

I would still plant my apple tree

When I was a child, we had a beautiful big apple tree in front of our house. Looking out of my bedroom window it just felt like sitting in a tree house. I loved observing the tree changing through the seasons. Spring was my favorite time of the year. The smell and sight of the blooming tree was just incredible. Getting older I could understand that the tree was sometimes a nuisance for my parents, the crabapples weren't good for anything, not even for apple sauce, and the raking of the leaves was just an inconvenient chore. You can imagine how sad I was when I once returned to my childhood home as an adult and saw that the tree was gone. It was like saying goodbye to a good old friend. Somehow the apple tree will always be my favorite kind of tree, maybe because the beautiful tree from my childhood belongs to one of my earliest and most cherished memories. Whenever it worked out, I planted in every place I lived, an apple tree. Unfortunately, I never stayed long enough to enjoy a plentiful harvest or to see the tree in its full size. But it's nice to know that something which I planted might be there for years to come and for others to enjoy. For me, an apple tree full of ripe fruits is like a picture taken straight from paradise, a powerful symbol for the harvest time ahead for the overabundance of God's beautiful creation. It radiates incredible vitality and fullness.

'Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.' This quote is attributed to Martin Luther. But most scholars doubt that it's from him. Doesn't matter who said it – I think it's a good one (not only because of the apple tree in it). I like the stubbornness and hope shining through. I can imagine that Martin Luther

also had lots of worries about the future – the Reformation set off by him caused a tremendous upheaval in the late Middle Ages. At that time, religious zealots, so-called radical reformers, firmly reckoned with the imminent end of the world and behaved accordingly headless. Luther was very adamant about the necessity of the church entering into a new era, but he certainly did not side with the self-appointed prophets proclaiming the end of the world.

The loss of the world as we know it and the concern about the continuation of our western culture and our prosperity, moves many people nowadays. Worldwide crises seem to shake hands, so to speak, let alone the horrendous effects of climate change we felt this summer in our country so clearly.

The image of the apple tree, which is worth planting even at the last moment, tells of a deep trust based on faith. It may be that we ourselves will no longer reap the fruits of our actions. And yet it is worthwhile to do everything for the good growth of God's rich world.

May we all have this deep faith, the courage and the hope to plant an apple tree – no matter what the future will bring.

With a thankful heart for all of you and the blessings God bestows us with each and every day, I wish you a wonderful fall with an abundance of love, laughter and joy.

Many Blessings, Pastor Heike



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*

August Update from your Finance Committee on our Current Operating Account

In June of this year, we reported to you on our deficit position in our current operating account. We have made some progress thanks to your donations but we continue to need to focus on supporting our current operating account to bring the overall deficit to zero. **Our 2022 deficit is at \$11,085** at the end of July down \$1,810 from the end of May thanks to Deficit Reduction donations. **Our 2023 deficit at the end of July is \$14,550 and our overall deficit in the current operating account is \$25,635.** In July our current account donations and rent exceeded operating expenses by \$3,615 helping to reduce our current year deficit – thank you for this much needed response to our request. We encourage members to continue to support the current account and the deficit reduction as they did in June and July throughout the remainder of 2023 to bring our overall deficit to zero.

Card Playing

Hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer and is ready to resume playing cards. We will begin playing euchre and solo on **Thursday, September 7 at 1:00 p.m.**

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

Contact: Bob Berg (519) 896-1918

Choir News

Hopefully, everyone has had an enjoyable, relaxing summer and feeling refreshed, we are ready to begin a new choir season.

ADULT CHOIR rehearsals begin
Wednesday, September 13 at 2:30 pm

HAND BELL CHOIR rehearsals begin
Wednesday, September 13 at 4:00 pm

CHILDREN'S CHOIR rehearsals will be held following certain Sunday morning services – dates to be announced.

CHIME BELL CHOIR rehearsals will be held following certain Sunday morning services – dates to be announced.

A Christmas Cantata is planned for
Sunday, December 3, 2023

MORE MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND NEEDED IN ALL CHOIRS!

If you have any questions, please contact our Music Director, Gloria Berg at 519-896-1918

Pie Auction

Attention all Bakers and Pie Lovers!

We are having a pie auction on **Sunday, September 24** after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

What we need from you:

Bakers: we need you to start planning your most delicious pie you would make to donate to the auction.

