

January 2024



PASTOR RONNIE SMITH

10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

pastorpeacepickering@gmail.com

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Facebook: Peace Lutheran Church
(Pickering, ON)

Peace Lutheran Church of Bay Ridges

928 Liverpool Road, Pickering, ON L1W 1S6 ♦ Tel: (905) 839-3521

Pastor's Thoughts

Greetings People of Peace,

As I write this, Christmas Eve is nearly upon us. By the time you read this, Christmas Day will have come and gone and we'll be staring down a new year. 2023 was a good year for us in so many ways, however, we were not without our challenges. My overall feeling is that despite the challenges of running a church in modern times, we have so much to be thankful for!

I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone of you who have supported the church this past year; your time, talent and treasure has been an incredible gift to the congregation. On behalf of myself and my family, let me say thank you so much for supporting us in this shared ministry. We are so blessed to be a part of such a loving community.

As a die-hard optimist, I love the new year. I see the blank canvas ahead of us and I can't wait to see what we will paint. The possibilities are endless, and the hope that stems from the Christmas season carries us through the dark winter. The new year is also a time to make commitments and promises to ourselves, our friends, our families and our neighbours. What will your new year's resolution(s) be?

For the church, my hope is that we move ever closer to gospel living as we seek to serve our community. I know that the Holy Spirit will be sending us opportunities to live out an authentic witness to Jesus's ministry. I want us to be ready to seize those opportunities as they arise. I have always firmly held that God is continually sending people our way, will we be ready to receive them? This is what I want us to work toward; assuming a posture of service without judgement. As Jesus said, "ask and you shall receive." I want Peace to be about that life.

You and I both know that none of us are perfect and we will make mistakes. But let us make mistakes on the side of trying to live out the gospel, mistakes on the side of grace and compassion, mistakes on the side of loving God and our neighbours as ourselves. Perhaps the biggest mistake we can make is not trying our best to live into the kingdom of heaven that Jesus tells us is so close. And with that, I want to wish you a very happy new year and many blessings to you and your family in the coming days, weeks and months ahead. I can't wait to see what we get up to together.

Peace be with you, Pastor Ronnie

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events	2
Finance Team Report	2
Council Message & PLC APP	3
AGM & Cdn Blood Services	4
Cong. Life Bake Sale Update	5
Super Sophia Project	6-8
DARS Christmas Party	9
December Worship Services	10
Christmas Eve services	11
Eastern Synod— Circle for Reconciliation & Justice	12
Gratitude & Announcement	13
God's Creation	14
Dec. Children's Messages	15
Next Month	15

MISSION STATEMENT:

Celebrating and Sharing
God's Love for All

VISION STATEMENT:

Peace Lutheran Church is a
welcoming, worshipping
and witnessing community
in Jesus Christ through
whom healing, wellness,
love and peace are offered
unconditionally to all.

Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church!

As a community in Christ, we gather together in service and fellowship to discern the call of our Christian faith. Strengthened by Word and Sacrament, we are always seeking creative ways to enrich our community, both locally and globally.

Our congregation is defined largely by its warm and friendly people, a vibrant intergenerational mix of young families, youth and adults. Come as you are!

We invite you to be part of our community. We hope that you will find your time here nourishing and energizing. We look forward to learning from you as well. We listen! We care!

Our church is open! We are offering in-person worship services, livestream worship services at 10:30 a.m. or you can watch the services anytime through YouTube. Please join us! Coffee Hour is available after our worship services.

May the love of God and the Peace of Christ find you here and wherever you are! May the fire of the Holy Spirit burn in your heart always!

Office Hours:

Pastor Ronnie: Tuesdays 10-4
 Wednesdays 10-4
 Thursdays 10-4

If you need to reach someone or have a question, please call the office and leave a message or send an email. Messages are checked on a daily basis.

Tel: (905) 839-3521, or:
peacelutheran.plc@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

January 7 - Epiphany Sunday

January 24 - Senior's Lunch is planned with guest speaker

February 13 - Shrove Tuesday – pancake dinner

February 14 - Ash Wednesday

February 25 - AGM

Epiphany (e-piph-a-ny)

(n) A moment of sudden revelation;
 a poignant, sudden, profound
 understanding of something.



