



PASTOR DENNIS BECKER

10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

February 2026

www.peacelutheranchurch.ca
E: peacelutheran.plc@gmail.com
Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church
(Pickering, ON)

Peace Lutheran Church of Bay Ridges

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

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Food For Thought

"The Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything."

Deuteronomy 2:7

2 Deuteronomy 2:7 describes the 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert. Moses spent two separate periods of 40 days and 40 nights on Mount Sinai receiving the Law and interceding for his people. During Noah's flood, the rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights, leading to the cleansing and renewal of the earth and the prophet, Elijah, travelled for 40 days and nights to Mount Horeb in a period of spiritual renewal.

3 The number 40 in the Bible is a significant symbol representing a period of **testing, trial, and probation**, which ultimately leads to a period of transformation, renewal, and a new beginning. It often marks an important transition in God's plan.

4 It was all in God's plan that Jesus would spend 40 days in the wilderness. Immediately following the baptism of Jesus by John, Jesus was "led by the Holy Spirit" to spend 40 days in the Judean wilderness fasting, praying, and enduring intense temptations from Satan. When that didn't work, the devil left him and then Jesus was cared for by angels. Jesus was restored and refreshed before doing God's work. Jesus acted as the "New Adam" or a faithful Israel, overcoming temptation where others failed. This period of solitude and testing, detailed in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, served as a spiritual preparation for the start of his public ministry.

5 This event is seen as a parallel to the Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, where, unlike them, Jesus remained steadfast and did not fail God, thus becoming a model for Christians on how to overcome temptation through faith and reliance on God.

6 Jesus had Scripture used against him by satan, challenging him to be someone who he was not called to be. This is reassuring because we all have encountered these same moral quandaries. We too have had Scripture quoted against us. We too have been tempted to misuse our voices, our stories, our power and our positions for our own good rather than the greater good of bringing light and love to others. We too have experienced the wilderness.



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 uncondi-
tionally 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.)

Lent is a significant season in the year for Christians – For us, Lent is a time of repentance, a time of solemnity, self-reflection and preparation. It is a time for us to be reminded that sin separates us from God. The first day of Lent falls on Ash Wednesday, February 18th and it goes 40 days (not including the Sabbath days) until the Saturday, April 4th, the day before Easter Sunday (I counted the days on the calendar!).

In the next few weeks, we will be embarking on our Lenten journey through the wilderness of our lives. At this time of year, we start thinking about clearing out cluttered rooms filled with old things, dust, and distractions. My house becomes ready for something new to take place once I've cleaned and organized. Lent is like a spiritual spring cleaning, a time for the Holy Spirit to clear the clutter in our hearts and prepare us anew for God's transforming work.

Just like Advent prepares us for Christ's birth, Lent prepares us for Christ's death, resurrection and the ultimate sacrifice that Christ made with his death -- he paid for the forgiveness of all our sins. We no longer need to wander in darkness in the wilderness, we have Christ as our shining light, guiding our steps and lifting us up when we fall down.

In the desert, our distractions come to light. In the desert, we might actually learn how to let go. In the desert, we might just discover an oasis of love. As we reflect, we find that Lent is not about God's harsh requirements but rather about God's overwhelming generosity. When all is stripped away, we finally realize the riches of God that surround us.

Lent provides us with an opportunity to go knowingly into the wilderness, to visit Jesus as he is being tempted and to gather strength from Jesus' strength. We don't go into the wilderness alone. We go with the strength of Jesus overcoming the temptations of the devil. We go with the assurance that 40 days is not nearly as long as we think it is.

And, perhaps most important, we go together to discover the deep well of love in the person of Jesus Christ and to refine our hearts and minds focusing on what is truly important.

Come, let us go together. Into the wilderness. Into deep reflection. Into a deeper relationship with God and with each other.

