

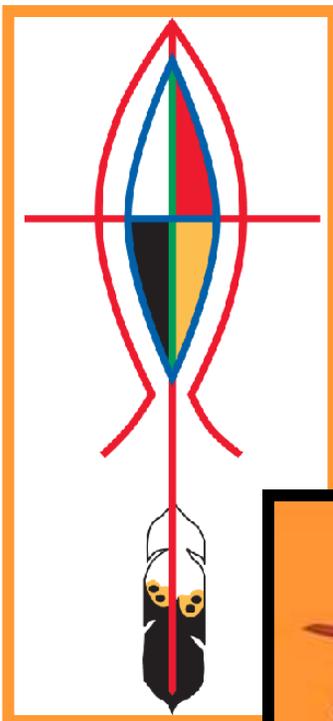
'The Ambassador'

st. paul's
anglican
church

Pentecost

As Ambassadors for Christ, we are called to bring our Lord's grace, love, and peace to everyone.

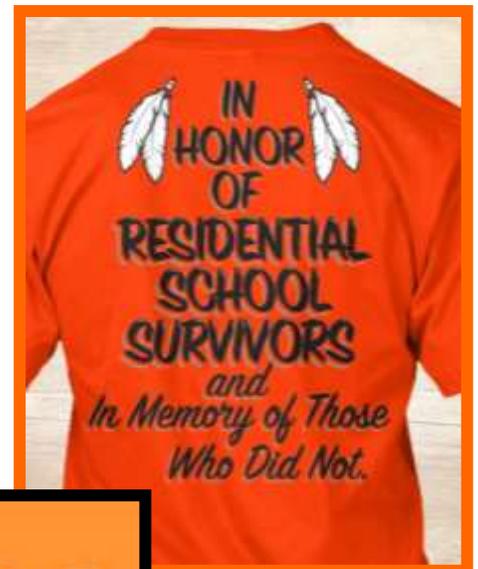
SPECIAL EDITION ~ Wednesday June 2, 2021 ~



Labyrinth Prayer Service for 'The Kamloops 215' **FRIDAY JUNE 4**

We are having a Prayer Service this Friday, June 4 at 11 am in the Labyrinth to remember the 215 children whose remains were found in an unmarked mass grave last week, at the *Kamloops Indian Residential School* in BC.

If you are a member of Facebook, please join us to watch the service on our *St. Paul's Anglican Church* Facebook page.

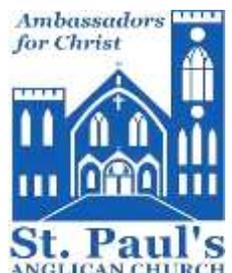


We will be honouring the 215 children and their families, and all who never made it home from residential school.

A "GRACE NOTE" from thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com

"CHURCH is not something you go to, it's a FAMILY you belong to."

visit our website @ stpaulsanglicanchurch.ca and find us on facebook



1. Rector's Grace Notes ~

On Tuesday afternoon, I visited the Sacred Fire inside the teepee on the site of the former Residential School in Thunder Bay. It was very moving. In my heart, I kept hearing the cries of the 3 year old who never made it home. I pray that our actions of healing and compassion will bring us together in God's reconciling love.



Sharon Angeconeb, our St. Paul's Deputy People's Warden sent us the following email Monday night, with a request for prayer and an invitation to all to visit the site. Sharon is the Principal of *Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School*:



Good evening,

By now, most of us have heard the horrible news of the 215 unidentified Indigenous children that were found buried in a mass grave at a former Residential School Site in Kamloops B.C. Across the nation, we are all grieving and in tremendous pain. Many of us have been triggered and are experiencing the pain of our losses again. Please keep us in your prayers. Knowing that we are being held in prayer by our friends at St. Paul's will make a difference.

To honour the 215 children and their families, Chief Peter Collins of Fort William First Nation and Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler of NAN have lit the 'Sacred Fire' at the former St. Joseph's Residential School site on Arthur Street (at the corner of Franklin Street.) This is now the grounds of the Pope John Paul Elementary School. The Sacred Fire will be on continuously for four days. During this time, visitors may go and pay their respects and offer condolences. There is a table outside the teepee with PPE and contact tracing information.

If you are unsure of traditional protocols, there will be a Firekeeper on site that will answer any questions. You may wear orange or not, it is up to you. Upon entering the teepee where the Sacred Fire is lit, it is expected that you will move toward the left and clockwise around the fire. There are sacred medicines in baskets that you are welcome to offer in prayer. I saw tobacco ties, loose tobacco, sage, cedar and sweetgrass for smudging. You can take your time and pray however you want to. There may be one or more firekeepers there as well as other guests. Similar to how we do our vigils at St. Paul's, it is generally expected that visiting takes place outside the teepee.

