



THORNHILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

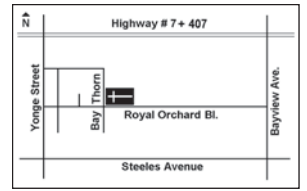
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Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

Happy New Year!

The season of Advent brings with it the call to *reflection* on our personal spiritual condition and *renewal* of our Christian vocation as followers of Jesus Christ. Advent's *traditional* language uses the words *judgment* and *repentance*; and Advent's *original* theme was *preparation* for the "second coming" of Jesus Christ in *anticipation* of humanity's final destiny in God's eternal salvation.

During our lifetimes, however, the quiet solemnity Advent invites has been lost in often hectic preparations for Christmas celebrations. Not that I mind in the least! I enjoy this "most wonderful time of the year" as much as anyone, and I get just as caught up in the excitement like everyone else. But this year, rather than *reducing* our time for worship, prayer and Bible reading, claiming to be "too busy", I suggest *increasing* our time for spiritual discipline!

Our patron saint, Martin Luther, found this a much more effective approach in meeting the demands of his busy life as a husband, father, university professor, and parish pastor: "I have so many things to do today," he often reminded himself, "I had best double my usual length of time for daily devotion."

To test the "method" of such "madness", in addition to our weekly Sunday worship, I am planning mid-week worship services at 12:00 o'clock noon on Wednesdays, December 4, 11 and 18. Over these three weeks, we will read from the Psalms, the Gospel of Matthew, and selected passages from Frances de Sales sixteenth century book, *Introduction to the Devout Life*, as well as *Martin Luther's Christmas Book*.

I hope you will join me ...

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Peter



Lieber Geliebter im Herrn,

Frohes Neues Jahr!

Die Adventszeit bringt den Aufruf zum Nachdenken über unseren persönlichen geistlichen Zustand und zur Erneuerung unserer christlichen Berufung als Nachfolger Jesu Christi mit sich. Die traditionelle Sprache des Advents verwendet die Wörter Gericht und Reue; und das ursprüngliche Thema des Advents war die Vorbereitung auf das "zweite Kommen" Jesu Christi in Erwartung der endgültigen Bestimmung der Menschheit in Gottes ewigem Heil.

Die stille Feierlichkeit der Adventseinladungen ist jedoch zu unseren Lebzeiten in der oft hektischen Vorbereitung auf die Weihnachtsfeier verloren gegangen. Nicht, dass es mir was ausmacht! Ich genieße diese "schönste Zeit des Jahres" so sehr wie jeder andere auch, und ich bin genauso in der Aufregung gefangen wie alle anderen. Aber dieses Jahr schlage ich vor, anstatt unsere Zeit für Gottesdienst, Gebet und Bibellektüre zu verkürzen und zu behaupten, "zu beschäftigt" zu sein, unsere Zeit für geistliche Disziplin zu erhöhen!

Unser Patron Martin Luther fand damit einen viel effektiveren Ansatz, um den Anforderungen seines geschäftigen Lebens als Ehemann, Vater, Universitätsprofessor und Pfarrer gerecht zu werden: "Ich habe heute so viel zu tun", erinnerte er sich oft, "ich hatte am besten die doppelte Zeit für die tägliche Andacht."

Um die "Methode" eines solchen "Wahnsinns" zu testen, plane ich zusätzlich zu unseren wöchentlichen Sonntagsgottesdiensten am Mittwoch, den 4. Dezember, 11. Dezember und 18. Dezember um 12:00 Uhr mittags einen Advent Wort- und Gebetsservice. In diesen drei Wochen lesen wir aus den Psalmen, dem Matthäusevangelium und ausgewählten Passagen aus dem Buch Frances de Sales aus dem 16. Jahrhundert, der Einführung in das fromme Leben sowie dem Weihnachtsbuch von Martin Luther.

Ich hoffe du kommst...

Fröhliche Weihnachten!
Pastor Peter



From the Pastor's Desk

During the first full liturgical year (from Advent 2018 to Advent 2019) of my ministry with fine Christian folk of Thornhill Lutheran Church, I have had many conversations with parishioners concerned about our congregation's survival. Although our council's valiant outreach initiatives have been less effective than hoped for, I remain convinced that a renewed commitment to be "In Mission For Others" (our church's and synod's theme) will yield a harvest of living faith from the seeds we have sown and continue to nurture in our life together.

Though this new liturgical year begins with the same lingering uncertainty, it remains certain that God's purposes unfold in God's time and God's providence and, therefore, do not depend on us. Our joy consists simply in the privilege of sharing in the Holy communion of God's grace among us, and faithfully following where our Lord Jesus Christ intends to lead, not only the church, but the whole world, for whom the church exists. In the meantime, I give thanks for all who have welcomed Rosarie and I into your hearts and homes, especially in our times of crisis, celebration or transition; and I look forward to continuing this mutual ministry in the year ahead. The Holy Communion we share, around your kitchen tables as well as our church altar, grounded in scripture and prayer, song and conversation, is evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence, power and promise in our lives.