Wishing you all Lenten blessings,

Rosie Lantzsch

Upcoming Events

Sun., Feb. 1st, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Pastor Dennis (Communion Service) Name Tag Sunday
Fri., Feb. 6th	-	PLC Labyrinth Lenten Journey
Sun., Feb. 8th, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Rosie/Shari
Sun., Feb. 15th, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Pastor Dennis (Transfiguration of the Lord Communion Service)
Tues., Feb. 17, 2026, 6:30 pm	-	Shrove Tuesday—join us for Pancake dinner
Wed., Feb. 18th, 2026, 7 pm	-	Ash Wednesday service by Pastor Dennis
Sun., Feb. 22nd, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Rosie/Arnold AGM Potluck Lunch & AGM Meeting
Wed., Feb. 25th, 2026 at noon	-	Congregational Lunch
Sun., Mar. 1st, 2026, 10:30 am	-	Pastor Dennis (Communion Service), Name Tag Sunday

SHROVE TUESDAY

**Please join us on Tuesday, February 17th
For PANCAKE & SAUSAGE dinner
At 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall**



Sign Up Sheet will be in the Narthex for attendance and for those who wish to set up, clean up or cook (please come earlier)

**Please sign up so we know how much to make.
Thank you, Congregational Life**

ASH WEDNESDAY

**Please join us for service at 7 pm
on Wednesday, February 18th
Pastor Dennis Becker presiding**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
The Annual General Meeting will be held on:
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd
Following worship service and a finger food pot luck lunch
Please sign up and attend

December 2025 Financials

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

	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget
RECEIPTS			
All Donations	\$29,385	\$116,999	\$121,100
Rental Income	\$4,125	\$60,382	\$48,110
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$2,888	\$2,690
Total Receipts	\$33,510	\$180,268	\$171,900
EXPENDITURES			
Benevolence	\$750	\$9,000	\$9,000
Pastoral Remuneration	\$1,072	\$52,539	\$114,400
Other Staff Remuneration	\$0	\$44	\$1,000
Pastoral & Council	\$135	\$1,065	\$1,000
Office: Supplies, Communications	\$353	\$6,609	\$4,485
Committees	\$6	\$2,972	\$3,000
Financial	\$182	\$3,683	\$3,360
Utilities	\$1,330	\$9,527	\$9,800
Property	\$4,009	\$28,894	\$37,150
Total Expenditures	\$7,838	\$114,333	\$183,195
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$25,672	\$65,935	-\$11,295

PLC Lenten Labyrinth Journey - starting Feb. 6th

A labyrinth mat is a simple walking prayer tool, laid out on the floor or ground, that offers a single, winding path leading gently to the centre and back again. In the Lutheran tradition, walking the labyrinth can be a form of embodied prayer—inviting reflection, repentance, and attentive listening to God rather than striving or problem-solving. During Lent, the slow, intentional journey of the labyrinth mirrors Christ's path to the cross, offering space for confession, trust in God's grace, and quiet preparation for Easter.

Lena and Elizabeth invite you to join them on a Lenten labyrinth journey, exploring labyrinths in a variety of forms and settings. Along the way, participants will help imagine how our church might create or acquire a labyrinth mat, so that this prayerful practice can be shared and experienced regularly by the whole community.

We kick off this experience on Friday February 6 at 10:00 AM. The location will be announced on Sunday February 1st. Hope to see you on the journey!!

Join our

LENTEN LABYRINTH JOURNEY

Pray, Meditate, Reflect
"Come near to God and
he will come near to you."
James 4:8



Elizabeth : ehmjohns@gmail.com or (905) 626-0088
Church Office : peacelutheran.PLC@gmail.com or (905) 839-3521

Women of Prayer

Please join or drop in to the "Women of Prayer", which meets 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 duration is 30-40 minutes. Fellowship is warm and sincere. I hope to see you there!

Elizabeth Johns



Transfiguration of our Lord

In many Lutheran traditions, the Feast of the Transfiguration is celebrated on the **last Sunday of the Epiphany season**, just before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. The liturgical color for the day is typically white, symbolizing light, purity, and completeness. Situated before Ash Wednesday, this event prepares believers for the Passion, showing that the suffering Savior is also the glorified Lord. It's an important moment, ranking with Jesus's Baptism, Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension as a key milestone in Christ's life, showing the glory hidden within his humanity.



The transfiguration of Jesus is a pivotal New Testament event where Jesus revealed his divine glory to three disciples (Peter, James, and John) on a mountain, appearing radiant with dazzling white clothes, while Moses and Elijah appeared and spoke with him about his coming suffering and death. A voice from a cloud declared, *This is my beloved Son; listen to him*, confirming Jesus' divine identity as the fulfillment of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah).

This is the second time on record that the Father spoke from heaven to encourage the Son. He spoke at the baptism of Jesus (Matt 3:17), before Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil; and the Father would speak again as Jesus drew near to his sacrifice on the cross (John 12:27–28). In each of these three instances, the Father encouraged Jesus as he approached suffering and death.

