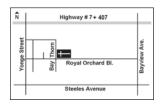
24 Or

### 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,

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. 2 Corinthians 13:11-12

Already a few weeks have passed since I announced my departure from Thornhill Lutheran Church and the reality is continuing to sink in. The remaining weeks will go by quickly as I try my best to say goodbye in person to as many parishioners as I can, and tie up the loose ends so that the interim pastor can take over smoothly in mid-October.

Leaving TLC will be bittersweet for me, and I will miss you all! I've enjoyed my time immensely; much has happened in these seven years: my family has grown to include two lovely children, James and Gabrielle. Carey left her call in Maynooth/ Raglan so that I could receive my first call with you, and she served as interim minister at Epiphany Lutheran before being called to Redeemer Lutheran. Highlights of my time here have been the purchase of the baby grand piano and the fundraiser concerts, Messy Church, the increase of communion service frequency, but above all, the pastoral work with young and old.

Paul's words of advice at the end of his second letter to the Corinthians ring true for many pastors saying goodbye to their congregations. I encourage you all to work together in peace and love in the next weeks and months ahead as you patiently discern your path forward. While you don't need to take Paul's advice to greet another "with a holy kiss" too literally, try putting your best face forward in encounters with other parishioners during this time, and strive to listen well, both to others and to the Holy Spirit, and to greet each other with warmth and affection. Please also pray for all Council members, Call Committee members, and your new interim pastor.

Brothers and sisters, farewell! Thanking you for your love, support and fond wishes, Pastor Sebastian

#### Liebe Gemeinde,

Zuletzt, Brüder und Schwestern, [lebet wohl!] freut euch, lasst euch zurechtbringen, lasst euch mahnen, habt einerlei Sinn, haltet Frieden! So wird der Gott der Liebe und des Friedens mit euch sein. Grüßt euch untereinander mit dem heiligen Kuss. 2. Korinther 13,11-12

Ein paar Wochen sind schon vergangen seit ich meine Abreise von dieser Gemeinde angekündigt habe. Die verbleibenden Wochen werden schnell verfliegen, und ich werde mein Bestes tun, mich von so vielen Mitgliedern wie auch möglich persönlich zu verabschieden. Es müssen natürlich auch einige Dinge geregelt werden, damit der Interimspastor Mitte Oktober relativ reibungslos sein Amt beginnen kann.

Das Verlassen von TLC wird für mich bittersüß sein, und ich werde euch alle vermissen! Ich habe meine Zeit unermesslich genossen; In diesen sieben Jahren ist viel passiert: Meine Familie ist um zwei Kindern, James und Gabrielle, größer geworden. Carey verließ ihre Pfarrstelle in Maynooth / Raglan, so dass ich meine Pfarrstelle bei Euch bekommen konnte, und sie diente als Interimspastor an der Epiphanias Kirche, bevor sie nach *Redeemer Lutheran* berufen wurde. Highlights meiner Zeit hier waren der Kauf des Flügels und die Benefizkonzerte, die Messy Church, die Erhöhung der Abendmahlsfrequenz, aber vor allem die pastorale Arbeit mit Jung und Alt.

Die Ratschläge vom Apostel Paulus am Ende seines zweiten Briefes an die Korinther sind immer noch für uns in unserer jetzigen Abschiedssituation hilfreich. Ich ermutige euch alle, in Frieden und Liebe in den nächsten Wochen und in den kommenden Monaten zusammenzuarbeiten, und geduldig den Weg vorwärts zu erforschen.

Ihr braucht zwar nicht Paulus Rat, euch untereinander "mit dem heiligen Kuss" zu begrüßen, allzu wörtlich nehmen, aber versucht bitte, andere Gemeindemitglieder mit positiver Einstellung und gutem Humor entgegenzutreten. Versucht auch bitte Anderen sowie den Heiligen Geist zuzuhören und einander mit Wärme und Zuneigung zu begrüßen. Bitte betet auch für alle Gemeinderatsmitglieder, die Mitglieder des "Call Committee" und Euren neuen Interimspastor.

