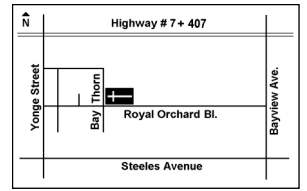


Thornhill Lutheran Church

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www.thornhill-lutheran.org
Interim Pastor Christian Ceconi
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Liebe Gemeinde,

Tut ihm das nicht weh?

Ist Ihnen auch manchmal unwohl bei dem Gedanken, dass wir Christen ein Folterinstrument als Markenzeichen führen? Irritiert es Sie, dass in der evangelischen Kirche ausgerechnet Karfreitag so hoch gehalten wird?

Ihre Bedenken kommen nicht von ungefähr. Die älteste bekannte Darstellung eines Gekreuzigten stammt aus der Zeit zwischen 200 und 250 n. Chr. In Rom fand man das Bild eines Mannes am Kreuz, der von einem anderen Mann angebetet wird. Der Mann am Kreuz hat einen Eselskopf. Die zugehörige Inschrift lautet: „Alexamenos betet Gott an“. Mit diesem Spottkreuz wurden Christen verhöhnt. Die Christen selbst verwendeten zu dieser Zeit vor allem Fisch und Anker als Erkennungszeichen. Es dauerte noch weitere hundert Jahre bis beim Konzil von Nicäa im Jahre 325 das Kreuz für die christliche Kunst etabliert wurde. Wohl auch, weil erst zu dieser Zeit die Kreuzigung als Form der Todesstrafe abgeschafft war.

Muss das also sein mit dem Kreuz? – die Frage stellten sich schon die Jüngerinnen und Jünger. Weil es einfach paradox ist, dass aus einem Mord das Heil der Welt erwachsen soll.

Ein Kind hat mich einmal gefragt: „Tut dem das nicht weh?“ – Was soll man da antworten? Die Frage zielt nicht darauf ab, wer Schuld hat oder warum er gekreuzigt wurde. Einfach nur: Tut dem das nicht weh? – Ein Satz, der keine Ausflüchte zulässt und den Blick auf das richtet, was geschieht.

Vielleicht ist das eine Frage, die Karfreitag neu erschließt: Kein voyeuristischer Blick auf das Leiden, keine großen Welterklärungen, nur die schlichte Frage „Tut dem das nicht weh?“.

Diese Frage verändert den Blick auf das Leiden und nimmt zugleich die Perspektive ein, die Jesus gelehrt hat. Mitgefühl ist ein Schlüssel zur Botschaft Jesu: die Augen nicht verschließen vor dem Leiden. Nicht aus Freude am Leiden, nicht in mittelalterlicher Selbstkasteiung, sondern um Jesus nachzufolgen, Leid zu mindern und darauf zu vertrauen, dass das Leid in Auferstehung gewendet wird.

Ohne Ostern wäre das Kreuz zum Verzweifeln. Mit Ostern wendet es die Verzweiflung in Hoffnung. Es bleibt paradox, aber es geschieht. Nur so ist das Kreuz auszuhalten, auch wenn manche es für töricht oder ärgerlich halten (1 Kor 1,25).

„Uns aber, die wir glücklich werden, ist es eine Gotteskraft.“ (1 Kor 1,13).
In diesem Sinne wünsche ich Ihnen eine hoffnungsvolle und glückliche Osterzeit.

Herzlichst, im Dienst Christi,
Pastor Christian Ceconi



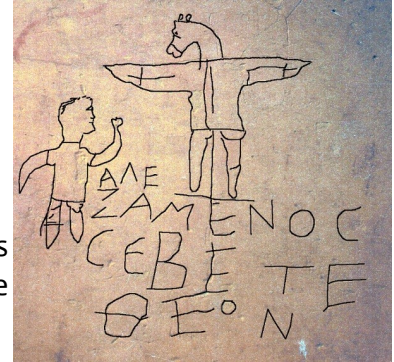
Bild 96. Das Spottkruzifix vom Palatin.
Museo Kircheriano.

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Congregation.

Doesn't that hurt him?

Do you sometimes feel uneasy about the thought that we Christians use torture as a defining feature? Does it bother you that in the Protestant church Good Friday, of all things, is held so high?



Your concerns are not ungrounded. The oldest known depiction of a crucified man dates from the period between 200 and 250 AD. The image of a man on the cross who is worshiped by another man can be found in Rome. The man on the cross has a donkey's head. The accompanying inscription reads: "Alexamenos worships God". Christians were ridiculed with this mocking cross. Christians themselves used fish and anchors as identifiers. It took another hundred years until the cross was established in Christian art by the Council of Nicaea in 325. It probably happened because only then was crucifixion abolished as a form of capital punishment.

