



“FOR PETE’S SAKE”

*St Peter’s Lutheran Church
Zurich, Ontario*

November 2009

Dear friends in Christ.

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”
#798, Cranberry hymnal

Those are words that I try to live by, as a woman of faith and as a pastor. Back in 2004, the Spirit drew our lives together and you called me to be your pastor. And now the Spirit is calling again.

It was easy to leave Kitchener and come to Zurich to begin the adventure of being a pastor with you. But it is not as easy to leave this time for we have become a part of each other’s lives.

Because we love you, we hope that you can understand that this is God at work.

During my last year of school, I confided one day in an older pastor, my mentor, about how I was hoping and praying for a call to the Ottawa Valley because that would be close to our cabin. He shocked me by saying “I have trouble with that.” Then I received a long lecture about opening myself totally to the Holy Spirit. I heard about how that had worked in his life. I was deeply impressed.

Shortly after that, I came to Zurich to fill in one fall Sunday. Bob and I were moved by the welcome you gave us. Our hearts were open to you, and months later when you issued a call to me, we were delighted.

Our time together has been rich with experiences – enough challenges to stimulate growth and understanding, and plenty of joy and satisfaction to make life a blessing. It has been a very good experience as a first call and you have helped in my formation as a pastor.

In our church, we rely on the Holy Spirit to direct us when it is time to let go of ministry in one place and begin in another. When an invitation to participate in the call process at Westside arrived in the mail, unbidden, I thought “What’s God up to now?” I took the invitation seriously, spending time in prayer, trying to discern God’s will.

As I prayed over the summer, I came to understand that my work here was to help the congregation become open to the future that God has planned, to get excited about renewal and to believe that they could grow and change. Together we’ve done that foundational work; but now God has someone else in mind who will build on that and lead the congregation forward.

I hope that you will continue to keep Bob and me in your prayers. I also hope that you will hold Westside Lutheran Church in your prayers – as you will continue to be in mine. And thank you all so very, very much for a wonderful five plus years in ministry together!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Ann

Fellow Parishioners:

I am pleased to announce that we have secured an interim pastor effective November 15, 2009. I have been consulting with Rev. Dr. Mark Harris, assistant to Bishop Michael Pryse. Rev. Harris has now written us a letter confirming that Bishop Pryse, with our council approval, has appointed Rev. Richard Holm (Pastor Dick) as our interim Pastor. Pastor Dick has been retired for a year and a half, and his last charge was in Woodstock where he resides. Since retiring, he has served as interim pastor for a congregation in London, as well as having done a fair amount of substitute preaching. I have spoken with Pastor Dick and he is happy to be serving us.

Following are the definition and duties of an interim pastor, for your information:
an interim pastor has all the privileges of a regularly called pastor, as defined in the constitution (Article VII, Sctn. 9):

"During a pastoral vacancy, an interim pastor shall be selected by the Congregational Council after consultation with the bishop. The interim pastor shall have the responsibility of a regularly called pastor. All interim and supply pastors shall refrain from exerting influence in the call process of the congregation."

We welcome Pastor Dick and his wife Linda to join us in worship for this next while.

Incidentally, there are four new candidates that will be graduating from our seminary as of late January / early February of 2010. Pastor Harris encouraged me to ask them to visit us as guest pastors even as of now. He said it's a great way to meet the future grads and possibly consider a match. Pastor Harris suggested we consider whether we'd be open to hiring a new graduate from seminary. If so, would our preference be to have a minister who is more fresh, or one with more life experience and possibly a previous career?

I ask you all to put thought and prayer into our collective consideration of a new pastor. Your council and newly selected call committee encourages and values your input. Sincere thanks to all who were approached to serve on the call committee for their overwhelmingly positive responses. For your awareness, the selection process was as follows:

Council compiled a list of 18 members we were comfortable with representing the views of our congregation in this important task. Each of these individuals was approached and the number of positive responses was exceptional. At the most recent council meeting (Oct. 20, 2009), the number of potential Call Committee members was pared down from the original list. Council did its best to represent the various age groups and interests (Youth Group, ELW, Renewal Team, etc.) of our congregation. I am confident that although all of our church members would contribute greatly to this process, we have selected a very strong group of individuals to sit on the committee:

Karen Schade – Chair (a Vice Chair will also be required)	
Jen Schellenberger	Mike Schaefer
Gary Eagleson	Margaret L. Deichert
Fred Haberer	Tracy Lather / Jackie Lather (one vote)
Sharon Sanders	

