



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: Tues/Thurs, 9am-12pm
Publishing deadline: Thursday, 9:00 am
Administrative E-mail: bulletin@exetercrc.on.ca

Sunday, December 8, 2024 – Second Sunday of Advent

Worship: 10am

Teacher: Pastor Jay Crossen

Musicians: Michelle, Shawn,
Sylvia, Marian, Al, Josh, Orrin,
Shaun

God Gathers Us in His Presence

- Words of Welcome
- * Call to Worship
- * Song: **He Shall Reign Forevermore**
- * God's Greeting
- * Song: **Christmas Offering**

God Renews Us in His Grace

- Advent Reading
- Lighting of the Advent Candle
- Song: **How Great Thou Art/O Holy Night LUYH #553**

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

- Children's Message
- Children's Song: **O Come All Ye Faithful LUYH #76**
- Children aged 3 – Grade 6 are dismissed for Sunday School
- Prayer of Illumination
- Scripture: **Isaiah 8:11-9:7, Isaiah 26:1-7**
- Message: **Christmas: God's Gift Beginning to End: Peace Through the Prophets**
- * Song of Response: **When I Think Upon Christmas**

God Calls Us to Respond with Prayers and Offerings

- Announcements
- Prayers of God's People
- Offering: This week the Deacons will be using your gifts to support the **Huron County Christmas Bureau**. e-Transfers may be sent to ecrcgiving@gmail.com
- Offertory: **Light of the World/Sing Hallelujah**

God Sends Us Out to Serve with His Blessing

- * God's Sending and Blessing
- * Song: **Hark the Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven**

* 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: Mark your calendar for these times of worship over the Advent and Christmas Season

December 15: 3rd week of Advent: Morning Worship led by our Sunday School kids

December 22: 4th week of Advent: Regular morning worship at 10am, Candlelight Service at 6pm

December 25: Christmas Day worship at 10am. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper

January 5: We welcome Teen Challenge to lead the worship gathering

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 and the week ahead is for **Community Table**

December 15: Indwell

December 22: SoCo: South Coast Beach Project

December 29: Canadian Foodgrains Bank



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 still available. Please ask one of the deacons for assistance if you are interested in buying coupons.



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.

Meal Ministry Volunteers Needed: Can you help make a meal? We try and bring a meal to families in our congregation for a new baby or other significant life events. I have a great band of very dedicated volunteers, but I would like to add to their ranks to cover illness, vacations and just to "spread the load" so to speak. I would expect to only ask 2 or 3 times a year! If you can help. Please contact Mike Buckman, Volunteer Co-Ordinator, at 519-236-7940 or by text at 519-630-7827 or by e-mail at michaelbuckman@hotmail.com.

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

Sunday School Program Practice – Note for Parents: We are planning to practice the Christmas Program after church on Dec 8. We will do our best to go through the program as fast as possible. Enjoy your coffee! You can pick up your children from the sanctuary when we are done. Thank you.

Parents of Sunday School Children: Please have your children at church on **Dec 15th by 9:30** and have them meet in the large Sunday School room. We will need this time to get all the children into their costumes for the program. Also asking any past teachers or willing parents that are able to join us in the large Sunday School room as we are looking for some adults to sit with the children during the service.

Readers wanted: Worship committee is looking for readers for the Candlelight service on Sunday December 22 at 6 pm. Please contact Jolene DeBoer or Marg Knip if you want to find out more.

Musicians: It is time to dust off those instruments and make a joyful noise. If you would like to play with the brass/woodwind ensemble on Christmas Day, please talk to Sandra Ducharme (519)317-6208. All skill levels are welcome!

Corn Hole Bonanza: On Monday December 23 at 3pm some men of questionable wood crafting ability are meeting at Tim DeWeerd woodshop (it is nicer than Santa's ... more head room) to build corn hole boards. If you would like to join us, please slip us a call before December 19 so we can purchase the correct amount of lumber for this venture. Talk to Dan Vanderlaan or Tim DeWeerd with any questions.

Alpha has completed it's 10 week run. New friendships were made. People grew in faith. A big thank you goes out to all the volunteers who helped make this possible. Childcare, kitchen volunteers, group leaders, sound and video, people who stayed to help clean up, the people who signed up, and the people who prayed that this would be a success. If you missed out, seek out someone who went and ask them about it. Hopefully we can do it again!

Hey Groupies: Small Groups are going to begin again in January. Are you interested in joining a group? Please let Sheila Vanderlaan know if this is something you'd like to be involved in.

Administrator Needed: Our church administrator Heather has, unfortunately for us, submitted her resignation. While we will miss her and what she did for us, we sincerely wish her all the best in her future endeavors. As with all unfortunate events however, it also opens doors or windows of new opportunities. BOA would like you to know they are currently seeking applicants for the part-time position of church administrator. Interested, qualified applicants may also be considered for the position of church treasurer. If you are interested in the position or would like more information about the job, including a detailed job description (available soon), please contact Rick Hulshof or Greg Langendyk directly or via email at exetercrcboa@gmail.com . If you are interested, please submit your resume by December 31, 2024, via email. Preference will be given to members of the Exeter CRC and flexibility around posted office hours, or a potential job share opportunity for qualified candidates will be considered. The BOA and Council earnestly seeks the congregation's prayers of support as we look for guidance and clarity to fill this very important role within our church. Thank you!