Finance Team Report

Peace Lutheran of Bay Ridges
YTD Results as of November 30, 2023
General Operating Fund

Receipts	\$135,922.
Expenditures	\$151,327.
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$15,405.)

Your donations can be made to Envelope, PAR, e-transfers and Canada Helps. We greatly appreciate your support for our current and outreach programs.



Message from Council

Dear friends and our faith family:

On behalf of Council, we wish you a happy and healthy 2024 and many blessings for a great year in our life at Peace!

As I reflect back on 2023, we at Peace have much to be grateful and thankful for to God! For the love, spiritual guidance, direction and dedication of Pastor Ronnie, our Council and Committee members, Bible Fun Time with Joel, the Children's Messages, our music team, our Property team and all the volunteers who have contributed so much time, talent and dedication to the life of our church. In these tumultuous times with so many people struggling with health and financial issues, housing and food insecurities, our ministry and outreach to others have helped a few in our community, such as our giving initiatives to St. Paul's on the Hill Food Bank, DARS, the Super Sophia Project, CLWR, the Olive Branch for Children, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and more.


What we are abundantly given by God, we need to "give back" to others in need. When we are generous and non-judgmental to others, we give back to God in overflowing thankfulness. The root of all giving is love and love is full of thankfulness.

May our goal in 2024 be "our outreach and generosity to others".

Peace and blessings to all

Rosie Lantzsch, Council Co-Chair

Our new PLC app




THE TITHE.LY CHURCH APP



**Peace Lutheran
Church Pickering**

**If you would like to
support our ministry,
consider giving
through our new
mobile app!**

**Scan to download
the app**



OR



Annual General Meeting - February 25th

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please make a note on your calendars for our upcoming annual meeting to discuss all the business of the church. The annual meeting will be held:

on Sunday, February 25, 2024

following the worship service and a finger food pot luck lunch.

**Please note that all committee reports should be submitted by:
January 15th.**

Thank you, PLC Council Co-Chair, Rosemarie Lantzsch



Canadian Blood Services



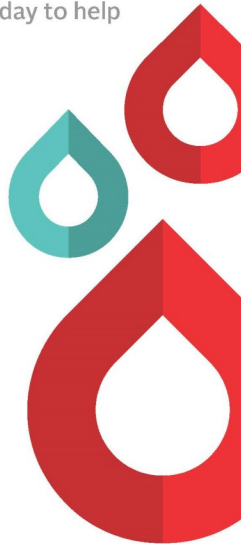
Your donation matters

It matters to every patient across Canada.
Because it's something we can do today to help
others wake up healthier tomorrow.

Upcoming blood donation events

**Ajax Community Centre
HMS Ajax Banquet Hall
75 Centennial Road**

**Saturday, January 6
9:00 am to 3:00 pm**



Join **Canada's Lifeline**
Book now at blood.ca or call **1 888 2 DONATE**

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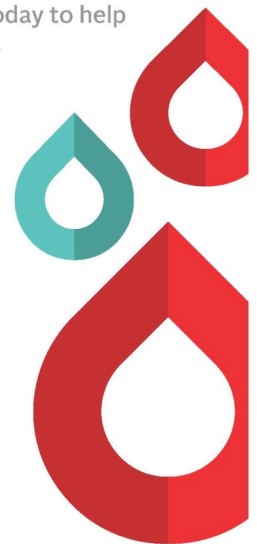
Your donation matters

It matters to every patient across Canada.
Because it's something we can do today to help
others wake up healthier tomorrow.

Upcoming blood donation events

**Forest Brook
Community Church
60 Kearney Dr. Ajax**

**Monday, January 15
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm**



Join **Canada's Lifeline**
Book now at blood.ca or call **1 888 2 DONATE**

T0211

Congregational Life - Bake Sale (Dec. 3rd)

A big thank you again to our church family for another successful Bake/Craft Sale. Thanks to Lena, Angelina and Sirkka for doing all the leg-work on this one. Your faithful service is appreciated very much. We raised **\$231.00** for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. I'm so proud to be part of such a wonderful community!! Our next event will be Shrove Pancake Tuesday (can you imagine...in February) with a sign-up sheet going up in the NatheX soon...Thanks...Gloria



Yummy treats above!
Decked out in our Christmas finery!!
Well done, everyone!



