



## THORNHILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Meine lieben christlichen Freunde,

Ich brauche Eure Hilfe.

In den letzten Monaten habe ich nach deutschen und englischen Wörtern gesucht, die sowohl in ihrer Schreibweise als auch in ihrer Bedeutung identisch sind. Ich tue dies nicht nur, um mein Gehirn zu trainieren und/oder die Alzheimer-Krankheit abzuwehren, sondern weil ich glaube, dass unser Gemeindebrief einen richtigen Namen haben sollte – einen Namen, der unserem Dienst und unserer Mission im Namen Jesu Christi entspricht. In anderen Gemeinden in denen ich gedient habe – in einigen als Pastor, in einigen als Mitglied – haben ihren Gemeindebriefen einen Namen gegeben: zum Beispiel, *Adventure, Fidelity, Doxology, The Call*, usw. Mein persönlicher Favorit kommt aus Peace Lutheran Church, Mississauga: *Friedensgespräche*.

Einen geeigneten Namen zu finden scheint relativ einfach zu sein für eine einsprachige Gemeinde. Aber für eine zweisprachige Gemeinde wie die unsere erfordert mehr Überlegung und Sensibilität. In den nächsten Sommermonaten, in denen wir die Rückkehr zur persönlichen Anbetung, Gottesdienst und Mission erwarten, ermutige ich Sie also, „Ihre Denkmütze aufzusetzen“ – wie meine Grundschullehrer zu sagen pflegten – und mir Ihre Vorschläge einzusenden, um unseren Gemeindebrief zu benennen. Wer weiß, neben der Möglichkeit, über unsere persönliche Teilnahme in unserer gemeinsamen christlichen Berufung nachzudenken, kann es sogar zu einer besseren geistigen, körperlichen und zweifellos seelischen Gesundheit beitragen.

Möge Gott uns alle mit Pfingsterneuerung segnen, im Namen und im Dienst Jesu Christi.

FFL

*Pastor Peter*

PS Apropos Sommer: ich habe Urlaub vom 7. Juli bis 21. Juli und vom 4. August bis 18. August. Aber Sie können mich gerne anrufen, wenn Sie in diesen Tagen Seelsorge benötigen. Außerdem planen und bereiten Tony, Rosarie und ich derzeit die Aufzeichnung von vier Video-Gottesdiensten vor, die für meine Urlaubssonntage auf unserer Website veröffentlicht werden: 18. & 25. Juli und 8. und 15. August.

My Dear Christian Friends,

I need your help.

In recent months I have been searching for German and English words which are identical, both in their spelling as well as their meaning. I do so not merely to exercise my brain and/or to ward off Alzheimer's Disease, but because I believe our congregational newsletter should have a proper name – that is a name proper to our ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ. Other congregations I have served – some as pastor; some as parishioner – have given their newsletter a name: *Adventure, Fidelity, Doxology, The Call*, etc. My personal favourite comes from Peace Lutheran Church, Mississauga: *Peace Talks*.

Coming up with an appropriate name seems relatively simple for a unilingual congregation. But for a bilingual congregation like ours the task requires more thought and sensitivity. So, over these next few months of summer, as we anticipate the return to in person worship, ministry and mission, I encourage you to “put your thinking caps on” – as my elementary schools teachers used to say – and send me your suggestions to name our newsletter. Who knows, in addition to affording an opportunity to reflect on our personal commitment to our common Christian vocation, it may even contribute to better mental, physical and, doubtless, spiritual health.

May God bless us all with Pentecost renewal, in the name and service of Jesus Christ.

PJL

*Pastor Peter*

p.s. Speaking of summer, I will be on vacation July 7 to July 21, and August 4 to 18.

But you are welcome to call on me should you have need for pastoral ministry during these days. Also, Tony, Rosarie and I are currently planning and preparing to record four video worship services to be posted on our website for my vacation Sundays: July 18 & 25 and August 8 and 15. On the first three vacation Sundays I will address the three topics suggested by members in response to the invitation made earlier this year.

Sermons By Request\* Schedule:

\*July 11: The Affect And Effect Of Prayer

\*July 18: Forgiven And Forgiving

\*August 8: Grace and Mercy

August 15: “*Speaking God*” (A Short Story)

## Council Highlights for newsletter April to May, 2021

### April 26<sup>th</sup>

- **The Eastern Synod Assembly** will be held, via zoom, at the end of June. Thank you Rosarie Lisinski, for volunteering to attend on behalf of our congregation.
- A **new Council member** is still needed. Please contact Nancy Moulson or Pastor Peter to see if this might be a good match for you.
- **Property** welcomes Ed Stahlberg to its committee.
- **Property** has many upcoming jobs: repainting the parking lot lines; rebuilding (or purchasing) the shed; getting the building's stucco/masonry repaired.
- Due to the continued Covid19 restrictions and concern, Council has voted to move the **Annual Meeting** to September 12.
- During the Pastor's summer vacation, Church Service videos will be available.
- Pentecost Sunday Service will be a video, from St. Paul's and Pastor Peter.
- We are renting part of our parking lot, to a Gardening Company, to store their trailer during the week. This brings in a little bit of extra income.
- **Offerings** are down. This is greatly affecting our budget and being able to pay bills, etc. We ask, and encourage, if you are able to send in your donations via Canada Post or the PAR program. Thank you for all your assistance.

