



All Saints, Guelph
St. James, Manheim
St. Luke's, Kitchener
St. Matthews, Kitchener
St. Paul's (Bridgeport), Kitchener
St. Pauls, Cambridge
St. Peter's, Cambridge
St. Peter's, Kitchener
St. Stephen, Kitchener

Gather at the River

Grand River Ministry Area
May 2020 Newsletter

The Canoe Behind You

When on a canoe trip with a group, the rule is that you keep an eye on the canoe behind you. The canoe ahead of you is always in your field of vision, so it is easy to see that they are safe. The canoe behind you is out of sight for most of the time, and you need to consciously turn your head to make sure that they are OK.

In these days of physical distancing, there are people who are lost. There are people who are out of sight. For them, it is incredibly important that we turn our heads, and make sure that the people in the canoe behind us are OK.

Thank you for all you do to ensure that those who are not in our field of vision are seen.

- Jan Hansen, Member of St. Stephen and of the Ministry Area's Leadership Team

Local Youth Gathering

This year's CLAY gathering is rescheduled for next summer. In order to provide something for our youth, there is the beginnings of a group to look at organizing a local youth event, hopefully late summer or fall (depending on government guidelines). Stay tuned as things develop.

Area Picnic

The June picnic for our area has been cancelled. We plan on holding it next year.

Considerations for Reopening

We are now meeting our communities' needs various technological means. There will be a time, however, when we are told that we can once again gather. When that happens, it will do our community well if we are prepared.

We don't know how the opening up will look, and much of what we do will be dictated by the rules that are set by others and advice from both government and church structures. Within those limits, we will need to find a space that makes it work. In order to find that space, we need to set priorities based on our mission as defined by our congregations, and strategies that we can put in place to interrupt transmission of the virus.

Attached to this newsletter is a tool to help work through what might be possible. It is simply a series of questions, but hopefully if we can have answers to some of those questions, then we may be able to hit the ground running.

Supports During COVID19

The Region of Waterloo, with support from Interfaith Grand River, surveyed faith groups to see what supports they are offering. The results can be found on the Region's web site at <https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/living-here/resources/Religious-and-Spiritual-Supports-during-COVID-19.pdf>

This newsletter is sent to Rostered Leaders, church offices and any who are interested. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send a request to GrandRiverLutherans@gmail.com.