Brüder und Schwester, lebet wohl!

Mit Dank für Eure Liebe, Unterstützung und herzliche Grüße, Pastor Sebastian

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Here is Pastor Sebastian's official resignation letter: August 16, 2017

Dear Church Council and Members of Thornhill Lutheran Church,

I would like to inform you that Carey and I have accepted a joint call to St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Kitchener, and I will thus be resigning my call. I would like to conclude my call to Thornhill Lutheran Church on Monday, October 16th, with an afternoon service of Farewell and Godspeed on Sunday October 1st, so that the churches and clergy of the Thornhill and German clusters can attend.

As I have often maintained, I believe my call to TLC was a good fit, I enjoyed being your pastor, and I feel we have accomplished much, with God's help, in the past 7 years. I had been looking forward to my sabbatical next year, and had anticipated staying at least another 4-5 years, and was not actively searching for a call. However, the timing of St. Matthew's call process was what it was, and both the Bishop's Assistant and Carey and I felt that the possibility of such a rare joint call was something we needed to investigate. I believe God opened a door, and I needed to heed the call.

This letter will no doubt bring forth many mixed feelings of sadness, anger and confusion. Please know that I love you all very much and will be praying for your next steps. I will still be here for the next 2 months to help guide you to the next chapter of interim ministry. The great visioning work that Council has recently started will be helpful in assembling the Congregational Profile and setting the priorities for your work and mission with your next called pastor. May you continue to seek out where and how God is active in this community of Thornhill, and discover how you can be a part of it.

I would like to conclude this letter by thanking you for your support and your active ministry with me as followers of Jesus Christ for the past 7 years. Thank you especially to all past and present Council members, executives, Group and Committee chairs, Secretaries and our Director of Music.

God's blessings in the months ahead,

yours in Christ,

Pastor Sebastian

The Farewell Service for Pastor Sebastian will be held on Sunday, October 1st at 3 p.m.

Although Pastor Sebastian will still be working at the church until October 8th, and then will be involved with the DELKINA (German Lutheran Conference in North America) conference from October 9th to 16th, this was the best date for the service. **Please note: there is no morning service on Sunday October 1st**.



The words don't seem to flow.

So lock our good times in your heart;

No matter where you go!



On **All Saints Sunday**, November 5, 2017, we'll be remembering the names of the faithful departed of the last year. If you would like a name added to the list (any name- not just those who have died in the last year!), please tell the pastor.

Worship and the Arts committee is proposing changing the monthly **Joint Family Services**, starting in November or December, 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.

Service Change



This year's confirmation programme, running September 2017 to February 2019, will be organized by Pastor Dawn Hutchings at Holy Cross Lutheran, Newmarket. Our confirmand is Braeden MacLean. If you have any questions, please contact Council or the Christian Education Committee. God's blessings, Braeden, on this journey of faith discovery!

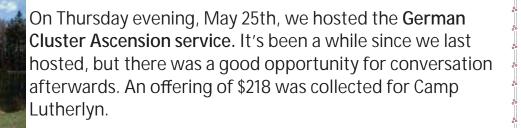
Please note that on Sunday October 15th there is no service in Thornhill. At 11 a.m., we will be gathering with the DELKINA and all 4 other German Lutheran Churches and the Bishop for a festive bilingual service at Martin Luther Evangelical Church, 2379 Lake Shore Blvd West. We will be organizing car-pooling, leaving the church at 9:45 a.m. Please contact the Pastor or the office. There will be sign-up sheets.

> On Sunday, October 22nd (TBC) is our annual **ELCIC Praise Appeal Sunday**, where we raise up the wonderful work of the wider church, both nationally and internationally. Consider making an extra donation for this Appeal!

