



THORNHILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Bay Thorn Dr., Thornhill, Ont. L3T 3V2

Website: www.thornhill-lutheran.org E-mail: office@thornhill-lutheran.org

Pastor: Rev. Peter Lisinski Office: 905-889-0873 Cell: 647-395-7649

Dear Children of The Fall,

As Summer fades into Autumn, the winds of change are swirling – not only in the Gulf of Mexico, but in our own lives, too. After Labour Day public schools re-open for “in person” classes; on Sunday, September 12 our church re-opens for “in person” worship and our annual congregational meeting; and on September 20, Canada will elect our next federal government.

Speaking of voting, in June I invited you to search for and submit words that share identical spelling as well as meaning in both the German and English language, as potential suggestions for giving our congregational newsletter a proper name. Here is the list so far, in alphabetical order: *Detail, Hunger, Plan, Situation, Start, Wind ...*

A secondary list is composed of words that are identical in meaning, though not quite in spelling, first in English then auf Deutsch: *Alternative–Alternativ, Compass–Kompass, Exclusive–Exclusiv, Inclusive–Inklusiv, Intensive–Intensiv ...*

I suspect the list could be longer, but I believe we have enough to work with fruitfully. Please select the word, or combination of words, you favour for our future masthead, and “cast your ballot” by leaving a message by Email (pastor@thornhill-lutheran.org) or cell phone (647-395-7649) before the end of September. Results will be published in the Thanksgiving (October) issue, to secure Council approval for proper naming our newsletter in time for the beginning of the new liturgical year in Advent.

Feelin’ Dunk! Vielen Dank!

Pastor Peter

Liebe Kinder des Falls,

Wenn der Sommer in den Herbst übergeht, wirbeln die Winde des Wandels, nicht nur im Gulf von Mexiko, sondern auch in unserem eigenen Leben. Nach dem Tag der Arbeit werden sich die Schulen wieder für „persönlichen“ Unterricht öffnen; am Sonntag, den 12. September wird sich unsere Kirche wieder für „persönlichen“ Gottesdienst und für unsere Jahresversammlung öffnen; und am 20. September wird Kanada unsere nächste Bundesregierung wählen.

Im Juni hatte ich Sie eingeladen, Wörter zu suchen und einzureichen, die sowohl in der deutschen als auch in der englischen Sprache die gleiche Schreibweise und Bedeutung haben, als mögliche Vorschläge für die Namensgebung unseres Gemeindebriefes. Hier die bisherige Liste in alphabetischer Reihenfolge: *Detail, Hunger, Plan, Situation, Start, Wind ...*

Eine nebensächliche Liste besteht aus Wörtern mit gleicher Bedeutung, wenn auch nicht ganz in gleicher Schreibweise, zuerst auf englisch, dann auf deutsch: *Alternative–Alternativ, Compass–Kompass, Exclusive–Exklusiv, Inclusive–Inklusiv, Intensive–Intensiv ...*

Ich vermute, die Liste könnte länger sein, aber ich glaube, wir haben genug, um damit ertragreich zu arbeiten. Bitte wählen Sie das Wort oder eine Verbindung von Worten, die Sie bevorzugen für den zukünftigen Titel unseres Gemeindebriefes und „geben Sie Ihre Stimme ab“ durch eine Nachricht per Email (pastor@thornhill-lutheran.org) oder Telefon (647-395-7649) vor Ende September. Die Ergebnisse werden in der Erntedank-Ausgabe (Oktober) veröffentlicht, um die Zustimmung unseres Kirchenrates für eine passende Benennung unseres Gemeindebrief rechtzeitig zum Beginn des neuen liturgischen Jahres im Advent zu erhalten.

Vielen Dank! Feelin' Dunk!

Pastor Peter

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Beginning September 14, I will be in the church office, Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Should you wish to meet with me, no appointment is necessary. However, it always a good idea to call me at the number above, in case of my absence due to unforeseen circumstances. Or you may prefer to arrange a pastoral visit in your home or place of work.



Annual Meeting Motions

Constitutional changes

1) Motion regarding council members numbers:

“Be it will be resolved, that council recommends to decrease the number of council members from seven to a minimum of five people.”

1st, 2nd, and all in favour by Council. Motion moves to congregational discussion and vote.

2) Motion regarding voting:

“Be it resolved that council recommends to change voting quorum from 25 to 18 eligible voting members.”

1st, 2nd, and all in favour by Council. Motion moves to congregational discussion and vote.

