



THE MESSENGER

April 2018

St. Mark's Anglican Lutheran Church

307 Third Street
Midland, ON. L4R 3S5

705-526-6562

office@stmarksmidland.ca

Clergy: Pastor Martin Giebel

705-417-1600

pastor@stmarksmidland.ca

Sunday Services

8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

10:00 AM (3rd Sunday) Anointing & Prayers

TO LIVE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST'S LOVE



Wondrous Encounters

Dear Members and Friends:

Life is a journey—and so is faith, I think. We never fully know what lies ahead of us. This can be a scary realization. That may be why some of us avoid thinking about the future. We travel through time and space as if there were no limitations and as if we were the masters of the universe.

Faith in Christ Jesus leads us beyond such fears. A power greater than we are, knows us, and knows all our hopes and desires. A power greater than we are wants to guide us toward fulfillment and peace. As I like to say: We may not always get what we want, but always what we need. Our lives are being blessed as we face our days with Christ at our side. A living relationship with our God is indeed a “wondrous encounter”!

Before us is a time and many opportunities to discover new and renewed life. We celebrate the mystery of the Resurrection Life and we will hear stories of truly wondrous encounters.

As always, you are more than welcome to travel alongside others who are on the same journey through life, facing the same challenges you are facing. You are invited to journey with us closer into God’s peace. You and I, we will still not know everything, but you and I can know that we are loved.

Come and join us for worship and fellowship whether you live or vacation in the area, you will find a friendly welcome. Together, we can encounter wondrous things and experience that none of us needs to be alone. We certainly are not claiming to “have all the answers” but we come together and turn to the one who knows.

May you experience blessings on your journey through life, and may we all see God’s good and life-giving work in whatever we encounter.

With many blessings,

Your Pastor

Pastor Artie

ST. MARK'S USHER MINISTRY

On January 6, 2018, Roger Flint and Pastor Martin conducted the annual Usher's Duties and Responsibilities Training Session. This ministry entails an informal team of greeters welcoming people outside the building and helping those who need help from a car to go inside the church; sometimes a wheel chair is needed. This caring approach is vital to allow every person to feel good and welcome.



If someone is unknown to the usher, they are to welcome the stranger, giving your name and asking theirs; the newcomer will usually indicate if they are a visitor or if they are already a parishioner. The usher should be ready to direct them to Sunday school, Nursery, washrooms, etc. and encourage them to enjoy social refreshment following the service. Once the usher's duties are finished upstairs, it is a good idea to join the newcomer downstairs.

Remember, the stranger you meet at the door, might be Jesus!

Submitted by: Gail Bakker

Join in the fun of service through ushering at our worship services and other special occasions. Please volunteer to join a team to help.

If you would like to help out in this important ministry, please let me know by phone or email:

Contact: Roger Flint [705-526-7728](tel:705-526-7728) or email: roghumour@sympatico.ca

The Marksmen meet for fellowship and good food on the first Saturday of each month, October through to June. All men of the parish and community are welcome with a requested \$5 donation, if able.

If you are an early riser, arrive between 7:30 and 8:00 am to prepare the feast. Enter St. Mark's by the back door off East Street. The others can help clean up.
Come and join in the fellowship each month

Lutheran and Anglican Tidbits

Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM)

ELCIC young adults ages 21 to 29 are eligible to apply for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program. YAGM invites participants into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. ELCIC member Nicholas Stienberg has been selected as a YAGM participant for 2017-2018, to serve as a volunteer in Australia. You can learn more about YAGM and how to support young adults on this journey at: <http://elcic.ca/Global-Mission?YAGM.cfm>

Parliament of the World's Religions

The next international gathering of the Parliament of the World's Religions will be held in Toronto, November 1-7, 2018. The Parliament, which is open to all, provides a rich context in which to explore the astonishing variety of faith expression alive in the world today. The event represents a significant close-to-home continuing education possibility. Visit their website at: <https://parliamentofreligions.org/>

Addressing Issues of Human Trafficking

The [Anglican Church of Canada](http://www.anglican.ca), Full Communion partner of the ELCIC, has recently posted new resources on issues of human trafficking. The video posted there is highly recommended as an introduction and conversation-starter on the importance of these issues. Please go to: <http://www.anglican.ca/issues/human-trafficking/>.

Do you have a story to share about the work of your congregation In Mission for Others that you would like to see in a future issue of E-Communiqué? Send your brief story and a picture to communique@elcic.ca and be featured in an upcoming issue!

CALLING ALL YOUTH!

Date: August 15-19, 2018

Location: Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, ON

Regular Registration Fee

Home Teams who complete the entire registration process between January 15 and April 30, 2018 will pay a registration fee of \$595 per participant.