All congregation members are strongly encouraged to be involved in this selection process by sharing your thoughts with committee members as to what you wish to see in the next Pastor at St. Peter's.
Submitted by Mark Heimrich, St. Peter's Church Council Chair

St. Peter's Financial Update:

Current Account:

Actual Income to Date (as of October 18th)	\$ 76,546.32
Actual Expenses to Date (as of October 18th)	\$ 83,293.71
Balance (Under)	\$ (6,747.39)



Mission (Benevolence):

Benevolence Commitment	\$ 9000.00
Actual Received (as of October 18 th)	\$ 3630.00
Amount Outstanding	\$ 5370.00

Council has passed a motion regarding the Quarterly Financial Statements – To conserve the environment and to cut down on costs, congregation members will only receive one financial statement for tax purposes at year end. However, if you wish to still receive another statement throughout the year, please contact Jen Schellenberger.

Letter from Bishop Michael Pryse regarding Pandemic Preparedness –

Dear friends,

This week many provincial health authorities will begin vaccination programs related to the H1N1 virus. As such, I think it is important that we take whatever steps are required to ensure that our congregations are adequately prepared to respond to this situation.

Rev. Monika Wiesner, a member of the task force, has prepared our synod's pandemic preparedness guidelines. As communicated in my letter of April 30, 2009:

"The synod has plans in place to govern operations of the synod office should adjustments need to be made. In the meantime, I would advise our congregations and related agencies to do a similar review and if no plans are presently in place, to review the documents in the Resource section of the synod website under the title Pandemic Planning. You will also want to review the municipal and provincial resources available to you in the places in which you live."

I am well aware of the pastoral challenges this situation presents and have witnessed them first hand as I have visited congregations in recent weeks. I would encourage you, however, to provide strong and courageous leadership in these matters, trusting that any adjustments will be for the short term and will not significantly alter our regular patterns of worship and pastoral care.

Some Further Comments Concerning Pastoral Practice and Accompanying Issues Related to H1N1

The current status of the H1N1 virus has changed in such a manner that it now has further implications for the church's response to the pandemic.

1. Congregations will continue to hold worship services and conduct business as normal until community health officials deem otherwise. However, certain measures are strongly advised to protect the potential spread of the virus even now.
2. Clergy are encouraged to provide clear guidelines (in bulletins, newsletters, committee meetings, individual conversation) to ensure that congregational members who may be showing flu-like symptoms not attend worship services or scheduled meetings.

More information is available on the following website under Pandemic Preparedness
<http://www.easternsynod.org/index.php>



FAREWELL OPEN HOUSE

On Sunday November 1, 2009

IN HONOUR OF PASTOR ANN AND BOB

From 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall



PARISH LIFE FALL SUPPER

Saturday November 7th in St. Peter's Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Supper will consist of Roast Pork, Sauerkraut, Potatoes, Veggies and of course Dessert

Ticket cost: \$15 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12, free for children 5 & under.

Volunteers needed to setup, serve, cleanup and to make pies or cakes.

ELW Praise Offering Service:

When: Sunday, November 8, 2009 at our 10 a.m. worship service

Participants: Women of the Congregation

Theme: I Have Called You By Name

Every year the National ELW gives the ELCIC \$100,000 for their various missions. Envelopes will be available at this service for donations as our gifts to this mission program.



FAMILY GAMES NIGHT:

Come out to St. Peter's for some fun and games on Friday, November 27th at 7:00 p.m. Bring your own games or try some of ours.

There will be plenty of munchies and drinks! See you there!

Sunday School:

Sunday School start time has changed. Children now go to their classes following the children's hymn / children's message during the worship service. Peter Bornath is looking for a volunteer to fill the role of Sunday School Superintendent effective September 2010.



Coffee Hour Volunteers: If you would like to volunteer for a Sunday or change your Sunday for the 2010 Schedule please do so before November 25th by contacting Jen at jschellenberger@hay.net

Baptismal Anniversaries for November:

Celebrate and rejoice as we remember the following on their baptismal anniversaries.

