



# FOR PETE'S SAKE™

*St Peter's Lutheran Church  
Zurich, Ontario*

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December 2009 / January 2010

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Greetings, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!

First, greetings from your new interim pastor. I'm Dick Holm, and live in Woodstock. So you can see that I'm hoping for an easy winter for travel. Currently I plan to spend one day a week in Zurich (Tuesdays) to visit some of the shut-ins, and to attend confirmation class and church council. I will also be leading worship on those Sundays when you celebrate communion, and prepare the sermon for someone else to read on the in-between Sundays. And of course, I'm available for emergency pastoral duties as the need arises. Phone (519) 537-8948. Email - [recholm@execulink.com](mailto:recholm@execulink.com)

That is the current status of my ministry with you, although things may change as council reviews the needs and expectations of your congregation.

My wife, Linda, is a public health nurse in Stratford. Our oldest son, Carl, his wife Tania, and their seven-month-old daughter Emma, live in Woodstock. Our other son, Nathan, lives in Ottawa with his husband Ryan.

Merry Christmas from our family to yours. As I write this, we have not yet entered Advent, and already several homes along our street and throughout the city are showing their Christmas lights. I think these are the same people whose trees I see at the curb on Dec. 26. We seem to be in more of a rush each year to get things over with, to get on with business as usual.

I hope that is not the case with you. I would hope that you will have the time and take the time to experience the peace and good will that Christmas proclaims, and that you will experience the birth of Christ with joy rather than exhaustion or exasperation. In fact, I hope that you experience the birth of Christ each day anew throughout the coming year, that you find the peace and good will he offers in your daily prayers and meditations.

And finally, Happy New Year! I pray that the coming year will be one of changes and challenges for you. God does not seem to like the status quo. He is constantly changing things. So if we wish to hang around with God, we'd better be ready to change with the challenges he sets before us. And of course one of the changes I'd like to see is a new pastor for you.

In the meantime, I intend to enjoy you, your church, and my time with you to the fullest, and allow God to lead us together into challenges and changes.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Dick

**Current Account:**

Actual Income to Date (November 22 <sup>nd</sup> ):	\$ 84,496.27
Actual Expenses to Date (as of November 22 <sup>nd</sup> ):	\$ <u>90,456.02</u>
Balance	\$ -5,959.25



**Mission (Benevolence)**

Benevolence Commitment	\$ 9000.00
Actual Received (as of November 22 <sup>nd</sup> ):	\$ <u>4275.00</u>
Amount Outstanding	\$ 4725.00

Council would like to thank all members for their generous financial support. As you can see, we continue to operate in “the red”. Please prayerfully consider how you might help our church move into “the black.”

**Christmas Services.....Come and Celebrate the Birth of Jesus**



Sunday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Hymn Sing
	7:00 p.m.	Sunday School Pageant
	11:00 p.m.	Candlelight Worship Service with Holy Communion
Christmas Day	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion

**Baptismal Anniversaries for December:**

**Rejoicing and thanking God as we remember the following on their baptismal anniversaries. In Baptism we are filled with the light of Christ. May we walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts.**

Dec. 1, 1991	Emily Yungblut	Dec. 8, 2002	Benjamin Smyth
Dec. 21, 2008	Connor Ralph	Dec. 29, 1991	Brooke Wushke
Dec. 31, 1989	Krista Fisher	Dec. 31, 1989	Robert Fisher
Jan. 3, 1993	Stacey Beierling	Jan. 12, 1992	Derek Thiel
Jan. 12, 1992	Tara Thiel	Jan. 13, 1991	Michael Crete
Jan. 13, 1991	Cindy Crete	Jan. 13, 1991	Melanie Crete
Jan. 13, 1991	Pamela Crete	Jan. 13, 1991	Alicha Crete

*St Peter's list of baptismal birthdays only goes back to 1986. Others in the congregation are encouraged to look up the dates of their baptisms and give to Sharon Sanders, so we may celebrate their baptismal anniversary dates as well.*

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AT A NEW TIME**



As many of you have probably already noticed, Sunday School is now starting during our regular church service - just after the children's sermon at around 10:30. This new timing is on a 'trial basis' this year. Sunday School teachers and Council will decide whether to continue this as Fall rolls around again. The decision will be based on feedback received from parents, teachers, students and congregation members. Please feel free to speak to council members or teachers to let them know how you feel about the new Sunday School timing.

