



Ministry Opportunity in the Diocese of Rupert's Land
The Parish of St. Luke, Dryden, Ontario
Full time Parish Priest

The City of Dryden, Ontario, in which St. Luke's Anglican Church is situated, is located on the Trans Canada Highway, mid way between Winnipeg, MB and Thunder Bay, ON approx. four hours away from either city. Dryden, incorporated as a town in 1910, emerged when the CPR rail line came through. Agriculture was the main economic activity until the forest industry blossomed. This prosperous community, heavily reliant on the local pulp & paper mill and sawmill, was adversely impacted when a major downturn in the forest industry saw the closure of the sawmill and associated industries. Many working age families left the community to find employment elsewhere. However, the economy of the community and region remains quite strong. The many lakes in the area support a strong tourism industry, as does the city's central location. Several motels/restaurants support both through-traffic and those with the area as their final destination. The central location on the Trans Canada highway and the CPR has resulted in the city being a distribution and supply centre for more outlying communities in NW Ontario. Health care and government services also provide employment and support to the community.

The Anglican Parish of St. Luke's Dryden, established in 1902, has a strong history of positive community relationships/involvement, resiliency in adversity, and a reputation of "welcoming all". After being destroyed by fire, the current church building was re-built in the 70's and can accommodate 180 persons. There are several offices and meeting rooms, and a large lower level hall suitable for gatherings of up to 170 persons. The large 5-bedroom rectory, situated on the church property, is of like vintage; with both buildings in good repair.

During the period from 2010 to 2013 the parish faced significant financial challenges to the point that full time ordained leadership was no longer affordable. A shared ministry arrangement emerged with the parish of St. Mary's Anglican Church in Sioux Lookout. However, the resiliency of St. Luke's rebounded again and since 2014 St. Luke's has been able to fund a full time position on its own. Solid financial surpluses in 2014 and 2015, as well as some additional financial resources, have bolstered this parish's financial viability.

St. Luke's Mission Statement: "As witnesses for Christ, we strive to be a church of positive, welcoming and accepting people joined together for spiritual growth, social outreach serving one another and the surrounding community." With a membership of approx. 100, the combined average attendance at the two regular Sunday worship services is around 70; Worship is from the BAS, with the occasional service of Morning Prayer. A small but enthusiastic choir performs anthems and regularly leads the music; guitars provide the music for a contemporary service on the first Sunday of the month.

Community Outreach and Resources in the Parish: St. Luke's is active in the community conducting monthly services in a variety of seniors and long-term care facilities. There is an active ministerial. The church's ministry is enhanced by the services of a part-time paid Church Secretary, a Deacon, two lay readers and several others who assist with prayer, greet, or serve as sidespersons. Four teams serve on the Altar Guild; another group of 20 ladies offer visiting to the elderly and undertake a ministry of celebration delivering flowers and cards on special occasions. Many other groups, including a Men's group, are very active in parish and community life. The Vestry is very committed to developing St. Luke's as an exciting, open, caring Christ-centered community.

Challenges and Opportunities: During the past 5 years, the parish has restored its financial stability; raised funds to replace the roof; Introduced Messy Church with 45-50 participants; re-introduced a Sunday School program; initiated a companion parish link with parish in the Diocese of Central Buganda (Uganda) and raised funds in support of a water project; and undertaken repairs and maintenance on the rectory. As with any congregation, the parish faces challenges of: an aging congregation, declining membership and difficulty attracting young families and youth. In response to these challenges priorities identified are: Increasing membership; enhancing parish visitations to sick and shut-ins; Growing the Sunday School and Christian education for all ages through confirmation; and increasing visibility of the ordained leader in the community

The Incumbent and Parish of St. Luke, Dryden, also has overall responsibility for the operation of **Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Minnitaki**. Holy Trinity is a small church located approximately 20 km. west of Dryden on Hwy. 17. This small community church does not have electricity or modern conveniences. Services are held here on a monthly basis during the summer months only.

St. John's, in the hamlet of Wabigoon, approximately 20 km. east of Dryden, operates independently from St. Luke's but does not have an ordained priest. Lay readers lead weekly services with reserve sacrament communion. The Incumbent of St. Luke's leads services at Wabigoon on months which have 5 Sundays.

The First Nation communities of Eagle Lake and Wabigoon Lake are in close proximity to Dryden. The area is also home to a significant number of persons of Métis heritage. St. Luke's is now seeing an increase in the number of indigenous people attending the parish. It is expected that this trend will continue.

The following areas have been singled out as priorities for the parish (although many other areas were identified as important). Church Growth, Preaching, Pastoral Care, Youth Work and Music Ministry. Also noted are: Spiritual guidance; pastoral care/visiting and administration.

The parish is seeking an incumbent who possesses the following skills and gifts:

- The ability to feed the congregation
- The ability to connect with youth
- Be skilled in visiting
- Be a diplomatic arbitrator
- Have musical ability
- Be flexible
- Be approachable
- Be active in both the church and community
- Be fun to be with
- Have the ability to listen well

Interested persons may request a **complete parish profile** and the **procedure for making an application** from: The Bishop's Office, 935 Nesbitt Bay, Winnipeg, MB R3T 1W6
or by calling: 204-992-4212 or e-mail: exec.asst@rupertsland.ca

The deadline for receipt of applications for the position of Incumbent of St. Luke, Dryden is **4pm on Thursday, April 20, 2017**