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#### 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  
unconditionally to all.

PASTOR RONNIE SMITH

10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

July 2025

[pastorpeacepickering@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpeacepickering@gmail.com)  
[www.peacelutheranchurch.ca](http://www.peacelutheranchurch.ca)  
E: [peacelutheran.plc@gmail.com](mailto: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

### Food For Thought

*We love because he first loved us.*

1 John 4:19 NIV

God FIRST loved us – how amazing. Despite us feeling that we are unworthy, we are worthy because God FIRST loved us. Because he loves us, He has enabled us to love others, to put their interests ahead of our own. We can love them because God first loved us.

**Galatians 2:20** “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me”; and **Gal. 4:19** “My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you”

The word “Love” appears 324 times in 259 verses in the NIV New Testament. In Greek, the word “love” has 4 different types of meaning:

Agape – 280 times (unconditional selfless sacrificial commitment)

Philos – 41 times (brotherly/sisterly, close friendship)

Storge – 3 times (a kinship love, ie family. It expresses loyalty and is possessive in nature)

Eros – 0 times mentioned in bible (erotic sensual love. It also appeals to one or more of the 5 senses, i.e. I love eating caramel ice cream)

Martin Luther has taught us to ask – What does this mean? So what does LOVE mean?

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV)*

Paul wrote at least two letters to the church at Corinth. And a significant portion of each was dedicated to resolving problems within the church. This was a divided church that was lacking in love. And, in this passage, Paul seems to be addressing many of their failures, contrasting them with the love they should have for each other. A love that, if demonstrated toward each other, would resolve their issues.



## 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:

Lena Sievers, Co-ordinator, and others are in the office on a part time basis throughout the week to assist with calls and drop-in's. Please leave a message or email and someone will respond:

There is a Care Team visiting shut-in's on Thursdays, 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 each month starting in July. Pastor Dennis will be available for emergency situations only.

Office Tel: (905) 839-3521, or:  
peacelutheran.plc@gmail.com

## Food For Thought (cont.)

In these four verses, Paul provides us with a definition of biblical love, listing some things that love is, and others that it is not. What is common among all of them is that love is "others-focused". Love looks to build others up, even at the expense of self. Love, as described here, is not a matter of how I feel, but of what I do.

And a love like this should be our goal as followers of Jesus. In the opening verses of this chapter, Paul told us that no matter what we do, if we do not have love, it is all for naught. John echoes this in **1 John 4:7-12** -- <sup>7</sup> *Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.* <sup>8</sup> *Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.* <sup>9</sup> *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.* <sup>10</sup> *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.* <sup>11</sup> *Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* <sup>12</sup> *No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.* He tells us to love one another. And that the one who does not love, does not know God, because God is love.

We may find it very hard to love some people. But love for each other is not optional. It is the one thing that we are commanded to do **John 15:12** "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

And when we choose to obey Jesus' command, we find that His Spirit, living in us, helps us to love like this (**Gal. 5:22** "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness*"), even to those we find challenging to love.

And when we love, we more fully experience God's love (**1 John 4:16** *And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them*")) and promote love and unity within the body of Christ.

Be willing to follow the example of Jesus (**1 John 4:10-11** "<sup>10</sup> *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.* <sup>11</sup> *Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another*")).

Let us love one another with this kind of love.

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Peace and blessings, Rosie

# May PLC Financials

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

	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
All Donations	\$4,831	\$33,494	\$121,100
Rental Income	\$9,504	\$32,036	\$48,110
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$2,055	\$2,690
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$14,335</b>	<b>\$67,586</b>	<b>\$171,900</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Benevolence	\$750	\$3,750	\$9,000
Pastoral Remuneration	\$9,573	\$47,864	\$114,400
Other Staff Remuneration	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Pastoral & Council	\$0	\$10	\$1,000
Office: Supplies, Communications	\$590	\$2,746	\$4,485
Committees	\$567	\$607	\$3,000
Financial	\$160	\$792	\$3,360
Utilities	\$810	\$5,155	\$9,800
Property	\$1,245	\$11,517	\$37,150
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$13,695</b>	<b>\$72,442</b>	<b>\$183,195</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$641</b>	<b>-\$4,855</b>	<b>-\$11,295</b>