On Sunday, October 29th at 2 p.m., the Toronto Area churches will be gathering for a **festive Reformation 500 commemoration service at St. James Anglican Cathedral**, 65 Church Street, Toronto. There will be a procession following the service up to First Lutheran on Bond Street for those who are interested.

> Our next **Messy Church dates** are tentatively scheduled for Wednesdays October 25th and November 29th at 6.30 p.m. Stay posted for more details.

One note about the October-November calendar on the back pages. While all Sunday services will commence at 10 a.m., the order of German, English and Bilingual services might need to change based on availability of the supply pastors.











On September 24th, there will be a congregational meeting on the issue of **selling the parsonage**. Most Lutheran congregations no longer have a parsonage and the official recommendation for many years has been to sell. Furthermore, most pastors would prefer to own their own home. The parsonage at 24 Orlon Crescent has been a wonderful home for 9 pastors and their families for 52 years and it would be sad to see it go, but our current financial situation makes a sale a logical choice. Additionally, the church is now able to profit from the recent large increases in real estate prices in the area.



Back on June 11, 2017, Thornhill Lutheran and St. Georges Churches joined together once again to lead an outdoor worship service, hosted by Thornhill Lutheran. It was a wonderful service lead by both Pastors Sebastian Meadows-Helmer and Katharina Moeller. The weather co-operated and was quite lovely (although a little breezy) and was nicely attended by members from both congregations. The technical portion was made possible with sound equipment and music provided for by our music director (Tony), as well as some musical contributions by our Pastor playing his violin, and by Pastor Edmund Hanssmann (accordion) and his wife Beata (guitar) and singing. Following the service, everyone stayed for some comradery and enjoyed a lovely potluck lunch beneath the pine trees. All in all, a wonderful service and day enjoyed by all! Submitted by Tony Streisslberger







A new way to financially support our congregation: **online dona-tions!** 

Since late Spring, we have a "Donate" button on the bottom of our webpage which links us to <u>canadahelps.org</u>. You can donate directly with your credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Amex, or Paypal) to our church and will receive a tax receipt from *Canadahelps.org*. While a small administration charge is taken off the donation, and

we prefer cheques or PAR donations, this is another convenient way to donate from anywhere in the world, at any time of day, whether the church is open or not. On the <u>canadahelps.org</u> site, you can choose from 5 designations: "Undesignated, Building Fund, Endowment Fund, Music Ministry, or Synod Benevolence". You can also choose to donate on a monthly basis.

If you have any questions, please contact Rene Samulewitsch or Olga Jurgeneit.

## PLEASE HELP US TO ELIMINATE OUR SHORTFALL!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Update

Jan. 1, 2017 - Aug. 31, 2017

OFFERINGS & DONATIONS	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Budget	65,333.28	58,666.66
Actual	<u>39,386.90</u>	<u>-42,892.73</u>
SHORTFALL Aug. 31, 2017	25,946.38	15,773.93
Please help us to eliminate our SHORTFALL of		15,773.93
ATTENDANCE	1265	1095

#### Benefit Concert for Tree Planting in Ethiopia

A tribute to the Reformation, 500 years ago, by Martin Luther.

Ethiopia has a stable, functioning government. It spends more than 60 pe cent of its budget on social and economic development. It hosts 600,000 refugees from its conflict -prone neighbours.

Soil erosion has been a big problem, but by investing in rural water infrastructure and tree planting supported by the Canadian Lutheran World Relief, food production has risen and soil erosion has fallen.

The aim of this concert on June 3, 2017, was for our congregation to help planting 2,000 trees. A slide show by Emily Pritchard, a representative of this effort, introduced the audience to the intricacies of this project, observed by herself on a recent visit to Ethiopia. Our congregation under the leadership of our Pastor Sebastian has again been able to attract music lovers from many parts of Toronto.

