

Interconnectedness

A while ago I did one of these DNA tests to find out more about my heritage. Although skeptical at first of giving away such personal data, I was kind of excited to learn more about my ancestry, especially because my family tree is only preserved in fragments until the late seventeenth hundreds. I'm of 60% German heritage – no surprise here, but the rest is a colourful mix of Jewish, Baltic, East European, Scottish, English and Norwegian, which was partly a surprise as I only was aware that my father's family was originally from former East Prussia. Nevertheless, it got me thinking – isn't it fascinating how these people, my ancestors who lived hundreds of years ago, are still somehow present in me with a building block of my DNA? Although I don't know who these people were, through what struggles, joys and sorrows they lived, they are a part of who I am. Or maybe there are things that I do not want to know about them. Who knows how many bad guys are hiding in the branches of my family tree? My family of origin is small – neither my parents nor I have siblings, but obviously according to the results of my DNA test there are a bunch of second, third and fourth cousins who pretty much live around the whole globe, and who share part of my DNA with me. Fascinating. Even more so, when I think about how this connects us all with each other. Genealogy is certainly popular in our day and age, with electronic registries, it's easier to do research on your ancestors, and I can understand the longing to know where we come from, to see oneself in the lineage of a bigger entity, and maybe to get a better understanding of who we are.

Genealogy is not a modern thing. We will find many of them in the bible. Those aren't texts we find in our Sunday's lectionary and I have to admit it has been a while, but when I read the bible from the

beginning to the end. I usually skipped them in my reading plan. So, why genealogies in the bible? They provide important records of historical succession, continuity, and legitimacy, but they give us unique insights into the lives of prominent biblical characters as well. The genealogies of Jesus, for example in the gospels of Matthew and Luke, do not only show lists of pure royalty or perfect character, but there are a bunch of people with some dark history as well as unfaithful Kings, non-Jewish people or someone like Judah, who was one of the brothers who sold Joseph to slave traders and who later had two sons with his widowed daughter-in-law, Tamar, who dressed up like a prostitute to present herself to him. King David is another difficult character in Jesus' lineage. He seduced his neighbour's wife, Bathsheba, gets her pregnant and then sends her husband to the front where he dies, which clears the road for him to make Bathsheba his own. In Jesus' lineage we see faithful people and broken people.

Through them God exemplifies how He uses everyone to fulfill His purpose. We see controversial figures named in every genealogy in the Bible because, positive or negative, these individuals made an impact on society and shaped future prominent people. The same can apply to our own family trees. Each story, each generation, and each member of the genealogy points back to how God can work through us – they are part of us and who we are.

I'm looking forward to some family time during the summer break, with some visits from extended family and friends from Germany. Time to ponder about how we are interconnected, time to share mutual experiences and to enjoy each other's presence.

Wishing you all a blessed summer, 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.

Council Update January-April 2024

- Received a thank you card from Katelynn Hanley for the bursary she received.
- Discussed business arising from the AGM.
- Circulated a petition regarding Bill S-210 Protecting Young Persons from Exposure to Pornography Act - Parliament of Canada.
- February Meeting: Welcomed new council member Cathy Dowling and all returning council members and appointed executive officers of the council, decided on the meetings for the year, liaisons to committees and council members signed up for devotions.
- Committees are asked to update their job descriptions so that the bylaws can be updated.
- As a service to the community, Fergus Place will be allowed to use St Luke's as an emergency evacuation location.
- The Franklin Public School slip and fall lawsuit that St. Luke's was added to, was settled without any cost to us.
- Approved a small pay increase to our Office Administrator.
- Have accepted that, according to Group Services guidelines, we are required to enroll the Music Director in the Benefits plan at a cost of \$433.00 per month.

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

SOCIALITES:

ATTENTION ALL! ADVANCE NOTICE!

Plans are underway for possible upcoming events – depending on interest.

July 27:

Grand River Champion of Champions Powwow at Ohsweken Speedway

September/October:

Weekend Getaway to Port Stanley

November/December:

The Sounds of Christmas, a Nicole Gusé production

Watch the courtyard bulletin board and Sunday bulletins for future details! Or speak to Committee Members Donna Finch, Debbie Gastmeier, or Kathy Thomsen.



