

Reflections

St. James Lutheran Church, Elmira, Ont.

July & August 2016

**ST. JAMES IS A WORSHIPING FAMILY PROCLAIMING CHRIST
THROUGH LOVE AND SERVICE TO ALL PEOPLE.**

(St. James' Mission Statement Re-Affirmed March, 2015)

St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church

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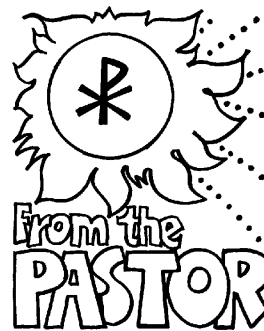
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Pastor's Message



A Time To Refresh!

“The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, ‘Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.’” (Mark 6:30-31)

As I write these words close to the end of June many of us are already looking forward to our summer vacation. For some of us it can't come soon enough -- if I recall correctly, school's out tomorrow. Some will travel a long distance to get to their favourite spot. Others will just take it easy and try to have a good time at home. Vacation time is a unique opportunity for each of us to really relax -- to sleep in, to have fun with family and friends, and to forget about work and all its troubles -- at least for while.

When Jesus told his stressed out disciples to come with him to a quiet solitary place, he knew that we all need those breaks every once in a while. We can't just keep going and going and going like some battery-bunnies in commercials. We need to have a time and a place to 're-charge.' For the same reason God appointed the Sabbath day to be a day of rest. God is concerned about our well-being and in love provided those special times for us. We should accept them with gratefulness and really use them for the purpose they were made for.

For some it will be hard to leave the habits and worries of the usual everyday routine behind. Other people might ruin their vacation by trying to fit in so many dates and activities that it becomes a stressful experience again. **Don't fall into those traps!** Try to let go of the things that could become a burden for you. Even if there is someone who needs your support and gives you feelings of guilt about leaving, you should not yield to the pressure -- unless that person is really dependant on your presence for their physical well-being. Your time away for rest and renewal of body and soul will be profitable for both of you in the end.

Let's come back to Jesus and his disciples once more. Jesus gave them some time off from work in order to rest, but he himself went with them on their 'vacation.' They didn't cease to be disciples even during this time of re-creation. We do not need to take a vacation from God or from being a Christian. Why should we? We could just as well want to take a vacation from breathing -- it wouldn't do us any good. We need God's presence with us at all times and in all places. Wherever we go we are

ambassadors and representatives of Christ.

Our vacation gives us many opportunities to spend some special quality time with the God who loves us in Christ. It also gives us time to meet new people and share time with old friends. Perhaps you would also like to visit the worship services of another congregation and get to know other Christian communities. It is always good to broaden our ecumenical horizons and to see that Gods's kingdom is bigger than the limits of our little world.

At the same time, I would ask one favour. Please don't forget your offerings to St. James during the summer months. While we may take vacations to become refreshed, ministry at St. James is an on-going activity. Our costs do not stop for the summer. So, when you go on holidays please consider setting aside your donations to the church for the period that you are away. You are welcome to send it to the office and it will be placed on the offering plate on the following Sunday. Your donations will ensure that the ministries to which St. James are committed to will still be maintained throughout the summer period.

I encourage you, my friends, to use your holidays wisely. You will not regret it. May God protect you on your journeys and bless you during this special time of year.

Yours in Christ
Pastor Hans

Due Dates for Report Submission

Committee Reports
for Church Council
package should be in the
office by **September 6th**.





Articles for **September Reflections** should be submitted to the office by **August 18th**.

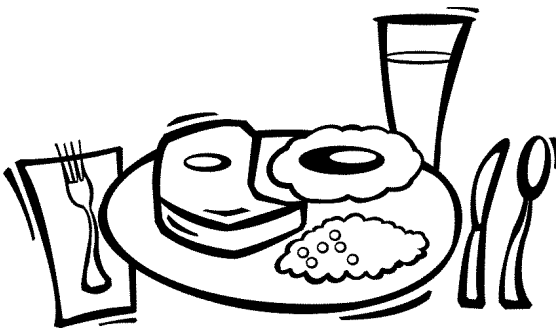
Church Council Bouquets

★ Cynthia Hastings for her review of our rental policy and replying with a detailed letter to St. James re the same.



