

Into the morning

'Because I live, you also will live.' John 14:19b

Getting quickly ready in the morning, coffee, shower and then off to get the kids to school and myself to church – I don't like to rush in the morning. This doesn't sound like a joyful new beginning of a brand-new day. It's more like just a necessary part of everyday routine. On top of that – I'm a morning grouch. Anything before 6:00 am is difficult for me and I need my time to fully wake up, enjoy my morning coffee, read a short devotion, and get myself ready before I must fulfill my 'Mom, Church, and Household Chores'.

But there is another kind of morning – a morning that promises a new beginning and hope. I especially feel this in the hour of dawn, often when I was awake through most of the night. There have been a few nights without sleep in my life, especially when our children were young, and I had to cuddle them through their sleeplessness; when we moved, and we realized that we have more stuff than we thought and there were still tons of boxes to pack; when we travelled and the flights arrived late and we had to drive back from the airport through the night.

At some point the darkness breaks, the sun creeps into the gaps between things, everything gradually takes on shape again. The sounds of the morning are different than those during the day, sharper, clearer – the chirping of the birds, the steam coming from the coffee maker, the first cars on the street. The air is fresh and crisp. It smells like opportunities, adventure, confidence.

Easter morning – when light breaks through the darkness, when the shout of joy 'He is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia' sounds into our sadness, when the lonely trumpet plays the first notes of 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today' and then choir and congregation joins – these are precious times when heaven and earth touch each other.

Every morning is a promise. You will live! This promise is renewed every morning. I have seen the dark come and go as the new day began and it seems as if this new day would last forever. All the problems and worries of the previous day are less threatening. In these early hours of the day, somehow there will be a solution. The morning promises that God will not leave us in darkness, that God will let the light shine into our hearts and minds. This is a beautiful feeling to start a new day.

I wish you a blessed Easter, may you feel the new beginning of the Easter morning in your life and remember God's promise: *'Because I live, you also will live.'*

Blessings, Pastor Heike

Blessing of the Seeds – May 14

On May 14 bring your seeds, flowers, and vegetable plants to church. The seeds and plants will be blessed during the worship service for a bountiful harvest.



Council Corner

Highlights from December 2022 – February 2023 and Annual Meeting:

- discussed reducing council from 9 to 6 and decided to keep it at 9 members.
- agreed with FMT that a window should be installed in one of the parlour doors
- looked over the budget presented by Finance
- discussed the need for a new boiler
- agreed that Bridges VBS should be held here at St. Luke's this summer
- voted that we should continue to top up our benevolence commitment of \$19,000 to Synod if we fall short of the goal

Appointments for the 2023 Council:

Chairperson: Kathy Thomsen
Vice-Chairperson: Brent Clarke
Secretary: Donna Finch
Treasurer: Dave DeCoppel

Appointment of the Committee Liaisons:

Finance: John Carapanta & Nahlah Jeorje-Carapanta
Mutual Ministry: Donna Finch
Worship and Music: Brent Clarke & Bonita Ziegler
Facilities Management: Dennis Willfang
Property Management: Don Snow
Parish Life & Christian Ministry:
Community Connections: Barb Pitz
Sunday School: Pastor Heike
WEPP Team: Nahlah Jeorje-Carapanta
Dream Team: Donna Finch

Did you know that 25% of envelop holders did not give a donation to St. Luke's in 2022? If each of these people had donated \$10.00 per week, we would not have had a deficit. If those that did donate, had added \$4-5.00 more to their existing weekly offering, the deficit would have been eliminated. Council encourages everyone to try and give a little more per week.



Our Love and Prayers go out to all our Christian brothers and sisters who are ill, grieving or in long-term care.

Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

***For a visit from the Pastor,
please contact Pastor Heike at
519-212-9952***

Visitation Team

Do you like to get together with others? Are you a good listener and have some time? Then you are the right person for our new visitation team. The pandemic has shown us how important human contact is and how refreshing it can be to get together and share stories. If you are interested, please sign up on the visitation team sheet on the volunteer bulletin board in the hallway across the courtyard. Once a group of people is found, we will get together and will determine the best way how to proceed.

Hospital Visits

If you are in the hospital and would like to have a visit, celebrate Holy Communion, or would like to pray, please let me know. It always saddens me to hear afterwards when someone was in the hospital. Do not hesitate to reach out to me – there is often no other way for me to know.

Supper 8

Supper 8 will continue in the fall of 2023.

What is Supper 8?

An opportunity to have fellowship with other members of the congregation over a meal, dessert & coffee, and conversation and/or games.

See bulletin board in the courtyard for details and sign-up sheet.