Does it have to be the cross? - this question was already posed by the disciples because it is simply paradoxical that a murder should bring about the salvation of the world.

A child once asked me: "Doesn't that hurt him?" - What should one answer? The question is not about who is guilty or why he was crucified. Simply: Doesn't that hurt him? - A sentence that does not allow for excuses and directs attention to what is really happening.

Perhaps Good Friday reveals this novel question: Not a voyeuristic view of suffering, no great explanations of the world, just the simple question, "Doesn't that hurt him?"

This question changes the view of suffering and at the same time takes into account the perspective that Jesus taught. Compassion is a key to Jesus' message: never close your eyes to suffering, not for the joy of suffering, not in medieval self-mortification, but to follow Jesus, to reduce suffering and to trust that suffering will be turned into resurrection.

Without Easter, the cross would be frustrating. With Easter, the cross turns from despair into hope. It remains paradoxical, but it happens. Only in this way can the cross be endured, even if some consider it absurd or upsetting (1 Cor 1:25).

„But to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Cor 1,18).

With this in mind, I wish you a hopeful and happy Easter.

*Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Christian Ceconi*



Lenten Series 2018

Once again, the churches in Thornhill will be gathering together in Lent for Sunday afternoon worship. If you've never been, consider coming this year! They are great opportunities to hear excellent sermons and fellowship with Christians from different denominations. The theme this year is "A fresh look at the Apostles' Creed". More in-

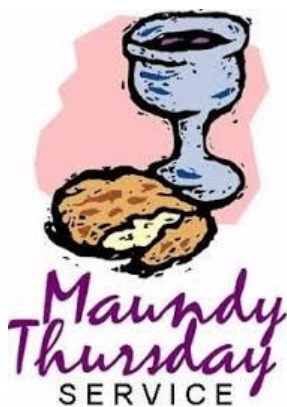
formation is on the entranceway ledge.

(All times are 4 p.m.)

March 4th: "I believe in the Holy Spirit" (Fr. Tim MacDonald) @ Holy Trinity,

March 11th: "I believe in the Holy Catholic Church" (Rev. Dr. Gary Nelson @ Thornhill Presbyterian,

March 18th: "I believe in the Life Everlasting" (Rev. Cheri DiNovo) @ St. Luke's,



Maundy Thursday Service

Maundy Thursday, March 29, St Paul's will be joining us at 7.30 for worship. Building relationships with our neighbouring congregations is good stewardship and enriches our faith lives.

Special Easter Offering

The Easter Offering this year is again designated for **Waterloo Lutheran Seminary**. Please use the special envelope included with your regular set. Should you wish to direct your Easter Offering to another cause, please mark this envelope accordingly.

*Die Osterspense ist wieder für **Waterloo Lutheran Seminary** bestimmt. Bitte benutzen Sie dafür den Sonderumschlag, den Sie in dem Kästchen mit den anderen Umschlägen finden. Sollten Sie Ihre Osterspense einem anderen Zweck zukommen lassen wollen, vermerken Sie dies bitte auf dem Umschlag.*



Canada Lutheran Subscriptions



We wish to remind all recipients of this publication that subscriptions were renewed in January, and would ask you to submit the price of \$ 20.00 for the year 2018 as soon as possible. You may place a special envelope with your name and envelope number in the donation plate, hand in the money at the office, or give it directly to our treasurer Edith Schiller. Thank you.

Council Meeting Highlights:



November 2017:

- The Sanctuary's heater not working and Property is trying to assess the situation.
- Parsonage for sale sign is up and will be on MLS listing shortly. Any pertinent files, etc. will be brought to the Church and the furniture to be sold or donated to charity.
- Mission Profile, for the synod and part of the Call process, is being worked on. Organizing the Call process (members to be asked, organizing meetings, etc.) in process.
- A box for the Out of the Cold Food drive will be placed in the entrance hallway.
- Changing future Council meeting dates to the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- Office Photocopier is not working and a new one would be needed.
- LED sign's colours were corrected by Greentek.
- New Lapel microphone to be purchased.