At Christ's baptism, the Father had said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Here on the mount he repeats those words, but he adds, "Listen to him!"

Several things happened during the transfiguration:

- Jesus' appearance changed, revealing his divine nature which was veiled during his earthly life to the disciples demonstrating his true identity as the Son of God.
- It shows the Old Testament Law (represented by Moses and Elijah) and the Gospel (Jesus) is in harmony, with the focus solely on Christ.
- The dazzling brightness of Jesus foreshadowed the glorified body Jesus would have after his resurrection, giving the disciples hope amidst Jesus's impending suffering and death.
- It served as a powerful confirmation of Jesus's messianic claims and divinity, solidifying the faith of his inner circle after hearing of his coming Passion.

The timing of the transfiguration is crucial. It occurs approximately six to eight days after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ (or Messiah) and Jesus' first prediction of his passion and death, as recorded in Matthew 17:1–8, Mark 9:2–13, and Luke 9:28–36. It immediately precedes Jesus setting his face toward Jerusalem. It highlights the transition from the mountaintop experience to the "valley" of the cross, where He would accomplish the world's salvation by His death and resurrection for us. The glimpse of glory strengthens the disciples (and believers) to endure the scandal and despair of the crucifixion, by showing them the ultimate, victorious outcome of the cross and the empty tomb.

The event showed the intersection of the temporal and eternal, with Jesus as the bridge, hinting at the coming Kingdom of God and provides a glimpse of the glory that awaits believers. The event is a lesson for Christian life, encouraging believers to live a "transformed" or "transfigured" life, allowing the light of Christ to shine through them in acts of mercy, compassion, and justice.

Durham Youth Services—CNOY at Peace

We had a wonderful turn out last year with Peace members and friends!! Please sign up on their website below to join Durham Youth Services! The Coldest Night of the Year is being held at Peace Lutheran Church on February 28th 2026! Please come at 4 pm to check in, Opening Remarks—4:45, Walk—5-6 (either 2 km or 5 km), then back to Peace Lutheran Church for a light meal.



❄️❤️ It's almost time to walk for YOUTH for WARMTH! ❄️❤️

Coldest Night of the Year brings our community together to support youth with shelter, and essential services across Durham Region.

**Every step we take TOGETHER brings warmth, safety, and HOPE.
Cold nights are here now—and youth can't wait.**

Form a team, sponsor the event, volunteer or sign up solo – every step helps someone take their next step toward stability and housing.

Let's make this our strongest year yet. Join the movement:
cnoy.org/pickering



Worship Services—January 2026



Above pic's: Epiphany & Baptism of our Lord.

Thanks to everyone who helped packing away the Christmas trees & decorations.

Below: Jan. 18th service



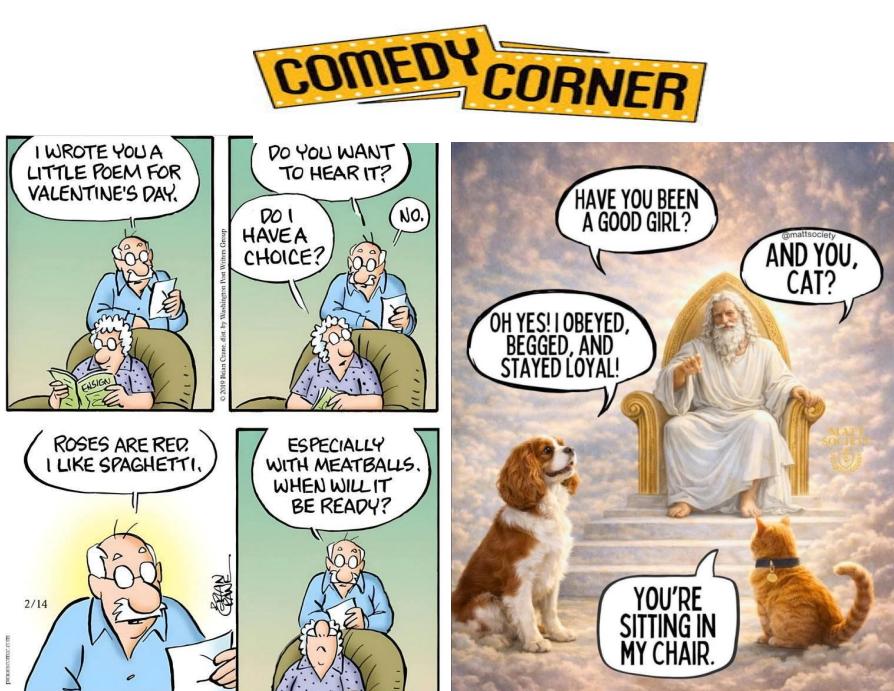
Worship Services (cont.)



