

The South Grey Bruce Lutheran Parish

THE MESSENGER - APRIL 2023

Contact Info:



Pastor Pamela McNeil

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Pastor's Blog:

www.sweetlutheran.com

Worship Sundays at 10am

Congregations

St. Matthew, Mildmay

St. Paul, Neustadt

St. Paul's Normanby



**Rocket Youth Group &
Friday Night Church
School**

**1st & 3rd Friday of the
Month - 7:00pm**

at St. Paul's Neustadt

From the Pastor's Desk

We rejoice as winter releases its grip on the Grey Bruce area. We also celebrate the community of faith that supports us in good times and in tough times.

We have learned that people in our area are hungry, and the parish has quickly responded in providing food. These gifts are greatly appreciated and continue to be collected in the following ways:

- Monetary donations to "parish food pantry" can be made through your church envelope. Clearly mark it "PARISH FOOD PANTRY".
- Non-perishable food items can be brought to worship services at any of the spaces where we gather.
- Hygienic and household items (TP; shampoo; dish and laundry soap and such) are also being collected at each worship space.
- Frozen or fresh food can be coordinated with Pastor Pam, for immediate delivery.
- Items will be distributed as needed, and any surplus non-perishable items will be stored for emergency needs.

If you are in need of support for food security or know of someone in need, please get in touch with Pastor Pam or a member of your church council. Life can change very quickly, and we are not meant to survive alone.

(If you have a bit of time to help organize the food collections, I would appreciate that. Please speak with me.)

Overflowing cups is a blessing for many. It is a joy to have the abundance to share. Blessings to each person who participates in this ministry.



Pastor Pam

You can continue to join us virtually as follows

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84858557556?pwd=WUhpVmtnbjdKWdV6VkhKT0VWL2lnUT09>

Or dial in 1 647 374 4685 or 1 647 558 0588 Canada Meeting ID: 848 5855 7556 Passcode: 150551

Upcoming Events

Holy Week Worship Schedule:

April 2: Palm Sunday- 10am at St Matthew Mildmay



Join in the procession celebrating Jesus.

Bring a cedar branch if you can- we will also have a few available at the door – (We will not have palm branches. Cutting them seriously damages the trees.)

BRING A CEDAR BRANCH to wave! It is a tree of life for this part of the world.

April 6: Maundy Thursday Meal -6pm downstairs at St Paul, Neustadt



Share a simple meal (soup, bread and fruit) followed by Holy Communion.

Following the meal, we will go upstairs and remove the linens from the altar and prepare for Good Friday

Hosted by the youth group and the confirmation class. Please come and join them to share this meal of love.

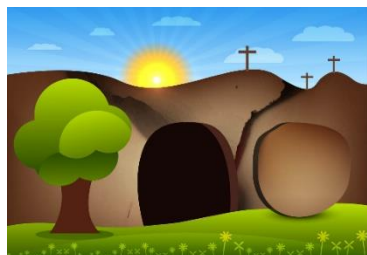
April 7: Good Friday – 10am St Paul Normanby at the Neustadt Community Centre



A service of confession and prayer;
A most Holy day to observe together.

April 9: The Resurrection of Our Lord:

10am St Paul Neustadt



Gather at the empty tomb
Join in singing Alleluia.
Give thanks for God's redeeming love.
Hear the words of the risen Lord!

Liturgical Colours:

We have changed the alter linens to **purple** for Lent. Purple is the colour of royalty and in Biblical times the process to make purple dye was very costly.

We remember that Pilate wrote **INRI** and placed that over Jesus on the cross. He was chastised by the chief priest, but Pilate said "What I have written, I have written." His Latin words proclaimed

Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum, or:
Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

The purple of royalty helps us remember this proclamation during the time of Lent.



Calling all YOUTH age 14 - 19!

CLAY 2023: Ashes & Embers
August 10-13 in Waterloo, Ontario

Are you looking for a fun opportunity this summer?



Have you thought about getting together with Youth from across Canada? How about a jam-packed weekend of worship, learning, community and fun!?

