

Peter's Net

January/February 2022

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*****As of January 1, 2022 Congregational Council has made the decision that due to the high number of COVID cases in our community and province, all worship services will be fully online until further notice. Please watch our website and Facebook page for updates.*****

From the Pastor's Desk:

"And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road." (Matthew 2:12)

January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany in the church. Falling 13 days after Christmas, Epiphany is when the church commemorates the visit of the Magi to young Jesus (as recounted in the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12).

There's a particular part of this story that has always piques my interest. After the magi visit the Christ Child *they return to their home by another way*. They could not risk meeting up again with King Herod who would have demanded to know whether or not they had found the Messiah. They knew the danger Herod posed to this child and so they choose to return home by another route.

I wonder, was this alternate route less direct? Was it a more challenging way for them to go? What new wonders did they discover as their adventure continued on this other road?

The journey of the Magi to find the Christ Child is a helpful metaphor for our own journey of life and faith. In our striving to find meaning and purpose and God, we often find ourselves on paths we've never travelled before. We often find ourselves on paths we may not have wanted to travel. But these detours and

unplanned travels often become important parts of our journey. These are times when we learn things about ourselves and about God that we may not have learned otherwise. These are times that deepen our faith.

As we face this omicron wave in the ongoing COVID pandemic, I'm feeling a little like the magi forced to take another road. This is not a road we want to be travelling, and yet here we are.

The path may not be an easy one right now, and yet the journey has not changed. God is with us and God will make a way.

As we begin another new year with so much uncertainty and so many unknowns, we remember that we are all in this together. We have done this before and God will help us do it again. And in spite of all that's hard right now we can trust that the Spirit is always leading us home.

May your journey in 2022 be filled with unexpected blessing, joy, and gifts. May you know the loving presence of God always with you. And may your journey, no matter where it takes you, lead you into deeper relationship with the one who guides our way.

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Laura

SAVE THE DATE – ANNUAL MEETING – 13th FEBRUARY

As per our constitution, our 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting is to be held following worship on February 13th, 2022. Copies of the Annual Reports will be distributed two weeks in advance by email and by hardcopy (for those without email and those who request a paper copy from the church office).

Notes from church council:

Church Council met in person on November 17 and December 15, 2021.

Highlights:

- Maintenance checks are performed regularly by Keith Bennewies to ensure that everything is in good working condition.
- We will be looking into a new water line from the parsonage to the church in the Spring of 2022.
- Seaforth Plumbing & Heating has installed a HEPA and UV system to our furnace to assist with ventilation in the building.
- Pastor Laura and Sherri Bennewies will be updating our outdated website in the New Year.
- Council passed a motion to discontinue the use of personalized church envelopes for remittance, as more are

moving to PAR. We will continue to have basic envelopes available in the church if needed.

- The Care Team has delivered Christmas Cactus to our home bound members. Thank you to those volunteers.
- Council passed a motion that beginning January 2, 2022, those attending in-building service will require proof of double vaccination for those 12 and over.
- It is that time of year again, where we are seeking new council members (3). If you are interested, please contact any council members or Pastor Laura.

Marci Feltz

Congregational Council Co-Secretary

News from the Pews

Sunday, November 7 – All Saints Sunday – Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, November 21 – 100th Anniversary building celebration – Holy Communion

Sunday, December 5 – Guest preacher Rev. Adam Snook, Assistant to the Eastern Synod Bishop – Holy Communion.

Sunday, December 19 – Prayers around the Memory Tree – Holy Communion.

Tuesday, December 21 – Longest Night Service – 7:30 PM

Friday, December 24 – 7:30 Christmas Eve Worship. Proof of vaccination required to attend. **Virtual Christmas Eve Pageant**

Saturday, December 25 – Christmas Day Holy Communion 10:00 AM

Sunday, December 26 – 10:00 AM Boxing Day Service of Lessons & Carols

Friday, December 31 – New Year's Eve

COMING UP...

Saturday, January 1 – New Year's Day.

Sunday, January 16 – Deadline for 2021 Annual Report Submissions

Sunday, January 30 – Annual Reports distributed

Sunday, February 13 – Annual Meeting

Joan Beuermann

Office Administrator

Thank you...

We recognize that the pandemic has brought financial challenges for many. We offer deep thanks to all who have been continuing their support of our ministry. St Peter's continues to need your support as we look ahead to brighter times here in Ontario. If you are in good financial shape, we ask that you please consider the church as you're able so that the church will in turn be available to help people in times of need. As always, offerings can be given in these ways:

- Mail an offering to the church
- Send an E-transfer to stpetershousebrodthagen@gmail.com
- Sign up for **Pre-Authorized Remittances** (your offering automatically comes out of your account on or around the 20th of each month). If you wish to set this up please be in touch with our book keeper Glenda (gmorrison@ezlink.ca).
- **Donate online:** <https://www.canadahel ps.org/en/charities/st-peters-lutheran-church-brodthagen/>
- Make arrangements to get it to any one of our church council members

House Blessing 2022

Take a piece of chalk and prepare to mark on the lintel of your front door. As you read below, you will draw each large letter, number, and symbol from the left column while reading the words to the right. The final drawing on the door will look like this: 20 + C + M + B + 22

Gather at the front door.

Read: **The three Wise Men,**

C Caspar,

M Melchior,

B and Balthasar, followed the star of God's Son who became human

20 two thousand

22 and twenty two years ago.

+ + May Christ bless this place,

+ + and remain with us through the new year. Amen

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Christ, God's incarnation, is present in the love and care we manifest to each other in our ordinary daily lives together.

Let us pray, (pause)

God of heaven and earth, you revealed your love born in Christ to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this space and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We pray this through Christ our Saviour.

AMEN.

Worship Schedules & Calendars

January & February volunteer and worship schedules will be distributed once worship resumes again in the building.

Currently recruiting volunteers

cherish

END OF LIFE

VON Perth-Huron Palliative Care Volunteer Program

Hospice Palliative Care is~
About hope, dignity, and choice
Focused on life and living each day
Emotional support and a compassionate presence
Sensitive to personal, cultural, and spiritual preferences



VON Palliative Care Volunteer Program

This volunteer based, non-medical service is dedicated to providing comfort, care and emotional support to individuals affected by life-threatening or life-altering illnesses and their families / care partners.

Volunteers receive extensive training in Palliative Care before being matched with an individual with similar interests and backgrounds.

The Program serves the Central/West Perth County areas, including Milverton, Millbank, Poole, Mitchell, Dublin, St. Columban and surrounding rural areas.

Community Volunteer Visiting

Visiting volunteers work in collaboration with health care providers to offer quality hospice palliative care to individuals and their families. Volunteer support is available free of charge. Individuals may self-refer, or be referred by their family member or any member of their medical team including their physician, nurse, or Care Coordinator.

A volunteer will provide caring and compassionate support by offering a listening ear, a friendly presence or a helping hand. A volunteer will provide caregivers support and time for a well-deserved break.

Bereavement Support

Trained volunteers and staff offer bereavement support through one-to-one contact with individuals grieving the loss of a loved one, and connection to regional monthly support group sessions.

Not all services are available at all VON sites. For more information and services available in your area, please contact
VON Perth-Huron, 40 Long Drive, Suite 111, Stratford, ON N5A 8A3
For more information, visit www.von.ca or call 519-271-7991 or 1-800-265-5176 ext. 4228.
Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada Perth-Huron Branch
Charitable Number: 13607 0760 RR0001