Pie Lovers: we need you the most to start dreaming of the pies you would like to eat and to start saving for your purchase, there could be someone else that wants the same pie you do.

All funds raised will go towards the boiler fund. More information will be announced on the Sundays before the auction.

Confirmation Class for youth born between 2009 and 2011

All Youth entering Grade 7 or 8 (older students are welcome) are invited to join Confirmation Class. Meeting dates will be determined together with the group. Class will start at the beginning of October. Please reach out to Pastor Heike by September 18 if you are interested.

Season of Creation and Memorial Trees Blessing

Sunday, September 3

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to pray and protect our common home. The Season of Creation begins on September 1, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. This year's topic is: Let Justice and Peace Flow.

Our Season of Creation Celebration at St. Luke's starts on September 3 with a festive Worship Service. After the Worship Service everyone is invited to gather outside for a blessing of our 'Memorial Trees'. Sharon Eggleston has created 'Memorial Rocks' which will be laid down in front of each tree.

First Day of School

Wednesday, September 6

The first day that the children attend school this year is Wed. Sept. 6. The Community Connections Group will be setting up a table outside, prior to school starting with books, crafts and school supplies for them to take as a gift from us! If you are able to donate pencils, erasers, crayons etc., it would be very much appreciated. Please place in the gold box under the narthex stairwell.

Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 10

Sunday School kick off is happening on Rally Sunday, September 10. Let's start into an amazing year of Sunday School with a Blessing during the Worship Service, registration for Sunday School, games and fun in class and an ice cream social after the service.

JOIN US FOR MESSY CHURCH!

**Friday, September 29 starting at 5:30 pm
St. Luke's Fellowship Hall**

What is this?

An opportunity to join the congregation and community for fellowship, supper, conversation and kid crafts.

We will have supper together followed by time for adults to have conversation and coffee/tea, while we run a craft program for the kids attending.

There is no charge, however we are asking you to sign up so we can ensure we have sufficient food. See the sign-up list on the Courtyard bulletin board starting September 3.

Display for Thanksgiving Worship Service

Saturday, October 7

Attention gardeners – it would be highly appreciated if you could put aside some of your produce for our Thanksgiving Display. Items can be dropped off at the church in the morning of October 7 between 8:30 and 9:30 am. After the Worship Service on Thanksgiving, you can either take home your items or leave them for donation at church. We will check in with Stanley Park Eats if they have use for them or leave them with our Blessing Box. Sunday School children are invited to bring a fruit or a vegetable to the Thanksgiving Worship Service. The children will have a procession into the church and celebrate Thanksgiving in their classroom.

Checking In / Thinking Forward Workshop

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Congregational Leaders from the Grand River and Two Rivers Ministry Areas are invited to continue the conversation started in May at St. Paul's Bridgeport, which featured presentations by Synod Leadership and Congregational Redevelopment Services. This follow-up workshop will allow for more time to discuss in small, mixed groups several questions that flow from the first session ("thinking about possible pathways forward and discerning the Spirit's calling into God's future" as a local area of Lutheran churches). There will also be time for congregational groups to gather at the end to compare notes. We hope this will be a fun, active morning, and we hope all participants will learn from other congregations and explore important issues in more depth.

Some important information:

1. You are not required to have attended the May meeting.
2. 9:30 am – 10:00 am will be an informal time of gathering with a light breakfast and refreshments. There is no need to arrive prior to 9:30 am, and it's fine just to arrive right before 10:00 am
3. 10:00 am – 12:00 pm will be the more formal time of structured discussions around a few questions.
4. The workshop will be held at St. Matthews Lutheran, 54 Benton St. in Kitchener
5. Parking is available in the lot directly beside the church off Benton Street. Free overflow parking is available adjacent on the surface parking lot (Lot #7) which you can enter from Queen Street South.
<https://stmatthew.com/contact/location-accessibility-and-parking/> Paid parking is available in the parking garage across the street.
6. Enter via the "Office Entrance" off the main parking lot, and follow the signs to the Hall.
7. Accessibility: There are permit accessible parking spots on Church St. beside the church. You may enter via the double wooden doors ("Church House" down the street) without steps. The morning will all be on one floor.

AN EASTERN SYNOD
TWO RIVERS and
GRAND RIVER MINISTRY
AREA GATHERING

Eastern Synod

Checking In

Thinking Forward

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

Let's continue the conversation from May to think about possible pathways forward and discern the Spirit's calling into God's future.

