

Ascensiontide, Tuesday, May 14, 2024



Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Peter's

Hope you have some wood split and seasoned as campfire season has arrived. We may not be able to enjoy them for long if the drought continues and the expected record forest fire season becomes a reality. While we may, let me encourage you to take the time to gather around a fire, sharing the warmth of fire and friendship, perhaps enjoying hotdogs, bannock, s'mores, and a beverage. And not necessarily in that order. This is season of warming and promise with flowers and vegetables sprouting and the leaves of trees soon providing welcome relief from the heat of the day.

Pentecost reminds us that we are rooted in abundance. Everyone has received gifts through the generosity of the Holy Spirit for the good of the community loved by God. These gifts, freely given, are for participating in seeing lives and communities transformed as well as caring for all of creation. Warmed by the fire of God's loving Spirit we give of ourselves the transformative gift of friendship and belonging. We bring these unique and valuable treasure to every interaction. No one else has what you bring and as you share an abundance of gifts and resources becomes a reality. For too long we have been living as if there is a fire ban, careful and aware, knowing that "it only takes a spark to get a fire going." What if the offering of your gift was a spark of generosity of spirit. What if your willingness to share became the spark that lit the rock melting fire of love, that is God's.

All my life I've heard that, "it only takes a spark to get a fire going." Ironically, it was often around a campfire, warming our bodies, cooking hotdogs and marshmallows, with someone strumming a guitar. It was sung with affection and passion. It was years before I could sing it without recalling the teenage spirit with which it was sung. Even today it's hard to not sing and smile struggling to receive the unfailing gift of love that encourages stronger, lasting friendship with Jesus, who is love in the flesh. This campfire song reminds me of the profound life changing reality that it truly only does take a spark of love to begin the spread. When sparks fly things are set ablaze and something wonderful emerges.

Like the giving of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost, when tongues like fire rested on the heads of those gathered, and they were given gifts to proclaim the good news in a way that everyone could understand, gifts are intended to be shared with others, no strings attached. Freely we have received and freely we give. It only takes a spark.

Still in One Peace

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norbert Haukenfrers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

The Rev. Dr. Norbert Haukenfrers
Incumbent Priest

Worship gatherings every Sunday at 10:00 am
Livestream available at <https://live.stpetesok.church>

Upcoming Special Events and Worship Gatherings

May 18	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Parish Garage Sale
May 19	10:00 – 11:15 am	Pentecost Sunday – holy Eucharist
May 25		hosting Provincial Synod Banquet
May 26	10:00 – 11:15 am	Trinity Sunday - holy Eucharist
June 2	11:30 am – 1:00pm	Photo's for Parish Photo Directory
June 8	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Chinook Country Quilter's Quilt Show
June 9	11:30 am – 1 pm	Photo's for Parish Photo Directory
July 7	8:00 – 10:00 am	Stampede Breakfast
	10:00 – 11:00 am	Cowboy Church

To support the ongoing ministry of St. Peter's, Okotoks
Please remember St. Peter's in your estate planning

To give by credit or debit cards go to <https://stpetesok.church/give>
To give by e-transfer send to give@stpo.ca

