

APRIL
2025



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN ANGLICAN CHURCH

Connections

From the Pastor's Study

Dear Members and Friends of All Saints:

Easter Sunday is just around the corner. I know that because I see lots of chocolate bunnies and pastel-coloured candy-coated egg-shaped sweets in so many of the stores I go into. Easter is coming with all its beautiful joyful hymns and the proclamation of resurrection, new life, and new possibilities. I can hardly wait! And this year, maybe more so than any year in recent memory, I really need Easter!

But we are not quite there, yet. There are still a couple more Sundays of Lent and, of course, Holy Week to go through.

I absolutely understand the impulse to just skip over all this difficult stuff about journeying toward the cross, the passion of Christ, and his crucifixion. It's no fun. I know.

It is emblematic of our times to be promised great things without having to go to very much trouble. A quick Google search

on the internet reveals "Five Easy Steps to Weight Loss," or "Seven Simple Steps to Build Personal Wealth."

And sure enough, you can come to Easter Sunday without experiencing Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, or Good Friday. In fact, you'll be warmly welcomed, probably with a greeting of "Christ is risen!" hoping for the joyful reply of "Christ is risen, indeed!"

But I can't help but wonder if, having bypassed Holy Week to get to Easter Sunday, you won't feel somewhat cheated by not having journeyed with Jesus toward the cross right through to his crucifixion. Yes, we will proclaim Christ risen on Easter Sunday, but risen from what and for what purpose? Is it just the greatest miracle ever? Something akin Jesus' walking on the water or feeding the five-thousand, but even better?

I believe Easter is most profoundly appreciated when we have accompanied Jesus to the

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Rev. Brian Wilker, Pastor
Rev. Christine Clatworthy, Deacon
Rev. Canon Lucy Reid and Rev. Canon David Howells, Honorary Assistants
Brian Janzen, Council Chair
Peter West, Music Director
Michele Altermann, Administrative Assistant
Christine Morrison, Editor,
cjmorrison263@gmail.com

From the Pastor's Study Continued...





cross, experienced his resolute confidence in his mission together with his doubt in Gethsemane; felt the hopeless despair of the disciple's betrayals and denials, and experienced with some sympathy the crowds call for his crucifixion.

The Lenten journey, right through and including Holy Week and Easter Sunday, is a reflection of our lives lived with doubt and hope, confidence and despair, fear and joy. Jesus' story is our story in all its gritty and unvarnished glory.

So, I hope we can experience this journey together, that we can talk about what this journey means for both of us, and that our Easter Sunday praise of thanksgiving will erupt from the depth of the true knowledge of what God has done for each one of us and for the whole world through Christ.

See you Sunday!

Peace,
Pastor Brian

Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Sunday
	 6:00 PM Agape Meal		
April 13 8:30 and 10:00 AM	April 17 7:00 PM	April 18 10:00 AM	April 20 8:30 and 10:00 AM

Treasurer's Report by Suzanne Worthen as at February 28, 2025

	February 2025	Year to Date
Offerings.....	\$13,555.00	\$32,358.00
Other Income.....	\$2,135.00	\$3,808.00
Transfers -Housing Fund	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
-Dowry Fund.....	\$625.00	\$1,250.00
Total Income.....	\$17,315.00	\$39,416.00
Total Expenses.....	<u>\$21,932.07</u>	<u>\$43,638.27</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>(\$4,617.07)</u>	<u>(\$4,222.27)</u>

Council Perspective

As I write this, March has left us with the typical transition of weather. To me, it has always been a very hopeful month as spring arrives. It can both be time of Lenten reflection as well as a time of hope and celebration in Christ's resurrection.

As mentioned in my last article, council approved a new group named the All Saints Future's Group whose work is now underway. It is addressing a review of our present ministry as well as future needed resources and will conclude with a number of goals or directions. I am personally pleased to see this at All Saints; being proactive rather than being reactive to change or transition.

Regular reports continue to be heard at council from Worship and Music, Finance, Property, and Outreach to name a few. I continue to be amazed at the ministry done by so many groups and individuals both here and in the community. That's not to say we have not been challenged by a few "bumps in the road". Property or building issues have been a recent focus as you are aware.

Ongoing attention to the HVAC system is being given while proposed flooring and electrical work was approved last month. By the time you read this, new flooring will have been installed in both lower washrooms and a fresh coat of paint given to the walls. **Many thanks to the volunteers who provided much of the labour. An enormous**

note of appreciation from all of us must be given to a generous anonymous doner who funded this complete project!

Electrical upgrades to repair and bring all the lighting up to present needs and codes will or has been completed by now as well. This involves lighting in the "Reading Room" areas as well as the kitchen and storage rooms. Thanks to John Szymanski for his work on these projects which will carry our building use needs for many years.

A proposal was suggested at council last month to amalgamate our two main congregational/ vestry meetings we have each year (Annual and Budget). This would result in a single meeting which would be held during the last couple of weeks of March. This suggestion was carefully looked at and approved. Since this change involves some wording in our constitution, we will present a motion to change finalize this at our May annual congregational meeting.

Mentioning the word budget. A suggestion came from our last budget meeting (December) to have an additional column showing the actual previous year's results on the proposed budget handouts to the congregation. This too was

approved by council.

Treasurer Suzanne Worthen presents council with a detailed ongoing financial picture each month. It must be noted that we have already fallen into a negative trend. The Finance Committee is monitoring this and already sent council a few proactive suggestions. As part of this, council approved the creation of a special general reserve fund that gives us a little flexibility when needed. In this fund is the CEBA program loan forgiveness monies we gained from Covid times.

In terms of congregational giving, we recognized that in these recent uncertain economic and political times, that personal finances may be impacted. We hope that all will continue to keep our stewardship towards the ministry a high priority.



