



PASTOR DENNIS BECKER

10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

December 2025

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(Pickering, ON)

Peace Lutheran Church of Bay Ridges

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Food For Thought

The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival”. Advent is a season of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation and longing. This is the focus of the entire season – the celebration of the birth of Jesus. It is hope that God brings to the world a Messiah, who will bring peace, justice and righteousness to the world. It is celebrating a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ, whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God.

The Advent wreath's circular shape symbolizes God's eternal love, while the evergreen boughs represent eternal life through Christ. We associate candles with Advent and Christmas which has come to represent the spirit and meaning of the “light of Christ” in our lives. The Advent wreath has 4 candles, which signifies: hope, peace, joy and love.



Christians around the world light traditional Advent candles to observe the coming of Christ who is the light of the world. In the Lutheran church, three purple or blue candles match the liturgical color of Advent. Blue symbolizes anticipation and hope. Purple Advent candles are a symbol of royalty and recognize Advent as a time of preparation and repentance. Pink is the Christian symbol for joy. Each candle has a specific meaning related to Advent and the birth of Christ:

First Advent Candle (purple or blue):

This is often called the "Prophecy or Prophet's candle" or the "Candle of Hope" and expectation. It symbolizes hope and God's forgiveness toward man. We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep his promises to humanity. It can also symbolize the expectation of the coming of the Messiah. The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.

Second Advent Candle (purple or blue):

The second candle reminds us that Jesus, the “Prince of Peace”, came to bring us spiritual peace. Peace on earth, goodwill to men with the love of Jesus and the promise of a Savior, who would be born in Bethlehem. So appropriately, the 2nd Advent candle is called the "Candle of Preparation," reminding Christians to "get ready" to receive God. It can also be called the “Bethlehem Candle” and represents faith. It reminds us of the experience of Joseph and Mary in the city of Bethlehem and that the birth of Jesus was foretold by prophets and angels.

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Celebrating and Sharing
God's Love for All

VISION STATEMENT:

Peace Lutheran Church is a welcoming, worshipping and witnessing community in Jesus Christ through whom healing, wellness, love and peace are offered unconditionally to all.

Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church!

As a community in Christ, we gather together in service and fellowship to discern the call of our Christian faith. Strengthened by Word and Sacrament, we are always seeking creative ways to enrich our community, both locally and globally.

Our congregation is defined largely by its warm and friendly people, a vibrant intergenerational mix of young families, youth and adults. Come as you are!

We invite you to be part of our community. We hope that you will find your time here nourishing and energizing. We look forward to learning from you as well. We listen! We care!

Our church is open! We are offering in-person worship services, livestream worship services at 10:30 a.m. or you can watch the services anytime through YouTube. Please join us! Coffee Hour is available after our worship services.

May the love of God and the Peace of Christ find you here and wherever you are! May the fire of the Holy Spirit burn in your heart always!

Office Hours:

Someone will answer the phone on a part time basis through the week (Mon - Wed and Fri, 9 to noon) to assist with calls and drop-in's. Please leave a message or email and someone will respond:

Office Tel: (905) 839-3521, or:
peacelutheran.plc@gmail.com

There is a Care Team visiting shut-in's on Wednesdays and Fridays, please contact the office if you would like to receive a visit from the team.

Our Interim Pastor Dennis Becker will be doing 2 Communion Services on the first and 3rd Sunday each month. He will be available for emergency situations only.

Food For Thought (cont.)

Third Advent Candle (pink):

The third candle symbolizes "Joy" and is also called the "Shepherd's Candle". It recalls how the angels were joyfully singing about the birth of Christ. To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them too. What a blessing to receive this message of joy from the angels. It is a time to rejoice during this time for the coming of the Lord is coming soon. The theme of the 3rd Sunday in Advent is "rejoice in joy" and the Latin word is Gaudete (Philippians 4:4). Traditionally, on Gaudete Sunday, one takes a break from Advent fasting to experience the joy of the day.

Fourth Advent Candle (purple or blue):

The fourth candle symbolizes "Love" and reminds Christians that God loves humanity enough that he sent his only Son to Earth (John 3:16). It is also referred to as the "Angel Candle" as the angels announced the birth of the baby Jesus and that Jesus came to bring peace. Jesus came to bring people close to God and to each other again. It represents the peace and justice that the angels and Christ brings to the world. It can also represent purity.