Nov. 4, 1990	Lauren Haberer	Nov. 4, 2007	Ethan Willert
Nov. 10, 1996	Sarah Finch	Nov. 11, 2005	Olivia Willert
Nov. 12, 1995	Brad Stuckless	Nov. 12, 2006	Robyn Gingerich
Nov. 14, 1999	Mitchell Schellenberger	Nov. 15, 1998	Tyler Krainz
Nov. 21, 1999	Sera Westlake	Nov. 22, 1998	Mackenzie Hendrick
Nov. 23, 1997	Kurt Bornath	Nov. 25, 2007	Bryson Thiel
Nov. 25, 2007	Jackson Bornath	Nov. 25, 2007	Katerina Bornath
Nov. 28, 1999	Ryan Miller	Nov. 28, 2004	Joseph Beattie
Nov. 28, 2004	Jackson Beattie	Nov. 29, 1992	Michael Dietrich
Nov. 29, 1998	Amanda Fox	Nov. 30, 1986	Ashley Erb

“See what love the Father has given us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are.” 1John 3:1



PAST EVENTS:

Sept 15-16th - AWESOME... The Zurich SOC event was small but it was MIGHTY. We accomplished some great things. We primed about 1/3 of St. Peter's cemetery fence. We collected over 20 bags of groceries for Blessings Food Bank with our food drive on Saturday. Between the Christian Rock Concert and the 100 mile Soup Luncheon held, we raised \$305 for Blessings to put towards their milk program. THANK YOU to everyone who came and those who helped out.

On Friday, October 23rd a few people from St. Peter's attended the U2-charist at St. Paul's in London. I am told that it was an unbelievable concert / Service.

On Saturday, October 24th 2 youth and 4 adults attend the London Conference Fall Meeting. One of our youth chose to stay for the business meeting to be a voting delegate-- a great way to learn more about how the wider church works. Youth DO have a voice in how things are run!

On Friday, Oct 30th a few of us will also be going to the Sunrise Corn Maize to experience Flashlight Friday! Hope it doesn't rain!

COMING EVENTS:

November 14-15 SOC Sleepover Event in Brodhagen...The topic is "Stuff and Consumerism". We will learn about what God says about stuff and how our desire for more and better stuff is affecting our environment. A collection of items for the "House of Blessings" will be our servant event. The donations will be given to youth at Christmas. Suggested items are clothes, watches, models (car, airplane), music, DVD's, sports equipment, makeup, scrapbook and card making supplies and gift cards (cinema, book store etc). **Members of St. Peter's wishing to donate items can give them to Tracy Lather to take with her.**

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Saturday, November 28 UNIFIED CONCERT at Redeemer Lutheran in London. It's an "AD HOC SOC ROCK" event beginning at 5 p.m. with a quick study followed by a pizza supper before the concert. (We could also consider it a day trip to London to do some start-of-the-season Christmas shopping!) This is a **free-will donation event** with proceeds going to a local charity. Rides may be available. Contact Tracy or Marg!

NOTES TO YOUTH PARENTS:

I am looking for 4 things from the parents of our youth aged 12 to 19 years.

#1 - I am looking for a parent or other member of the congregation who would be willing to commit 4 days of their time to travel with the youth group to the national CLAY gathering in London as a home team leader. Each team requires 2 and since I will probably be unable to go, I need someone to take my place. (If we can talk any of the boys into going, we will require a male leader, otherwise a female is great!)

#2 - We need to have a CLAY information meeting soon. I would appreciate if the parents of the youth who want to go would contact me to set up a time. The agenda for this meeting will be about costs and ideas for fundraising. If we can get started fundraising now, I am sure that we can raise most of the monies needed. I require a financial commitment from the youth intending to go.

#3 - Does your young person play sports / play in concerts etc? Tell us of up-coming events so we can encourage other youth and the congregation to come out and watch / cheer them on!

#4 - I am asking for a commitment from the parents and youth to participate in youth events and services. (We can not ask the congregation to support us, if we are not visible in the church) I must re-iterate that you don't have to attend everything, please just make an effort to attend 1 event a month and help out with all fundraising in some capacity (whether it is making posters to advertise the event to actually being there and running the event. **(Creative ideas for events are welcomed and encouraged...we could use some fresh ideas!!!)**)



On Sunday, October 25th we welcomed **NEW MEMBERS Leisa and Tom McBride** through Affirmation of Baptism and **Susan and Ross Cordell** through transfer to St. Peter's.

The Prayer Chain is now organized for anyone wishing to have prayers offered on their behalf. If prayers are being requested for another person the consent of that individual is required. Contact Alma Westlake 519-236-4288 or Marie Deichert 519-236-4386 with your prayer requests.

