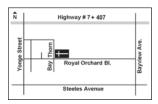
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Thornhill Lutheran Church

149 Bay Thorn Drive, Thornhill, ON, L3T 3V2 905-889-0873, office@thornhill-lutheran.org www.thornhill-lutheran.org Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer 24 Orlon Crescent, Richmond Hill L4C 6S5, Ontario, (905) 881-9154



Dear Congregation,

Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing!— came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. (John 1:3-4, MSG)

The three words "I gave life" are now printed on red band-aids used by Canadian Blood Services for blood donors. I have been a regular blood donor since I met my wife (she had been previously a regular donor), and some of our first dates were at the blood clinic! I think it's a relatively simple procedure that can save lives, and it's a way I give back to the community.

I first thought about becoming a blood and organ donor when I saw the 1989 Denys Arcand movie "Jesus of Montreal". In its final scenes, the actor who had portrayed Jesus, having been fatally hit by a subway train, becomes an organ donor and gives life to a handful of people, making a blind woman see, giving a man a new heart etc.

As Christians, we believe that Jesus, though his life, death and resurrection, gave us all life. It's common as Christians to say: "He gave life", but in which circumstances, can we say "we gave life"? Many mothers might claim that this would apply to their giving birth, and people who have successfully performed CPR or the Heimlich maneuver might well claim that in an explicit way as well. How do you "give life" in your day-to-day relationships with loved ones and strangers?

Sincerely in Christ, Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Liebe Gemeinde,

Durch dieses Wort wurde alles geschaffen. Und nichts, das geschaffen ist,

ist ohne dieses Wort entstanden. Er, das Wort, war zugleich das Leben in Person.

Und dieses Leben bedeutete das Licht für die Menschen. (Joh 1,3-4, Basis_Bibel)

Die drei Worte "Ich gab Leben" sind nun auf rote Wundpflaster des Canadian Blood Services für Blutspender gedruckt. Ich bin ein regelmäßiger Blutspender seit ich meine Frau getroffen habe (sie war zuvor eine regelmäßige Spenderin), und einige unserer ersten Rendezvous waren in der Blutklinik! Ich denke, es ist ein relativ einfaches Verfahren das Leben retten kann, und es ist eine Weise, wie ich der Gesellschaft nützlich bin.

Ich dachte zuerst daran, Blut- und Organspender zu werden, als ich den Denys Arcand Film von 1989 "Jesus von Montreal" einmal sah. In der Schlussszene wird der Schauspieler, der Jesus porträtiert hatte, von einer U-Bahn tödlich getroffen. Da wird er zum Organspender und gibt dabei Leben zu einigen Menschen: Eine blinde Frau kann nun sehen und ein Mann bekommt ein neues Herz, usw.

Als Christen glauben wir, dass Jesus uns allen das Leben gab, durch seinen Leben, Tod und Auferstehung. Es ist üblich, daß Christen behaupten: "Er gab Leben", aber unter welchen Umständen können wir sagen: "Wir gaben Leben"? Viele Mütter könnten behaupten, dass dies für ihre Entbindung gelten würde, und Leute, die erfolgreich CPR oder das Heimlich-Manöver erfolgreich durchführt haben, könnten das auch in einer expliziten Weise behaupten. Wie "geben Sie Leben" in Ihren täglichen Beziehungen mit Familie, Freunden und Fremden?

Herzlichst, im Dienst Christi, Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

From the Pastor's Desk:



"Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are." Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

God hath not promised skies always blue, Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through; God hath not promised sun without rain, Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

But God hath promised strength for the day, Rest for the labor, light for the way, Grace for the trials, help from above, Unfailing sympathy, undying love.







I'll be away on **holidays** July 10 to 30, and then in Wittenberg for continuing education from August 7 to 15th. For office hours, see the calendar.

On Pentecost Sunday, June 4th, Andrew Steiger, will be confirmed. Come and join him for this great celebration!





