

March 10, 2020



The Most Reverend Anne Germond



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA
619 Wellington Street East
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2M6



DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE
2-113 B Third Street West
Cochrane, ON P0L 1C0

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Dear Friends in Algoma and Moosonee:

I write to you concerning a new virus, the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), which has been featured prominently in the news media over recent days. It is important for the people of Algoma and Moosonee to be informed not only so we can take appropriate precautions, but also to ensure we are caring and faithful in our response.

What is the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

Coronaviruses are a category of viruses that infect mammals and birds, causing respiratory infections in humans. Typically, coronaviruses cause mild infections such as "the common cold." However, more rare forms like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), first reported in February 2003, can cause serious illness and even prove lethal. SARS caused the death of around 800 people worldwide in 2002 and 2003.

This new coronavirus first came to the attention of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the final days of 2019, when WHO was alerted to several cases of pneumonia in Wuhan City, located in the Hubei Province of China. The virus did not match any other known virus, which raised concerns about the possible ways it might affect people. On January 7, 2020, Chinese authorities confirmed that they had identified the new virus, and it was designated 2019-nCoV.

How Concerned Should We Be?

Thus far, the spread of 2019-nCoV has been quite limited outside of China. As of this afternoon, there have been no reported deaths caused by the virus beyond China, and almost all confirmed cases were acquired in that country, primarily in the city of Wuhan. Of the 133 deaths attributed to the virus in China, almost all have been in Wuhan.

Again, as of this afternoon, Canada has only three positive cases, two in Toronto and one in British Columbia. Each of these individuals acquired the illness in Wuhan and was quickly isolated. To date, there is no evidence that the virus has been spread in Canada. Moreover, our Ontario healthcare system has proven protocols in place, and there is every indication it is as prepared as possible to deal with this development.

Therefore, there is no reason to panic or speculate, and we must avoid spreading rumours and fueling fear.

At the same time, this is an excellent time to stay informed, and to ensure we are engaged in the best hygienic and pastoral practices as individuals and as a community of faith.

How Should We Respond?

From where I sit, it seems to me there are a number of practices and precautions to which we should attend.

Prayer: I echo our Primate's call to pray for "...those who are ill with this virus and those who are caring for them, especially those at the epicentre of this outbreak in China." Please include them in the liturgies of your congregation, and as you pray each day in your homes.

Stand Against Fear and Injustice: Please make sure you stay informed by reliable sources so that you have accurate facts. Of even greater importance, it pains me that already the Canadian Chinese community is experiencing an uptick in racism and xenophobia as a result of fears concerning the Novel Coronavirus. We must guard against fear and injustice in ourselves and stand against it in our society.

Hygiene in Pastoral and Liturgical Settings: There have been no calls from public health officials for additional measures in public activities. However, it is important we attend to our best practices in personal behavior, pastoral care, and public worship for the wellbeing of all, particularly those most vulnerable due to age, illness, or other infirmity.

WHO offers the following recommendations for reducing exposure to, and transmission of a range of ailments and diseases, including 2019-nCoV:

- Frequently clean hands by using soap and water (minimum 20 seconds) or alcohol-based hand rub.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with tissue or, if necessary, flexed elbow (throw tissue away immediately, and wash or sanitize your hands).
- Avoid unnecessary close contact with anyone who has a fever and cough.
- Seek medical care early if you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, and be sure to share previous travel history with your health care provider.
- If visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of 2019-nCoV, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals.

- As per good food safety practices, avoid consuming raw or undercooked animal products. Raw meat, milk, or animal organs should be handled with care to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods.

In the church building or other pastoral contexts:

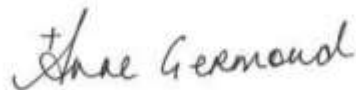
- Ensure hand sanitizer is available in the worship space for parishioners, particularly those serving in the liturgy. In consideration of others, make use of the sanitizer before and after sharing in times like the Greeting of Peace and Communion.
- There is no need to ritualize fear, altering or obscuring the symbolic meaning of our liturgical practices. Instead remind people through the worship leaflet, verbally before the liturgy, and in other forms of parish communication, that our church understands the fullness of Eucharistic Communion to be shared fully even if a person partakes of only the bread or the cup. Therefore, to protect others from illness, or if a person feels vulnerable to illness, it is acceptable to receive the bread alone. If desired, people not partaking of the wine may choose simply to touch the base of the cup as it is presented to them.
- Share the national information re: Eucharistic Practice and the Risk of Infection, available at <https://www.anglican.ca/faith/worship/pir/euc-practice-infection/> It was prepared by Algoma's own Dr. David Gould.
- Remind parishioners that it is in their best interest and that of their siblings in Christ to stay home and receive appropriate medical care when they are ill. Assure them they may request home communion or a pastoral visit, if either is desired.
- Clergy and other pastoral visitors should take all precautions in personal hygiene before, during, and after visits in homes, hospitals, and other institutions.