Just to put another bee in your bonnet, **Shrove Pancake Tuesday** will be upon us sooner than we think. **Tuesday February 13**, we will be hosting our Annual Pancake Dinner at 6:30pm. with a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We need "setter-uppers", "gridders" and cleaner-uppers. I'm asking that the setter-uppers and gridders be at the Church at 6pm. So come and enjoy the pancakes and fellowship...Thanks...Lena, Angelina, Sirkka and Gloria

The Super Sophia Project

Dec. 3/23: It's a wrap for the Love Box™ 2023 season, and we're deeply grateful for the love and support brightening the holidays for children in the hospital.

Nicolle Georgiev

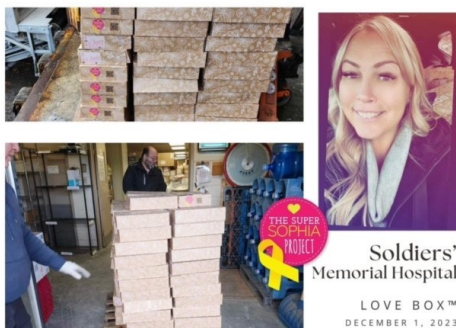
www.thesupersophiaproject.ca



The Super Sophia Project (cont.)

Dec. 12/23: Wrapping up Love Box™ 2023 with gratitude! A remarkable season of (19) deliveries, thank you to our dedicated team, volunteers, and generous contributors. To everyone who filled a box or donated, your kindness will bring joy to 3000 children 📦🎄🎁

With all of our hearts thank you ❤️❤️❤️



The Super Sophia Project (cont.)



SHN Centenary Hospital
LOVE BOX™
DECEMBER 5, 2023



SHN General Hospital
LOVE BOX™
DECEMBER 8, 2023



THE SUPER SOPHIA PROJECT
SHN Centenary Hospital
LOVE BOX™
DECEMBER 11, 2023



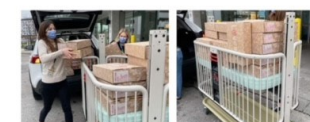
Lakeridge Health Oshawa
LOVE BOX™
DECEMBER 6, 2023



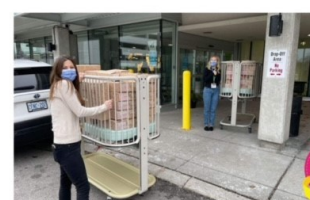
Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital
LOVE BOX™
DECEMBER 12, 2023



Children's Hospital London Health Sciences Centre
LOVE BOX™
DECEMBER 5, 2023



Lakeridge Health Ajax Pickering Hospital
LOVE BOX™
DECEMBER 5, 2023



On Dec. 19th, 2023, Nicolle wrote the following on Facebook:

“In 2016, we had our very first Love Box™ delivery. Our goal was to gift 100 children with a Love Box™ at Sophia’s satellite hospital, which was Centenary Hospital. We reached out to friends and family and were able to collect over 1,000 boxes!

Fast forward to today, December 19th, 2023, our total of Love Boxes™ gifted is 40,000!

How did we do this? LOVE. Pure love and goodness from so many people’s hearts!

My daughter, Sophia, had cancer when she was just 2 years old. We spent Christmas in the hospital getting treatment. My husband was then diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer and passed away in September 2019. That Christmas was the worst. So yes, the holidays are a magical and happy time but they are also filled with sadness for so many people.

I will always try my best to ease the pain for others and will always spread an abundant amount of love, kindness and hope as long as I live.”

Bless you, Nicolle, Sophia and all the contributors and volunteers, whose love and dedication have helped in providing a small ray of joy and comfort to many suffering children and teens, while triumphing over your own personal pain and sorrow with God’s love and grace.