News too was brought to our attention that due to a recent number of unexpected circumstances with the Easter Arts Event at All Saints, it has been cancelled for the time being. We hope this great proposal will be able to be held in the future.

April marks the last full month to what we call the "Council year of 2024-25". With the arrival of the first Sunday in May, our Annual Congregational/Vestry meeting

Council Perspective Continued

will take place and the rotation in the membership of Council will occur. Four of our members will be leaving this year and we will elect four new ones including a fifth position that has been vacant. It's a time of transition; losing four very active members and the welcoming of new members to our team.

As Chairperson, on behalf of the entire Congregation of All Saints, a sincere and heartfelt thanks to Dennis Kunze, Ryan Nerbus, Janet Weigel, and Matzi King who have completed their service on

Council. I hope you will talk to them and take a moment to express your thanks. Their faithful dedication to the business of ministry at All Saints has been invaluable. Thank you.

Spring is a time of refreshment and as I mentioned, we look forward to working with new members of Council. I personally invite you to contemplate this ministry opportunity. Perhaps talk to one of the council members to get a firsthand view of what serving on council is about. I have also included some general

information in this edition of Connections to give you an idea of what to expect as far as being a potential Council member. We are looking for up to five new members each for a term of **two years**. If you can serve in this role, please contact me or another council member.

May God's blessing be with you as we carry this work forwards.

Peace,
Brian Janzen
Chairperson/Church Council

A Bony ECM Fundraiser

On February 20 about twenty of us drove through the deep snow left after yet another storm, parked on side streets, waded over snow banks, and met at the vet college for our field trip to raise funds for the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at the U of Guelph. Our host was Prof. Jeff Thomason (retired), who led us into the Anatomy Museum and, starting with a human skeleton, showed us the common skeletal features of all mammals.

We were then free to walk around the numerous animal skeletons on display, noting the similarities and trying to identify the animals by their differences. ("Pay attention to the feet," advised Jeff. "Are they hooves or toes, cloven or solid? Look at the differences in the teeth.") We marvelled at the skeletons of pig, dog, goat, monkey, beaver, lynx, bat, horse, cow, and more. It was a chance to see "how awesomely and wonderfully made" [Psalm 139:14] God's creations are, as they have evolved and adapted over millennia.



Jeff Thomason answered questions as we went around, and rounded the visit off with a Q & A session for the full group. It was a fascinating morning, and it raised more than \$550 for the ECM, with a few donations from parishioners who were unable to attend. Thank you to all!

Lucy Reid



A Bony ECM Fundraiser Continued...



It was a chance to see "how awesomely and wonderfully made" [Psalm 139:14] God's creations are.....

Easter Sunday Band

Do you have a musical instrument somewhere in your home feeling lonely because it never gets played anymore? Do you ever say to yourself, "I used to love playing music. I should get that horn out of the closet and play again!"

Well, we're looking to pull together an Easter Sunday Band to accompany the congregation on a couple hymns to lift our Easter morning praise with joyful song!

I can promise that the music will not be difficult to play, and we will rehearse enough that you will feel comfortable playing along.

So, dig out that old violin or flute or horn and join the band!

So that we have enough time to properly prepare, please let Pastor Brian know by **Sunday, March 30.**

*Praise God with trumpet sound;
praise God with lute and harp!
Praise God with tambourine and dance;
praise God with strings and pipe!
Praise God with clanging cymbals;
praise God with loud clashing cymbals!*

Psalm 150:3-5

PWRDF is Now Alongside Hope

It's official! The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is now Alongside Hope: Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and worldwide.

With Canada Revenue Agency approval, tax receipts are already being issued under the name Alongside Hope. The charity number has not changed and

donations made out to PWRDF will continue to be accepted.

Mark Hauck, board president and parishioner of St. Mark's in Orangeville, recently spoke to the [Niagara Anglican in an interview](#) about the name change, and reminds partners and supporters that "while the name has changed the work is exactly the same, and what is



really important is the people who are helping behind the name."

For more information visit Alongside Hope's [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Two Row on the Grand

July 20 to 25, 2025

Sponsored by the Circle for Reconciliation and Justice of the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC



TWO ROW ON THE GRAND

Please help us communicate this information to young people who may be interested in this effort at reconciliation.

The Circle of Reconciliation and Justice of the Eastern Synod needs your help to get the word out to young adults between 18 and 30 who would be willing to take part in a canoe adventure on the Grand River this summer to learn and embody reconciliation in action.

We are gathering a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants to learn together, create long-lasting friendships and paddle the Grand River with a larger support team. Costs for this event are covered by the Eastern Synod.



Deadline for applications is April 30, 2025.

Reflections by Rev. Nigel Bunce

This year, the lectionary Gospel readings for the Sundays in April are mostly taken from John's Gospel. This will continue into May. I have ignored the gospels for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as I plan a series of Evening Prayers for the days of Holy Week.

We begin on April 6th, the 5th Sunday of Lent, with Jesus' visit to the home of Martha and Mary (and Lazarus, in John's account: John 12: 1-8).

Variations of the story are given in all four Gospels. Luke and John place the event at Bethany, a village a few miles outside Jerusalem, and shortly before Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. In John's version, the siblings gave a dinner in Jesus' honour, during which Mary took a very costly ointment and anointed Jesus' feet with it. Then she dried his feet with her hair. Judas Iscariot complained about the waste of money.

In Luke's version of the story (Luke 10: 38-42) Martha was also the organizer of the event. She complained to Jesus that Mary wasn't helping her but sitting, listening to Jesus. There was no costly ointment.

Matthew (26: 6-13) and Mark (14: 3-9) both locate the events at a dinner at the home of Simon the leper rather than Martha and Mary. Although the location is Bethany, the dinner with Simon takes place well after Jesus'

triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The costly ointment was provided by an unnamed woman, who poured it over Jesus' head. As in John's account, she was criticized for wasting the ointment, which could have been sold to assist the poor.

