



Exeter Christian Reformed Church

332 Huron Street West
Exeter, Ontario, NOM 1S2
Telephone: 519-235-2990
Website: www.exetercrc.on.ca

Pastor: Jay Crossen
Pastor's Email: pastorjay@exetercrc.on.ca
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 12:15-4:15
Publishing deadline: Thursday, 9:00 am
Administrative E-mail: bulletin@exetercrc.on.ca

Worship: 10am

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Walter Miedema

Musicians: Steve and the Kids

God Gathers Us in His Presence

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

* Song **Come, Now is the Time to Worship LUYH # 526**

God's Greeting:

* Song **My Lighthouse CCLI # 7002032**

God Renews Us In His Grace

Lenten Litany

Prayer of Confession

God's Assurance

Song **Holy Forever CCLI # 7201044**

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Children's Message

Song: **This Little Light of Mine**

Children (Dismissal age 3-to Grade 6) for Sunday School

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Zephaniah 1: 1-3

Message: Don't Get too Comfortable

*Song: **Take My Life and Let it Be LUYH # 930**

God Calls Us to Respond with Prayers and Offerings

Announcements

Prayer of God's People

Offering: Thrive - CRC Office of Social Justice

Offertory **Is He Worthy CCLI # 7108951**

God Sends Us Out to Serve with His Blessing

*God's Sending and Blessing

*Song: **Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow LUYH # 965**

* 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 to 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

Valet service - designed for worshippers with mobility challenges, valet service is available for free with advance arrangements. Simply drive your car up to the east door (under the car port) and one of our friendly drivers will meet you, help unload your mobility device and park your car for you! If you are interested, please contact Mike Buckman in church, by phone (519-236-7940), by text (519-630-7827), through Facebook or via email at michaelbuckman@hotmail.com

Upcoming Services:

<u>Mar 8:</u>	Walter Miedema (Lent week 3)
<u>Mar 15:</u>	Pastor Jay (Lent week 4)
<u>Mar 22:</u>	Pastor Jay (Lent week 5)
<u>Mar 29:</u>	Pastor Jay (Lent week 6)

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 Thrive - CRC Office of Social Justice

<u>Mar 15:</u>	Huron County Food Distribution Centre
<u>Mar 22:</u>	Reframe Ministries
<u>Mar 29:</u>	Serge - Kimberley & Carlos Belez

The Deacons will collect your offering during the worship service. You can also respond with your offering by e-Transfer to 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.

Common Plate A donation email has been set up for Common Plate it is as follows donations@Exetercommonplate.org



MemberCare⁺ is a free counselling program for Exeter CRC members provided through By Peaceful Waters. Please call **519-886-8577** or email 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

Celebrating 75 Years of God's Faithfulness at Exeter CRC!

With great excitement we are making plans for a special weekend of celebration to take place April 24-26, 2026, D.V. In your mailboxes, you will find an invitation card with more details. Please mark your calendars and help spread the word to former members and friends of Exeter CRC. Extra invitations are available by the church office – feel free to take a few to share. Please remember to RSVP to the Saturday night dinner by March 31st! RSVP to exetercrc75@gmail.com or talk to one of the planning committee members (Dan Vanderlaan, Sheila Vanderlaan, Sylvia Heyink, Sarah Mulder, Kathryn Langendyk, Bert Visscher). Payment for tickets can be e-transferred to ecrcgiving@gmail.com (please put in the notes that it is for tickets).

75th Anniversary – Memories Wanted

Our church is preparing to celebrate 75 years of ministry, fellowship, and faithful service. As we look ahead to this milestone, we'd love to look back as well. We invite you to share memories, stories, or photos from over the years – whether from long ago or just yesterday. From meaningful moments to those we still smile about, your memories help tell the story of our church family. Thank you for helping us celebrate where we've been and all that God has done among us. Please submit by March 15th. Email to exetercrc75@gmail.com or place in Kathryn Langendyk's mailbox.

GEMS Rally will be held at the Exeter CRC on **Saturday, April 11/26**. There will be over 200 girls and leaders attending from Blyth, Clinton, Listowel, Stratford, Vanastra, and Wingham. Volunteers will be needed. There will be many different ways to help out like in the kitchen with food prep/serving, assisting with workshops, group leaders, set up/tear down and clean up at the end of the day to name a few. We are still in the planning stage working out our volunteer needs/schedule. If you can lend a hand, reach out to any of the ECRC GEMS leaders. In His Service, Leah Branderhorst, Joanne Branderhorst, Lauren Hoonard, Sylvia Hoonard, Karen Knip, Jody Mulder, and Deb Westerik.

