

The South Grey Bruce Lutheran Parish

THE MESSENGER - NOVEMBER 2021

Contact Info:



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Pastor's Blog:

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Worship Sundays at 10am

Congregations

St. Matthew, Mildmay

St. Paul, Neustadt

St. Paul's Normanby



Parish Church School

Fridays from 7:00-8:00 pm

St. Paul's Neustadt

Is currently not running

From the Pastor's Desk



It seems we have arrived at the time of year for cozy things and comfort food. After the hectic fall days of harvesting and fitting routines in place I enjoy this time. I like candlelight shining in the darkness as I rise for morning devotions.

Somehow the early darkness and late sunrise creates a space for personal reflection. I appreciate that.

And it is in this dark time of reflection that we enter into advent – preparing for the light of the world, the beginning of the church year. Some fun things are being planned to light our way in reflecting on our faith:

The youth group is working on a project of starlight. During advent Sunday church services they will be giving "star-words" to members who would like one. A star-word is a special word just for you – a word you can contemplate throughout the year. We appreciate this gift from the youth in our church family.



Another event of light – On weekdays, you are invited to join me with your morning coffee for a 28 day Advent reflection. It will be available on the parish Facebook page and I hope it will be as delightful for you as I am finding it. The devotion is a Christian parallel to the adventures of Lucy, Susan, Peter and Edmund as they climb through the wardrobe and follow the light of an old lamppost to the land of Narnia. I look forward to sharing this time with you. Watch for this on the parish page sometime around November 10.

And- another high "light" of the season to look forward to - The goodie walk is being planned again this year- more about that in December, but we look forward to sharing baked goodies.

Blessings to you as the seasons unfold. Set aside the anxiety and stress in order to embrace simple plans. Hold the peace and joy of this time of year.

Pastor Pam



NOTE - ALL SERVICES ARE BEING HELD IN PERSON –
*****THE MUNICIPALITY OF WEST GREY REQUIRES PROOF OF DOUBLE VACCINATION AS PART OF COVID-19 PROTOCOL - FOR INDIVIDUALS TO ENTER NEUSTADT COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

Upcoming Service Information

Notice for November 7: All Saints Service and First Sunday of Advent:

We will take reservations for this service.

It is important to gather for this service and support the bereaved families, so it was decided that reservations would ensure that we do not have an almost empty church because people would think it is full and not come.

The service will be held in St Matthew, Midmay. We have reserved seats for the bereaved families, but pews will still be available even with Covid spacing.

If you would also like to reserve a seat, call the church office and leave a message with your name, phone number, and number of people in your group. (519-367-5538) Bruce Dahms will manage the phone messages.

Space will be held for those without reservations if you decide at the last minute to come to church.



Advent planning for 2021- beginning November 7

A note in the worship planning guide that I use made me curious. The comment was that many Evangelical Lutheran Churches have adopted a 7-week Advent and find that the lengthened seasonal emphasis on waiting and preparation is a beneficial balance to the pre-Christmas rush.

I for one would welcome that – it seems that even before the Halloween spiders, the black pointy hats and the pumpkin spice beverages are packed away the Christmas carols and decorations roll out. Way too much, too quickly and too busy.

A seven week Advent will take us on a path of mystery, revelation, and hope as we hear God's FULL plan for the kingdom. This year we are invited to intentionally make the season of Advent to be more than the 'frantic lead-up' to Christmas. Your church will carve out space which will be deeper than the rush of Christmas preparation. My prayer is that our celebration of the birth of the Christ Child will be richer when it is wrapped in the cradle of God's plan. Plan to be present for the lighting of all 7 candles this year, beginning on November 7. Join in singing each week "O come o come Emanuel", "come dayspring", "come wisdom", "root of Jesse" come: "God with us".

In a seven week Advent we are encouraged: "Come Christian and be filled." Grace and peace to you.

