



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

GEMEINDEBRIEF – ERNTEDANK 2021 NEWSLETTER – THANKSGIVING 2021



A FIRST WORD: GRACE AND GRATITUDE

by Fred Neitzert

Hello Dear Friends,

I am currently in Sunnybrook Hospital for cancer treatment. I just want to let you know that I am in good, positive spirits despite my diagnosis. I have only deep gratitude to our gracious Lord and Almighty Creator for the wonderful, peaceful, healthy, long and happy life with the loving family God has granted me. Please don't worry about me. I feel quite content with my predicament – after all, I am fully aware of the facts of life. There is no escape from death; we all must go through it, sooner or later. Thank you all

for your friendship; I love you all, and will be forever grateful for our companionship. God bless you all!

Church Council Notes

At our Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, September 12 – having been postponed three times since February 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic – we bade a thankful farewell to faithful servants **Doris Lottermoser, Edith Schiller, Fred Neitzert, and Martin Habeksot**, and expressed a joyful welcome to **Denise Wanschura-Jack, Erin Tobin and Kaitlyn Georges**, who join our dedicated re-elected members, **Edith Schulbeck and Nancy Moulson** (Chair).

At our first meeting, held via ZOOM on September 15, we discussed several issues, as summarized in the excerpts from the Minutes below:

Naming our Newsletter: **Edith Schiller**, for whom and to whom we offer thanks for her willingness to continue serving as our Treasurer, suggested the name “**Echo**” in accord with the stipulation that the name be identical in both spelling and meaning of our congregation’s two official languages. Council consensus is that **Thornhill Lutheran Echo** is the most suitable of all suggestions submitted to date. We will make the final decision at our next meeting on October 21.

Property Issues: It was decided that the motion below, concerning our building’s need for Stucco/Masonry repairs, be presented at our Congregational Meeting on September 26th.

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 made to cover the costs, the rest will come from the building fund.

(Approved by congregation on Sept. 26, 2021)

Playground: The Emergency Door that leads from the Fellowship Hall into the playground is in need of repair.

We thankfully receive **Danny & Ingrid Tiano's** generous donation of a new climber for our playground.

Reopening to Renters: We continue to monitor the situation. Currently our church is limited to 20% capacity. The New Light Korean congregation is limited to using the sanctuary only, with a maximum of 30.

Council Meetings: ZOOM meetings will continue for the foreseeable future.

We welcome your advice, concerns, and ideas!

+++++

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



On Wednesday, September 8, **Kyle and Kate Georges**, welcomed their newborn son, ***Michael Alexander***, into their home and family. We rejoice with them, we pray for them, and look forward to greeting them in church in the near future.

Congratulations & Blessings!

+++++

With thanks and prayers for God's blessings, we wish a blessed

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY!"

to **Edith Schiller** (October 21) and **Diana Habekost** (November 9)

+++++ **CORRECTION** +++++

Dear Friends,

The article I wrote called "**Eastern Synod Assembly Report**" in the September issue has a huge oversight in it. The "discovery of **mass** graves" of Indigenous children should have said the "discovery of **unmarked** graves".

I apologize for this mistake, and hope I didn't offend anyone.

Sincerely,

Rosarie Lisinski

+++++

"T H A N K S" t o G o d = "G I V I N G" T w o O t h e r s

1. Between Canadian Thanksgiving on October 11, and American Thanksgiving on November 28, **Thornhill Lutheran Church** is invited to join **Saint Paul Lutheran Church**, Richmond Hill in collecting **fresh produce** in support of the **Richmond Hill Food Bank** currently serving some 1400 people per month. In consultation with its Director, **Lee Reynolds**, Pastor Peter and **Pastor Annette Smith** have agreed to focus on four specific items: **potatoes, carrots, onions, and apples.**

Please bring your contributions to worship on Sundays, or drop them at the church on Tuesdays between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

2. The **Thornhill Ministerial Association** is once again seeking support for our annual **Christmas Assistance Program.** In order to simplify

distribution we are asking for **cash donations only**, which will be used to purchase **grocery store** and **department store gifts cards**.

*Please make your offerings no later than **November 21**. Please designate your envelope "**Christmas Assistance**"; if contributing by cheque, please make it payable to "**Thornhill Lutheran Church – Christmas Assistance**". We will then forward the total received by end of November.*

Thanks be to God for the joy of giving!



