



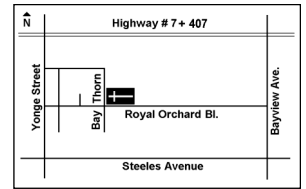
CHRIST THE KING - DIETRICH BONHOEFFER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

24 Orlon Crescent, Richmond Hill L4C 6S5, Ontario, (905) 881-9154

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Dear Congregation,

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." (Luke 2:15)

I recently made an addition to my wardrobe: a fitness tracker watch. When I've been sitting too long, it displays one red bar, and then if I keep on sitting, it displays even more red bars, encouraging me to get up and go for a short walk.

That first Christmas Evening, Luke tells us, the shepherd were lounging around, tending to their flocks, probably not doing too much, and the angels proclaimed to them the message of the Messiah's birth. It was like the red bars on my watch...their inner voices were telling them: "we've been lounging around for too long, it's time to get up and go, and see this wondrous sight!"

I think sometimes we all need motivation to get up and go see Jesus. We rely on some messenger, some prompting, some sermon or reading, that gives us a red bar to remind us that it's important to check in with our Creator and Ground of our Being. May you and yours respond to these promptings this Advent and Christmas season, and join with the shepherds in adoring the newborn Christ, our Lord!

Liebe Gemeinde,

Und da die Engel von ihnen gen Himmel fuhren, sprachen die Hirten untereinander: Lasst uns nun gehen gen Bethlehem und die Geschichte sehen, die da geschehen ist, die uns der Herr kundgetan hat. (Lukas 2:15, Lutherbibel 2017)

Ich habe vor kurzem eine Fitness-Tracker-Uhr gekauft. Wenn ich zu lange sitze, zeigt sie einen roten Strich an, und wenn ich weiter sitze, zeigt sie noch mehr rote Striche, die mich dazu ermutigen, einen kurzen Spaziergang zu machen.

Am ersten Weihnachtsabend, laut dem Lukasevangelium, faulenzten die Hirten und hüteten ihre Herden, und die Engel verkündeten ihnen die Botschaft der Geburt des Messias. Es war wie der rote Streifen auf meiner Armbanduhr ... ihre inneren Stimmen sagten ihnen: "Wir haben uns heute zu lange aufgehalten und nichts getan, es ist nun Zeit aufzustehen und zu gehen und diesen wunderbaren Anblick zu sehen!"

Ich denke, manchmal brauchen wir alle Motivation, aufzustehen und Jesus zu sehen. Wir verlassen uns auf einige Boten, einigen Aufforderungen, eine Predigt oder eine Lesung, welche uns wie einen roten Streifen an die Wichtigkeit erinnern, unseren Schöpfer und Grundlage unseres Seins aufzusuchen. Mögen Sie auf diese Aufforderungen dieser Advent- und Weihnachtszeit antworten, und schließen Sie sich mit den Hirten in Anbetung des Neugeborenen Christus, unseres Herrn an!

*Sincerely in Christ, / Herzlichst, im Dienst Christi,
Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer*

From the Pastor's Desk



[from left to right: James and Christine Peters, Stephen and Cathy Stoney]

On Sunday, July 31st, Pastor Stephen and Cathy Stoney of Attawapiskat Community Pentecostal Church gave a brief presentation on Attawapiskat, their church work and the annual food drive that they have been coordinating locally, along with Christine (daughter of Prisca Kenel) and James Peters.

Cathy is an elementary school teacher and Stephen is completing his teacher's certificate at Nippising University in North Bay. Stephen spoke passionately about how he became a Christian 19 years ago, and how the Holy Spirit turned his life around. As pastors in Attawapiskat they try hard to reach out beyond the walls of their church, and the people of Attawapiskat are seeing the good that their church is doing.

Pastor Stoney talked about the legacy of abuse through the residential school systems and also from local pedophile priests. He enumerated various issues currently affecting residents there, including the high cost of living, drug and gambling addictions, suicide and general lack of hope. In Attawapiskat one third of the community is under the age of 15 with many large families. With little outlook for future employment, low education investment per student from the Ministry of Education, only 25% graduate at the local high school. He tells the children: "make the most of your education now, you don't want to waste your life and go back to school as an old man like me."

He told part of his story: "My father lived on the land, on the trap lines, but I had to go to school on reserve, otherwise my parents would have been put in jail. I don't know how to live on the land, most younger people don't. We can't just go back to the way things were...The Cree word for Reserve means left-over or scrap, because that land set aside was of the worst possible quality, the land that no white

person ever wanted. Because of the government policies, you had to go on reserve to access the services. Attawapiskat is built on muskeg, and the dampness seeps into all the housing...most of which are in terrible shape. Some houses have 3 or 4 families living in them..."

Pastor Stoney loves proclaiming the good news of how Jesus can free you and turn your life around. He reminded us of the Apostle Paul's assertion (Colossians 3:11), that "there is neither Jew nor Greek, Scythian... First Nation or Caucasian...we're all Christian, and we need to seek first the Kingdom of God" (Luke 12): and put God as our first priority.

