



THORNHILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bay Thorn Dr., Thornhill, Ont. L3T 3V2 Phone: 905-889-0873

Email: office@thornhill-lutheran.org Website: www.thornhill-lutheran.org

Pastor: Rev. Peter Lisinski Phone: 647-395-7649



NEWSLETTER
GEMEINDEBRIEF
2021



Frohe Ostern
Happy Easter

T H E P A S T O R ' S P A G E S

VIRTUAL COMPANIONS

Dear Companions in Christ,

As the month of March dissolves into April, Holy Week reaches its zenith in the seamless three-fold liturgy of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. This year, once again – just as last year – the virtual companionship we have had to share during the first, the second and now, apparently, the third wave of the Coronavirus continues in virtual worship gatherings around God’s Word and Sacraments.

The word ‘*companion*’ literally means “to break bread with”. In Saint Luke’s story of the first Easter Sunday, the presence of the risen Jesus is unrecognized by two of his travelling companions until Jesus reveals himself by breaking bread with them. In that moment, the two discouraged disciples remembered who Jesus is, and what he meant to them; they also remembered who Jesus has called them to be – faithful companions with himself and one another; and what Jesus has sent them to do with the rest of their lives – proclaim the Gospel truth of God’s love in the world.

To live *virtuously* – truthfully, honourably, peaceably, etc. – even if *virtually*, “for the remembrance” of Jesus, remains the calling and promise of our companionship in and with the church today. We *are* God’s Holy Communion, not only when we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion, face to face, arm in arm, in our public worship gatherings. We are the Holy Communion of saints also in the solitude of our personal “prayer closet” where, as Jesus promised in his Sermon on the Mount, God himself is present. In the very same passage (Matthew 6:6-13), Jesus teaches his disciples that even though we may be alone *physically*, we are *not* alone *spiritually*! Remember, the Lord’s Prayer begins, “Our Father...”

Holy Communion – the liturgy, yes; the sacrament, yes; but above all, the companionship of the church itself – is the means of grace that reveals God's undying love in the crucified and risen Jesus, who calls us and sends us to proclaim God's undying love for the whole world, in word and in deed.

Happy Easter, dearly Beloved! Christ is risen! So, too, shall we be raised!

Pastor Peter



WAS IST OSTERN?

Liebe Schwestern und Brüeder in Christus,

Fruehling, erwachende Natur und Ostern kommen zur selber Zeit zusammen. Das Wort „Ostern“ wird von „Ostara“ oder „Auster“ abgeleitet (Oesterreich/Austria?) das „Morgenroete“ oder „aufgehendes Tageslicht“ bedeutet. Aber Ostern ist etwa einzigartig und unverkennbar.

Ja, Ostern ist das alteste Fest der Christenheit. Ja, Ostern ist das Fest der Auferstehung Jesu. Aber verschieden von die Naturgesetze, die Auferstehungsbot-schaft steht im Gegensatz zu allen natuerlichen Erwartungen, und gegen allen menschlichen Moeglichkeiten und Berechnungen. Dennoch, Ostern ist die Mitte aller christlichen Feste und die Mitte der christlichen Botschaft, aber zeitlich und inhaltlich mit Karfreitag untrennbar verbunden. Karfreitag bezeugt Jesus als den, der fuer das Lebens der Welt am Kreuz gestorben ist. Mit Ostern sagt Gott „Ja!“

zu seinem Sohn, zu seinen Worten und Taten, zu seinem Leiden und Sterben, zu seiner Liebe und Leben.

Darum sagt Gott ein deutliches „Ja!“ zu allen Menschen, besonders die die an Jesus glauben und sich von Jesus umarmen lassen. Der Apostel Paulus schreibt: „Damit ist’s uns auch zur Gerechtigkeit gerechnet ... wenn wir glauben an Gott, der unsern Herrn Jesus auf-erweckt hat von den Toten, welchen ist um unsrer Sunden willen dahingegeben und um unsrer Rechtfertigung willen auferweckt.“ (Roemer 4:22-25)

Schließlich, Ostern ist das Fest des neuen Lebens, das in der Nachfolge Jesu beginnt und auch nach dem Tod nie endet!

Frohe Ostern, meine Lieben! Christus ist auferstanden! So werden wir auch!