The reputation of this musical event has obviously spread and is based on the violin virtuosity of Pastor Sebastian and his accomplished pianist father Paul Helmer, a former music professor of McGill University, who together performed a Sonata by Brahms and a "Rondo Brilliant" by Schubert to such exquisite perfection and enjoyment that the jubilant crowd rose instantly to a standing ovation.

They were supported until intermission by Cellist Andrew Ascenzo, one of Toronto's most eclectic and versatile young performers who beautifully played a Suite for Cello by J.S. Bach.

The Piano Duo of Robert and Lona Richardson contributed a lighter fare with Dance Music by Brahms and Dvorak and several other popular musical highlights.

Master of Ceremonies was our talented and much appreciated Gunther Kunzelmann.

The evening progressed in the hall, offering refreshments and good fellowship. All in all, it was an evening to remember.

#### Submitted by Elllen Sturm

As a result of this concert, **\$1,875 was** raised (including a \$300 Faithlife grant) to plant 1,875 tree seedlings through CLWR in Ethiopia to prevent erosion and protect the watersheds.







- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children."

A Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a **HA** strong preaching on the devil.

One said to the other, 'What do you think about all this Satan stuff?'

The other boy replied, 'Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out.

It's probably just your Dad.'

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, 'Why is the bride dressed in white?''

The mother replied, 'Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.'

The child thought about this for a moment then said, 'So why is the groom wearing black?'

submitted by Deborah Tobin

#### Annual Committee and Group Reports

As every year, we require reports from Committee and Group Chairs by Dec. 1st 2017, so that the Annual Report can be distributed 2 weeks before the February Annual meeting. All chairs will be getting a friendly reminder by **Doris Lottermoser**, who will be collecting and assembling the reports for the Annual Report. Thank you, Doris for doing this important task.



# Invitations - Einladungen

Please join us for these important events Bitte nehmen Sie teil an den folgenden Gottesdiensten/Veranstaltungen

Sunday, October 1 3.00 p.m.

Farewell Service for Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer Abschiedsgottesdienst für Pastor Sebastian Meadows-Helmer



Sunday, October 8 10:00 a.m.

Joint Thanksgiving Family Service followed by Potluck Coffee Hour Gemeinsamer Erntedank-Familiengottedienst gefolgt von Potluck-Kirchkaffee

Sunday, October 15 11:00 a.m.

**NO Service in Thornhill!** Joint DELKINA Service at Martin Luther Evangelical Church, 2379 Lake Shore Blvd West Gemeinsamer DELKINA Gottesdienst bei Martin Luther Evangelical Church, 2379 Lake Shore Blvd West



Wednesday, October 25 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 29 2.00 p.m.

Sunday, November 5 10:00 a.m.

Reformation Sunday / Reformationssonntag Reformation 500 commemoration service at St. James Anglican Cathedral, 65 Church Street, Toronto Reformation 500 Gedenksgottesdienst bei St. James Anglican Cathedral, 65 Church Street, Toronto There will be a regular service in Thornhill at 10.00 a.m.!

All Saints Sunday / Allerheiligensonntag Joint Commemoration of the Departed Holy Communion followed by Potluck Coffee Hour Gemeinsamer Allerheiligen-Abendmahlsgottedienst gefolgt von Potluck-Kirchkaffee



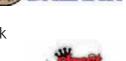


Saturday, November 25 10:00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

Annual Advent Bazaar Unser Weihnachtsbasar findet an diesem Tag statt.

Sunday, November 26 10.00 a.m.

Christ the King Sunday / Christkönigsfest Joint Holy Communion Family Service followed by Potluck Coffee Hour and Annual Ushers' Meeting Gemeinsamer Christkoenigsfest-Abendmahlsgottedienst gefolgt von Potluck-Kirchkaffee und Besprechung der Küster





Wednesday, November 29 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Messy Church

Messy Church



# Congregational News – Aus dem Gemeindeleben

#### **Anniversary**



On October 19 Ellen and Sigismund Sturm will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. We wish them all the best on this wonderful day!