You will find more information and regular updates on the Novel Coronavirus in Ontario and across Canada at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov#section-o>

In the earliest decades of our Faith, and in many generations since, people were drawn to Christ in large part because of the love and service of believers who cared not only for one another, but also for those beyond their number. In times when the fear of disease can cause people to isolate themselves from one another, let us take due precaution.

However, let us also be known for our compelling witness to the love of God as a result of our **generous and compassionate care, of our "unusual kindness."**

In Christ,



The Most Rev. Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma and Moosonee



Guidelines for congregations in the Dioceses of Algoma and Moosonee during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Dear friends in Christ,

As the Corona Virus continues to spread around the world numbers of dioceses and denominations are taking extra precautions for hygiene during Eucharist and at other services. While we should plan, we should not panic and ensure that parish life continues normally. New information about Covid-19 may become available and we will adjust accordingly.

In addition to the usual good hygiene practices of frequent handwashing, covering your mouth when coughing, and staying at home if you are unwell, the following guidelines will be implemented in Algoma and Moosonee:

- We will refrain from handshaking during the Peace. There are all kinds of friendly alternatives including waves, eye to eye contact, smiles, and bowing.
- At the end of worship, clergy will greet members of the congregation verbally.
- Be assured that the entire altar party will be washing their hands before the service and will use hand sanitizer before the Liturgy of the Table.
- Eucharistic Assistants will be reminded about the proper way of cleaning the chalice after each person has received the wine, and more than one purificator will be used during the distribution of communion.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available to parishioners.
- Intinction (the dipping of the bread into the wine) is disallowed. Intinction does little to avoid the spread of disease and may actually increase the spread, as the

bread or wafer spends more time in the (possibly unclean) hand before being dipped into the wine.

- Individuals should decide for themselves whether to use the common cup. It is more than acceptable to receive in 'one kind' only, or to abstain altogether and receive a blessing. Please indicate your desire to receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.
- Keep in mind parishioners who have compromised immune systems and may choose to self-isolate themselves during the outbreak. Remember to stay in touch with them.

For your prayers:

"Holy and gracious God, give us strength to meet the health crisis growing in our world. Enlighten researchers that they may discover the right vaccine against this disease. Bring together agencies around the world that they may work together to eradicate this health crisis. Guide the doctors and nurses and all medical staff working with those who are infected that they may be protected as they care for their patients. We pray for those who are ill or isolated because of this virus, that they may know your love and care as it comes to them through human hands. We pray also for those who have died and for the bereaved that they will know the consolation of your love. Keep us mindful of our responsibilities during this time of anxiety and enable us to do all we can in our homes, churches and communities to alleviate the risk of spreading the virus. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen"

(Excerpts from Episcopal Church – Diocese of Virginia)

With the assurance of my prayers,

+ Anne

The Most Rev. Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma and Moosonee

Gift of the Heart!



Carole Bertuzzi Luciani is
the Moodivator!

A night of
conversation,
coffee and chuckles.
NVMC invites you to
come to the **Urban
Abbey**
March 12th
7 pm
to hear the always
entertaining
MOODIVATOR!

Moodivate:

- *to revive
one's sense of
humour
- *to rekindle
one's spirit
- *to restore
energy
- *to reframe
one's
disposition


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Ministry
CANADA

Tickets are \$20
Available from Ticketleap, members of NVMC,
or by calling NVMC (807)766-9360

Bishop Riscylla grew up on a family-farm in rural Muskoka. Her maternal Grandfather went to an Indian Residential School in Manitoba, and her mother, Ruth Wagner, is a Senator for the Metis Nation of Ontario. Inspired by Desmond Tutu and the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Bishop Riscylla attended the seven national events of the Canadian TRC, on personal pilgrimage and as an Ambassador of Reconciliation for the Diocese of Toronto. Following the TRC she chaired the Primate's Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation and Justice from 2013-2019 and now serves on the National Church's Jubilee Commission.

Deanery Lenten Quiet Day Saturday, March 14
"Life, Death and Resurrection"

St. Paul's Anglican Church
808 Ridgeway Street

9:15 am – 3:30 pm

\$30 includes lunch, snacks
and reflection booklet

*Three short talks,
silence for guided reflection and lunch*

Walk WITH ME
AWHILE TODAY

*A quiet time for
spiritual renewal.*

Led by"
Bishop Riscylla Shaw, area Bishop for Trent-Durham, Diocese of Toronto



Register with: Pat Mark markpl@tbaytel.net 623-8594

ST. PAUL'S PRESENTS

RE-CONSTITUTING THE BODY OF CHRIST

11

APPRECIATING SCIENCE
**enjoying the wonders of God's
creation**

with Dr. Ernie Epp
epp@lakeheadu.ca

7:00 PM ON SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020
LUNAN HALL, ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH



Call for Board Member Nominations

The Camp Gitchigomee Nominating Committee is seeking persons to serve on the Board of Directors. There are three positions that need to be filled out of the nine member board; all are for a three year term. These positions will be elected / acclaimed at the camp's Annual General meeting at Gathering Table, on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Board members provide servant leadership and wisdom in directing all affairs of the camp. Board members who may wish to "roll up their sleeves" and help with the day-to-day operation of this front-line ministry will not be turned away!