Palm Sunday (April 13) tells the familiar story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, which occurs in all four Gospels. John's account is rarely read because it is so short (John 12: 12-15).

Luke's gospel (19: 29-40) tells the story much as Matthew and Mark with the details about untying the colt and the people spreading their cloaks on the road. Luke omits the part about cutting palm branches. Bishop John Spong has theorized that perhaps the triumphal entry took place in the fall, not at Passover (a spring festival), because there would have been no leafy branches to cut down at that time [Spong, J.S. *Liberating the Gospels*, Harper Collins 1996, pp. 241-243].

On Easter Day (April 20), the lectionary offers us the choice of Luke 24: 1-12 or John 20: 1-18 for the Resurrection. The four gospels vary in the details, but all are unanimous in recording that the women who followed Jesus even to his crucifixion were the primary witnesses. In Luke's account, Mary

Magdalene was just one of the group of women, but in John's version she went alone. The first part of John's version (verses 1-10) parallels closely Luke, with Peter first to see the evidence that Jesus was no longer there. But John goes on to record the beautiful scene where Mary mistakes the Risen Christ for the gardener (verses 11-18), making this probably everyone's favourite Resurrection account.

We end April on the 27th with the story of Doubting Thomas who did not believe that the other disciples could possibly have encountered the Risen Christ in a locked room. This took place on the evening of Easter Day and then one week later. The account raises the question about what the Risen Christ really was. If he was not corporeal, there's no problem with him appearing in a locked room. But that seems at odds with how Thomas felt the wounds in Jesus' hands and side. The story ends with John 20: 31, where the

author sets out his agenda for writing the gospel – "that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." The post-Resurrection appearances that follow, in John Chapter 21, seem to be a later addendum to the Gospel, probably written by a different author.



*...and that through
believing you may have life
in his name*

Journeying with Memory Loss

According to Baycrest Health Sciences in Toronto, around half a million Canadians aged 65 and over have mild cognitive impairment (MCI). Ten to twenty percent of those will develop dementia. And currently there are some 772,000 Canadians living with dementia. As the Baby Boomers age, so these numbers will climb, and more and more of us will find ourselves either living with MCI/dementia, or supporting someone who does. For my husband David and me this has been a challenging journey, but, like many travellers, we have discovered gifts and grace along the way.

This is how it all started.

David: I have long been a commuting cyclist. I had an inbuilt compass: I always intuitively knew which way I was going. But then, one day, pausing at a four-way junction, I had to stop. I went through this junction three or more times a week, but on that day I stopped, feet down, unable to remember which way to go. I looked for the sun to get my bearings, then I could carry on, shaken and confused by this. I felt as if I had been mugged.

I had noticed some other worrying signs, such as forgotten conversations, difficulty multi-tasking, and diminished awareness of time, so David saw

his family doctor, who referred him to a neurologist, who ultimately referred him to the Toronto Memory Program. David's MCI was confirmed, and we were given information about its symptoms and how to manage it. There is as yet no cure, but David was given the opportunity to participate in a clinical trial aimed at slowing any progression. And he is assessed every three or four months to monitor his condition. So far it remains stable, but living with cognitive impairment is frustrating.

David: Without a reliable memory I lose track of myself. Most of us need to remember what is coming next. We have a memory of having done this before. With a failed memory, trying to do something that was recently familiar may mean you have no idea how to do it now. Memory loss is often a complete deletion, and it makes me feel helpless. I have to do it from scratch, and that is hard work. Asking someone to explain yet again, "How do you do this?" feels shameful.

While I am grateful for the *mild* in David's MCI, I am all too aware that as I step in to manage many of the details of daily life now, I can easily overstep and thus disable or infantilize David.

So I need to practise more patience, more gentleness, less taking of control. We were colleagues in ministry for more than 40 years, as well as marriage partners, and just as we had to learn to navigate each other's different styles and goals over those years, and weave in our parenting of three children, so our challenge now is to work together to navigate this disability gracefully, and with trust that the Spirit will give us the gifts we need in the years ahead.

David: I do not trust myself to lead worship alone now. I need us to do it together. Preaching works well, as I have total control and a text that I wrote. Sometimes I think to myself, "I know I can lead a full Sunday service in church." But another part of me quietly says, "Actually, no, you can't anymore." And this fills me with grief.

**...some 772,000
Canadians are living
with dementia**

There is no way of knowing what the future holds. David carries the gene associated with Alzheimer's disease, and his mother died with dementia, but neither of those factors means he will inevitably deteriorate. The clinical trial gives us hope, as does his steady cognitive scoring so far. He is more careful with what he eats and drinks, and is taking a natural supplement

Journeying with Memory Loss Continued

which our younger son is adamant can make a positive difference. But we do not know. And at times David has spoken of his desire to choose an “off ramp” if the prognosis becomes darker.

David: Cognitive impairment is an on-going condition, and not a good one. It feels as if someone has hacked my mind. In the long run I have little hope. Not only do I want to spare my family and friends from watching me deteriorate, I do not want to experience it myself. But meanwhile I will carry on, and trust Holy Spirit's gentle hand at my shoulder. And I know She will have a gentle hand on my family's hearts as I leave. Since my teens I have tried to be a disciple of Jesus. I have trusted Jesus so far in life. I will follow him willingly into death.

For now, we are both learning to live in the sacrament of the present moment, and not to get ahead of the grace, as a wise spiritual director of mine used to say. We are cherishing the simple things and living quieter lives. Extravagant vacations and lengthy trips for their own sake

are not necessary, and would add an unwanted layer of confusion and disorientation for David. But time spent with family and close friends is priceless, and we are continuing to make memories, even if they fade.

Sharing this journey with others in the same circumstances has been particularly helpful. They understand about the frustration and impatience. They know that sometimes there is comedy, and sometimes there is an upwelling of grief. They recognize the fatigue and the fears. In small informal support groups we have been able to share experiences, resources and way markers.

