



# THORNHILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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GEMEINDEBRIEF – SOMMER 2022

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2022

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Liebe Missionspartner,

Am Pfingstsonntag geht die „Feiertagssaison“ des liturgischen Kalenders, die um die Vorbereitungen und Feiern der Kirche auf Weihnachten und Ostern herum strukturiert ist, zu Ende, und die „gewöhnliche Zeit“ beginnt mit der Ausrichtung auf die Mission der christlichen Kirche. Sie endet am Anfang des neuen Kirchenjahres, also am ersten Adventssonntag (in diesem Jahr am 28. November).

Am Pfingstsonntag dieses Jahres, dem 5. Juni, traf sich eine kleine Gruppe von sieben oder acht Mitgliedern nach dem Gottesdienst, um das Leitbild unserer Gemeinde zu überprüfen, welches bei unserem jüngsten Jahrestreffen am 1. Mai eingeführt wurde. Ein lebhaftes Gespräch über den Wert und die Wirksamkeit unseres aktuellen Leitbildes – oder aller Leitbilder allgemein – endete mit dem Konsens, dass unser Kirchenvorstand eine genauere Ausrichtung und Orientierung bieten sollte. Dementsprechend hat der Gemeinderat beschlossen, die Frage in unser geplantes „Townhall“ Mittagessen am „Zurück zur Kirche“ Sonntag nach dem Gottesdienst am 18. September aufzunehmen.

Ich hoffe, Sie planen, sich uns an diesem Sonntag anzuschließen, um uns bei der Vorbereitung auf unsere Diskussion zu helfen. Dazu habe ich ein tägliches Lektionar mit Bibellesungen für Juli und August ausgearbeitet, das uns durch die gesamten 28 Kapitel der Fortsetzung des Lukasevangeliums führen wird, bekannt als *Die Apostelgeschichte* – die die frühe Geschichte der Mission der Kirche in der Welt nach Pfingsten beschreibt. Ich habe auch zwei Gebete aus der Liturgie des diesjährigen Pfingstsonntags zur Verfügung gestellt, um uns zu inspirieren, während wir uns darauf vorbereiten, die „Apostelgeschichte 29“ zu schreiben.

Möge Gott Sie alle während der „Zwischen-Mission“ dieses Sommers mit Ruhe und Erneuerung segnen!

*Pastor Peter*

(bearbeitet von Edward Stahlberg. Vielen Dank, Edward)

Dear Partners in Mission,

On Pentecost Sunday, the “festival season” of the liturgical calendar, structured around the church’s preparations for, and celebrations of, Christmas and Easter, comes to an end, and the “ordinary time” of focus on the Christian church’s mission begins, concluding at the beginning of the new liturgical year on the first Sunday in Advent (this year, November 28).

On Pentecost Sunday this year, June 5<sup>th</sup>, a small group of seven or eight members met together following worship to review our congregation’s Mission Statement, initiated at our recent Annual Meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup>. A lively conversation about the value and effectiveness of our current mission statement – or of all mission statements in general – concluded with the consensus that our church council provides more precise focus and direction. Accordingly, the council has decided to incorporate the question into our scheduled “Town Hall” luncheon on “Back To Church” Sunday, following worship on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

I hope you will plan to join us; and, to help us prepare for our discussion, I have provided a Daily Lectionary of Bible readings for July and August, which will take us through the entire 28 chapters in the sequel to Saint Luke’s Gospel, known as *The Acts of the Apostles* – which details the early history of the church’s mission in the post-Pentecost world. I have also provided two prayers from this year’s Pentecost Sunday worship liturgy to inspire us as we prepare to write “Acts 29”.

May God bless you all during this summer’s “inter-mission” of rest and renewal

*Pastor Peter.*

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**Church Council Report**

Since our Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, May 1, 2022, our council has met twice – in person at the church. Thanks be to God!

At the outset of our new term, the council reluctantly, but gratefully acknowledged *Olga Jurgeneit’s* many years of faithful service of recording the amounts, matching names with

envelope numbers, and issuing annual charitable receipts for the generous offerings received from our regular contributors, as well as visitors. **Heartfelt thanks, Olga!** We are also pleased, and grateful, to report that longtime member of church and council, **Edith Schulbeck**, has offered to succeed Olga in her ministry – which we have thankfully affirmed!

