

Oak Street Leaves

A Monthly Newsletter
of LUMC

December 2018



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- December 2 First Advent Worship Service & Communion at 9:35am
Celebration of HOPE/ Carol Singing at 9:35am
- December 9 Second Advent Worship Service at 9:45am
Celebration of PEACE/ Carol Singing at 9:35am
- December 16 Third Advent Worship Service at 9:45am
Celebration of JOY/ Carol Singing at 9:35am
- December 16 Candlelight Service at 7pm
Service of Carols and Readings
- December 23 Fourth Advent Worship Service at 9:45am
Celebration of LOVE/ Carol Singing at 9:35am
**As a special treat we would love if some of you could bring your favourite Christmas cookies*
- December 24 Christmas Eve at 6:30pm
A service for the whole family featuring our Sunday School Children
- December 25 Christmas Day Worship Service at 9:45am
A Service for the whole family



Worship Walk Witness

Baptism and Church Membership

On January 13 we are having a Baptism Service and accepting some new members into our LUMC family. If you are interested in becoming a member of our church please let us know and we will include you in this service.

Faith Exploration

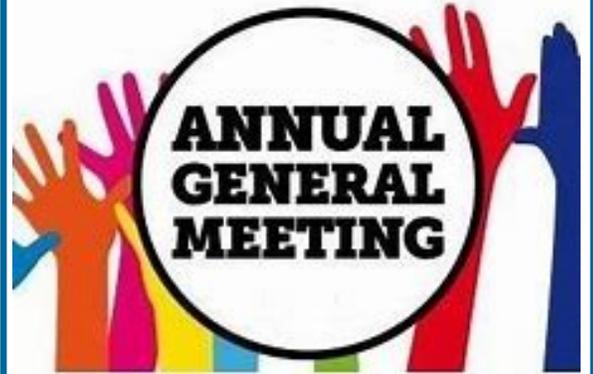
Are you interested in going deeper in your Faith and exploring what it means to be a follower of Jesus? Do you wonder why our church baptizes adults and what baptism is all about? Have you ever thought of becoming a member of LUMC? We will begin a class in January that will explore all these topics and more! Let us know if you are interested.

Your pastors at LUMC,
David Dyck, Mike Williamson, Zach Charbonneau, Frieda Lepp

Annual General Meeting

The Annual is scheduled for **February 10, 2019**. Committee Reports are due 3 weeks ahead of the AGM.

Please submit reports no later than January 18, 2019. Please forward all reports to the church office.

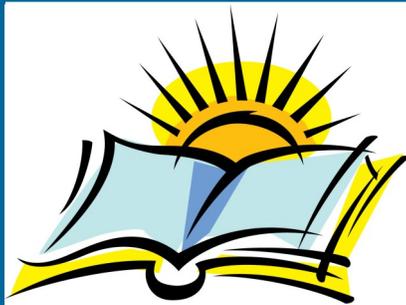


LUMC Opportunities to Serve

Do you have skills that LUMC can use but you don't know where to start?
Are you young and energetic? Need something to sink your teeth into?
Are you retired and finding the coffee shops too crowded?

LUMC is looking for some support in the Church Office with Administration and in Maintenance with Custodial Tasks. We are a busy church, not only on Sunday, but during the week and with special events. Our Staff work very hard and Church Council is seeking anyone interested in helping out to assist with the workload and/or fill in during vacations and emergencies.

If you are interested in how you can Serve at LUMC in these capacities, please leave a message with Jane in the Office or Ken Hildebrandt, Council Chair – boardmail18@gmail.com



CHURCH LIBRARY
News

New book on shelf : Rise and Shine

45 years in the Land of the Rising Sun donated by Mary and Peter Derksen in thanks for supporting missions through your prayers and offerings via COM (Commission on Overseas Mission).