Ultimately we are all learning to face our own and our loved ones' mortality. We live, we age, we surrender our health and independence, and we die. This is the normal trajectory of human life, not a rude interruption or malfunction. And at some point we might realize, as a friend of mine put it, “They’re calling our row.” I picture us all, one by one, making our way out of our pews and down the aisle towards the

altar for communion. Some of us will be limping and holding onto others' arms; some of us will go swiftly and eagerly; some will need encouragement. But we are not alone, and we move towards a banquet.

Lucy Reid and David Howells



This article was originally published in the Toronto Anglican diocesan paper.



All Saints Affirming People Update



Same look – new name!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the lunch and discussion on January 26, 2025, as we celebrated Reconciling in Christ Sunday. Thank you for your donations that day – we were able to send \$140 US to support the work they do for affirming congregations in the ELCA/ELCIC.

One of the items that was discussed was the name of our team – RIC – was hard for people to remember or what it stands for etc. Also, in Canada, the term ‘reconciliation’ has a different focus than in the USA where ReconcilingWorks is located. In Canada, we are working towards reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours and communities so using that term to describe our affirming commitment needed some separation. So, the Reconciling in Christ Team (RIC) is now

All Saints Affirming People, or ASAP for short! We hope you like the change!

How can you help? Like every other organization, finding people to help can be a challenge. The ASAP team is small and has a lot of heart, but we would be very grateful to welcome some more members. After many years of faithful leadership Carolyn Conibear is stepping away from the Chair role (but not the team!) and we would love to have someone new join us. Or maybe two or three or.... If you want to know more about what we do, would like to do, or try us out please speak to anyone on the ASAP team.

Thank you from
Carolyn Conibear, Anne Stuart, Kathryn Ssedoga
and Michele Altermann



INTERNATIONAL ASEXUALITY DAY APRIL 6TH

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEXUAL & ROMANTIC ATTRACTION?

For many of us, these two concepts are so intertwined we forget sexual and romantic attraction are two different types of feelings and experiences. Our individual desires for each type of attraction influences what we look for with respect to experiences and interactions in a relationship.

SEXUAL ATTRACTION

The desire for sexual contact or relationship with another person. This type of attraction can manifest over-time as relationships grow. However sexual attraction can also happen quite quickly.

ROMANTIC ATTRACTION

The desire for an emotional connection with another person. This type of attraction often evolves slowly over time a may involve a casual relationship or friendship that grows with time. When someone refers to the butterfly feelings, this is romantic attraction.

ABOUT THE FLAG

Created by - *Asexual Visibility & Education Network (2010)*

The **black** stripe stands for asexuality; the **grey** stripe for grey-asexuality or demisexuality; the **white** for non-asexual partners and allies; the **purple** for the asexual community and the wider community as a whole.



ASEXUALITY QUICK FACTS

Just a few things you need to know about Asexuality.

- Asexuality is a sexual orientation not a gender identity.
- Asexual people can also be heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, etc., while still being asexual.
- Asexual means a lack of sexual attraction, and does not reflect on a person's sexual experiences, knowledge or interests.
- The 'A' in 2SLGBTQIA+ represents Asexual, Aromantic & Agender.
- Ace is a common nickname for Asexuality
- Unlike celibacy, which is a choice to abstain from sexual activity, asexuality is an intrinsic part of who a person is, just like any other sexual orientation.

MYTHS ABOUT ASEQUALITY

There's so much misinformation about our Asexual friends, lets clear a few things up.

- ***Asexuality is a choice*** - Nope, just like other sexual orientations including heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality, Asexuality is not a choice.
- ***Asexuals cannot form deep or meaningful relationships*** - Asexuals feel the full spectrum of romantic feelings as anyone else, they just have a lack of sexual attraction.
- ***Asexuals don't ever want to have sex*** - Although for some this is true, there are many asexual individuals who do have sex.
- ***Asexuals just haven't met the right person*** - This is similar to telling a queer person they just haven't met the right person of a different gender. Any sexual orientation, including asexuality, is an individual experience.

Submitted by Michele Altermann

Ramblings from Parish Care

The world has turned upside down! I almost hate listening to the news in the evening. It's rather depressing listening to Trump's antics, Netanyahu again blasting the Palestinians and poor Ukraine being left out of negotiations involving their own sovereign country.

Then, of course there is all the talk of Measles raising its head in our world again. With the advent of the MMR vaccine measles was pretty well eradicated, which resulted, recently, in people questioning the efficacy of vaccines. That's too bad, as, now we have slipped back to an "out of control" situation in the measles department. It can make a child who has not been vaccinated very ill. How quickly we forget.

Choosing a Nursing Home for a Loved One (with Alzheimer's)

Choosing the right nursing facility is important to ensure your loved one gets the care they deserve and to give you peace of mind. It's best to choose one where you both feel comfortable and can communicate well with staff. Tour facilities, meet staff, and ask questions. You want to make sure the facility provides a safe environment as well as appropriate care.

It's common to be unsure **when it is time to move** into a nursing facility. Ask yourself if your loved one is safe in their current situation. Would they benefit from activities, or social interaction? Is the loved one's health at risk? Caregiver considerations are you physically able or have adequate time to care for the person? Do you feel burnout or stressed?

Nursing homes are designed to be safe and caring environments. Sometimes, nursing facilities have separate units to keep people safe, but staff should have specialized training, and offer services, such as medication management, assistance with daily care activities such as bathing and dressing, physical or occupational or speech therapy, as well as meals specific to any dietary concerns.