Attawapiskat is a remote Northern Cree village/ reserve near the western shores of James Bay, about 200 km north of Moosonee, but only accessible by ship (in summer) and airplane. A recent study showed that Attawapiskat, along with two other northern communities, has the highest cost of feeding a family of four in Ontario (around \$1,900 a month, with the Ontario average being \$850). This year again we provided space for storage and packing for the Christmas Drive. At least 5 churches (including this year: St. Luke's and Thornhill Presbyterian) and organizations collected non-perishable food and clothing, all of which is shipped up for free. This year we doubled the donations with almost 300 boxes! Many thanks to those from our church who contributed!

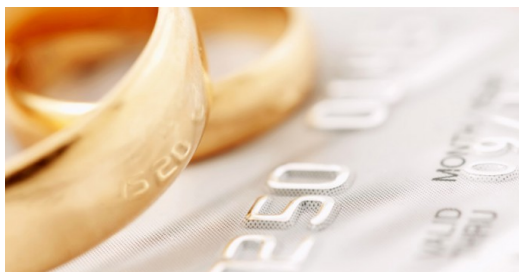


[Many of the boxes collected for Attawapiskat in our youth room]



We have a **new parking sign** in our parking lot! This reserves a space close to the entrance for pregnant women or parents with strollers. As we want to be a family-friendly church, I think this is a great idea, esp. as I now know first-hand how complicated it can be to get children in and out of car-seats and into strollers! Thank you to the Property Committee for installing it!

Pastor Sebastian



Spousal Credit Cards

It was brought to my attention by a member that if a spouse is an authorized user of the family's Credit Card, but not the primary account holder of any of them, that spouse's credit record is not affected (positively or negatively). If the account holder dies, the spouse may have difficulty getting credit, as they may not have any reliable credit rating (even if they were the ones paying the bills all this time!). My research also indicates that it is very rare for a Credit Card to be issued jointly to both spouses in Canada. If this situation applies to you (or to a friend!) check it out.

Telephone Phishing Scams

Seniors are being told to be aware of anyone asking for personal information over the telephone (posing as bank representatives etc.) If in doubt, do not give out personal information, and hang up or call the bank or institution directly yourself to make sure you are talking to a legitimate representative. Most reputable companies will never ask for personal information over the phone.



Members giving back...outside our walls, Part 7.

(The idea of this newsletter column is to highlight how various members and friends of CTKDB are giving of their time, talent, and treasure to support those in need *outside of our church.*)

On the week of November 12th, Andrew Steiger had his hair cut off for Cancer, donating it to "Angel Hair for Kids." "I thought it would be a good thing to do for someone," he explained. Andrew had been growing it for 2 years and 3 months, and it had to be 12" long. Hair is collected to make wigs for young Cancer patients who have lost their own through radiation or chemical treatments.



[Andrew in August 2014, before he started growing his hair out]



[Andrew on November 10th, 2016, before his hair cut]

Ein Morgengebet

Herr Jesus, im Schweigen dieses anbrechenden Morgen komme ich zu dir und bitte dich mit Demut und Vertrauen um deinen Frieden, deine Weisheit und deine Kraft.

Gib, dass ich heute die Welt betrachte mit Augen die voller Liebe sind, lass mich begreifen, dass alle Herrlichkeit der Kirche aus deinem Kreuz als deren Quelle entspringt.

Lass mich in meinem Nächsten den Menschen empfangen, den du durch mich lieben willst

und gib mir die Bereitschaft ihm mit Hingabe zu dienen
und alles Gute, das du in ihn hineingelegt hast zu entfalten.

Meine Worte sollen Sanftmut ausstrahlen und mein ganzes Verhalten soll Frieden stiften.

Nur jene Gedanken, die Segen bringen, sollen in meinem Geiste haften bleiben. Verschließe meine Ohren vor jedem übelwollenden Wort und jeder böswilligen Kritik.

Meine Zunge möge nur dazu dienen das Gute hervorzuheben.

Vor allem bewirke, o Herr, dass ich so voller Frohmut und Wohlwollen bin, dass alle die mir begegnen deine Gegenwart und deine Liebe spüren.

Bekleide mich mit dem Glanz deiner Güte und deiner Schönheit, damit ich dich im Verlauf dieses Tages offenbare.

Amen.

hl. Miriam v. Abellin



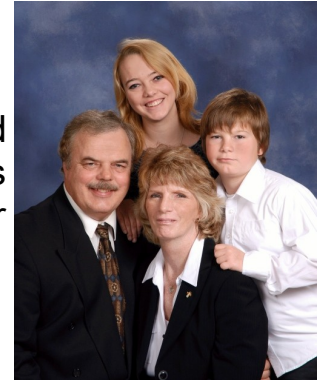
On September 6th, the **new Consul General Peter Fahrenholtz** (Picture ©The New Times) began his work at the German Consulate.



