

Strathroy East

Christian Reformed Church

PASTOR SEARCH PROFILE



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Dear Pastor

Thank you for taking the time to explore the opportunity of becoming a part of Strathroy East Christian Reformed Church as our Pastor. This document has been thoughtfully put together to offer you a glimpse into our vibrant life and ministry. We truly hope you find enjoyment in going through it and, above all, that the Lord's voice resonates with you as you read through its pages.

East CRC is more than just a congregation; it's a warm and thriving community that spans generations. Our blessings are abundant, ranging from an engaged group of youth and young families to our vibrant seniors circle, and everything in between. Each member values the significance of contributing to the church's life, and many play a role in some capacity. We firmly believe that we are recipients of the Lord's blessings so that we can in turn be a blessing, and we are excited to uncover where He leads us next, with the anticipation of our new pastor joining us on this meaningful journey.

Envisioning the days ahead, we anticipate a ministry guided and fortified by a dedicated full-time Pastor, working alongside our devoted full-time Youth and Worship Director, Stefan, and our wonderful full-time Administrative Assistant, Wilma. Our church finds its home in the charming town of Strathroy, located just 20 minutes west of the vibrant City of London, easily accessible via Highway 402. This picturesque town, nestled in the embrace of southwestern Ontario, Canada, possesses a unique charm. Strathroy is celebrated for its storied history, hospitable community, and captivating surroundings—a harmonious blend of small-town allure and modern conveniences. As a congregation rooted in the Christian Reformed faith and consisting of nearly 200 members, we pool together a diverse array of talents and skills, all united in our shared mission of sharing the boundless love of Jesus. With hopeful hearts and optimistic spirits, we eagerly anticipate the collaboration that will unfold with the pastor whom the Lord will guide us to.

Could it be that the Lord is guiding you to Strathroy? We hold this possibility close to our hearts. Strathroy is a wonderful town to enjoy what life has to offer, raise a family, and to live out your calling.

THE PASTOR SEARCH TEAM

Ralph Bork	Tom Kroesbergen
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Johan Tangelder	

Strathroy East CRC

For 72 years, Strathroy East CRC has faithfully served God, embracing His redemptive love demonstrated through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Our history is marked by key events like the establishment of Strathroy Community Christian School in 1955, underscoring our commitment to Christian education. Throughout the challenges of Covid, our strong leadership fostered unity and compassion, reinforcing our church community. Notably, our facilities have expanded in alignment with our vision, including a new educational wing in 1994 and a fresh sanctuary in 2000.

Founded on March 26th, 1951, in Strathroy, Ontario, Canada, our congregation emerged with 172 families and singles primarily from post-World War II Netherlands. As they adapted to new worship practices, our services were held in local Presbyterian and United Church buildings.

In 1952, we acquired a substantial plot of land for a mere nine hundred dollars, sparking the construction of our church building amidst a backdrop of poplar trees and growing tobacco fields. Completed in 1953 at a cost of approximately thirty-five thousand dollars, this endeavor remains a testament to the dedication of our community.



In 1994, our church displayed a dedication stone inscribed with "To the glory of God," commemorating the completion of an education wing that included classrooms, offices, and gathering spaces. Subsequently, in 2000, a new sanctuary and administrative spaces replaced the original sanctuary, enabling community outreach and educational programs.

With unwavering faith and gratitude, Strathroy East CRC looks back on its history as a story of devotion, growth, and God's abundant blessings.



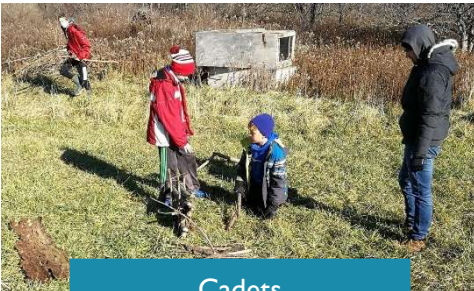
Our Church Today



Our Congregation



Kids Soccer Camp



Cadets



Worship/Youth Service



Volleyball

Ways we Grow:

- ❖ GEMS
- ❖ Cadets
- ❖ Wednesday Sports (Volleyball & Basketball)
- ❖ Kids Soccer Camp (Athletes in Action)
- ❖ Young Adults Group
- ❖ Youth Group
- ❖ Worship/Youth Nights
- ❖ Sunday School
- ❖ Strathroy Community Christian School
- ❖ Men's Retreat
- ❖ London Christian High
- ❖ Various Adult Bible Study Groups

