



PASTOR DENNIS BECKER

10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

January 2026

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Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church
(Pickering, ON)

Peace Lutheran Church of Bay Ridges

928 Liverpool Road, Pickering, ON L1W 1S6 ♦ Tel: (905) 839-3521

Food For Thought

Dear Members and Friends of Peace!

Wishing you all many blessings in 2026! May this year be fruitful and may God's mercy and loving compassion be with us all! We pray that all things that will happen this year are in God's ever loving eternal Plan for us – a new Pastor and that many friends and members find peace, and caring compassion at Peace!

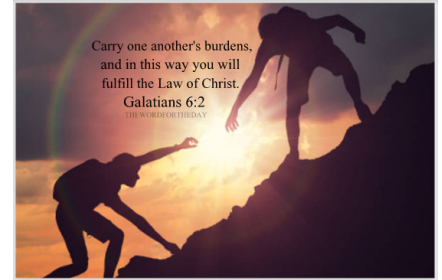
As a child, I enjoyed watching the Rose Bowl Parade with my parents and every year I look forward to watch it on New Year's Day. It is still very special to me. The theme this year was "Teamwork". How appropriate, after the Pasadena fire that erupted on January 7th, 2025, and how they rebuilt with volunteers and teamwork – like a Phoenix rising from the ashes. There is still much more work to do and so many that are struggling and trying to cope with the loss of family, friends, their homes and possessions. Not just this disaster, but there have been so many others that have impacted so many globally.

Magic Johnson was the Grand Marshall of the parade this year and he said something that resonated with me: "Teamwork is everybody coming together to help thy neighbor, to help thy community". That is so true. I believe that Peace is blessed with many volunteers, who go "above and beyond" and who I am truly thankful for all they do. You all know who you are – I am humbled and moved beyond words! How do we do it? We do it with teamwork and the love that the Lord gives to us to give to others. As stated in the bible, we use our gifts to serve one another: **1 Peter 4:10** "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." We also need help, so we carry each other's burdens as volunteers, showing God values collaboration and selfless contribution as stated in: **Galatians 6:2**: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Here is a reflection on life as a volunteer and those in need in Pickering – written by Elizabeth Johns:

One cold and slippery morning

I wore sneakers that day – the ones that were worn on the bottom but comfortable. I hadn't realized that it was so slippery and cold. On my phone I had a reference number and a notation to go to St. Paul's on the Hill to pick up a toy – Lindsay would be there. I parked in the wrong parking lot, and I slid my way to one door after another. I rang the doorbell. A nice church receptionist



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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.)

answered, and I remembered how Lena answers the locked door at Peace. I showed the reference number and asked for Lindsay.

I was in the wrong place – I should have gone to the food bank. And I should phone first. I phoned while I slid back to my car. When I arrived, I wasn't surprised to see a very long line up – of both parked cars and humanity. I had done this before. BEFORE, I had had to wait in line in the cold, but today, I had a reference number and permission to walk straight to the front of the line, but I had to park a long way away. I almost fell several times, until the door volunteer handed over a large and very heavy, brightly wrapped package. This made it even harder to navigate my way back to the car. People were still lined up. They had bundle buggies and shopping bags and numerous family members to help carry things.

This is how some people get their food in Pickering. Some had volunteers such as me who had cars parked at the roadside, ready to deliver to apartments and houses. Some people did not have houses – you could tell. This is what church workers and community volunteers in Durham do – along with the underprivileged, they line up in the cold and ice for food. Or they collect, sort, package, and serve the food. Later in the day, the workers and volunteers return to shelter, stocked cupboards, a selection of clothing, hot water, and beds where they can have a good sleep to do it the next day.

Over the years, I have not slept so well in the winter, I used to lie awake imagining life at the end of the day for the others in line. Now I sleep a bit better, and if I can't I pray, and I reflect gratefully on the ministries at Peace along with other growing community services that make "the end of the day" a little more comfortable for the underprivileged in Durham. I sleep a little better in the winter now, and I cling to the words of Deborah MacCracken – so many years ago – when she said she didn't focus on the countless masses of people in need, but those she was serving under her own roof in Tanzania.