Holy Week Worship Services

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 2

10:00 am

with Holy Communion

Fellowship following the service

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 6

7:00 pm

with Holy Communion

Good Friday

Friday, April 7

10:00 am

Easter Sunday

Breakfast at 8:00 am

Worship Service at 10:00 am

with Holy Communion

Earth Day – April 22

Here are some easy-to-follow tips to do a little bit extra for the care of creation:

Batteries are not supposed to go into the garbage, they can be recycled. There are multiple cost-free drop off stations in Kitchener, including Stanley Park Community Centre, Staples, Canadian Tire, and Home Depot to name a few. Did you know that you can drop off your old, dried out pencils and markers at Stanley Park Community Centre as well? Finally, while tin cans with paper labels will be recycled, you can go the extra mile for God's creation and peel off the label for the paper recycling.

Hymn Sunday – May 7th

After Easter, we will once again start collecting your favorite Hymns from you. The Worship Service on May 7th will be full of music, and we will learn some interesting background stories about our most beloved Hymns.

Sunday School

Many thanks to our amazing Sunday School Team: Darlene Brooks, Dianne Metcalf, and Rachel Sutton. The last Sunday School before we wrap up for the summer takes place on May 7th with hot dogs and ice cream after the service. Don't fill up your calendars yet – the fun continues into the summer this year because St. Luke's is hosting Bridges VBS from July 10 – 14!

Land Acknowledgement

As some first steps regarding reconciliation with our Indigenous siblings, we have begun acknowledging Traditional Land Usage at the beginning of the Worship Service and Committee meetings. This was certainly a learning process for us all. Pastor Heike recently attended a Workshop about creating a Land Acknowledgement and has learned some new and exciting things. Thus, we will change our practice slightly in the future, and will not have a Land Acknowledgement at the beginning of each Sunday Service, but rather on certain occasions, with deeper reflection and meaning.



How many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb? Change?!?!

“The more things change, the more they stay the same.” I do not know who said this, but I must admit that it’s an odd saying. How can things change and yet stay the same? When I think of St. Luke’s, I prefer to use Walt Disney’s quote when he spoke of Disneyland. Walt said, “Disneyland will never be complete. It will continue to grow as long as there is imagination left in the world.” I think that St. Luke’s will continue to grow as long as there is a congregation here doing God’s work.

I used the lightbulb joke as the title of this article because as Lutherans, we tend to avoid change. I can understand this – change can be scary. Dealing with unknowns is difficult because we have no guarantees about how things will turn out.

Sometimes we must take a leap of faith. As a people of faith, we should be good at this very thing, should we not? Even though we should be, it is hard because we let doubt and fear creep in when we should let go and let God guide us.

At the annual meeting this past February, we had a lengthy discussion about the Dream Team’s proposal to explore development in our backyard by signing a letter of intent with Kindred Works. In the end, we voted to proceed even though there were many unknowns. If we ultimately proceed with whatever is proposed, there will be a lot of change. Our property will never look the same again. St. Luke’s will never be the same again. Sometimes, God leads us into the unknown because it is where we need to go to be a light for others. God is at work in us. We need to follow His plan for St. Luke’s. We have an opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of many people. To do this, we need to step outside our comfort zone. It’s scary. I know this. It will be less scary if we, as the family of St. Luke’s, continue to pray for our leadership and one another, and to keep talking about the way forward. God will always walk with us. We walk this path with Him. This is why I firmly believe that St. Luke’s will never be completed as long as we, the family of God, dream and put our faith into action.

I realize now that the saying “the more things change, the more they stay the same” is not so odd after all. St. Luke’s will continue to change but the more we change the more one thing stays the same. We will always be God’s faithful people.

- Kathy Thomsen, Council Chair

Checking In

Thinking Forward

AN EASTERN SYNOD
TWO RIVERS and
GRAND RIVER MINISTRY
AREA GATHERING

Eastern Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

An invitation to all Active Rostered, Congregational Lay Leaders and Members of Churches in the Grand River and Two Rivers Ministry Areas in the Waterloo and Wellington Regions

- A time to check in – take stock of our church life’s current realities
- And together, begin to think about possible pathways forward and discern the Spirit’s calling into God’s future

We welcome Rev. Adam Snook, Rev. Jennifer Hoover and Rev. Doug Reble to facilitate the conversation

QUESTIONS?
Rev. David Malina – dmalinachurch@gmail.com
Rev. Heike Toeller – pastor.heike@gmail.com

**SATURDAY
MAY
13**

9:30 am – 10:00 am
Gather and Refreshments

10:00 am – 12 noon
Conversation

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 544 BRIDGEPORT ROAD EAST, KITCHENER

St. Luke's Women

Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday April 11 at 6:30 pm

Potluck Dinner

Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

Guest speaker: Bethany (Romahn) Mazereeuw
on Rightsizing and Relocating.

Fellowship of the Least Coin is a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. "Least Coins" are given with prayer to uphold those who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence, and injustice. Thank you to everyone who supported this project this year.

