

# CHRIST CALLING

July & August 2019

## CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

445 Anndale Road, Waterloo, ON N2K 2E3

Phone: (519) 885-4050

Website: [www.christwaterloo.ca](http://www.christwaterloo.ca)

**“Christ Lutheran Church is a Christian community worshipping together and working with others, locally and globally, to serve those in need, to care for the earth, and to work for justice.”**

*The community of Christ Lutheran Church – Waterloo gathers on the traditional land of the Neutral, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples who have cared for it for thousands of years. More recently, the Haldimand Proclamation of 1784 granted a Tract six miles on either side of the Grand River from its source to Lake Erie, to the Six Nations (Haudenosaunee) of the Grand River.*

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### **From Pastor David**

Friends in Christ,

I was thinking recently about the name given to this neighbourhood in north Waterloo in which Christ Lutheran Church is situated: “Colonial Acres.”

Of course, the designation “colonial” can refer to the style of architecture of many of the homes in this area – two-story, with front door at the front in the middle, and symmetrically-placed larger windows on either side, some homes with columns lining the front façade.

But it can also serve as a helpful reminder of our “colonial” past, the painful interactions between indigenous peoples who’ve been caring for the land for thousands of years, and subsequent settler peoples arriving from Europe in more recent centuries. One hears the term “colonialism” or “colonial-thinking”, which refers to the hurtful dynamic of one group of people, i.e. settlers, believing itself superior to another group, i.e. indigenous, leading to the stealing of land, the squashing of culture, and murderous violence. This in fact happened with painful frequency throughout the history of North American indigenous and settler relations, including in our area along the Grand River what is referred to as the “Haldimand Tract.” That arriving settlers so frequently and violently took the land from indigenous peoples, ignoring previous treaty agreements, and shirking any basic ethical standards of respect and humane consideration for others, speaks to the powerful force of racism flowing through our veins which continues to rear its ugly head today, which we need to confess, and for which we need forgiveness.

The energy and movement of God is always toward greater healing, justice, right relationships, reconciliation and forgiveness. According to the Jewish prophets, our standing with God depends upon where we stand with the weakest and most vulnerable in society. In the Hebrew scriptures, the quality of our faith depends upon the character of justice in the land, measured by how we treat three groups – widows, orphans and foreigners – those with least status in society. (Deuteronomy 10:17-19). Jesus unequivocally affirms this. He makes the practice of justice the very criterion for salvation, even identifying God’s presence with that of the poor. (Matthew 25:31-46, Luke 14:12-14).

As we find moments of rest and prayer this summer, I hope in the silence and beauty of creation, we can hear God’s summons to action, to do what we can to further God’s reign of restored and just relationships, healing and renewal for all people, especially those on the margins.

My love and peace,

Pastor David Malina



On behalf of the congregation at Christ Lutheran we wish Alina and her husband Chris Wagner congratulations on the birth of their first child Matthew Benjamin Wagner.

He was born on Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 7:36 a.m., weighing 9lbs 5 oz and 22.5 inches long.

Our well wishes as Alina, Chris, and Matthew begin their life together as a new family.



## Food Bank Challenge 2019

*Submitted by Eloise Breadner*

For summer months, food items needed – peanut butter, canned fruits, rice, and canned meat & fish. All food donations appreciated! Thank you for your support.

## Meditation Group on Summer Break

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month @ 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm

10 minutes of teaching, followed by 20 minutes silent meditation  
in the Christian tradition.

Beginners and Experienced Meditators Welcome!

*“The Holy One of Israel says: In return and rest you will be saved;  
quietness and trust will be your strength...” (Isaiah 30:15)*

See you in September. Watch for announcements.

## **From the Treasurer.....**

*Submitted by Karen McRae*

Your donations allow Christ Lutheran to operate and to provide funding for our ministries. Church Council received and approved the report to the end of May.

In the month of May expenses were in line with budgeted amounts. Thanks to those who continue to be aware of the costs to operate our church. Overall there was a shortfall of \$480 in offerings for May. Year to date, we move into the summer months with a net income of \$5,763.

Please consider your church over the summer.