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### **Other New Business**

- 1.) The storm of May 21 damaged some trees and the fence at the east end of our parking lot. Thanks to **Geoffrey & Nancy Moulson** and our faithful **Frohe Runde** who quickly collected some of the smaller debris. **Edith Schiller** has contacted the township and received their assurance that they will take responsibility to complete the clean-up.
- 2.) **Nancy Moulson** has initiated the process of repairing or replacing the damaged stove top.
- 3.) A catered “Townhall Luncheon”, to provide members with the opportunity to present and discuss ideas, interests, and concerns to plan our congregation’s mission for the foreseeable future, has been scheduled to coincide with our annual “Back To Church” Sunday, September 18, 2022, following worship.
- 4.) Our office computer’s “Revelations” program has become obsolete and will be replaced at a cost of \$500, which includes installation and training for all potential users, on a date to be announced soon.

### **On-Going Business**

- 1.) It has come to our attention that our kitchen faucet can be operated without batteries. Council has decided, therefore, to maintain the current manual setting for the time being.
- 2.) Thanks to **Chris Wanschura** for recent repair and/or removal of damaged equipment in our playground area.
- 3.) Sign-up sheets to provide altar flowers and to prepare and host our “Kaffee & Kuchen” time after worship have been placed on the bulletin board in the front hall.
- 4.) Mission Statement

A group of members did review our mission statement on June 5, 2022, after the service; the consensus was to consult the council for further direction. Council decided that this topic be incorporated into the town hall discussion set for September 18 (see above).

5.) Portions of our electronic outdoor sign which had been pixelated have been repaired, as has the intermittent transmission of posted messages, thanks to the diligence of ***Martin Habekost!***

6.) Recent technical difficulties with our weekly live stream have been resolved by ***Tony Streisslberger.*** Thanks Tony!

We wish you all a happy, healthy summer of rest and renewal!

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## ***DAILY INTER—MISSION LECTIONARY***

|         |               |  |
|---------|---------------|--|
| July 4  | Acts 1:1-14   | Prayer for Thornhill Lutheran Church       |
| July 5  | Acts 1:15-26  |  |
| July 6  | Acts 2:1-13   | Almighty God, you call your church to      |
| July 7  | Acts 2:14-41  | praise your glory and proclaim your        |
| July 8  | Acts 2:42-47  | reign. As our congregation considers how   |
| July 11 | Acts 3:1-10   | best to fulfill the ministry we share,     |
| July 12 | Acts 3:11-26  | renew us in your Holy Spirit; strengthen   |
| July 13 | Acts 4:1-22   | our faith in you providence, inspire our   |
| July 14 | Acts 4:23-31  | hope in your promised future, and deepen   |
| July 15 | Acts 4:32-37  | our companionship with one another, that   |
| July 18 | Acts 5:1-16   | we may joyfully trust your word, boldly    |
| July 19 | Acts 5:17-42  | reflect your love, generously support your |
| July 20 | Acts 6:1-15   | mission in the world, and personally       |
| July 21 | Acts 7:1-53   | serve the needs of our sisters and         |
| July 22 | Acts 7:54—8:3 | brothers in this holy communion of your    |
| July 25 | Acts 8:4-25   | saints; through your Son, Jesus Christ our |
| July 26 | Acts 8:26-40  | Lord.                                      |
| July 27 | Acts 9:1-21   |  |
| July 28 | Acts 9:22-43  |  |
| July 29 | Acts 10:1-33  |  |

Prayer for Global Peace and Unity

|   |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <p>Almighty and gracious God, you reveal yourself among all people, in every nation, of every culture, class, creed and colour. Though your children, each created in your divine image, call upon you by many and various names – Vishnu, Jehovah, Allah, Manitou, Jesus – your divine essence is love; your will is justice; your promise is peace; and your purpose is eternal joy in companionship with yourself, among all human beings, and with all creation. ... Bless all people of faith. Be merciful to those who hold ill will toward us; and inspire us to be compassionate toward them. By your Holy Spirit, teach us to love and serve one another, that we may learn to understand one another, and live together as sisters and brothers in one human family, united in one holy communion, with peace in our hearts, in our homes, in our church, in our neighbourhood, in our nation, and in all the world; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you, Father, and with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, world without end. Amen</p> | August 1      | Acts 10:34-48 |
|   | August 2      | Acts 11:1-30  |
|   | August 3      | Acts 12:1-25  |
|   | August 4      | Acts 13:1-12  |
|   | August 5      | Acts 13:13-52 |
|   | August 8      | Acts 14:1-28  |
|   | August 9      | Acts 15:1-21  |
|   | August 10     | Acts 15:22-41 |
|   | August 11     | Acts 16:1-40  |
|   | August 12     | Acts 17:1-34  |
|   | August 15     | Acts 18:1-28  |
|   | August 16     | Acts 19:1-20  |
|   | August 17     | Acts 19:21-41 |
|   | August 18     | Acts 20:1-16  |
|   | August 19     | Acts 20:17-38 |
|   | August 22     | Acts 21:1-26  |
|   | August 23     | Acts 21:27-40 |
|   | August 24     | Acts 22:1-30  |
|   | August 25     | Acts 23:1-35  |
|   | August 26     | Acts 24:1-27  |
|   | August 29     | Acts 25:1-27  |
| August 30   | Acts 26:1-32  |               |
| August 31   | Acts 27:1-12  |               |
| September 1   | Acts 27:13-44 |               |
| September 2   | Acts 28:1-31  |               |