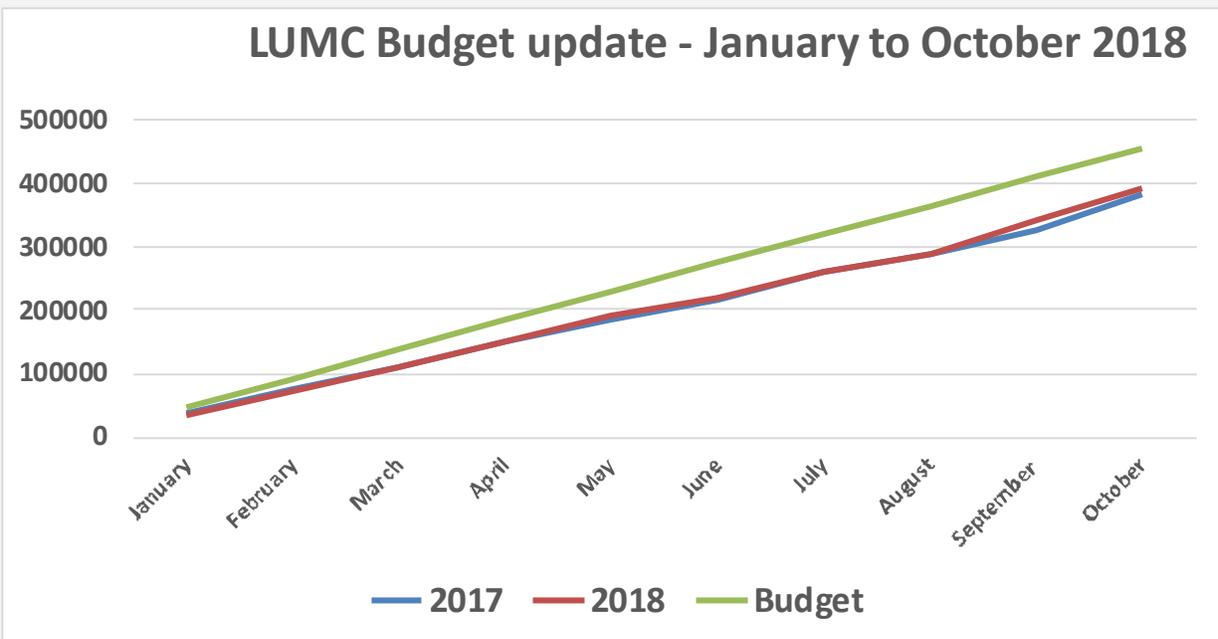
Note 2 books from November speaker Elmer Thiessen are available in library.

Come check out holiday books set out.

2018 Giving Update

Church Council wants to keep all members updated on finances, thus here is a short summary of our finances in the first 10 months of 2018. Here are the highlights:

- Giving stands at \$391,000, about \$8,000 ahead of last year
- Expenses are about \$10,000 higher than last year at this time
- We are currently at 86% of budget
- After 10 months, we should have giving of \$455,000 and we are currently at \$391,000 – a shortfall of \$64,000.



This shortfall at this time of year is nothing new to us. It happened in 2016 and 2017 and miraculously we had very good year end giving.

Church Council urges you to consider making a special gift of money at this time to help us reach our 2018 budget.

Consider Monthly Giving – We encourage you to consider giving on a monthly basis with a deduction from your bank account. We encourage you to talk to Jane at the office about setting a monthly giving program.

Thank you: Over the years we have always been a very generous church and Church Council is very thankful for your continued support and giving with a spirit of generosity.

YOUTH

EVENTS:

High School Schedule for December

- December 7th Baking Cookies (6-9pm)**
- December 13th Christmas Movie Night (6-9pm)**
- December 21st Christmas Party**

We're aiming for two community service opportunities in December. Dates are not definite yet.

After December 21st we'll be on Holiday shut-down until January.

The LUMC Student Ministries are an exciting place right now. As we prepare for the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, I've been pushing myself to rest, contemplate, and breath deeply. There is a terrible irony in the way Christmas and in fact most of December has gotten away from us and can leave us feeling overfed, over stimulated, and over budget. This effects families and individuals in and outside the church.

This year, I hope as a community of young people to lean into Jesus' teachings about seeking just what is needed, finding opportunities to serve, and trusting that God is enough. But of, course we will still be having fun at home and abroad! Oh, and don't forget the Christmas party!