Pastor Pam



What's Been Happening In The Parish

Order for Holy Baptism

Baptism of
Connor Gordon Raymond Polfuss
October 3, 2021



I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

St Paul's Lutheran Church, Normanby Ontario
Presiding Pastor: Rev. Pamela McNeil

Baptism of Connor Gordon Raymond Polfuss



Child of God:

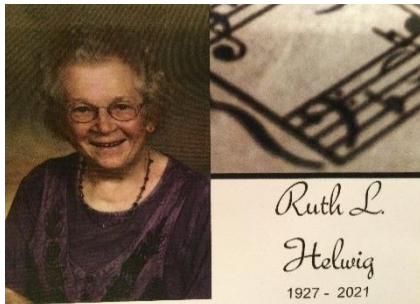
Parents:

Sponsors:

Connor Gordon Raymond Polfuss
Lisa Polfuss and Gordon Polfuss
LeeAnn McCulloch, Brad McCulloch,
Marcia Teather, and Erik Teather



*As part of the
Baptismal Service,
Pastor Pam reads
God's Dream to
children of Lisa &
Gordon's family.*



In Remembrance of Ruth Helwig

Ruth Louise Helwig
has gone to be with her
Saviour, October 4, 2021.
Ruth was living at
Rockwood Terrace and was
in her 95th year.



Ruth Helwig. WOW!! What a lady! Where does one begin??

Personally, I made a promise to Ruth to cover playing for her until she recovers from her stroke and is able to come back to resume her musical duties. Well, I guess we all know the answer to that promise. David and I still look for her to be seated at the dinner table at Rockwood Terrace when leaving from having a wonderful visit with Mom. Here's a little sampling of some of her loves, flowers and a fall display of pumpkins, gourds and vegetables (pictured above).

Ruth was a classy lady with a generous big heart and one of many talents. She enjoyed an abundant life of music, flowers and fine china. She was church organist for 63 years, the last years being organist here at St Matthew and St Paul's, Neustadt. When one would visit her home, you would not only be greeted by Ruth, but also her many cats, with the exception of 1, who DID NOT enjoy people.

She would think nothing of playing for 2 church services, have a group of ladies in for a delightful luncheon of her fancy tea sandwiches followed by an assortment of her many scrumptious squares and a cup of tea served in one of her many fine china teacups. They had lots of fun, fellowship and of course a good serving of many hardy laughs. Then this group would leave and another bunch would arrive for a most delicious dinner. She would always share a glass of wine, or maybe 2, during her many visits with friends and family. This was Ruth.

Ruth, you are being missed by many whose life you touched. You are now playing with and for the angels in Heaven.

Thanksgiving Sunday and The Blessing of the Quilts



Quilts were Blessed at our Thanksgiving Service, in advance of them being sent out to do their mission work. So many stitches sewn to create these beautiful and meaningful treasures, a long standing tradition at St Paul Neustadt.

& THANKYOU to the decorators for the bounty that adorned the church on Thanksgiving Sunday; another long standing tradition!



Upcoming Events

St Paul Lutheran Church Neustadt
is having a

GOODIE WALK

St Paul Lutheran Church
379 Adam St., Neustadt

December 4, 2021

1 – 3pm

Goodies will be prepackaged.

Proceeds from the Goodie Walk will go to the Food Bank to help those less fortunate.

Come and get some fabulous treats & support a good cause!!

Anglicans, Lutherans Assembly 2022

Delegates to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's National Convention and the Anglican Church of Canada's General Synod will meet together in July.

Inspired by the theme 'Let There Be Greening', delegates, special guests and partners will gather for worship, workshops, studies, special presentations and business sessions. The two church bodies will spend time together exploring and growing into the common life of our Full Communion relationship.

Stay tuned as more plans are revealed!



And, In other News....



**NEUSTADT & DISTRICT
LIONS CLUB**

**ANNUAL
PORK 'n KRAUT
SUPPER**

TO BE HELD
NOVEMBER 7th, 2021
AT THE NEUSTADT COMMUNITY ARENA
3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

ADULTS - \$18.00 • DRIVE THRU PICKUP ONLY

ADVANCE SALES ONLY (by Oct. 30th, 2021)
SAURKRAUT ORDERS AVAILABLE

CALL: 519-799-6654 519-799-5346 519-799-5767

Update From The Walkerton & District Ministerial Food Bank

The board of directors say THANK YOU to everyone for your support of the Food Bank.
You are all special. **THANK YOU** for being the hands and feet of Our Lord.

