



# Exeter Christian Reformed Church

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

Pastor: Jay Crossen  
Pastor's Email: [pastorjay@exetercrc.on.ca](mailto: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](mailto:bulletin@exetercrc.on.ca)

**Sunday, Dec 21, 2025**

**Worship: 10am**

**Pastor Jay Crossen**

**Musicians: Janece, Rachel, Joe,  
Amy, Laura, Wilma & Bert,  
Peter & Shawn**

**God Gathers Us in His Presence**

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

\* Song **Christmas Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)** CCLI 7231731 vs 1,2

God's Greeting:

\* Song **Christmas Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)** CCLI 7231731 vs 3

**God Renews Us In His Grace**

Advent Litany

Advent Prayer

Song: **How Deep the Father's Love**

Sunday School Program

Song: **Hope Has Come**

Christmas Readings:

Song: **Christmas Medley**

**God Speaks to Us Through His Word**

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

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Ruth 4: 1-17

Message: Redeemed by Love: The Kinsman Who Binds Us

\*Song: **How Great is the Love of the Father** LUYH # 683

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

Announcements

Prayer of God's People

Offering: Food Grain Bank

Offertory **Manager Throne** CCLI # 7226106

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

\*God's Sending and Blessing

\*Song: **Christmas, Amazing Grace** CCLI # 7141044

\* 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](mailto:michaelbuckman@hotmail.com)

### Upcoming Services:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <u>Dec 21:</u> | Pastor Jay (Advent 4) Preparatory for Lord's Supper ( and Candlelight Service 6 pm ) |
| <u>Dec 25:</u> | Pastor Jay (Christmas)   |
| <u>Dec 28:</u> | Pastor Jay (Lord's Supper)   |
| <u>Jan 4:</u>  | Pastor Jay (Baptism Ashlynn Heyink)  |

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 Food Grain Bank

|                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Dec 25:</u> | Mission Services of London |
| <u>Dec 28:</u> | The Common Plate           |



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.

**Prayer Request:** Jacob Hulshof fell and shattered his elbow in 5 places. He had surgery this past Tuesday. He has been in a lot of pain; we pray that God will heal him quickly and that his pain subsides.

**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

**Common Plate Community Meals** Come on out from 5:30-7pm at Precious Blood Catholic Church for weekly dinners starting on September 2 to enjoy a complimentary meal, Common Plate, and build relationships with our broader community?

**Common Plate Community Meals:** We are looking for some more volunteers for Common Plate Community Meals. We need at least 2 more people to help with meal prep on a 7-week rotation. We could also use more people to help with cleanup. We are specifically in need of people capable of taking down tables and stacking chairs at 7pm. If this is something you would be interested in, please contact Marique Crossen.

**Common Plate** A donation email has been set up for Common Plate it is as follows [donations@Exetercommonplate.org](mailto:donations@Exetercommonplate.org)

### **Celebrating 75 Year's of God's Faithfulness at Exeter CRC!**

Hello Church Family!

With great excitement, we are making plans for a special weekend of celebrations to take place **April 24-26, 2026, D. V.** In your mailboxes, you will find a **"Save the Date"** card with more details. Please mark your calendars and help spread the word to former members and friends of Exeter CRC. Extra cards are available by the church office – feel free to take a few to share. Stay tuned for more information in the new year! We look forward to celebrating 75 years of God's goodness and faithfulness together in Exeter.

**Smile!** immediately following the service on December 21, we are all asked to remain in our pews for 4 minutes after the benediction for a congregational picture. Many thanks from the 75th anniversary committee

**Blue Christmas** - There will be a Blue Christmas service Friday December 19, 2025, at 7pm at Exeter CRC hosted by the Exeter Ministerial (the local Exeter pastors working together). This collaborative service acknowledges that Christmas is not always so Jolly for everyone, and names the truth of the pain that many people carry around the holiday season and

**BOA** is taking tenders for both Landscaping and Custodial contracts. If you are interested in submitting a tender for either of these, please contact Rick Hulshof or Greg Langendyk for a copy of the mandate. Contract is for a 3-year term. Tenders must be submitted by Dec 19, 2025. Please send tenders to [exetercrcboa@gmail.com](mailto:exetercrcboa@gmail.com)