On September 11th, the new pastor of First Lutheran Church (Bond Street), **Dawn Leger** was installed. While Dawn does not speak German, German services are still being organized bi-monthly by guest pastors and lay leaders. First Lutheran is attempting to re-vision their ministry into being more downtown- and student-focused.

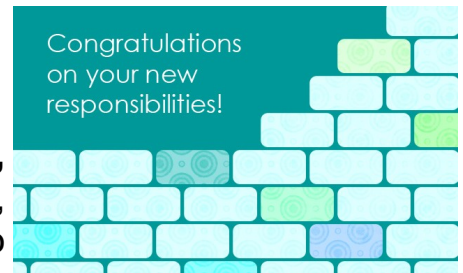
Rev. Leger will be preaching at our church for our pulpit exchange Sunday on January 29th (when Pastor Sebastian is at St. George's).

Farewell to **Peter, Ann and Alicia and Alex Bender**, who moved in August to Bobcaygeon. Ann Bender was a member for 5 years on Council and is stepping down. Thank you so much for your dedication to our church, Ann!



Thank you to **Gitta Urbschat**, who is stepping down as member of the Mutual Ministry! Gitta recently moved to a retirement home with her partner David Dunn a little further away on Dufferin.

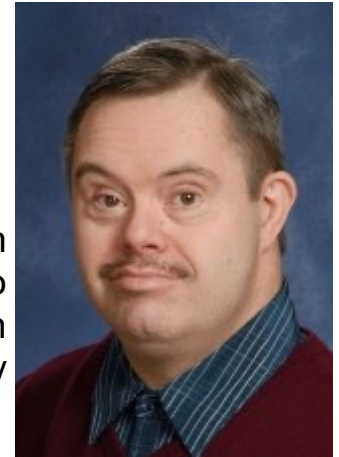
Thank you to new members stepping up: **Ruth Boothby, Gunther and Lise Kunzelmann** onto Mutual Ministry, and **Denise Jack** (appointed for a partial term) onto Council!



Thank you to **Edith Schiller for 35 years serving as Treasurer** of our church! (Edith had served for 7 years as Treasurer of the Dietrich Bonhoeffer congregation) What a milestone!



Thank you to **Prisca Kenel**, who is stepping down from Council before February due to personal reasons. Thank you for your contributions, and for your willingness to let your name stand for election!



..."He's shown us how to see the good in all people, to listen more to others, to see the soul and heart below the intellect, to understand that what inspires is not always something that can be explained, but something that can still be seen if you truly look."

(Frank Neitzert, remembering his late brother, Robert)



A generous bequest of \$10,000 was received from the estate of Karl Krutzler for a **new LED church sign**. This sign will be hopefully installed in Spring 2017. Karl was a long-time supporter of our church, active on the property committee and very involved in the building addition of 1991-2. His legacy of giving to our property was thus extended even until after his passing.

The interim pastor during my paternity leave, Rev. Rick Kwiatkowski, was recently called to Grace Lutheran, Oakville. Congratulations, Rick!



On Sunday, November 2nd, we welcomed two new youth to the new **confirmation program 2016-17: Andrew Steiger** (mentor: Diana Habekost) and **Sophia Lupke** (teacher: Rev. Hanssmann).

On Saturday, September 17th, Church Council had their annual retreat, this time at the Schiller residence. We were treated to fine china and a sumptuous lunch! Our brief congregational vision statement is still: Growing in faith... Connecting people to Jesus Christ and to each other.

Our **2016/17 Council Goals** were defined as:

- 1) Spring Reformation Challenge: Celebrating 500 years of Reformation (Deborah & Doris)
- 2) Property Partnership with Newlight Presbyterian (Edith and Doris)
- 3) Finding out: "what is God up to in our Neighbourhood?", and "what is feeding our souls?" (Council & Rene)
- 4) Intentional Missional opening Devotions at meetings (Pastor Sebastian & council)
- 5) New Monetization (Rene)
- 6) Visitations by Pastor & Laypersons (Pastor Sebastian, Prisca & Marika)



[clockwise from top left: Doris Lottermoser, Deborah Tobin, Rene Samulewitsch, Prisca Kenel, Marika Samulewitsch, Edith Schiller]



Our new English Bible Study began on November 9th. We're discussing the book "The Last Week" by Borg and Crossan. We'll be meeting for 10 sessions on Wednesday mornings until April. If interested, please talk to the Pastor.

Church Name Change

Although our congregation decided to change our name to "Thornhill Lutheran" back in May, there still were a few hurdles to overcome. Synod Council approved our name change at their November meeting, and so Church Council can proceed with informing the Canada Revenue Agency, and changing the ownership of the property deeds. Other various tasks are ongoing, such as getting a new sign, designing a new logo, bank changes, and changing our website domain. We are quite positive that the major elements will be in place by January 1st 2017.