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 7

***Commemoration of Saints
who have died during the***

Coronavirus Pandemic:

Brigitte Urbschat

Elisabeth Schenk

Franz Kenel

Hannelore Fricke

Stefan Lojowski

EIN LETZTES WORT VON UNSEREM PASTOR

Der Herbst, insbesondere die sechs Wochen zwischen dem kanadischem und dem amerikanischen Erntedankfest, ist in den letzten Jahren zu meiner Lieblingsjahreszeit geworden. In meiner Jugend hat mir der Winter am besten gefallen, weil er neben Weihnachten die Rückkehr der Eishockeysaison bedeutete, was ich von sechs bis fünfzig Jahren gespielt habe. Seit dem „Aufhängen der Schlittschuhe“ vor fast zwanzig Jahren hat das Singen mit Rosarie in verschiedenen Gemeindechören den Winter erträglich gemacht. Allmählich jedoch, als die kanadischen Winter kälter und länger wurden (in meiner Vorstellung, wenn nicht tatsächlich) – und das Schneeschaukeln schwieriger wurde – begann ich den Sommer in der freien Natur zu bevorzugen: Sonne und Sand am Strand, Grillabende nach der Kirche, Lesen auf der Veranda und natürlich die Ruhe und Erneuerung meines Jahresurlaubs. In letzter Zeit scheinen die Sommer heißer und die Wespen zahlreicher geworden zu sein, und Rückenschmerzen haben meine Schwimmfähigkeit behindert.

Doch genau diese Einschränkungen, die der Alterungsprozess mit sich bringt, sind es, weswegen ich den Herbst mehr würdige! Der „Wandel und Verfall, den ich überall sehe“, spiegelt sich in dem Kaleidoskop sterbender Blätter wider, die sich von überwiegend Grün zu verschiedenen Rot-, Gelb- und Orangetönen verfärben, erinnern mich daran, dass sogar die Sterblichkeit, die unsere Kultur uns dazu ermutigt, zu leugnen, von Gottes Verheißung einer neuen Schöpfung durch den Tod und die Auferstehung Jesu Christi zeugt.

Die farbenfrohe Schönheit der herbstlichen Landschaft bewegt mich, um Gnade zu beten, dass meine eigene Pilgerfahrt in den Tod die Herrlichkeit Gottes widerspiegelt sowie andere dazu inspiriert, in Danksagen für Gottes Geschenk des Lebens in dieser Welt zu leben und in Danksagen für die Gabe in der kommenden Welt zu leben. Über die schwindende Schönheit des Herbstes hinaus und der drohenden Unzufriedenheit des Winters wird sich die ewige Hoffnung des Frühlings im endlosen Sommer des Sohn-nenbadens der unendlichen Liebe Gottes erfüllen.

Deo Gratias! Gott sei Dank!

Pastor Peter

A FINAL WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

In recent years autumn, particularly the six weeks between Canadian and American Thanksgiving, has become my favourite season of the year. In my younger days I liked winter best

because, in addition to Christmas, it meant the return of hockey season – which I played from age six to age fifty. Since “hanging up the blades” nearly twenty years ago, singing with Rosarie in various community choirs has kept winter bearable. Gradually however, as Canadian



winters became colder and longer (in my imagination, if not in fact) – and snow shoveling more difficult – I began to favour summer in the great outdoors: sun and sand at the beach, weekend barbecues after church, reading on the porch and, of course, the rest and renewal of my annual vacation. Lately summers seem to have become hotter, wasps more numerous, and back pain has hindered my ability to swim.

Yet these very limitations brought by the aging process are the very thing that deepen my appreciation of autumn! The “change and decay in all around I see” reflected in the kaleidoscope of dying leaves turning from dominant green to

include diverse shades of red, yellow and orange, remind me that even the mortality our culture encourages us to deny, bears witness to God's promise of a new creation established by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The colourful beauty of autumn's landscape moves me to pray for the grace that my own pilgrimage toward death will reflect the glory of God and inspire others to live in thanksgiving for God's gift of life in this world, and to die in thanksgiving for the gift of life in the world to come. Beyond autumn's fading beauty, and winter's looming discontent, spring's eternal hope will be fulfilled in the endless summer of basking in the Son-shine of God's infinite love. Deo Gratias! Thanks be to God!

Pastor Peter

Pastor's Office Hours: I plan to be present at the church on Tuesdays between 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. However, it is advisable to call first, lest I am absent due to unforeseen circumstances. I am also available by appointment, at the office, at you home, or at any other time and place convenient for you.