Pastor Peter





BLESSINGS & BEST WISHES

We rejoice with our dear Sister in Christ,

Inge Liske,

as she and husband, Karl and their family

celebrate her 92nd birthday on April 24.

Congratulations!

IN MEMORIAM

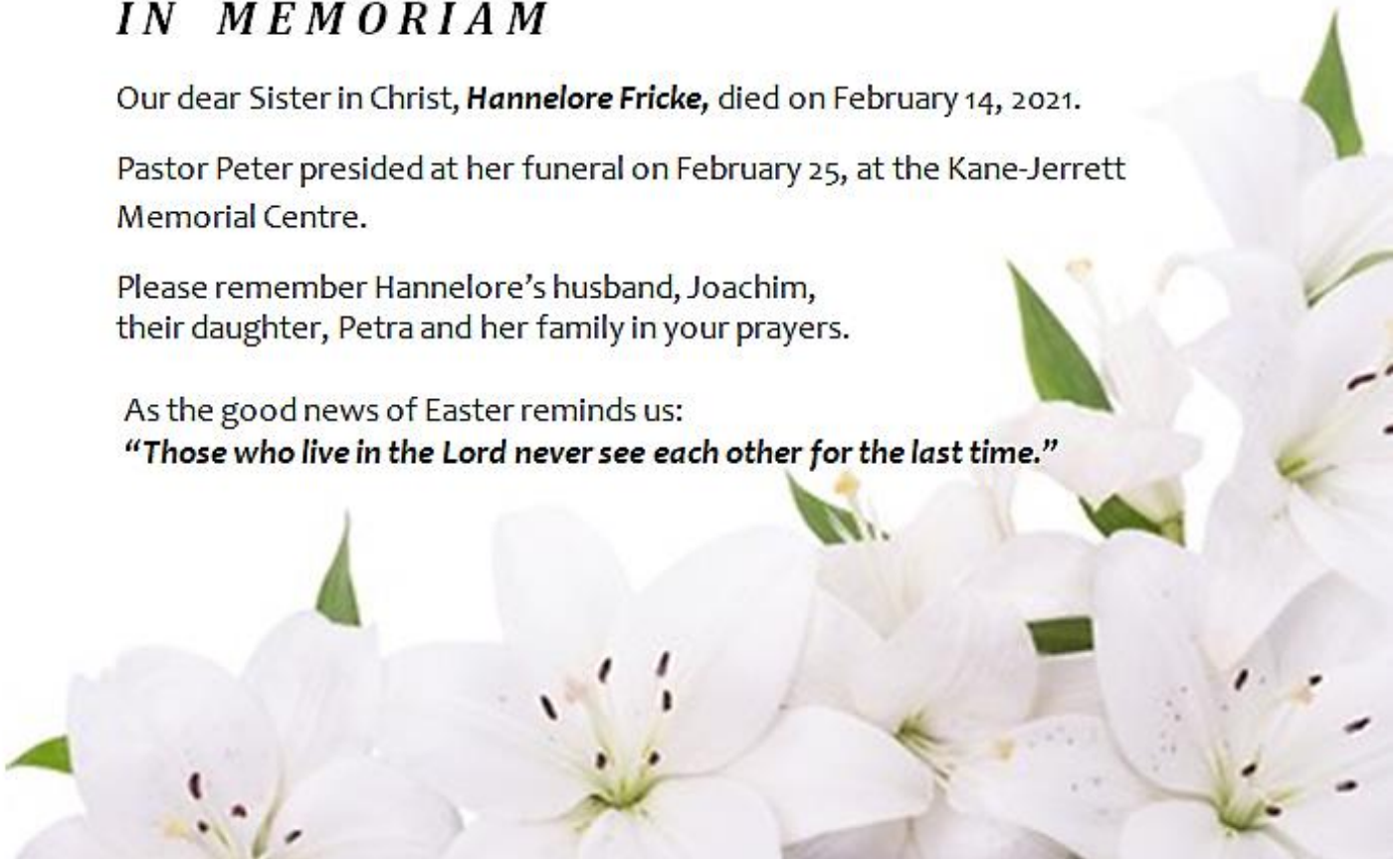
Our dear Sister in Christ, **Hannelore Fricke**, died on February 14, 2021.

Pastor Peter presided at her funeral on February 25, at the Kane-Jerrett Memorial Centre.

Please remember Hannelore's husband, Joachim, their daughter, Petra and her family in your prayers.