We therefore kindly ask you, starting January 1st, to please make out your offering cheques to "Thornhill Lutheran".

The Canada Revenue Agency is quite strict about issuing tax receipts based only on the name to which the donation was attached, so if you write a cheque in the new year to "Christ the King-Dietrich Bonhoeffer", we will have to return your cheque.

Thank you for understanding.



Our 2016 St. Martin's Lantern Walk was again a success, with thanks to Denise Jack and Jutta Gleue for helping with the goodies! Many children came out who enjoy the particularly German tradition of walking in the dark carrying colourful lanterns, and remembering the story of the generous St. Martin of Tours. We also had three families attend who had never been to our church!



[Albert Christ, long-time treasurer of St. John's Lutheran, talks to Edith Schiller, our long-time treasurer)

On Sunday, October 23rd, we had a **special guest: Albert Christ** from St. John's Winnipeg. He is the Treasurer of DELKINA (the German Lutheran Conference in North America) and was here for the executive planning conference (Oct 20-23), along with myself (as President), and the rest of the executive. We were planning (among other things) our biennial conference which will be held in Toronto and Niagara Falls in October 2017. Highlight of the

conference will be a world-class symposium at First Lutheran and a joint Reformation service with all 5 German Lutheran Toronto churches at Martin Luther Church in Etobicoke on Sunday, October 15th. More information to follow!

Zur 500. Reformationsjubiläum gibt es eine **neue Ausgabe der Lutherbibel**, die sogenannte Lutherbibel 2017. Sie revidiert die Ausgabe von 1984 und verbessert die Genauigkeit und Verständlichkeit, wobei Sie zum anderen Teil die "Luthersprache" mehr hervorhebt. Die Bibel ist auf www.die-bibel.de erhältlich, aber wer eine Kopie möchte, spreche mit Pastor Sebastian.



On Sunday, November 2nd, **Jeff Pym from Lutheran Planned Giving** gave a workshop on how to give charitably to church through one's testament and will. He noted that people give mainly for 3 reasons, because of 1) their feeling of God's constant presence in their lives, 2) they find the church's ministry is important, 3) they are concerned for the church's future. **Jeff called giving through one's will "making a statement of what we lived for".**

If church, your faith and God have been an important part of your life, why not leave a legacy after your passing to the church, so that the church's ministry can continue? Our ministry at CTKDB is only possible due to the generosity of those who have gone before us (we stand on their shoulders), and especially those who invested in real estate 50 years ago, making us a wealthy congregation today.

If you have already made a planned gift to the church, thank you! Would you be willing to either tell the pastor, or Jeff (so that you can be thanked while you're still alive!), or potentially talk about why you did so (and encourage generosity in others)? Please also note that as our church's name will change next year, you probably will need to update your will. For those of you who missed the talk, Pastor Sebastian has some interesting handouts.



This Year, Christmas Day 2016 and New Year's Day 2017 fall on Sundays! The Worship and Arts Committee felt these would be natural dates for a church swap with St. Paul's as attendance is anticipated to be low. So, on **December 25th at 10:30 a.m.**, you are invited to join St. Paul's for English Communion, and on January 1st, St. Paul's will join us for a bilingual hymn sing service at 11:00 a.m. (allowing people to sleep in a little longer after partying all night!)

This year, we'll again do a Lenten church swap with St. Paul's Richmond Hill. This year, our **Ash Wednesday service on March 1st** will be at St. Paul's at 7.30 p.m., and the Maundy Thursday service on April 13th will be at our church.



Sunday Service Times: 10 a.m.

As mentioned in last newsletter, on a trial basis Council had approved cancelling the 11 a.m. service. This will continue until February. This change will be brought forward to the annual congregational meeting. The other change on a trial basis from December to February is that Sunday service times will all start at 10 a.m. (except Easter). This should simplify our schedule, and this also will be discussed at our annual meeting.



Weekly Bowling

Do you like to get out, stay active and meet new friends? Then come bowling! Meeting times are mornings, usually Thursdays or Fridays at World Bowl, 9 East Wilmot St, (near Leslie and Highway 7). Please contact Karin Baar for more information.





At Sunday School they were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Johnny was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny, what is the matter?"

Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

A funeral service is being held in a church for a woman who has just passed away. At the end of the service, the pallbearers carrying the casket accidentally bump into a wall jarring the casket. They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the woman is actually alive. She lives for 10 more years and then dies. A ceremony is again held at the same church and at the end the pallbearers are again carrying the casket out. As they are walking, the husband calls out, "Watch out for the wall!"

Thornhill Village Festival 2016.



In mid-September the good people of Thornhill held their "Village Festival".

the drizzly weather on that Saturday did not dampen the spirit of fun for the event. Our Lutheran Church as part of the "Thornhill Christian Ministry" showed its presence.

We, Ruth Boothby and myself worked our shift on that morning. Greeting and talking to interested people, explaining and informing with the help of fliers, was our task.