DARS Christmas dinner - Dec. 14th



December 15th - some excerpts from DARS Facebook message about the Christmas dinner held at Peace on December 14th:

"We can't even begin to say thank you enough to all of those who made yesterday's Christmas party such a smashing success. Sixty of our homeless and precariously housed clients were treated to an incredible meal ... and other treats. As well, each one received a large bag or hamper that was lovingly stuffed by many volunteer elves. Each one also contained a handmade Christmas card with a handwritten note, and a grocery gift card. ...

A special thank you goes to our volunteer foot care nurse, Frances, who dropped in to say hello, then went home to get her equipment when she learned two of our homeless clients were having significant problems with their feet. They both felt so much better afterwards. ...

And of course, our sincere thanks to Pastor Ronnie (who provided a blessing before our meal) and the congregation at Peace Lutheran Church for allowing us the use of their space and supporting us all of these months. You truly embody the spirit of giving all year round.

As a result of everyone's efforts, all our clients left feeling seen, heard, and that they matter. Their smiles and feelings of gratitude are the best gift we could possibly receive."

December Holden worship services



Christmas Eve worship services



Thank you Lena and Fiona for sending me these pictures.

There were 108 members and friends who attended the Christmas Eve service.

In the morning, there were 58 who attended the 4th Advent Holden service (not including those that participated online for either service).



The Eastern Synod Circle for Reconciliation & Justice



The Eastern Synod Circle for Reconciliation and Justice

**invites you to explore, discover and discuss the
different histories and contemporary perspectives of
Indigenous peoples living in Canada**

Pastor Ronnie Smith of Peace Lutheran, Pickering ON will lead a monthly online forum and discussion covering 12 modules of the online course — *Indigenous Canada Study* — created by the Faculty of Native Studies, University of Alberta. Registration stays open all year long. Do not hesitate to join in the conversation whenever you are ready.

If you have questions about this course or the program of study please contact Pastor Smith at peacelutheran.plc@gmail.com



A Tribute To Aboriginal Women, by Leah Dorian

**Register for this free course at <https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada>
Complete the first module in advance, and join us on Jan 15, 2023 at 7 p.m. EST.**

Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies that explores the different histories and contemporary perspectives of Indigenous peoples living in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores complex experiences Indigenous peoples face today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations. Topics

for the 12 lessons include the fur trade and other exchange relationships, land claims and environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts and alliances, Indigenous political activism, and contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions. The course is free to sign up for, and one module will be covered each month.



**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF NATIVE STUDIES**

Join us on Monday January 15 at 7 pm EST via Zoom
To get the link, complete this form: <https://form.jotform.com/233124862094051>

Gratitude Corner



Gratitude Corner

Every month, we will celebrate the work different people do here at Peace!

PLC YOUTH GROUP!

The people of Peace would like to extend a HUGE thank you to the Youth Group for decorating the sanctuary and for volunteering your services to Peace and to others in numerous ways.

You are the next generation and the life-blood of Peace for many years to come. We value you and appreciate all you do for our church family, for bonding and growing together with each other, and for reaching out and spreading joy and love into Peace and our greater community.

You are our LOVE, JOY and HOPE for the future! Peace and blessings always.

From left to right: Chris (Pastor Ronnie's cousin), Pastor Ronnie, Lumi, Sophia, Analisa, Victoria, Caleb, Paige (Note: some youth were absent from this picture)



ANNOUNCEMENT:

After some 40+ years being self-employed and some 35,000+ appraisals done, Ekkehard and I will be retiring on December 31!!!

So, there has always been an open invitation to come up to Lindsay for lunch or dinner or just a cup of coffee (and cake- come on- do you forget you're at my house...lol). Many have come up already and we welcome them back, but many have not come up...you know who you are!!!