Asking questions as you tour facilities, can help you choose the right facility for your loved one. It's a good idea to ask about topics such as the:

- ratio of staff to residents
- presence of any odors you notice
- are registered nurses' and physicians' present on site
- ways families can communicate with staff
- Alzheimer's training the staff have received
- available activities and when they take place
- religious services offered
- items residents can bring with them from home
- full rate and does it include hairdressing, TV, internet, transportation?
- dining services including snacks, dietary accommodations and monthly menu
- Ask to meet staff to find out what they are like and whether you feel comfortable.

What happens if my loved one falls or gets very sick in a nursing home?

Nursing facilities can call an [ambulance](#) and send residents to hospital. If you are the resident's emergency contact, you'll receive a call informing you of the incident.

Nursing homes, or long-term care homes, are subsidized by the Ontario Government. This amount is paid directly to the facility, subsidizing the fee that you are being charged, whether the facility is for profit or not-for-profit.. Of course if the facility is 'for profit', you will can expect to pay much higher fees, even up to \$10,000 per month. Monthly subsidy rates are: Basic

Ramblings Continued

\$2036.40; Semi-private - \$2455.24; Private - \$2909.36; Short-Stay - \$43.34 per day.

Can I get round-the-clock care at home?

You can find healthcare professionals, such as [home healthcare](#) aides, to come into your loved one's home to have 24/7 care. Check out "Care at Home".

If you cannot afford the basic co-payment fee, you may get financial help through the Long-Term Care Rate Reduction Program. Only residents living in basic accommodation, or spouses or partners who live together in a two-bed semi-private room, designated as basic accommodation are eligible. Semi-private and private accommodation are not. Other options to consider are assisted living, living with family, or considering a reverse mortgages.

Apply for a rate reduction after you move into your long-term care home, and within 90 days of moving in. Gather information on your sources of income. Inform your long-term care home that you intend to apply. The home will provide you with the application form(s) and can help you complete the application and send it in to the Ministry. The rate reduction, considers income less than \$26,224, and any dependent supports. Your rate reduction will begin to apply for up to 90 days before the date you submit your application.

Don't forget **OAS and GIS payments** are also available to you. If you have a partner or spouse who is also eligible for OAS, you can calculate your benefits separately, resulting in a higher benefit amount. To do this, fill out a form for [Involuntary Separation](#) (the form name is unrelated to your marital status). If you are under age 65 or ineligible for Old Age Security, you may qualify for Ontario Disability Support. Make sure you are receiving all the benefits you might be eligible for.

If you still have **questions**, email the ministry at LTC.RateReduction@ontario.ca. If you don't have access to email, call the Long-Term Care Family Support and Action Line at 1-866-434-0144.

A pinch of advice to remember. Assets are no longer considered in the financial assessment for nursing home admission. You are not expected to use assets to pay your bill unless you want a private room or other special services not provided within the subsidy program. The rate is based on income.

How can you protect parents' assets from nursing homes in Canada?

1. Get long-term care insurance. Long-term care insurance offers a financial buffer by covering nursing home costs up to a set limit.
2. Create irrevocable trusts (if an option).
3. Buy a Medically-compliant annuity.
4. Transfer your residence title or form a life estate.
5. Gifting financial assets.
6. Save statements and get expert advice.

Are nursing home fees tax deductible in Canada? Generally, you can claim the entire amount you paid for care at any of the following facilities: nursing homes (full-time care) schools, institutions, or other places (providing care or care and training)

Medical expenses that CRA allows range from public or private hospital services, nursing care, premiums paid to private health-care companies, physiotherapy, naturopathic services, and prescription drugs to more specific medical aids such as hearing aids, electrotherapy devices, eyeglasses, and heart-monitoring devices. The **best way to leave your assets to the children**, is to form an a revocable living trust

Ramblings from Parish Care Continued...

which allows you to name children as successor trustees allowing for continuity of property management.

To **protect my elderly parents' bank accounts**, get written consent for you to talk to their bankers and financial advisors so you don't run into issues with privacy laws. The best way is to have power of attorney for finances, which gives you authorization to manage your elderly parents' assets and finances. While inheritance allows for complete control over asset distribution until your death, gifting offers several potential advantages: Reduced estate tax liability: Gifting assets during your lifetime reduces the taxable value of your estate,

potentially avoiding or minimizing inheritance tax upon your death.

The Ontario senior's care at home tax credit, is a refundable personal income tax credit to help low- to moderate-income seniors 70+ with eligible medical expenses, which can include wheelchairs, hospital beds, dental, vision and hearing care, as well as attendant care (certification required), even vehicle expenses (\$.0605 per Km, fuel, tires, licence, maintenance, repairs.)

Blessing,
Marilyn

CHI RHO FELLOWSHIP
THURS., APRIL 10
1:00 PM
Cards and Games

PARISH CARE
WORKSHOP
TUES., APRIL 22
1:00PM

THE ASSOCIATES
TUES., APRIL 15, 1:00PM
ROBIN SMART:
Anticipatory Grief

>>> PLEASE MAKE A SPECIAL NOTE OF THE ABOVE DATES >>>

Thank You from Pearl

The annual St Patrick's Day Dessert and Card Party was a great success!

I want to thank everyone who helped in my absence. Thank you to everyone who donated their desserts, the door prizes and to all those who attended and supported this event.



We had nearly 70 attendees; it was a wonderful community event.

Together we raised close to \$800 for the Silvercreek Market.

Thanks again, Pearl Robinson



Learn about Congregational Council



Serve
on
Council



Who is eligible to be on the Congregational Council?

Any voting member of All Saints Lutheran Anglican Church is eligible. Voting members are those baptized members who have, for at least six months preceding the holding of a Vestry/Annual meeting, been involved with the congregation through worship, fellowship and financial support, and who have attained the age of 15 years.

Who is selected to be on the Congregational Council?

The names of those people who agree to be on Council (nominations) are put forward to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting this year on May 4th. A vote is then taken to select the required number of persons each year.

What do the members of the Congregational Council do?

