

Let Justice Flow

JUSTICE & CHARITY

Most of us know about charity. It is a concept with which we have been raised. Giving alms to the poor or money to organizations that help others, like hospitals, is something we are asked to do. Our donations to our parishes or other ministries are also considered charity. We receive receipts that we are able to use as tax deductions. Granted, in many ways we also receive benefit from our donations to the church. Besides using the money we collect for others, we keep the doors open and the lights and heat on so that we are also able to have a place of worship.

The world needs our charity. We have an unequal distribution of wealth. There are those in our society, who through no fault of their own, are unable to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves or their families. Jesus teaches us that we are to help those who are in need. There is also ample evidence in the Hebrew scriptures that the Israelites were expected to provide for the widows and orphans including marrying a brother's widow and taking her and her children into his household. We have a very long precedent which has been set for us.

Justice is a word that for the church is sometimes less well understood. We often tend to equate it with the justice system and the idea of justice for the victims of crime. For Christians, we need to broaden that definition to include rebalancing systems so that all have equal access to food, shelter, housing, as well as social and economic supports.

Cont. p. 4



Image from creativecommons.org



Image courtesy of clwr.org

*... let justice roll
down like waters,
and righteousness
like an ever-flowing
stream
—Amos 5.24*

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- London approves Green Bins
- Family Fun with Go Wild Grow Wild
- Community involvement at St. Paul's Social Services
- Three online Lenten resources

LONDON FOOD COALITION

From January to August, 2019, London Food Coalition's food truck rescued 170,456 lbs of food from local grocery stores for redistribution.

BREAKING NEWS

London City Council approves green bin roll out for 2021.



Did you know that in London, Ontario, there is a not-for-profit organization called “London Food Coalition?” Its mission is to address food security by rescuing otherwise good food destined for the landfill and diverting it to over 20 local community organizations who work with people who are at risk of food insecurity. Organizations like St. Paul’s Social Services, Teen Challenge Farm, Salvation Army’s Centre of Hope, and My Sister’s Place, among others, all receive food for their community programs from London Food Coalition. From January to August, 2019, London Food Coalition’s food truck rescued 170,456 lbs of food from local grocery stores for redistribution. The food is taken to their food hub and then delivered to community organizations like those mentioned above.

Food waste is a concern locally and globally as people go hungry and perfectly good food gets thrown into the garbage and into landfills. It is also a concern for our climate as greenhouse gas emissions increase through the release of methane as the food decomposes. “30% of food is wasted globally across the supply chain, contributing to 8% of total greenhouse gas emissions” (The Washington Post,

July 31, 2018). In Canada, according to a MacLean’s article from 2015, we waste more than \$31 billion worth of food annually. Grocery stores make up a large percentage of that waste, most often to make room for new stock and food that is considered not fit for sale based on how it looks. Individual households are also large contributors of food waste.

There are things we can do to help. The first is to change our own behaviour and to look at our own patterns of food purchase and consumption; to make conscientious decisions about what we purchase and intend to eat. Store our food properly so that it doesn’t spoil as quickly. Eat and share leftovers. Embrace “ugly food” in grocery stores - food that is perfectly nutritious but not without blemishes. Compost if possible. Eat in restaurants that allow you to take leftovers home. Tell your city councillor that you are in favour of London’s green bin program - London’s 60% waste diversion action plan. Donate to local organizations like London Food Coalition. Volunteer your time. These are all ways we can help.

For more information on London Food Coalition visit their website at londonfoodcoalition.com

Pr. Katherine Gohm

FEEDING THE HUNGRY FOR 30 YEARS

St. Paul's Social Services (SPSS)

This ministry has been operating out of St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral at Richmond and Queens in the heart of downtown London for over 30 years. The location is significant where the transit transfer hub and many government social services are located. The foot traffic to SPSS is substantial to both the Food Bank, open 5 days a week, and the Fellowship Centre which provides a lunch on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The Fellowship Centre started as a place to get off the streets and as a safe place to stop and find fellowship. It is still offering that fellowship space today as folks arrive early for coffee and stay for a good meal.

SPSS is more than just an Anglican ministry. Individuals, faith communities, businesses, service clubs and other charitable groups, are all involved in support of SPSS with gifts of food, money and most importantly time. The volunteers represent many of the London churches and faith groups both downtown and farther out.

Last fall (2019) there was major flood in the Fellowship Centre in the basement of St. Paul's. But that didn't stop the creative SPSS staff led by Manager Barbara Symington. They moved outdoors to serve a meal in the parking lot to 150 people. Donations from the London Food Bank, the Food Coalition and Shaw's ice cream went a very long way toward meeting all the costs of this meal. The Cathedral and SPSS staff along with the intrepid volunteers, made the salad in the tiny upstairs kitchenette to go with the parking lot barbeque.

Here are some of SPSS' supporters: the City of London, Lutheran Social Services, London Community Foundation; WOCO Foundation; Thomas Kent Trust; Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Paul's Cathedral, RC Diocese of London, First St. Andrews, CIBC Mellon, Sole Science; DeKay Holdings Inc, Hayman Construction, our Church partners and congregations, Knelsen Farm and Jackson Farm Produce.



Heather McNamara, co-ordinator of St. Paul's Social Services Fellowship Centre, holds a plate of food during a mid-week lunch as volunteers continue to work in the background. (CHRIS MONTANINI, Londoner)

Pr. Steve Johnston

"... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Micah 6.8



Saturday April 18, 2020

9:30 am – 4 pm
845 Florence St, London, ON
N5W 6G6
[Western Fair District Agriplex](#)

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JUSTICE & CHARITY CONT.

Again, there is a biblical precedent for this. In the Hebrew scriptures, not only is there God's justice and judicial justice, there is also the justice that rights wrongs against another. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells a story about a woman seeking justice from an unjust judge. He gives her a hard time, but eventually gives up against her persistence. Jesus says that God will give justice to his people. He concludes by asking if when the Son of Man comes will he find faith on earth. In other words, will we have done justice?

Charity, then, is doing things or giving money to help those in need, such as community meals. Justice, is advocating and working to change those systems that allow a need such as food banks, community meals, and homeless shelter, etc. to exist.

The Bible is clear that both are required of those who believe in God and follow the way of Christ.

Marion Jenkins

A MATTER OF FAITH AND JUSTICE

Citizens for Public Justice is a Canadian organization that seeks human flourishing and the integrity of creation. Here is an article about the relationship among climate, faith, and justice.

<https://cpj.ca/climate-change-matter-faith-and-justice>

There are more interesting articles about the intersection of faith and justice at www.cpj.ca

ONLINE DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES FOR LENT

Lutherans Connect

LC+ Reimagining Justice: Artists will be speaking to climate and global justice issues, while also investigating the issues themselves.

Email lutheransconnect@gmail.com to subscribe.

Society of St. John the Evangelist

Signs of Life: Why Church Matters: Explore Lent through the themes of *Light, Water, Shelter, Food, and Community.*

<https://www.signsoflife.org/>

The Primate's World Relief and Development

Lenten Listening: Take an audio journey with PWRDF: Hear and reflect on the Gospel while listening to various readers also responding to the Gospel. www.pwrdf.org

*But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream Amos*

5.24