It was a happy day! Many businesses, artisans and civically minded organization and groups had put up their stalls, "putting their best foot forward" as we say.

Next time we should have some items to show off, like the hand-woven floor mats, made from discarded and washed milk bags, which Pastor Dennis Jones displayed on our table. They surely found good use among the churches that offer beds for overnight stays for homeless people.

Well done, Pastor Dennis!

It was a lovely morning for Ruth and myself, Leni Schwartzel.

Eastern Synod Assembly, June 23-25, 2016 Highlights

“Liberated by God’s grace” was the theme of this years’ biennial conference which was held in Toronto at the International Plaza Hotel in Mississauga. I was very honoured to be the lay delegate of our congregation. Having never been to this event it was quite overwhelming. Almost 300 clergy, lay delegates, and guests came together for worship, hearing synod news in the form of many reports, voting for delegates to attend the national convention, and for making policy decisions. To make new delegates, such as myself, feel more comfortable a “first time delegate orientation” was held right in the beginning.



Then the conference started with a moving service by national bishop of the ELCIC, Susan Johnson, with the theme: “Human beings are not for sale”, stating that modern slavery is rampant giving examples such as human trafficking and child labour.

After that we listened to a report by synod Bishop Michael Pryce who chaired the entire conference, quite a formidable task. He stated that world wide there are currently 79 million Lutherans, an impressive number, but that this number is in decline, causing many congregations to struggle. We listened to many reports such as by the synod treasurer and the executive director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief as to what has been achieved with money we as a congregation donate, especially in the sponsoring of refugees and building schools in Jordan.

Worship again started the next day with the theme “Creation is not for sale”. We are stewards of this world God gave us and how it is being terribly exploited. Then the most distinguished guest was introduced, Bishop Munib Younan, bishop for Jordan and the Holy Land as well as president of the Lutheran World Federation. His main mesmerizing speech was for me the highlight of the convention: Next year marks the 500’s anniversary of the Reformation: How on October 31, 1517, the humble monk Martin Luther had the audacity to post 95 theses on the castle church In Wittenberg, Germany, criticizing the Catholic Church and Pope.

The second days’ evening session was spent hearing how many congregations have embraced the Biennium Reconciliation Incentive, reconciling the wrongdoings to our native people such as the infamous residential schools. We listened to a moving speech by a distinguished guest, Chief Ava Hill from the Six Nations Reserve, who gave us a realistic portrayal of what horrible things went on in those schools but

how it is now time for reconciliation.

The third day opened with the theme: “Salvation is not for sale”, making us realize that only by God’s grace can we receive salvation, again Martin Luther’s main statement. Among other highlights was a report on the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary which is undergoing major renovations and is changing its name to Martin Luther University College.

After adjournment of official business, a banquet was held with an informal gathering before where we could mingle and chat with delegates who we have met over the past three days. It was a wonderful opportunity to be with some many like-minded and friendly Lutherans from all of eastern Canada. I highly recommend to all attending a conference such as this.

Edward Stahlberg

On October 16th, youth from CTKDB and St. Paul’s came together to play “**Bubble Soccer**”. What is Bubble Soccer you might ask? Think about a large air plastic air mattress wrapped around into a bubble shape, which you wear like a backpack, and then you play various games which involve you hitting other players and potentially being knocked down. Lots of fun and an amazing workout!
[Top picture: Pastor Sebastian on the left, and other youth]



Invitations - Einladungen

To our Special Worship Services and Events
Zu unseren besonderen Gottesdiensten und Veranstaltungen

Sunday, December 11

10:00 a.m.

Joint Advent / Christmas Family Service – *Adventsfeier*
Joint Family Service followed by Potluck Lunch. Santa will make an appearance. Raffle prizes from the Bazaar will also be given out.



Zweisprachiger Gottesdienst mit anschließendem Potluck Lunch. Der Weihnachtsmann kommt vorbei. Die Preise aus der Tombola sind an diesem Festtag zu gewinnen!

Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services – *Weihnachtsgottesdienste*

*Christvesper – Deutscher Gottesdienst**

5.45 p.m.

Christvesper – Deutscher Gottesdienst

7.30 p.m.

English Candlelight Service

**Der erste Gottesdienst richtet sich vor allem an Kinder und ist oft überfüllt. Im zweiten Gottesdienst findet sich meist leichter Platz.*



Sunday, December 25

10.30 a.m.

Nativity of our Lord

English Christmas Service
at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
10131 Bayview Avenue, Richmond Hill



Saturday, December 31

3:00 p.m.

German New Year's Eve Service

Deutscher Silvestergottesdienst mit Abendmahl



Sunday, January 1

11:00 a.m.