This is a very good question! First and foremost, the members act on behalf of the Congregation. They represent the congregation and have a general oversight of the life and activities of the church ensuring that everything is done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith practice of the ACC and the ELCIC. Most of the Council serve in a liaison or communication position to other teams and committees in the church which can generally handled through email. They are not the leaders of these groups. Council members also assist in counting offerings usually 4 times per year with the assistance of another experienced counter. Those in an executive position have additional duties.

How much time is involved?

Reading the above, one might assume a considerable time is required. In reality, actual time required can be less than serving the church in other capacities. A member of Council generally serves for **two years**. Meetings are held **once per month**. We do not meet in the summertime or December. Meetings usually include a brief devotional time, followed by the actual business meeting. Preparation for meetings include reading the previous minutes, any reports from the committees, and contemplating items on the agenda. The chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary have additional duties.

Involvement in the ministry of All Saints as a Council member can spiritually be a life-giving experience.

I Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Nominations for yourself or others with their consent can be submitted to Brian Janzen (Box 29 or bjanzen33@gmail.com or 519-824-5469) or by speaking to any one of the present Council members.

World Water Day – March 22, 2025

Key messages for World Water Day 2025

Glaciers are melting faster than ever. As the planet gets hotter due to climate change, our frozen world is shrinking, making the water cycle more unpredictable and extreme.

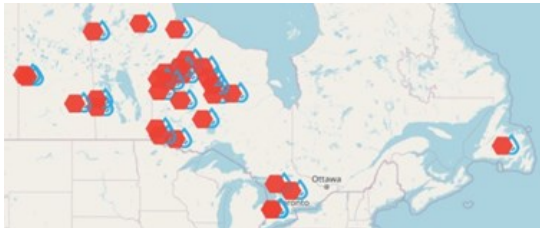
Glacial retreat threatens devastation. For billions of people, meltwater flows are changing, causing floods, droughts, landslides and sea level rise, and damaging ecosystems.

Glacier preservation is a survival strategy. We must work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and manage meltwater more sustainably for people and the planet.



Source: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day>

How long could you last without water? It's generally accepted that about three days, maybe as many as five or six in unusual circumstances, is the length of time a human being can survive without water. For most of us, living in Canada with its abundance of fresh water, access to potable water is not something we think about. We take it for granted. That is not the case for many people. In 2019 the World Health Organization announced that 1 in 3 people globally do not have access to clean drinking water and there are no indicators that this number has changed in the last few years. If you think that is an issue that would not affect anyone in Canada, think again. There are currently 31 long term boil water advisories in Indigenous communities across Canada. Neskantaga First Nation in northwestern Ontario has been under a boil-water advisory for over 30 years — the longest in effect in Canada.



There are 31 different reasons why these advisories still exist so it might help to focus in on one of the most egregious situations, Grassy Narrows First Nation (Asabiinyashkosiwagong Nitam-Anishinaabeg). (Map source: <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1620925418298/1620925434679>)

Grassy Narrows is located in northern Ontario near the Manitoba border. From 1962 to 1970, the Dryden Pulp and Paper company and its chemical plant dumped up to 11,000 kilograms of mercury into the headwaters of the English-Wabigoon River system, causing the fishery to be closed as mercury concentrations in fish reached almost “50 times the upper limit considered safe for human consumption”. If you wish to read more, here is the link to an article published in Environmental Health Perspectives (Volume 131 Issue 7) <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/full/10.1289/EHP11301>.

In summary, over 50 years of eating mercury contaminated fish and drinking contaminated water has resulted in multigenerational mercury poisoning, affecting pregnant women and

World Water Day Continued...

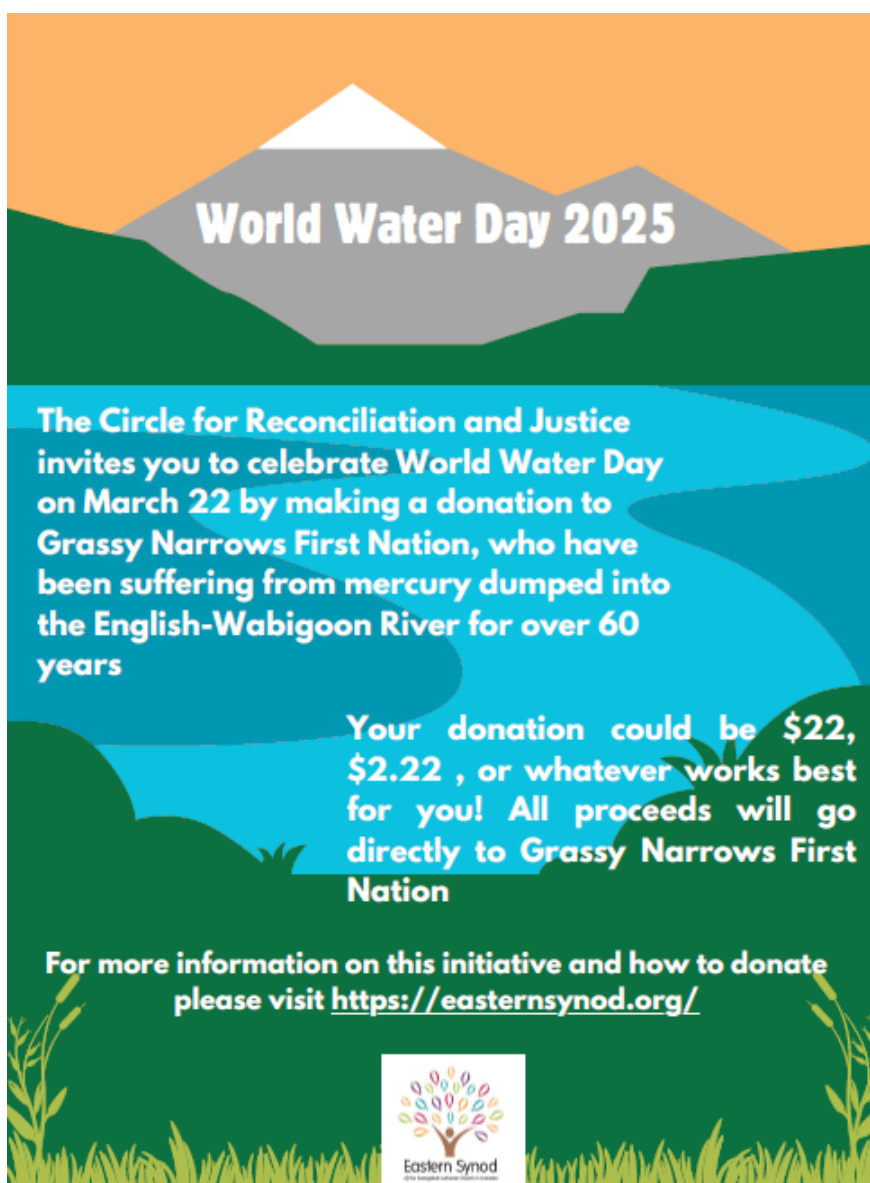
their children. Aside from the severe neurological impacts of mercury poisoning that affects 90% of the population, there is an unusually high rate of suicide among youth. The rate is three times that of any other First Nations community in Canada or of the Canadian national average. There is a plan to build a healthcare facility to specifically support the affected community but that is three to five years away from completion. Without access to other resources, fish continues to be a necessary food source for the community.