"The Christ Candle" (white):

Many Advent wreaths contain a fifth candle often referred to as the "Christ Candle" or "Christmas Candle". The candle is white to represent Jesus as being "pure light, purity and victory". The white candle stands in the center of the Advent wreath, just like Christ should stand in the center of our lives. It is white to remind us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God – clean, sinless, without blemish or stain. Jesus washes our sins away and makes us clean and without blemish through the forgiveness of sin. It represents the purity of Jesus Christ and the peace and salvation he brings to the world. It is lit on Christmas Eve/Day until the Feast of the Epiphany, which is 12 days from Christmas.

Closing:

During the season of Advent, we are called to seek the light of Christ, even in the midst of darkness. As we make this Advent journey in faith, we invite God's light to dispel the darkness. Christ is the "Light of all lights". We, as Christians, are the candles by which the world is made bright with hope and spiritual confidence. Each candle must be lighted from another. Together as a community of God's people, the church, we bring the light of each to become the light of all! Together, we share the light of Christ, lifting the darkness of doubt, despair, or fear that shrouds the world.

Eph. 5:8 "Once you were "darkness", but now as Christians you are "light". Live then as children of the light."

Food For Thought (cont.)

May this Advent season be a time when your Light radiates through the world in hope, peace, joy and love toward others.

Let us pray. Dear Lord, we pray for all people who are in need of your light and hope this season. Open our hearts to the mystery of your love and the invitation of your grace. Turn our complacency into serving and our judgments to compassionate acceptance of others. Turn oppression to justice and transform conflict to peaceful accord. Ignite the fire of the Holy Spirit in us, so that your light shines in us and your love can flow through us to help others in our neighborhood and our Global Community.

Wishing you a peaceful, joyful Christmas filled with God's blessings,

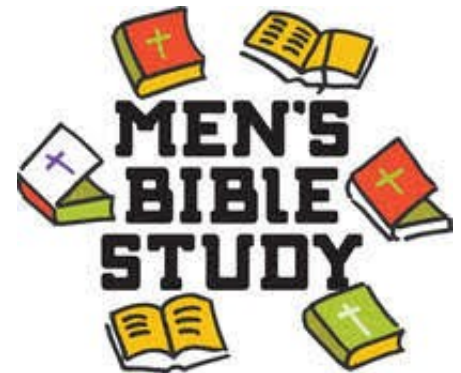
Rosie Lantzsch



PLC Men's Bible Study

The PLC Men's Bible Study continues to meet on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month.

Any men who are interested in joining should reach out to Jens Ehlers at: jensehlers@sympatico.ca or 416-951-0177, or contact the church office."



Upcoming Events

Nov. 30th, 10:30 am	-	Rosie/Arnold—1st Advent (Holden) Advent Program & Potluck (in Fellowship Hall)
Dec. 7th, 10:30 am	-	Pastor Dennis—2nd Advent (Holden & Communion)
Dec. 14th, 10:30 am	-	Rosie and Shari—3rd Advent (Holden) Wear your UGLY/CUTE CHRISTMAS SWEATER! Bake, Craft Sale and Silent Auction after service
Dec. 21st, 10:30 am	-	Pastor Dennis—4th Advent (Holden & Communion)
Dec. 24th, 7:00 pm	-	Pastor Ralph—Christmas Eve Service (Candlelight & Communion)
NOTE:		
Dec. 28th, 10:30 am	-	Rosie and Arnold—Congregation to choose hymns
Jan. 4, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Pastor Dennis (Epiphany/Communion Service)
Jan. 11, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Pastor Rasma (Baptism of Our Lord/Communion Service)

October Financials

Peace Lutheran Church of Bay Ridges Financial Statement for the General Operating Fund