Bilingual Hymn Sing Service followed by Potluck
Coffee Hour

Zweisprachiger Gesangs-Gottesdienst gefolgt von Kaffee und Kuchen



Invitations - Einladungen

To our Special Worship Services and Events
Zu unseren besonderen Gottesdiensten und Veranstaltungen

Sunday, January 15, 2017

10.00 a.m. Joint Family Baptism Service
Gemeinsamer Taufgottesdienst



Sunday, January 22, 2017

Annual Report available
Der Jahresbericht 2015 ist erhältlich.



Tuesday, January 31, 2017

7.30 p.m. Lay Reader's Meeting *Lay Readers*



Sunday, February 5, 2017

10:00 a.m. Joint Family Service – *Gemeinsamer Familiengottesdienst*
followed by Potluck Coffee Hour and **Annual Meeting**
Im Anschluss an den Gottesdienst findet unsere
Jahreshauptversammlung statt. Kaffee und Kuchen
werden gereicht.



Wednesday, March 1, 2017

7.30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
10131 Bayview Avenue, Richmond Hill



Friday, March 4, 2017

1:30 p.m. World Day of Prayer / Weltgebetstag
at Thornhill Presbyterian Church,
271 Centre St, Thornhill



Sunday, March 5, 2017

10:00 a.m. Joint Family Service of Holy Communion
(Installation of newly elected Council Members)
followed by Potluck Coffee Hour
Gemeinsamer Familiengottesdienst
(Einführung der neugewählten Gemeinderatsmitglieder),
gefolgt von Kaffee und Kuchen



Congregational News – Aus dem Gemeindeleben



As always, our thoughts and prayers are with all our members and friends who are sick, in hospital or at home. We also pray for their caregivers who are doing all they can.

Funerals

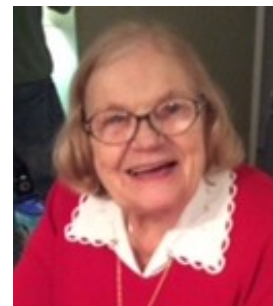
Erhard Baar (85 y., member) Aug. 27, 2016

Robert Neitzert (56 y., member) Oct. 1, 2016

Wilma Dreger (96 y., member) Oct. 18, 2016

Birthday

Emma Bender will celebrate her 90th birthday on February 2, 2017.
We wish her all the best.



Die Weihnachtsfeier der **Frohen Runde** findet am Sonnabend den 17. Dezember um 14 Uhr statt. Wir freuen uns auch über alle Gäste, die daran teilnehmen möchten.

Erika Koepke

Greetings from the Newsletter Committee

The members of this Committee will always welcome contributions for upcoming newsletters. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of the undersigned if you wish to work with us.

Meanwhile, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and friends a blessed Christmas season combined with all good wishes for the New Year.

Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer, Diana Habekost, Gisela Neitzert.



Moll Berczy 20th Anniversary



On November 13th, the Moll Berczy German Senior's home celebrated its 20th anniversary. Originally founded by members and pastors of the 7 German Toronto churches, it still provides excellent care in a family environment for German-speaking seniors. Recent renovations will be completed early in 2017, and they're looking great! For more information, call (416) 497-3639.

[Picture: the wonderful staff of Moll Berczy getting recognition from Board Chair Christian Ceconi]



Papst Paul war gestorben vor vierhundert Jahren und ist dann, wie üblich, gen Himmel gefahren. Und als er dort oben gut angekommen, da hat er den güldenen Schlüssel genommen. Es ist ja bekannt, daß früher und itzt jeder Papst einen Schlüssel zum Himmel besitzt. Doch siehe, der Schlüssel, der wollte nicht passen. Der Petrus hat trotzdem ihn eintreten lassen und sprach (sein Antlitz war bartumrändert): "Der Luther hat nämlich das Schloß verändert...!"

Am Ufer des Sees Genezareth fragt ein Tourist einen Schiffer, was eine Überfahrt kostet. "Fünzig Dollar!" - "Was? Das ist ja Wahnsinn!" entrüstet sich der Tourist. "Ja wissen Sie" belehrt ihn der Schiffer, "Jesus ging über den See zu Fuß." - "Kein Wunder", meint der Fremde, "bei diesen Preisen!"

Ein Rabbi betet zu Gott: "Lieber Gott, mein Sohn ist Christ geworden!"

Gott: "Ja und, meiner auch!"

Rabbi: "Und was hast du gemacht?"

Gott: "Ein Neues Testament geschrieben!"

Special Christmas Offering

A special blue envelope is included with your regular envelopes for a donation to **Canadian Lutheran World Relief**. They handle centrally all donated funds for global aid and relief from all congregations. Should you prefer to donate to another cause or to the congregation, please mark your envelope accordingly.



*Einen blauen Umschlag für Spenden an **Canadian Lutheran World Relief** finden Sie in dem Kästchen mit Ihren regulären Umschlägen. Diese Institution leitet alle Geldspenden an notleidende Gemeinden in vielen Ländern weiter. Sollten Sie es vorziehen für eine andere Organisation oder für die Gemeinde selbst eine Weihnachtsspende zu machen, vermerken Sie das bitte auf dem Umschlag.*
Gitta Urbschat

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



Feed the Hungry

Once again we will be collecting in December non-perishable food items and monetary donations for the Thornhill Christmas Assistance Programme.