Four Generations in PLC's Kitchen during Coffee Hour!



Jan. 25th—Healing Service during bad snowstorm. There were 18 in attendance — 1/2 were our guests from DARS. They were really involved and appreciative



The Catholic neighbors are bothered by the smell of meat on Lenten Fridays, so they convince the man to convert to Catholicism. The priest baptizes him, saying, "You were born a Lutheran and raised a Lutheran, but now you are Catholic."

The next year, on the first Friday of Lent, the aroma of grilled venison fills the neighborhood again. The priest rushes over to find the man sprinkling water on his steak, saying: **"You were born a deer, you were raised a deer, but now you are a trout."**

Super Sophia & DARS



Last night, January 29th, The Super Sophia Project Bingo Extravaganza was back, and our hearts are still full.

We hosted Bingo for almost 50 unhoused friends at Peace Lutheran Church in support of DARS, on a night when the weather outside was absolutely freezing.

Thank you to the Salvation Army for providing warm food and dessert — truly the kindest souls.

There was laughter, joy, and moments of pure connection. One guest said, "This is the most fun I've had in as long as I can remember". We gave out Tim Hortons gift cards so winners could enjoy a hot coffee on these cold days.

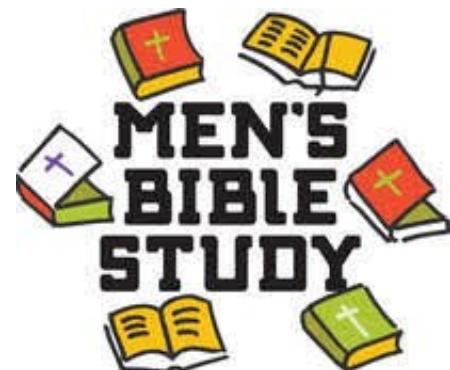
One man came up to me after winning and quietly said he hoped this was a sign that good things were finally going to start happening in his life. That moment will stay with me forever!

For a little while, we forgot the cold, the worries, and the hardships — and we just enjoyed being together. This is what community, dignity and love looks like.

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.





On Thurs., Jan. 8th, Diana, Helga's daughter, brought the food and several PLC members helped her with putting sandwiches and various platters together for the reception after the Memorial Service

Helga Laumer—Memorial Service

One of our founding members, Helga Laumer, passed peacefully into her heavenly home on December 31, 2025. Helga touched many hearts with her warm smile and her grateful spirit, and she will be deeply missed.

Her children, Diana and Dave, invited those who are able to join them as they gathered to share this time of remembrance and farewell.

Date: Friday, January 9, 2026

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Accettone Funeral Home

Address: 384 Finley Ave., Ajax, ON L1S 2E3

Reception to follow after the Memorial Service for Helga



*Helga Laumer
July 3rd, 1941
December 31st, 2025*



PLC Outreach Lunch—January pics



1st picture –group of volunteers on Jan. 10th with JP. Other pictures are from Jan. 17th, when Faye and Jesi (JP's friends) came to serve and prepare food. In lieu of celebrating their birthday, they “Give Back to the Community”. How wonderful. They are coming again on Feb 14!



During the month of January, the PLC Saturday Outreach Lunch has served about 18 guests each week (not including the volunteers). On the 4th Saturday, Elizabeth brings out food items from our PLC pantry as well as clothing items so the guests can choose one or two food items and what they might need from the clothing.

Karen has been a huge help sourcing items from the Community (see article on next page)

Sirkka, Lena and others knit and crochet warm hats and scarves for the vulnerable.

So many people are contributing in so many ways!

Thank you and bless you!



This is what the Peace Care Team does — they visit, share sermons and church news to the shut in's. Annie is so happy to receive visits from Lena and Elizabeth!



Thank you, Karen!

Thankyou very much, Karen Lasinskas, who has networked extensively this winter to provide Peace with brand new and high quality used clothing, which has been distributed to 'The Deacon's Cupboard', 'The Front Porch', 'DARS', various public schools, Peace Outreach Luncheon, and Peace Care Team. In particular, Karen connected with Horizon House Women's shelter in Ajax and delivered 'tons' of brand new toques. Thank you so much Karen for taking care of community and networking for Peace.