Late Registration Fee

After April 30, 2018, PHTLs interested in bringing a Home Team to CLAY should first contact the Registrar to ensure there is space available. Home Teams who complete the entire registration process between May 1 and July 31, 2018 will pay a registration fee of \$635 per participant.



TO LIVE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST'S LOVE



A message to the bishops, clergy and people of the Diocese of Toronto

Archbishop Colin Johnson

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

This afternoon I have informed the members of Diocesan Council that, after many months of prayerful discernment, I am asking Diocesan Synod to concur with my request for the election of a Coadjutor Bishop for the diocese in the middle of next year. I will step down from my role as the Metropolitan of Ontario at the next Provincial Synod in October 2018 and concurrently as Bishop of Moosonee. More importantly for our diocese, I plan to retire as Bishop of Toronto at the end of December 2018. The Bishop of Ottawa, who is the next senior bishop of the Province, is now in receipt of my letter of resignation. A Coadjutor Bishop is elected by Synod to assist the Diocesan Bishop prior to his retirement and to succeed the Diocesan Bishop immediately on the Diocesan's retirement.

I have now served the Diocese of Toronto for over 40 years of ordained ministry. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life, and it has not been an easy or quick decision to bring it to a conclusion. By the time I retire I will have passed my 66th birthday and have served as bishop for over 15 years, with an additional 12 years in the Bishop's Office as the Executive Assistant and Archdeacon to my esteemed mentor and predecessor, Archbishop Terence Finlay. In each of the three parishes I served before that I have learned more and more from the people of God, how to be a faithful pastor and priest. There is so much that I am thankful to God for in this great diocese: the tremendous richness of our diversity, the remarkably gifted clergy and strong faithfulness of our laity, the breadth of the resources we have been given, the new opportunities we are afforded to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Over the past decade and a half, we have done some remarkable things: developed a growing team of high capacity diocesan volunteers to work as coaches and facilitators with parishes, completed a very successful Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-imagine Church campaign to resource our ministry, intentionally focused on being missional as a diocese, increased our commitment to intercultural ministry, and renewed our witness to social justice both in our advocacy work and our direct compassionate service. There have been many challenges that we have faced together, including declining numbers and closing churches. But we have also named and faced our challenges squarely in the context of our Christian faith. We have a new strategic plan, aptly named *Growing in Christ*, to direct us in the next few years.

I am enormously grateful to God for the privilege of serving and leading this diocese, and especially for the opportunity to work and minister with such gifted and generous people as

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you. I am not retired yet! There is still much to do, and I look forward to continuing to work faithfully over the next year to reach our goals.

May I ask for your prayers for our diocese, and especially for Ellen and me, as we prepare for this transition.

May God bless and keep you in his love,

+Colin

Property

The lower level doors at the back of the hall were replaced as was the exterior door in the Sunday school room. The Vestry room upstairs was stripped, cleaned, new insulation installed, new flooring installed and the room painted to make it nice and bright.

The majority of the work was done by Gord Blanking.

Pastor Martin was also actively involved and Gail Bakker is always around doing whatever needs to be done. There were others involved also. Thanks to all for their contributions to keeping the buildings clean and serviceable for everyone.

Regards

Bob Reynolds and Lanny Davidson

Church Bulletin Bloopers!

1. The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00. Please use the back door.
2. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
3. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
4. Ushers will eat latecomers.
5. Don't worry kill you off – let the church help.

Submitted by: Marilyn Holden



In Appreciation...

The Vestry Room had been looking sad and tired for a long time. It needed refreshing. So, Pastor Martin asked Gord Blanking to help with the project of refurbishing the room, and it got started this past summer.

During the initial cleaning out of the Vestry room, to get it ready for new paint, it was discovered that a lot of bats had been living in the ceiling's attic. Barb Broadhead said that she had smelled an odd odor for quite a while.



Bob Reynolds, St. Mark's Property Manager, was contacted about the church's bat infestation problem and he in turn, called an extermination company. The company removed the bats along with the old excrement that was soaked into the pink insulation and rotting boards. They sealed up any place that the bats could get back in.

Gord and his wife, Pat, replaced the rotten boards, put down a vapor barrier and put in new pink insulation. Afterwards, Gord and Pat painted the ceiling and walls. The room needed five coats of paint to cover the stains on the ceiling. (Pat Blanking was instrumental in the painting!) It took an additional five coats of paint to cover the old dark paneling as the paint kept soaking into the space where the panels butted together. If you have ever painted paneling, you know how much time and energy it takes to complete the job. New laminate flooring was also installed, and Gord almost chopped his fingers off with the saw. Talk about blood, sweat and tears!