★ Paul Kreller for doing the display case for the 2016 Confirmation and also to members of his group that help him with the display case throughout the year.

St. James Dames Meeting



See you
Wednesday, July 6th
and
Wednesday, August 3rd
at 8:15 a.m.
Breakfast at “Crossroads”

“HiLites” of Church Council Meeting – June

- ◆ Pastor Hans has received a lot of good feedback about the Confirmation Service May 15th, 2016.
- ◆ Ron Lorch is quite pleased about our financial status to date.
- ◆ Sandra Wilson is going to the Lutheran/Anglican Youth Conference in Charlottetown, PEI this summer on behalf of St. James Youth.
- ◆ The Website is now up and running, thanks to Pastor Hans.
- ◆ Rental Policy now approved as of September 1st, 2016.
- ◆ Thank you note from Trees for Woolwich, thanking the tree planters of St. James for participating in 2016 Church Challenge in April.
- ◆ Pastor Hans has received a letter of authorization appointing him as Interim Pastor for St. James, St. Jacobs.



Anniversaries for the Months of July & August



If you are celebrating an anniversary and have not been listed, perhaps we need to update our records. Please call the church office with the information regarding your anniversary. Please

wish these folks a “*Happy Anniversary*” when you see them. Below are the couples celebrating anniversaries for the months of July & August:

July 14 – Ron Drummond & Janet Wheeler
July 15 – Clayton & Evelyn Ash
July 16 – Peter & Tricia Mettler
July 17 – Jack & Helen Brown
July 19 – Jeff Enns & Valerie Enns-Frede
July 24 – Howard & Pam Brown
July 28 – David & Colleen Brown

Aug. 2 – Hans & Katharine Borch
Aug. 2 – Wayne & Marlene Ziegel
Aug. 18 – Dennis & Barbara Lichty
Aug. 23 – John & Norma Dunham
Aug. 23 – Claude & Elaine Forler
Aug. 27 – Ken & Ruth Reger
Aug. 27 – Lorne & Barbara-Anne Seip
Aug. 27 – Ross & Audrey Snider
Aug. 28 – Paul & Sandra Fletcher



Celebrate with us

**You are invited to an Open House
for Barbara & Dennis Lichty’s
60th Wedding Anniversary
Sunday, August 14, 2016**

Place: Elmira Legion on First St., Elmira
Time: 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Best Wishes Only – No Gifts

Update from the Partnership Exploration Team

St. James’ Church Council and members of our Partnership Exploration Team met with the Church Council of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fergus-Elora on June 20th. This was a follow-up to the potluck supper for the two congregations held on June 14th.

Ingrid, the Chair of Faith’s Church Council, began the meeting with consideration of Mark 2:1-12. This led us to think about fear of the unknown as a type of paralysis, the love of Christ even when we don’t do things perfectly, and the importance of faith and teamwork as we try new things. We reflected on the potluck with members of the two congregations and listened to the comments that members had written out. The themes were: a partnership is necessary; getting to know each other was fun; St. James, St. Jacobs should be invited in; many details/unknowns will have to be sorted out; and this partnership should be tried. We concluded that there is momentum and a desire to move forward with this partnership.

A representative from St. James, St. Jacobs was present and she described their similar challenges with paying for a full-time pastor on their own. However, she noted, Pastor Martin’s departure to take up a call in Midland is very recent and they need some time to reflect on the various possibilities for their future. Their reason for attending was to listen to the discussions that the Elmira and Fergus congregations are having and they appreciated knowing that St. Jacobs was welcome to join in.

We took some time to clarify our common objective. The consensus, at this point, is that we want to move forward cautiously, exploring a partnership with a relatively limited amount of change. Each congregation wants to retain its independent identity with its own membership,

constitution, and building. We are not envisioning a merger or leaving one building empty to worship jointly in another building every Sunday. However, sharing of resources such as pastors serving more than one congregation and carrying out various programs jointly needs to be explored.

Next steps involve using the summer to allow discussion of the partnership possibilities within the individual congregations. We want to be sure all members of the congregations have an opportunity to ask questions and understand the type of partnership that is being considered before we ask the synod office for their involvement. The leadership groups agreed to meet again on September 19th at St. James, Elmira.