Planning is underway for the annual Winter Retreat at Hidden Acres on the Family Day long weekend (February 15-18) and I can tell you right now, it's gonna be awesome! The retreat will be an opportunity for students to connect with one another over a relaxing and fun weekend which will include some games, outdoor activities, deep chats, and of course FIRE! Winter retreat will provide the space to present the future plans for LUMC student ministries. Lots to look forward to!

Some Needs

The high school community at LUMC could benefit from adult volunteers (aged 20-120). Not sure if you're qualified?

Do you care about teenagers? If the answer is 'yes', then you qualify!*

We need people who want to just be present during youth nights but would also love to hear from folks who would be interested in leading a workshop or hosting a one-time Bible Study in their home.

*Must also provide a clear police record check from the OPP.

Help those in need this Christmas



Reverse Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Toilet Paper
2 Shampoo	3 Canned Vegetables	4 Canned Fruit	5 Canned Soup	6 Instant Potatoes	7 Spaghetti Sauce	8 Pasta Noodles
9 Second Advent	10 Pancake Mix	11 Canned Meats	12 Peanut Butter	13 Jam	14 Macaroni & Cheese	15 Cereal
16 Laundry Detergent	17 Oatmeal	18 Granola Bars	19 Deodorant	20 Body Wash	21 Toothbrush &Toothpaste	22 Razors
23 Diapers & Baby Wipes	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	All items collected for the Reverse Advent Giving Calendar will be donated to the Salvation Army Foodbank. Please bring in your items weekly to be placed under The Mitten Tree in the lobby. Thank you for helping to make a difference in our community.					

LUMC Mitten Tree

We will be setting up a Christmas 'Mitten' tree in the lobby for December 2nd. The Mitten Tree is to collect hats, mitts, and scarves. Pick up one... or all of these items while you're out shopping this Christmas season and place them on the tree. Let's help keep the kids warm.

All items will be donated to our local schools.

ZACH CHARBONNEAU, Pastor

While in school, my tradition was to pull out the TV and play video games for my Christmas break. Now that schools out though, something new will present itself! My favorite memory of church 2018 was being blessed by my friend and brother John Martin Holmes as I left Guelph for Leamington.

My hope for 2019 is to see deeper relationships formed between our church family and our neighbourhood. May we be light.



DAVID DYCK, Pastor

Our Dyck family Christmas tradition has always revolved around the church family. It typically begins Christmas Eve at the children's program and then we're off to join our adopted Christmas family for a relaxed evening with Santa and friends. The next morning we're up early (gets later every year!) to unwrap gifts and then off to a festive worship service highlighted by the Hallelujah Chorus. In the afternoon we open up our dining table to welcome family, friends and international students from the University of Windsor.

The highlight of 2018 was the opportunity to travel to Ukraine to visit the homeland of our extended families. We will never forget the stories we heard of our relatives who managed to escape during those perilous years and of those who didn't. How can we not be grateful for the sacrifices they made and the opportunities we now have to worship in freedom.



JANE KLASSEN, Secretary

I love decorating the Christmas tree with my children and grandchildren. As my girls were growing up, they would choose a Christmas ornament every year. Now the whole tree is decorated with ornaments that they picked.

A favourite memory of church 2018 was watching all of the children who came to DVBS. The excitement and energy in their singing and activities was a wonderful thing to observe and be a part of. I believe that our children's programs will continue to grow and spread into our church community.





FRIEDA LEPP, Children's Ministry

Growing up in this congregation Christmas Eve was a very special time. New outfits sewed by my Mom, the songs and verses that were memorized and presented at the children's Christmas Eve program and the Christmas Day service with the wonderful singing of Christmas carols were so very important.

My favourite LUMC memories for 2018 include children: children singing in Sunday School, a puppet play and djembe playing on Extravaganza Sunday, one hundred and fifty children at DVBS enthusiastically singing and moving to catchy tunes, Vic and Marilyn's grandchildren singing a song for him at his retirement.