Bill Oxford painted the wooden trim around the stained glass windows, the trim around the floor and doors.

A new modern light fixture was installed by Pastor Martin and his wife, Gaby. Mary Burke said that the renovation was to provide a much cleaner, comfortable room. This room will be used for meetings by Pastor Martin, other groups such as the lay visitors, Sharon and her team of helpers, and others. The flat screen television that was mounted on the wall will have different uses including that of an educational tool. There will always be a need for a new project in order to keep the building looking good and functioning well.

Gord said that the best part of the project was the satisfaction of seeing the job done and looking good! Thank you to everyone that helped to create the new Vestry Room to be what it is today.

Submitted by: Gail Bakker

Prime Time Ladies

On December 12, 2017, the ladies of St. Mark's Prime Time Group celebrated the Christmas season with a pot luck luncheon and a "re-gift" exchange.

As always, the food was delicious and plentiful. A few ladies were overheard saying that their clothes didn't fit the way they used to when Christmas was over.

In the spirit of the season, each lady received a gift that she picked out of a pile of anonymous presents.

Santa took time to pop in and bellowed, "Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas." He was dressed in his red suit. I know he tried hard, but.....he kind of looked like Edda!

Fran and baby Jackson were the hit of the party. A few of us got to cuddle Jackson a little before he let us know that we were NOT his mommy.

Rosemary Mitchell has done a great job of spear heading the St. Mark's Prime Time Ladies Group. Thank you Rosemary, and all the people who pitched in "to help keep the season bright."

Submitted by: Gail Bakker



TO LIVE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST'S LOVE

Wit and Wisdom:

You think English is easy??

Read all the way to the end.....

This took a lot of work to put together!

Language Arts



- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert..
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear..
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France . Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

PS. - Why doesn't 'Buick' rhyme with 'quick'?

Submitted by: Wendy Porter

Prophets of a Future Not Our Own

This is what we are about:

We plant seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything

and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something,

and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,

but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders,

ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

~ Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero ~ (murdered on March 24, 1980)

Submitted by: Dean Nicholls



Thank you to everyone for collecting your used postage stamps which we donate to the Canadian Bible Society, in Toronto. All I ask is for you to collect & bring into the church office periodically. I will sort, clean up & mail to the Canadian Bible Society as a donation from our church. Here's how our Used Stamp Program works: Stamps collected from donations across Canada are combined to create charity boxes and are sold to stamp collectors and vendors. The revenue generated from the stamps allows CBS to purchase Bibles for Canadian prison ministry. 10 lbs of stamps = approx 6 Bibles for distribution

Instructions for collecting: Keep the stamp on the envelope. Cut out the stamp leaving a 1/4 inch border around the entire stamp. Save them in a paper envelope & when you can drop off at the church office with my name on envelope.

Thank you & remember every stamp is important.

Ruth Reynolds

The Telephone Call: by Rosemary Hagedorn



It all started with a telephone call. "Hello. Is this the home of Rosemary Hagedorn, who writes devotionals for the local newspaper?" The person on the other end of the phone line was asking me where I get my inspiration from. It is so amazing how quickly one's pride rears its ugly head and we have the choice to say either "I wrote those articles and stories all by myself," or "I am but a vessel, and my inspiration comes from the Holy Spirit."

I chose the latter reply, because it is the truth. I never completed high school. I never attended any workshops or took any training regarding the way I write. Yet, Christ in me has inspired many people who have read my stories on the web or in the newspaper. I am truly thankful for that telephone call; because the person went on to encourage me to continue to write. I have recently found myself stagnant and not able to write. Oh, I create picture stories for my grandchildren, but I have not written anything spiritual lately. After that call, I thought about our entire conversation and asked God to help me get back to writing and sharing the good news.

"What good news?" you may ask. The news that I am talking about is Jesus' sacrificial death on a cross, as an atonement for our sins. I am talking about the hope of the empty tomb and Jesus' victorious resurrection. May we, during this season of Lent, remember Jesus' sacrificial

death for us and for our salvation. As we approach Easter, let us remember His resurrection and the free gift of eternal life that is offered to each and every one of us.

1 Peter 1:3-4 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. (NASB)

Prayer: Dear God, we ask that You help us to share this good news, and we ask for Your forgiveness for not having done so in the past. We have lost our vision and mission; we have buried and neglected our gifts; and we ask that You reawaken our hearts, rekindle our zeal, and make us brand new, in order that we may enthusiastically share our gifts with a lost world. Amen.