PART 2

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

SATURDAY SEPT 16

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

10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Conversation

ST. MATTHEWS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 54 BENTON STREET, KITCHENER

Attention Youth and Post-Secondary Students

High school students can work towards their volunteer hours at church, for example as Sunday School Helpers, live-streaming the Worship Services, as Ushers or Worship Assistants or as helpers for church events. Keep your eyes open for church events and reach out to Pastor Heike if you are interested (pastor.heike@gmail.com or 519.212.9952). Pastor Heike is happy to be your reference as well when you apply for a job, volunteer position or scholarship. Post-secondary students who are members of St. Luke's or former members of St. Philip's can apply for a \$500 bursary fund. Application forms are available at the office. The Eastern Synod offers several scholarships for post-secondary students who are active members in the church. More information about the Eastern Synod scholarships can be found here: <https://easternsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/REV-2022-2023-Scholarship-Application-Page-1-5-1.pdf>.

News from the WEPP TEAM

Our summer rest seems to be almost at the end, and we hope that everyone had a healthy and relaxing summer, despite all the terrible news about the many bush fires all over Canada, and the world. So many people were evacuated and many lost their homes and livelihoods! We pray for all of them.

The people of the WEPP TEAM Planning Group, Karin Mielke, Jane Gastmeier, Nahlah Jeorje, Tom Tenjis and Pastor Bestvater have been meeting every Sunday before worship on the design and details of a Personal Witness Workshop for our St. Luke's members and those of our sister congregations of the Grand River Ministry Area. You may recall that we shared with you the reasons for promoting a Personal Witness Workshop, as the following:

1) Our Lord Christ demands from us that we teach the nations everything he has commanded us, (Mat.28:16 fwd.) and in Acts 1:8, Jesus is recorded to say that we will be his witnesses, with the power of the Holy Spirit to 'the end of the earth'.

2) Research done in North American churches over the last 25 years has revealed that spiritual conversations have become downright embarrassing. People asked about personal witness confessed that they did not learn to talk about faith at church. "Growing up in the church I was not taught that I had a story to tell. I was not encouraged to consider my own faith story and how it might have an impact on someone else."

3) Current Christian leaders and researchers like Professor Precilla Pope Levison and Brian McLaren believe that while the word 'evangelism' serves as an unacceptable concept for any activity for current church members, due to the negative examples provided by the televangelists of the past fifty years, it is never the less absolutely necessary, today more so than ever, because the sharing of the good news creates life-changing conversations, offering 'a taste of grace and a rumor of glory' as Bruce Cockburn puts it.

4) While all the different ways of doing evangelism, rather witnessing, as we now call it, Personal, Small Group, Visitation, Liturgical, Church Growth, Prophetic, Revival, and Media evangelism can bring about desired results, it is personal witnessing in our ongoing relationships that provides a natural long-term means of Christian growth in fellowship with the other.

For these reasons and also because sharing our own Christ story at our meetings has proven to be a faith-growing experience, we have been moved to complete the design for this Personal Witness Workshop.

The Prologue to the workshop reads as follows: "Many of us Lutheran Christians who are diligent in attending worship and may be members of one or more committees, are feeling that worship attendance and committee work is not satisfying. Something is missing! If you are part of this group and feel that more is required of your Christian life, and you have more than once heard scripture proclaim the words of Jesus: 'you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth', and if you want to take these words of our Christ seriously, then this workshop is for you!

We ask that you pray for this workshop and your need to attend it.

In Christian love, the WEPP TEAM Planning Group

New Bible Study starts in September

The Witness Education Personal Preparation Team (WEPP) is happy to announce that we are able to offer two different Bible Study Group times in Fall. Both groups will work with the Serendipity House Bible Study 'Beliefs: Basic Christianity'. Group 1 starts on **Sunday, September 17, at 8:00 am** (Breakfast will be served) and Group 2 will meet on **Thursday evenings, starting on September 21, at 6:30 pm** (Snacks will be served). Each session concludes in itself. If you miss a session, you can always join the other group to catch up.

Bazaar

Saturday, November 4

We will be asking for the following donations, if you are able:

- Preserves, jams, jelly
- Baked goods (cakes, pies, cookies, tarts, loaves) and candy
- Items for raffle
- Items for knitting table

The church will be open all-day Friday, November 3 to receive these items. Thank you.