The event has guest speakers, a CLAY worship band that leads worship services and cool activities that you can participate in. And have I mentioned that it is fun, Fun, FUN!

The Rocket Youth Group is making plans to be in Waterloo at this year's CLAY event and we would register as a Home Team Group - so we would be together for lots of the activities!

Plus, we get to stay in the residence at Laurier University and eat our meals in the dining area of the cafeteria. COOL right!? We would love to have you join us! Attending a youth gathering is exciting, amazing and unforgettable! Get in touch with Darlene if this "sparks" your interest!

CLAY 2023 - ASHES AND EMBERS
Youth Conference at Laurier University in Waterloo
August 10 - 13

Cost is \$575 (we will be doing some fundraising to help cover the cost!)

Our Pancake Supper was a HUGE Success!!!!

Thank you to all of our volunteers and everyone who joined us for pancakes and to support our fundraiser.
We raised over \$800 - WOW!!!!

**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER**



Thank You For Your Service

Pictured below are our Parish Council and Committee Members.



Where are they today?

The year is moving into that season where some of our young people are making plans for the next step in their life. The Parish Pastor Paul Langohr scholarship has been a way to show support for our youth members as they seek further education.

As we finish out the first decade of this program, we thought it would be fun to check in with some of the recipients, and see where they are today.

We continue to hold these and all our youth members in prayer and care.

Valerie Robinson

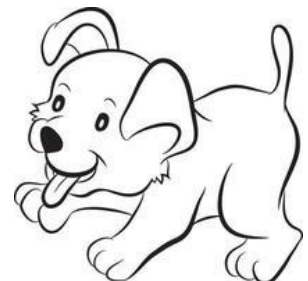
Valerie Robinson received a Parish scholarship eight years ago, and she may have been the first recipient. Today, she is successfully working as a Veterinarian in the Paisley Vet Clinic. Her road to this accomplishment is a testament to her dedication and enthusiasm.

The training to become a Vet is an intense 8- year program. Valerie moved to Ireland and studied there for 4 years. During that time, she was able to come home occasionally, and her family visited her there as well. As we all know, students, whether near or far need support from family as they pursue the challenges of growing up. Valerie also needed to achieve a Bachelor of Agriculture degree, and she completed that 4-year program at the University of Guelph.

One of the milestone moments in becoming a veterinarian is the prestigious "White Coat Ceremony". This occurred for Valerie during pandemic isolation, but her family made it a very special moment anyway! Her mom Sharon described the event: "Her white coat ceremony took place in our Livingroom. We put the Deans graduation speech on TV and took pictures in our home. It was 2021, and then she finished her last year internship in Ireland."

Congratulations to Valerie. We are happy for her in this success and appreciate that she has become a vital part of the Bruce County.

Today Valerie and her husband Dylan Cremona live between Durham and Hanover. The parish continues to hold Valerie and her family in their prayers. We wish you every good blessing Valerie, continued success in your work, and God's grace shown through your life.



Where are they today?

Chloe Tully



Chloe studied at Wilfrid Laurier, and completed a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2020. Her studies focused on Human Resources Management, and she took advantage of the Co-op Program at Laurier. This program gave her solid work experience over three terms. The Co-op partners were Staples Canada and Fidelity Investments.

Completing her university degree was only the first step for Chloe to achieve her goal. She then went on to obtain her Certified Human Resources Professional, CHRP designation.

Today she is successfully employed with Staples Canada, matching company needs with qualified

employees. Over the past three years she has been in roles of: Talent Acquisition Specialist, and Human Resources Co-ordinator.

Well done Chloe! Thank you for sharing your journey with us. God bless you in your work. Your employers are lucky to have you on their team!