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

A wonderful group of 15 ladies came out on September 14 to see what "Angel Wings" was about. Since then we have met every other Monday evening from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our numbers stay about the same but we have different combinations of girls each time. We are not all Lutherans, so our outreach area is large. At first (before our first meeting) I wondered why I just would learn to say NO, but I have more than enjoyed our Monday nights together. I think our prayer shawls are surrounded by a lot of laughter and prayers. I am so proud of our group. All of us now know how to knit or crochet and are well on our way to completing a shawl.

On October 18th, Pastor Ann blessed 7 shawls! I thought this accomplishment would have taken longer. Father Peter is very happy to bless the next group of shawls. We have almost as many again ready to be blessed. We are happy to be distributing shawls to people whose names have come forward and hopefully will be wrapped and comforted by our gifts of "Angel Wings". If you know of someone who might be in need of a shawl please let me know.



Knitting or crocheting for someone who needs comfort is therapy and healing for us who create the shawls, not just those who receive them. Through prayers for others we see how blessed we are. Each stitch can be used to count our blessings, of which we have many. This skill helps to keep our minds off our trials and keeps us busy. You (the Monday night girls) are a blessing to me with your stories and non stop laughter. Thank you for supporting me in this venture.

To end this, I have to begin begging. We are in need of yarn or money for yarn. We do not mind donating our time and a bit of yarn but I don't want the ladies to run out of yarn and stay home. Talk to me if you can help out. Our next meeting is November 2 at 7:00 p.m. New people, young and old, are always welcome to join in the fun. *Submitted by Michele Haberer*

Pastor Ann has received four emails from Brenda Rader regarding Jackie Rader's experience in Kenya. It seems like each day is a new adventure and eye opening experience. Below are two of Jackie's emails. If you wish to receive others please let me know and I can email them to you. A printed copy is also available in the Fellowship Hall...Sharon.

October 5 --- My First Day at Cheryl's Children's Home - Break my heart!

I cannot even put into proper words my experience at Cheryl's Children's Home so far. There are approximately 250 children that attend the Cheryl's Academy which is within the compound of the home - many of which are children from the surrounding slum areas. The children all wear white and pink checkered uniforms with blue sweaters overtop. It is heartbreaking that many of the children's uniforms are worn so thin or ripped so badly that they have to wear clothes underneath them that are in absolutely no better shape. Their shoes, which in most other schools make up part of the uniform, are in such rough shape, it makes me wonder if it would be more comfortable to just go barefoot.

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It is somewhat possible to tell which children are orphans at the home and which live in the slums with their families - the children from the home at least have cleaner clothes. They are also guaranteed to be fed as long as there is money to buy food. The children that come in from the community do not have to pay any fees to attend the school but must either buy their lunch or bring it with them - so about 90 children do not eat because they cannot afford food.



The children all look out for one another; often the children who are provided with lunch share it with those less fortunate. The saddest part is that in many parts of the world, what they eat wouldn't be considered a substantial meal. Today the children ate beans mixed with maize - no meat, no vegetables or fruit, and no starch. And yet the children who receive this are lucky. As a volunteer at the home, my lunch is provided for me. The food has little flavour and is barely substantial enough to fill an empty stomach. Although I feel horrible eating from the limited food supply, they take offense when you do not take the food that is offered. Another volunteer who has been at the home for about a month said she brings an apple to hold her over until she can get home to eat. She only eats half her food and gives the rest to children who cannot afford the food. This is definitely something that I'm going to follow suit with. Today I talked to the director about why there is such little food and he said that funds are so tight, they are buying food day to day with the little money they have left. I have arranged that when I arrive tomorrow morning, I will be driven to a local market to buy enough food to stock the orphanage for at least a few days with some of the money that was fundraised. I would buy even more but the ATM machines here will only allow me to withdraw so much money at a time.

The financial situation is so dire that the older children who are away at high school (as the teaching staff at the home is not sufficient enough to educate the children in these important years) will be sent back to the home this week if their school fees are not received tomorrow. This breaks my heart. Hearing the dreams of some girls who are in 4th level (age 10) with desires of becoming doctors, pilots and journalists makes me realize that these children should be given every chance in the world.

The dream of the home is to be able to get a sponsor for each of the children to ensure that there will always be food to fill their stomachs or at least feed them enough that they are able to concentrate in school. These children are the future of Kenya and it makes me so hopeful that they have such huge dreams.



October 24 --- My heart keeps growing because of these children . . . how do I stop it from breaking on Friday?