Nursing home construction update: From BOA, we have allowed access to the adjacent construction site through our parking lot. Rest assured all damage will be repaired as well as they have agreed to additional repairs around the building. When using the church throughout the week please be cautious of the construction traffic. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the construction, please contact Greg Langendyk or Rick Hulshof.

From the CRCNA and the Broader Community

Huron Christian School: We are excited to invite you and your families to our Christmas program “The Greatest Gift is Love”. It will be a special time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the joy of the season. The matinee performance will take place on Wednesday, December 11th at 1:00 PM, and the evening performance will be held on Friday, December 13th at 7:00 PM. We look forward to celebrating this wonderful time of year with you!

Blue Christmas Service - There will be a Blue Christmas Service on Friday, December 20 at 7:00pm at Exeter United Church (42 James St). This is a pensive, prayerful service for people who, for a variety of reasons, are finding it difficult to be merry at this time of the year. If you are experiencing grief or depression or anxiety or loneliness, or any number of things that threaten to drag you down, come out to hear the Good News, that our God is with you (Emmanuel) in the difficulty of life. The service is intentionally offered on, or close to, the longest night of the year, because the growing light is a symbol of growing hope, and the light of Christ shining forth in our lives. Pastor Jay will be participating by bringing a short message. All are welcome to attend.

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 Stephen Terpstra from First CRC Iowa will be leading us in a series of discussions on engaging in the church community. The retreat will take place from January 24-26, 2025, with the theme *Engage*. Early bird registration is \$60. 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.

Dutch Christmas Hymn Sing: Immanuel CRC and Grace Community CRC invite you to a Nederlandse KERST SAMENZANG held on **Sunday December 15th at 3pm at Grace Community CRC**, 70 Garner Road East in **Ancaster**. Put it in your calendar, and plan to join! For more information contact John VanderLaan at 905-648-3170 or Femke Visser-Elenbaas at visser.elenbaas@gmail.com.

Community Cookbook: The Huron County Ministerial has published their cookbook. Sales will benefit the Community Table. If you would like to order a cookbook for a minimum donation of \$10, please sign-up on the sheet on the Administrators office door.

Thank you! FOTOCAN breakfast was a great success. We had a record number of people and raised \$7285 all of which goes to building a kitchen in the Dominican Republic hoe. Thank you again, Andy & Margot Uyl.

SOCO Beach Project Update: *If you are a young adult between 18 - 29*, check out this summer opportunity (May - August) to deepen your faith and live in intentional Christian community, all while having a summer job in beautiful Port Dover. Check out this week's newsletter, as we consider the hope-filled opportunity of leaving a kingdom legacy. Be part of this ministry with a year end gift!

<https://mailchi.mp/southcoastbeachproject/soco-update-december-5-8566101>

This Week: December 8 - 14

<p><u>Sunday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Worship: 10am ➤ Sunday School ➤ Practice for Sunday School Program after worship ➤ Catechism: Grades 7/8 	<p><u>Monday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GEMS Christmas Party: 7pm ➤ Christmas Choir: 7:30pm 	<p><u>Tuesday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nursing Home Singers: 6pm, Queensway ➤ Youth Group: 7pm 	<p><u>Wednesday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 	<p><u>Thursday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cadets: 7pm ➤ Praise Team Practice: 7:30pm ➤ Council Meeting: 7:30pm 	<p><u>Friday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 	<p><u>Saturday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤
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SERVING SCHEDULE

	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 25
Elder	Gerard Steenbeek	Clarence Toornstra	Jake Zantingh	Al Heyink
Deacon	Dianne Soer & Connor Van Soest	Connor Van Soest, Joy DeWeerd	Joy DeWeerd & Harry Knip	Harry Knip, Dianne Soer
Coffee Clean-Up	Greg & Kaitlyn Heyink Derek & Sylvia Hoonard	Sylvia Hulshof Albert & Frances Hummel	Rick & Linda Jonker Cliff & Karen Knip	
Greeters	Kathryn Langendyk, Anne Zwaan	Wendy Westerik, Sandra Newton	Clarence Toornstra, Lori Triebner	Kathryn Langendyk, Jean Vanderlaan
Ushers	Joe Lubbers, Tim DeWeerd	Jason Mulder, Betty Toornstra	George Poortinga, Sylvia Hulshof	Dianne Soer, Colton Mulder
Children's Storyteller	Sylvia Hulshof	Sylvia Hulshof	Sylvia Hulshof	Sylvia Hulshof
Nursery	Kevin Mulder, Tanya Steenbeek, Anthony Nyman	Katelyn Heyink, Kathryn Langendyk	Sheila Vanderlaan, Leah Branderhorst, Averi Mulder	Volunteers
Sunday School	Joyce Pelley, Jody Mulder, Carly Ducharme, Bill Branderhorst, Joy DeWeerd	Sunday School Christmas Program	No Sunday School	No Sunday School