



"FOR PETE'S SAKE"

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January 2026 Newsletter

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. " Galatians 5:25

Sometimes change takes us by surprise. Did you know the Schroeder-Kranz family has lived in Zurich since 2010? It has become our home. When we entered your lives, my youngest child was only two years old and still wearing diapers! If you've glimpsed my kids in recent times, you might not recognize them.

Since their carefree days of Sunday School and Andy's watch while I preached, they have become young adults. Rachel and Chloe are 21, Russell is 19, and Owen is 17. All of their birthdays follow in January and February.

Andy and I have also grown, literally (ahem), and spiritually. As your pastor I have been blessed by countless acts of love and learning. St. Peter's is especially dear to me. You are like family.

I mentioned change and surprise. The Holy Spirit has been active among us. St. Peter's is resourceful, resilient, and faithful. This church family does God's work. Together you can maintain dedicated, dependable service and an outpouring of love for the community, come what may.

Speaking of "May", here goes...

After a long period of discernment, of wrestling with angels, the Holy Spirit has filled me with a new purpose. I have accepted a calling that is spiritual and of great value to those grown-up kids I was referencing. Trinity Lutheran Church in London has called me to be their new pastor. I have accepted this call. For now, this transition is bittersweet. I have 4 months to continue my devoted call here at St. Peter's. I trust we can draw out the gifts of the Spirit to guide us. I pray we can grow in excitement and intentionally consider what lies ahead with curiosity and a blessed anticipation.

I begin my new position of LOVE at Trinity on May 1, 2026. I am scheduling my final service in the capacity of St. Peter's pastor on the Sunday after Easter, April 12, 2026.

God is at work. Pray on it.

Change is consistent and unavoidable. Thankfully, the Spirit walks with us to provide lifegiving vision and new hope. This refresh can be good for all of us.

Chin up.

God loves you and so do I! Always. Pastor Nadine

Upcoming Important Dates

Sunday, January 4 - Sanctuary - Holy Communion - Food Basket - Service recorded.

Sunday, January 11 - Sanctuary - Baptism of Jesus - Holy Communion.

Tuesday, January 13 - Council meeting

Sunday, January 18 - Parish Hall - Holy Communion - Potluck

Sunday, January 25 - Sanctuary - Kids' Club Movie and Popcorn Sunday (Leader: Shannon Keller-Laporte)

Wednesday, January 28 - Pastor Nadine is leading a Communion service at BWRH at 11 and a service at the Exeter Villa at 2:00 pm.

Stuffies Delivered



Phil Erb delivered 32 new stuffies that we had been collecting at St. Peter's over the last number of weeks. At Artemis Huron in Goderich (formerly the Women's Shelter), the stuffies were received with much gratitude.

Save the Dates:



February 8, 2026 - Secret Cupid gifts for women who receive support through Blessings in Zurich should be at the church. These gifts can be brought on the Sundays leading up to February 8th.

February 17, 2026 - Shrove Tuesday

February 22, 2026 - Annual General Meeting Day

The Illusion of Protection - Written with love by Bev Thiel

With all the controversies appearing in our news releases, with regards to human trafficking and criminal acts against young girls and boys; I felt compelled to share some of my thoughts. This subject has always been something that I am extremely passionate about, in the protection of our youth.

The world is in a state of chaos, and certain men and women need to be held accountable for actions that have gone on for years. Women are coming together to put an end to these unspeakable crimes and people need to start listening and take action to bring to justice these men and women; either taking part in this or having knowledge about it and keeping quiet.

During my younger years and work relationships, I certainly came across many incidences of lack of respect. As someone very young, I would attempt to remove myself from uncomfortable situations. In my career I was whistled at, crude remarks thrown at me, and most inappropriate actions. I threatened one of my bosses that I was going to phone the police if he did not remove his hand off my butt at a staff party or pushed one of my bosses into a thorn bush when he groped me. These men were always shocked at my reaction to their action towards me. It always amazed me how they could think that they had the

right to do this. Maybe they were never taught to be respectable or just kept getting away with their actions. That I was a human being with feelings and emotions, not just a body for their viewing pleasure.

Protect your children and never hesitate to take action. One example of that was when my teenage daughter was playing soccer, and her coach decided it was alright to grab her butt. I literally flew over three sets of bleachers and ran onto the field and got right in his face saying that I was going to talk to the soccer association to remove him. I did talk to them, and they gave him another chance, which I was not happy about, but watched him like a hawk ready to grab him like prey if it ever happened again. After that episode, trust me, more mothers and fathers were watching him intently.

Young girls need to be taught how to defend themselves and take self-defence classes, rather than how to apply makeup and the latest fashion tips. They need to be made aware of the dangers of what can happen; not to scare them, but give them the tools for detecting signs, or walking away from situations that make them uncomfortable. Do not encourage them or force them to sit on someone's knee or give someone a hug if they are not feeling at ease with someone. Teach them to recognize their intuition and listen to their concerns. This unfortunately can be with people that they know and should be able to trust. This is also true for young boys in certain situations. When they reach that stage in their lives when they are starting to notice girls, they should automatically be taught to respect females; both from mom and dad. If they are making crude comments, correct them immediately and show them the proper way to respond. Girls and boys learn from watching their parents, grandparents and older friends and siblings; so please set a good example.

I always feel bad for girls/women that the pressures of our society states that they must be a certain way to feel loved and noticed. This comes from peer pressure, from the models in magazines, beauty pageants, and the standards put onto them. I feel bad for boys/men for the bombardment of images on billboards or magazines what a REAL WOMAN should look like. The advertisement for purchasing a new vehicle is enticed with a woman standing next to it, or the restaurants and bars that cannot be successful just for their good food and service but need the enticement of young girls showing their cleavage or wearing short skirts.

With the technology of today, parents need to be aware of what is put on social media either coming from themselves in sharing pictures, or the teenagers posting photos or daily routines for everyone to see. Realistically and unfortunately, not all the viewers are seeing this with good intentions.

Ask yourself the question: "What does this say about our society as a whole?" Are we proud of this and just go along with the flow, or do we proceed to make changes to **PROTECT OUR FEMALES AND MALES** from this wrongdoing. Do we need to be more forceful and stand together to bring awareness to these crimes and make these perpetrators (no matter who they are or what title they hold) to justice. Bottom line is that we need to teach our children morals, values, integrity by word and example and be there for them to share how they are feeling and listen to their concerns. If we do not take action and stop this and change course, our youth will always be in danger.



*The ultimate aim of education in life is taking action at the right time.
May this New Year 2026 bestow conscience and knowledge on you to
make the rest of your life, the best of your life!*

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