We had a great March 14 meeting, planning for the year, celebrating Fellowship of the Least Coin, and spending some social time together!

Complete reports are not out yet for 2022, but in 2021 fourteen grants were given worldwide – including two in Canada, to support Indigenous women recovering from violence. In 2022, two women received scholarships, and a Special Grant was given to Tonga in the Polynesian Islands focusing on counselling and Christian friendship.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Elaine Schwartz read a lovely thank you note from a recipient of a prayer shawl which shows us the "power" of this small gesture. Thank you to all who donate yarn and funds to this project and to our knitters!

"A heartfelt thank you for the surprise of this stunning prayer shawl. It gives one a reminder that others are praying for you during your time of illness. I can feel the power of your added prayer. Strength to the Lord for complete healing. Patience is what we need now as the healing will come through all our/your prayers. Again, a sincere thank you. God bless you all."

Community Support

Blessings Box:

Our current needs are for school supplies and hygiene products, such as tooth brushes, hand cream, shampoo, etc. Please drop off donated items between the doors at the education wing. Our Blessings Box is well received by the community! Thank you.

Food4Kids: Three boxes of food donations were delivered to Food4Kids before Christmas. Thank you so much for assisting in this project.

TRUNK SALE!

Saturday, June 10 // 8:00am to 12:00pm

We are planning a trunk sale in the parking lot. Cost is \$20 per space and the proceeds will go to Food4Kids. Please mark the date on your calendar and watch for more information.

Contact Gay Anderson at (519) 893-6827 for more details.

Stanley Park Eats: This project by the Stanley Park Community Centre assists with food insecurities in this area by providing meals on Wednesdays.

Small noodle penne pasta
Canned diced tomatoes
Small cans of tomato paste
Basmati rice
Muffin or cake mixes
Canned pineapple
Chicken stock

Please drop of items between the doors
by the education wing.
Thank you for your generous help.



Image from clipart-library.com

Our Heating Worries and Solutions

Over the last ten years or so, Church Management has been dealing with our aging heating system. There have been several days when no heat was available, and many band-aid approaches have served us to date. We have replaced fans and motors, cleaned and scrubbed the inner workings, and used anything that would help maintain our heating capacity.

This past summer, during our regular established maintenance, we were advised that the boiler would not last and that we needed a replacement. Repair parts may no longer be available, and we were living on borrowed time for this winter – the boiler is 25 years past its original replacement date being over 60 years old. Thank you to the Property team, who have been closely monitoring the boiler almost every day this winter.

In the fall, two professional management and mechanical volunteers in the congregation set out to determine a replacement. Our members, Roger Wyatt and Carl Hoffman, have been very thorough with their search and work. They presented a proposal to Church Council to search out a replacement for approval in September. Moving forward, they sent out letters to nine companies who deal with heating asking for bids according to established criteria. Four companies submitted bids, with additional questions and criteria being established. Jantzi Plumbing was selected as the best possible match in cost and criteria.

The beginning estimated cost is \$115,000 with 20% contingency costs, amounting to a total of \$138,000. The bidding process and selection was brought back to council for approval in November, and the contract was signed in December with Jantzi Plumbing. The new boiler will be energy efficient and in line with the current building standards. Our heating costs will be significantly reduced.

The timeline for installation begins at the end of March when we take possession of some of the materials, and work will officially begin at the end of the heating season.

Now, for the big question. How will we raise the necessary funds? Heat is a necessity to keep our church building useable for not only ourselves, but our rental groups as well. Finance and Church Council have been consulted with this matter. A fundraising campaign is beginning shortly and will be supplemented by our yearly St. Philips allotment and the Building Fund. Please carefully consider the fundraising request when planning your household budgets.

- *Facility Management & Property Team*

Fundraising Fun for the new Boiler

Throughout the year, we will plan some fun fundraising activities for a warm cozy winter in our church with a new energy effective boiler. A few ideas are already starting to take on shape, but without you we can't do it. We need you! Put your thinking cap on and provide some easy and effective fundraising ideas. There will be a 'fundraising-ideas-collecting-poster' on the bulletin board in the hallway, across from the Dream Team bulletin board. If you have a great idea, think about facilitating the activity and finding supporters to help you. Pastor Heike will coordinate all those wonderful ideas and together with the office we will set up a schedule, help with advertising, and support. Let your imagination run wild – it can be big or small! Every cent counts, and together we can make it happen.

Our Goal is to raise \$69,000

Boiler Fundraising Events in April and May

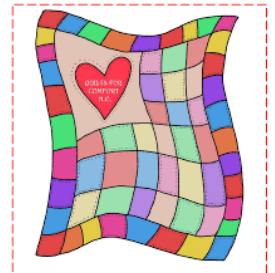
Quilt Raffle

Tickets will be available to purchase during Coffee Hour on Sunday April 16th, 23rd & 30th.

