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## THORNHILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### *GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR GOD IS GOOD!*

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I opened my box of offering envelopes to prepare for the month of October, I found a blue envelope designated “Thanksgiving Special Offering – FOOD BANK”. This “Year of the Coronavirus”, has made it especially urgent to remember and give thanks for the Daily Bread (Toronto) and Richmond Hill food banks which our congregation, in partnership with the wider Thornhill Christian community, has supported for many years.

The massive unemployment created by the COVID 19 pandemic has more than doubled the number of our impoverished neighbours normally dependent on the special volunteers who provide this special ministry on our behalf. At the same time, restrictions on social interaction have made it difficult both to collect and to deliver non-perishable food and other essential provisions for those Jesus identifies as special members of God’s family whose poverty and need remind of his own suffering for us all! (see Matthew 25:31-40).

If you have ever been on the receiving end of another’s generosity, you know better than most the truth taught by Jesus: “It is more blessed (one might say, a special privilege) to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35).

Thanks be to God, and to all of you, for your companionship and generosity!

*Pastor Peter*

p.s. If you are not able to attend worship to offer your gift, perhaps you might consider sending it to the church via Canada Post. Many thanks!



## A Ramp filled with Hope, Faith, Love, and Community Support

*“A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”*

—Margaret Mead-

The last 12 months have been and still are an ongoing roller coaster ride with its ups and downs that a sudden life changing event can bring.



Once the bathroom renovation -that had to be postponed due to Covid restrictions -was finally completed by Sept 1, Harvey was able to come home. Thanks to you all at Thornhill Lutheran and the motivating staff at St. John Rehab, he is doing much better. Our quality of life drastically improved once again when Fred Neitzert so generously offered his expertise, time and effort in physically building a beautiful and secure ramp. Fred's persistence in wanting to help

out any way he physically could has not only been a motivating but also an uplifting factor for us “*younger folk*” that saw him in action. When he drove up with his car, it was loaded to the brim with material. Fred displayed a jaw dropping feat of expertise, precision, and agility in building a ramp in 4 days. It was a wonderful experience working and learning alongside such a caring individual. A very heartfelt thank you to all involved for the financial support received from the congregation, as eagerly endorsed by council, when Fred mentioned the ramp project at the August meeting.



Respectfully

Annette Hinrichs Pymm

# A PASTORAL WORD

Since last year's Thanksgiving celebration – particularly in these past seven months of the global Coronavirus pandemic – our personal, as well as our congregational faith has been tested. According to orthodox Lutheran doctrine, faith is a gift of God's grace, given and received primarily in "the proclamation of the Gospel and participation in the sacraments."

While our faith has continued to be nurtured in our weekly proclamation of the Gospel in scripture and song, prayer and preaching by the live-stream of our website, pastoral cards and letters, as well as recorded services, we missed the enhanced inspiration one another's company, as well as the Holy Communion of Christ's body and blood, graciously offered in the form of bread and wine.

*Thanks be to God*, on September 13 our sanctuary was again open for public worship, with stringent COVID 19 protocols, and we have been able to resume our weekly "Full Gospel" ministry of Word and Sacrament. And just as faith is God's gracious gift to us in Jesus Christ, the Church of Jesus Christ is God's gracious gift to the world and community of Thornhill God has called us to serve. We *give thanks* for the past six decades of our life together and the faith, hope and love inspired within our membership and in our neighbourhood. Let no one doubt that, in spite of the Christian church's imperfections and inadequacies, the world has been blessed by our presence in it.

Two important liturgical festivals follow quickly on the heels (heals) of our Thanksgiving Day celebrations. On the last Sunday in October (the 25<sup>th</sup>) we observe "Reformation Day"; on the first Sunday in November (the 1<sup>st</sup>) we commemorate "All Saints' Day." On these two holy days of the Christian calendar we commit ourselves to God's continual reformation of our church, life and faith; and give thanks for our most recently deceased companions in Christ (see below). Please let me know the names of others you may wish to remember, and plan to worship with us – personally or virtually.