## Upcoming Events in July 2025!

<b>Sunday, June 29th</b>	-	<b>Analisa—service/sermon Strawberry Social (Coffee Hour)</b>
<b>Sunday, July 6th</b>	-	<b>Name Tag Sunday &amp; Interim Pastor Dennis doing Communion Service</b>
<b>Sunday, July 13th</b>	-	<b>Analisa—service and sermon</b>
<b>Sunday, July 20th</b>	-	<b>Pastor Dennis—Communion Service</b>
<b>Sunday, July 27th</b>	-	<b>Rosie/Arnold—service and sermon</b>
	-	<b>Sunday Sundae (Congregational Life Coffee Hour)</b>



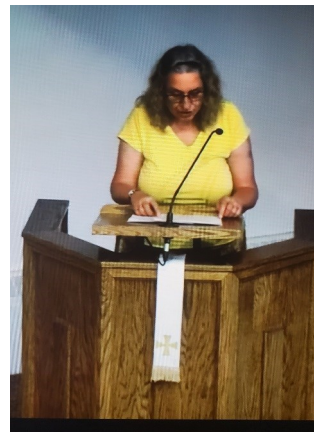


# Healing Service - June 1st





# June Worship Services



Thank you all for your service—especially Pastor Lowell, Pastor Rasma, Analisa, Arnold, the music team, the healing service team, readers, greeters, AM's and all who serve on Altar Guild!



## Congregational Life Summer Events

“Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer  
Those days of soda and pretzels and beer ....”

***Nat King Cole (1963)***

Please join us after service downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for the following “Beat the Heat” Events:

- ♦ On Sunday, June 29th — Strawberry Social
- ♦ On Sunday, July 27th — Sunday Sundae (ice cream—yum)
- ♦ On Sunday, August 24th — Watermelon Party

Good Times! Fun Times! In Fellowship with one another! Have a great summer!



## Labyrinth Walk at Westminster United Methodist Church (1st Wed. of each month)

The Westminster Church invites all to join their Labyrinth Circle on the first Wednesday of each month. It is very peaceful and spiritually uplifting with soft Gregorian chants. See information below from their website:

*Westminster United Church Whitby 1850 Rossland Rd. East (and Gerrard), Whitby, Ontario, Canada*

The Labyrinth Circle of Westminster is pleased to announce that the labyrinth will be open Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

A labyrinth walk provides an opportunity for prayer and meditation along a path that has twists and turns not unlike the path of our lives. People walk the labyrinth for many reasons, including curiosity. Some people begin the walk and then discover their reasons along the way. Every labyrinth walk is different. Come walk the path that has been identified with the Christian church since the Middle Ages. All are welcome.

Thanks Shari Nelson for bringing this to our attention. If you wish to join her, please let her know.



# Meaning of The Eternity Candle

In Lutheran churches, the Eternity Candle, also known as a Sanctuary Lamp or Eternal Flame, is elevated to symbolize the presence of Christ, specifically as the Light of the World, and the eternal presence of God. It serves as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice and His ongoing presence within the church and among believers. It was placed near the tabernacle or altar to signify and honor the presence of Christ in the elements of bread and wine. It started in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century with the Roman Catholic Church.

The elevated candle, often suspended from the ceiling or mounted near the altar, represents Christ's presence in the church. It signifies that Christ is the light that illuminates the world, and His light shines within the church community.

The constant burning of the candle throughout the week symbolizes God's eternal presence and His unwavering love and grace. The candle, giving itself to provide light, also serves as a visual representation of Christ's self-sacrifice for the world.

In many cultures and contexts, an "eternal flame" is a symbol of remembrance, eternity, or divine presence. Eternal flames are commonly found at war memorials and other sites of remembrance, suspended from the ceiling or placed in a prominent location to honor those who died. In some religions, like Judaism, the "eternal flame" (Ner Tamid) is a hanging light in a synagogue, symbolizing God's eternal presence and representing the perpetual fire on the altar of burnt offerings. A main influence from Judaism in the Old Testament is when God instructed Moses to have a lamp with pure oil perpetually burn in the Tabernacle (Exodus 27:20-21). This is the precedent for the Catholic custom of burning a candle before the tabernacle.

The lamp itself, whether a traditional oil lamp or an electric one, is placed in the chancel/sanctuary and is usually kept burning to indicate the eternal presence of Christ or God. These lights are never allowed to dim or go out, and in case of electric problems, alternative emergency power is used to prevent them from extinguishing. Though once fueled by oil, most today are electric lights. In many churches, the sanctuary lamp is a red glass-covered candle, often burning continuously, to symbolize the ever-present love of Christ.