VENDOR TABLES: \$25.00 per table

Please contact Jeanette Wyatt at 519 896-0712

Planning Meeting:

Wednesday, September 13 at 9:00 am

St. Luke's Women

Bake Sale

Thank you to everyone who provided items for our bake sale at the TRUNK SALE event in June. It was a great success. Proceeds from our table were raised in support of the "Boiler Fund".

We continue to collect items for 'Canadian Food for Children', as listed on our bulletin board and in the weekly email. They are very appreciative of our support to their program, with thanks and prayers to all.

Fall Programs

Please note that our meetings have been switched to Thursday evenings to better accommodate ongoing church functions.

Thursday, October 12 at 6:30 pm

Ladies Night Out

Thursday, November 16 at 6:30 pm

Desert Social with a Travel Presentation

Community Connections Committee

Request: The first day that the children attend school this year is Wed Sept 6. We will be setting up a table outside, prior to school starting, with books, crafts and school supplies for them to take as a gift from us! If you are able to donate pencils, erasers, crayons, etc., it would be very much appreciated. Please place in the gold box under the narthex stairwell.

Trunk Sale: Saturday, June 10 – results

Funds from the bake table by St. Luke's Women and the garage sale items organized by Pastor Heike were given to the "Boiler Fund" – quite a sufficient donation; thanks to all for attending.

The table vendor fees were donated to 'Food4Kids' in the amount of \$420.00. Thank you so much to Donna Berscht for taking on this very successful venture. *"Food4Kids Waterloo Region delivers healthy food to Children living with chronic hunger"*. They were so thankful for our donation and sent a lovely thank you message. Please check our bulletin board for more information about this organization.



Community Connection Committee Fall Meetings:

Wednesday, September 13 at 10:00 am

Wednesday, November 8 at 10:00 am

A special thank you to our committee for all their time and effort and support of our projects!

Continuing Programs:

- Blessing Box
- Card ministry
- Christmas gifts for shut-ins
- Stanley Park Eats - list of needs is in the weekly email

Thanks to Bonita Ziegler for delivering these items for us!

- Visitation team
- Recycling beyond the blue box

Stanley Park Market

We hope that you had a chance to come out and see our booth at the Stanley Park Market. It is a lovely community event with food trucks, crafters, produce, music, and children's activities.

Our table was successful – gifts for the children, crafts and promotion of our Blessings Box. We found the attendees to be supportive of our table and hopefully we made some new friends; certainly, lots of interest.

Thank you so much to the ladies who worked the table, sometimes through HEAT and rain!

We were happy to be able to show our presence in the community.



Two New Ventures

Recycling Beyond the Blue Box:

We are working with a community group to gather items that can be recycled but are not collected in the regular blue box system. Containers for collection are in the narthex: Oral & Personal Care Products, Staples Writing Instruments, Beauty Products and All Brita Parts. Full details are on the individual containers and there is a list on the bulletin board.

These initiatives are supported by major manufacturing companies. In some cases, proceeds collected are donated to Canadian Food for Children. (See poster page 8)

New Initiative:

We have had a request from "The Sharing Place", which recently lost its church home due to the closing of the church. We are going to move forward with letting them use our facility for their program.

We are excited to hear more from them at our September meeting and will pass the information to you. Their program collects clothing for refugees and offers them for pick-up three times a year. We are happy that they are able to continue with their program!

Please see page 8 for more information about the Sharing Place.

RECYCLING BEYOND THE BLUE BOX!

Oral & Personal care products

- Mouthwash bottles & caps
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant containers & caps
- Soap packaging & floss containers
- Toothpaste tubes & cap
- Dental flossers

Staples writing instrument

- Pens
- Pencils
- Markers
- Highlighters
- Mechanical Pencils

Beauty Products

- Plastic & glass tubes
- Pots, pumps, sprays, & jars
- Lipstick, lip balm, & lip gloss tubes cases/caps
- Mascara tubes
- Eyeliner pencils and cases
- Eyeshadow & bronzer cases
- Foundation packaging
- Powder cases
- Eyeshadow & concealer tubes/sticks

