



"FOR PETE'S SAKE"

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Zurich, ON

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April 2026 Newsletter

Pastor's Puff, April 2026

This is my last entry in the "For Pete's Sake" newsletter. SIGH. We've been in the process of coming and going for several months now. APRIL 12 is my FINAL Sunday at St. Peter's, Zurich. I continue to be YOUR pastor until April 30. My first Sunday in London as Trinity's pastor is May 3. You are welcome to attend my installation service there, on Sunday, May 24, 4:00pm. I'd love your support. There will be food. You are always welcome to stop in at Trinity for worship or just to say hello.

Time is moving faster now. I have been your pastor since July 2010. We share SO MANY memories, both so good and so painful. Being welcomed into your most celebrated milestones and into your most vulnerable trials has been a holy and humbling PRIVILEGE. Thank you for trusting me, for teaching me, and for loving me.

Although this chapter is ending, I will ALWAYS cherish the close relationships and laughter we've shared.

We are all a little different than when we met, aren't we? I have gained life experience. You are softer. There is a sacred spark that shines in your resilience, hospitality, lay leadership and roster of SKILLED volunteers.

I feel like a kid leaving home for university, or maybe I'm the mom and you are the children? It has a kind of Mary Poppins-ish feel to it. Our stories continue. You will come together in new ways while I begin to serve another family. Yet we are one family, aren't we? Jesus took care of that.

As I leave, I hope you know how special you are. I hope you know that you are far more capable than you imagine. I hope volunteerism grows rapidly and leaders

rise up. I hope you are content, spared from financial stress, and open to the imminent changes ahead. I hope you are cared for, and that you care for one another. I hope you find new and fruitful ways to bless and serve the community beyond the church walls. I hope you will pray, communicate well, and give thanks every day for the deep connectedness of this family of God. I hope you know that you are loved beyond measure.

Whatever lies ahead, love each other and do the hard work that love requires.

And now, SIGH, gulp, sniff:

“May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord’s face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the Lord look upon you with favour, and give you peace.”
Numbers 6:24-26

God loves you.

I love you, too.

The journey continues.

Go forth in peace.

Forever yours.

Pastor Nadine.

Upcoming Events:

April 1 @ 5:30 Easter Egg Decorating and Pizza Dinner

April 12 Pastor Nadine’s final service. Farewell luncheon to follow.

April 2026 Worship Information:

April 3 - Good Friday Service in Sanctuary. 10:00 am

April 5 - EASTER Sunday. Sanctuary. Holy Communion. Food Basket. Record service. Kids Club Sunday with Kelly & Danica Jeffrey and Linda Bluhm.

April 12 - Easter 2. Sanctuary. Holy Communion. Pastor Nadine’s final service. Luncheon to follow.

April 14 – Church Council Meeting

April 19 - Easter 3. Parish Hall. Holy Communion. Pastor Stephen Gross

April 26 - Easter 4. Sanctuary. Service of the Word. Leader – Tracy Lather. Kids Club Sunday with Judy Roth.

Communication from Council

I am honoured to serve St. Peter's as your Congregational Council Chairperson for the last year of my term on council. While it has been quite the learning adventure so far, I am enjoying the experience of getting to REALLY know the procedures to be followed within our church and how things work at Synod as well. Since this will be a year of many transitions for us, I will use the newsletter to keep members up-to-date on what your council is doing during this period of vacancy. If and when you have questions, please reach out to me or to any member of council and we will do our best to answer as we are able.

In response to a motion at our AGM about the photocopier, we have looked into the service contract and had further discussion as a group. We have 66 months remaining on the present agreement for the church office photocopier. Everything but paper is included in this contract - service if needed, unlimited black copies, 2000 colour copies, and ink cartridges; they are approximately \$140 per cartridge and there are five of them in the machine. Our photocopier copies 3-4x the speed of a regular photocopier, and is capable of printing 11 x 17. Both speed and size are necessary for printing the AGM books, Shrove Tuesday placemats etc.. The copier is used for worship service binders each week, funeral bulletins, AGM booklets, Kids' Club, Church Council and the Pastor's needs. Especially during this time of transition when multiple people will be coming to the church regularly and using the photocopier, council thinks the cost of less than \$100 a month is reasonable. We are paying to have a reliable photocopier available to conduct the business of the church, with repair service included if needed.