Many Christian denominations have the candle burning to show that the light of Christ always burns in a sin-darkened world. Christ is our light that shines in a dark place.



The new Eternity Candle at Peace is burning bright!

(Gift from Christ the King)

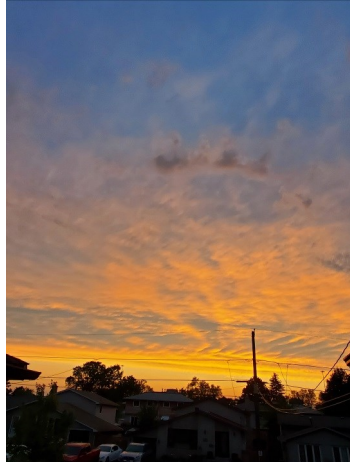




# God's Creation



By Arnold—Ajax shoreline



View from Rosie's home



By Rosie L



Rosie's "roses"



Purple Trillium—FB



By FB friend.



By FB friend.



By Cameron Y



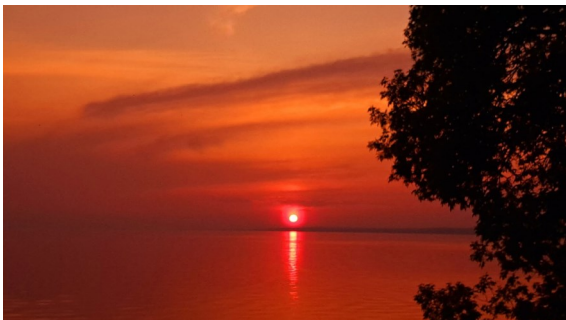
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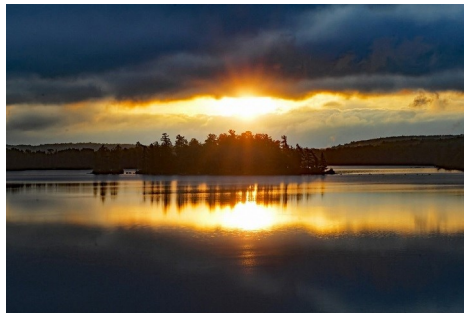
By FB friend.



Loons—FB friend.



By FB friend.



By FB friend.



By Rosie





## Canada Lutheran - June 2025 article, pg. 25/26

Fiona thought this article called “Shared values and purpose” found in the Canada Lutheran magazine, June 2025, on pages 25 and 26, written by the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod, is relevant to what we are currently going through. I have taken some highlights from this article. If you wish to read it in its entirety, please find extra copies available in the Narthex:

... “why is it important to talk about values and purpose? ... “Values are at the heart of all we do. They are our priorities, drivers of behavior, and what energizes us. They give meaning and purpose to our lives and our work ... and define who we are as individuals and together as the church.”

“Similarly, purpose is how we and others know why we do the things we do. Purpose is more than just direction or goals to be accomplished. It is the ultimate reason for us to exist. A clearly stated and shared purpose inspires and motivates people in organizations at every level to work together in achieving their goals. Organizations get into trouble and start having significant problems when they don’t understand their values and purpose ... As an example, I have met with more congregations recently who are having financial stress. When they ask for solutions, I always ask them what their purpose is. Usually, I get an answer that is a version of, “we just want to hang on as long as possible. But, if we make decisions based on “hanging on”, then we start cutting staff, eviscerating programs, treating partners as potential rental income, and our focus shifts from making disciples to making the budget at all costs. We stop operating from what we value. And before we know it, members stop showing up because the place they thought stood for the same things as them no longer does. The community no longer sees the congregation as a partner that cares about the common good of everyone.”

“Organizations that operate out of purpose and values are significantly more successful. They have better engagement from members and employees ... Their teams function better, and they have people willing to get involved. They have more significant impact in their communities. They are better to live out their purpose because they know what they are trying to live out.”

## Congregational Council Update

The Congregational Council meeting held on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 was well attended by several guest members who had new ideas and information to share with us. Thank you Tapio and Bill for all the work you did within a very short time to find a new insurance carrier for Peace, to Susan and Riya regarding the PLC Outreach Lunch and to Lena for compiling and presenting the “Have Your Say” data that was collected (even hours before our meeting)! We are a vibrant church and council!! Once our guests left, we resumed regular business and were able to pass some Motions including the appointment of the new Call Committee as follows:

Moved by: Fiona Seconded by: Sirkka

That the following members be appointed to constitute the PLC Call Committee and to work with our Synod Representative to recommend a candidate as our Pastor: Jeremy West, Arnold Persaud, Shari Nelson, Lena Sievers, Cameron Ylimaki, Kirsten Boucher, Karen Bunbury.

