints, Newcombville 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am at St. Andrew's, West Northfield • 11:00 am at Zion, Lunenburg • 1:00 pm at St. John's, Mahone Bay
Second Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am at St. James, Branch LaHave • 11:00 am at St. John's, Mahone Bay • 1:00 pm at Zion, Lunenburg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am at St. Paul's, Bridgewater • 11:00 am at Mt. Olivet, Upper LaHave • 1:00 pm at Zion, Lunenburg
Third Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am at St. Andrew's, West Northfield • 11:00 am at St. Paul's, Bridgewater • 1:00 pm at St. John's, Mahone Bay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am at Mt. Calvary, Upper Northfield • 11:00 am at All Saints, Newcombville • 1:00 pm at Zion, Lunenburg
Fourth Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am at Grace, First South • 11:00 am at Zion, Lunenburg • 1:00 pm at St. Luke's, Rhodes Corner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am at St. Paul's, Bridgewater • 11:00 am at St. John's, Mahone Bay • 2:00 pm at St. James, Branch LaHave

Even Months Service Rotation		
February, April, June, August, October, December - times shown as time at location.		
Sunday	Pastor Victoria	Pastor Annette
First Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am at Mt. Calvary, Upper Northfield • 11:00 am at St. Paul's, Bridgewater • 1:00 pm at All Saints, Newcombville 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am at St. Andrew's, West Northfield • 11:00 am at Zion, Lunenburg • 1:00 pm at St. John's, Mahone Bay
Second Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am at St. James, Branch LaHave • 11:00 am at St. John's, Mahone Bay • 1:00 pm at Zion, Lunenburg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00 am at St. Paul's, Bridgewater • 11:00 am at Mt. Olivet, Upper LaHave • 1:00 pm at Grace, First South
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