Badge Books GEMS will be working on badges as a group on February 23, March 2, and March 9. Please bring your Badge Books on those nights. Thanks for your cooperation!

Youth: The youth is excited to announce the Youth Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 7 from 8-10 AM. Come join us for breakfast and community!

Musicians Needed: there are a few weeks this summer that our regular musicians are not available to lead us during the worship service. We are seeking musicians who can lead us in worship. Whether it be with voice, piano, or guitar; for one week or two. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please talk to Sylvia Hulshof.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for 2025/2026 Sunday School year so far!

It's a blessing to see your gifts shine in different ways and the connections being made between children and leaders. There are a few teaching spots open for May and June.

Please contact Janelle Bouman if you feel called to help in Sunday School, or you can check out the sign-up sheet in the Sunday School Wing. Thank you! The Sunday School Team

Nursery: The nursery needs a few more adult volunteers and helpers. If you are able to help in this ministry, please contact Cassidy Heyink.

VASES NEEDED! If you are doing some spring cleaning and have some clear glass vases and bud vases you are wanting to get rid of... we would happily reuse them for some upcoming events at church! Simply place in the "Vase donations" box in the kitchen or talk to Sarah Mulder! Thanks in advance!

Coffee with Pastor Jay: Coffee with Pastor Jay is back again!! Pastor Jay has been here almost 2 years!! and he would like to provide an opportunity for those who would like to connect with him!! This is an opportunity to talk about your faith formation, wrestle with scripture, or perhaps just to catch up with one another. Please feel free to sign up on the sign-up sheet outside my office. Thanks!

Seniors' Dinner - The Deacons are hosting the Seniors' Dinner on Saturday, March 28, 2026.

Social time begins at 11:00 in the gym, followed by a delicious dinner and then a hymn sing. Invitations have been placed in your church mail slot. Let Joy or Dianne know by Sunday, March 15, 2026, if you plan to attend. Let Marian know by March 15, 2026, your requests for the hymn sing.

January 2026 Collections Paid out	
Deacons	\$2,357.87
ThereforeGo	\$677.55
Mississippi Christian Family Services	\$1,010.00
Wycliffe John & Evelyn Vandermeer	\$871.25
Total	\$4,916.67

From the CRCNA and the Broader Community

Groundwork: Jesus: Judged, Beaten, and Crowned with Thorns - At the fifth Station of the Cross, we reflect on Jesus before Pilate, and at the sixth, we witness Jesus endure mocking and beating from Roman soldiers as they placed a crown of thorns on his head. Join Groundwork as we study Mark 15:1-15 and John 19:1-3 for a Lenten reflection on Jesus' suffering and persecution, and what it means for his followers. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Paul's Missionary Journeys in Turkey & the Seven Churches of Revelation (Oct 9-19, 2026): Visit ancient sites connected with Paul's First, Second, and Third Missionary Journeys as well as the seven churches to whom John wrote the Book of Revelation. Join Jeff Weima, professor at Calvin Theological Seminary and leading biblical scholar, for this inspirational biblical tour. Contact Dr. Weima at [616-328-3110](tel:616-328-3110) or weimje@calvinseminary.edu.

SOCO Beach Project Update This newsletter covers the joint spring break trip for disaster relief in North Carolina, organized by Mohawk College Campus Ministry & SOCO in conjunction with World Renew. Support our mission to equip young adults with your donations. Info on how to donate is in the newsletter. <https://mailchi.mp/southcoastbeachproject/soco-update-march-5-8574306>

Classis Huron Corner

- The delegates of Classis Huron (regional assembly) met on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at the Drayton CRC after a one-day delay because of the weather.
- Opening devotions were led by Rev. Wes Collins, the pastor of Drayton CRC.
- Rev. Sid Couperus (First CRC, Owen Sound) and Joan Brady (Classis Huron Mission Catalyst) led a sharing /prayer Round-Table session with a focus on *neighboring*.
- The chair of the meeting was Rev. Martin Dam, pastor of the Stratford CRC.
- Classis received several classical reports:

- Joan Brady reported for the Classis Huron Mission Team. As Mission Catalyst, she is working with a number of individual churches in our classis.
She is also involved in the hiring process of the Youth Ministry Coordinator.
- Rev. Carel Geleynse reported for Safe Church and promoted the Inter-Classis Safe Church conference that is scheduled for March 7, 2026.
- Pastor Sara DeMoor presented an exciting report on the work among the University of Guelph students.
- Classis was updated on the search process of the pastoral vacant churches in the classis.
- Classis also received several reports from denominationally related agencies and ministries:
- Representatives from World Renew, Redeemer University, the Canadian National Gathering, Diaconal Ministries Canada and the Council of Delegates (the governing board of the Christian Reformed Church) brought their reports, including a video from Thrive.
- Classis made various decisions...
- An overture (formal written proposal) from Drayton CRC, to approve the release of Rev. Duane VanderLaan from his active ministerial service with the Drayton Reformed Church, was tabled to the May session of classis.
- Classis agreed that the position description submitted by Water Street CRC for a commissioned pastor's position is in keeping with the requirements of Church Order Article 23. The synodical deputies concurred. A classical examination of Josh Sweetman is scheduled for the May session.
- Mr. Jan Oorebeek (Orangeville CRC) was examined and granted a one-year license to exhort in the churches of Classis Huron.
- Classis acknowledged that Rev. William Steele can no longer be a CRC minister, as he is not a member of the CRC anymore.
- A motion that classis follows the decision of synod, affirming the Covenant for Office Bearers at every classis meeting, was tabled to a later classis meeting.
- ...and made several appointments:
- Delegates to Synod 2026, the denominational annual assembly, are:
Rev. Cameron Oegema (Bethel CRC, Listowel) and Rev. Jason Crossen (Exeter CRC) with Rev. Nick Bierma (Stratford CRC) as alternate.
Elders Mr. Wilmar Bakker (Bethel CRC, Listowel) and Mr. Jim Broekema (Orangeville), with Mr. Jonathan Barnhoorn (Palmerston CRC) as alternate.
- Sharon Van Kampen (Bethel, Listowel CRC) was elected as alternate stated clerk.
Jane Vander Velden was thanked for her five years of service as the alternate stated clerk.
- During lunch, the deacons gathered for a deacons' conversation.
- It was announced that Rev. Victor Laarman (Collingwood) accepted a call to Stratford East CRC.
- Pastor Martin was thanked for his excellent leadership during the day.
- Classis adjourned at 4:25 PM.

This Week March 8-14 2026

<u>Sunday</u> 10am Worship Sunday School age 3 to Grade 6	<u>Monday</u> Gems 7 pm-8:30 pm Choir 7:30	<u>Tuesday</u> Common Plate Meal 5:30 – 7:00 pm Precious Blood Catholic Church Youth 7-9 NHS Queensway 5:45 pm	<u>Wednesday</u> Worship Committee Meeting 7:30 pm Praise Team Practice 7:30 pm	<u>Thursday</u> Cadets' 7 pm	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
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SERVING SCHEDULE

	Mar 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Elder	Joe Lubbers	Al Vanderlaan	Leo Weverink	George Poortinga
Deacon	Marian, Anthony	Joy, Anthony	Anthony, Dianne	Dianne, Marian
Coffee Clean-Up	Dan & Sheila Kevin & Kiera	Jeff & Yvonne James & Mikalya	Deb W, Frieda Z Mike & Emmy	Shawn & Angela Jake & Savannah
Greeters	Scott & Wendy Stafford	Clarence, Albert	Anne Z., Jean	Wendy, Sandra
Ushers	Colton, George P	Betty, Dianne	Tim, Anthony	Sylvia, Gerald
Children's Message	Joan B	Sylvia	Teresa B.	Pastor Jay
Nursery	Job Garritsen, Sandra Ducharme, Layla Denhollander	Katelyn Heyink, Sharon Kodde, Ann Zwaan	Joanne Branderhorst, Joyce Pelley, Sadie Bouman	Leah Branderhorst, Jody Mulder, Alanna Nyman
Sunday School	Sylvia Hulshof, Michelle Meinen, Darren Bouman, Angela Nyman Jordan B	Sylvia Hulshof, Michelle Meinen, Darren Bouman, Angela Nyman	Sylvia Hulshof, Michelle Meinen, Darren Bouman, Angela Nyman, Jordan B	Sylvia Hulshof, Michelle Meinen, Darren Bouman, Angela Nyman
Valet	Albert Hummel	Tim DeWeerd	Bill Branderhorst	Mike Zandwyk
Tech Booth	(P) Landon (A) Trevor (V) Aaron	(P) Dan (A) Nathan (V) Tony	(P) Sam (A) Job (V) Dan	(P) Greg (A) Trevor (V) Gerard
Hall Monitor	George P	Dianne Soer	Anthony Nyman	Gerald Kodde