October 2025

	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget
RECEIPTS			
All Donations	\$11,243	\$77,514	\$121,100
Rental Income	\$4,145	\$52,762	\$48,110
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$4,563	\$2,690
Total Receipts	\$15,388	\$134,838	\$171,900
EXPENDITURES			
Benevolence	\$750	\$7,500	\$9,000
Pastoral Remuneration	\$750	\$51,888	\$114,400
Other Staff Remuneration	\$0	\$44	\$1,000
Pastoral & Council	\$295	\$713	\$1,000
Office: Supplies, Communications	\$353	\$4,880	\$4,485
Committees	\$867	\$2,765	\$3,000
Financial	\$640	\$2,644	\$3,360
Utilities	\$407	\$7,569	\$9,800
Property	\$2,562	\$22,437	\$37,150
Total Expenditures	\$6,624	\$100,440	\$183,195
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$8,764	\$34,398	-\$11,295

Women of Prayer - Devotional Group

Our monthly after church women's prayer group has morphed into a bi-monthly devotional time called "Women of Prayer". It will kick off on the first Sunday of December. We plan to meet regularly on the first and third Sundays after church service. Lena has told us we can use the old Narthex. The format is: opening devotion, prayer requests, and one personal testimony to share how Christ works in our lives. Sirkka, Precious, Frances, Juliana, and Elizabeth are attendees so far of this group. Sirkka will announce it in church, and Lena will make a slide announcement.


designed by freepik

If anyone is interested in joining, please "drop in" - there is no set "membership". You are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Johns, Email: ehmjohns@gmail.com or you can call or email the church,

Thank you very much, Elizabeth

Christmas Message from Council

On behalf of Council, we wish you a peaceful, joyous and blessed Advent and Christmas season as we prepare for a new exciting year ahead! In reflection, there have been many changes and challenges in our church that with the support, encouragement and steadfastness from all Council members in working together, have handled with tact and grace. First of all, a huge thank you to all members of Council who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in using their gifts towards making the church run smoothly in the absence of a full time Pastor. We thank our Interim Pastor Dennis for being there for us and for your wonderful and meaningful services and sermons. We also thank all Pulpit Supply – Pastors Lowell, Rasma and Ralph for your meaningful services and sermons as well as Arnold, Shari, Rosie, Analisa and Lena for doing such a wonderful job in preparing and leading services, doing sermons and the healing service led by Elizabeth. We thank Kirsten and Tina for the gift of music and for all who sing in the choir every Sunday. We thank the Tech Team for all the work you do in keeping our services run smoothly. We thank the Property Team for all the work they do inside and outside our church including always being available to handling emergency situations. We thank all Committees and the people involved in Congregational Life, Community Lunches, the Care Team, the PLC Outreach Lunch Program and all the “behind the scenes” enormous work you do to reach out and help others. We thank all Volunteers who have cleaned our church, decorated and spruced up the church, planted, weeded and watered the Peace Garden, Memorial Garden and the new Butterfly Garden! You have ALL done so much to make the church a HOME! We are really blessed with each and every one of YOU!

This year, Council has, with the help of Tapio, secured a new insurance carrier for Peace and he researched and recommended a 20% increase to our rental rates to better reflect current rates. Council had several meetings with the Durham Region and DARS to discuss having the Warming Centre open every night from December 1st to March 31st with a later start at 9 pm and finishing at 8 am. There will be a security guard hired by the Durham Region during this time period. This agreement was recently finalized. We asked Matthew Ramdhanie to work with Bill Gregor again to put together the 2026 Budget, which we will be reviewing this month. We have “tabled” for now the Redevelopment Committee for two reasons – we are waiting for our new Pastor and we are waiting for data from our new Internal auditor. We have appointed a Call Committee and put together a Congregational Mission profile with your help. We have had several meetings with Rev. Christie and passed on the duty to find a new Pastor to the Call Committee on September 9th. The Call Committee, chaired by Shari Nelson, has narrowed the number of candidates and expects to begin interviews early in the new year. We sincerely thank everyone on the Call Committee for all their hard work.

We recognize the many ways each and every one of you have contributed, assisted and given of your time and talents over these many years, but especially now in this transitional time!

Wishing you Peace and Christmas Blessings,

Rosie Lantzsch and Sirkka Taylor
Council Co-Chairs



Dec. 14th—Bake/Craft/Silent Auction AND Wear your “Ugly (or cute)” Christmas Sweater

On Sunday December 14th, please wear your “Ugly or Cute” Christmas sweater or outfit!! You can wear “Bells on Antlers” to adorn your head or a nice flashy necklace to complete your festive mood! After all it is the 3rd of Advent and today we rejoice and celebrate the day with JOY!! As we light the 3rd candle, let us remember how the shepherds were filled with JOY when they received the message from the angels.