Tickets are 3 for \$5.00

Draw to be held April 30.

Sponsored by Community Connections Committee



Bottle Drive – ongoing

Please drop off all wine, spirit, cooler, and beer bottles over 100mL in the designated area in the Recycling Room of the church.

About the Prayer Box

You have noticed that this box was being brought forward and placed on the altar during the worship service prior to the Prayers of Intercession, every Sunday since we are more normalized after COVID.

The WEPP Team, who had been asked to implement this prayer emphasis, asked Ken Wolfe to build this beautiful box as a continuing focus on prayer in our congregation following the year of prayer in the ELCIC series "Living our Faith" Again, Ken, we say "Thank you" for this fine gift.

The outbreak of the COVID 19 Pandemic caused a two-year delay in the implementation and dedication of the prayer box, and since its introduction it has been brought for prayer more often empty than containing a request. It is hugely underused, and the WEPP team is wondering why?

Reaching out to some of our members asking them specifically about their opinion of the prayer box, we heard these basic points: **"We don't need it". "Why do we need it, when we have the prayer list?". "What kind of prayers is it for?"** And we thank them for their input.

These questions seem to indicate that, while the WEPP Team issued a short introduction of the prayer box in the Newsletter and in a Temple Talk about it, these efforts were insufficient. They did not hit the mark and left the congregation mostly not well informed. We apologize for such near-sightedness and hope to learn from this mistake.



In answer to these questions, we offer the following explanation:

Yes, we need it. The first two questions are closely related since any request can be placed on the prayer list. However, many of our members are concerned about the length of the prayer list and if all names, some of them having been on the list for years, should they still be on there. Surely this concerns the W&M Committee. We need it to free the Prayer List from one-time or short-term prayer requests.

What kind of prayers? We suggest one-time prayers such as: for a family member, friend, or other acquaintance who is seeking a job; having to decide on which college or university to attend; facing a difficult task; having received a difficult diagnosis; anxiously facing a conversation; any concern that seems to trouble our spirit as we come to worship.

Shortly after the end of worship, after the Postlude, a prayer group of interested people from the congregation gathers in the altar area. The designated prayer box coordinator for that Sunday will introduce the prayer request for prayer by any member of this group and close each request. It is very helpful if the person making a request would attend this session. After the session is ended, the requests for that Sunday will be destroyed. If felt necessary, a specific prayer could be resubmitted for a short time.

In James 5:16, the Scripture calls us to "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

We hope and pray that the Prayer Box ministry helps to lighten our load of concern for each other.

The WEPP TEAM, in Christ's Service

Council Members:

Council Chair: Kathy Thomsen
Vice Chair: Brent Clarke
Secretary: Donna Finch
John Carapanta
Nahlah Jeorje-Carapanta
Barb Pitz
Don Snow
Dennis Willfang
Bonita Ziegler

Standing Committee Chairs:

Finance: Christine Petersen
Mutual Ministry: Kathy Thomsen
Worship and Music: Kathy Thomsen
FMT: Cathy Dowsling
Property Mgmt: Vic Lytle
Christian Ministry & Parish Life: TBA
- Community Connections:
Gay Anderson & Heather Meyer-Kraft
- Sunday School: Darlene Brooks,
Dianne Metcalf, Rachel Sutton
- WEPP: Rev. Heike Toeller
Dream Team: Rev. Heike Toeller

Church Office:

(519) 893-3826
Email: info@stlukeslutheran.ca
OR stlukeslutheran317@gmail.com

Office Hours:

M/W/Th 9:00am – 1:00pm

Website:

stlukeslutheran.ca

Pastor Heike

(519) 212-9952
Email: pastor.heike@gmail.com

Office Administrator

Helga Morrison

Music Director

Gloria Berg

Treasurer

Dave DeCoppel

Weekly Offerings

We appreciate your support to meet our financial obligations. Please send your offerings in through the mail or drop it off in the church's mailbox on the left side of the doors to the narthex.

We also accept e-transfers, which are set up as automatic deposits; so, there is no need for secret question/answer.

Please send e-Transfers to our email address at stlukeslutheran317@gmail.com

When the transfer is sent, you can put the designation into the comment box (current, benevolence, building, etc.).

Please contact Dave DeCoppel at stluketreasurer317@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Our mailbox is checked regularly; however, for your peace of mind, arrangements can be made with Helga to ensure your offering is retrieved the day you drop it off.

We are thankful for all who have joined PAR for their contributions. For PAR information, please contact the church office.

We graciously thank all who have continued their generous offerings.

Keep in touch...

Visit our Website at www.stlukeslutheran.ca
for our online worship services, Newsletters, and updates.

Like us on Facebook and subscribe to our
YouTube Channel under
St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kitchener

**DEADLINE FOR
June-August 2023 NEWSLETTER
is May 15th**