My time at Cheryl's Children's Home is quickly coming to an end as my program is over this coming Friday. It breaks my heart to think that I only have 6 more days with these amazing children. I have been spending long hours at the home lately to try to get to know the children the best I can and show them the love they deserve. The children have really opened up to me, especially two little angels Benerd who is referred to as Chegey and is 5 years old and Walter, who's nickname is OT (or Otis) and is only 3. Both were brought to the home this past June by child services when they were found abandoned. I want to spend all the time I have here to get to know them as much as I can, but then there's always the hard part - leaving them. How do you give a couple children SO much love after they've lost both their parents and then just take that love away too? There has to be some positive development in the children if they allow volunteers to come and go. There's no way that I can live my life without seeing these little guys on a regular basis, even if it is just every couple of years.

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Over the past couple weeks I have been able to spend some of the donation money. I have bought enough food, including maize, maize flour, green grams, beans, rice, sugar, and cooking oil to last for approximately 3 weeks. I want to buy another few weeks worth of food before I leave. I also paid for a month's supply of clean water for the home. They pay \$62.50 each week to have clean water. With the donations I was also to make a substantial investment for the home. I paid for a gutter system to be installed on some of the buildings to catch rain which then drains into a storage tank. This is more sustainable than paying for water each week. With just eight months of rain (which won't be a problem with the rainy seasons here) the entire system will have paid for itself. These donations are ones that the children are not aware of. It is important to remain somewhat discrete so that the children do not develop the belief that without the help of people from the western world they cannot be successful.

What the children were made aware of was that with some of the money from the donations, the entire grade 7 classroom was stocked with all the necessary textbooks. When I arrived back from the bookstore with Ken (the "Dad" who lives at the home), the grade 6 class all ran to help carry the boxes. The smiles on their faces brought instant tears to my eyes. What an awesome feeling. These children are SO enthusiastic to learn! There's now one textbook for every two students! Much better than some classes that share one book among three to four students or those that don't have any textbooks at all. Grade seven is approaching a critical age where learning is essential. Currently the school does not have a grade 7 class and the orphans are sent to relatively affordable boarding schools. The current grade 6 class will be moving into the new grade 7 classroom for the first time on January 7th. This is going to save the home substantial school fees and ensure that the children from the neighbourhood who attend Cheryl's Academy and are poor will be able to continue to grade 7!

This is all for now. I feel like I have SO much that has to be done over the next week. I am not ready for my time at Cheryl's Children's Home to end but at least I have the comfort in knowing that I have made an impact on these children's lives. I hope I am able to communicate how much all the donations are appreciated here and the difference we've been able to make. Please contact me if you have any desire to come volunteer in Kenya. I have contacts at Cheryl's and contacts with accommodation options. If you are interested in sponsoring one of the children at Cheryl's, where 100% of your money goes to the home and children, please do not hesitate to ask me about that either!

This is a bittersweet time for us at St. Peter's as we say farewell to Pastor Ann and Bob. We celebrate their ministry with our congregation the past five plus years and thank them for their ministry, guidance and friendship. Pastor Ann has prayed with and for many of us through happy times and sad times...during illnesses, weddings, anniversaries, births, deaths of loved ones, and so on.

Yet even with tears, we ask God's blessing on both Pastor Ann and Bob as they begin a new chapter in their lives at Westside Lutheran in Barrie on November 29th. You will truly be missed by all of us. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*"Some people come into our lives and quickly go.
Some stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts,
and we are never, ever the same."*

LABOURS OF LOVE FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

USHERS

Captain: Phil and Laurie Erb
Alternate: Claire Deichert
Ted Sanders
Harvey Norton

LAY READERS

November 1 Jackie Lather
8 Michele Haberer
15 Karen Rader
22 Sharon Sanders
29 Ron Heimrich

ACOLYTES

November 1 Kimberly Hendrick
8 Michael Beierling
15 Mitchell Dietrich
22 Matthew Thiel
29 Kurt Bornath

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

November 1 Tracy Lather, Derek Bornath
15 Laurie Erb, Doug Klopp

ALTAR GUILD Alma Westlake, Cathy Hugill, Sharon Sanders

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

November 8 Michele Haberer
22 Jenni Boles

COFFEE HOUR

November 1 Andrea Schaefer / Petra Aisenpreis
8 Anne Schade / Doreen Webb / Karen Schade
15 Elizabeth Merner
22 Hub Thiel and family
29 Marlene Taylor