My hopes and dreams for 2019 is that families will continue to find LUMC a place to gather, to create bonds of friendship with each other, to allow and encourage their children to ask important questions and to hear stories and lessons from the Bible that can help them make sense of world they are living in.

MIKE WILLIAMSON, Pastor

As we enter the Season of Advent, a favorite tradition in our family is the celebration of St. Nicholas day.

In our family on December 6th St. Nicholas arrives during the night and leaves in our Christmas stockings all that we need to begin preparing for Christmas – small gifts, candy and treats, and some decorations – it's when the holiday celebrations officially begin in our home.

As the 2018 year comes to a close a favorite memory from this year at LUMC is our celebration of Vic Winter's ministry and his retirement, as well as getting to know and welcome Pastor Zach and Tina into our church



ERNIE BROWN, Custodian



When Elvira and I got married, it just worked out that our families celebrated Christmas on alternate days, the Woelk family on Christmas day and the Brown family on Boxing day. The next year it would be the opposite. The Browns on Christmas day and the Woelks on Boxing day. So Elvira and I decided we would have our own family Christmas on Christmas Eve. First, however, we would go to church to the Sunday School Christmas Eve program. This program would put us in the Christmas spirit. It was always over early and then we would go home and enjoy our own cozy Christmas Eve together. When Ellen was born, it became even more special. One year, after Ellen was out of Sunday school, we decided not to go to church on Christmas Eve. It just wasn't the same. Christmas started with the Sunday School Christmas Eve program. That became our tradition, and it still is today.



SAYING 'HOLA' TO OUR NEW SPANISH FRIENDS

Say hello. This can be said in a number of ways. The most basic is "Hola!" (OH-lah) Try using, "Buenos días!" (BWEH-nos-DEE-as), which means "Good morning!". Also, you could use, "Buenas tardes!" (BWEH-nas-tard-ehs), which means "Good afternoon!", depending on the time of the day.

Ask someone your name with "¿Cómo te llamas?" (COH-MOH-teh-jam-as).

Give someone your name. To say, "my name is _____", say "me llamo _____" (m-eh-JAH-moh_____). The blank below is for your name, such as "me llamo Teresa".

Tell someone it's nice to meet him/her. Say "Mucho gusto" (moo-choh-goos-toh) for "nice to meet you".

Someone could then respond either "Igualmente!" (IG-wall-men-teh), or "El gusto es mío" (EL-goos-toh-es-MEE-oh) which means, "Nice to meet you, too" or "The pleasure is mine".

A New Beginning

Upon fleeing their home country of Columbia due to violence, extortion and threats to their children's safety, the Torres family has spent the last two years living in Equador. There they awaited the possibility of acquiring Refugee Status and to someday have the opportunity to move to a country where they did not need to live in fear.

On October 30th as they arrived at the Windsor Airport greeted by a committee of eager volunteers to bring them to Leamington, their fears were finally over. For not more than two months earlier, MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) had sent us an email asking that LUMC consider taking on a Spanish speaking family of seven. Initially, this seemed like a very daunting task and we had many questions. Could we secure housing for this family?... Would we be able to ensure that enough funds be collected to properly support this large group?... Did we have enough volunteers to make sure we could do this properly?

Ask someone how he/she is.

This is asked using "¿Cómo estas?" (COH-MOH-est-ahs) for "how are you?"

Say goodbye when you have to leave. Most people know how to say "Bye" in Spanish. "Adios!", or (AH-DEE-OHS).

If it is evening or night, say "¡Buenas noches!", or "Good night!", pronounced (BUEN-AHS-NO-CH-EHS).

BASIC SPANISH WORDS

Por favor/Gracias ...
Please/Thank you

Me gusta/No me gusta ...
I like/I don't like

Lo siento ...
I'm sorry

Necesito/Quiero ...
I need/want

Pequeño/Grande ...
Little/Big

Alto/Adelante ...
Stop/Go

Bien/Mal ...
Well/Badly

Fortunately, we are a group of great faith and knew that together with God's help we would make this happen. A family needed us and we had the opportunity to change their lives forever. We prayed, we spread the word and in keeping with our beliefs, things began to happen.

