



"FOR PETE'S SAKE"

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Zurich, ON

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October 2025

Upcoming Event Dates for October 2025

Sunday, October 5 - Sanctuary - Communion - Recording - Food Basket

- In connection with St. Francis of Assisi and his love for animals, child and adult members, if they wish, are welcome to bring a NEW, stuffed animal toy in a bag to be donated. Pastor Nadine will have a children's message prepared for the children in attendance and will provide a pet blessing for anyone of any age to take home to bless their pets.

Sunday, October 12 - Sanctuary - Thanksgiving - Communion - Pastor Dick Holm

- Pastor Nadine is on vacation
- There is no Kids' Club today

Sunday, October 19 - Parish Hall with Communion

Sunday, October 26 - Sanctuary - Reformation - Communion - Kids' Club Halloween Party (Kelly and Danica Jeffrey)

Members are invited to bring some treats to give the children as they "trick or treat" in the parish hall during coffee hour.

Kids' Club is for the children of St. Peter's AND for children in our community. If you know of a family who may be interested in joining us for Kids' Club, they can message Laurie at lerb1960@gmail.com or text 519-870-5928 for more information.

Wednesday, October 29 - Pumpkin Carving Event - Pizza supper begins at 5:30.

- Please bring your own pumpkins to carve.

Coffee Hour Request from Council

If you are in charge of coffee hour and you wish to leave any cream, juice etc. behind in the fridge, we ask that you use the black marker and tape provided to clearly mark the date it was opened on the item. That helps take the “guesswork” out of trying to determine if the cream, juice etc. is still safe to use or should be discarded. Thanks!

Memorial Donation

Our custodian, Mary-Ann Craner and her husband Randy, recently lost their son, Kyle, to brain cancer. The family has appreciated our prayers over the last few years as Kyle’s condition became more and more serious. The church has made a donation to Bluewater Health Foundation - Craner’s Cause in memory of Kyle.

SAVE THE DATES:

Friday, November 14 - Movie Night beginning at 7:00 pm. More details to follow closer to the event.

Sunday, November 16 - Congregational potluck and meeting to discuss the issue of whether or not we would like our properties to be designated as historical. Heather Kloppp attended a council meeting to share information, and this information will be discussed at the meeting.

Thursday, November 27 - Ladies’ Dinner at the Bad Apple. Details to follow.

Sunday, November 30 - St. Peter’s Ham Dinner to mark the beginning of the Advent season.



The Healing Power of Animals – Written with love by Bev Thiel

When I delve into my memory bank and recall the classic movie entitled “Lassie Come Home”; it teaches many lessons. Not only is it emotional but illustrates the sheer determination to be with the family that he loves. The obstacles and hardships that happen to block his journey was heartbreaking. The perseverance for the goal of happiness was priority in his mind. In the end, his homeward bound was successful. It is comparable to roadblocks in our journey and heartbreaks along the way, but to have hope that you will eventually arrive to your destination.



The television series of the “Littlest Hobo” was one of my favourites. In his travels, he seemed to always be “at the right place, at the right time”. He helped so many people get out of danger and was a companion for the time suitable that he chose. It was the ability to utilize his instincts to feel when someone was in need. As humans, we have similar instincts and hopefully take the time to help others and not push things under the rug and refuse to deal with it.

Our neighbour up in Meaford is a dog walker, trainer and accommodates overnight stays. I refer to him as the “dog whisperer” and his balance of being compassionate and stern is remarkable. It takes a tremendous amount of patience, but results in a happy, well-balanced dog. He can have 6-7 dogs sit still to have a portrait taken on and around a picnic table. As soon as Hub or I come out of the house on the back deck, they are running over to us in jubilation. They get jealous if they do not get the same allotted time for their petting and hugs. They love having us throw a frisbee out in the field and they scramble to be the first to fetch it. It is amazing to watch them leap in the air and catch it before it hits the ground. They are so proud of their accomplishment and bring it back with a smile on their face and relay to us with their gestures to do this “one more time”. Sometimes, he has 8 dogs out for a long walk, and they are like children having a riot at daycare. There are all sizes and breeds but are taught to co-exist with each other and their differences are irrelevant. Would it not be fantastic if all humans could be as accepting of human differences; whether it be race, gender identity or sexual identity. On the other realm; to all be completely the same; whether human or animal would be boring and what people might consider “normal”. Who decides what normal is and as I have always thought, why would I want to be “just normal”.

In my country neighbourhood, I have been labelled “the crazy cat lady”. The creation of my sign that I staked into the ground, probably intensified this description of me. When some of the mamma cats had kittens and at times crossed the road in front of our house to go to a barn in the vicinity, my fear was for their safety. The vehicles tended to travel very fast, so I felt it was my obligation to slow them down. My sign simply said “slow down, kittens crossing”; very self-explanatory. Some considerate drivers did slow down, but not everyone and some of the cats did not survive. I also had placed a sign down near the farm whose barn they would catch mice in and stay warm in the winter and be fed by another one of our kind neighbours. This sign mysteriously disappeared, for some entertainment purposes I suppose. I attempted to find loving homes for them and was successful at times.



At one point, two of the mammas had a litter each and we had 13 cats on our deck. We enjoyed feeding and petting them and playing games with the kittens. We also had two indoor cats that never went outside and lived to an old age.

I am somewhat an overprotective mother to them and was illustrated numerous times. The one scenario was in the middle of the night when I was awakened by the sound of coyotes. Mind you I am a light sleeper and our windows were open, but that sound makes me bolt out of bed. I turned the outside light on and opened the door screaming at the top of my lungs. The cats would sleep underneath our gazebo and be safe from them, since the coyotes did not have sufficient room to go under. I saw two of them pacing around the gazebo and in the distance, you could see a few more eyes staring this way. My adrenaline was over the top, with no fear for myself, acting like a mamma bear protecting

her cubs. I feel for the coyotes, and they need to eat also, but I was determined not to have any of my cats on their menu.

The comfort and companionship of a healing dog going into a nursing home and lighting up an elder's day. Something for them to talk to, pet them and show love to each other is priceless. The dogs that guide someone that is blind and become their owner's eyes, safeguarding them from danger. The ability for them to sense a seizure coming, even before the person does. Horses help children and adults with autism or developmental challenges and calms them. It gives them a purpose to take care of an animal and instill peace. When your children have pets, they learn so many lessons. To take care of part of their family and show love and compassion to another living being.

I am always appalled at anyone that is cruel to animals. What part of their soul would ever justify this intent of harm. These animals pour out a fountain of unconditional love and deserve to be treated the same. How would you like someone treating you with cruelty? I realize that some certain animals are raised for our food, or some predatory animals that are harming our food chain or domesticated pets need to be stopped. My feeling is that if you have a pet, then be responsible and take care of them. If you cannot fulfil this, do everyone a favour, especially the animal, and stay away from them.

When you arrive home from work and your pet is jumping in leaps and bounds with excitement to see you, what an awesome welcome and feeling of importance. This is why they are referred to as "PETS"; to PET them lovingly; not TARGETS; to be HURT.

IT IS TRUE THAT ANIMALS NEED TO BE TRAINED TO LEARN ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS AND DISCIPLINE FROM HUMANS. MY MOTTO IS ALSO THAT HUMANS NEED TO LEARN FROM ANIMALS' ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS IS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. WOULD OUR WORLD NOT BE A MORE LOVING PLACE TO EXIST.