**Candlelight Dec 21 @ 6pm:** Please bring goodies to share.

**Collections Paid out in Oct 2025**

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Deacons                         | \$605.00          |
| Resonate                        | \$1,756.45        |
| World Renew                     | \$1,350.60        |
| Fellowship of Christian Farmers | \$630.78          |
| Huron Newcomers                 | \$1,060.65        |
| Huron Turning Point             | \$1,020.00        |
| Total                           | <b>\$6,423.48</b> |

**Collections Paid out in Nov 2025**

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| World Renew – World Hunger | \$3,912.30         |
| Sanctuary London -         | 665.15             |
| Exeter Food Bank           | \$2,309.52         |
| Children of the Promise    | \$2,090.65         |
| Deacons                    | \$2,637.20         |
| Total                      | <b>\$11,614.82</b> |

**From the CRCNA and the Broader Community**

**SAVE THE DATE!** If you are between 18 and 30, this is for you! On Friday, January 2, 2026, the Young Adults of Stratford CRC are hosting a New Year's Banquet. Doors open at 7 pm. All Young Adults are called on to **"dress-your-best"** for a dinner, followed by a game show, and door prizes. Reserve your seat by e-transferring 15\$ to:

[treasurer@stratfordcrc.org](mailto:treasurer@stratfordcrc.org) Include your first and last name with this transfer. For further questions, you can reach out to: [estherlucille99@gmail.com](mailto:estherlucille99@gmail.com) It will be an evening to remember!

[https://www.instagram.com/youngadults.stratfordcrc?igsh=MXZwcTQ4eG1ybnQxOA%3D%3D&utm\\_source=qr](https://www.instagram.com/youngadults.stratfordcrc?igsh=MXZwcTQ4eG1ybnQxOA%3D%3D&utm_source=qr)

**The Young Adult Winter Retreat (YAWR)** is back again at Maranatha CRC, Woodstock! We would like to encourage all young adults ages 18-30 to join us for this weekend of faith-based discussions, service, fellowship, and funtivities! We are excited to announce that Pastor Harry Frielink from Covenant CRC in Barrie will be leading us in a series of discussions on the importance of Christian friendships. The retreat will take place from January 23 to 25, 2026, with the theme *"The Gift of Friendship."* Early bird registration is \$60. Registration opens December 1st, 2025. Don't miss this chance to grow in faith, build lasting connections, and have fun! For more information or the registration link, follow us on Instagram (yawinterretreat), Facebook (Young Adult Winter Retreat), or email us at [ya.retreat.team@gmail.com](mailto:ya.retreat.team@gmail.com)

**SOCO Beach Project Update:** Calling all young adults - ages 18 (one year post highschool) to 29. Recruitment for this summer's SOCO 2026 has begun - and Jan 12, 2026, is the deadline for first consideration. Join in the fun of the year end Polar Bear Plunge Campaign - all proceeds strengthen SOCO's mission, opening the door for young adults to say "yes" to an enriching summer experience.

<https://mailchi.mp/southcoastbeachproject/soco-update-dec-11-8572843>

**Thank you:** we wanted to thank your congregation for their generous support of Huron Turning Point.

**Classis Huron update:**

In a special meeting on Monday evening, December 8, Classis Huron recognized Kitchener's Cornerstone CRC as an emerging congregation under the supervision of Stratford CRC.

This congregation is an offshoot of Kitchener's Community CRC.

Additionally, Classis committed itself to monitor and guide the ongoing relationships, shared ministry considerations, and emerging concerns in both churches.

Were all church separations conducted with the same care and faithfulness shown here, the witness of Christ's church to the watching world would be greatly strengthened.

Moreover, Classis pledged to evaluate its current Church Visitation program and work to enhance its ability to support the local churches.

**Groundwork: Out of Darkness and into the Light** - Turning on a light changes everything. What changes can we anticipate when Jesus brings his light to our world? Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 2:2-5, John 8:12-19, and John 12:44-50 to discover the significant effects we can expect the presence of the Light of the World to bring in our lives and our world. Listen now at [GroundworkOnline.com](http://GroundworkOnline.com) and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

**Huron Christian School:** We are thrilled to share that the online and live auctions, along with purchased advertising space and generous financial donations, raised over \$72,000! What a fantastic evening we had with our school community on November 22. A heartfelt thank you to all our donors, bidders, volunteers, and attendees for making the 38th Annual Auction a huge success! Above all, we give thanks to God for His continued blessings on HCS, both in the past and this year.