Thus, we encourage members to ask questions, share their concerns, and provide their comments to members of the Partnership Exploration Team: Marion Pollard, Barb Finn, Rod Kruger, and Linda Snyder; as well as to Church Council: Renée Peev, Ron Lorch, Barb Wilkie, Janet Beisel, Janet Wheeler, Ron Drummond, and Barbara-Anne Seip (plus Marion & Linda); and, of course, to Pastor Hans. We look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Back Pack Program – sponsored by Woolwich Community Services



This program is to provide for less fortunate children and youth in Woolwich Township area. Woolwich Community Services provides a variety of services to its community

members. Most families receiving their services are unable to afford the extra expenses necessary for their children to return to school in September.

There is a need to fill 185 backpacks with “supplies required” for school. Their philosophy is “Together We Make A Difference”. They are requesting our assistance by donation school supplies as suggested

in the following list. Also, cash donations are graciously appreciated to purchase additional items.

Supplies can be dropped off at Woolwich Community Services office or in the boxes located near the coat racks by the side door. Please deliver donations before August 23, 2016.

On behalf of the children and youth, they would like to thank you in advance for your time and consideration. If you have questions or concerns please call 519-669-5139.

Supplies Requested for Backpacks



1. Backpacks
2. Binders
3. Calculators (regular & scientific)
4. Combination locks
5. Crayons
6. Pencil Box
7. Duo Tangs
8. Erasers
9. Glue sticks
10. Highlighters
11. White Out
12. Index sheets
13. Kleenex
14. Children’s Scissors
15. Markers
16. Math Set
17. Rulers
18. Coiled Notebooks
19. 3-ring lined paper
20. Pencil case
21. Pencils
22. Pencil crayons
23. Pens
24. Dictionary
25. Cash donations to purchase supplies



School Supply Drive

Building restoration Project



CHURCH BUILDING

At our annual meeting, we discussed the need to continue to tackle the major building repairs. The focus of this year is the exterior brickwork of the original Church building.

During the winter months, with the help of an engineer, we developed a description of the repairs that need to be completed. Our review confirmed that the brickwork is in remarkably good shape but

that repairs to cracks and mortar gaps were required to prevent further damage to the building.

We received quotations from three qualified companies and selected Brick & Co. as our preferred contractor. Restoration work will begin in August and will be completed in September. This work will be done by masons suspended up to 70 feet in the air by zoom-booms – it should be quite something to watch.

Thank you for your continued support for these special projects to maintain our beautiful Church building.

Calling

Calling anyone who loves to sing. If you have ever thought about singing in a choir but are a little shy, this is an open invitation. The choir at St. James normally meets on Thursday nights during the year and sings most Sundays, which may or may not stay the same in the fall. It is a wonderful, welcoming group of singers, and any and all are welcome. If you have any inkling at all please call Jeff Enns, 519-669-



3315. We are especially looking for soprano voices but would welcome all with open arms.

Treasurer's Report

A brief report covering the 5 month period ended May 31, 2016.

General Operating Fund (Current Account)

Although we are showing a deficit of \$5,220 we are \$2,015 ahead of our \$7,235 budgeted deficit. This also compares with a deficit of \$21,070 in the same 2015 period, an improvement of \$15,850.

Benevolence Fund

Budget commitment – \$7,750

Actual contributions – \$7,120; shortfall - \$648
2015 actual - \$6,225; 2016 improvement over 2015 - \$877.

Special Projects Fund (Building Restoration)

2016 receipts – \$16,684

2016 budget – \$18,750; Deficit – \$2,066

2015 receipts – \$26,913; \$10,229 more than 2016

We have accepted a tender of \$40,567 for restoration of the original building. It is anticipated that our capital expenditure for building refurbishment and equipment replacement this year will be in the \$55,000 to \$65,000 range – well below our budget of \$130,000.

Refugee Program Fund

We have exceeded our \$5,000 goal by \$380 and total funds received have been sent to Faith Lutheran Church, Fergus-Elora.

Other Funds

All our remaining funds have positive balances.

If you would like additional information on any of our funds, please feel free to contact our treasurer, Ron Lorch.