A Nun Grading Papers:

Kids were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following statements about the bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. IN THE FIRST BOOK OF THE BIBLE, GUINESSIS. GOD GOT TIRED OF CREATING THE WORLD SO HE TOOK THE SABBATH OFF.
2. ADAM AND EVE WERE CREATD FROM AN APPLE TREE. NOAH'S WIFE WAS JOAN OR ARK. NOAH BUILT AND ARK AND THE ANIMALS CAME ON IN PEARS.
3. LOTS WIFE WAS A PILLAR OF SALT DURING THE DAY, BUT A BALL OF FIRE DURING THE NIGHT.
4. THE JEWS WERE A PROUD PEOPLE AND THROUGHOUT HISTORY THEY HAD TROUBLE WITH UNSYMPATHETIC GENITALS.

(Submitted by: Win Elliott)

A Message from St. Mark's Counting Team

Please help us by not folding bills before placing them in your church envelope. We find it difficult to handle the bills that have been folded.

We have weekly or monthly envelopes available for anyone who wants them. To request a set, please call or email Sharon at 705-529-3239 or donandsharonallen@gmail.com



Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals

Baptisms

23 July Liam Jeffry Thomas
23 July John Mackenzie Lynde
29 October Mia Emily Ayres
29 October Declan Christopher Coulter
29 October Quinn Gregory Coulter
29 October Jackson Forsyth



Marriages

12 August Andrew Phillip Atalla & Jillian Catherine Helen Bell



Funerals

Date of Death

19 January Mary Elizabeth Tremblay
13 February Arnold Murray Porter
10 May Joyce Elaine Oxford
26 March Joan Hicklin
13 May Douglas Dickinson
13 July John Charles Sajan
31 May Antoinette Lillian Sinclair
10 May Hanna Honey Thomas
29 June Colin Ashworth
17 July George Henry Garnet Marchant
17 July Florence Alexandra Diller
27 July Harry George Williams
01 October Arthur Busby
7 December Elizabeth Stevenson





STORYTIME WITH SUE



TO LIVE, SHARE AND GROW IN CHRIST'S LOVE



INTRODUCING...

My name is Sabrina McIntyre, and I'm the oldest of 3 children (myself and my 2 brothers – Richard & Eric). My parents, Bob and Clare Willard, lived in a small town outside St. Jacob's called Winterbourne (we lived across down in the valley if you know the area, between the bridge and the red Mennonite school house).

Growing up I lived there until I was about 15 and then we moved to Mildmay. I moved a few times afterwards for school and work, living in London, Kitchener and Walkerton.

I was very involved with in our church community growing up as were my parents – everything from Sunday School / Nursery leaders, Youth Group leader, Reader and I also assisted with breakfasts and luncheons that we did also.

Over the years, I have been employed in office administration/Management in several different industries. In 2003, I was hired as an office manager for Ebcotech Products (a former division of Techform). While training for the job at Techform, I met my husband Andrew and had dated for about a year when he proposed.

We married in October 2005 and moved to Midland. In April 2011, our beautiful daughter Rebecca (Becca) was born and I became a Mom. I will always be amazed at how much my life changed when I became a parent and am incredibly grateful to my parent's, and the example they set out for me. My Dad still laughs when I call looking for advice, as he then gets to tell a story from my childhood...

Our son, Jacob was born in March 2014 and he's my little man... the rough and tumble boy that is a charmer! One minute he'll be tearing things apart or climbing on top of the bathroom counter and the next he'll come up to me, give me a hug and say "Mommy, you're so beautiful!" Again, I count my blessings as I couldn't ask for a better family.

Since coming to St. Mark's, I have found you all to be welcoming and very friendly. I hope that, over time I get to know you all much better, as I already feel as though I'm part of the St. Mark's family.

Thank you for everything during my first few months and for helping to make the transition easier.

Sabrina McIntyre



What is a Prayer Shawl Ministry?

In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 “Women’s Leadership Institute” at “The Hartford Seminary” in Hartford, Connecticut, started this ministry as a result of their experience in the program of Applied Feminist Spirituality.

Care and the love of knitting, crocheting (and even woven quilted and machine knitted shawls) have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. When we first started giving shawls to the people in our lives, the term “prayer shawl” was mostly associated with the tallit traditionally worn by Jewish men and some women. But over the past decade of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the term “Prayer Shawl” has expanded. Prayer shawls are gifts, lovingly stitched into being by the shawl maker as a part of a spiritual practice. Well wishes, good intentions, and thoughts for the recipient are added into every stitch. The knitter begins each shawl with prayers for the recipient.



Intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. When the shawl is completed it is offered a final blessing before being sent along its way. (Adapted from “The New Prayer Shawl Companion by Janet Bristow & Victoria Galo)

If you have any further questions, please contact: Doris Dilger: 705-549-3659

Greetings to all at St. Marks from your church council:

Your Church Council is made up of twelve parishioners plus our incumbent, Pastor Martin. Council meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at St. Marks.

There are many items on the agenda for this year:

We are grappling with financial matters and a special vestry will be held to keep you updated.

Gord Blanking, our Property Chair and resident fixer upper, will be taking a survey of repairs needed in the church building and giving the church council an estimated cost for repairs and updates. The Sacristy is high on the priority list.

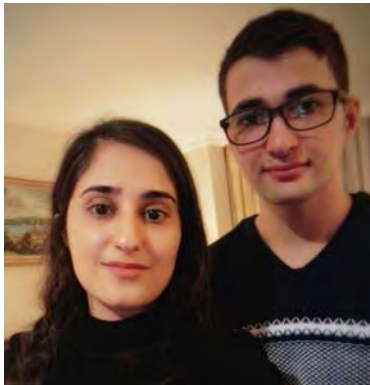
A spring cleaning is also being contemplated for the church interior. Please stay tuned for more information. We will definitely need volunteers to help.

Our Lutheran Bishop, Bishop Pryse, will be visiting St. Marks on May 13th, and the date for our Anglican Bishop, Bishop Fenty's visit, is still to be determined.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who keep things running so smoothly at our beautiful little church. It is amazing what goes on behind the scenes.

We invite you to contact us with any questions or comments you may have regarding church matters. We will do our best to address your concerns.

On behalf of Your Church Council, Mary Burke



Chirin and Ahmad – Jan. 2018

Still waiting ... and it doesn't get easier!

You have heard me mention two young people, Chirin and Ahmad, from the town of Qamishli, right on the border to Turkey in North-Eastern Syria. They are a sister and brother, now 22 and 18 years old, who left their family because they did not want to be drawn into the fighting. I met them through their brother who had arrived in Germany in 2015 when he was still 17 years old. Like so many others, Chirin and Ahmad's hope was to make it to Germany also. But they were abandoned by those who had promised to take them to Greece by boat. These "people smugglers" had taken ALL their money but a very small amount they had on themselves. – How could they survive? And how could they reach safety?

During these days I had gotten in touch with Chirin by phone. I offered that we could sponsor them to come to Canada because I knew our group was ready for that and the situation in Europe had become very difficult. Germany was already overwhelmed with roughly a million of refugees and other countries refused to help. Chirin and Ahmad made the difficult choice to trust a stranger. With the little cash they had they went to Istanbul where they stayed with some very distant relatives. But the very small house was already overcrowded. They found a one-room apartment, sublet by a young man, no central heating, a few leaks from the roof, no furniture and only an improvised kitchen, but acceptable to them nonetheless...

Of course, they could only finance it because we had made the commitment to send the money to keep them alive and off the streets. They tried often to find jobs but without the language and a work permit and as Kurdish refugees from Syria, this is all but impossible! Also, without a permanent address it is next to impossible to even go through the lengthy application to come to Canada. But how to send what money? The Canadian Income Tax forbids most charities to send money abroad so the \$80,000 we had received for refugee support could not be used. We took this on as an act of "private benevolence" and some of you helped to support Chirin and Ahmad! Thank you! Sending money to Istanbul was not easy

either. The Turkish banks do not recognize the official Turkish refugee ID as valid for their purposes but refugees get no other ID. Finally, I managed to send Chirin a credit card linked to our personal account here, and now she can withdraw money as needed. (Thanks to Canadian Tire Bank!) And I saw again how they are absolutely trustworthy and two very smart young people who will do great and contribute to this country!

When the application went to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, wait times for listed as 8 months. They have since increased to now 23 months... - Chirin and Ahmad have successfully completed their immigration interview and the medical.

After the several months long period of security checks they should be arriving here in the summer. The first weeks we have invited them to spend time with us here in Midland while we sort things out. The official sponsorship is with the group we started in Kitchener-Waterloo.

I am in touch with Chirin and Ahmad almost daily. To Gabi and me, as well as to Chirin and Ahmad it feels that we have become "like a family". It is hard to put into words how much they look forward to meeting and to thank YOU! For further questions, please ask me anytime!

Pastor Martin

EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 7 pm – Service with Washing of Hands and Feet & Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, March 30, 2018 at 10 am – Service with the Story of Christ's Passion

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018 at 8 am – Service of New Light and Life

Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018 at 10 am – Holy Eucharist of Christ's Resurrection and Renewed Life

John 11:25- Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, (NASB)



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