The Sharing Place

The Sharing Place at Christ the King has changed and evolved over the last 15 years. It started with an individual who had women and children clothing items in her garage to give to women who made an appointment with her. She soon found herself overwhelmed and asked if she could use space in our Christ the King building. Some volunteers from our congregation helped her hold a free yard sale. Shortly thereafter, she moved away but we decided to keep the Sharing Place going. Our first volunteers held a give-away event one Thursday a month September to June. It was held in the morning and became more of a coffee gathering than anything. The original volunteers felt there wasn't enough interest to keep it going; so, at this point a new young member of our congregation took it over and further developed it. Now we were getting a large number of guests coming for items. Many are families living marginally and retirees. We don't ask for proof of need. Some felt better putting change into the donation can and these funds are used to purchase food for the food pantry.

This worship program will now move to St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church and we are looking forward to working together as one group of dedicated Christians.

-- Carol Stephenson

Our foster children in the Dominican Republic

St. Luke's currently sponsors two (2) children in the Dominican Republic through Servant Heart Ministries (SHM). The program is called 'Hugs for Kids'. The program provides kids with hope that they can realize a dream. There is support through the school, nutrition/food security and follow up with the family unit (often lacking role models).

Please check upcoming newsletters and the courtyard bulletin board for more information about our sponsorship.

- Vic Lytle and Cathy Wilke

Feather and Cross

Come and celebrate the Way of Friendship with us on **October 14, 2023, from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**. The event promises to be a fun-filled day of Indigenous learning with Adrian Jacobs, Senior Leader for Indigenous Justice and Reconciliation, CRC. You will get to enjoy stories of friendship, share soup lunch, learn about history and try out the basics of lacrosse with Spartan Lacrosse. We also have activities planned for younger children.

Tickets will be available on Eventbrite starting September 3. If you would like to volunteer for set up, clean up, children's activities, or any other inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at admin@featherandcross.org.

Epicure Fundraiser for the Boiler Fund

My name is Carolyn Da Silva, daughter of Barb and Bob Pitz, and I am an Epicure Ambassador. Epicure is a Canadian company based out of British Columbia and has been in business since 1997. We offer clean and healthy ingredients in a wide range of spices, marinade, dressings and meal solutions. We offer families meal options that are done in 20 minutes or less.

Epicure offers an amazing fundraising kit, Weeknights Dinner Collection that includes five easy meal solutions plus a dessert. The meal solutions

that are included in the Fundraising Kit are: Taco Seasoning, Beef & Broccoli, Chicken Souvlaki Seasoning, Crispy & Crunchy Coating Mix and Mac & Cheese. The dessert is Chocolate Instant Pudding Mix. All of our products are gluten free, healthy and high quality.

The cost of the weeknight's dinner collection is \$25.00. Your organization would receive 40% of all funds raised—that is \$10.00 per collection sold.

An Epicure Fundraising Brochure will be available for viewing on Sunday, September 17.



WHY FUNDRAISE WITH EPICURE?

REACH YOUR GOALS FASTER | Earn 40% on each sale; that's \$10 toward your cause for every collection sold!

NO BULK BUYING | You don't have to worry about inventory; what's ordered is what's received.

GET PAID RIGHT WAY | Funds will be raised as quickly as your Team can sell!

PAIN-FREE PROCESS | You coordinate the sellers and your Epicure Consultant arranges order and bulk delivery.

EVERYONE EATS | That means everyone's a potential customer!

Provide your sellers with the order form and collect orders and payment; your Epicure Consultant will handle the ordering and delivery to you. It's an easy way for your organization to raise meaningful funds, while also helping your community enjoy the benefits of Good Food. Real Fast.™

WEEKNIGHT DINNERS

PRICE: \$25

The Weeknight Dinners collection is packed with an assortment of easy meal solutions that help you get dinner on the table fast.

Bonus: They're gluten- and nut-free (excludes coconut).

- A. Taco Seasoning
- B. Beef & Broccoli Stir-Fry Seasoning
- C. Chicken Souvlaki Seasoning
- D. Crispy & Crunchy Coating Mix
- E. Mac & Cheese Seasoning
- F. Chocolate Instant Pudding Mix



WHY IS THIS COLLECTION EXCITING?

It answers the daily "What's For Dinner?" question. 80% of people don't know what they're having for dinner at 4 pm!



E P I C U R E

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 stlukestreasurer317@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
Nov-Dec 2023 NEWSLETTER
is October 15th**