We thank everyone who submitted their name. We recognize the many ways, members and friends of Peace have contributed over the years, but especially now in this transitional time.

Peace and blessings,

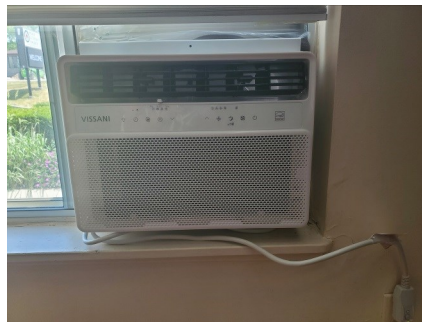
Rosemarie (Rosie) Lantzsch  
Congregational Council Co-Chair

## 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. We have shared common values and purpose and we have people willing to be involved. Thanks to all volunteers who take pride in the church’s upkeep and do things on their own or in consultation with others. Bless you, thank you! Below are some recent improvements.



Thank you Elizabeth, Angelina & Lena for making the Narthex more welcoming! Thanks to all contributors and other helpers!



Thank you Elizabeth and Karen for repotting the tree with soil and fertilizer and taking care of the altar plants. The plants are now drinking in a bit of sunlight.

Thank you to those on Altar Guild for doing the weekly watering.

Thank you Jeremy for getting a new A/C!! Just in time for the summer heat!

Thanks Jeremy, Tapio and Rainer for all you do to fix up our property! This is an ongoing labor of love, sweat and dedication!



## PCL—Volunteers (cont)



Thank you Elizabeth and Karen for watering the Peace Memorial Garden. Last year, Karen planted 15 different plants/bushes that are thriving this year and quite a few perennials were donated by Elizabeth's friend, Judy. Jeremy bought the Memorial stone. Horst Kuether also donated a Hosta for Hanni. Both are now deceased. That is the purpose and meaning of Peace "Memorial" Garden



Thanks Veggie Team for planting, weeding, watering this year's crop. A special thank you to Shari Valja, our "weed removal expert"!



Thank you Rainer for undertaking this huge project of weeding! Going forward, Rainer, Karen and Elizabeth will meet after church to kick start a new "native plant" garden!



Thank you Cameron for designing and updating the brochure! Will be updated again when we have a new Pastor!

## Sewing With Shirley



The ladies were busy sewing and creating beautiful quilts and doing other projects. They get together every Friday from 9:30 – 11:30. If you are interested, please speak with Shirley!

There are so many more volunteers that do so much "behind the scenes" work, the Tech Team preparing the tiles for service, Lena and Shirley doing office work, all who prepare worship services and sermons (Rosie, Analisa & Arnold), Fiona, who is Council's amazing Secretary. Sunny and Jeremy doing the financials. People who do so much either at church and at their respective homes! Thanks to all the Readers, Greeters, AM's, Altar Guild, Music Team and more! THANK YOU ALL!!



## Gratitude Corner



### Gratitude Corner

Every month, we will celebrate the work different people do at Peace and in our community

#### Ruth & Elizabeth

We sincerely thank Ruth and Elizabeth for the many ways they help and support several ministries at Peace and in our community. They see a need and they act to improve our church and our outreach. They give their loving care, support and prayers to many members and friends of Peace over these many years as Intercessor Coordinators. They send out prayer requests to the Intercessor Team for those in need of prayer..

They saw a need to establish a Peace Care Team (see below).

Ruth recently re-joined the Worship & Arts committee and is a Reader. Elizabeth tends the Peace Garden and sometimes attends the DARS functions and more.

Thanks for all you do for Peace and our community.

## Peace Care Team

We would like to announce the formation of the **new Peace Care Team** whose members keep in touch with those who have less opportunity to engage in mainstream church life. Keeping in touch could be a phone call or a face-to-face visit at a home or coffee shop, or both over time. We welcome any who would like to join the team and we invite any who would like to stay connected in this unique way to phone the church office (905-839-3521) or email [peacelutheran.plc@gmail.com](mailto:peacelutheran.plc@gmail.com). Those already on the team are Analisa, Elizabeth, Lena and Ruth. We all see this as a mutually beneficial fellowship opportunity.