Grey Bruce Singers
present
Celebrating the Seventies
and more

7:30 p.m. - Friday, April 14
2:00 p.m. - Saturday, April 15
Sunday, April 16

Hanover Civic Theatre
Adults \$20, Child \$5 (12 & under)

Tickets on sale March 15, 2023
at www.greybrucesingers.ca
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 519-506-6902

Like us on facebook

LIONS CLUB OPERATIONS
Neustadt & District Lions Club
47th Annual
Crab, Steak
or
LOBSTER-FEST

Saturday, May 27th, 2023
at the Neustadt Arena
183 Enoch St, Neustadt ON

Get Your Tickets now by
contacting:
519-799-5346
519-799-5791
519-799-5914
OR EMAIL:
lionslobsterfest@gmail.com

Crableg - \$50
Lobster - \$45
Steak - \$35

Meal served 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Twist Tops Entertainment

Don't forget
your scissors
and crackers!

Hosted by the Volunteers of the Neustadt and District Lions Club
Proceeds towards community initiatives and Humanitarian work.
Most meetings held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church 379 Adam St. Neustadt

St. Paul's Normanby Discernment Journey – Call for Volunteers!

At the recent Annual Congregational Meeting the St. Paul's membership voted to move forward with a Discernment Project to determine the future of St. Paul's Normanby.

Discernment is the process by which we discover God's will for us. It requires us to be brave and courageous, thoughtful and reflective, curious and strategic. With guidance from an objective third party (Credence and Co.: <https://credenceandco.com/services/congregations/>), we will use both our heads and our hearts to help navigate us into the future.

This discernment project is in line with encouragement expressed by Eastern Synod at the January 2023 meeting hosted for the Georgian Bay Ministry (a community of 16 churches within Grey and Bruce). Several South Grey Bruce Parish members attended this meeting.

During the meeting, Synod identified several current Lutheran Church realities:

- Attendance has declined (fewer families, smaller families, children have moved away)
- Fewer volunteers (a few members do most of the work, and they are tired and often aging)
- Many churches are wondering how to maintain their buildings (St. Paul's Normanby identified this challenge several years ago, and took the very difficult step of selling their building prior to the pandemic)
- There is already a shortage of rostered leaders and that shortage will increase in the next 3-5 years as a number of our pastors retire. There will not be enough pastors to serve all of our churches, as there's not enough students in the Masters of Divinity Program to replace them.

Synod is encouraging each congregation to look at their options for the future, and highlighted the following choices:

- Stay As You Are (and see what happens)
- Merger/Amalgamation (two or more congregations join together to become one)
- Shared Ministry (*this is where our South Grey Bruce Lutheran Parish currently is – we work together, share our Pastor, youth groups and church school programs)
- Shared Pastorate (congregations share a Pastor, but all other business and programs are kept separate)
- Ecumenical Shared Ministry (different denominations share ministry – for example, a Lutheran Church and Anglican Church might join together to share a leader, youth groups, etc.)
- Closure (churches close and members look for a new worship home)

In light of Synod identifying these realities and encouraging new forms of ministry, St. Paul's Normanby is entering this period of discernment to explore our options for the future.

The discernment project is designed to reflect on St. Paul's current realities, strengths and challenges and we will be taking an "intentional walk" through these stages. We will be looking back to our history, surveying our members, and speaking with leaders from our own South Grey Bruce Parish, and perhaps other local churches and key voices within the village of Neustadt/our community.

However, **before we start our discernment journey, we are in need of several Normanby congregation members to volunteer alongside Pastor Pam and council members to create a *Reference Group* for this project.** With the guidance of our Credence and Co consultant, our discernment process will be designed around careful listening, engaging dialogue and the practice of prayer to intentionally listen for how God is calling our congregation.

Those interested in serving on the *Reference Group* are invited to put their name forward by contacting Pamela Polfuss-Schmidt, by April 15, 2023. Please note that the selection process may include a short interview.

