



FOR PETE'S SAKE

St Peter's Lutheran Church, Zurich, ON

Church Office: 519-236-4697 forpetesoffice@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Nadine Schroeder-Kranz

January 2025

Ministers: The People of St. Peter's

Upcoming Dates

Sunday, December 22 - Advent 4 - Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve service - Pre-service organ preludes begin at 6:30 pm
6:45 pm - Musical numbers by some of our younger members
7:00 pm - Service with carols, participation by the children, Holy Communion and candle-lighting.

Wednesday, December 25 - NO SERVICE

Sunday, December 29 - Sanctuary - No Communion

December 30 - January 2 - Pastor Nadine is on vacation.

Sunday, January 5 - Sanctuary - Holy Communion
- Food donations for Blessings

Sunday, January 12 - Sanctuary - Baptism of Jesus - Holy Communion
- Kids' Club - Leader: Kelly Jeffrey - Bowling at Town & Country Bowling Lanes in Zurich

Tuesday, January 14 - Church Council meeting

Sunday, January 19 - Parish Hall - Holy Communion

January 18-25 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. A study group will run Mon.-Fri. January 20-24.
Closing Worship TBA - More details to follow.

Sunday, January 26 - Sanctuary
- Kids' Club - Leader: Linda Bluhm - Winter Theme (Making Bird Feeders)

Deadline for reports to be submitted to Rick Deichert for the Annual Meeting booklet

Tuesday, January 28 - Book Club - 7:00 pm - "No Cure for Being Human" by Kate Bowler

Wednesday, January 29 - BWRH service with Holy Communion

Sunday, February 9 - Secret Cupid gifts to be at the church to be given to women who access services at Blessings

Sunday, February 23 - Annual General Meeting. Please mark this on your calendar.

KIDS' CLUB

Kids' Club met on Sunday, December 8 to distribute Christmas cards they had made to the residents of Maplewoods Apts. Each resident, who was home, came to the door and listened while the children and their leaders sang a few Christmas carols and then presented them with a homemade card. There were many smiles and even some tears to show their appreciation to the group of children and adults from St. Peter's.

On Friday, December 13 seventeen members of St. Peter's went out Christmas carolling together. While it was too cold for the Thiel horses to pull us around on a wagon that night, we drove to our destinations and then sang carols. We started at Maplewoods Apts. and then sang across the road at Birchwoods Apts. After that we visited congregation members who aren't always able to get out to church. Everyone enjoyed our visit and a number even sang along with us. After carolling, the group gathered back at the parish hall where Phil had hot chocolate waiting.



Nourishment Puzzle - Written with love by Bev Thiel

The nourishment puzzle has many pieces and is multi-dimensional, in the ultimate goal of completion of the whole picture. It is received through many steps of placing the border of guidelines and then filling in the rest through different avenues. It comes in the form of nourishment of your SOUL, with your faith, relationships with others, compassion, generosity and integrity. Learning of skills through education and manual labor is essential for the nourishment of your BRAIN. Exercise and fresh air are important to obtain and sustain the nourishment of your BODY. The first and last piece of this puzzle is the main ingredient that needs to be added every day, or it will cause the disintegration of the life picture. It is the FOOD that we eat and all the dimensions of this object.

Obviously, it is imperative that we consume food to sustain life. That in itself is different for everyone, whether they have the availability or the finances to support this need. The staggering number of homeless people starving, or countries that do not have these resources at their fingertips, is certainly not balanced in this world. The establishments such as food banks and the donations given are a gift to people that are struggling, with the list of patrons sadly becoming more and more each day. The shelters for the homeless, along with meals, are unable to keep up with the number of people requiring these services. I distinctly remember, as a child, my mother's words when we sat down to eat a meal. She would say to be thankful and eat everything off your plate and think of all the poor starving children of the world. This resonated with me even to this day and it would horrify me, when I viewed the television photos of children in poor countries.



Unfortunately, the balance scales for the nourishment of food in our country and other countries of the world, are completely off kilter. The scale goes from people digging in garbage for food discarded, right to the buffets provided in restaurants, or on resorts and cruises; with a huge variety of dishes to choose from. It is from the vegetables grown in our home garden, to the choices of food in our grocery stores, to the specialty shops with organic or gourmet foods. The comparison of fast-food establishments, to family restaurants, to places with chef prepared meals at higher prices.

Foods also can be reminiscent of our childhood; even by merely smelling it simmering on the stove, or baking in the oven. Chicken noodle soup was an indicator of not feeling well and was an awesome remedy. The aroma of many vegetables being cooked, for the canning that would sustain us in the winter months. The pantry or cellar shelves displaying the multitude of jars containing chili sauce, pickled beets, pickles, etc. To achieve this, the first step of this creation was the labor of love in the summer, working in the gardens for many hours planting, hoeing and digging. The dishes that you loved as a child, you now serve for your children or grandchildren. The cookbooks or recipes passed down, with some of their favorite dishes, obvious from the wear of the paper. I have my mother's recipe box and treasure this, not only for the food, but her handwriting.

The baking smells coming from the kitchen, especially for special occasions. The birthday cakes, shared with your family and friends. All the extra special foods at Christmas time, with all the trimmings and the dark or light fruit cakes. The different cookies like macaroons, or the rice Krispie squares, or peanut butter balls. These become traditions passed on down the family line. It is like a blanket, comforting you, not just in your stomach, but in your soul. When a person gets distressed, they either do not eat, or indulge in a lot of food. They are literally either eating or not eating their emotions.

Celebrations and food always seem to be shared. When someone passes away, either a celebration of life or the time after the service, food is served. As a form of condolence, food is gifted to the family members. Get-togethers with family and friends seem to have the element of food. It is such an important part of our lives; either joyful and celebratory or a worrisome commodity that we cannot afford. Just remember to be thankful for the gift of food, share in your wealth with others in need and do not waste food.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR PUZZLE OF NOURISHMENT IN LIFE TOGETHER, AS WELL AS YOU CAN, OR FIND THAT MISSING PIECE. MY PERSONAL MOTTO IN LIFE IS TWO-FOLD; TO EAT TO LIVE, NOT LIVE TO EAT AND SHARE MY WEALTH.

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Have you ever wondered what leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge that won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. This carol was written as a catechism song for the Catholics. It had two levels of meaning, the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to church members. Each element had 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 7 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.