Sunday, May 19 Worship Service with Bishop Michael Pryse

Summer Worship Services

This year our summer Worship Services will again alternate indoors and outdoors. If the weather is not cooperating on a scheduled Outdoor Worship Service Day, we will move into the sanctuary. Please note that the Outdoor Worship Services will be more contemporary with shortened liturgy. There will be no live-streaming in July and August. This year you don't need to bring your own lawn chair to the Outdoor Worship Services, unless you want to and, we kindly ask you to bring umbrellas, water and sunscreen for your own safety. The Outdoor Services take place on the fore place of the church including the lawn in front of the education wing.

Pastor Heike will be on vacation from July 2 - July 7 and from July 22 - August 8.

Summer Worship Service Schedule:

- July 7: Indoor with Communion
Rev. Claudine Carlson
- July 14: Outdoor
- July 21: Indoor with Communion
- July 28: Outdoor
Rev. Claudine Carlson
- August 4: Indoor with Communion
Rev. Barry Boeckner
- August 11: Outdoor
- August 18: Indoor with Communion
- August 25: Outdoor

Emergency Contacts:

- July 2 – July 5: Rev. Shirley Ruller 519-748-4304
- July 6 – July 7: Pastor Heike 519-212-9952
- July 22 – Aug 8: Pastor Jim Koellner 519-895-2527
or cell: 519-505-1876

My heartfelt gratitude to all retired pastors who make it possible that I can have a break during the summer to reenergize.

-- *Pastor Heike*

Neighbours Day

We are hosting a **Neighbours Day Porch concert on Saturday, June 15 at 4:00 pm** with live music from "Mr. J. and the Groovy Gang". This will be a fun afternoon with free Kid's Activities, good music and hopefully a Food Truck. Stay tuned!

Ish'N Chips

Our favourite fish and chip dinner food truck, Ish'N Chips, will return every other **Wednesday evening 4:30-7:00 pm starting June 5.**



Sweet Singing

Hymn Sing and Dessert Pot Luck

Join Us @ St. Stephen

Saturday June 1st from 2-4pm

Rain or Shine

248 Highland Rd W. Kitchener

Local Lutheran churches are gathering at St. Stephen to sing and to share desserts. We will gather in the green space at the corner of Highland Road and Stirling Ave. which hosts their new labyrinth, spending the first hour singing with the band, and the second hour sharing a dessert potluck.

Bring a chair (we will have some available) or blanket, and something sweet to share. Those comfortable on grass are welcome there, and those who like more solid footing will have space on the asphalt. If it rains we will be indoors.

Highland is under construction and the greenspace is a 2-minute walk from the parking lot. We are happy to help carry things if you need assistance.



St. Luke's Women

Fellowship of the Least Coin:

Thanks to everyone for helping with this project. We raised just shy of \$140.00.

2024 Meetings:

Our first two meetings were well attended. We planned our programs for the year, prepared prayers for peace and enjoyed pot luck with Donna Finch presenting her life's journey in ministry.

Ladies Night Out: Thursday, October 10

Collectibles:

We are continuing to collect items to support those in need and contribute to community concerns and environmental needs, as posted in the weekly email and on our bulletin board.

- Canadian Food for Children, Pneumonia vests, mitten tree
- Currency for Kids, pop can tabs, prayer shawl ministry
- Battery recycling

A special thank you for a generous donation of funds for our knitting projects! If you wish to donate yarn, we are in need of worsted weight, now called weight #4.

Community Connections Committee

Our group continues to be very active in serving the needs of our church family and the community around us. If you want to assist us in any manner, we would be thankful for your help.

Blessings Box:

We are always in need of children's books. Our box has been very well received by those in our area.

Card Ministry:

Jeanette Wyatt is handling this ministry. Cards are sent out for special occasion, in sympathy, prayers for healing and in support of the Sunday School children. She is always in need of stamps, if this is a way you might want to help.