Peace Dove Quilt Symbol for all in a Stormy World

The healing service on January 25 took place in a snow storm so bad that many congregants could not attend and DARS warming shelter was scheduled to open for 48 hours. Elizabeth Johns led the service. At the very beginning, she drew attention to the peace dove banner hanging from the pulpit. It had been made by Shirley Fingler. Elizabeth compared Peace to an Ark- literally for shelter from the snow and as a sanctuary of prayer and worship during a stormy world. She reminded people how the dove had been sent out to find safe land and that it took time for it to return with a sign. Meanwhile the ark kept its occupants safe.

The Peace dove hanging is a visible reminder of those Peace shelters within its literal and spiritual walls while storms rage and the hopeful dove seeks a safe port. The peace dove banner will remain a reminder of our sponsored refugee brother and sister Qamar Sawari and Zobair Amini, in danger in Pakistan.

When you see the peace dove in our sanctuary, please remember Qamar, Zobair and all those in the stormy world and pray the Spirit of gentleness finds a safe haven for them.



I told Mansora about the Peace banner as a visual reminder of her family and other's in plight in this stormy world.

She wrote:

"Thank you so much for doing this. I've been feeling very discouraged, but seeing this and knowing our family is being remembered in prayer brings true comfort and renewed hope to my heart. I'm deeply grateful for your love, care, and support. May all of this kindness not go unnoticed."

Elizabeth

PLC Community Lunch - Jan. 28th

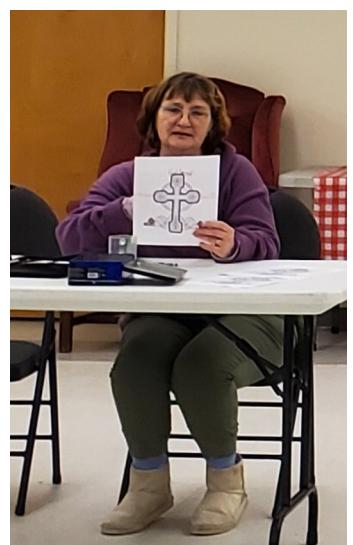


Thank you Sirkka for organizing the PLC Community lunches! There were about 15 who enjoyed the wonderful lunch — the delicious Italian Wedding Soup made by Sirkka, the egg salad and tuna salad sandwiches, two different salads and desserts made by other volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped and contributed with the food and to those who set up and cleaned up.

Thank you Sirkka and Elizabeth for the fun and relaxing activity of coloring the cross. While we were coloring, we were asked to think of a word or several words to describe what we were feeling and to share in a prayer.

We were also asked “what is our happy place”. It was very meaningful.

Please join us next month on Feb. 25th!



God's Creation



By: FB friend of RL



By: Rosie L



By: Rosie L.



By: Rosie L.



By friend of Liz



Easter Island by friend of Liz



Easter Island by friend of Liz



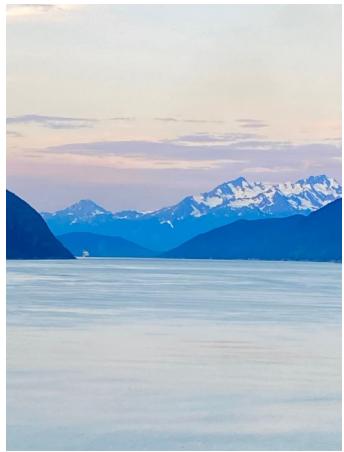
By: friend of Liz



By friend of Liz



By: friend of Liz



By: Debbie F.



By: Rosie Sunset



By: Rosie FB friend.



By: Rosie L..

Gratitude Corner



Gratitude Corner

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

Pastor Dennis!

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

Pastor Dennis came to Peace as our Interim Pastor on July 6th 2025! We are blessed to have him and we all thoroughly enjoy his meaningful sermons and how he leads and guides us through the Communion services twice a month. He blesses extra wine and wafers for the Care Team. When the Care Team needs him to visit some homebound members of Peace, he does it gladly. When he was asked to lead the Men's Bible Study in the fall, he makes it meaningful. He did a wonderful Memorial Service for Helga, even though he didn't know her that well.

He especially loves when the children come forward for Communion so he can bless them or when he did an impromptu Children's Message.

Thank you for all you do for us.