December 2017:

- Thank you to all who helped with the Annual bazaar and all who have helped get the mail, pick up household items for the church, made coffee, etc.
- A special Thank you to Diana Habekost for working on the bulletins.
- There has been some feedback regarding maintaining German Services.
- Thank you Olga Jurgeneit for getting the labels and donation envelopes ready for 2018.
- Thank you to those who helped put up the Christmas tree. It was noted that a few items needed repair and was directed to Worship & the Arts.
- Rene S. will be asking members if they would be interested in joining Church Council.
- Christmas Eve Services' organization was finalized.
- Pastor Christian has been working on organizing our future services.
- Pastor Christian will be asking Pastor Mark (St. Paul's) to visit a few of our members, who maybe itt, shut-ins, etc.
- An extra Council meeting will be occurring on January 30th, to facilitate further discussions that were held at the June Council retreat.
- Final donation for the new sign and an Estate donation were received. Thank you to all.
- The dead tree, by our new sign to be removed.
- We will be looking in to the Parsonage's insurance to see if any changes may be required.
- Rental committee to increase rental costs and to remind renters regarding clean up, closing windows, etc.

- Messy Church group will be looking to change the day that they hold the MC Service.
- Parsonage will be on the MLS listing for 2 months. If no promising offers, will re-view in the New Year the next steps.
- Printer: a discussion was held and council voted to purchase the used printer from Thornhill Nursery School and Kindergarten, for the cost of \$500.00.
- 2018 Budget: 1st half of the year, to reflect that the Parsonage has not yet been sold; while the 2nd half to reflect its sale. The same would hold true for the Pastor's Salary, health benefits, etc. As well, Housing allowance to reflect ELCIC guidelines of around \$3,500.00 per month.

January 10, 2018:

- Confirmation of Call Committee members and date of first meeting.
- Finalizing Annual report, 2018 proposed budget, 2018 Calendar, etc.
- Pastor Christian sent out a listing of the 2018 Calendar readings.
- Thank you Annette Hinrichs for emceeding the Advent afternoon. It was a lovely afternoon.

January 30, 2018:

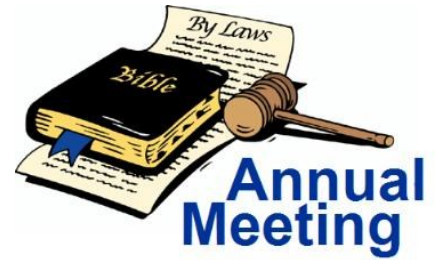
A very big Thank you Pastor Christian for facilitating this meeting. A lively and informative discussion was held regarding past themes and conflicts; our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; upcoming themes for TLC; and reviewing what type of Pastor (personality, skills, etc.) would be a right fit for our congregation.

Here is the list of Council Members for 2018-19:

Petra Georges
 Prisca Kenel
 Doris Lottermoser
 Marika Samulewitsch
 Edith Schiller
 Deborah Tobin

Please welcome our newest member on Council: **Nancy Moulson**

Highlights of Annual Meeting- February 11, 2018



- We had a quorum of 25 Congregational members.
- Council Members: Rene Samulewitsch's 2nd term is now done and Edith Schiller and Doris Lottermoser are both able to do a second term. The congregation voted Nancy Moulson in as the new Council member and for Edith and Doris to start their 2nd terms. Church Council will continue to assess the need to fill in for Marika Samulewitsch's term, as she is currently on an extended absence.
- Thank you to Deborah Tobin for her work as Chairperson and her report.
- Thank you to all volunteers for helping this past year from coffee making to helping at the bazaar to doing repairs.
- Pastor Christian reminded us that this is an exciting time of change with the Call process and that we should all think and pray, as to what type of Pastor would meet our future needs. This information should be passed on to members of the Call Committee. As well, we are also able to let them know if you feel that there is a Pastor, who you feel would meet our needs.
- The audit will occur in April and be presented and accepted to Church Council at that time. If anyone would be interested in assisting Petra Georges with the audit, please let her know.
- A discussion was held regarding the Spring Fest and depending on numbers; we will either celebrate at our Church or at a local restaurant. The Fellowship committee will confirm.
- Finance and Stewardship need a new member but Fred Neitzert is willing to do a 3rd term. Motion was made and carried for Fred to a 3rd term on this committee.
- Calendar was past with the changes of all luncheons (i.e. Mother's Day, BBQ, etc.) are Pot Lucks meals. Spring Fest would be the exception.
- 2018 Budget passed, please review December Council Highlights for explanation of the budget.
- Parsonage: reviewed how the sale was progressing and that council decided to take a break due to the government changes for new home owners. It will go up for sale again in the Spring.
- A new printer is needed and council will review this item.
- Call committee is now up and running. The Mission profile and all the other paperwork will be sent out to the synod by the end of this week. The Call committee is having its first meeting today, after the Annual meeting.

Members of the Call Committee:

Kaitlin Georges

Gunther Kunzelmann

Mark MacLean

Ruth Moskowitz

Rene Samulewitsch

Edith Schulbeck

Deborah Tobin (Representative from Council)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the call process, please feel free to speak to one of the members.