After service in the Fellowship Hall, Congregational Life is hosting a BAKE/CRAFT Sale and SILENT AUCTION! All proceeds will be divided between two worthy causes — PLC Outreach Lunches and PLC Care Team! Please bake a little extra this Christmas season to sell. Please label all baked goods with the name of the goodie, if nuts are included, if gluten-free and please remember to price them!

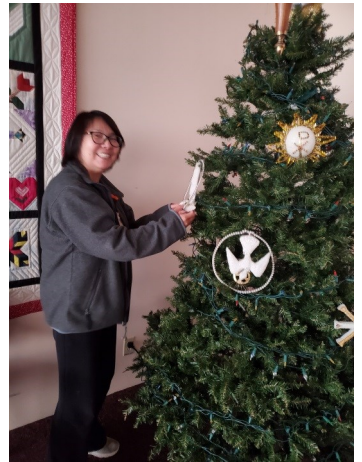
Please join us on this festive and joyful occasion!

The Congregational Team

..Lena, Angelina, Colleen and Sirkka



Christmas Decorating!



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped decorate the Sanctuary and the Narthex to make it festive for Advent and Christmas on Sunday, Nov. 23rd, after Christ the King service and during the week. Thank you Jeremy for bringing up the Christmas trees and decorations. Thank you Tapio and Rainer for setting up the tree, finding the power bar and so much more. Thank you Sirkka, Francis, Lena, Wayne and Joan for the awesome job of decorating. If I missed mentioning anyone, I'm really grateful for your help. I was so involved with decorating, I didn't take note of everyone who helped AND I totally forgot to take pictures until Sirkka reminded me. Thanks everyone!

Congratulations Owen & Paige!



Owen and Paige turned 16 on November 5th. This busy weekend was celebrated with family and friends. Both passed their beginners drivers license test and dinner out for a big day. Nothing makes me more proud, than these two!

By Phil Plath

Congratulations Owen!



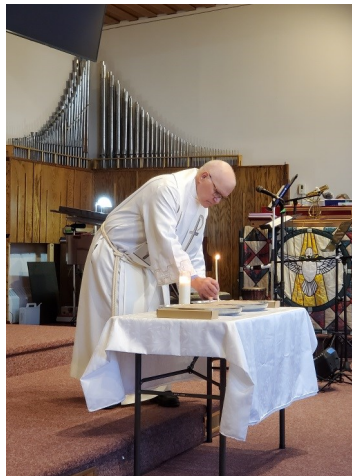
The Clarington Toros U18 A team won their International Silver Stick qualifier tournament mid November in Collingwood. This gold medal win sends the team to the International Finals Tournament in Sarnia in January, where the team will meet other qualifier teams from around North America. Teams from Europe, once attended this tournament but it is very rare now. The Toros (ranked 9th in Ontario) were able to defeat the number 3 ranked team in the province for the victory, 3-1. The Silver Stick showcase tournament is one of the most coveted Rep Hockey Tournaments in Canada. One of which is blanketed with OHL (Ontario Hockey League) scouts and Junior Team Prospect evaluators. The team is a mix of 2008 and 2009 (birth year) players. Owen is one of five 2009 first year players that made this squad. He leads the team in assists as a first line defense-man, in this, his first eligible junior draft year.



All Saints Sunday - November 2nd, 2025



It was a very meaningful All Saints Sunday on November 2nd. We all lit candles for the saints in our lives.

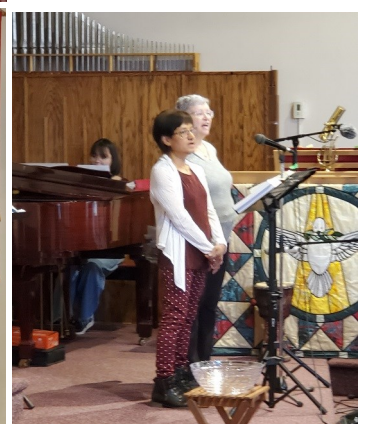




Worship Services - November 2025



Thank you Kirsten for doing the service and sermon with international songs that we sung on Sunday, November 9th. The theme was "Celebrate Unity in Christ Across the Globe"



First Sunday in Advent Worship Service (Nov. 30th)



Thank you Jane, for leading us in the Holden Evening Prayers. Thank you, Arnold for the very meaningful sermon and to Tina for playing the organ and piano so well. We wish Shari and Jemina many blessings on their birthdays, as well as many birthday blessings to Shirley, who wasn't able to be with us today.