Ways we Serve:

- ❖ Missionaries
 - Karen Lubbers – Uganda
 - Caleb & Karen Wong – Philippines
 - Ryan Faber – Zambia
- ❖ Youth for Christ – 37 Frank Street Youth Centre
- ❖ World Renew
- ❖ Resonate Global Mission
- ❖ ReFrame Ministries
- ❖ Salvation Army Strathroy Food Bank
- ❖ Women's Rural Resource Centre Strathroy
- ❖ Key Bible Clubs
- ❖ Christian Horizons
- ❖ South Coast Beach Project
- ❖ New Ground
- ❖ Jews for Jesus
- ❖ Teen Challenge
- ❖ Bible League
- ❖ Food Grains Bank
- ❖ Safe Church
- ❖ First Start
- ❖ Right to Life

A Story – by K. Reitsma

Strathroy East has been my home church for 20+ years and we (my husband and kids) have been blessed by the community of believers that gather here.

It amazes me how the Lord can work through a 'body of believers' like He does; and we have seen God at work in so many ways. There is the typical (and also edifying and glorifying) gathering around those who are sick or lost loved ones; to pray, give comfort and encouragement. We see the weary lifted, the sick often healed and bonds of friendship and Christian family strengthened.

And just as remarkable is seeing God use our church in unique and unusual ways that we didn't expect. Our Summer soccer camp, for example came about as an alternate to VBS and has been a great community event. For a town that loves soccer this has been a good way to connect and show the love of Jesus to kids who enjoy soccer.

And 37 Frank has been an amazing way we see God at work. If it is a local YFC drop-in center, that is helping and touching a lot of young people in our community with no where else to turn. This is not something ANY of us would have pictured being a part of and yet, God is using our humble body of believers to help people in times of desperation.

I stand back and marvel at it all!

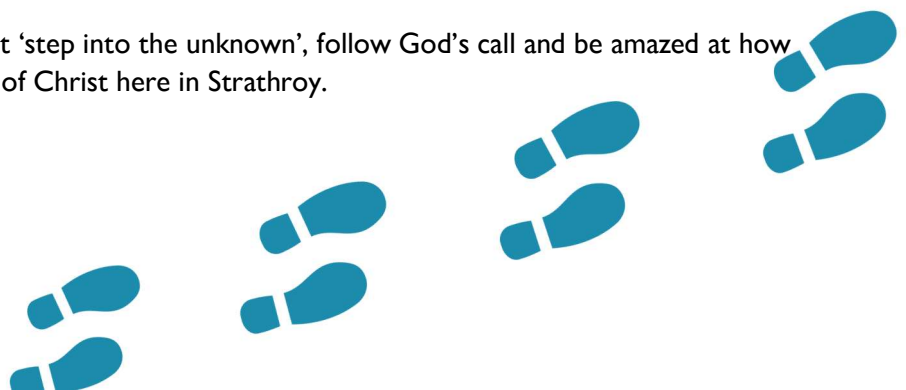
Personally, I am not involved with either of the above activities but do hold them in prayer – often. My involvement tends to be more on the worship team/worship committee level. But when I am up front singing and I look at the people and stories that are represented in the pews, I am blessed and praise and thank God all the more.

As you review our church profile, I hope you will sense as I do on a weekly basis, God is at work here, and it is our pleasure and joy to watch and join in where we can.