Non-Constitutional changes

1) Motion regarding repairs to the outside of the church building:

”Be it resolved that council approves Exterior by Design Stucco & Stone Inc. to repair the whole outside of the church. A generous donation of \$15,000 has been to cover the cost of the renovation. The rest of the money will come from the building fund.”

1st, 2nd, and all in favour by Council. Motion moves to congregational discussion and vote.

EASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

The Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada held its triennial assembly on June 25 and 26. This year Peter and I attended virtually, via YouTube. It was a unique experience for us, as I am sure it was for all who attended. In some ways it was nice not to have to leave home to travel, but then again we missed the camaraderie of seeing old and new friends which always made conventions in the past very special.

Bishop Michael Pryse spoke about “The church reformed, but always in the process of being reformed.” This is true for all of us, individually as well as collectively as the people of God, especially during the COVID 19 pandemic. The worship services were uplifting, but again I missed being among the community of believers praying, singing and having Holy Communion together – just as I’ve missed all of you over the past eighteen months. The choirs that sang, all by ZOOM, were amazing and lifted the mood of the assembly. This way helped us appreciate the old ways even more, but we have also learned to appreciate the new process of being reformed.

The theme of this year’s assembly was “Behold, I am doing a new thing” and this year it was all new. Bishop Mike wore an orange tee shirt that said, “Every Child Matters”; and the side altar table had a Teddy bear, a child’s shoe and a candle – all to remind us of the horrifying discovery of mass graves of Indigenous children. It was very reflective and sad for all of Canada. We were advised to take up the challenge of walking with our First Nations people in their struggles, so there is health and healing for all creation. I was shocked to hear that too many First Nations people still don’t have clean drinking water. I wrote about this crisis after the National Church convention in Ottawa eight years ago, and am appalled that so little has been done about since.



As Jesus says in Revelation 22:17: “Let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

Other significant business included the routine affirmation of regular ministry reports, election of synod council and other standing committees and, of course, adoption of the proposed budget for the next three years in our mission.

As routine as the agenda was, the presentations of our key-note speakers proved most inspirational in reflecting on the “new things” of soul and spirit God has been revealing within the church – of all denominations. Diana Butler Bass, an Episcopalian (Anglican), spoke about imagining the people of God walking the “Way of Jesus” through the COVID 19 wilderness into the “New thing” of the Promised Land. Jeff Chu, a Presbyterian lay person, denied ordination due to his sexual orientation, focused on God’s deeply personal love for each of God’s children – including you, me, us – as the power to embrace the “new thing” God is doing *in and through* our suffering.

Several motions concerning current social issues in our society were adopted, addressing, climate change, poverty, racism and, of course, reconciliation with our First Nations peoples.

It was a good experience to serve as our congregation’s delegate, and I thank you for the opportunity.

See you all in church when we reopen, hopefully soon!

Yours in Christ,

Rosarie Lisinski



CONGRATULATIONS & CONSOLATIONS

HAPPY Belated BIRTHDAY!

With penance and apologies to those whose names were omitted from the summer issue due to my editorial oversight, let us offer prayers and thanks for the blessing of our companions in faith who celebrated birthdays in July and August:

Else Balsmeier, July 15

Marika Samulewitsch, July 26

Elfriede McDermid, August 14

Erika Koepke, August 25

Ilse Wanschura, August 29

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Helga Wolenda, September 7

Prisca Kenel, September 26



CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Theodor Maximillian Baeumler, born in Vienna, Austria on March 17, 2020, was received into the God's communion of saints in the sacrament of Holy Baptism. We rejoice with his parents, Axel Baeumler & Julia Belluz, with Godfather David Belluz, Godmother Christina Sgro, and all Theodor's family and friends.



Welcome, our new Brother in Christ!

IN OUR PRAYERS



Our dear sister, **Brigitte Urbschat** died on August 4, after a brief stay at North York General Hospital. We extend our condolences to her long time partner, **David Dunn**, giving thanks to God for their life together and for Gitte's faithful companionship within our church family! ...

Our brother, **Fred Neitzert**, suffered a mild stroke several weeks ago. He is convalescing at home, but further tests have revealed a malignant brain tumour, for which he is currently receiving treatment. Please join Fred in giving thanks for the goodness and grace of God as we share the walk the journey of our common mortality to the end – and beyond!