Last year over 100 needy families in the area received Christmas baskets through this programme, run primarily out of Thornhill United Church.



Christmas Tree Set up and Cookie Exchange

This year's Christmas Tree Set up and decoration will happen on Thursday December 22 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Your hard work will be rewarded during a Cookie Exchange afterwards.

Just bring in some of your cookies and exchange them for some other ones from your congregational members. If you be interested in this event, please contact the Pastor or Diana Habekost so it can be arranged.

More info on the next page!



What is a Cookie Exchange?

Simplify your holiday **baking** by attending our Cookie Exchange after the Christmas Tree Set up on December 22 at 7:00 p.m. You will end up with a flavorful colorful assortment of yummy treats which should last you through the holidays. Everyone who attends should bring enough of one kind of cookies for everyone to share (a dozen per person and one for tasting) and their recipe. At the event, sample the treats, then trade your delicious cookies and enjoy the time with friends.



If you would like to participate at the cookie exchange, please contact the Pastor or Diana Habekost. We are looking forward to seeing you!

Annual Meeting – Jahreshauptversammlung

Please be sure to attend the Annual Meeting on February 5. You will be informed about past, present and future developments and events concerning our congregation and will be asked to vote on items important to all of us. This includes election of Council Members, and/or members of Committees. If you would like more information, please contact the Council Chairperson Rene Samulewitsch at 647-588-7363,



E-Mail: rene_s01@hotmail.com Your presence is urgently requested.

Bitte kommen Sie am 5. Februar nach dem Gottesdienst zu unserer Jahreshauptversammlung. Wir informieren über das vergangene Jahr und bereiten uns auf das laufende Jahr vor. Auch müssen wir wahrscheinlich über gewisse Punkte abstimmen.

*Für weitere Informationen, wenden Sie sich bitte an Rene Samulewitsch, Vorstandsleiter, 647-588-7363, E-Mail: rene_s01@hotmail.com
Ihre Anwesenheit ist dringend erforderlich.*

What's In a Name Change?

Changing a name is a challenging chore
Discussions and surveys even more.
As one congregation united we stand
Wanting to share with open hands.
Still keeping us true to our former past
We decided on Thornhill Lutheran at last.
And now we ask the community nearby
To join with us in embracing our mission
We pray that God will bless our decision.

Submitted by Ruth Boothby



TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Update

Jan. 1, 2016 - Oct. 31, 2016

OFFERINGS & DONATIONS

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Budget	82,750.00	81,666.66
Actual	<u>-68,258.65</u>	<u>-50,481.25</u>

SHORTFALL Oct. 31, 2016

14,491.35 31,185.41

Please help us to eliminate our SHORTFALL of

31,185.41

ATTENDANCE

1943

1675

Treasurer: Edith Schiller, October 31, 2016

Council Highlights



Summer – Fall 2016:

- Responding to a recommendation from the **Worship and Arts Committee**, Council approved changes in Sunday services on a trial basis until the end of the year: Eleven o'clock English service eliminated; Engage eliminated on a trial basis until the end of the year (2016); there would be a minimum of 2 German services a month (5 services in Dec.)
- Change to using seasonal bulletins to reduce expenditures.
- Delkina Conference 2017: Toronto meetings at First Lutheran- *main service likely Martin Luther Church.*
- Investments are doing very well.
- Almost \$26,000.00 less offerings to date than proposed budget. The Frauengruppe transferred \$1,000.00 from their account to the General Account. The general account needed funds from the Emergency fund because decline in revenues.

PLEASE ATTEND OUR FINANCIAL TOWN HALL MEETING ON SUNDAY NOV. 27TH

- There was a miscommunication regarding our September BBQ. There were no sausages. This was referred to Fellowship.
- Thanksgiving: October 9th as a potluck luncheon. Donations received would go to the Yellow Brick House.
- In preparation for the draft budget, Council recommended reducing our Secretary's hours from 400 to about 100-150 hrs. next year.
- Council has gathered several quotes for new LED signage to introduce our name change. Our Church received a gift dedicated for this project.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah Tobin

We invite you to help us celebrate Advent and Christmas!