We will be soon starting a **new confirmation class**. If your child, or someone you know is 13 or will be entering Grade 7, let me know!

Fundraising Concert

Commemorating 500 years of the Protestant Reformation,

to support reforestation in Ethiopia and Uganda. Help us plant 2,000 Tree seedlings!

Saturday, June 3rd, 2017 at 7 p.m.





Music by Bach, Schubert and Brahms





Featuring: Andrew Ascenzo, Cello Lona and Bob Richardson, Piano Duo Paul Helmer, piano and Sebastian Meadows-Helmer, violin

Thornhill Lutheran Church

149 Bay Thorn Drive, Thornhill For information, contact 905-889-0873, pastor@thornhill-lutheran.org

Tickets: \$25 adults, \$5 children Tickets can be purchased at the door, or through Ruth Boothby and Leni Schwärtzel

SPONSORED BY YOUR FAITHLIFE FINANCIAL CHAPTER

Funds raised through this activity will be matched by



PROTECTING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE + LIVING YOUR CHRISTIAN VALUES + BUILDING A BETTER WORLD



On Sunday, June 11 at 10.30 a.m., the people of St. Georges's Lutheran will be joining us again at our church for our **outdoor service** and BBQ. Come enjoy some good food and fellowship!

On Sunday, Sept. 24th, on our **Back to Church Sunday**, we will be having a special **Youth Service**. This is not to be missed! Come and invite a friend (or a youth) to worship!





Worship and the Arts committee is proposing changing the monthly Joint Family Services, starting in October, to being in English only.

Please pass any comments or questions on to members of the committee: Gunther and Lise Kunzelmann, Leni Schwartzel, and Ruth Boothby.

Many thanks to **Doris Lottermoser**, for many years of service on the Worship and the Arts Committee! She is now stepping down since she took on the responsibility of Vice-Chair of Council.





"Careful, Honey, she seems a little bitter."

Would you like the pastor to give you a visit? Please let him know! He'd love to set up a time with you! Just a reminder that we have a new email and web address!



Our website is now at http://www.thornhill-lutheran.org Or Google: "Thornhill Lutheran". We are the first link. The layout of our website has hardly changed, so you should feel right at home.

Our Secretary, Bita's email is now <u>office@thornhill-lutheran.org</u> My email is <u>pastor@thornhill-lutheran.org</u> And our Council Chair, Deborah's email is <u>chair@thornhill-lutheran.org</u>

Thank you for updating your records!



As our church name has changed, effective January 1st, 2017, please ensure your cheques are made out to "Thornhill Lutheran Church".

If you have included the church in your will, to help avoid any future problems, please update our name in your will as well. Thank you for your support!

Just a reminder, we do webcast all our worship services! Check out <u>http://www.thornhill-lutheran.org/webcast.html</u>



Live in such a way that those who know you but don't know god will come to know god because they know you. The **Moll Berczy Haus**, Toronto's only German Senior's Residence (McNicoll and Victoria Park), has just completed a major renovation. It really looks great! Also, I think the level of personal attentive care is one of it's main selling points, and makes it very attractive given how impersonal some of the large-corporation-run institutions are set up. For more information, contact Gaby at 416-497-3639. Also, where else would you get regular German worship services in your home? <u>www.mollberczyhaus.ca</u>











You've never sinned tell me another one!

The young couple invited their aged pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having. "Goat," the little boy replied.

"Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth, "Are you sure about that?"

"Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Pa say to Ma, 'Might as well have the old goat for dinner today as any other day.'"

A minister was opening his mail one morning. Drawing a single sheet of paper from an envelope, he found written on it only one word: "FOOL."

The next Sunday he announced, "I have known many people who have written letters and forgot to sign their names. But this week I received a letter from someone who signed his name and had forgotten to write a letter."



On Sunday June 25th, 3-5 p.m. at Thornhill United (25 Elgin Street), and again on Sunday, September 17th, 3-5 p.m. at St. Luke's Catholic (39 Green Lane Ave), the Thornhill Christian community is coming together for a KAIROS Blanket exercise.