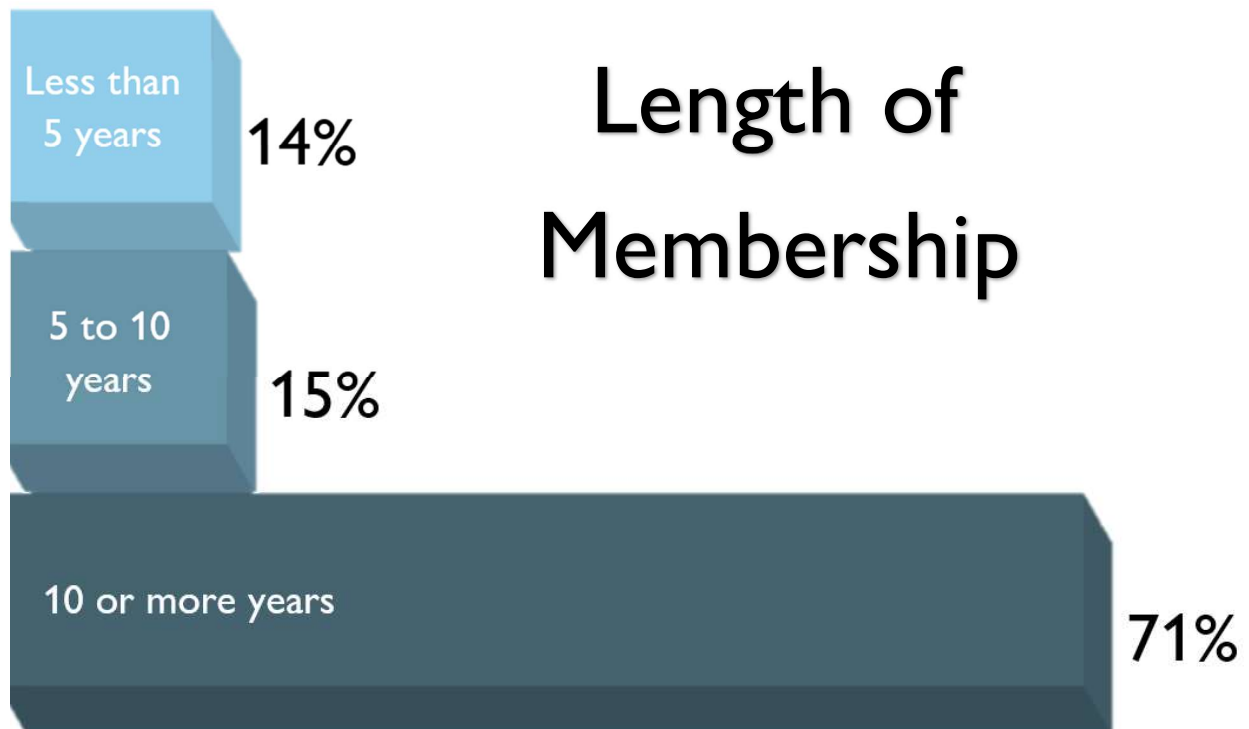
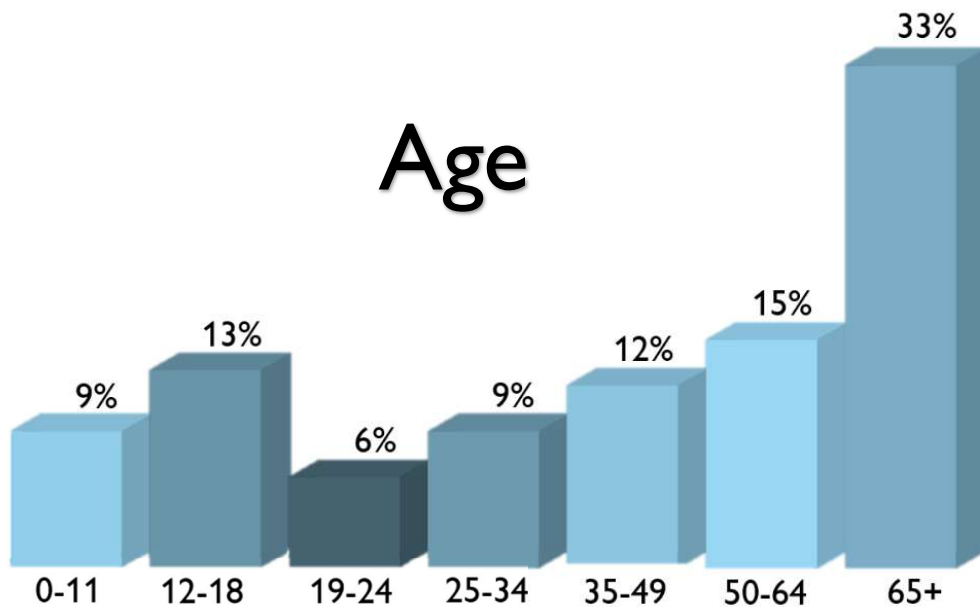
Many years ago, I saw an illustration by Ray VanderLaan on the 'That the World May Know' video series: the Israelites sit poised to cross the Jordan – but it is at flood stage. Those Levites stepping into the river didn't like 'wade in' they step into a strong current not knowing that God will stop the water upstream as soon as they take that first step.