Below & next page — Pictures of our annual Advent Potluck Lunch. Thank you Tina & friend who serenaded us during the lunch and thank you to all who participated in the Devotional called Salvation's Plan at Christmas

Advent Potluck Lunch (Nov. 30th)





Advent Potluck Lunch - Nov. 30th (cont.)



There were about 50 to 55 who were able to brave the bad weather and came to our Advent Service and Potluck Lunch. The meal was delicious. Thank you to everyone who set up, cleaned up, organized and made the day wonderful!!

Bible Fun Time in November



Thank you Joel, for all you do to make the BIBLE FUN for the children and youth who “RUN” out of sanctuary to teach them about God and Jesus in ways that most of us cannot do. You have a gift and we thank you for sharing that gift with the children/youth of Peace!

PLC Outreach Lunches in November



Thank you to all the PLC Outreach volunteers who have cooked, baked and contributed to the Saturday lunches in November. Anything you purchase for the meals (ingredients or ready made), please fill out an expense claim and submit once a month to the office for reimbursement.

The need is great and we appreciate all your help and support. The more volunteers that help—even once monthly, the less work we all have to do. We need set up/clean up, main meals, salad, dessert and snacks. Please call Lena if you are able to help.

We start serving at 12 noon and we begin with a prayer. The guests are grateful and respectful. Come and join us!



Congregational Lunch—Nov. 26th



On Wednesday, November 26th, there were about 24 members who enjoyed the wonderful Christmas meal! We had chicken which Shakura bought, mashed potatoes, vegetables, stuffing and cranberry sauce prepared by Sirkka, gravy, buns & butter, Ceasar salad, and many desserts by other volunteers! It was a feast. Thank you to all volunteers for your contributions and those who helped with serving, set up and clean up.

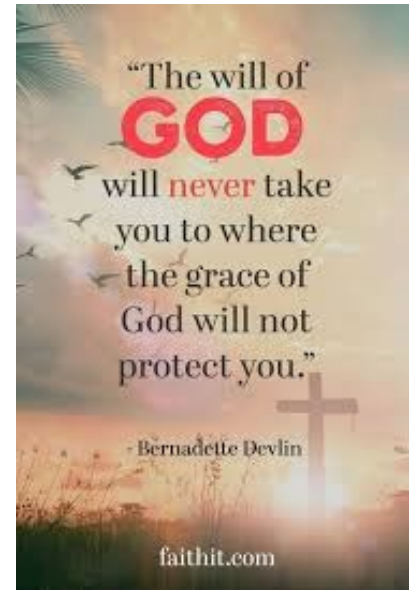
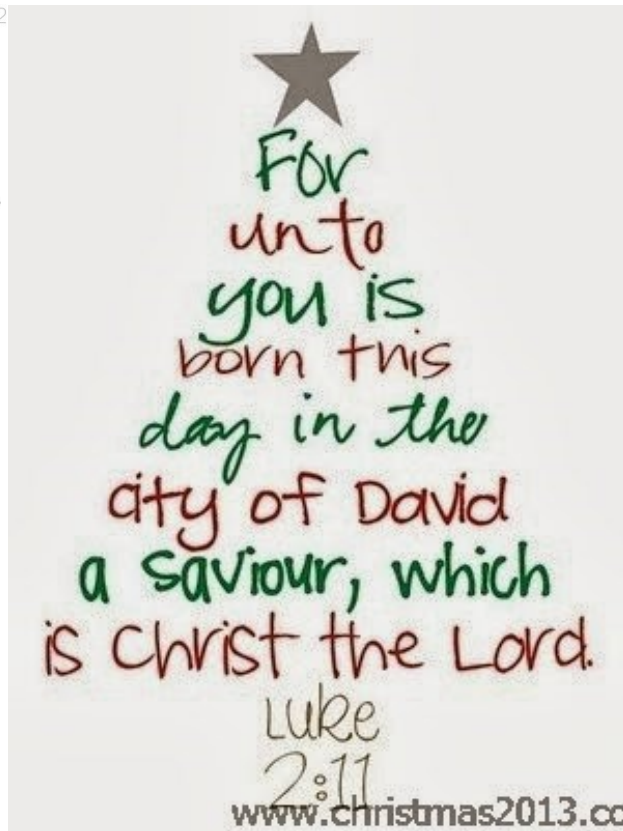
A big thank you to Sirkka for all the preparation you did and supplying us with the wonderful Christmas craft ornament that you helped us make! What an excellent idea! I will be hanging my ornament on my tree!