Our Food Bank is open every Thursday 1:00~4:00pm. Clients are able to receive food twice a month.
Emergency needs are always met.

Total Visits January – to end of August

2021

2020

905

711

Events for the Fall:

CKNX Food Drive: November 29th to December 6th. The Food Drive will be held at Walkerton Foodland, Walkerton Independent, and Freshmart in Mildmay.

Christmas Hampers:

Will be packed Saturday December 11th and clients will pick the hampers on Saturday, December 18th. We thank the Walkerton Optimist Club for once again providing Christmas Gifts.

Hunger Awareness Activities: Maryanne Buehlow arranged an article in the Walkerton Herald Times. Postcards campaign re: Housing needs. Postcards are being distributed and collected to request MPP to address the housing shortage. When collected, postcards will be forwarded to our MPP. You may pick up a postcard on Thursdays at the Food Bank.

We thank all for the **food and monetary gifts** that you so generously donate. You can take these items to the Food Bank on Thursdays between 9:00am – 4:00pm, or call the Food Bank at 519-881-0168 for assistance.

Let us share what God has gifted to us with, our community. I was hungry and you gave me food" (Matthew 25:35). A blessed and Happy Thanksgiving to all.

~courtesy of Dorothy Frook, Chairperson on behalf of the Food Bank Board of Directors



Update on Finances for the refugee family we are sponsoring:

We have sent \$12,000 to Canadian Lutheran World relief in Kitchener, and only need \$3,000. to meet the pledge for this year. I believe that some of this amount has already been collected and is with the congregational treasurer. To achieve this goal, perhaps one of these suggestions would be helpful:

- Pledge a small weekly donation in addition to your regular offering;
- Consider a donation in the name of a family member as a Christmas gift (one stop shopping);
- Check your home and clear out unused items by selling them. Donate that money to the fund;

Every donation will help this family which truly has nothing.

Update on the family: Yohannas, the grandmother has been cleared to immigrate. She has grandchildren in Halifax who she has not yet met. The security clearances for Marta and her children are still being processed.

Loving God, you created us in your image. Open our heart to see you in all people. Stir us to respond generously to the needs of refugees so that all may live in dignity, safety, and joy. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**Schedule for
Christmas
Worship to Help
You Plan With
Your Family**



Sunday before Christmas:

December 19 - Christmas Posada style service at 11:30am held at
Trinity Lutheran Church Walkerton

Christmas Eve - 2 Services:

December 24 – family evening service at 5:00pm hosted by St Paul's Lutheran
Church Normanby in the Neustadt Community Centre

December 24 – Evening Service of carols and lessons at 8:00pm held at
St Matthew Lutheran Church, Mildmay

Christmas Morning - 1 Service:

December 25 – morning service of illumination at 7:00am held at
St Paul Lutheran Church, Neustadt



We finally had a 'normal' family get together for Thanksgiving on Forler Street. All the grandkids joined us along with their guests. It's been a long time since we have been allowed and able to do this. I was grateful!

Things are starting to return to some normalacy. Recently I have driven by soccer pitches and ball diamonds to see kids again out playing sports, with lots of spectators in the stands. Restaurants are open again with no capacity limits and I will be returning to face-to-face teaching at Fleming for the Winter semester. Wow, I'm not sure I'm ready for that. One thing I do know, I need to go shopping and bump up my wardrobe if I'm going to 'go back to work'.

For me though, the pandemic has provided some upsides. Mother Earth has thrived with less pollution, in large part due to the significant reduction in car, air and cruise travel. We have learned to work and play online, which in many ways will continue, and ultimately support continued better health for Mother Earth. For this Mother, I admit, I have enjoyed leaving my shower and being in my office ready for class 10 minutes later. I have had far less trips to the gas station. I haven't had to drive in snowfall. But a significant benefit for me has been how much more appreciative I am of family time together, even if Mike still makes me crazy sometimes --- just kidding 😊. Getting to see him and the rest of my family for our holidays and special celebrations is a gift I do not wish to lose again anytime soon. I do hope the same is true for you. See you in December! Joanne Tully tully.joanne@gmail.com