Visitors to the memorial site are also bringing toys, children's shoes and flowers. Donations of coffee, water, fruit, sandwiches, baked goods and other refreshments are always welcomed by the firekeepers.

Please consider visiting the Sacred Fire. It is a powerful experience.

Miigwech,

Sharon Angeconeb



Send Us Your Prayer Requests for Friday's Service

The power of prayer to heal and to comfort is truly a blessing. **Please send us your Prayer Requests** to include in this Friday's service. I value your prayer requests and love including them. **Please text me (807-624-7161) or email me directly (stpauls.rector@shaw.ca) by Thursday night** with your petitions and gratitude prayers. I will include all I receive by 9am Friday

morning. Thank you and bless you.

Editor's Note: Speaking your truth can be traumatic. For former students and others impacted, a **National Indian Residential School Crisis Line** is available 24 hours a day at 1-866-925-4419.

St. Paul's Flag Lowered to Half-mast

Here is the text of an article we sent to the *Chronicle Journal* Tuesday morning along with this photo I took from the top of our church tower:

Jouni Kraft, parishioner at St. Paul's Anglican Church, lowers the flag to half-mast on top of the church bell tower. We remember with shame and sorrow the 215 children whose remains were found at the Kamloops Indian Residential School. May we find healing together and live in unity and truth. May our actions speak of our desire for reconciliation.

Deborah+

*The Venerable Deborah H. Kraft,
Archdeacon of Thunder Bay - North Shore
Rector, St. Paul's Anglican Church*

Archdeacon Deborah+



2. . . . From the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer ~

Compassion

We are well aware of the horror of the finding of 215 children in an unmarked grave on the site of the former *Kamloops Residential School*. We share in the pain of our First Nations siblings both here in our Algoma parishes and around the country but

often we don't know what to do or say to ease their sufferings. These two prayers adapted from Joyce Rupp's *Prayers of Boundless Compassion* may be of some help.

*“Holy One of the Burning Bush. Like Moses we take off our shoes.
We are in awe of your presence, not in a fiery bush but in the hearts of each human being.
Deepen our respect for one another's history of experience and trauma.
Heal us of quick judgements which are often untrue.
In our relationships with all people may we approach them with respect and a sincere
desire to hallow their sacred journey.*

(continued over)

*Together we stand before you, Holy One, with your flame in our hearts.
May we walk in peace and compassion with each person who comes our way. Amen.”*

*“Holy One, your love unites all of us who live on this planet.
We are truly siblings joined in spirit through your abiding presence.
Gather to your heart all those affected by the trauma of residential schools,
generation after generation after generation.
Enfold them in your heart of compassion and grow in me that same heart.
Guide me to find and enter into actions that will help relieve their pain.
We ask this in the immensity of your love. Amen.”*

Blessings as we continue on this journey of compassion and healing.

Carol

*Dr. Carol Knox
‘Anglican Fellowship of Prayer’
Diocesan of Algoma Contact*

3. A Letter From Our Primate ~

The Anglican Church of Canada



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June 2, 2021

Every Child Matters

Last week the Chief of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation revealed news of the discovery of the bodies of 215 children at the site of an unmarked burial ground at a former residential school near Kamloops, B.C. The identities of the children are unknown at this time. The grief of families and communities unleashed by this news is heartwrenching and profound.

There have long been stories told in Indigenous communities of children who disappeared or never returned home from residential school and whose parents were never told what had happened or given the opportunity to receive their bodies for community ceremony. Whether the deaths were due to illnesses, abuse or neglect, the lack of dignity offered to these children by an anonymous burial far from their family or community is tragic and unacceptable.

We grieve with all whose children never came home.

(continued over)

The Anglican Church of Canada shares in the painful legacy of residential schools. We remain committed to the long, hard road of reconciliation including apologies made for our part in residential schools (1993) and for the devastating spiritual harm caused (2019) and ongoing work towards reconciliation and support for healing for personal and intergenerational trauma.

We know there are sites at Anglican residential schools where some graves are unmarked or where records are incomplete. We are committed to working with Indigenous communities to assist to recover whatever information is available and to join in advocating for ground searches of those burial sites.

At the heart of our faith is the life of Jesus who said, *'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.'* And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. (Mark 10" 14b-16) The neglect of the dignity of children, whom Jesus welcomed and protected, calls for repentance in action.

We, as Anglicans, commit to working with Indigenous communities, leaders and elders to heal this legacy and honour the lives of the children who never went home.



The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls
Archbishop and Primate

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and
love of Christ Jesus. (from Philippians 4:7)

Archdeacon Deborah+

"The Happy Rector & Archdeacon"