The Board meets monthly, except for July, August and December; other meetings may be called as required. Our Bylaws require that Board members:

- a) are at least eighteen (18) years of age;*
- b) are active members of the Anglican Church of Canada or another Christian Church;*
- c) recognize and support the objects, mission and values of the Corporation (below);*
- d) pay the annual membership fee (currently \$5)*

The objects for which the Corporation [Camp Gitchigomee] is incorporated are:

"To operate and maintain a Christian camp where children and others receive instruction in the Christian faith, and where camping, sporting, crafts, water skills and nature study are enjoyed. This camp shall provide opportunities for children, youths and leaders to grow in the Christian faith and in community, through Bible teaching, worship, example, service and Christian living."

Please give this your careful consideration as an opportunity to serve in this front-line mission. If you are interested, or have any questions, contact us. Thanks so much!

Danielle Reszityk 252-6817 dkdumas@lakeheadu.ca

Ellen Teahan 473-8599 eteahan@shaw.ca

Jim Sutton 622-6263 fsutton@tbaytel.net

Camp Gitchigomee – Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 24th, 2020 – Gathering Table beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a Meet and Greet, Meeting at 7 p.m.

Want to make a positive difference in the lives of children and our faith community?

The Camp Gitchigomee Nominating Committee is seeking persons to become members of the Board of Directors. These positions are for one, two or three years, and will be elected / acclaimed at the camp's Annual General meeting at Gathering Table, on Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30 pm. As one of nine board members, you will provide leadership and wisdom in directing all affairs of the camp. Board members who may wish to "roll up their sleeves" and help with the day-to-day operation of this front-line ministry will not be turned away! Our

Bylaws require that Board members:

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We would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in this vital ministry. Please contact any of the persons listed below. Thank you!

Danielle Reszityk 252-6817 dkdumas@lakeheadu.ca

Ellen Teahan 473-8599 eteahan@shaw.ca

Jim Sutton 622-6263 fsutton@tbaytel.net

CAMP GITCHIGOMEE 2020

Information & Application Brochure

(Available soon)

Summer Camps Dates

Senior Camp - July 5 – 11 (Ages 13 – 15)

Junior Camp - July 12 – 18 (Ages 7 – 9)

Intermediate Camp - July 19 – 25 (Ages 10 – 12)

Bursaries: Volunteers and donors believe it is important that no child be denied a camp experience because of financial difficulties. Contact any Anglican Church to apply for a partial payment of camp fees. Camp Gitchigomee will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary in August 2020. Did you or anyone you know attend or help at the camp in the 75 years. If so, please contact the camp for 75th Anniversary Celebrations. Visit the website: www.campgitchigomee.ca or our mailing address is Camp Gitchigomee, P.O. Box 29018, Thunder Bay, On P7B 6P9

**The Deanery of Thunder Bay - North Shore
Anglican Church Women**

Bake Sale

in support of

CAMP GITCHIGOMEE

will be held

9:30 AM TO 1:30 PM

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020

AT VICTORIAVILLE MALL

NEAR THE FOOD COURT



You Are Invited to:



Camp Gitchigomee Log Painting

Friday, April 10th, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Gathering Table - 228 Pearl Street

(use Handi cap ramp)

Come out and join in the fun, and help us paint the camp logs for 2020. No experience necessary - we will teach you.

Each log is hand cut, sanded, and painted. There is a different colour for each week at camp, and a different colour and symbol for all the various jobs or duties at camp.. We will even give you a log for coming out and helping us paint, It is Red, with L.P. and the date.

Please bring a snack to share, (No Nuts or Fish Please)
Come out and meet some of the people that do the camp each year.

Any questions, email us at gitchigomee@shaw.ca or call our voice mail at 22-0020



An **Organist and Choir Director** position is available at Gathering Table, the youngest Anglican Church in Thunder Bay, where we love to sing our big and little hearts out to both classic and contemporary worship music. The Organist and Choir Director would join our music team of singers, pianist, acoustic guitarist and percussionist to create a wonderful spectrum of Christian music during Sunday and other seasonal worship services.

The position offers opportunities to:

- help lead worship music on a recently refurbished pipe organ;
- enjoy excellent collaboration with our talented pianist;
- learn new music, lead our choral singers, and have fun along the way;
- share your skills and passion for great sacred music.

If you are curious about this position, we would really appreciate hearing from you *before March 31, 2020*. Please send your resume and a covering letter to:

Gathering Table

228 Pearl St. Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E4

Attention: Sheila and Jim

Or email them to: office@gatheringtable.ca

If you are even more curious, and would like to speak to us or check out our pipe organ, please call our office at 807 345-6898.

By the way, if you are an accomplished pianist, and are interested in learning to play the organ, we understand the Royal Canadian College of Organists offers scholarships for free organ lessons. Please check out

<https://www.rcco.ca/thunder-bay-on>

Blessings!



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You are receiving this email because you want to hear about the Thunder Bay North Shore Deanery happenings.

Our mailing address is:

Thunder Bay North Shore Anglicans
165 Clarkson St N
Thunder Bay, On P7A 6G1 Canada