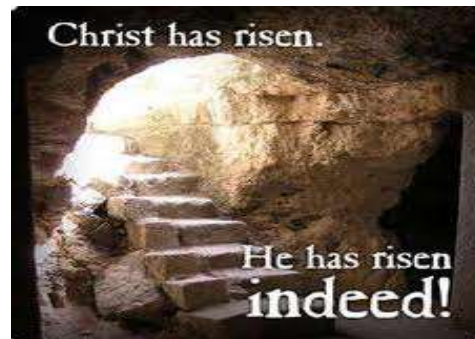

April 5, 2026
Resurrection of Our
Lord - Easter Day

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 5, 2026 – Holy Communion
Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Day

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Statement *(read by lector)*

We are honored to be worshipping 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.

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.

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.**

GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW #369

~ Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia

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 ~ ELW p. 184

CANTICLE OF PRAISE ~ ELW p. 187

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING – Acts 10:34-43 (NRSVU)

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

PSALM – 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

God's mercy endures forever.

Let Israel now declare,

"God's mercy endures forever."

The Lord is my strength and my song,

and has become my salvation.

Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!

The right hand of the Lord is exalted!

The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

I shall not die, but live,

and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord indeed punished me sorely,

but did not hand me over to death.

Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

"This is the gate of the Lord;

here the righteous may enter."

I give thanks to you, for you have answered me

and you have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected

has become the chief cornerstone.

By the Lord has this been done;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SECOND READING - Acts 10:34-43 (NRSVU)

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and his household: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ p.172 ~ Alleluia ...

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

GOSPEL READING – John 20:1-18 (NRSVU)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So, she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

SERMON: Pastor Annette

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ ELW #385

~ Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

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.*

Risen Saviour, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ's victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus' resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain *especially* Jocelyn Wentzell, Florence Slauenwhite, Shelley Ernst, Donna Naugler, Jason Mailman, Wendy Keddy, Judy Verge, Bruce Parks, David Conrad and Burleigh Ernst. Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory.

Merciful God, **receive our 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.

***Special Music ~ St. John's Choir
~ Touch That Soothes and Heals***

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

The Lord 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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and hosts of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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 - ELW p. 191

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

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 #379
~ Now the Green Blade Rises

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us Pray,
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 #376
~ Thine is the Glory

DISMISSAL

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Jocelyn Wentzell, Florence Slauenwhite, Shelley Ernst, Donna Naugler, Jason Mailman, Wendy Keddy, Judy Verge, Bruce Parks, David Conrad and Burleigh Ernst.

Please remember *to pray for those who we know ~ family and friends ~*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Practices:

- **St. John's Choir Practice:** April 9, 16 & 23 at 6:15p
- **Handbell Practice:** April 9, 16, & 23 at 7:30p

Upcoming Events:

- **Wednesday Walking Group:** Barn meet-up @ 9:30a, if inclement weather, stay for fellowship at The Barn.
- **Understanding Dementia Presentation April 18, Saturday 10:00am** in the Education Centre. This talk will include basic information on dementia, recognizing the signs, risk factors, lowering risk and a discussion on dementia; friendly spaces and communication.

Fundraising:

- **Easter Egg campaign** - for new flooring in Education Centre - **March 8th to April 19th:** Pick up an egg and drop in a donation and hang it back up on the tree. If you have e transferred, please still hang an egg on the tree and just write on the slip inside that the money was e transferred.
- **Penny Auction – Saturday June 6th, 10am - 1pm.** We are hoping to have a scaled down bake sale as well with the Penny auction to boost sales and hopefully finish the fundraising for the floor.
- **Fall Yard sale/bake sale – Saturday Sept. 26, 9am-2pm.** Please look around your house and see if you have items you want to be rid of. Decluttering is a great thing.
- **Christmas bake and yard sale – Saturday Nov 28, 9am-2pm.** Look at your Christmas items and what you haven't put up for years. Those items may be vintage and they sell very quickly. Again, great way to weed out Christmas items you have had in a box for years.
- **Rustic Homemade bench** – a Kerwin Original 2 ¾ inch slab maple bench. The bench is 42 ½ inches long, 15 inches wide and 18 inches high. Danish oil finish. Tickets will come on sale on April 19 and stop Nov 28th. **Tickets will be 2.00 each or 3 for 5.00.** Please **contact Melinda Kerwin** for more information. Call 902-527-7970 or email melindakerwin@outlook.com

Thank you everyone for your ongoing support of our fundraising events. Our congregation is our strength and their willingness to help. God bless you all.

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 and Young Adult Retreat: Call for Volunteers:** Are you passionate about Youth & Young Adult ministry? Are you interested in being part of a collaborative planning team? Are you passionate about administration and budgeting for an event? On June 12-14 (tentatively), congregations of the SSLSM are invited to take part in planning a Youth & Young Adult Retreat at Camp Mush-a-Mush which is focused on finding stillness in the storms of life. Anyone who is interested in participating in an initial planning or wishing to help lead activities during the retreat, contact Pastor Victoria at sslsm.pastorvictoria@gmail.com for details.



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



Middle East Emergency
**HUMANITARIAN
COALITION**



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

Contact Information South Shore Lutheran Shared Ministry

Pastor Annette Smith

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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

April is an even month.

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
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

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, Newcombsville 	<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
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