All of us – at Peace especially can be assured that we make a difference and fulfill the Gospel.

Peace and blessings,
Rosie and Elizabeth



Women of Prayer

I would like to describe the nature of the exciting prayer group that started in 2025 and has shape-shifted into a more organized format. Since women have been attracted to participate and Jens has already formed a group for men, we decided to call ourselves “Women of Prayer”. Prayers centre around the church in the world and the family at home. We meet on the first and third Sundays of the month, after the service – with refreshments in either the old Narthex or the Jim Hern room. The leadership of the meetings rotates. There is a guiding scriptural theme that lasts for two sessions with the same leader. The first Sunday of the month focuses on scripture and testimony where women discuss how God’s kingdom is revealed in their lives or through answered prayers. The third Sunday of the month focuses on scripture and petition where women discuss scripture and pray. The duration is 30-40 minutes. The format is also drop in – no commitment is required other than the leader and the person bringing refreshments. Fellowship is warm and sincere. Women are invited to drop in and check out, come once a month for renewal, or fully engage in the group. Loosely connected to the Intercessors prayer group, it is a nice opportunity for intercessors to meet and pray face to face – which we haven’t done in years!! I hope to see you there!

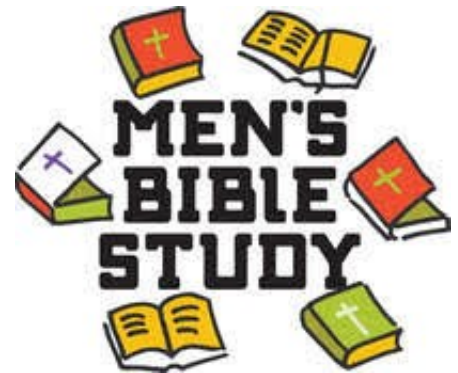


Elizabeth Johns

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

Sun., Jan. 4, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Pastor Dennis (Epiphany/Communion Service) Name Tag Sunday
Sun., Jan. 11, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Pastor Rasma (Baptism of Our Lord/Communion Service)
Sun., Jan. 18, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Pastor Dennis (Communion Service)
Sun., Jan. 25, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Rosie/Arnold/Elizabeth—Healing Service
Wed., Jan. 28, 2026 at noon	-	Congregational Lunch
Sun., Feb. 1st, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Pastor Dennis (Communion Service), Name Tag Sunday



November 2025 Financials

Peace Lutheran Church of Bay Ridges Financial Statement for the General Operating Fund November 2025

	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget
RECEIPTS			
All Donations	\$8,425	\$85,938	\$121,100
Rental Income	\$3,495	\$56,257	\$48,110
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$4,563	\$2,690
Total Receipts	\$11,920	\$146,758	\$171,900
EXPENDITURES			
Benevolence	\$750	\$8,250	\$9,000
Pastoral Remuneration	\$572	\$53,463	\$114,400
Other Staff Remuneration	\$0	\$44	\$1,000
Pastoral & Council	\$126	\$929	\$1,000
Office: Supplies, Communications	\$1,376	\$6,256	\$4,485
Committees	\$201	\$2,966	\$3,000
Financial	\$1,110	\$3,501	\$3,360
Utilities	\$628	\$8,196	\$9,800
Property	\$3,289	\$24,885	\$37,150
Total Expenditures	\$8,051	\$108,492	\$183,195
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$3,868	\$38,266	-\$11,295

Healing Service - January 25, 2026

Please join us for a Healing Service on Sunday, January 25th led by Elizabeth and Arnold. What does it mean? It is a special worship service focused on seeking God's wholeness for body, mind, and spirit, involving prayers, scripture readings, and often anointing with oil, acknowledging that healing comes through Christ's love and forgiveness, not necessarily a physical cure, but embracing restoration, reconciliation, and finding strength in suffering. It's a time to intentionally bring struggles, sickness, and brokenness to Jesus, relying on the Holy Spirit for comfort and peace, and understanding healing as a broader concept of restoration to God, not just curing disease. We acknowledge that God's healing extends beyond physical ailments to emotional, relational, and spiritual needs, bringing balance to the whole person.