Council Highlights: June to August 2021

June 16

- **A Baptism** will be held at the end of August and all pandemic restrictions will be followed. They are occasional visitors to our church and council sent along best wishes to the family.
- Due safety precautions, Council continues with ZOOM meetings. Location of meetings will change depending on restrictions and weather.
- **What is in a Name?** Pastor Peter has put forth the idea to name our newsletter. The hope is, if the congregation agrees with the addition of a newsletter name, that the name is viable in German and English. If not, something that is uplifting and forward thinking.
- Council recommended joining the **Royal Orchard Home Owners Ass.**, so that we can better serve, and understand, our neighbourhood concerns.
- **New Council members needed!!!!**

- Pastor Peter mentioned that he and St. Paul's Pastor are looking to hold a possible a joint outdoor fall service.
- As usual, only one council meeting will be held in the summer months, hence the next meeting is in August.
- **Property:**
 - The estimated cost of repairing the shed is under \$500.00; which council approved the purchase of the materials needed.
 - Stucco/Masonry quotes were reviewed, as at least two of the outside walls have been deemed in need of immediate repair. Council strongly recommends repairing all four walls at once, to ensure that no repairs will be needed in a few years. Final vote will occur at the next council meeting before being presented, and voted on, at our Annual meeting.

August 19

- Fred Neitzert informed council regarding his health concerns. Council wishes for his speedy recovery and we are all holding him, and his family, in our prayers.
- A big Thank you to Fred Neitzert and Ed Stahlberg for repairing the shed.
- Council reviewed and voted on the following motion: **"Be it resolved that council approves Exterior by Design Stucco & Stone Inc. to repair the whole outside of the church. A generous donation of \$15,000 has been to cover the cost of the renovation. The rest of the money will come from the building fund."** Motion will now move to be presented, discussed, and voted on at our Annual meeting.
- **Reopening of in-person Church Services** will start as of September 12, with the maximum attendance of 30 people. Council also approved that Newlight can also return to in-person services, with the same limitations and COVID 19 regulations.
- Council reviewed the **ELCIC's Best Practices August 2021** recommendations. We approved them and updated with our current COVID19 Safety Practices. Please note that our current safety practices will also continue; for example, but not limited to, mask wearing, keeping a contact log, etc. The additional items will be posted in the September Newsletter. Please note that we will always be adjusting to the recommendations of the Ontario Public Health.





ELCIC Best Practices, from August 2021 Council meeting

Please find below some updated Best Practices, which have been added to our current COVID safety practices. Please note that we will always be adjusting to the recommendations of the Ontario Public Health.

- 1.) Pastor office hours will restart and it is recommended that appointments are prearranged.
- 2.) Pastor/or lay readers may remove mask when speaking; as long as safe distances are practiced.
- 3.) Pastor **MUST** wear mask during Holy Communion.
- 4.) We will continue using the Order of Service, in pamphlet form.
- 5.) Increase social distancing to 4m for soloist/musical ensemble.
- 6.) "The Peace" should be shared **ONLY** by NON-PHYSICAL expression!
- 7.) Offering plate to remain on piano at front of sanctuary.
- 8.) Holy Communion wine will return; using disposable plastic cups only.
- 9.) We shall not be returning to Coffee time/Kaffeezeit until further notice.
- 10.) Pastor to return to visiting members. It is recommended for visits to be outdoors but if indoors, it should be in a well ventilated area. Mask wearing, and following social distancing, to be maintained.

Reopening of in-person Church Services will start as of September 12, with the maximum attendance of 30 people.



NEW COUNCIL MEMEBERS NEEDED!!!!

Please contact Pastor Peter or Nancy Moulson,
if you are interesting in joining council.



A BEDTIME PRAYER STORY

Speaking of prayer, during my vacation two of our grandchildren who live with us – four-year old Chelsea and her three-year old brother, Evan – wanted to have a “sleepover” with Grammy and Grampy. When bedtime came, Rosarie and I prepared two mattresses in our living room. We took the opportunity to teach them a familiar children’s bedtime prayer:

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
When I wake and see the light,
it’s God who kept me through the night.

When we were done, Chelsea announced that she wanted to say a prayer of her own! I quickly grabbed my pen and note pad: “If I say tonight that I don’t know, and hope and wish that I don’t know why, but I think that Jesus up above – he’s the Lord; he’s the one that I don’t know, but he knows that I don’t know – and when I go to bed at night, I’ll think of him and I know that I think I’m right. Amen.”

I’m sure God understood. As for my understanding, Romans 8:26-27 helps.
Good night; sleep well! Gute Nacht; schlaf gut!