### **ARE YOU ALREADY ON**

### **PAR**

**(pre-authorized remittances)**

### **FOR CHRIST LUTHERAN?**

**Pre-Authorized Remittance, or PAR allows you to support Christ Lutheran through automatic monthly withdrawal from your bank account.**

**At this time a number of members have chosen this method to make their offerings to Christ Lutheran. The church has received notice that the current service provider – Faith Life Financial will no longer be offering the service as of August 10, 2019.**

**Christ Lutheran has made a decision to move to the service provided by the United Church of Canada for the pre-authorized remittances. To ensure that there is no interruption in your offerings please complete the new PAR authorization form by July 15, 2019. The form will also require a void cheque to be attached. Forms are available at the church. Please call the church office (519-885-4050) if you would like a form emailed to you.**

**To members currently on PAR emails or letters have been sent requesting the new documentation.**

**If you would like to sign up or need information on the PAR, please call Priyanka at the church office or Karen McRae (519-498-5506).**

## Transition Team Update, June 2019

*Submitted by The Transition Team: Henriette Thompson, Jim Diehl, Ross Wagner*

### Straw Poll #2 Report

Purpose of the straw poll: to take a reading of congregation member preferences for various options related to the future use of the property and building at 445 Anndale Road, Waterloo.

Forty-six responses were received in the second straw poll carried out in May, 2019. The first poll was conducted in February 2019.

<b>Scoring System</b>	Preferred Option	4 points
	Second Option	3 points
	Third Option	2 points
	Least Favoured Option	1 Point

Maximum # of points per Option                      184

The highest point total was recorded by Option #2 (sell 50% of land). 169 points of a possible 184. 91.8%

The next highest point total was Option #1 (keep all the land at 445 Anndale). 118 points of a possible 184. 64.1%

Option #3 (sell all the land & building and look for an alternative worship site). 93 points of a possible 184        50.5%

Option #4 (sell all the land and building and disband the congregation). 40 points of a possible 184        21.7%. Only 3 responses for #4 were not “Least Favourable”.

Preferred Option	Option #1	13
	Option #2	31
	Option #3	2
	Option #4	0

### OBSERVATIONS

- 1) There is an overwhelming desire to keep our current building and at least some of the adjacent land.
- 2) There is no significant support for selling all the property, including the building, and disbanding the congregation.

## **Land and People Acknowledgement**

*Submitted by Henriette Thompson*

We gather today with respect and gratitude to the Creator for the Earth that sustains us.

For many thousands of years, the First Peoples including the Neutral, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples -- have sought to walk gently on this land. They offered assistance to the first European travellers to this territory and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. We seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based on honour and deep respect.

We are gathered on the Haldimand Tract. It spans six miles on either side of the Grand River and from its source in Dundalk, Grey County to the mouth at Port Maitland, Lake Erie. Through the Haldimand Proclamation of 1784, the Crown transferred sole title of this Tract to the Six Nations of the Grand River in perpetuity. However, colonial governments broke their promise and European settlers largely took ownership of the land on the Tract. Therefore, we commit to learning our part in restoring right relations.

Today, Indigenous communities lead the struggle to protect the land and waters from destruction and to ensure that future generations inherit a healthy planet. This struggle benefits every one of us. We must become allies in the work to defend the land and waters.

We recognize that land acknowledgements do not speak of the historic context only. Colonialism is a current and ongoing spiritual crisis, and we strive to be mindful of our present participation in the unequal relations it promotes.

As Lutherans, we acknowledge we are liberated by God's Grace. Therefore, "we commit to reflect upon our own national and church history, to seek greater understanding of the issues facing Indigenous peoples, and to walk with Indigenous peoples in their ongoing efforts to exercise their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights."<sup>1</sup>

### **Land acknowledgement tag line – emails, letters, other correspondence**

The community of Christ Lutheran Church – Waterloo gathers on the traditional land of the Neutral, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples who have cared for it for thousands of years. More recently, the Haldimand Proclamation of 1784 granted a Tract ten kilometres on either side of the Grand River from its source to Lake Erie, to the Six Nations (Haudenosaunee) of the Grand River.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://elcic.ca/CompassionateJustice/IndigenousRightsandRelationships.cfm>



# FOOD TRUCKS

## Christ Lutheran Church

### 4:30 – 8 p.m.

### July 9, July 23, and August 20

Based on the success of holding two Food Truck nights in 2018, we have decided to invite them back for three nights this year. It is a good fund raiser and it gives us another chance to meet people from our neighbourhood.

Each event will need a minimum of four volunteers to help with the set-up and take down of tables and chairs, greet people and do clean-up. Two people would do about a two-hour shift. Look for signup sheets in the narthex.

Thanks for offering to help with these events. If you have any questions, please contact Karen McRae or Sheryl Henkel-Gerber.



## September Newsletter Issue

Submissions deadline is August 15 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month). Please submit your items as a **Word Document, Times New Roman, size 12** to Pastor David at [pastordavid@christwaterloo.ca](mailto:pastordavid@christwaterloo.ca)