The practice of holding specific prayers for healing and anointing with oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit's presence through baptismal promises and stems from the bible (James 5: 13-16). This section is called "the Prayer of Faith"¹³ Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise.¹⁴ Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;¹⁵ and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects."

Reports due for Upcoming AGM meeting

ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE LEADERS:

Please submit your Committee Annual Reports by email to Peace Lutheran Church, Attention: Fiona Haapalehto, by no later than Friday, January 9th! Everything needs to be compiled and finalized by Council and the final AGM report has to be sent to all members by no later than Feb. 8th

The AGM meeting will take place the last Sunday in February, which is Feb. 22nd.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Fiona Haapalehto, Council Secretary

Helga Laumer—Lovingly Remembered



Helga Laumer, a long-time member of Peace Lutheran Church passed away peacefully at 1:20 AM at Lakeridge Health, Ajax Pickering Hospital on December 31. Helga had attended Peace almost from its beginning, and her children, Dave and Diana were baptized and confirmed there – growing up with other Peace families who continue to attend Peace today. She was very involved in raising her grandson David, who helped her out during COVID and visited her. Don and Gloria Becker were friends of the Laumer family and have been phoning Helga for a long time since her health made it difficult to attend in person. One exception is that she tried to attend a service this fall and shared peace with her friends.

I remember Helga in the 90's at the Royal Bank where I banked – long before I attended Peace myself. I remember her walking to work over the 401 bridge on Liverpool Road. She loved to walk. When Ann Earley and I went for our marathon walks some years ago, we would sometimes pass by Helga's house and chat with her outside in her garden. Helga and I volunteered at Valley Farm Nursing home with Heddi's team, serving tea. She also enjoyed attending Advent dinners and congregational lunches at Peace.

Her son Dave lived with her when she became frail and cared for her tirelessly and lovingly. Very recently, her daughter Diana returned to Ontario from BC to help with the care. Our Peace Care team has enjoyed visiting Helga since last May – some highlights were Jemina singing hymns, Lena and I making her jam sandwiches, and Arnold and Shakura taking her communion. Members of the care team and Pastor Becker visited her in hospital, and it was nice to see Rosie singing and praying in German. Helga has been a memorable part of Peace history.

Please keep Dave and Diana in your thoughts and prayers. We will keep you informed as to Helga's funeral arrangements.

Meaning of the Twelve Days of Christmas

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

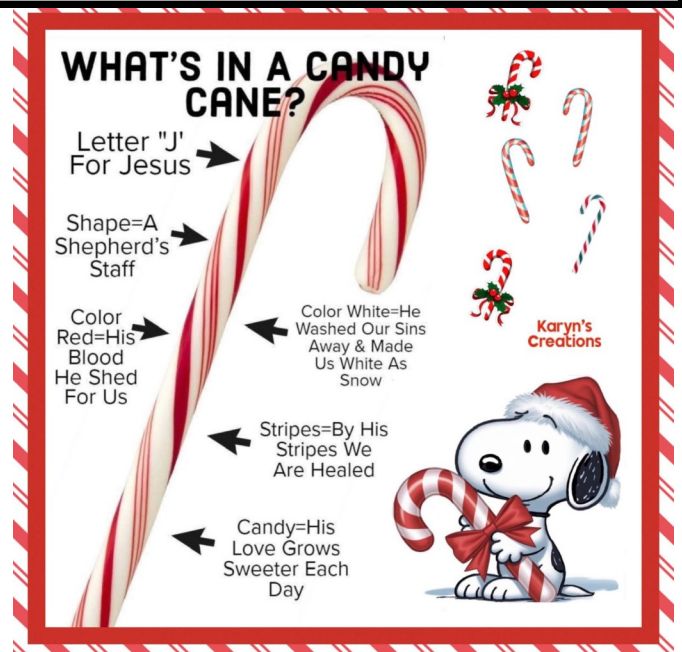


Note: The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy; and

The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit are--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.

