



Exeter Christian Reformed Church

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Exeter, Ontario, NOM 1S2
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Pastor: Jay Crossen
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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs, 9am-12pm
Publishing deadline: Thursday, 9:00 am
Administrative E-mail: bulletin@exetercrc.on.ca

Sunday, December 15, 2024 – Third Sunday of Advent

Worship: 10am

Sunday School Program

Musicians: Steve VanBreda,
Lori Triebner, Joanne
Branderhorst, Bill Branderhorst

Welcome

- Words of Welcome
- * Call to Worship
- * Prayer
- * Song: **Lord, We Lift Your Name on High**
- Announcements
- Prayer of God's People
- Offering: Indwell

Children's Sunday School Program

- Narration/Reading – John 1:1-4,9-13,18b (Lillian Crossen)
- Lighting of the Candles
- Song: **This Little Light of Mine** LUYH 930 (Children)
- Narration/Reading – Luke 1:26-38 (Julia Ducharme)
- Song: **Here I Am** LUYH 869 (Children - Grade 3-6)
- Narration
- Song: **O Little Town of Bethlehem** LUYH 88 (Congregation)
- Narration
- Song: **Away in the Manager** LUYH 86 (Children - Age 3-Grade 2)
- Narration
- Song: **Hark the Herald Angels Sing** LUYH 80 (Congregation)
- Narration
- Song: **O Come, All Ye Faithful** LUYH 76 (Congregation)
- Narration
- Song: **Do You Hear what I Hear?** (Congregation)
- Narration
- Song: **Go Tell It on the Mountain** LUYH 93 (Children)

Closing

- * God's Sending and Blessing (Pastor Jay)
- * Song: **Joy to the World** LUYH 92 (Congregation)

* 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 22: 4th week of Advent: Regular morning worship at 10am with the installation of Anthony Nyman
6pm Candlelight Service with refreshments after the service

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

December 29: Our morning worship service will be led by Pastor Ray VanderKooij from Clinton

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 **Indwell**

December 22: SoCo: South Coast Beach Project

December 25: Exeter Community Foodbank

December 29: Canadian Foodgrains Bank

January 5: Teen Challenge



Collections paid in November

\$ 538.93 Deacons

\$2,225.00 Children of the Promise

\$2,555.58 World Renew - General Fund

\$ 903.00 Sanctuary London

\$6,222.51 Total

January-November

\$ 257,730 General Giving

\$ 355,922 Budget

(\$ 98,192) deficit

Total Annual Budget: \$388,279

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

Candlelight refreshments: The Worship committee kindly asks that everyone please bring samples of your Christmas goodies to share after the candlelight 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.

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

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.

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. In this week's newsletter, reflect on Ruth's story about the "it just so happened" moments of our lives. Be part of this ministry with a year end gift! Link: <https://mailchi.mp/southcoastbeachproject/soco-update-december-12-8566413>

Dear Banner reader: The Canada Post strike has delayed the delivery of your *Banner*. Thank you for your patience in this matter! In the meantime, you can [read the full issue in PDF form online here](#). And just for your information, from this link you can read the past issues going back to 2005. You can also check back each month, as new issues are posted to this page as well. We hope this serves as a helpful option as we wait for the strike to be resolved. Also, please note the January and February issues will be combined. This will be similar to the way our July/August issue works, where it will come a bit later in the month. The issue to follow will be the March issue. Happy (online) reading!



Upcoming services



This Week: December 15-21

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p><u>Sunday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Worship: 10am ➤ Catechism: Grades 7/8 | <p><u>Monday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Christmas Choir: 7:30pm | <p><u>Tuesday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nursing Home Singers: 6:45pm, Bluewater Rest Home ➤ 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 | <p><u>Friday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blue Christmas Service at the United Church 7:00pm | <p><u>Saturday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|

SERVING SCHEDULE

| | December 15 | December 22 | December 25 | December 29 |
|-------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Elder | Clarence Toornstra | Jake Zantingh | Al Heyink | Gerald Kodde |
| Deacon | Connor Van Soest, Joy DeWeerd | Joy DeWeerd & Harry Knip | Harry Knip, Dianne Soer | Dianne Soer & Conner VanSoest |
| Coffee Clean-Up | Sylvia Hulshof Albert & Frances Hummel | Rick & Linda Jonker Cliff & Karen Knip PM service: worship committee | worship committee | Josh & Sarah Knip Gerald & Sharon Kodde |
| Greeters | Wendy Westerik, Sandra Newton | Clarence Toornstra, Lori Triebner | Kathryn Langendyk, Jean Vanderlaan | |
| Ushers | Jason Mulder, Betty Toornstra | George Poortinga, Sylvia Hulshof | Dianne Soer, Colton Mulder | Clare and Betty Toornstra |
| Children's Storyteller | none | Sylvia Hulshof | Sylvia Hulshof | |
| Nursery | Katelyn Heyink, Kathryn Langendyk | Sheila Vanderlaan, Leah Branderhorst, Averi Mulder | Volunteers | Anne Zwaan, Curtis Heyink, Avery Poortinga |
| Sunday School | Sunday School Christmas Program | No Sunday School | No Sunday School | No Sunday School |