We hope you will join us as we look for what and where God wants us to move next. Help shepherd us into these new next 'first' steps. Encourage us to have eyes to see where God wants us to step and ears to hear the voice of God and that we will all encourage those in front, beside and behind us.

And we hope you will also take that 'step into the unknown', follow God's call and be amazed at how He works and in through the body of Christ here in Strathroy.



Our Demographics



Meet Our Staff



My name is Wilma; I am the administrator and custodian of Strathroy East CRC.

My family (parents & siblings) immigrated from Holland to Canada in 1988. We settled on a dairy farm near Tillsonburg, Ontario.

After high school, I graduated from Fanshawe College in London with the Early Childhood Education diploma. My hope was to get married and provide childcare in our home.

But God had another path for me. While having jobs as a house cleaner/childcare provider around Parkhill, I became a member at Strathroy East CRC in 1999. I became church custodian in April 2004 – a parttime job so I kept some house cleaning/childcare jobs as well. In January 2006 I also became the church's administrator – also a parttime job but now the two jobs together equal to fulltime work at the church. I enjoy playing the organ, volleyball, card/board games and/or spending time with family and friends.



I am Stefan (Megi & Bella), and I joined the team at East at the end of 2021. We are from South Africa originally, but we are starting to feel more and more like real Canadians, eh! I'm pastor of the youth and worship ministries, and I'm always up for a challenge (or new lead pastor). I've been in ministry for more than 15 years and I really enjoy working in a team. East is an awesome church, with a rich history and great people.

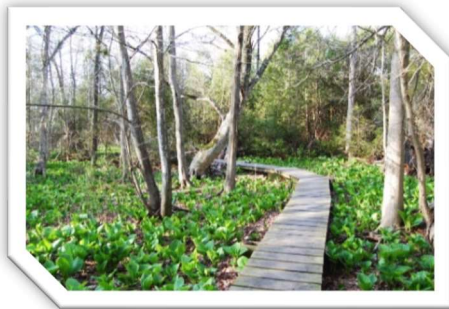
Strathroy, Ontario



Quaint Charm: Immerse yourself in Strathroy, Ontario's quaint charm, nestled in the heart of southwestern Canada. Rich history since the 19th century is showcased with Victorian-style houses and heritage sites sharing captivating stories.



Community Unity: Our warm community radiates unity and togetherness. Farmers' markets and cultural festivals celebrate shared heritage, uniting all walks of life.



Sports & Nature: For sports enthusiasts and nature lovers alike, Strathroy has you covered! Discover our sports arenas, volleyball courts, and soccer fields for active enjoyment. Surrounded by lush greenery, Strathroy offers parks and trails, perfect for serene walks and outdoor connection. Nearby conservation areas allow for hiking and birdwatching.

Modern Comforts: Enjoy modern comforts with small-town allure. Strathroy offers charming shops, family-owned businesses, a hospital that offers an array of services, and diverse dining options for a unique and delightful experience.

Harmonious Blend:

Experience history and progress harmoniously in Strathroy. Welcoming atmosphere meets modern services, creating a tranquil setting that warmly invites residents and visitors alike.



Beyond our Walls

At Strathroy East CRC, our Christian community extends beyond the walls of our church, fostering connections that uplift and enrich lives across various stages. We're proud to be a part of a network that radiates faith, compassion, and unity in profound ways.

Trillium Village: Trillium Village stands as a unique haven for Christian seniors. This exceptional residence is operated by the Strathroy & District Christian Retirement Association (SDCRA), a private, non-profit, registered charitable organization. With a commitment to Christian-based seniors' housing, the SDCRA's Board of Directors ensures the governance of Trillium Village. This nurturing environment welcomes seniors from diverse and interdenominational backgrounds, fostering an atmosphere of shared faith and mutual respect.



Strathroy Community Christian School (SCCS):

Commitment to education echoes through Strathroy Community Christian School. SCCS, the Christian grade school in our community, nurtures students to be fully known, loved as God made them, and transformed by Christ's love. This foundation prepares them to grow and serve within His story, shaping their lives for the better.

London Christian High

(LCH): This also extends to London Christian High, a not-for-profit, private Christian high school accredited by the Ministry of Education. Rooted in a rich history of quality education, LCH offers an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and a transformative experience. With a remarkable 6:1 student-staff ratio, the school's central goal is to guide each student towards self-discovery and their divine purpose. Through a rigorous academic program and authentic learning experiences, students are equipped to pursue post-secondary paths aligned with God's calling.