Stanley Park Eats:

The Sunday email keeps us up to-date with the items that are needed to prepare Wednesday meals for those with food insecurities. Monetary donations are also accepted for buying fresh produce; if you are able to help in this manner, please contact Bonita Ziegler.

Pop-up Bakery:

There is a sign-up sheet on our bulletin board for baking in support of our "deficit reduction" or just bring to the event on June 23. Our April event raised \$187.00 and in May \$193.00 – thank you.

Stanley Park Market:

We are taking on a table at the market again this year just to maintain a presence in the community. If you are able to take a shift, there is a sign-up sheet on our bulletin board.

Trunk Sale:

Saturday, June 1 from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

Again this year, we hold a Church Bake Table and Church Garage Sale Table (proceeds of both will go towards the deficit reduction).

The Sharing Place:

Friday, June 7 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Saturday, June 8 from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

Held at St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Board Room.

The Sharing Place offers free clothing, toys and household items to those in need. This is their third event at our church. The first two events were very busy and well appreciated by those who attended.

WEPP TEAM

Our Summertime Witness Network

The WEPP Team is inviting our congregation to participate in our **Summertime Witness Network**. It is our mandate to provide opportunities for spiritual growth at St Luke's. We provide this Scripture Explorations in the Gospel of Mark Chapter 7:1-37, in the hope of starting spiritual conversations between you, the members of St Luke's, and our Team. It is our hope that your spring and summer will refresh not only your physical well-being but also nurture your spiritual needs. For this purpose we provide eight study periods for the 37 verses of the chapter of Mark. May God bless your joyful explorations!

Introduction to Mark 17:1-37

In this passage, dismissing by Jesus of all Jewish dietary regulations constitutes a major block of controversy with the religious leaders of the day. Jesus' adversaries did not agree with his teaching about what is clean and unclean in the sight of God, and neither do the stricter forms of Judaism today. Even the Lords' own disciples did not understand his teaching, and does that not remain true for many of us today?

Read the whole passage every time you begin your next verse of exploration and then proceed to the verse(s).

Vs 1-5: Which tradition are the Pharisees and scribes defending in their question to Jesus? Is there a religious or other tradition which you hold sacrosanct and wish not to have violated?

Vs 6-8: What does Jesus accuse them of by using the text from his scriptures in the Isaiah text? Have you ever used our scriptures to show how Jesus supports your position?

Vs 9-13: Again, what does Jesus accuse them of here? Have you ever experienced conflict between your personal/religious obligations and your obligations to your loved ones?

Vs 14-16: What is the issue debated by the Pharisees and Jesus?

Given this debate how do the Pharisees define the meaning of 'spiritual'?

How does Jesus? How would you?

Vs 17-23: Analyze the unclean things Jesus says are coming out of the heart. Which of these are you struggling with most? Why?

Vs 24-30: This Greek woman from Syrian Phoenicia was a religious outsider. What causes Jesus to compare her with a dog? What changed him? Have you ever felt like an outsider? What was it like? How would you reach out to someone who might feel like an outsider?

Vs 31-37: Jesus helped the man hear and speak. What would you like Jesus to help you say to someone?

Final question:

Is there an urgent concern in your life that needs prayer? Write it into the prayer box for next Sunday!

Summer Bible Study

This summer, from **June 9 – August 25**, we will offer a bible study every Sunday morning at 8:00 am about the book of Revelation called 'Hope – Looking at the end of time'. Each session is closed in itself, which means you can join at any time.

Celebrating our Volunteers

"Making a Difference in our Community"

In this newsletter, we would like to celebrate the amazing work that Gay Anderson does for St. Luke's and our community.