Sunday, December 11, 2016

at 10:00 a.m.:

Joint Family Service

followed by Advent Celebration Afternoon

St. Nicholas comes for a Visit

Saturday, December 24, 2016

at 4:00 p.m.:

Christvesper (German)

at 5:45 p.m.:

Christvesper (German)

at 7:30 p.m.:

Candlelight Service (English)

Sunday, December 25, 2016

at 10:30 a.m.:

English Christmas Service

at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

10131 Bayview Avenue, Richmond Hill

Saturday, December 31, 2016

at 3:00 p.m.:

Silvester-Gottesdienst (German)

mit Abendmahl

Sunday, January 1, 2017

at 11:00 a.m.:

Joint Hymn Sing Service

followed by Potluck Coffee Hour

December 2016

■ Christ the King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Church Office: 905-889-0873, Pastor: 905-881-9154)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>27</div> <div>Advent 1</div> <div>■ 9:30 AM English Service</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>■ 10:30 AM Office Hours – 2 PM</div>	<div>30</div> <div>■ 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM</div> <div>■ 6:30 PM Messy Church</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>
<div>4</div> <div>Advent 2</div> <div>■ 10:00 AM German Communion Service</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>■ 10:30 AM Office Hours – 2 PM</div> <div>■ 2:00 PM Frauen-gruppe</div> <div>■ 6:30 PM Confirmation</div>	<div>7</div> <div>■ 10:30 AM Bible Study</div> <div>■ 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM</div> <div>■ 7:30 PM Mutual Ministry</div>	<div>8</div> <div>■ 7:00 PM Kontaktkreis @ Martin Luther</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>
<div>11</div> <div>Advent 3</div> <div>■ 10:00 AM Joint Family Service</div> <div>■ 11:30 AM Advent Afternoon</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>■ 10:30 AM Office Hours – 2 PM</div>	<div>14</div> <div>■ 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM</div> <div>■ 8:00 PM Council</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div> <div>■ 2:00 PM Frohe Runde</div>
<div>18</div> <div>Advent 4</div> <div>■ 10:00 AM German Service</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>■ 10:30 AM Office Hours – 2 PM</div>	<div>21</div> <div>■ 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM</div>	<div>22</div> <div>■ 7:00 PM Christmas Tree setup and cookie exchange</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Christmas Eve</div> <div>■ 4:00 PM German Service</div> <div>■ 5:45 PM German Service</div> <div>■ 7:30 PM English Service</div>
<div>25</div> <div>Christmas Day</div> <div>■ 10:30 AM English Service at St. Paul's Lutheran, 10131 Bayview</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>	<div>31</div> <div>New Year's Eve</div> <div>■ 3:00 PM German Communion Service</div>

January 2017

■ Christ the King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Church Office: 905-889-0873, Pastor: 905-881-9154)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Name of Jesus ■ 11:00 AM Joint Hymn Sing Service	Pastor away					
		■ 2:00 PM Frauen-gruppe				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Pastor away Baptism of our Lord ■ 10:00 AM German Service		■ 11:00 AM Office Hours – 2 PM	■ 10:30 AM Bible Study ■ 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM ■ 7:30 PM Messy Church Planning		Pastor's Day Off	Pastor's Day Off
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Epiphany 2 ■ 10:00 AM Joint Service	■ 6:30 PM Confirmation	■ 11:00 AM Office Hours – 2 PM	■ 10:30 AM Bible Study ■ 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM ■ 8:00 PM Council		Pastor's Day Off	Pastor's Day Off ■ 2:00 PM Frohe Runde
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
DELKINA Sunday Epiphany 3 ■ 10:00 AM German Service	■ 7:30 PM Christian Education	■ 11:00 AM Office Hours – 2 PM	■ 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM		Pastor's Day Off	Pastor's Day Off ■ 2:00 PM Circle of Friends – Craft Circle
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Epiphany 4 ■ 10:00 AM English Service with Rev. Dawn Leger	■ 6:30 PM Confirmation	■ 11:00 AM Office Hours – 2 PM ■ 7:30 PM Lay Reader's Meeting	■ 10:30 AM Bible Study ■ 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM ■ 3:30 PM Newsletter		Pastor's Day Off	Pastor's Day Off

February 2017

■ Christ the King – Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Church Office: 905-889-0873, Pastor: 905-881-9154)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>29</div> <div>Epiphany 4</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM English Service with Rev. Dawn Leger 	<div>30</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Confirmation 	<div>31</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Office Hours – 2 PM 7:30 PM Lay Reader's Meeting 	<div>1</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Bible Study 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM 3:30 PM Newsletter 	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>
<div>5</div> <div>Epiphany 5</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Joint Service 11:30 AM Annual Meeting 	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Office Hours – 2 PM 2:00 PM Frauen-gruppe 	<div>8</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM 	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>
<div>12</div> <div>Epiphany 6</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM German Service 	<div>13</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Confirmation 	<div>14</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Office Hours – 2 PM 	<div>15</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Bible Study 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM 8:00 PM Council 	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Frohe Runde
<div>19</div> <div>Epiphany 7</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM English Service 	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Office Hours – 2 PM 	<div>22</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM 	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Circle of Friends – Craft Circle
<div>26</div> <div>Transfiguration</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM German Service 	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 AM Office Hours – 2 PM 	<div>1</div> <div>Ash Wednesday</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 AM Bible Study 2:00 PM Office Hours – 4 PM 7:30 PM Service at St. Paul's Lutheran, 10131 Bayview 	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Pastor's Day Off</div>