"The Blanket Exercise is a teaching tool to share the historic and cotemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. It



is an interactive experience about the history of our land. It covers over 500 years of history in a one and a half hour participatory workshop.

The exercise uses blankets to represent the lands of what is now called Canada and the distinct cultures and nations which live on those lands to this day. Participants represent the First Peoples; when they move onto blankets, they are taken back in time to the arrival of the Europeans. The exercise goes through the history of treaty-making, colonization and resistance that resulted in the nation we today call Canada. The Blanket exercise will get you walking in someone else's shoes, and will raise awareness and understanding of Aboriginal people in Canada."

http://kairosblanketexercise.org

Talk to the Pastor for more information. Admission is free, but bring a spirit of humility!



Commemorating the Reformation · 1517-2017

On Sunday, September 30th at 2 p.m., our Bishop Michael Pryse and Cardinal Thomas Collins invite all Lutheran and Catholic churches to a

joint Commemoration Service of 500 years of Reformation. This will take place at St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church, 1498 Avenue Road, Toronto. This is pretty historic, so come if you can!



The Thornhill Ministerial represented the Lenten Services from March 5 - April 2, 2017, which were well attended each week. Besides all the beautiful hymns, the dedication hymn, "In the Bulb there is a Flower", were sang at each service.

The theme of 'Renewal in Mind', / In Heart, In Comittment, In the Church of Creation, all well preached. The offerings went to 'Out of the Cold', 'Evergreen Hospice' and 'Yellow Brick House'.

The highlight of the services was at St. Luke's when the mass choir sang.

Submitted by Prisca Kenel

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Update

Jan. 1, 2017 - Mar. 31, 2017

OFFERINGS & DONATIONS	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Budget	24,499.99	21,999.99
Actual	<u>15,882.35</u>	<u>19,672.00</u>
SHORTFALL Mar. 31,	-8,617.64	-2,327.99
Please help us to eliminate our SHORTFALL of		-2,327.99
ATTENDANCE	644	334

Treasurer: Edith Schiller, March 31, 2017

Trip of the Seniors Group in December 2016

It was a blustery day with the occasional white-out conditions, when a group of our seniors braved the elements, to venture by Mary Morton coach to Niagara Falls. On the way we visited Chateau des Charmes Winery where we learned about the family-run business and tasted a number of their special products.

Before dusk, we made our way to the Niagara Parks Floral Showcase and miniature village where we were awed by the spectacular varieties of Christmas plants, especially the poinsettias. Then off to the Skylon Tower restaurant to enjoy a delicious dinner while viewing the illuminated Falls.

Canada's foremost illumination festival, the Ontario Power Generation Winter Festival of Lights, turns Niagara Falls into a winter wonderland, capturing the magic of the holiday season with beautiful, illuminated displays along an 8 km route that travels along the Niagara Parkway and Dufferin Islands. Our coach driver proceeded slowly so that camera buffs could capture what could be described as a palette of breathtaking colour with millions of sparkling lights and animated displays, including the world's largest Canadian-American flag.

A contented group was grateful for the excellent bus driver as he manoeuvred the icy roads and slow traffic coming back into Toronto. We all said a little prayer of thanks for a beautiful experience when we arrived at 149 Bay Thorn Drive.



Springfest Dinner May 2017

A good time was had by all. Everybody enjoyed the Indian food this year from INDIA'S TASTE in Markham. Despite the change in the main course, we still stuck by our traditional apple strudel desert donated by the Boehringer family.

Thank you to René Samulewitsch– who once again did an outstanding job as MC and to our entertainment and volunteer team: the Petronella Dance group with their performance, Gunther Kunzelmann's *short* story, Tony's background music, Pastor Sebastian's beautiful violin pieces as well Diana's and Iris' help in the kitchen and beyond.