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice;*

We wish “Happy Birthday!” to

**PRISCA KENEL**, September 26

**EDITH SCHILLER**, October 21

*and weep with those who weep”*

We remember our six companions in faith  
who have died since last Thanksgiving:

**GISELA NEITZERT**, October 17, 2019

**JAKOB SCHILLER**, November 30, 2019

**ELISABETH SCHENK**, July 3, 2020

**HILDA STAPLETON**, July 28, 2020

**STEFAN LOJOWSKI**, August 18, 2020

**FRANZ KENEL**, August 31, 2020

### *A WORD OF THANKS*

Dear Members of TLC,

I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all of you! All the phone calls, cards and caring were very much appreciated.

Frank joined his brother Albert, who passed away in January. A great family is now together for all eternity.

I will remember this as the year of tears and thanksgiving!

With fondness,

*Prisca and Family*

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

# ***E I N W O R T V O N E U R E M P A S T O R***

Seit dem Erntedankfest im letzten Jahr - insbesondere seit den letzten sieben Monaten der globalen Coronavirus-Pandemie - wurde sowohl unser persönlicher als auch unser gemeindlicher Glaube auf die Probe gestellt. Nach der orthodoxen lutherischen Lehre ist der Glaube ein Geschenk der Gnade Gottes, das in erster Linie in der „Verkündigung des Evangeliums und der Teilnahme an den Sakramenten“ gegeben und empfangen wird.

Obwohl unser Glaube weiter gestärkt wird durch unsere wöchentliche Verkündigung des Evangeliums in Schrift und Gesang, Gebet und Predigt an Hand der Live-Stream Sendungen unserer Webseite, Karten und Briefe von Ihrem Pastor sowie aufgezeichneter Dienstleistungen, vermissen wir doch die verstärkte Inspiration, die Geselligkeit uns geben kann, sowie die heilige Kommunion von Christi Leib und Blut, gnädiglich dargeboten in Form von Brot und Wein.

*Gott sei Dank* dass unsere Kirche am 13. September wieder für den öffentlichen Gottesdienst geöffnet war – allerdings mit strengen COVID 19-Protokollen – und wir konnten unseren wöchentlichen Dienst des Wortes und des Sakraments wieder aufnehmen. Und so wie der Glaube Gottes gnädiges Geschenk an uns in Jesus Christus ist, so ist die Kirche Jesu Christi Gottes gnädiges Geschenk an die Welt und die Gemeinde von Thornhill, zu dessen Dienst Gott uns berufen hat. Wir danken für die letzten sechs Jahrzehnte unseres gemeinsamen Lebens und für den Glauben, die Hoffnung und die Liebe, die uns Mitglieder und Nachbarn inspiriert hat. Es bezweifle niemand, dass die Welt trotz Unvollkommenheiten und Unzulänglichkeiten der christlichen Kirche durch unsere Gegenwart gesegnet wurde.

Zwei wichtige liturgische Feste folgen rasch auf den Fersen unseres Erntedankfestes. Am letzten Sonntag im Oktober (dem 25.) wird der „Reformationstag“ gefeiert; am ersten Sonntag im November (dem 1.) ist der Gedenktag „Allerheiligen.“ An diesen beiden heiligen Tagen des christlichen Kalenders verpflichten wir uns zu Gottes ständiger Erneuerung unserer Kirche, unseres Lebens und Glaubens; wir gedenken an unsere kürzlich verstorbenen Gefährten in Christus (siehe oben). Bitte teilen Sie mir die Namen derer mit, die Sie in Erinnerung halten möchten, und feiern Sie mit uns Gottesdients – in Person oder virtuell.

(Hinweis: Danke an Edward Stahlberg für die Erarbeitung meiner deutschen Übersetzung



*(Décor by Rosarie Lisinski; Photos by Tony Streisslberger)*

## **Christmas Eve Services**

Council, with Worship & the Arts, is currently working on a plan regarding our three Christmas Eve Services.

To help maintain health guidelines, we are looking at a few possible ways to hold them as safely as possible. One way would be that everyone, wishing to attend, must pre-register their attendance. We are also looking into possibly providing our service online in a live video format.

We will keep everyone updated over the next two months.