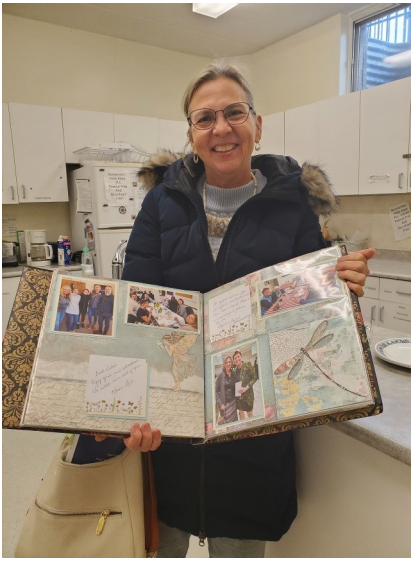
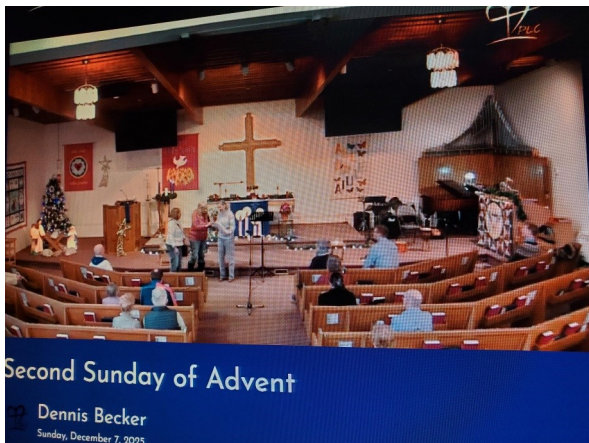
The Twelve Days of Christmas mark the festive Christian season from Christmas Day (Dec. 25) and concludes January 5th, the Twelfth night, leading to the Epiphany (Jan. 6). These 12 days celebrates the Nativity of Jesus and the journey of the Magi to Bethlehem to honor him. It is also known as Christmastide or Twelfthtide.

We celebrate Jesus' birth and the arrival of the Three Wise Men (Magi), with each day holding religious significance and symbolic gifts from the popular cumulative song, representing core Christian beliefs like the Gospels, Commandments, Apostles, and Creed.





Kirsten’s last day as Organist at Peace—Dec. 7th



The Peace Care and Outreach Teams

The Peace Care Team and the Peace Outreach Team are deeply grateful to people who donated to us in the month of December. First of all – there are anonymous donations that appear miraculously on doorsteps and in the donations box. A big thank you – you know who you are. I would like to name the ladies of the Quilters' Guild who had a food drive and filled our pantry with wonderful groceries. Shirley Fingler and Lena, knitted items for our luncheon guests and care team walk-ins. Karen Lasinskas held a community clothing drive also for guests and walk-ins. Colleen and Rainer bought and wrapped clothes for the family of 5 (now, I discover, 6) children followed by our care team. The Super Sophia project provided love boxes. Durham Youth donated several grocery bags of dry goods. DARS donated specific clothing and food items upon request. Church members and others gave items for our silent auction, which has been postponed to a future date.

What this kindness means is that when someone walks through our front doors in need, they leave warmer and better fed than before – and more importantly, feeling like someone cares. They see the Gospel in action. Your generosity means that we can continue with the outreach luncheons where our guests enjoy wholesome meals and leave with something to make their week more comfortable. We are grateful because our ability to serve those less fortunate has enriched our church life by people bringing their burdens to the foot of our cross in prayer and finding hope in our worship services and fellowship as they come to understand more about church life in general. Some lunch guests help to clean up, and some walk-in visitors are sharing resource information that helps others.