Our Raffle table was not only filled with gracious donations from LONGOS but also with great prizes donated by members of the congregation. With the help of donations, we were able to raise \$700. A true success!

The Fellowship team **thanks** everyone involved who contributed and made this an enjoyable and successful event!

Submitted by Annette Hinrichs-Pymm



Invitations - Einladungen

Saturday, June 3 7:00 p.m.

Fundraising Reformation 500 Concert

Sunday, June 4 10:00 a.m.

Joint Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, June 11 10.30 a.m.

Joint Outdoor Service with Potluck BBQ Gemeinsamer Freiluftsgottesdienst mit Potluck BBQ Location: Church Property / Gemeindegrundstück

As usual and starting July 2, there will only be one service each Sunday starting at 10:00 a.m. alternating between English and German – see details below and on the calendar pages.

Wie in jedem Sommer, findet ab 2. Juli nur ein Gottesdienst am Sonntag um 10.00 Uhr statt, abwechselnd in englischer und deutscher Sprache – Genauere Angaben finden Sie weiter unten und auf den Kalenderblättern.

July 2, 16, 30, Aug. 13, 2710:00 a.m.Services in German

July 9, 23, Aug. 6, 20 10:00 a.m.

Services in English

Sunday, September 10 10.00 a.m.

Joint Family Service followed by annual Potluck BBQ Gemeinsamer Familiengottesdienst mit anschliessendem Potluck BBQ



BBQ

Sunday, September 17 CLWR Sunday

Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Sunday, September 24 Back to Church Sunday





From July 10 to 30th, Pastor Sebastian will be on vacation and from August 7 to 15th he will be on continuing education. In case of pastoral emergency from July 15-30 and August 7-14, please contact Pastor Rasma Caune at 647-382-5093. For July 10-15, check the church's voicemail that week.



Special Birthdays

David Dunn will be 91 years old on July 2nd.

Mary Suter celebrates her 95th birthday on August 10.

Both Luise Weckesser (September 6) and Anneliese Guenther (September 21) turn 93 years old this year!

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



Funerals

Eva Sabine El Dewy, May 9, 2017



Best Wishes



Our best wishes also go out to those members and friends who are sick and suffering at home or in hospital, and also to their caregivers. We look forward to perhaps seeing you in Church soon!

Council Highlights- Spring



• <u>Name Change tasks</u> have been completed {e.g., Yonge sign, Properties, CRA, website/ domain, Stamps, logo, Bank Change (RBC to Scotiabank)}. Council is appreciative of this work - much of which was completed by Edith Schiller, and Pastor Sebastian.

- Council discussed possible re-allocation of the pastor's tasks and discussed how to add more time for outreach initiatives. Further discussion is planned.
- Council agreed to reserve 10 minutes at the end of each Council meeting for this year (2017) to discuss one important topic in our church life. The list is as follows: "Called to pray", Interpersonal Communications, Outreach (2 meetings), Worship Enhancement, Motivation, "After stepping down", Gratitude, Volunteering, CLWR, "What is the church?" Reformation 500.
- <u>New LED Sign</u>- contract is currently being finalized with Greentak.
- <u>Reformation 500 Benefit Concert for Ethiopian Reforestation:</u>

Saturday, June 3rd, 2017 at 7 p.m.

This concert is a fundraiser for the tree planting in Africa up to \$2,000. Any amount above that would go towards a tree planting at TLC to com memorate the reformation.

- <u>Budget/ Finances</u>- Council is exploring options for rezoning the congregational space for other building uses; evaluation of parsonage property. All information will be shared with the congregation as it is available.
- <u>Council Retreat</u>-June 24

