



# Exeter Christian Reformed Church

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Exeter, Ontario, NOM 1S2  
Telephone: 519-235-2990  
Website: [www.exetercrc.on.ca](http://www.exetercrc.on.ca)

Pastor: Jay Crossen  
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Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 12:15-4:15  
Publishing deadline: Thursday, 9:00 am  
Administrative E-mail: [bulletin@exetercrc.on.ca](mailto:bulletin@exetercrc.on.ca)

**Sunday, March 16, 2025**

**Worship: 10am**

**Pastor Jay Crossen**

**Musicians: Steve, Bill, Lori,  
Joanne**

## **God Gathers Us in His Presence**

Words of Welcome

- \* Call to Worship
- \* Songs **He Leadeth Me LUYH # 440 vs 1-4**
- \* God's Greeting
- \* Song: **Seek Ye First LUYH # 899 vs 1-3**

## **God Renews Us In His Grace**

Lenten Liturgy

## **God Speaks to Us Through His Word**

Children's Message

Children age 3 – Grade 6 are dismissed for Sunday School

Song: **This Little Light of Mine LUYH # 930 vs 1-3**

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: John 18: 1-11 Matthew 26:37-56

Message: Selflessness of Restraint

Song: **What Wondrous Love LUYH # 164 vs 1-3**

## **God Calls Us to Respond with Prayers and Offerings**

Announcements

Prayer of God's People

Offering – CRC Office of Social Justice

Offertory: **Instrumental**

## **God Sends Us Out to Serve with His Blessing**

- \* God's Sending and Blessing
- \* Song: **Have Thine Own Way Lord**

\* Indicates to please stand if you are able

**LUYH** stands for Lift Up Your Hearts (the red song book in the pews)

## Gathering for Worship

**LARGE PRINT** copies of the Lift Up Your Hearts hymn book are available for use during worship. They are located on the bookcase in the foyer next to the administrator's office. Large print copies of songs not in LUYH are available from the ushers.

**Nursery and Sunday School** programs will be available during the church service for those parents who wish their children to participate. We have classes for children aged 3 – Grade 6. Children will be dismissed during the worship gathering. The Education Committee, Sunday School, and Nursery, with the support of Council, have developed a plan to safely care for your children.

### Upcoming Services:

March 16: Pastor Jay leads the service Lent Week # 2

March 23: Pastor Jay leads the service Lent Week # 3

March 30: Pastor Jay leads the service Lent Week # 4

April 6: Pastir Jay leads the service Lent Week # 5

Exeter CRC strives to be a healthy community. If you are feeling unwell in any way join our worship gathering on-line. We continue to worship together as a community of God's people. **YouTube:** <https://bit.ly/3yYa4ze>



Exeter CRC is accessible for those with hearing impairment. If you are hard of hearing, please have an usher direct you to the sound booth for an assistive device.

## From the Deacons

The offering this Sunday is for CRC Office of Social Justice

March 23: Christian School Bursary Fund

March 30: Deacons Benevolence

April 6: Resonate Global Mission



The Deacons will collect your offering during the worship service. You can also respond with your offering by e-Transfer to [ecrcgiving@gmail.com](mailto:ecrcgiving@gmail.com). Please state in the memo the cause(s) you are supporting. Coupons for the offering are available in the office; please ask one of the deacons for assistance if you are interested in buying coupons.



**MemberCare<sup>+</sup>** is a free counselling program for Exeter CRC members provided through By Peaceful Waters. Please call **519-886-8577** or email [mail@bypeacefulwaters.ca](mailto:mail@bypeacefulwaters.ca) for more information.

## Our Church Family

**Calendar of Events:** One of the features of our website is a calendar of meetings and events to help keep you up to date. Click on this [link](#) to have a look at everything happening at ECRC.

**For those who have a prayer request or are sharing a thanksgiving, please feel free to include it on the church's Facebook page, or please contact your elder or the church office if you wish to include it in the bulletin or The Bridge App.**

## Exeter CRC Announcements

**Limited mobility parking spaces:** Please be advised we will be using the posted spaces as they are intended for our members that require parking closer to the building to avoid slip and falls. The rear doors will be open once again to allow easier access from the parking lot. Thanks for everyone's cooperation in this matter.

