

THORNHILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bay Thorn Drive, Thornhill

Office: 905-889-0873

Pastor Peter Lisinski's Phone: 647-395-7649

www.thornhill-lutheran.org

office@thornhill-lutheran.org

COPING DURING THIS TIME OF CORONAVIRUS: Food For Body And Mind, Spirit And Soul

WORSHIP IN TIMES OF QUARANTINE

by Gunther Kunzelmann

Now that we have experienced several weeks of isolation without being able to go and participate in our normal church service, we have become used to a new routine, celebrating what might be called a weekly "home service".

And what have we learned? We have learned what is essential to our spiritual life and what is not.

What is essential is this: Scripture readings, Sermon, Prayer, Hymn singing and music: All provided by our able worship group's "virtual service".

What is missing is the "communion of the saints", the coming together at the Lord's Table and also during the service and after, at the "Kirchkaffee".

What is secondary and unessential, although enhancing: material things, such as the colour of the paraments, vestments, the placement of certain objects, flowers, banners, the shape and colour of the candles, the sequence of lighting the candles and even a dress code.

The Christian life is one "driven" by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14) in a body called the "temple of the Holy Spirit"(1. COR. 6) and as such, deserving honour, proper care, protection from: misuse (idol worship), abuse (physical), damage (alcohol, smoking, drugs), over-demand (burn-out), gluttony, sexual misconduct and immorality. To abstain from these things, the letter to the Romans calls "living sacrifice" and to live a clean life "spiritual worship". A life worth living.

So much for spiritual life.

After weeks of quarantine we are all craving for a somewhat normal physical life and routine we can return to. But remember, we are never alone! Let us stay in contact and encourage each other in an otherwise dark time.

"..... and tomorrow the sun will shine again....."

".....und morgen wird die Sonne wieder scheinen....."

God bless.

THE EFFECTS OF MUSIC

by Rosarie Lisinski

I pray you are all well and keeping safe. I miss your lovely presence in church; and we thank you for your encouraging words and support.

Did you know that listening to music, especially classical or soft melodic music, can reduce stress in your life? It has been proven that the music of the Baroque period, such as Vivaldi ("The Four Seasons"), Handel ("Messiah"), and Bach (who was a Lutheran and wrote many of our great hymns), has special power to relax and soothe people. Apparently, the slower passages in their works are written at a tempo that closely approximates the human heart at rest. I find this information very fascinating, especially in this age when we are exposed to so much loud, high- energy sound in the world around us, particularly on the radio and television.

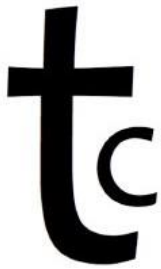
Moderate exposure to loud, fast beats, such as Rock music can stimulate positive high-energy when needed. It can motivate us to action and work. In some work environments Rock music is used for this very purpose, and therefore enhances productivity.

In the church we use music to set the mood for the liturgy and season. Tony always provides a beautiful prelude at the beginning of the service, which prepares us for the worship of God. The postlude at the end sends us off filled with the Holy Spirit to serve our neighbours in the world. Thank you, Tony, for your creativity and inspiration!

If you are feeling anxious, on edge or cannot sleep, especially during this COVID-19 time, why not put on some soft mellow music and let the power of the sweet sounds fill your heart and soul! It gives a whole new meaning to the old phrase by William Congrave: "Music hath charm to soothe the savage breast" or as some say, "savage beast."

Peace be with you.





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TREASURER'S REPORT

by Edith Schiller

Dear Members & Friends of Thornhill Lutheran Church,

The last few months have been a very challenging time for all of us, including our congregation. The most important part is to stay healthy, safe and connected to your family and friends.

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to listen to our Sunday services by internet, thanks to the dedication of Pastor Peter and the support of his wife Rosarie and our organist Tony.

If you wish to support our congregation, you can donate online, by mail or you can join PAR.

Your support is very much appreciated.

Thank you!

I hope you are all healthy and safe; hope to see you soon.

Financial Update: January 1-April 30, 2020

Offerings & Donations	2019	2020
Budget	21,666.64	16,666.66
Actual	11,021.60	7,701.00
SHORTFALL: Apr. 30, 2019/ Apr. 30, 2020	-10,645.04	-8,965.66
Please help us to eliminate our SHORTFALL of:		8,965.66
ATTENDANCE	558	241

JOHN THE BAPTIST BREAD

On June 24, the church celebrates "The Nativity of John the Baptist". Here is a recipe for John the Baptist bread you may want to try while in the solitary wilderness of your COVID-19 confinement. This is a rich, firm, crisp bread from Latin American countries where households celebrate the promise of John's birth: "You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth." (Luke 1:14) If you do, I invite you to freeze a loaf and bring it with you to share at our first "Kirchkaffee" when we are again able to gather in our beloved church. Til then: Enjoy!