#### Best Wishes



As always, our thoughts and prayers are with all those of our members and friends, who are sick in hospital or at home. May they, with God's help, get better soon to again join us in our Services. We also pray for their caregivers who are doing all they can to reach that goal.

Wir denken auch ständig und beten für alle Mitglieder und Freunde der Gemeinde, die krank liegen zu Hause oder aber im Krankenhaus. Allen wünschen wir gute Besserung und hoffen, dass sie bald wieder bei uns sein können.



#### **Thanksgiving Donation**

As in previous years, our special Thanksgiving Donation is destined for the **Daily Bread Foodbank.** Please use the special envelope included with your set. Should you prefer

your donation to go to another cause, be sure to indicate this on your envelope.

Die besondere Opfergabe anlässlich des Erntedankfestes ist auch in diesem Jahr wieder für die **Daily Bread Foodbank** bestimmt. Bitte benutzen Sie dafür den Sonderumschlag, den Sie in ihrem Umschlagkästchen finden. Soll Ihre Gabe einem anderen Zweck zukommen, geben Sie dies bitte auf dem Umschlag an.

#### Thanksgiving Decoration—Erntedanksdekoration

If you are interested, and wish to contribute to decorating our Church for Thanksgiving Day, please bring suitable items on **Saturday, October 7 from 10—1 p.m.** and help decorate the altar.



Wenn Sie Zeit und Lust haben bei der Ausschmückung der Kirche zum Erntedankfest zu helfen und/oder einen Beitrag

zu den Dekorationen zu leisten, bringen Sie bitte dazu Geeignetes am Sonnabend, den 7. Oktober von 10 bis 1 Uhr in die Kirche und helfen Sie bei der Ausschmückung des Altarraums.



## Christmas Bazaar – Weihnachtsbasar

## Saturday, November 25, 10.00 a.m-2.00 p.m

Important Priority: We urgently require donations of suitable prizes for the lucky winners of our Raffle Tickets.We need these as early as possible to allow us to assign prize numbers. We usually sell 500 tickets!

#### Dringende Bitte: Wir suchen passende Preise für die Tombola, für die wir gewöhnlich 500 Lose verkaufen. Wir brauchen die Artikel rechtzeitig, so dass wir die Numerierung vornehmen können.

The format of the Bazaar will be the same as before: we will be serving a lunch as well as coffee and cake, for which we need plenty of potato salads and lots of lovely cakes. In addition, our homemade baking table is always a huge success, so we would appreciate contributions to that table as well - as many goodies as possible.

While we are still interested in handicrafts, we now also sell **NEW items**, more specifically items that might be suitable for gifting purposes. Examples would be crystals or linens, small electronic devices, cosmetics, pictures, etc. – **but they must be NEW**.

Most importantly: **We need your help!** Please be generous in supplying as much as you can for what is needed at this event: keep baking those cookies and cakes, making your crafts, and set aside the time to help with the set-up and the work on the bazaar day itself. **All ages are asked to become involved!** 

Wie in jedem Jahr bitten wir um Ihre Hilfe für dieses wichtige Ereignis in unserem Gemeindeleben. Der Tag wird sich nach dem gleichen Muster abspielen wie bisher. Es gibt Lunch, Kaffee und Kuchen, und eine Anzahl von Artikeln, die zum Verkauf angeboten werden, vor allem auch soviel Selbstgebackenes wie möglich. Wir sind weiterhin interessiert an schönen Handarbeiten und hoffen dass Sie schon fleißig daran arbeiten! **Aber wir wollen auch wieder neue Sachen anbieten,** u. a. und nur als Beispiel hier angegeben: Kristallsachen, Tischdecken, Servietten, kleine elektronische Geräte, Küchengeräte, Bilder, usw.- **nur muss alles neu sein!** 