A house was purchased and offered to us for rent, furniture, clothing, gift cards and household donations began to pour in, more volunteers joined our committee, community partners stepped up to offer health care, temporary housing and transportation from the airport, and a local dentist offered to provide all of the family's dental needs at no cost! The money, well it began to flow in too. We were informed shortly before the family's arrival that our application to the Jewish Refugee Hub associated with the University of Ottawa for additional grant money had been approved, meaning that a large sum of money would be coming our way. With each blessing received we grew closer to knowing that answering YES to that email had been the right thing to do!

Derwin, Diana, Sebastian, Sara, Thaliana, Nicholas and Peter have settled into life in their new home in Leamington and have been completely overwhelmed by the love and support shown to them. The children are happily attending Queen Elizabeth Public School and the parents are soon to begin English classes as well. We ask that you please continue to pray for them as they embrace their new beginning here in Canada and consider including them on your next family outing or social gathering.



Mennonite Community Sale

For the past few years attendance at the Mennonite Community Festival has been dwindling. Our booth leaders are aging and young people particularly in the 20-40 year old age group are not interested in or are unable to replace their elders. Many of our booth leaders are well into their 80s. As a result, the income that the sale makes to distribute to charities has decreased considerably. It has been showing a downward trend over the past few years.

The committee has tried unsuccessfully to revitalize different parts of the sale but we have lacked volunteers for many integral parts. We have discussed this with the booth leaders and many feel that those in our community are very busy volunteering with other organizations—many of which were a direct spin off from the original “Mennonite Sale”. At one time the Community Festival was “the” volunteer opportunity and it is not the case anymore. At one of our booth leaders meetings we were told that we no longer raise enough money for our charities to be significant.

It is the opinion of the committee and the current booth leaders that the Community Festival should be discontinued all together or reappear as a different type of charity fundraiser that celebrates Traditional Mennonite heritage. So, it is prayerfully and with regret that we inform you that the Community Festival will take a one year or possibly permanent hiatus. We will only look one year into the future as it is possible that some other group may step up and wish to reinvent our community festival. There may be group that feels called to do such a thing and a year would give them time to organize an alternative event. If that is so, the current committee would be happy to help with guidance but all of us feel we need to step back. In the event that no one comes forward or decides to reinvent this event by December 31, 2019, then the legal entity that is the Community Sale will be wound down and any money left will be dispersed to the charities we have always supported.

This letter has been a long time in coming as those of us intimately involved with LMCF have tried to think of ways in which the Festival might be salvaged but we know that for now this is the right thing to do.

If you have any questions, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us at the email or phone number below.

Sincerely,

Janice Huntingford-Wagner and Harold Wagner
LMCF co-chairs



HERITAGE CHOIR
Invites one and all to come to their
Annual Christmas Concert
Saturday, December 15, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Heritage Center
30 Pickwick Dr.
Old and New Carols will be sung for your enjoyment to honour God at this time of Advent
Free will offering for the Music Therapy Program
Leamington Mennonite Home
ENJOY - SING - AND GIVE GOD THE GLORY



HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Saturday, December 8th | 7:30PM

Leamington United Mennonite Church

Sunday, December 9th | 7:30PM

St. Anne's Church, Tecumseh

Peter Wiebe, Conductor

Simone McIntosh, Soprano | Marjorie Maltais, Alto

Jean-Philippe Lazure, Tenor | Bruce Kotowich, Bass

WSO Chorus

 Windsor *Symphony* Orchestra
Robert Franz, Music Director

For tickets, visit www.windsorsymphony.com or call (519) 973-1238

UMEI Christian High School News

Grade 11 Drama Class presents: A Christmas Carol on Friday, November 30th at 7:00 pm and Sunday, December 2nd at 2:00 pm. Tickets for the play are available at the door – Adults \$10; Students \$6; Children 5 years and under – Free.

Before the play on Sunday, come out and enjoy a chili lunch in the auditorium at the students **Annual Chili Cookoff** from 12:00-1:30 – admission by donation.

Shop UMEI Vista Christmas Order

Retail card orders are due in the office by noon **Monday, December 3, 2018**. Cards will be ready for pick up Friday, December 7, 2018. This will be the last order before Christmas.