polfussschmidt@gmail.com

519-747-5803

Goodbye Winter Blues, Spring Ahead

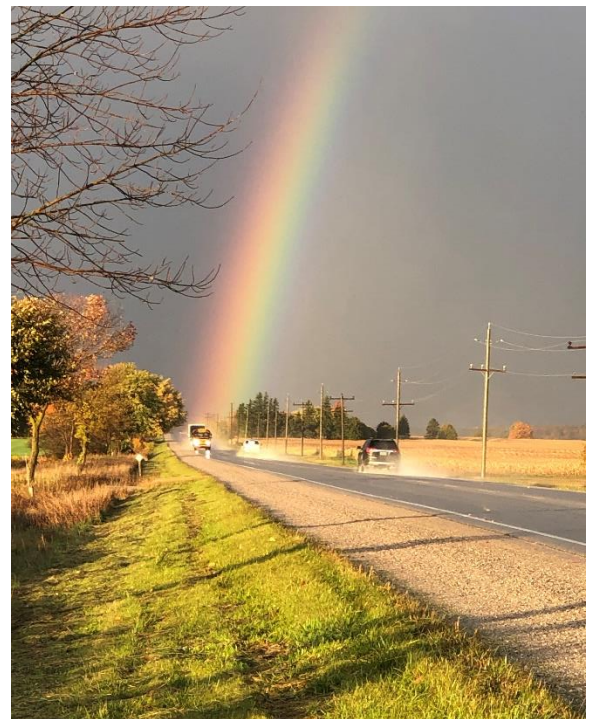
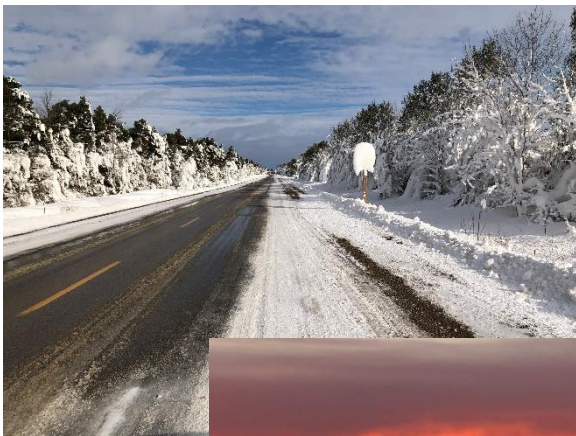
It can be difficult to remain positive during those long cold winter nights with fresh snow drifting up in front of your door, on your sidewalk and driveway/ lane. This winter has been relatively easy on us except for a couple nasty storms. We will talk for a long time about the Christmas of 2022 when many events had to cancel.

I was driving South on Bruce Rd 7 towards Ripley Dec 27, about 11.20, when I looked in the mirror. I just had to stop and take a picture of the white trees lining the road and the sun shining on them from the South.

When we feel low with winter blues, look around wherever you are. Natural beauty is all around us, we just need to look and be open to receive it. I have included a couple other pictures that I took last fall and enjoy looking at.

Have a great spring and 2023 filled with memorable adventures.

~ Glenn Jacques



They say a picture paints a thousand words. That saying seems so true when I look at the photos Glenn Jacques submitted for this month's newsletter. Those photos do have a lot to say. I certainly am ready to say farewell to winter, however it sure can bring some beauty when everything is freshly covered in white.

I finally was able to get out of the country this February and spent a week in the sun and the sand of Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic. I just love getting away from the winter cold. We were due to leave Punta Cana on a 4pm flight but given there was a huge snowstorm in Toronto, the plane that was due to land in Punta Cana around 2pm, which would be our return flight, was delayed. We didn't depart until 11pm. With the timing of the flight and the drive to Peterborough from Toronto, we landed in our driveway at 5:30 am. Landed is an understatement. We slowly plowed into our driveway as there was at least a foot of snow. For once Grey/Bruce didn't get snowed under but we sure did in Peterborough. Barry got the tractor out and I got the shovel. Let's just say we didn't get much sleep that night.

Why am I sharing this story? Well Glenn's message resonated with me. Life is often about perspective. Am I ready for Spring? – absolutely. Was I looking forward to digging us out when I got home from vacation? – absolutely not. But at the end of the day, it was a small price to pay for having enjoyed some sun and sand. On another note, it got me just that much closer to spring. Sometimes we have to get through the rough patches to enjoy how great the smooth patches are. I'll see you in the May newsletter, when the sun will be shining, the days will be longer and the crocuses might even be starting to bloom. But until then, I'm not putting away my shovel yet just in case. See you in May!

Joanne ~ tully.joanne@gmail.com