Wishing you a blessed Christmas! The next Congregational Lunch will be on Wednesday, January 28th!



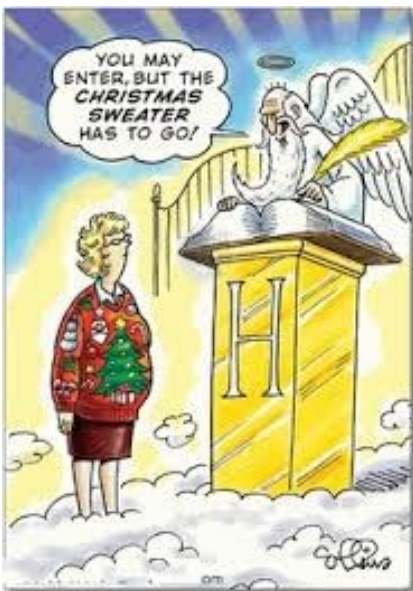
Inspirational Quotes!

LATOYA MONIQUE 2012
"IN *Happy* MOMENTS,
PRAISE GOD.
IN DIFFICULT MOMENTS,
SEEK *God.*
IN QUIET MOMENTS,
trust GOD.
IN EVERY MOMENT,
THANK *God.*"



You will not impact
the world by faithfully going
to church.
You will impact the world
by faithfully **BEING**
the church when you go
out into the world.

COMEDY CORNER



A Sunday School Teacher asked her class "What was Jesus' mother's name?" One child answered, "Mary." The teacher then asked, "Who can tell me who Jesus' father's name was?" A little kid said, "Verge." Confused the teacher asked, "Where did you get that?" "Well, they are always talking about 'Verge 'n Mary'."





God's Creation



By: Adam Prasuhn



By: Rosie L



By: Rosie L.



By: Rosie L



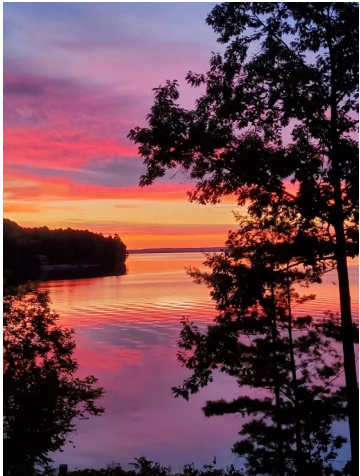
By Debbie F.



By: Debbie F.



By: Debbie F.



By: FB Friend



By: Janet V.



By: Rosie L



By: Rosie L



By: Rosie L.

Gratitude Corner



Gratitude Corner

**Every month, we celebrate the work
Different people do here at Peace!**

Rainer & Colleen Knabenschuh!

The people of Peace sincerely thank Rainer and Colleen for the many ways they have both enriched our lives here at Peace and in the wider community!

For the past few years, Rainer is very active on Council and on the Property Team! He has done so much at church that most of us are not aware of along with Tapio and Jeremy! He built storage shelves, dug up and weeded the new Butterfly garden, painted the lines in both parking lots, and “pops” in to make sure the church is secure. If there is an emergency situation at church — he is there to help!

Colleen is on the Congregational Life committee, brings yummy goodies and helps in the kitchen!

Peace is so blessed by their willingness to serve God and their ministry to others. You are both amazing and we sincerely thank you for all you do.

