



FOR PETE'S SAKE™

*St Peter's Lutheran Church
Zurich, Ontario*

Pastor: Rev. Nadine Schroeder-Kranz

Ministers: The People of St. Peter's

December 2011



Luke 1:48-49

*"...for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the
Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name."*

My children enjoy singing the songs of the Christmas season. These are carols of joy and faith that have been passed down from generation to generation. I am often moved to tears when the voices of children touch that long, staid faith.

Mary sings a song of faith using words that are familiar to her from the prophets. In linking herself to them, she reveals that God has kept God's promises. She echoes the angel Gabriel's message and reveals that her present experience will embrace all future generations. This is wonderful news! We too, shall be blessed.

As Mary sings joyfully that God will do great things for her, we rejoice as we recognize that God has and will continue to do great things for us too. We are the recipients. The child in Mary's womb is for us. We are the lowly, the broken, the sinners in need of God's all-encompassing love. In a world that is filled with so much chaos, confusion and pain, Mary brings us words of hope. We become, like Mary, instruments of God who can sing out our faith and usher in God's realm of healing and love.

May we remember the faithful of old, bless the faithful of today, and embrace with hope the possibilities for continued faith in the future that Mary sings about as she waits for the Advent of her Jesus.

Loving God, fill our hearts with your love. May the Spirit fill us with songs of praise. Help us, with Mary, to embrace the joy of serving you and may that joy shine its light on everyone! Amen.

Pastor Nadine

Families are needed to assist with the lighting of the Advent candles throughout the Advent Season at morning worship. Contact Pastor Nadine or Jen Schellenberger to volunteer your family.

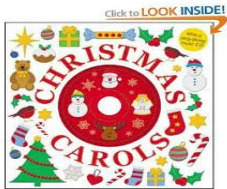


Additional Opportunities for Worship during December

Saturday, December 3 at 1 p.m. Pastor Nadine will be conducting a communion service at the BWRH in the multi purpose room for St. Peter's members residing at the BWRHome.

Wednesday, December 7 from 5 -7 Messy Church at Trivitt Anglican

Monday, December 12 at 7 p.m. A South Huron Community Lessons and Carol Service will be held at Trivitt Anglican in Exeter featuring adult, youth and handbell choirs, community clergy as well as local business and municipal leaders. Childcare will be available for children 5 years and under.



Wednesday, December 21 at 11 a.m. Pastor Nadine will be leading the worship service at the BWRHome.

Wednesday, December 21 at 7 p.m. December 21 is the longest night of the year. For many, Christmas season is difficult as grief and loss are marked by the joyous celebrations all around. You are invited to attend St. Peter's Blue Christmas service which will include special Christmas music, prayers for comfort, and an opportunity to quietly light a candle in memory of loved ones who will be especially missed this Christmas.

Please share this message with all your friends and family!

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

Sunday, December 18 th	10:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve	6:45 p.m.	Christmas Eve Hymn Sing (upstairs)
	7:00 p.m.	Sunday School Program
	8:00 p.m.	Candlelight Worship Service with Holy Communion
Christmas Day	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, January 1st	10:00 a.m.	New Year's Day Worship with Holy Communion



The Sunday School's Victorian Christmas Eve Program will be held upstairs. The children will be dressed in period costume and the congregation is invited to wear clothing from that era also, as the children take a look "back in time" to Christmas' in the past. Refreshments (baked apples, cookies, apple cider, and hot chocolate) will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the children's program.

WOMEN'S GROUP:

On Thursday, December 1st, the Women of St. Peter's will celebrate the Christmas Season with a dinner at **The Colonial Hotel in Grand Bend**. The festivities will begin at 6:30. Please contact Michelle Haberer or Pauline Miller if you would like to attend this Social Evening of good food, fun and fellowship. Invite a friend!

The January meeting of the Ladies group will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, January 5th at 7 p.m.

THANK YOU:

\$375 was forwarded from St. Peter's congregation to the Goderich Tornado Relief Fund...thanks to everyone for their generous support for this very worthwhile cause.

Thank you to all the volunteers for their help with the Annual Pork Supper by selling tickets, providing desserts, setting up, serving, cleaning up, as well as entertaining us. The support of the congregation made for another successful event.

Thanks to Doug Klopp and Christa Ihrig for decorating our church for Advent. This labour of love is much appreciated and will be admired by all of us throughout the season.

The beautiful poinsettias that are on the altar and church windowsills have been placed again this year by the Flaxbard family in loving memory of their parents, Earl and Ann Flaxbard. We, at St. Peter's are very grateful for their kindness and generosity.

BELATED 80th BIRTHDAY WISHES to Margaret Deichert. An Open House was held in St. Peter's Fellowship Hall on November 12th in honour of Margaret's milestone birthday.

BAPTISM:

On Sunday, December 4th, St Peter's will welcome Danica Jeffrey, daughter of Kelly and Jordan and granddaughter of Donna and Ken Thiel, to our church family through the Rite of Holy Baptism during the worship service.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY:

Our thoughts and prayers are with Karen and Don Rader and their family on the death of Karen's mother, Irene Clausius, who passed away on November 16th. Her funeral service was held at the Zurich Mennonite Church on Monday, November 21st.

OUTREACH:

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 boxes at the church entrance until Sunday, December 4th. The Huron County Christmas Program presented gifts of food, new clothing, toys and food certificates to over 1000 children and their families in 2010. Also don't forget your items for the Food Bank on December 4th. All canned foods, cereals, baby food etc will be donated to Blessings in Zurich.

