

TÕE TERA / THE SOWER - JANUARY

ST. PETER'S ESTONIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF TORONTO
EELK Toronto Peetri Kogudus



I Am the New Year

I am the New Year.
I am an unspoiled page
in your book of time.
I am your next chance
at the art of living.
I am your opportunity to practice
what you have learned about life
during the last twelve months.
All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me,
waiting for you to search it but with more determination.
All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine
to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.
All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do,
all that you hoped but did not will,
all the faith that you claimed but did not have
--these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened
by the touch of a strong purpose.
I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said,
"Behold, I make all things new."

Author Unknown

**"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be
alive without breathing."** Martin Luther

Õpi palvetama !

Ärgu olgu sinuga nõnda, et

istud omaette
või pikutad
pingil, lased
pea langeda
ning pured ja
närid ennast
mõtetes,
muretsed ja
otsid väl-
japääsu,
mõttled ainult
sellele, kui

pahasti käib sinu käsi, kui kahju
on sul enesest ja kui armetu
inimene sa oled.



Ei, tõuse üles, sa laisk, heida
põlvili või tõsta käed ja silmad
üles taeva
poole, loe
mõni psalm
või Meie
Isa ja
kanna oma
hädad Ju-
mala ette,
kaeba ja
hüüa Teda
appi, ka
pisaratega,

kui see nii peab olema!

Martin Luther



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Kantselei Tunnid/Office Hours

Teisipäeval/Tues. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Kolmapäeval/Wed. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Neljapäeval/Thurs. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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**Please donate to secure the future of
St. Peter's – cash, cheques,
and e-mail transfers accepted.**

KIRIKUKALENDER / CHURCH CALENDAR

Mis on Kolmekuningapäev?

Kolmekuningapäev on 6. jaanuaril ja kirikukalendris on see palve, kui kolm Hommikumaatarka (kuningat) leidsid Jeesuslapsi.

Eesti rahvakalendris tähistas see jõuluaja lõppu, olles ühtlasi jõuluaja viimane püha. Sel päeval eestlased tõid veel õlgi tuppna, sõid pühade aja toite ja täitsid muid jõulukombeid.



The visit of the Magi

Three Kings' Day celebrates that Magi from the east came to Bethlehem in search of Jesus.

Three Kings' Day is also called Epiphany, a Greek word meaning revelation or appearance. It underscores the importance of the day as the day when Jesus was revealed, as the savior of the world.

What did the classmate say when asked why they kept walking next to the same person at school?
"I was told I'm supposed to walk by Faith!"

Holy Catholic Church ?

There has been some conversation and great questions regarding a part within the service last month. You were paying attention—that is great!

It has to do with the Apostle Creed our statement of faith ... And in the Third article on "Being made Holy" where we had printed in the bulletin and we verbally stated:

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

The part "the holy catholic church" can sometimes bring great and relevant questions. Please know that this is the "catholic church" lower case c meaning the whole Christian church. This is part of the translating from Greek. I also realize that in some translations it is "Christian church". Please note that both of these translations are correct, one is not better than the other.

It may be that one is familiar to you or me and speaks more easily to our heart, and yet please know that another one may speak more easily to another person's heart. This is why we have decided to include both the "Christian" and "catholic" in the English version in your bulletin and we also have included the Estonian language translation. It is up to each of you to decide whether you join in in Estonian or English and which word you use within the Apostles' Creed, "Christian" or "catholic".

Pastor Pamela Kormano

UUDISED /NEWS

God Answers Prayers

We always knew that God answered prayers, but it was never more evident than with our new renters.

The Toronto Korean Open Church, which follows Presbyterian worship liturgy, was losing the space where they held their services. They were praying for a new space to call home. One of the church members active in finding a new location saw a dream or vision where God showed her a triangle. She didn't understand what message God was sending, she'd never seen a church in the shape of a triangle. However, when she found St. Peter's website, and saw the interior of our church, she understood God's message, for indeed, our sanctuary looks like a triangle.

We are pleased to announce that we have entered into an ongoing rental relationship with the TKOC. They are thrilled to now call St. Peter's their home, and we are happy to have them. Their rental needs mesh nicely with ours and that of the Salvation Army.

We are getting more "techy"

With more individuals using our premises, we have graduated from the hallway white board, to an online calendar for room rentals. Although the Salvation Army will continue to use the white board for informational purposes only for their members, our new online master

calendar will be the central hub for organizing all church room usage. The online calendar is accessible to the administration of all groups using our premises. All room bookings are being managed by Tiia Roiser for the time being, who will co-ordinate room availability and reservation.

	Sunday 7	Monday 8	Tuesday 9	Wednesday 10	Thursday 11	Friday 12	Saturday 13
Office Hours (Time) 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Office Hours 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Office Hours 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM	
Sanctuary	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM			10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	
Large Room	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM			10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	
Small Room	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM			10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	
Other Rooms							

A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITY

Pastoral Care Committee

Would you like to be a part of starting our Pastoral Care Committee? A Phone Pals Program, sometimes also called a Friendly Calls Program?

Contact Anne Keelmann at akeelmann@rogers.com if you'd like to help out.

Sunday School

"Let the children come to me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." Luke 18:16-17

The greatest of gifts we can give to a child is to provide them with a strong religious foundation.

While none of us are perfect parents, we can be good examples by teaching our children about Jesus, God, and the entire Christian faith. We don't have to be experts, we just have to lay down a solid foundation of Christian morals and values. Opening up the lines of communication about such matters with your toddler will carry through to having deep conversations with your children as adults.

It is our hope that we will begin to offer Sunday School beginning in January 2024. The Sunday School classes will be offered on the 1st Sunday of each month to coincide with the English language services.