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***SPEAKING OF MISSION ... by Pastor Peter Lisinski***

According to British historian Karen Armstrong, one of the primary reasons for the Christian church’s rapid growth during the first three centuries of our history – when it was illegal to be a Christian – was its charitable outreach. “By the year 250 A.D.,” she writes, “the church in Rome was feeding fifteen hundred poor people every day...” (*Fields of Blood*, p. 149).

At that very time, the Roman Empire was enduring much internal political conflict and social unrest. In A.D. 257 Emperor Valerian initiated vigorous persecution of the church, seizing church assets and property, as well as forbidding Sunday worship assemblies. In response to the imperial decree that the church turn over its wealth to the government treasury, Brother Lawrence, the deacon in charge of the church's mission to the poor, assembled as many blind and lame, homeless and hungry, widows and orphans, whom he escorted into the local governor's palace courtyard with the announcement, "In obedience to the Emperor, I hereby present the most precious wealth of the church!" He was summarily arrested and, subsequently, executed.

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Though dwindling in global power and influence, Western society today remains a comparable civilization of economic affluence and military domination. And, despite our own decline in domestic power and influence, it remains the Christian church's mission to nurture thankfulness and generosity among greedy and grumpy sinners, most of whom are basically nice people like us, who simply don't know any better.

And we begin with ourselves!

We begin to fulfill, and grow into our God-given mission, by regularly assembling together in faithful worship, around God's Word and Sacraments, where we become God's holy communion people – learning to love one another and sent into the world to invite teach ."

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***SPEAKING OF WORSHIP ...*** by Rosarie Lisinski

"Sing a new song to the Lord  
praise him in the assembly of his faithful people"  
– Psalm 149:1

In this time and age so many people are conscious of their health by exercising, eating right, and even doing meditations, which are all good ways to live.

According to recent research, singing has many health benefits also. Singing boosts the immune system by raising levels of antibodies in your body that fight infection. It also increases your pain threshold by releasing endorphins – the "feel good" hormones.

I mention this recent information as a good reason for going to church because this is a safe place where we can sing and praise God freely. Worshiping our Lord in his temple, as is commanded, connects us with our Creator.

The Church is where we meet our Lord Jesus, the light, hope and peace of our lives. God is waiting for his children to acknowledge Him and to worship Him. The Church is a holy place where we grow in faith and find healing and peace in His presence. Zephaniah 3:19 says, "The Lord God is in your midst." Praising God by singing and praying together benefits us more than we know.

Another tidbit of information research has found is that music – especially the music of Mozart – lessens the amount and length of seizures an epileptic patient has! Yes, there is power in music and singing praises to our God, which improves our lives in so many ways.

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### ***SPEAKING OF HEALING ...***

We wish God's blessing for our brother in Christ, **Chris Jack**, whose mother died this past June. Please pray for **Chris**, his wife, **Denise** and their son, **Jesse**, and remember to give thanks for God's gifts of life and family!

*"Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your Word ..."* (Luke 2:32)

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### ***SPEAKING OF FAMILY ...***

We give thanks for God's gift of **Maria Zein**, and we rejoice with her on the occasion of her **90<sup>th</sup>** birthday on June 9, 2022! *Congratulations, Maria! God bless you*

This summer we remember the upcoming birthdays of ...

**Else Balsmeier – July 15;**

**Elfriede McDermid – August 14;**

**Erika Koepke – August 25;**

**Ilse Wanschura – August 29**

***!! H A P P Y B I R T H D A Y !!***

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### ***SPEAKING OF SUMMER ...***

Pastor Peter will be on vacation from July 26 to August 29. However, should a need for pastoral support arise, please call his home, at 905-697-6231, or cell phone, at 647-395-7649. **On Sundays, July 31, August 7 and 14, council has accepted the invitation to join**

**the congregation of Saint Paul, Richmond Hill in worship at 10:30 a.m.** Worship services in our home sanctuary on Sundays, August 21 (English) and August 28 (German), at 10:00 a.m., will be led by members of our congregation.

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