## **ELW**



ELW will be delivering poinsettias to St. Peter's shut-in members on Saturday, December 12th. Donations towards the cost of these plants may be given to Audrey Haberer or Margaret Deichert.



The December meeting of ELW will be held on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The annual meeting will be held at that time.

All women of St. Peter's are invited to a meeting following the worship service on January 12th regarding the future of a Woman's Organization at St. Peter's. ELW numbers have been dwindling over the past several years.

## **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Doreen Webb and her family on the recent death of Glenn, who passed away on November 16, 2009.

Our deepest sympathy is with the family of Earl Flaxbard who passed away on Sunday, November 29, 2009. His funeral was held at St. Peter's on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **OUTREACH**

**The Prayer Chain** is now organized for anyone wishing to have prayers offered on their behalf. If prayers are being requested for another person, the consent of that individual is required. Contact Alma Westlake 519-236-4288 or Marie Deichert 519-236-4386 with your prayer requests.

**Huron County Children and Family Christmas Bureau** is collecting unwrapped gifts of new toys and clothes for needy families at Christmas. Items can be placed in the box at the church entrance until Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget your items for the Food Bank on December 6<sup>th</sup>. All canned foods, cereals, baby food etc will be donated to Blessings in Zurich.



## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

On Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup> nine more prayer shawls were blessed at the worship service. The group held their last Angel Wings meeting for 2009 on November 30<sup>th</sup> and will resume again every other Thursday afternoon at 1:30 beginning January 14<sup>th</sup>. New people, young and old, are most welcome to join in the fun at that time.

**Noel in the Village**, located on Goshen Street in Zurich, is now open Tuesdays through Saturdays in December, for all those "special treasures that are perfect for Christmas".

## **THANK YOU**

A huge thank you to all who contributed money towards the purchase of the pouring chalice: Glenn and Marlene Deichert, Phil and Laurie Erb, Fred and Audrey Haberer, Mark and Julie Heimrich, Gary and Cathy Hugill, Delford and Louise Schade, and Ann Steinbach.

The Parish Life Fall Supper was another huge success....it truly was an evening of fun and fellowship. Thanks to **ALL** the volunteers and participants!!!

Our church looks beautiful for Advent and Christmas. Many thanks to Doug Klopp for decorating our church for the coming of the Christ Child.



## **December 6 - Crèche Festival and Chili Supper**

*Everyone is invited to attend  
St. Peter's Lutheran 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Crèche Festival*



*On Sunday, December 6, 2009*

- ❖ *Enjoy tea and cookies between 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. (Freewill Offering)*
- ❖ *Chili and a roll will be served from 4 p.m. until the Zurich Christmas parade begins. Tickets can be purchased in advance from any youth group member, or Tracy Lather, Marg DeVries or Jenni Boles at the low cost of \$5 each.*

***Don't miss this opportunity to view the beautiful nativities.  
Invite others from our community to share in this special afternoon.***

## **Past Events**

### **SOC "Stuff and Consumerism" Sleepover hosted by Brodhagen on Nov 15 / 16**

45 youth and leaders from 6 different churches attended this event. We started off with a hay ride around the countryside and then returned to the church to make our own pizza for supper. We talked about the next National Gathering "CLAY" which will be held in London in August 2010. Our guest Speaker on Saturday evening was Pastor Fred Ludolfs from Camp Edgewood. He told us many stories about "stuff" and even a bit about "commercialism". Pastor Fred is a very interesting and fun person --- he even braved sleeping on the floor with the rest of us overnight and gave almost the same talk to the congregation during sermon time on Sunday. The youth led the worship service. Before sharing the peace, we lead the congregation in a rap version of "Lamb of God". We all had a lot of fun and returned home very tired.

Be sure to check out page 4 of the December 2009 edition of the Eastern Synod Lutheran (that arrived in the mail this week). The article about the London Conference SOC was written by Barb Ortelli, a youth leader from Milverton.

### **UNIFIED Concert hosted by Redeemer London, November 28**

This was again an awesome Christian Rock Concert. It was very up-lifting to see the youth having so much fun while sharing their faith through such lively music. Some gathered for supper at Redeemer beforehand. Those of us who did not make it in time stopped at the mall and did some window shopping before grabbing a bite to eat at the food court. (We even found a "Jesus Christ Action Figure" in one store).

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Date TBA** - this is an event we have not yet decided on, but we have been discussing several possibilities such as going to London for **Dinner and a Movie** (and maybe even some Christmas shopping). Youth who are interested in going should contact Tracy at 519- 228-6532 and the best day for the majority will be arranged.