There have been protests, marches, media coverage, but so far action has been slow to happen. Both federal and provincial governments are slow to respond and should be held accountable for the promises they made to clean up the environment and support additional health resources. In the meantime, the community needs ongoing financial support as they continue to hold governments accountable for their promises, often requiring legal action, protests and marches. So how can you help?

The Eastern Synod Circle for Reconciliation and Justice invites you to celebrate **International Water Day on March 22** by making a donation to Grassy Narrows. It could be \$22, \$2.22, or whatever works for you. All proceeds will be collected by the Eastern Synod until the end of April, and then donated directly to Grassy Narrows. Cheques can be mailed to the Eastern Synod Office at 74 Weber St W., Kitchener, N2H 3Z3. For e-transfers, please send those to esdeposits@elcic.ca. When sending donations, **designate the funds to "World Water Day - Grassy Narrows Relief."** Without the designation we will not be able to properly track funds, allocate them to this campaign, or issue receipts for donations.

Together we can make a real difference for the people of Grassy Narrows. Donate today!

Update on next page....


A graphic poster for World Water Day 2025. The background features a stylized landscape with a grey mountain range under an orange sky, a blue river flowing through green hills, and green grass at the bottom. The text is overlaid on the image.

World Water Day 2025

The Circle for Reconciliation and Justice invites you to celebrate World Water Day on March 22 by making a donation to Grassy Narrows First Nation, who have been suffering from mercury dumped into the English-Wabigoon River for over 60 years

Your donation could be \$22, \$2.22, or whatever works best for you! All proceeds will go directly to Grassy Narrows First Nation

For more information on this initiative and how to donate please visit <https://easternsynod.org/>

The Eastern Synod logo, which consists of a stylized tree with colorful leaves in shades of red, orange, yellow, and green, set against a white background. Below the tree, the text "Eastern Synod" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font.

UPDATE ON Grassy Narrows Fundraiser

IMPORTANT UPDATES REGARDING WORLD WATER DAY FUNDRAISER

It has been announced that construction has commenced on a long-awaited mercury care home in Grassy Narrows First Nation, and should be completed by 2027. While this is certainly a positive development, the care home will unfortunately do nothing to alleviate mercury levels in the English-Wabigoon river.

That is why we are so thankful to everyone who has donated so far to the Circle for Reconciliation and Justice' World Water Day - Grassy Narrows Relief fundraiser. Within just a few days of the fundraiser being announced, nearly \$1,200 was committed to

this effort, and more donations have been coming in since. If you have not donated yet, please consider donating what you can.

As mentioned previously, cheques can be mailed to the Synod Office at 74 Weber St W, Kitchener, ON, N2H 3Z3, and e-transfers can be sent to esdeposits@elcic.ca.

Two notes for donations:

1. **A reminder to please designate all cheques and e-transfers to *World Water Day - Grassy Narrows Relief***
2. **For those sending e-transfers, please include your full name, address, and the designation mentioned in the**

message or notes section of the e-transfer. This information is needed so the Synod can send you your donation receipt once the funds have been processed.

Thank you all for your support so far! Let's continue to make a difference for the people of Grassy Narrows."



Lenten Lunches—two more Sundays

Join us for soup, bread and conversations after worship during Lent.



This coming Sunday March 30
—Fall in Love Again and Have a Belly Laugh.



Kairos Korner

Last month I attended the Launch of Jubilee 2025 **Turn Debt into Hope** online held by Kairos Canada. It was full of lots of information. I could not do it justice by reporting on it... However, if you are interested in seeing some of the inspiring speakers from the launch, check out the link below.

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/jubilee-2025-official-launch>

The goal is to bring awareness to governments, corporations, lenders etc. about the plight of countries in the south struggling under huge debt loads. In many cases, they can't afford to provide basic education or health care to their citizens. One of the things that we can do to show our support is to sign a petition in support of the Jubilee 2025 **Turn Debt into Hope**. I plan to bring a paper copy of the petition to church during the month of April. Kairos hopes to have 100,000 signatures in Canada by the end of 2025.

KAIROS unites Canadian churches and religious organizations in a faithful ecumenical response to the call to "do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God"
(Micah 6:8).

Worldwide the goal is for 10,000,000. The petitions will be used for the upcoming G7, G20 and Cop25 Summits. A common question is who will these petitions be given to. Here is the response on the Kairos website.