John

11:25-26 (niv)

“Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

Invitations - Einladungen

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

Sunday, March 4, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Joint Family Service of Holy Communion
(Installation of newly elected Council Members)
followed by brief congregational meeting
and Potluck Coffee Hour
Gemeinsamer Familiengottesdienst
(Einführung der neugewählten Gemeinderatsmitglieder),
gefolgt von kurzer Gemeindeversammlung sowie Kaffee und Kuchen



March 25 - April 1, 2018

Holy Week (see next page)
Karwoche (siehe nächste Seite)



Saturday, April 30, 2018

First Day of Spring Cleaning

Saturday, May 19, 2018

Last Day of Spring Cleaning





HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Sunday, March 25, 2018

10:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday

Holy Communion Service



Thursday, March 29, 2018

7:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service



Friday, March 30, 2018

9:30 a.m.

Karfreitagsgottesdienst mit Abendmahl

11:00 a.m.

Good Friday Service



Sunday, April 1, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Joint Easter Holy Communion Service

Gemeinsamer Ostergottesdienst



Invitations - Einladungen

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

Saturday, May 5, 2018 Time and Place: TBA

Springfest Dinner / Fundraising Event
Frühlingsfest mit Abendessen

SPRINGFEST

Sunday, May 13, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Joint Mothers' Day Hymn Sing Service
followed by Potluck Luncheon
*Gemeinsamer Gesangsgottesdienst
zum Muttertag mit anschliessendem Mittagessen*



Sunday, June 10, 2018

10:00 a.m.

Joint Outdoor Service
followed by Potluck BBQ Luncheon
*Gemeinsamer Gottesdienst im Freien
gefolgt von BBQ*



Congregational News – Aus dem Gemeindeleben

Birthdays

Ilse Klingeman celebrates her 95th Birthday on March 11.

Mary Pavlik will be 95 years old on March 12.

Elli Gottwald will be 91 years old on May 15.

Stefan Lojowski will be 93 years old on May 15.

Helga Kosubek has her 95th birthday on May 30.

We wish all of them a Happy Birthday and God's Blessings.

Funeral

Albert Schaden (March 17, 1931 - January 24, 2018)

Best Wishes



As always, we are also thinking of those members of the congregation who are sick, in hospital or at home, and about their family members and/or caregivers. We sincerely hope that they do not have to suffer too much, and wish them a speedy recovery, so that they once again can join us in Church.

Spring Cleaning

Please sign up for the tasks you would like to take on, at a time convenient to you. When completed, please sign off on the same sheet (to be found on the board in the hallway) We need volunteers of all ages and both genders for these important tasks.

Am Anschlagbrett im Flur befindet sich eine Liste aller zu verrichtenden Aufgaben. Bitte tragen Sie sich dort ein und zeichnen sie ab, wenn die gewählte Aufgabe beendet ist.



March 2018

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 Lent 3 10:00 Joint Holy Communion Installation of Council	5	6 2:00 Frauen-gruppe	7	8	9	10
11 Lent 4 10:00 Abendmahlsgottesdienst	12	13	14 8:00 Council	15	16	17 2:00 Frohe Runde
18 Lent 5 10:00 Joint Holy Communion	19	20	21	22	23	24 2:00 Circle of Friends
25 Palm Sunday 10:00 English Service	26	27	28	29 Maundy Thursday 7:30 Service	30 Good Friday 9:30 Abendmahlsgottesdienst 11:00 English Service	31

April 2018

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 10:00 Joint Holy Communion	2	3 2:00 Frauen-gruppe	4	5	6	7
8 <i>Easter 2</i> 10:00 Service	9	10	11 8:00 Council	12	13	14
15 <i>Easter 3</i> 10:00 Service	16	17	18	19	20	21 2:00 Frohe Runde
22 <i>Easter 4</i> 10:00 Service	23	24	25	26	27	28 2:00 Circle of Friends
29 <i>Easter 5</i> 10:00 Service	30 <i>Beginning of Spring Cleaning</i>					

May 2018

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 2:00 Frauen- gruppe	2	3	4	5 Springfest TBA
6 <i>Easter 6</i> 10:00 German Service	7	8	9 8:00 Council	10	11	12
13 <i>Easter 7</i> 10:00 Mother's Day Hymn Sing Service followed by Potluck Luncheon	14	15	16	17	18	19 2:00 Frohe Runde Completion of Spring Cleaning
20 <i>Pentecost</i> 10:00 Service	21	22	23	24	25	26 2:00 Circle of Friends
27 <i>Pentecost 2</i> 10:00 English Service	28	29	30	31		June 10, 2018 10:00 Joint Outdoor Service with St. George Dedication of the new Sign followed by BBQ Luncheon