IANKS to the K r He is good; His love endures forever. -1 Chronicles 16:34

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Easter 7 = 10:00 AM English Service	29 e6:30 PM Confirma- tion	a 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM	30 31 = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM	1	Pastor's Day Off	2 3 Pastor's Day Off = 7:00 PM Reformation 500 Concert
4 Pentecost Sunday = 10:00 AM Joint Con- firmation Service	5	 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM 2:00 PM Frauen- gruppe 	6 7 = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM	8	Pastor's Day Off	9 10 Pastor's Day Off
11 Holy Trinity = 10:30 AM Outdoor Joint Family Service with St. George's = 12:00 PM Spring Potluck BBQ	12	1	13 14	15	Pastor's Day Off	6 17 Pastor's Day Off = 2:00 PM Frohe Runde
18 Pentecost 2 = 10:00 AM German Communion Service	19	= 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM	20 21 = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM = 8:00 PM Council	22	Pastor's Day Off	 ³ 24 Pastor's Day Off 9:00 AM Council Retreat 2:00 PM Circle of Friends – Craft Circle
25 Pentecost 3 = 10:00 AM English Service = 3:00 PM Blanket Ex- ercise = 7:00 PM Youth Group	26	= 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM	²⁷ = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM	29	Pastor's Day Off	Pastor's Day Off

July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Pentecost 3 = 10:00 AM English Service = 3:00 PM Blanket Ex- = 7:00 PM Youth Group	26	27 = 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM	28 = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM	29	30 Pastor's Day Off	Pastor's Day Off
Pentecost 4 = 10:00 AM German Communion Service	3	4 = 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM = 2:00 PM Frauen- gruppe	5 = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM = 7:30 PM Messy Church Planning	6	7 Pastor's Day Off	8 Pastor's Day Off
9		11	12	13	14	15
Pentecost 5 = 10:00 AM English Service	Pastor on Vacation					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Pastor on Vacation Pentecost 6 = 10:00 AM German Service						
Pastor on Vacation	24	25	26	27	28	29
Pentecost 7 = 10:00 AM English Service						
30 Pastor on Vacation Pentecost 8 = 10:00 AM German Service	31	1 = 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM	2 = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM	3	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 Pastor's Day Off

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Pastor on Vacation Pentecost 8 = 10:00 AM German Service	31	1 = 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM	2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM	3	Pastor's Day Off	4 5 Pastor's Day Off
6	7	8	9	10	1	1 12
Pentecost 9	Pastor away					
10:00 AM English Service						
13	14	15		17		
Pastor away			 2:00 PM Office Hours 4 PM 		Pastor's Day Off	Pastor's Day Off
Pentecost 10 = 10:00 AM German Service			= 8:00 PM Council			
20	21	22	23	24	2	5 26
Pentecost 11 = 10:00 AM English Service	21	= 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM	 2:00 PM Office Hours 4 PM 7:30 PM Christian Education 	24	Pastor's Day Off	Pastor's Day Off
27 Pentecost 12 = 10:00 AM German Communion Service	28	29 = 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM	30 = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM	31	Pastor's Day Off	Pastor's Day Off

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Pentecost 12 = 10:00 AM German Communion Service	28	= 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM	⁹ = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM	31	Pastor's Day Off	1 2 Pastor's Day Off
 Pentecost 13 10:00 AM German Communion Service 	4	 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM 2:00 PM Frauen- gruppe 	⁵ = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM	7	Pastor's Day Off	8 9 Pastor's Day Off
10 Pentecost 14 = 10:00 AM Joint Fami- ly Service = 11:30 AM Fall BBQ	11	= 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM	² = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM	14	Pastor's Day Off	15 16 Pastor's Day Off = 1:00 PM Youth Group = 2:00 PM Frohe Runde
17 CLWR Sunday Pentecost 15 = 10:00 AM German Service = 3:00 PM Blanket Ex- ercise	18	¹ = 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM	9 20 = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM = 8:00 PM Council	21	Pastor's Day Off	22 23 Pastor's Day Off = 2:00 PM Circle of Friends – Craft Circle
24 Pentecost 16 Back to Church S. = 10:00 AM English Youth Service	25	= 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM	⁶ 27 = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM	28	Pastor's Day Off	29 30 Pastor's Day Off = 2:00 PM Reformation Prayer Service