PLC Volunteers

WE ARE BLESSED! Peace has many members that “don’t have to be asked”! We collectively are “stepping up to the plate” to fix up our church home. We have shared common values and purpose and we have people willing to be involved. Thanks to all volunteers who take pride in the church’s upkeep and do things on their own or in consultation with others. Bless you, thank you! Below are some more recent improvements.



Thank you Lena for doing the bulletin!

Thank you Phil for cutting down most of the tree & Rainer for helping!

What a BIG JOB it was!

Canadian Blood Services in December



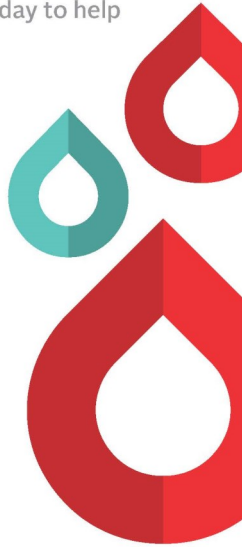
Your donation matters

It matters to every patient across Canada.
Because it's something we can do today to help
others wake up healthier tomorrow.

Upcoming blood donation events

Ajax Community Centre
HMS Ajax Banquet Hall
75 Centennial Road

Saturday, December 6
9:00 am to 3:00 pm



Join **Canada's Lifeline**
Book now at blood.ca or call **1 888 2 DONATE**



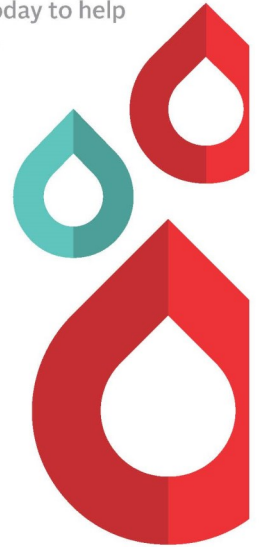
Your donation matters

It matters to every patient across Canada.
Because it's something we can do today to help
others wake up healthier tomorrow.

Upcoming blood donation events

**Forest Brook
Community Church**
60 Kearney Dr. Ajax

Monday, December 8
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

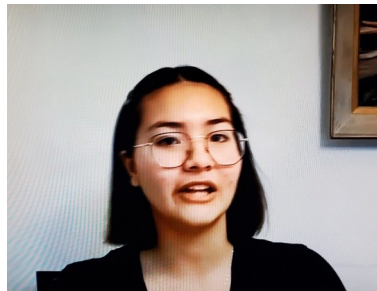


Join **Canada's Lifeline**
Book now at blood.ca or call **1 888 2 DONATE**

Worship Assistants for Dec 2025

DEC	AM	READER	GREETERS	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTERS	SERVERS	SERMON/ SERVICE
7	Karen L (Communion only)	Giselle	Janet V	Rosie/Sirkka	--	Rosie/Sirkka	Pastor Dennis (2 nd Advent)
14	--	Fiona H.	Tapio H	--	Rainer/Tapio	--	Rosie/Shari (3 rd Advent)
21	Elizabeth (Communion only)	Rosie L	Gene H.	Claire/Lynne	--	Elizabeth/ Shakura	Pastor Dennis (4 th Advent)
24	Sirkka (Prayers & Communion)	Shari N.	Wayne R.	Joan/Fiona	--	Fiona/Karen	Pastor Ralph (Christmas Eve)
28	Phil W. (Prayers)	Ruth H.	Carol W.	--	Janet/Sirkka	--	Rosie/Arnold (Caroling) (no live streaming)

Children's Message - Nov. 2025



Nice picture of Jeremy & Archer

Coffee Hour

Thank you to all who volunteer to make coffee after service on Sundays. Just a reminder, please come at 10 am to set up, make the coffee and set out your "treats". Remember to bring the cream and milk.

Again, thank you for your faithful service!

Lena, Sirkka and Colleen

Next Month:

If you have any articles, upcoming church events, pictures, jokes, poems, inspirational messages, Peace History, special events or a personal celebration that you would like included in our PLC newsletter for the month of **January 2026**, please submit them to Rosie (rosielanch@hotmail.com) by **December 26th**.

Wishing you a joyous Christmas and many blessings in 2026 through Christ our Lord and Savior! Peace and blessings, Rosie