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. Thanks to all volunteers who take pride in the church's upkeep.



Thank you Lena and Tina for the beautiful Epiphany bulletin board in the Narthex



Thank you, Shirley for the Christmas, Epiphany and Peace dove quilts you made for the pulpit over the years.

Joan Matthews busy crocheting bears to give to those in need

Canadian Blood Services in February



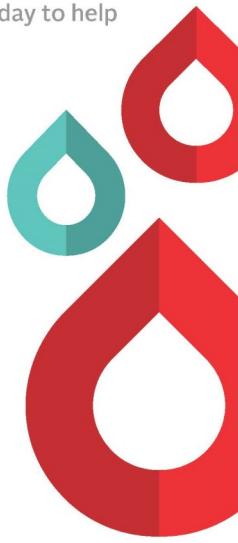
Your donation matters

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, February 16
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm



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



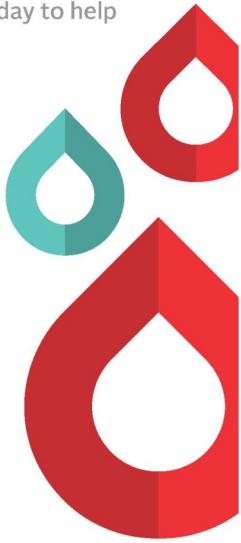
Your donation matters

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

Ajax Community Centre
HMS Ajax Banquet Hall
75 Centennial Road

Saturday, February 28
9:00 am to 3:00 pm



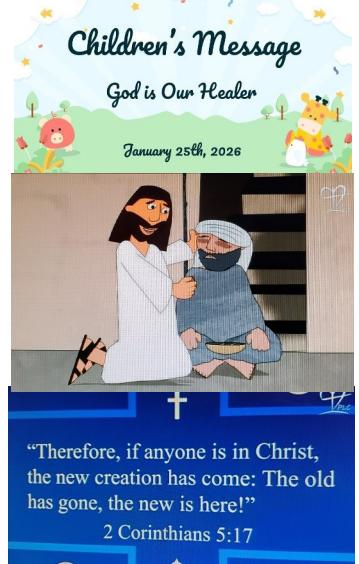
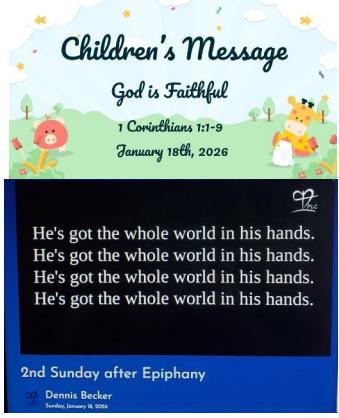
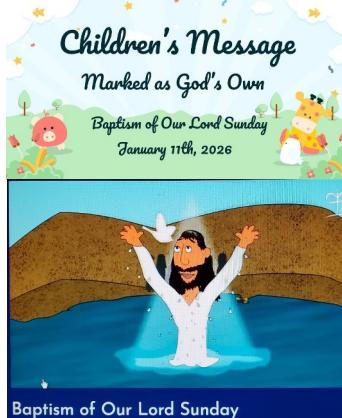
Join Canada's Lifeline
Book now at blood.ca or call 1 888 2 DONATE



Worship Assistants for Feb. 2026

FEB 2026	AM	READER	GREETERS	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTERS	SERVERS	SERMON/ SERVICE	COFFEE HOUR
1	Sirkka	Jemina	Rosie	Janet/Lynne	--	Sirkka/Janet	Pastor Dennis	Colleen & Rainer
8	Giselle	Jens	Janet V	--	Rosie/Tapio	--	Rosie/Shari	Sirkka/Lena
15	Rosie	Paige P.	Gene H.	Sirkka/Fiona	--	Rosie/Fiona	Pastor Dennis	Tabatha
18 (Wed.)	Rosie	Fiona	Tapio	--	--	--	Pastor Dennis (Ash Wed.)	--
22	Karen	Shari N.	Lynne H	--	Rainer/Sirkka	--	Rosie/Arnold	AGM Potluck (Cong. Life)

Children's Message - Jan. 2026



Sunday after Epiphany



Baptism of Our Lord Sunday



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 **March 2026**, please submit them to Rosie (rosielanch@hotmail.com) by **February 23rd**.

Peace and blessings, Rosie

PLC cross shining in the sun — "Christ be our Light"