**There is a need in our community for community dinners:** Times are tough, and grocery prices are high. Many could use the support of a free meal. Even some who have no problem affording groceries are hungry. They are hungry for community, for fellowship, and for connection. Are you interested in playing a part of meeting this need? If so, please come to a brainstorming and planning meeting at the church on Tuesday, March 18 at 2pm. For more information contact Marique Crossen.

**Seniors/Deacons/Youth Games Night!!** Tuesday, March 18th, 7-9 pm

Come out for a fun evening of games and fellowship. If you have a favourite game, take it along!

**Seniors' Dinner:** The Senior's Dinner will be held in the gym on Saturday, April 5, starting at 11am with a coffee social followed by dinner and guest speaker Joanne Schreuders. The Deacons have sent out invitations to all our seniors but if someone was missed, we apologize and please let Joy DeWeerd know of your desire to attend.

**Council Nominations:** It is that season again and we ask for you to please help us out. We will need to fill some vacancies on council this spring, 3 Elders and 2 Deacons. Talk to a council member and let them know that you would love to have a term on council, or if not so bold, volunteer another member whom you believe to have a heart for the church and ask them if you can bring their name to council. It would be wonderful to have a full slate of names (double those required) for both deacon and elder. Please have these names in by March 31st.

### **Collection funds paid out in February:**

\$ 614.00 Compassion Canada  
\$2,862.27 Deacons (JAN & FEB)  
\$1,179.50 Tuition Assistance  
\$ 867.80 Children of the Promise  
\$2,670.60 Teen Challenge  
**\$8,194.17 Total**

### **Council Highlights**

- Discussed the announcement for office bearers, that we will be needing 5 new council members. Please give it some thought if you are approached or would like to volunteer your name.
- Vanastra CRC is using video sermons from Pastor Jay's series on unity, we are glad we can share these videos with them.
- Pastor Jay was nominated and selected at Classis to go to Synod in Ancaster
- Council accepted the membership of Deb Westerik
- Faith formation reported that there are 7 Sunday School graduates
- Catechism starting again at the end of March for another 6-week session

## From the CRCNA and the Broader Community

**Denomination Survey: Many Parts, One Body: Have you been heard?** Our congregation has a once-in-five-year opportunity to participate in the 2025 CRC denominational survey. This survey helps denominational leadership understand the concerns and needs of local congregations like ours. It is crucial that as many people from our congregation as possible participate. Please visit [crcna.org/survey/5522](https://crcna.org/survey/5522) to answer the survey questions **by March 31**.

**Huron Christian School:** Join us for a fun-filled Comedy Evening on Thursday, March 21, 2025, at Trinity Church Goderich! Enjoy a night of laughter while raising funds to provide essential support for our students with hearing impairments. Doors open at 7:00 PM, show runs from 7:30–9:00 PM. Admission is by donation, no tickets required! Don't miss this chance to laugh, connect, and make a difference!

**Huron Christian School (HCS)** invites applications for teachers in our Primary and Junior/Intermediate divisions. If you are an OCT qualified, Christian educator who is passionate about sharing your love for God and discovering the wonder of His creation with children, we would like to hear from you. Our community is located in the wide open, congestion free, family friendly spaces of picturesque Huron County. Our location, a mere 16 minutes away from the endless sands of Lake Huron, draws nature lovers from around the world to hike, camp, explore and marvel at God's wonderful creation. If you would like to become part of a school community that is growing, and is enjoying a newly renovated building, please submit your cover letter, resume, statement of faith, philosophy of Christian education, along with three references (professional, personal and pastoral) electronically to the attention of the principal, Mr. Michael Huizenga at [principal@huronchristianschool.ca](mailto:principal@huronchristianschool.ca). Receipt of all applications will be acknowledged, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Deadline for applications: April 2, 2025

**Today is Thrive Sunday 2025!** - Thrive equips churches and ministry leaders with the encouragement, connections, and tools you need to flourish. Thrive's work begins with listening to congregations as you identify your needs. They then work to connect you with practitioners, peers, or resources to answer your questions or navigate your unique circumstances. As seasoned ministry leaders, Thrive staff are eager to develop tools or serve as resources for the wellbeing of your congregation. To connect, visit [crcna.org/thrive](https://crcna.org/thrive)