How will my signature be used?

By signing this petition, you become part of a global call to turn debt into hope. Your name will be added to a list of individuals who support the 2025 Jubilee Campaign in Canada. You will receive email updates from KAIROS Canada. You can unsubscribe from this list at any time.

Signatures will be submitted to government representatives and elected officials in Canada to demonstrate widespread public support for debt cancellation, financial reform and climate justice. Signatures in Canada will be added to the global total – calculated by Caritas Internationalis – to demonstrate support for the campaign to world leaders, multilateral organizations and creditors.

Postal codes will be used to communicate support for this campaign by



ridings to elected officials of those ridings.

You can also sign an online petition at the link below.

<https://www.kairoscanada.org/jubilee-2025-canada/petition-turn-debt-into-hope>

Kairos Rep,
Jan Nielsen

Walk for Alzheimer's

We at All Saints can truly say we are a caring congregation, supporting a wide variety of causes, from local to international. I am so proud of all the charities our members support with their labour and/or monetary donations. We also care about each other on a personal level and do our best to support each other through the challenges life brings us. One of the challenges that has touched our members, is touching our members, and will no doubt touch members in the future, is Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

700,000 Canadians currently live with dementia. If we are not directly affected, we will know someone who is, and the Alzheimer Society is here to provide services for any type of dementia.

The IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's is how the

society raises most of its budget to provide free services for people throughout the journey.

You might know Pearl Robinson, has been involved in the Walk for the past few years. I too, walk every year. This is to invite you to join a walk near you if you are interested, or to sponsor someone who is walking. For more information on the IG Wealth Management Walk for Alzheimer's or to register for a Walk nearest you, please visit www.walkforalzheimers.ca

Our local walks will be Saturday, May 24th in Guelph (at Exhibition Park), in Kitchener, in Cambridge and in Mount Forest all at the same time (1 pm). I will be at the Mount Forest event.

If you are in a position to participate or to donate there are no words to thank you enough.

Know you are making a difference in the lives of people living with dementia, their caregivers and families. Thank you for helping to help people affected by dementia! Every passing year the need becomes more critical. Your support is invaluable.

If you would like to contact me or get more information you can reach me at rsmart@alzheimerww.ca

Respectfully submitted,

Robin
Robin Smart (Box 7)



Inshallah

Singing with Our Neighbours

With members of the KW Sikh community,
Footpaths Campers, and Hoeun Lee



Sunday, March 30, 2025

3:00 p.m.

Knox Waterloo Presbyterian Church

50 Erb St. West, Waterloo

Free will donation for
Humanitarian Relief Efforts in Gaza



April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Below are the regularly scheduled room uses that repeat weekly all year long (unless otherwise noted). Please check here <i>first</i> when looking for available space.						
6:30-8:30 pm — Rose Head Hall, NA Never Alone	9:00 am – Rose Head Hall, Tai Chi 6:00-8:00 pm – Rose Head Hall, AA (Flying Blind), 8:00 – 9:00 pm – District Meeting 3 rd week 6:30 – 8:30 pm – Choir Rm, Gambler's Anonymous	4:00 pm – Rose Head Hall, Order of the Eastern Star 2 nd Tuesday of the month 6:00 – 8:30 pm – Choir Rm, Gamblers Anonymous study group 1 st Tuesday only	9:00 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 – 5:00 pm – Rooms A&B, Children Reading Room 10:00 – 11:00 am – Good Morning Al Anon, Choir Rm 6:00-8:00 pm – Nave, Guelph Male Choir 7:00-9:00 pm – Choir Room, Guelph Al-Anon Family Group 7:30-9:30 pm – RRH, AA Helming Hands	9:00 am – 1:00 pm – Rooms A&B, Children Reading Room 5:45- 8:00 pm – Rose Head Hall, TOPS 7:00 – 8:00 pm – Choir Room, Tri-County Recovery	9:00 am – 12:00 pm & 1:00 – 5:00 pm – Rooms A&B, Children Reading Room 9:00 am – Rose Head Hall, Tai Chi	
		1	2 7:00 p.m. – via Zoom Faith Forum	3 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – RHH, Silvercreek Community Market 7:00 p.m. – Nave, Choir Practice	4	5 All day rental, Rose Head Hall
6 Lent 5 8:30 am – Nave Holy Communion 10:00 am – Nave Holy Communion 11:30 am Lenten Lunch, RHH	7	8 Church office closed	9 3:00 – Choir Room, Hymn Selection 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Pastor's office, Confirmation Class	10 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Rose Head Hall, Chi Rho Fellowship 7:00 p.m. – Nave, Choir Practice	11	12
13 Palm Sunday 8:30 am – Nave Holy Communion 10:00 am – Nave Holy Communion	14 7:00 p.m. – Parlour, Worship & Music	15 1:00 p.m. – Parlour, Parish Care Workshop 5:00 p.m. – RHH, Men's Fellowship	16 Executive Meeting 7:00 p.m. – via Zoom Faith Forum	17 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – RHH, Silvercreek Community Market 6:00 p.m. – RHH, Agape Dinner 7:00 p.m. – Nave, Maundy Thursday Service	18 10:00 a.m. – Nave, Good Friday Service	19
20 Easter Sunday 8:30 am – Nave Holy Communion 10:00 am – Nave Holy Communion Deadline for Connections	21	22 1:00 p.m. – Parlour, The Associates 7:00 p.m. – Parlour, Church Council	23 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Pastor's office, Confirmation Class	24 7:00 p.m. – Nave, Choir Practice	25	26 12:00 – 5:00 pm, RHH Rental
27 Easter 2 – Climate Justice Sunday 8:30 am – Nave Holy Communion 10:00 am – Nave Holy Communion	28	29	30			RHH – Rose Head Hall