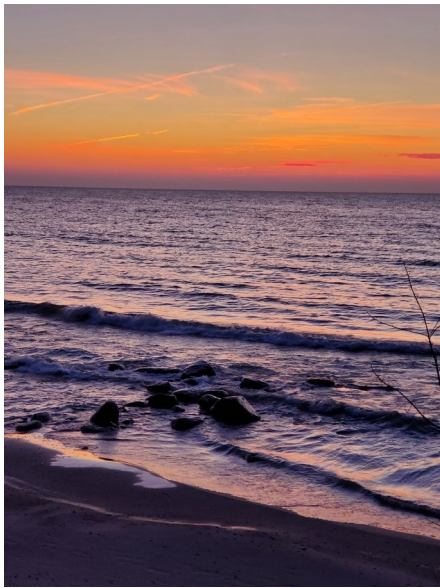
Thrilled for a new chapter in our lives...the Zorns'



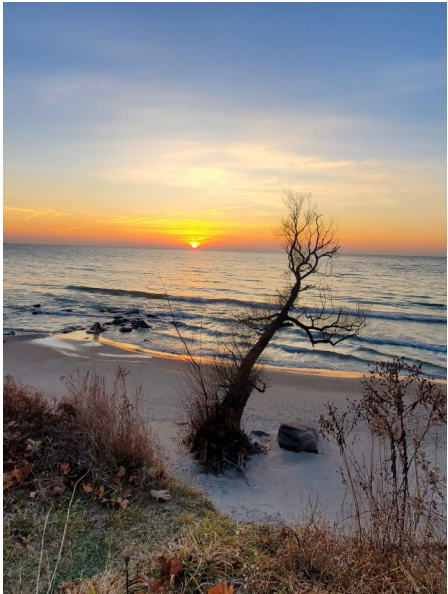
God's Creation



By: Janet V.



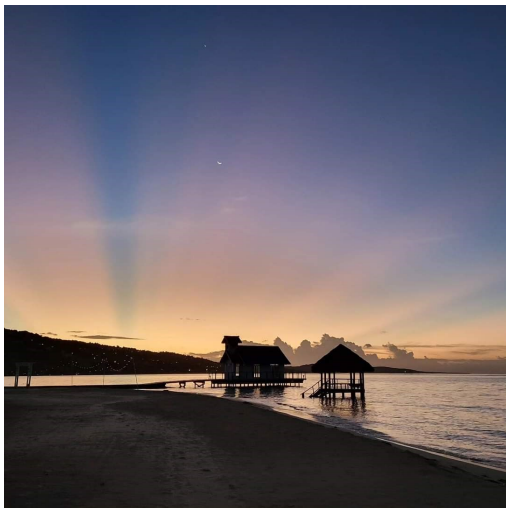
Sunrise by Rosie L



Sunrise by Rosie L



By: Janet V.



By Marie B.



By: Janet V.

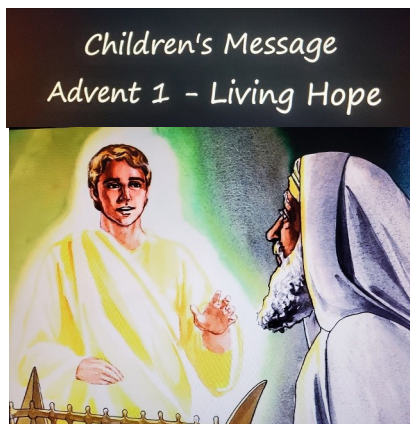


By FB friend of Rosie L.

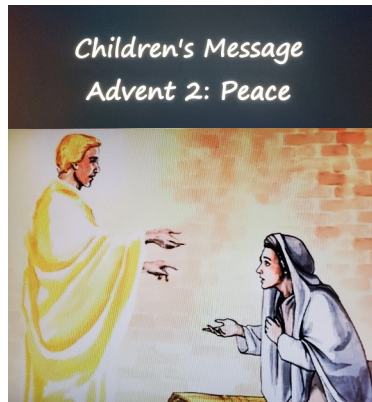


Glow of the Christmas moon by: Rosie L

Children's Messages in December 2023



Dec. 3, 2023



Dec. 10, 2023



Dec. 17, 2023



Dec. 24, 2023



Next Month:

If you have any articles, upcoming church events, pictures, jokes, poems, inspirational messages, reports, Peace History, special events, or a personal celebration that you would like to include in our PLC newsletter for the month of **February, 2024**, please submit them to Rosie (rosielanch@hotmail.com) by no later than Friday, **January 26th**.

Wishing you many blessings in 2024.

All the best, Rosie