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup warm water
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup sugar
- ½ package active dry yeast
- 1 ½ cups flour
- ¼ cup melted butter
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 egg white, unbeaten
- ½ cup raw, blanched, sliced almonds
- Extra flour and sugar for sprinkling

Directions:

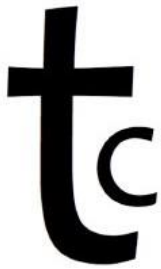
Soften yeast in warm water, then add butter, salt, and beaten whole egg. Gradually stir in 1 ¼ cups flour. Mix dough well and turn onto board sprinkled with remaining ¼ cup flour. Knead about 45 turns and lay the ball of dough into greased bowl. Set inside refrigerator until well chilled...

Remove and, while still in bowl, sprinkle 1/3 cup sugar over dough. Leave in bowl and knead until dough has absorbed the sugar. Sprinkle board lightly with flour and turn out dough. Roll it ¼ inch thick. Leave wavy-edged, uneven and irregular, to represent the water of John's ministry of baptism.

Spread like a lake on a baking tin, then brush with egg white and sprinkle with sugar (and almonds, if desired). Do not let rise, but bake immediately in preheated oven at 375 F degrees for 15 minutes.



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From the Pastor's Desk

SANCTI TUI FACTA EST DESERTA! ZION DESOLATA EST!

Texts: Isaiah 64:10-11; Jeremiah 22:5; Lamentations 1:4; Matthew 23:37-39

Here is a story I have kept quiet for more than a year! This may be the right time to tell it. I hope you find it enlightening in these dark days.

On Monday, April 15, 2019 – Monday in Holy Week – around 5:30 p.m., I was stunned to read the news headline on CP24: “Fire burning in historic Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris!”

A split second later, a sudden power surge shocked the system, leaving the TV screen bright red! Almost instantly, a sudden flash of light restored the picture – but the channel had changed! I saw a magnificent church sanctuary, complete with vested clergy, cantor, choir and congregation, worshiping in French! Moreover, my PVR had begun to record! I clicked the “Guide” button on my remote to identify the program: “Vespers de Notre-Dame de Paris!” I had been – accidentally? miraculously? – transported into the Evening Prayer liturgy of the cathedral, via the “Salt & Light” television network – for which I had no subscription!

Given the time difference – 5:30 p.m. in Thornhill is 10:30 p.m. in Paris – the service ended not much more than an hour before the fire broke out! Might this have been the last worship assembly in the iconic cathedral which has been deserted ever since? Less than a year later, only two weeks shy of Holy Week 2020, all churches in “Christendom” – indeed all places of religious worship – around the world have been deserted due to the global Coronavirus pandemic!

***Awake, arise, rejoice in Christ; with gladness
your Saviour greet! Trust his hands of liberal
love, indeed of infinite degree; trust his feet still
free to move and bleed – for millions ... and
for me!***

-- Christopher Smart

Hier ist eine Geschichte, die ich fuer ueber ein Jahr fuer mich behalten habe! Dies ist vielleicht der richtige Zeitpunkt, um sie zu erzaehlen. Ich hoffe, Sie finden sie in diesen dunklen Tagen erleuchtend.

Am Montag, dem 15. April 2019 - Montag in der Karwoche - gegen 17.30 Uhr war ich fassungslos, als ich die Schlagzeile auf CP24 las: „Feuer brennt in der historischen Kathedrale Notre Dame in Paris!“

Ein Bruchteil einer Sekunde später schockierte ein plötzlicher Stromstoss das System, der Fernsehschirm blieb hell rot! Dann ein ganz plötzlicher Blitz restaurierte das Bild - aber der Kanal hatte sich geändert! Ich sah jetzt ein prächtiges Kirchenheiligtum mit Geistlichen, Kantoren, Chören und einer Gemeinde, die auf Französisch beteten! Außerdem hatte mein PVR angefangen, das Programm aufzunehmen! Ich habe auf meiner Fernbedienung auf die Programmübersicht geklickt um das Programm zu identifizieren: “Vespers de Notre - Dame de Paris!” Ich war - aus Versehen? auf wundersame Weise? – Teilnehmer an der Abendgebetsliturgie der Kathedrale, über das „Salt & Light“ Fernsehnetz - für das ich gar nicht abonniert war!

Nach dem Zeitunterschied -- 17 .30 Uhr in Thornhill ist 22.30 in Paris – war der Gottesdienst nicht viel mehr als eine Stunde beendet vor dem das Feuer ausbrach! Könnte dies der letzte gemeinsame Gottesdienst in der legendären Kathedrale gewesen sein, die seitdem zerstört und verlassen ist? Weniger als ein Jahr später, nur noch zwei Wochen vor der Karwoche 2020, sind alle Kirchen der „Christenheit“ - in der Tat alle Orte der religiösen Verehrung - rund um die Welt verlassen aufgrund der globalen Coronavirus Pandemie!