Besonders wichtig ist natürlich **Ihr persönlicher Einsatz** bei der Vorbereitung und der Durchführung des Basars. Wir rechnen mit Ihrer Großzügigkeit im Hinblick auf alles was wir benötigen, insbesondere Backwaren aller Art. **Angehörige aller Altersstufen sind dazu eingeladen!** 

For further information please call/weitere Informationen erteilen gerne:

Edith Schiller 416-225-5502 Leni Schwaertzel 416-222-5562 Doris Lottermoser 416-222-5712

Gitta Urbschat



#### <u>June:</u>

- New LED Sign contract with Greentek has been finalized
- Council reviewed our financial situation and a congregational meeting will be held in October, which was moved to early September

**Council Highlights** 

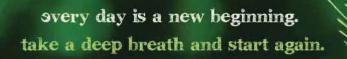
 Discussed and gathering more information regarding the possible sale of the Parsonage

#### <u>July:</u>

No meeting held.

#### August:

- Review of Pastoral resignation
- The process has started for appointing an interim Pastor
   Once our interim Pastor has been confirmed, Council can begin the Call process for a Pastor
- Congregational meeting has been set up to vote on the sale of the Parsonage.
- Foundation of sign has been poured and the trench for the wiring has been dug.
   A very big thank-you to the Tobin family for digging the trench in preparation for the final stage of the sign installation.



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Use this page for notes, scribbles, your next work of art or an article for next newsletter!

# October 2017

Thornhill Lutheran (Church Office: 905-889-0873)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pentecost 17 = 3:00 PM Joint Com- munion Service with Thanksging at the Conclusion of a Call	2	3 = 11:00 AM Office Hours - 2 PM = 2:00 PM Frauen- gruppe	4 = 2:00 PM Office Hours - 4 PM	5	6 Pastor's Day Off	Pastor's Day Off
8 Thanksgiving Sunday = 10:00 AM Joint Fami- ly Service	9 9:00 AM Pastor Away at DELKINA Confer- ence	10 Pastor Away at DELKINA Conference	<ul> <li> Pastor Away at DELKINA Conference</li> </ul>	<ul> <li> Pastor Away at DELKINA Conference</li> </ul>	13 Pastor Away at DELKINA Conference	<ul> <li> Pastor Away at DELKINA Conference</li> </ul>
15 Pentecost 19 = Pastor Away at DELKINA Conference = 11:00 AM Service at Martin Luther, 2379 Lakeshore Blvd. W.	16 Pastor S. Last Day Pastor Away at DELKINA Conference	17	18 = 8:00 PM Council	19	20	21 = 2:00 PM Frohe Runde
22 Pentecost 20 ELCIC Praise Appeal = 10:00 AM English Service	23	24	25 e6:30 PM Messy Church	26	27	28 = 2:00 PM Circle of Friends – Craft Circle
29 Reformation 500 = 10:00 AM Joint Fami- ly Service = 2:00 PM Area Ref- ormation Service at St. James'	30 7:30 PM Worship & Arts	31	1	2	3	4

# November 2017

Thornhill Lutheran (Church Office: 905-889-0873)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Reformation 500 = 10:00 AM Joint Fami- ly Service = 2:00 PM Area Ref- ormation Service at St. James'	30 7:30 PM Worship & Arts		1	2	3	4
5 Daylight Savings Ends All Saints Sunday = 10:00 AM Joint Ser- vice with Remem- = 11:30 AM Visioning Town Hall	6	7 = 2:00 PM Frauen- gruppe	8	9	10	11
12 Pentecost 23 = 10:00 AM German Communion Service	13		15 ■8:00 PM Council	16	17	18 2:00 PM Frohe Runde
19 Stewardship Sunday Pentecost 24 = 10:00 AM English Service	20	21	22	23	24	25 = 10:00 AM Christmas Bazaar
26 Christ the King S. = 10:00 AM Joint Fami- ly Service = 11:30 AM Usher's Meeting	27	28	29 6:30 PM Messy Church	30	1	2