Elizabeth, Ruth, Lena and Analisa





## Durham Pride Parade - Highlights



Thanks Sirkka for sharing the pictures of the Durham Pride parade that you attended along with Cameron, Jeremy, Elizabeth and Jemina from Peace. Thanks to Don Fry for including Peace as an affirming church.

**In July, Karen is donating a bench to Peace displaying the pride colors. Stay tuned!**



# Super Sophia Project — Love Boxes™

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Peace Lutheran Church** for your incredible love and support over the past **seven years**. Together, we've helped deliver nearly **60,000 Love Boxes™** to children in hospitals. Your dedication has been a meaningful part of our journey.

A special update: **Caleb recently celebrated prom and is graduating high school!**

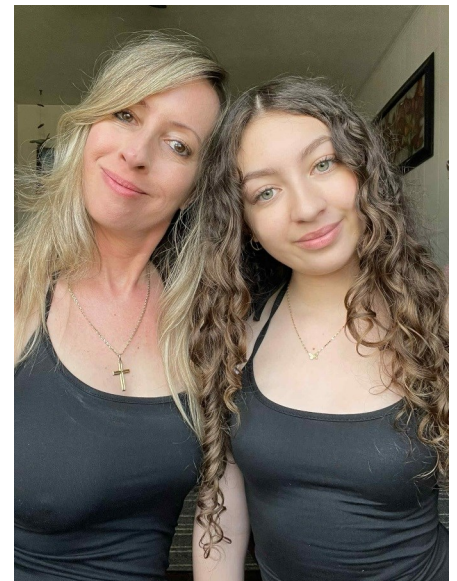
And there's even more to celebrate—we're turning Sweet 65! **Nicolle is turning 50 on July 1st, and Super Sophia is turning 15 on July 27!**

To mark this milestone, we're launching our **Sweet 65 Campaign** to continue spreading love, kindness, and hope to children in hospitals.

A **\$65 donation** fills a **Love Box™** in your honour—bringing joy and comfort to a child who truly needs it.

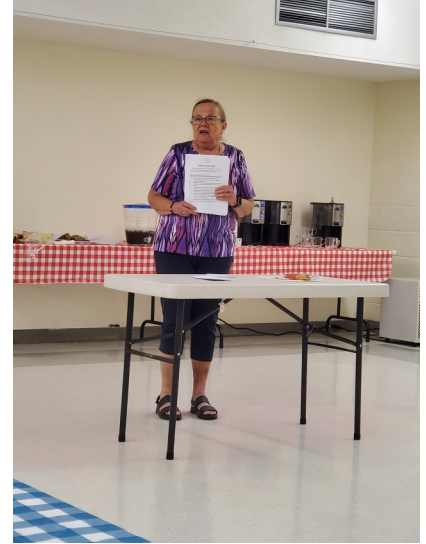
Let's make **65** super sweet together!

**Donate today:** [thesupersophiaproject@gmail.com](mailto:thesupersophiaproject@gmail.com)  
[www.thesupersophiaproject.ca](http://www.thesupersophiaproject.ca)





## Congregational Lunch - June 25th



Thank you Sirkka for organizing this function every month. Please note that there is no Congregational Lunch in July and August. Thanks to the wonderful suggestions as to what topic you would like to learn about and explore next season. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the delicious meal. It was set up "picnic style" with all beef wieners, buns and condiments, potatoe salad, pasta salad and ceasar salad and the many selections of dessert! Well done everyone! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with set up and clean up. There were 23 people who came for the lunch. After lunch, Sirkka and Rosie gave everyone a chance ask questions and to fill out the "Have Your Say" form. See you in September!

## PLC Outreach lunch - Notice

Please note that the PLC Outreach lunch is closed for the summer and will start up again at the beginning of September.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have faithfully helped and contributed to this worthy cause. In total, there were 251 meals served to the vulnerable (not including volunteers). Well done everyone.

Please contact Susan if you wish to help starting in September.

## Bible Fun Time in June - How creative!





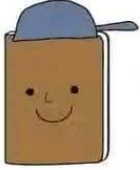

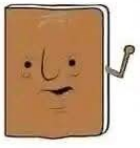



## PLC's new sign!

Thank you Rainer for supervising the installation and for the pictures! Thank you to several members who presented this to Council and that we all agreed this was a great value, to make us more noticeable and that it is a positive addition to our church!! Well done, everyone!