We sincerely thank all who are contributing to the Peace Care and Outreach ministries.

Elizabeth Johns



The family sincerely thanks Peace for their loving support and generosity.



Thank you Shirley Fingler, Joan Matthews, Sirkka Taylor, Katerina and others who made special items — the quilt from Shirley, the baby blanket and teddy bears from Joan, the hand painted box from Sirkka, the hand made Christmas cards from Katerina and others who brought in items to be sold..



Bake/Craft Sale, Silent Auction and Ugly/Cute Christmas Sweater—Dec. 14th!

Thank you to everyone who contributed and participated in this year's Bake/Craft sale! Thanks to your generosity we raised approximately \$280 That will help our PLC Outreach lunch program and our PLC Care Team!

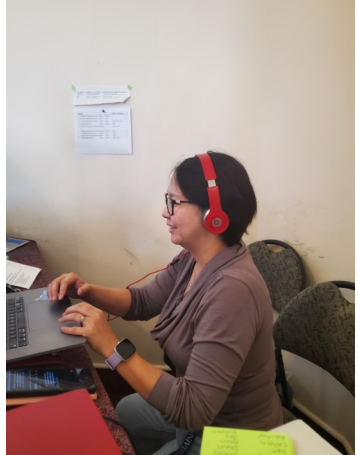
Thank you for wearing your festive outfits! We all looked amazing! It was a wonderful way to celebrate the "JOY" during the Advent season!

Congregational Life is considering doing something different in the spring, concerning the quilt from Shirley, the knitted and crocheted items that were made by some members and friends.

Stay tuned!



Worship Services - December 2025



Thank you to the following who led us in the Holden Evening Prayers:

- Fiona and Cameron on December 7th
- Angelina on December 14th; and
- Jemina on December 21st

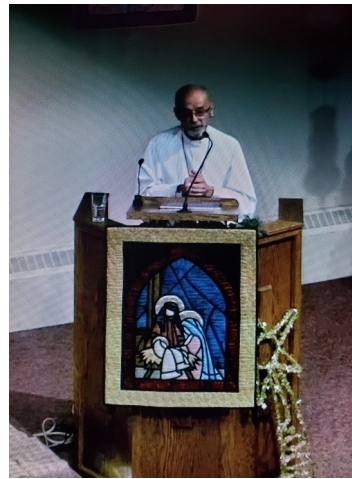
Well done!



Worship Services - December 2025



Christmas Eve Service



Thank you so much, Pastor Ralph, for the wonderful and meaningful sermon and Christmas Eve service!

Many commented on how great it was. Thank you to all who contributed and participated!



DARS Christmas—Dec. 18th



Thank you for the delicious traditional Christmas dinner with turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, veggies, stuffing, dessert and lots more!

Many attended and had a wonderful time.



PLC Outreach Christmas Lunch—Dec. 20th



There were at least 15 guests and 8 volunteers who enjoyed the delicious meal.

Our guests were delighted with the McDonald gift cards and candy canes that Elizabeth got for them. They also chose socks and warm clothing from PLC donations.

Since September, it has been very meaningful being with the vulnerable. Christmas blessings to all!

Super Sophia Project—Update

Christmas Love Box™ Sort — Parts 1, 2 & 3

This Christmas season, we came together in the name of love, kindness, and unity. Over three incredible box-sort days, our community filled the room with compassion as we prepared more than **2,000 Christmas Love Boxes™** for children spending the holidays in hospitals across the GTA, Durham Region, and areas up North.

None of this would be possible without the hearts behind the mission — our dedicated volunteers, every generous donor, and the beautiful community that continues to lift us up. We are deeply grateful to **Peace Lutheran Church** for opening their doors and giving us a place to gather, sort, and spread love.

Because of you, thousands of children will feel a little extra magic, comfort, and hope this Christmas.