Angel Wings will not be meeting in the New Year as there continues to be several prayer shawls on hand. However, any prayer shawls knitted or crocheted at home over the winter will be greatly accepted. Contact Michel Haberer if you need yarn. If you know of someone who should have a shawl, please contact Pastor Nadine or Michelle Haberer.

Church Council:

Council met on November 16th and discussed/decided the following:



- The eaves have been cleaned out in preparation for winter.
- The furnace room next to the fellowship hall needs to be insulated. One quote of \$1700 + HST for the work has been received ... we are waiting for a second quote.
- The disrepair of the steeple was discussed again. The particular items that were considered were painting, replacing some weakened/rotting wood as well as some pieces of metal. Discussion noted that the cost of having the work completed in 2002 was over \$10,000. A line to the 2012 budget will need to be added to cover the costs.
- It was noted that the Sunday School has begun work on their Christmas pageant.
- The youth group has been granted permission to repaint their meeting room.
- The next council meeting is Dec 7th at 7:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Church Council invites the congregation of St. Peter's to join together in support of and thanksgiving for our young members. Every week we have the chance to be a positive and welcoming presence in children's lives and the lives of young families.

One expression of support is being understanding and patient with our younger members' high energy levels and enthusiastic expression of all they feel. It is important for us to remember that we need young families and children in our congregation. Can there be a better expression of what we are called to be than a significant, growing, happy population of children attending our church?

Current Account:

Actual Income to Date	\$ 77,498.29
Actual Expenses to Date	\$ 83,459.71
Balance Outstanding	\$ - 5,961.42



Mission (Benevolence)

Benevolence Commitment for 2011	\$ 9,000.00
Actual Received to Date	\$ 3,895.00
Amount Outstanding	\$ 5,105.00

The Anniversary Committee has received confirmation from the Ontario Trillium Foundation of the approval of their grant application. This is good news for the pioneer cemetery project.

Based on donations and grants to date, it will not be necessary to request the church treasury to contribute any of the \$10,000 that was promised, should it have been required, by the congregation at a special meeting held January 9, 2011.



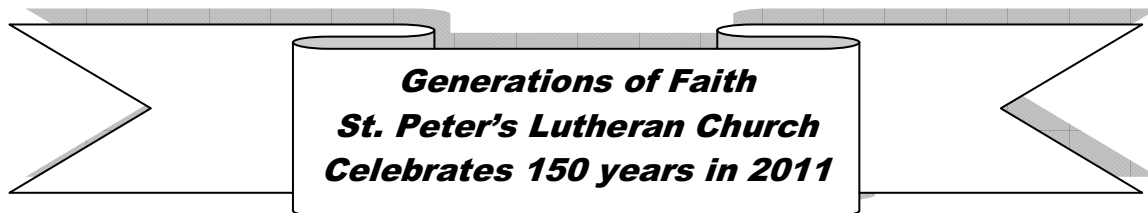
The 150th Anniversary Committee has gift suggestions for those on your Christmas list:

St. Peter's Golf Shirts \$35

St. Peter's History Book (2001-2011 Update) \$5

St Peter's Picture Cards \$2

Contact Michelle Haberer or any member of the Anniversary Committee to purchase any of the above items.



It is interesting that in these last few days before the beginning of the 2011 Advent Season, several events are coming to pass. Of the greatest importance by far, is the season of preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Our pioneer forefathers would have recognized and observed this season of preparation leading up to that heavenly night when Christ was born. 2011 years later, the same angels, shepherds, magi, stars, manger, young couple, never fail to rekindle the magic of that holy night.

The congregation of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church during the year of 2011 is celebrating 150 years of faith, remembering and honoring our ancestors and anticipating the future. A priority of the Anniversary Committee has been to create a presence in a historical setting for the first pioneers. With the generous support of descendants, church members, community members and municipal, county and provincial government grant approvals, this priority has become a reality. The project has begun!

The cairn has been removed and approximately 50 memorial stones in exceptional condition were found. These stones have been secured in a locked building and the committee is in conversation with the Cemetery Regulation Unit to determine their future location. Action will be taken to share this heritage with the public, while preserving these artifacts.

Positive weather conditions will allow the cement base for the new memorial monument to be installed by the end of November. The granite for the monument is being shipped from India and will be engraved during the winter months for installation in the spring of 2012. Ironically, Canadian granite contains too much iron to be used in monuments.

Thus as the 2011 Advent Season begins, so a new season of presence and remembrance begins for the pioneers of this congregation and community. As a congregation we are seizing the opportunity to regenerate our faith and commitment to our church and dedicate a renewed faith and commitment to the future.

LABOURS OF LOVE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

USHERS

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



LAY READERS

December 4 Pat O'Rourke
11 Sharon Sanders
18 Charlotte Norton
24 Tracy Lather (Candlelight Service at 8 p.m.)
25 Michele Haberer (Christmas Day)

ACOLYTES

December 4 Natalie Miller
11 Kirsten Schellenberger
18 Michaela DeVries

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

December 4 Tracy Lather / Diane Klopp
18 Harvey Norton / Michael Schaefer
24 Tracy Lather / Diane Klopp (Candlelight Service at 8 p.m.)
25 Marg C. Deichert

ALTAR GUILD

Alma Westlake, Cathy Hugill, Sharon Sanders

COFFEE HOUR

December 4 Hub Thiel
11 Charlotte and Harvey Norton
18 Marg J. Deichert / Jen Schellenberger
25 Christmas Day