Zwiebach & Raisin Bread

Zwiebach and raisin bread orders are due in the office by noon **Monday, December 10th** and will be ready to pick up Wednesday, December 12th. **NOTE:** There will not be any zwiebach or raisin bread orders in January and February.

Ground Beef

Ground beef orders are due in the office by noon **Wednesday, December 12th** and will be ready to pick up Thursday, December 20th. **NOTE:** There will not be a January ground beef order.

LIGHTNING LIVE: Friday, December 14th

Calling all Grade 7 and 8 students! You are invited to Lightning Live 2018 for a fun day of shadowing interactive classes. Lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 9:30am and the day runs from 10:00 am - 2:30 pm. To pre-register email abbynd@umei.ca or call 519-326-7448. **NOTE:** New students who register for the 2019-2020 school year by February 28th will receive a \$200 tuition credit and a free t-shirt.

Christmas Concert

UMEI's annual Christmas Concert will take place Friday, December 14th @ 7:00 pm in the auditorium. Everyone is welcome.

UMEI Autumn Campaign

We thank you, the members of our supporting churches, for the many ways that you help contribute to our school. Your generous contributions help to make it possible for families of our community to access a quality Christian Education. Thank you in advance for considering participation in this year's campaign.

A Christmas Invitation to....
Those who will be alone (or those who will go without)
 Christmas Day
 Please join us for our annual

Christmas Dinner

Christmas Day - December 25th

12:00 p.m.

The Church of St. John the Evangelist (Anglican)
 60 Erie Street North, Leamington
 Call 519-326-3111 to register by December 20th

A special invitation for shut-ins:
 If you are unable to join us, we will be pleased to deliver your meal.
(Leamington – Wheatley – Kingsville area only)

There is no cost or obligation.

Annual Christmas Open House

All Families and Friends are invited to join their resident for the Annual Christmas Open House on

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Program – 2:30 p.m.
 Heritage Choir
 Sing- A- Long
 Visit by Santa

Visiting – 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.
 Coffee, Tea and Home Baked Pastries

J.C. Neufeld Place of Fellowship
 Come and enjoy this festive celebration!

Contact Us

**Leamington United
Mennonite Church**
78 Oak Street East
Leamington, ON N8H 2C6
www.lumc.ca
office@lumc.ca
519-326-2727

David Dyck
Associate Pastor, Ext. 2
Home: 519-326-1326
davidgdyck@gmail.com

Mike Williamson
Associate Pastor, Ext. 3
Home: 519-398-8628
mikewlumc@gmail.com

Zach Charbonneau
Associate Pastor, Ext. 1
Home: 226-203-3833
zach@lumc.ca
Instagram: @zacharbonneau

Frieda Lepp
Children's Ministry, Ext. 4
Home: 519-322-2198
frieda.lepp@yahoo.ca

Ernie Brown - Custodian

Jane Klassen - Secretary, Ext. 0

Ken Hildebrandt
Church Council Chair
Email: boardmail18.com
Phone - 519-322-0973

Library - lumclibrary@mdirect.net

January edition of the OAK STREET LEAVES DEADLINE:

Please send all submissions for
The Leaves by December 20th to the
LUMC Office. office@lumc.ca



Relief, development and peace in the name of Christ

Choose gifts that change lives

Browse the sections below to find the perfect gifts. There are stocking stuffers like chickens, or you can opt for eco-gifts like healthy dirt and skills for young farmers. Once you've made your selections, send a personalized e-card to your friends and family or schedule one to be delivered on Christmas day.



Visit <https://mcccanada.ca/christmas#!> to view all ideas for MCC gifts of hope.

Important Upcoming MCC Canada dates:

November 25	Memorial Sunday
December 2	First Advent
December 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
December 10	Human Rights Day
December 24/25	Christmas Eve/Day
January 6	Epiphany
January 7-11	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
January 20	Mennonite World Fellowship Sunday
January 27	Holocaust Memorial Day
February 20	World Day of Social Justice
March 6	Ash Wednesday