Merry Christmas. Love Nicolle, Caleb and Sophia and The Super Sophia Project family.



Come January 2026, we will proudly celebrate **10 years** of spreading love, kindness, and hope. Since our very first delivery, we have gifted more than **60,000 Love Boxes™** to children and families in need.



New Year's Eve Concert



Many thanks to everyone who came out to support the PLC Care Team at the New Year's Eve concert on December 31, 2025. A special thank-you to our wonderful musicians - Autumn Strings and the Sievers girls - for sharing their talents.

For those who were unable to attend, the concert is available to watch online at: <https://www.peacelutheranchurch.ca/livestreams/39>. We hope you enjoy it!

Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$300 to help support PLC members in need. We are truly grateful for your support.

PLC Care Team



Little Johnny

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother gently rubbed cold cream on her face. "Why are you rubbing cold cream on your face, Mommy?" he asked. She answered "To make myself beautiful" A few minutes later, she began removing the cream with a tissue. "What's the matter?" asked Little Johnny, "Giving Up?"

The Weigh Scale

Two kids went into their parents bathroom and noticed the weigh scale in the corner. "Whatever you do," cautioned one youngster to the other, "Don't step on it!" "Why not?" asked the sibling. "Because every time mom does, she lets out an awful scream!"





God's Creation



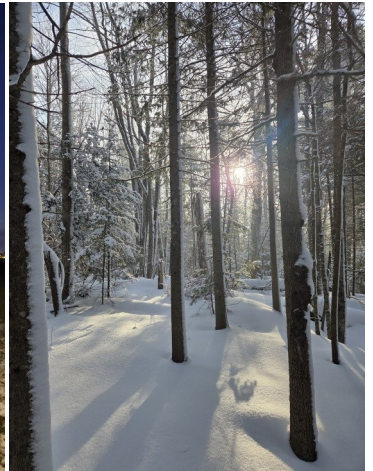
By: London FB friend of RL



By: London FB friend of RL



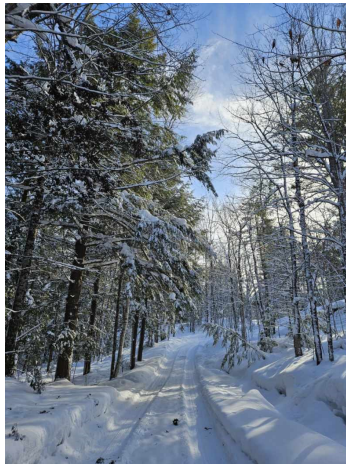
Dec. Cold Full Moon By: Rosie



By: Shari V.



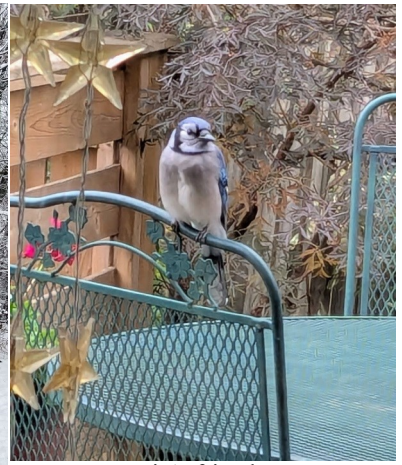
By: Rosie L



By: Janet V.



By: Rosie



By: Rosie's friend



By: Rosie L



By: Anne, friend of Rosie



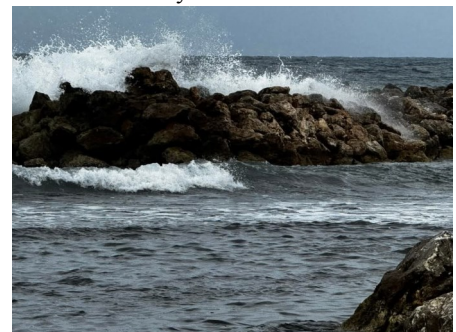
By: Rosie's friend



By: Debbie F.



By: Debbie F.