*The HCS Auction Committee*

**You're invited to worship:** Over this Christmas/New Years season, you are invited to join us at the Clinton Christian Reformed Church in worshipping our glorious God on New Years Eve, Dec 31 at 7 pm and New Years Day, Jan 1 at 10 am. Childcare is provided at all services. On January 1, we'll worship in our Fellowship Hall next to the childcare rooms, allowing parents to stay near their little ones while joining in worship. We are so very thankful for these opportunities to share the message of God's love and faithfulness during this season. We'd love to see you!

**Join Classis Huron as Our Youth Ministry Leader!**

Are you passionate about **equipping and inspiring youth ministry leaders**? Classis Huron is looking for a **Youth Ministry Consultant (YMC)** — a pastoral role (30 hrs/week) focused on **supporting, training, and encouraging youth leaders** in our congregations and Campus Ministries.

This is your chance to **shape vibrant discipleship pathways for youth and young adults**, build strong leader networks, and make a lasting impact in our churches.

**What we're looking for:**

- 3–5 years of youth ministry leadership experience
- Bachelor's in theology, ministry, or youth ministry (Master's preferred)
- Ordination/commissioning **preferred but not required**.
- Strong relational, leadership, and organizational skills

**Deadline for applications:** Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so early applications are strongly encouraged. Applications will be received until the position is filled.

**Start date:** September 01, 2026

Applications or requests for further information may be sent to: [jbrady@crcna.org](mailto:jbrady@crcna.org). A full job description can be found on the [Youth Ministry](#) page on the Classis Huron website.

Be the **catalyst that strengthens youth ministry across Classis Huron!**

| This Week Dec 21-26 2025   |               |                |                  |   |                                      |                 |
|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Sunday</b><br>10am Worship<br>Sunday School age<br>3 to Grade 6<br>Sunday School<br>Program<br>Candlelight 6 pm | <u>Monday</u> | <u>Tuesday</u> | <u>Wednesday</u> | <b>Thursday</b><br>Christmas Day Service<br>10 am | <b>Friday</b><br>Blue Christmas 7 pm | <u>Saturday</u> |

| SERVING SCHEDULE              |   |   |  |  |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                               | <b>Dec 21</b>   | <b>Dec 25</b>                                     | <b>Dec 28</b>  | <b>Jan 4</b>                                       |
| <b>Elder</b>                  | Gerald Kodde  | Jake Zantingh                                     | Joe Lubbers  | Gerard Steenbeek                                   |
| <b>Deacon</b>                 | Marian & Joy  | Joy & Anthony                                     | Anthony & Dianne                                       | Dianne, Marian                                     |
| <b>Coffee<br/>Clean-Up</b>    | Greg & Kaitlyn<br>Albert & Frances                        | Worship Committee                                 | Rick & Linda<br>Lucas & Rachel                         | Cliff & Karen<br>Cameron, Josh & Sarah             |
| <b>Greeters</b>               | Jean Vanderlaan Wendy Westerik                            | Bert Visscher Sam Vanderlaan                      | Gerben & Ria Steenbeek                                 | Wibbina Toonk, Yvonne V.S.                         |
| <b>Ushers</b>                 | Tim DeWeerd & George Poortinga                            | Sylvia Hulshoff & Jake Zantingh                   | Cliff Knip & Gerald Kodde                              | Al V., Colton M.                                   |
| <b>Children's<br/>Message</b> | Bert  | N/A   | N/A  | Leo W.   |
| <b>Nursery</b>                | Marion deBoer, Savannah<br>Zantingh, Angela Nyman         | Danielle Dykstra, Jody Mulder,<br>Sandra Ducharme | Jolene deBoer, Michelle Meinen,<br>Wendy Stafford      | Tanya Steenbeek, Joe Dykstra,<br>Leah Branderhorst |
| <b>Sunday<br/>School</b>      | Sandra D, Jolene deBoer, Sarah<br>Mulder, Janelle Bouman, | No Sunday School                                  | Sunday school only 3,4,5 year olds<br>Keira Vanderlaan | Joy DeWeerd, Sheila Vanderlaan                     |
| <b>Valet</b>                  | Tim DeWeerd   | Teresa Buckman                                    | Albert Hummel  | Bill Branderhorst                                  |