

buzz

Community Life

Introducing Interim Children's Director: Mariko Claassen



I am Mariko Claassen, and I will be the interim Director of Children's Ministry. I have been attending Waterford for 18 years with my husband Jeff and three children: Ethan, Hannah and Lena. I have enjoyed helping with vacation bible school, and teaching and assisting in Sunday school in the past. I am looking forward to using my gifts to serve Waterford in this role for the next 5 months.

A Warm Welcome to Mariko

Family Life Ministry Team is thrilled that Mariko will be stepping into the part-time staff role of children's director for the rest of the school year. In this position, Mariko will be the chair of the children's cluster, will be present on Sunday mornings to help teachers as needs arise, and will give support and insight to Lay

Minister Helen Bowman and Pastor Katie for the ongoing direction for our children's faith formation. Mariko brings gifts of creativity, wisdom, and leadership to this role. We are grateful for her strong faith and love of God's children. Waterford will be praying over Mariko and commissioning her for this role on January 23 in the worship service.

—Katie Misz, pastor of family life

Saying Goodbye

Farewell for Neil and Janette Amstutz

WMC is planning a farewell send-off for Neil and Janette on January 30 during the nurture hour. Here are ways you can be preparing and participating in making that day a special event:

1. At 17 years, Neil is Waterford's longest serving pastor. That's a long time, and to remember and reflect on those years Jordan Graber Kauffman is preparing a time line. The time line will include significant dates and photos related to Waterford Mennonite Church. You are invited and encouraged to add significant dates/events that you and/or your family have experienced at WMC in these 17 years: weddings, baptisms, baby dedications, funerals, class parties and retreats to the timeline. You can also add photos, especially photos that include interaction with Neil or Janette.

See **Farewell** on page 4

In Appreciation

Janette's Creations

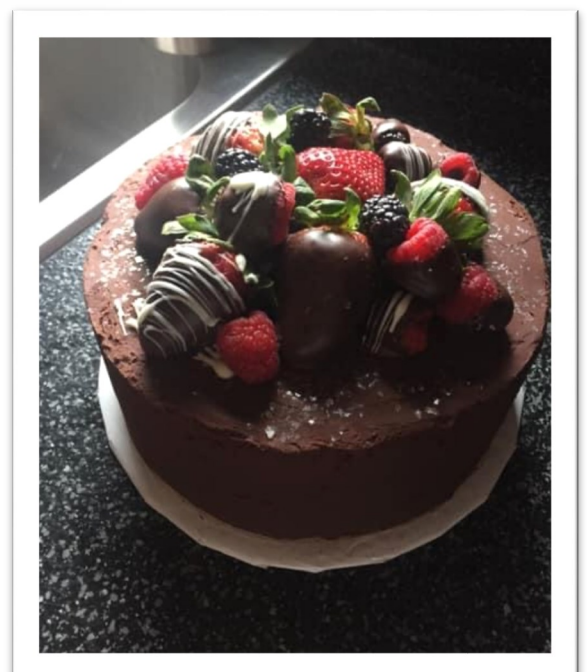
Janette Amstutz is a master cake maker. Pictured here are just a few of her cakes. Many of us have enjoyed her delicious and beautiful creations. Thank you Janette for sharing your love of baking with us these past 17 years.



In Appreciation



Are you salivating yet?



Farewell, cont. from page 1

The time line will be available in the church foyer from Sunday, January 16 through Sunday, January 23. We will have the pages bound into a book to give to Neil and Janette on Jan 30.

2. What would you like to say to Neil and Janette? Are there any special memories you'd like to share? Reflections on their time here? Wishes for them in the months ahead? Write these in a card and bring it to church January 16, 23 or 30. There is a large lantern on the table outside the church office (pictured below) where you can put your cards to be given to Neil and Janette on January 30.

3. Mark January 30 on your calendar and plan to be here to celebrate with us.

—Ministry Leadership Council



Communion with Pastor Neil

Our quarterly “winter” communion service at Waterford will be set up with a different twist this month. In light of high COVID numbers that may keep some people away from a traditional communion service on Sunday morning, and as one of my last priestly roles as a pastor here, I invite you to join me sometime on **Thursday, Jan. 27 for a brief and intimate time of the Lord’s Supper in very small groups.** I will be prepared at five times throughout that day for up to 10 Waterford people at a time to share in an informal communion service with me and one or two helpers in the sanctuary. There will be some common times of prayer, music, Scripture and reflection as we sit masked and spaced apart. I will offer communion to one individual or household at a time with no lines of people. I would like to offer each of you, before I conclude my pastorate, a personal blessing when you receive the bread and cup.

On Sundays the 16th and 23rd there will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer for up to 10 people at each of the following times: 7:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 pm. You may also call or email Janet in the church office to reserve your spot. Each communion service will last only 15 to 20 minutes. Although these times mostly fall within the regular school day, I will also have grapes and crackers for any unbaptized or still discerning persons who want to come. I’m grateful to my fellow pastors for this creative idea, and look forward to these holy moments together.

—Pastor Neil Amstutz

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The *Waterford Buzz* is normally published weekly for members of Waterford Mennonite Church. Items for inclusion should be sent to the editor by 5 p.m. Monday preceding publication.

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