By: Elizabeth J.

Gratitude Corner



Gratitude Corner

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

Matthew Ramdhanie!

The people of Peace sincerely thank Matthew for the many ways he enriches our lives here at Peace!

Last season, he worked hard to put together the 2025 Budget with Bill and others. He is in the process of preparing the 2026 Budget. We thank you for your hard work, willingness to work for the Lord and your dedication.

Please welcome him when you see him at church!

Thank you for all you do!

Peace and blessings

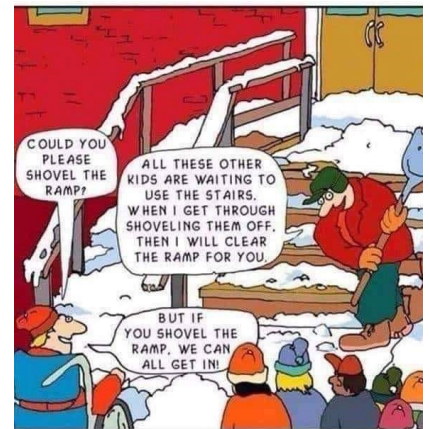
PLC Volunteers

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. Bless you, thank you!

A **HUGE** thank you to **ALL** volunteers for all your hard work, dedication and for all you do “behind the scenes” for the love of God and for the love of our church home!

You **ALL** know who you are! You see a need and you act! Whether it is purchasing items for the church, sweating in the hot sun pulling weeds, planting and watering or doing landscaping or tree cutting, taking out garbage, fixing electrical, plumbing and many other problems phoning contacts or members, visiting, praying and caring for the vulnerable, feeding the flock, fundraising, being creative, researching facts, attending meetings, polishing the candlesticks, changing the parameters, manning the tech booth, putting the services together, the newsletter, and countless other big and small tasks!

We really appreciate **ALL** you do — we are a **FAMILY!**



**CLEARING A PATH
FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
CLEARS THE PATH FOR EVERYONE!**



Canadian Blood Services in January



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, January 3

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Saturday, January 31

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, January 12

1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

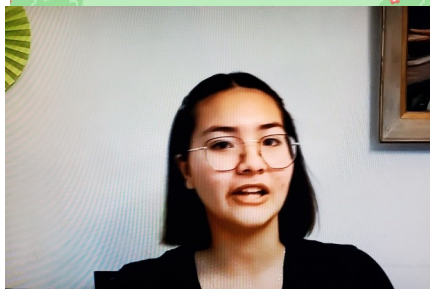
Join **Canada's Lifeline**

Book now at blood.ca or call **1 888 2 DONATE**

Worship Assistants for Jan 2026

JAN 2026	A/M	READER	GREETERS	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTERS	SERVERS	SERMON/ SERVICE	COFFEE HOUR
4	Giselle	Rosie L	Gene H	Rosie/Lynne	--	Rosie/Shakura	Pastor Dennis (Epiphany)	Steven/Kavita
11	Rosie	Shari N	Lynne H.	Fiona/Claire	Rosie/Tapio	Rosie/Fiona	Pastor Rasma (Baptism/Lord)	Joan/Wayne
18	Karen	Cameron	Wayne R.	Joan/Sirkka	--	Karen/Sirkka	Pastor Dennis	Shakura/Giselle
25	Elizabeth	Fiona H.	Tapio H.	--	Rainer/Janet	--	Rosie/Arnold (Healing Service)	Jemina/ and?

Children's Message - Dec. 2025



Thank you so much to the Sievers family — especially Lena, Angelina and Tina for the wonderful Children's Messages that you put together for us almost every Sunday, during the past five years!

The messages, songs and prayers are spiritually uplifting and are based on the day's scripture lessons. I look forward to hearing the Children's Messages and I know many others who enjoy it thoroughly.

Well done — all of you!

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 **February 2026**, please submit them to Rosie (rosielanch@hotmail.com) by **January 26th**.

Happy New Year blessings, Rosie