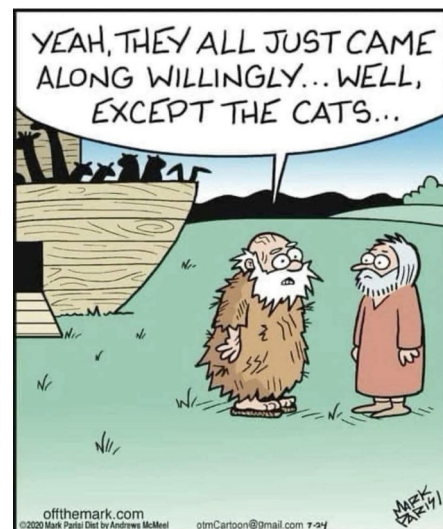


### Get to know your Bible translations

Adapted from

 <p><b>NLT</b> A nice guy, but a little immature. Frequently gets in trouble with the older crowd. Still digs VeggieTales.</p>	 <p><b>NASB</b> Intelligent and analytical. A little socially awkward. Engineering major. Slightly pretentious.</p>
 <p><b>KJV</b> Always talks about 'the good ole days.' Doesn't get the youth. Always thinks he's right. Can be heard saying things like, "I was good enough for Spurgeon! Who are you?!"</p>	 <p><b>NKJV</b> Solid guy despite a slight inferiority complex. Insists he's nothing like his dad. Dresses and talks like he's 20 years younger than he actually is.</p>
 <p><b>ESV</b> One cool cat. All the popular folks like him. Recent success may be going to his head a little. Was Reformed before it was cool.</p>	 <p><b>NIV</b> Was super-popular in high school. Got caught up in the wrong crowd and was never quite the same after that.</p>

Amazing what Rainer found while weeding the front of Peace by the old Narthex!





# Canadian Blood Services in July



**Canadian Blood Services**  
BLOOD  
PLASMA  
STEM CELLS  
ORGANS  
& TISSUES

### 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, July 5**  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm



Join **Canada's Lifeline**  
Book now at [blood.ca](http://blood.ca) or call **1 888 2 DONATE**



**Canadian Blood Services**  
BLOOD  
PLASMA  
STEM CELLS  
ORGANS  
& TISSUES

### 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, July 14**  
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

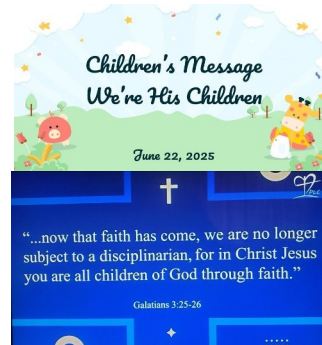
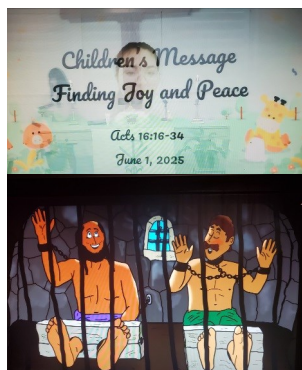


Join **Canada's Lifeline**  
Book now at [blood.ca](http://blood.ca) or call **1 888 2 DONATE**

# Worship Assistants for July 2025

JULY 2025	A/M	READER	GREETERS	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTERS	SERVERS	SERMON/ SERVICE
6	Rosie L	Jemina	Wayne	Rosie/Joan	--	Rosie/Shakura	Pastor Dennis
13	Phil W	Rosie L	Carol W	--	Rosie/Tapio	--	Analisa
20	Analisa C	Ruth H	Tapio	Claire/Fiona	--	Analisa/Fiona	Pastor Dennis
27	Sirkka T	Shari N.	Lynne H	--	Janet/Sirkka	--	Rosie/Arnold

## Children's Message - June 2025



**CONGRATULATIONS  
ARNOLD & SHAKURA!**  
**Happy 50th Anniversary to  
two very special people!**  
**Married**  
**June 7th, 1975**  
**We wish you many  
God's blessings  
always!**



## 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, Colleen and Susan



## 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 **August 2025**, please submit them to Rosie ([rosielanch@hotmail.com](mailto:rosielanch@hotmail.com)) by **July 27th**.

Happy Summer!

Peace and blessings, Rosie