**January** is a quiet time for the youth group as the high school students are preparing end of semester projects and studying hard for and writing exams. However this year our Youth Group and confirmation class have been invited to go **Skiing** on January 9th with the Brodhagen youth group and confirmation class. Interested youth are asked to contact Tracy or Diane.

### **CLAY 2010 ----August 19-22, 2010**

CLAY stands for the "Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth" National Gathering. If you are between the ages of 14 & 19 (or have graduated Grade 8 by June 2010) YOU are eligible to attend. This year it is hosted in our own back yard...London, Ontario. Registration this year has dropped to \$300. We are asking for a down payment of \$50. It is required by December 15, 2009. If any parents have ideas on how to fundraise for this event, please contact Tracy.

I understand that many may not be able to cover this cost, especially in these difficult financial times, but we are willing to help, If you contact Tracy Lather 519-228-6532, your request for help will be kept private and confidential.

### **Youth Prayer**

***Dear God, Please pour Your blessing down on earth this Christmas Season. We know that Christmas is not always a joyous time of year for everyone, so we ask that You especially watch over those who are feeling blue. Help us God, to overcome the "stuff and more stuff" disease that appears at this time of year. Help us to share our bounty with those who need it. We thank You for everything You've given us, especially the joyous gift of Your only Son, Jesus Christ. AMEN***

### **JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION**

Engage in dialogue, share your stories, and connect with other Lutherans in Canada and around the world by joining the ELCIC Facebook page. Simply go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), search for "Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada," and become part of our online community. Recently, members discussed, "sharing their faith with one another," "tips for referencing meaningful passages in their Bible," and even "what impacted them most about the sermons they heard this past Sunday."



Subject: History of the Christmas Carol

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled many. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge that won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas? Read on

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for the young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning, the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church.

Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books.
6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creating.
7. Seven swans a swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
10. The ten lords a leaping were the Ten Commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

## LABOURS OF LOVE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

### USHERS

Captain: Pat O'Rourke  
Alternate: Glen Thiel  
Ann Steinbach  
Peter Bornath  
Doug Thiel  
Shannon LaPorte  
Fred Deichert  
Gary Hugill  
Tim Teeter



### LAY READERS

December 6 Karen Schade  
13 Pat O'Rourke  
20 Andrea Schaefer  
24 Tracy Lather (Candlelight Service)  
25 Ron Heimrich (Christmas Day)  
27 Mark Heimrich

### ACOLYTES

December 6 Courtney McBride  
13 Shaelynn Ciupak  
20 Kimberley Hendrick  
25 Volunteer  
27 Michael Beierling

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

December 6 Karen Schade / Don Rader  
20 Michael Schaefer / Derek Bornath  
24 Tracy Lather / Doug Klopp (Candlelight Service)  
25 Marg C. Deichert

**ALTAR GUILD** Shelley Miller, Diane Klopp, Karen Rader,

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

December 13 Tracy Lather

### COFFEE HOUR

December 6 Charlotte Norton  
13 Margaret Deichert / Jen Schellenberger  
20 Donna Klopp  
27 Volunteer



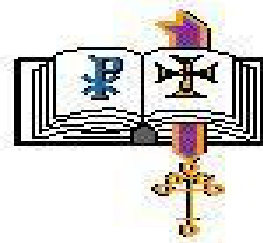
# LABOURS OF LOVE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

## USHERS

Captain: Hub Thiel  
Alternate: Doug Klopp  
Dale Miller  
Marie Deichert  
Don Rader  
Paul Klopp  
Dana Thiel

## LAY READERS

January 3 Michele Haberer  
10 Karen Rader  
17 Pat O'Rourke  
24 Tracy Lather  
31 Mark Heimrich



## ACOLYTES

January 3 Courtney McBride  
10 Mitchell Dietrich  
17 Matthew Thiel  
24 Kurt Bornath  
31 Shaelynn Ciupak

## COMMUNION ASSISTANT

January 3 Laurie Erb, Doug Klopp  
17 Don Rader, Mark Heimrich

ALTAR GUILD Ann Steinbach, Catherine Beierling, Alice Deichert

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

January 10 Ron Heimrich  
24 Cathy Hugill

## COFFEE HOUR

January 3 Volunteer needed  
10 Marilyn Heimrich  
17 Phylis Deichert / Leisa McBride  
24 Liz Teeter  
31 Diane Klopp