Indeed, Holy Communion is the very method God's Holy Spirit uses to nurture faith in God's people and nurture God's people in faith. The church's ministry of Word and Sacrament, in which we are called weekly to assemble – the Greek word for church – in worship, is the divinely appointed time and place for Holy communion with the crucified and risen Jesus, the very source and final goal of all creation and human salvation. And *renewal* – *our* renewal; *your* renewal – in the weekly worship assembly of this congregation – is our surest hope that God's blessings of fruitful ministry and mission received in the past, and still received today, will continue to bless our children, grandchildren and their children until God's future is fulfilled. That is God's very promise, humanity's very hope and the very expectation of God's Advent people in the church!

Veni Emmanuel! Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor Peter



THORNHILL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION



CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE ministry opportunities:

The committee is seeking a member to represent our congregation...

Help is also needed to a) pick up donations at local schools;

b) pack and/or deliver boxes at appointed time

To volunteer, or for more information, speak to Pastor Peter, or call Pastor Tom Vais of Thornhill Presbyterian Church: 905-889-5391.

World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 6, 2020

Time and location to be announced



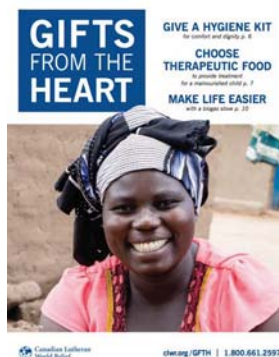
Lenten Series Services

Times and locations pending. To learn more, please speak with Prisca Kenel, our representative on the planning committee.

(Sundays in Lent: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Please remember to include CLWR on your Christmas Gift Shopping List this year. Your box of Offering Envelopes includes one for Christmas Day as a reminder and invitation to support this ministry that unites Lutherans across Canada in this life-giving mission in the world.



Annual Committee and Group Reports

As every year, we require reports from Committee and Group Chairs by Dec. 7th 2019, so that the Annual Report can be distributed 2 weeks before the February Annual meeting. Please sent your report to **Nancy Moulson** (nmoulson1@rogers.com) who will be collecting and assembling the reports for the Annual Report. Thank you, Nancy for doing this important task.



About unity in the church:

"The true ingredient of uniting us together is the presence of God, and we need to get right with him first, bevor we get right with others"

Charles Price

Submitted by G. Kunzelmann



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Any and all interested in forming a church choir to sing during worship on Sunday, December 22, are invited and welcome to attend rehearsals following the worship service on each of the first three Sundays in Advent. (Dec. 1, 8 & 15)

Christmas Tree Set up

This year's Christmas Tree set up and decoration will happen on Saturday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.





A big **Thank You** goes to Leni Schwartzel and Edith Schiller for preparing the wonderful harvest table in our sanctuary for Thanksgiving Day.

Father John and His Young Parishioner

It was the Sunday after Christmas at St Peter and Saint Paul's Church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, Father John turned towards the vicarage in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John walked up to Harry and said, 'Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?'

Harry replied honestly, 'I took him from the church, Father John.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish smile, Harry said, 'Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'



Invitations - Einladungen

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

Sunday, December 1
10:00 a.m.

First Sunday in Advent
English Service with Holy Communion



Wednesday, December 4
12:00 p.m.

Advent Word & Prayer Service

Sunday, December 8
10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday in Advent
English Hymn Sing Service



Wednesday, December 11
12:00 p.m.

Advent Word & Prayer Service

Saturday, December 14
2:00 p.m.

Christmas Tree Set up
All are welcome to help!

Sunday, December 15
10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday in Advent
English Service with Holy Communion
followed by Advent Afternoon.
The prizes from the tombola will be distributed!

Wednesday, December 18
12:00 p.m.

Advent Word & Prayer Service

Sunday, December 22
10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent
English Service with Holy Communion



Tuesday, December 24
4:00 p.m.
5:45 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services – Weihnachtsgottesdienste
Christvesper – Deutscher Gottesdienst*
Christvesper – Deutscher Gottesdienst
English Candlelight Service

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

Tuesday, December 25
11:00 a.m.

Nativity of our Lord
English Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion
(together with St. Paul's, Richmond Hill)



Sunday, December 29
10:00 a.m.

German Hymn Sing Service

Tuesday, December 31
3:00 p.m.

German New Year's Eve Vespers
Deutscher Silvestergottesdienst mit Abendmahl



Sunday, January 5, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Epiphany
English Service with Holy Communion



Invitations - Einladungen

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

Sunday, January 26, 2020

Annual Report available
Der Jahresbericht 2019 ist erhältlich.



Sunday, February 9, 2020

10:00 a.m. English Service with Holy Communion
followed by Potluck Coffee Hour and **Annual Meeting**
*Im Anschluss an den Gottesdienst findet unsere
Jahreshauptversammlung statt. Kaffee und Kuchen werden gereicht.*

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

1:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service



Sunday, March 1, 2020

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



Friday, March 6, 2020

World Day of Prayer / Weltgebetstag
Time and location to be announced



Pulpit Exchange (pending Council approval) Details to be announced...