As the good news of Easter reminds us:

"Those who live in the Lord never see each other for the last time."



Council Highlights December 2020 to March 2021

December 16th, 2020

- Proposed budget for 2021 has been deferred to January; allowing for 2020's final fiscal numbers.
- To ensure member participation; the following motion was made: "Be it resolved that council recommends to decrease the number of council members from seven to a minimum of five people". To be discussed and voted on at the Annual meeting; a final vote to be held a few weeks later.
- The Eastern Synod provided some guidance as to how to facilitate an Annual meeting due this time of COVID19. Council made a motion "Be it resolved that due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 epidemic of 2020/2021, and keeping the health and safety of all our congregational members in mind, we the Thornhill Lutheran Church Council move that our Annual meeting be held no earlier than March 28, 2021 and no later than the end of May 2021, instead of constitutionally being held within the first six weeks of the year." Congregational members will be contacted to approve this motion. Council will review at next meeting.
- The Annual report will still be compiled and sent out in early 2021.
- A further motion was made: "Be it resolved that council recommends to change voting quorum from 25 to 18 eligible voting members". To be discussed and voted on at the Annual meeting; a final vote to be held a few weeks later.
- Members will be encouraged to donate to Yellow Brick House during the Christmas season. Information to be placed in our Newsletter and Pastor Peter's weekly email.
- Due to COVID19, during each council meeting, we evaluate when we can reopen in person services.
- An extra COVID cleaning log book will be placed in the front hall for our cleaning company.
- Thank you to Fred Neitzert, Edith Schiller, Eric Moulson, Geoff Moulson, Tyler Moulson, and Nancy Moulson for putting up our Christmas tree and Crèche.
- We were able to apply for 3 months of the wage subsidy program.
- Council agreed to ensure that the Eastern Synod receives our \$5,000.00 annual benevolence.

2021

January 27th

- Council reviewed and approved of the Proposed 2021 Budget; with the noted deficit of \$9,000.
- Council reviewed and approved the Preliminary 2021 Calendar.

- New lease agreement for Newlight Korean Church has been organized and forwarded to the congregation.
- 2019's Audit has been presented to council; assessed and accepted by council. Thank you to Deborah and Erin Tobin for undertaking this evaluation.
- The Church's Website, Facebook page, and Instagram page are to be updated.
- After our discussion with congregational members, the earliest possible date for our Annual meeting would be May 30th. We anticipate that we would be holding it outdoors.
- New Council member needed. Please contact a current council member or Pastor Peter for further information.
- Eastern Synod Convention to be held in June; those interested please speak with Pastor Peter or a council member.
- Upcoming Property issues; repainting of parking lot lines, storage shed needs to be rebuilt, cracks in the masonry. Repairs to begin in the spring.

FEBRUARY 25th

- Annual report has been completed; will be mailed and emailed out over the next month.
- COVID guidelines updated and approved.
- Confirming with the Synod, as long as any changes are documented, we can hold our 2021 Annual meeting whenever it is safe and possible.
- June 25-26th, Eastern Synod Assembly will be held on-line. If interested, please contact Pastor Peter or a council member.
- Thornhill church cluster will be holding their Lenten services online at 4:00pm. Pastor Peter will be leading March 21st service. Pastor Peter will also email out website information.
- Good Friday services will be held as following: English service will be via video and hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran church; German service will be held live. Both can be accessed via our website.
- Easter Sunday service will be held via video and can be accessed via our website or YouTube.
- Council recommends that, once we are able to open again, to dedicate a Service of Celebration Sunday.
- Council has decided, even though our church is physically in York region, that we will follow the COVID guidelines and colour zones of Toronto. This is to ensure maximum safety for all.
- Church website has been updated.

March 21st

- Still need a new council member; and a volunteer to attend the online Synod convention.
- 2 different future rental requests have been made and will be evaluated after more information is provided.
- Looking for volunteers for our annual Spring Cleaning, of our gardens only, end of April or May. Information to follow.
- Our treasurer noted that our offerings and donations are down. Even though we receive our dividend from our investments, we have been dipping into our savings. Pastor Peter will send out an Easter letter and a donation envelope will accompany it.
- Thank you to Martin Habekost for continually organizing and hosting our council zoom meetings.

Doris Lottermoser, Vice Chair