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church:

St. Luke's Women

- Chair of group – off and on 30 years
- Arrange for programs (with assistance from group); prepare posters and advertising of events.
- Submit newsletter and annual meeting reports.
- On kitchen committee (30+ yrs)
- Assist at luncheons (30+ yrs)

St. Luke's Women Collectibles

- Organizing collectibles for distribution.
- Knitting hats for Mitten Tree (3 yrs)
- Collecting items for Canadian Food for Children and delivering to facility (6 yrs); collecting and delivering pneumonia vests (20 yrs)
- Collection of used batteries and delivering (1 yr)
- Collecting currency for Currency for Kids and delivering to Family Services, Kitchener (1 yr)

Community Connections Committee

- Co-chair of committee
- Submit newsletter and annual meeting reports.
- **Blessings Box:** maintaining box weekly. (2 yrs)
- **Visitation Team:** keeping contact with three members. (1 yr)
- **Beyond the Blue Box:** collecting particular recycling items and delivering to Stanley Park Community Centre. (1 yr)
- **The Sharing Place:** church liaison; organizing items as they come in; some advertising; assisting during event.
- **Stanley Park Market:** taking turns at manning our table during their summer event. (1 yr)
- **Food4kids** – delivering products collected at the church to their facility. (1 yr)
- **Deficit reduction fundraising** – organizing & assisting at sales or raffle table. (1 yr)

Bazaar

- Committee member (20 yrs)
- Help set up event and take down; man table at event.

Church Decorating Team

- Committee member (4 yrs)
- Decorate the church for special occasions.

In addition to all the hours she gives at St. Luke's, Gay is also involved with...

Canadian Food for Children

- Sorting items for delivery to overseas relief weekly (6 yrs)
- Knitting pneumonia vests (20 yrs)

Garden Club of Kitchener Waterloo

- Maintaining the garden at KidsAbility in Waterloo weekly April through October (6 yrs)

In Gay's words, "That's it! NO BAKING – never."

Thank you Gay for your energy, your dedication and smiles to enrich the lives of so many families in our community.

If you would like to honour a member of our St. Luke's volunteers, please submit your article to Helga in the office.



Thank you Gay!

Image from freeimages.com

Update from your Finance Committee

Spring has sprung and summer is just around the corner. We'd like to remind members that St. Luke's needs your current account donations whether you attend church or not during the summer months as our operating expenses continue over the summer months. At the end of April our total operating account deficit was \$12,359 (\$9,940 from 2024 and \$2,419 carried forward from 2023). You can see from the chart below, operating expenses exceeded current account donations and rent in January, February and March. In April, current account donations and rent exceeded operating expenses and we hope to see this continue throughout the rest of the year. Our hope is that we eliminate this deficit by the end of 2024. Donation options include PAR, e-transfer or drop off in our secure mailbox beside the front entrance to the church if you are not able to attend. We thank you for your continued support of St. Luke's.

Operating account analysis					
2024	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Year to Date
Income	14,682	15,860	17,819	18,152	66,513
Expense					
adminisration	1,057	2,029	684	738	4,508
property	2,809	3,817	6,292	2,493	15,411
salaries & benefits	12,100	15,922	14,669	13,602	56,293
Worship&Music	151	-	90	-	241
subtotal	16,116	21,768	21,735	16,833	76,453
Net	- 1,434	- 5,908	- 3,917	1,319	- 9,940
2023 Deficit analysis					
2023 Deficit		- 6,193			
Deficit reduction payts rec'd		3,774			
Balance		- 2,419		Total Deficit	- 12,359

Summer Precautions

We all know that it can get very hot in our sanctuary during the summer and this can cause some heat related health problems. To keep us all safe, we would like to implement some precautions. We have set up electrical fans in the sanctuary, which will run during the whole Worship Service. Depending on humidity the windows will be opened before the Worship Service begins to provide more airflow. We encourage you to bring a water bottle with you, dress accordingly and please remain seated if standing for a longer period of time is challenging for you. If you need to step outside during the service to get some fresh air, please do not hesitate to do so. St. Luke's is a judgement free zone! Whatever you need to do to feel safe and comfortable, please follow along. From June until the end of August, Pastor and Worship Assistants will not gown as it is especially hot at the front of the church.

Weekly Offerings

Council Members:

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

Standing Committee Chairs:

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

Church Office:

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

Office Hours:

Mon/Wed 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Thu 9:00 – 2:00 pm

Website:

stlukeslutheran.ca

Pastor Heike

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

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.).

If you have any questions, please contact Dave DeCoppel at stlukestreasurer317@gmail.com

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
Sep-Oct Newsletter
is August 15.