As many of us are learning to take over some of Pastor Nadine's responsibilities, we will be in need of **a number** of willing helpers for a wide variety of tasks. A "Media Masters" group has already been formed to make Face Book posts about service/events dates, times and other details, and to prepare the worship plans, copy and create the binder for every service. We will need assistance with Children's Messages, members to help a guest pastor with Communion, lay ministers to lead worship (Service of the Word with sermons available online through Synod), people willing to make in-person visits and/or phone calls to congregational members for check-ins etc. Please prayerfully consider answering "yes" to the call if you are asked to help out during our pastoral vacancy in any of these areas of ministry at St. Peter's. Better yet, get in touch directly after reading your newsletter and we'll happily accept your offers of assistance.

Council would also like to ask that you be our eyes and ears in the community and let us know if you hear of members who are ill and would like our prayers and/or a visit. Please pass along this information to me or another council member so we can follow up. I will be monitoring the phone/emails so our Interim Pastor can be contacted if there is a crisis situation.

Interim Pastor

A small group of council members had a phone conversation, and the entire council was present for an in-person meeting with Pastor Stephen Gross on March 18.

Pastor Stephen and his wife live in Goderich. He is a retired pastor who has work experience within the church and has worked with various marginalized groups in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. Pastor Stephen has done a number of Interim Pastor placements during his career. We have asked Synod to accept our request to have him serve as our part-time Interim Pastor. Pastor Stephen will begin his time with us on Sunday, April 19 and will be preaching two Sundays per month at St. Peter's with the other Sundays being led by our very capable lay members. We need a few more members to lead services so we don't burn out our faithful, regular, lay leaders.

The Call Process

Council met with Synod representatives on Thursday, February 26 to learn about the call process. It was a very good meeting and we all felt encouraged about the support we will receive as we work through this time of pastoral vacancy and everything that needs to be done to begin the call process. Pastor Christie Morrow-Wolfe has responded quickly to questions and we feel she will be a valuable support system to us at St. Peter's. Four council members attended an Exit Interview with Pastor Nadine and the Dean of the Thames Ministerial, Pastor Syliva Swiatoschik, on March 20. It was a time to reflect on Pastor Nadine's ministry with us at St. Peter's, and to begin the transition as we consider a call to another pastor in the future.

Council has been working together diligently to prepare the required documents to begin the call process. By now we hope you have all completed, either online or on paper, the Survey Monkey questionnaire that was sent by email. This information has been helpful in completing one of the most important sections of the 14-page Congregational Mission Profile.

Call Committee

Members of the congregation have been contacted and we have a Call Committee in place which will begin its important work soon. Members of the Call Committee are:

Laurie Erb, Ken Roth (both are council representatives on the committee), Steve Haberer, Danica Jeffrey, Shannon Keller-Laporte, Doug Klopp and Vanessa Strike.

In His Service,
Laurie Erb (Congregational Council Chairperson)
519-870-5928 lerb1960@gmail.com

Please join us as we say
"Farewell and Godspeed" to Pastor Nadine



When: Sunday, April 12 at 10:00 am - Last Service with Pastor Nadine as our Pastor

Where: St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Zurich

What: A congregational dinner and time of fellowship will follow the worship service on April 12.

Please reply to erbs@hay.net or to Phil at 519-872-6215 in order to plan on the number of guests for the meal.



A basket will be available in the Parish Hall for you to leave cards with messages and good wishes for Pastor Nadine as she and her family embark on their new adventure in London.