### May 26<sup>th</sup>

- **Thank you** to all who helped clean up our gardens for this year's Spring cleaning. As we have not held any in person services, the only cleaning needed to be done was outdoors.
- **Metrolinx** is looking to extend the subway system from Toronto into Richmond Hill (2023). As such, they are looking to have it run under our neighbour's houses and possibly our church. We will be joining the Royal Orchard Homeowner Association, so that we are kept informed and to also be there to supportive our neighbourhood.
- **Thank you** to Fred Neitzert and Ed Stahlberg for repainting the parking lot lines.
- The 2021 contract, with Newlight, has still not arrived and must be in by May 31.
- Fred has looked into the cost of repairing the **shed**. Council approved the estimated cost of repair, of \$500.00, to redo the outside walls; as the framework itself is sturdy and there are no inside leakages.

- **Live streaming:** We will be starting to live stream one service per month, along with the continued audio live stream. This is accessed, the same way we access the weekly audio stream, our church's webpage. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Peter. A big Thank you to Tony Streisslberger, for all his work on this and the upcoming videos.
- Pastor Peter will be on **vacation** July 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. During those times, our church service videos will be made available via our webpage or YouTube.
- **Donations:** The offerings and donations are low. Hence, we are spending more than we receive. Pastor Peter will be sending out a letter regarding donations.
- **Property: Major repairs** need to be done on our church building. The stucco/masonry is peeling/cracking off of the walls. At this time, the estimates range from \$31,000.00 to \$43,000.00. Council will review and recommend a bid to go with during our next council meeting. This will then be presented, reviewed, discussed, and voted on at our Annual meeting. Information, regarding the bids and council's recommendation, will be sent out prior to our meeting.
- Property will also be looking to painting the entrance hall, caulking and painting in the washrooms, and changing the AC filters.

## **Annual Meeting**

Will now be held

**Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Points of note:

We will discuss and vote regarding the repairs to the building's stucco,  
Changes to the size of church council,  
Changes to the number of people needed in attendance at the Annual meeting.

**KAIROS AND CHRONOS** by Pastor Peter Lisinski

“The time has come,’ the walrus said, ‘to talk of many things ...” (from *Alice In Wonderland*)

In anticipation of our Annual General Meeting on September 12, Thornhill Lutheran Church (TLC) needs to begin the serious process of assessing our future expectations for our ministry within the congregation, and the possibilities for our mission in the world. I don’t need to tell you how much both the church and the world have changed in our brief sojourn on this planet – which has also changed, and continues to change, drastically! But I will tell you anyway ...

When I was a student at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (1982 – 1986), St. John’s Lutheran Church, Waterloo (the largest in Canada at the time), and St Mark’s, Kitchener each had two full time pastors, as well as a full time pastoral intern every year. In recent years these two congregations of the Eastern Synod’s former K+W Conference – where more than half of all Lutherans in Canada lived – together with Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Kitchener\*, merged to form one new congregation: Trillium Lutheran Church (located on the site of the former St. John’s, Waterloo). Over the span of my pastoral ministry these three congregations, once having a combined membership of some 3,500, made a decision in the name of faithful stewardship of their financial, property and professional resources, that their independent identities and entities should no longer to be sustained.

Prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, our congregational council had already been expressing concern about TLC’s declining worship attendance and financial sustainability – recent sale of the parsonage notwithstanding. We are an aging congregation, with an increasing number of members facing health restrictions which may make attending worship more difficult – particularly given the long distance many of our regulars have to drive – not to mention the fixed incomes of retirement and rising cost of living. The other German/English congregations in the GTA have a similar story to tell. Personally, I will be sixty-seven years of age on my next birthday, and have begun to know some of the inevitable changes and challenges that loom on the horizon of mortality, with which many of you are already well acquainted. Moreover we serve a neighbourhood where most newcomers are not Christians.

In this Pentecost season I encourage us all to give serious thought to the faithful stewardship of our financial, property and professional resources, and to pray for the inspiration and guidance of God’s Holy Spirit to renew us in the faithful ministry to which we are called as servants of God’s word and partners in Jesus Christ’s divine mission for the life of the world.

“The time has come ...” (Jesus, from Mark1:15)

\*Portugese has now surpassed German as the second most spoken language after English in the city formerly known as Berlin!