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.



IN MEMORIAM

GISELA ELSA FRIEDA NEITZERT

(May 14, 1933 - October 17, 2019)



A Memorial Service was celebrated in our church on Saturday, November 9th, in honour of our dear Sister in Christ and faithful companion, Gisela Neitzert. Our sanctuary was filled to capacity in thankful tribute for the blessing she has been to so many, but especially to Fred, her cherished husband of sixty-five years, and their family. Please pray for them, and all who grieve, during this Advent journey through darkness into the everlasting light of Christmas joy!

Dona nobis pacem

Anniversary



Olga and Jerry Jurgeneit will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on December 5, 2019.

We congratulate them on this happy occasion; and would like to thank them at the same time for the many services they provided to our church community. May God bless them with many more years together!



Birthdays

Gitta Job - January 5

Christa Guschewski - January 29

Frank Kenel - January 29

Joachim Fricke - January 30

Jacob Schiller - February 1

Fred Neitzert - February 6

Olga Laskewitz - February 1

Augusta Zauderhagen - February 17

Emma Bender - February 20

Edith Schulbeck - February 28

We send our best wishes and ask for God's blessings
as they reach these wonderful milestones.



Die Weihnachtsfeier der **Frohen Runde** findet am Sonnabend den 14. 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 Peter Lisinski, Jutta Gleue, Diana Habekost.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Special Christmas

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.

Offering

*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.*



Annual Meeting – Jahreshauptversammlung

Please be sure to attend the Annual Meeting on February 9. 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 Doris Lottermoser at 416-903-5712 E-mail: dori_hamburg@yahoo.ca

Your presence is urgently requested.

Bitte kommen Sie am 9. 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 Doris Lottermoser, Vorstandsleiter, 416-903-5712, E-Mail: dori_hamburg@yahoo.ca

Ihre Anwesenheit ist dringend erforderlich.

Council Highlights



Council Meeting Highlights 2019

October 16

- * Sunday Bible study to start about 20 minutes later than it currently is.
- * Digital sign to advertise upcoming services, events, etc.; as well as stating space for rent.
- * Oak tree, a request has been put forward to extend our warranty to September 2020.
- * Looking into the repair, and updating, of the kitchen sink, faucet, counter, and possibly lower cupboards.
- * Approved for Ms. Lui to start a community outreach choir.

November 16 – Special Meeting

- * A new Abuse Protection Policy has been approved and a copy will be available in the church office by the end of November.
- * New simple white plates to be ordered and the old blue oval plates to be sold at the bazaar.
- * Started reviewing the Flourish Church Survey. Thank you to all who participated over a year ago. The lengthy report, which had a great representation of various age groups, did show a big dichotomy in various answers but strong agreement in others. An excellent base for the council, committees, and our congregation to build on.
- * Council passed a small change to be made to our constitution; which would state that “it is preferred that the pastor is fluent in English and German”. To be presented at our Annual meeting.



The Council wishes everyone
a very joyful Merry Christmas
and a happy and healthy New Year.

December 2019

Please refer also to the calendar on our webpage www.thornhill-lutheran.org for updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent 1 10:00 English Communion Service <i>Choir Practice!</i>	2	3	4 12:00 Advent Word & Prayer Service	5	6	7 Annual Committee and Group Reports are due!
8 Advent 2 10:00 English Hymn Sing Service <i>Choir Practice!</i>	9	10	11 12:00 Advent Word & Prayer Service	12	13	14 2:00 Frohe Runde 2:00 Christmas Tree Set up and Decoration
15 Advent 3 10:00 English Communion Service - followed by Advent Afternoon <i>Choir Practice!</i>	16 7:30 Council	17	18 12:00 Advent Word & Prayer Service	19	20	21
22 Advent 4 10:00 English Communion Service	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 German Service 5:45 German Service 7:30 English Service	25 Christmas Day 11:00 English Communion Service	26	27	28
29 Christmas 1 10:00 German Hymn Sing Service	30	31 New Year's Eve 3:00 German Service				

January 2020

Please refer also to the calendar on our webpage www.thornhill-lutheran.org for updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Epiphany of the Lord 10:00 English Communion Service	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Baptism of the Lord 10:00 English Communion Service	13	14	15 7:30 Council	16	17	18 2:00 Frohe Runde
19 Epiphany 2 10:00 English Communion Service	20	21	22	23	24	25 2:00 Circle of Friends
26 Epiphany 3 10:00 German Communion Service Annual Reports are available!	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2020

Please refer also to the calendar on our webpage www.thornhill-lutheran.org for updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Presentation of the Lord 10:00 English Communion Service	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Epiphany 5 10:00 English Communion Service followed by Potluck Coffee and Annual Meeting	10	11	12	13	14	15 2:00 Frohe Runde
16 Epiphany 6 10:00 English Communion Service	17	18	19 7:30 Council	20	21	22 2:00 Circle of Friends
23 Epiphany 7 10:00 German Communion Service	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday 1:00 English Service	27	28	29