### **Classis Huron Corner**

- The delegates of Classis Huron, or regional assembly, met on Wednesday, February 26, 2024, at the Palmerston CRC after a one-week delay because of the weather.
- Opening devotions were led by Rev. Craig Hoekema, the pastor of Bethel CRC in Acton.
- A sharing /prayer Round-Table session was led by Rev. Sid Couperus.
- The chair of the meeting was Rev. Victor Laarman, pastor of Collingwood CRC.
- Pastor Sara DeMoor and Peter Schuurman presented an exciting report on the work among the University of Guelph students.
- Various appointments were made, including the election of delegates to Synod 2025, the denominational annual assembly, that is to be held at Redeemer University in Ancaster. Delegates are Rev. Ray Vander Kooij (Clinton CRC), Rev. Jason Crossen (Exeter) with Rev. Cameron Oegema (Listowel) as alternate. Also Elders John Tamming (Owen Sound) and Rich Vandonkersgoed (Listowel), with Richard Golby (Collingwood) as alternate.
- At his own request, pastor Toyosi Awesu was honorably released from the office of Commissioned Pastor in Classis Huron. He was granted a license to exhort instead.
- Classis decided to schedule the examination of Joshua Sweetman for a license to exhort at the May session of classis.
- Wilma Hiemstra informed classis that she is retiring and is not renewing her license to exhort.
- Mary Blydorp reported on the work of Diaconal Ministries Canada and the classical diaconal committee.
- Various classical ministries reported, including Safe Church and the Classis Huron Mission Team, that re-introducing a Creative Outreach Venture Fund for churches.

- Len Bakelaar showed a video from the Disability Concerns committee.
- During lunch, the deacons gathered for a deacons' conversation.
- Classis granted the request of the Vanastra Community Church, and the recommendation of the Church Visitors, to release their pastor, Rev. Robert Hoekstra, from ministry at their church.  
The Synodical Deputies (representing synod) concurred with classis' decision.
- Two overtures, formal written proposals sent from churches to classis, were defeated.
- Pastor Victor was thanked for his excellent leadership during the day.
- Classis adjourned at 5:05 PM.
- The complete set of minutes will be available at [www.classishuron.ca](http://www.classishuron.ca).

**This Week: March 9 - 15 2025**

<u>Sunday</u> 10am Worship with Sunday School age 3 -Grade 6 and Grade 7/8 Catechism	<u>Monday</u> Gems 7 – 8:30 pm	<u>Tuesday</u> Youth Group 7 pm NHS – 6pm Queensway	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u> Cadets 7 pm Praise Team Practice 7:30 pm BOA Meeting 7 pm	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u> Cadet Counselor Training
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**SERVING SCHEDULE**

	<b>March 16</b>	<b>March 23</b>	<b>March 30</b>	<b>April 6</b>
<b>Elder</b>	George Poortinga	Gerard Steenbeek	Clare Toornstra	Jake Zantingh
<b>Deacon</b>	Dianne & Connor	Joy & Connor	Connor & Anthony	Anthony & Dianne
<b>Coffee Clean-Up</b>	Dan & Sheila Vanderlaan Lucas & Rachel Kaumanns	Conner & Melissa VanSoest Mike & Emmy Zandwyk	Frieda Zandbergen, Ann Zwaan, Jake & Savannah Zantingh	Matt Bakelaar & Jessica Bakelaar Eugene & April Boersma
<b>Greeters</b>	Kathryn Langendyk & Wibbina Toonk	Scott & Wendy Stafford	Jean Vanderlaan & Yvonne Van Soest	Lori Triebner & Norma Vanderlaan
<b>Ushers</b>	Anthony Nyman & Betty Toornstra	Dianne Soer, Sylvia Hulshoff	Al Heyink, Colton Mulder	Gerald Kodde, Cliff Knip
<b>Children's Message</b>	Sylvia	Sylvia	Sylvia	Sylvia
<b>Nursery</b>	Marique Crossen, Joanne Boersma, Salome Kodde, Avery Poortinga	Ang Nyman, Rolinda deRuiter, Kassidy Heyink, Avery Knip	Sarah Mulder, Sylvia Heyink, Yvonne VanSoest, Lillian Crossen	Lisa Heyink, Karen Knip, Jolene DeBoer, Layla Den Hollander
<b>Sunday School</b>	Sylvia Hulshof, Jolene de Boer, Laura Garritsen, Amanda Desgagne	Sylvia Hulshof, Jolene de Boer, Laura Garritsen, Tanya Steenbeek	Joyce Pelley, Jolene de Boer, Laura Garritsen, Tanya Steenbeek	Sandra Ducharme, Michelle Meinen, Sarah Mulder, Joyce Pelley