Are you interested in working with our young people? Do you like teaching Sunday School lessons? songs? organizing Sunday School events? providing snacks? We'd love to hear from you. Please contact Tiia Roiser at tiia-roiser@rogers.com as soon as possible.



A Sunday School teacher asked: "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" Johnny answered: "He is an artist!" "Really?! How do you know?" the teacher asked. You know - "Our Father, who does art in Heaven?"

Confirmation Classes



Above: Confirmation 1957

If there are enough interested students, St. Peter's will organize and run confirmation classes. In order that our future young members best understand the concepts, lessons would be offered in English.

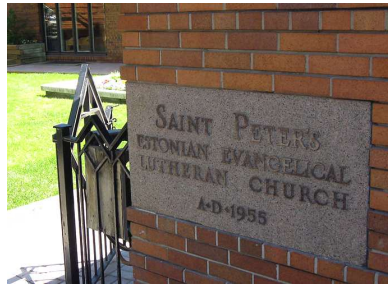
Time is running out for registration, if you are interested, please register for classes immediately.

Archive Committee

We are pleased to announce that the new Chairwoman of our Archive Committee is Anu Randmaa. She has been a member of the archive group for many years. The group needs help sorting through archival materials and is looking for new members. Do you have suggestions as to how to archive digital materials? Typically the archive group has met on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. These times may be subject to change to suit new members. If you'd like to learn more about the work of the archive group, please contact Anu Randmaa at aarandmaa@rogers.com or by calling: 647-345-9197

A HERITAGE MOMENT IN HISTORY

Church Cornerstone



Did you know that we have a time capsule in our church cornerstone located at the front left of our building exterior? It was set in 1955 and blessed by Pastor Oskar Puhm.

The following proclamation, written in parchment in both Estonian and English was placed into the cornerstone:

"St. Peter's Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Toronto was founded on August 3, 1948, by Estonian immigrants who were forced to leave their homeland to escape the godless and tyrannical regime. Faith and democratic principles were the only possessions many could take with them. Through countless difficulties and hardships, through many lands and countries, these Estonians began to arrive in Canada in 1944 to start a new life.

As a result of the horrible work of the enemies of the Christian faith, thousands of our people have

been deported to Siberia and there have died of starvation and inhumane treatment. These enemies have pressed our native Estonia under the yoke of Bolshevist slavery. Bitter experience has made this well known to those who were able to escape and has given us the strength to hold high the banner of faith.

Our St. Peter's Church has been built to the glory of God and is a memorial of our escape to a free country. This church is being erected in memory of the thousands of Estonians who have died in World Wars, the Wars of Liberation, and the dangerous escape. This temple of the Lord shall be our spiritual home where the Gospel of Jesus Christ shall resound. It shall be a place where we pray for heavenly blessing for those who are heavy-laden and those who are in bondage.

It is a place where we shall pray for true peace and the deliverance of all oppressed.

Our deepest thanks goes to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, especially

the Ontario District, Department of Missions and Church Extension, which from the beginning has reached out its brotherly helping hand and whose assistance has made this church a reality."



Fun Fact—

The month of January was named after the Roman god Janus, an appropriate personification of the start of the new year. This particular Roman god had two faces so that he could look ahead toward the future and back at the past at the same time. As we learn from our past mistakes, let us think of the new year as an open book with blank pages. What words will you write? The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day.

By Marie-Lan Nguyen (2009), CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8962565>

CHURCH SERVICES & EVENTS / JUMALATEENISTUSED & ÜRITUSED

Note that our office administrator is on leave until January 9th. The church office will be open on Wednesdays only. For administrative assistance please contact Tiiu Roiser or Linda Laikve.

January 3 -

12:00 Noon—Guild meeting in Guild room. New members welcome.

January 7 -

11:30 service for 3 Kings Day/Epiphany with Pastor Pamela Kormanon, Chung Lee organist. Coffee to follow in Guild room.

Some Board Accomplishments to date -

- All financial requirements connected with Pastor Salumäe's departure finalized;
- Church apartment cleaned and painted;
- Responsible tenants secured providing us with steady rental income;
- Guild room painted and refreshed;
- New office administrator hired;
- Working with two new organists with others on stand-by;
- New room rental fee structure in place;
- Strong relationship with Salvation Army;
- Excellent rapport with Vana Andres congregation—two successful combined services;
- Successfully initiated a joint choir with Vana Andres & St. Peter's church;
- Close working relationship developed with EELK Archbishop Urmas Viilma;
- Excellent working relationship with the ELCIC Bishop Pryse;
- On-call minister roster established to serve our congregants;
- English-language services established;
- New church website and Facebook page created;
- TõeTera/Sower reformatted & appearing monthly;
- Room rental bookings now done via online Calendar;
- Office computer software updated;
- New auditor secured;
- New financial advisor secured;
- Roof condition investigated, repair estimates gathered, roof repairs nearing completion;
- Side walls of church repaired and repainted;
- Parking lot lines repainted;
- Organ tuned with small repair;
- Some pews sanded, stained and varnished;
- Grant applications for church repairs being processed;
- Snow removal contracts negotiated & secured;
- Insurance renewal contracts negotiated;
- Renewed enthusiasm & participation in Guild and new leadership;
- Celebrated congregation's 75th anniversary;
- Excellent turn out and feedback at our first craft show;
- Upcoming, ongoing senior events in planning stage;
- New long-term rental agreement with Korean Church in progress;
- Developing our video taping crew with thanks to Markus Jukkum & Allan Meiusi;
- Front door repair/restoration quotes being gathered and examined;
- The investigation continues for a cross-tower replacement;
- Receiving quotes to replace downstairs dishwasher.

A Wish for the New Year

Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;
A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;
A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;
An understanding heart; A sense of humor; Time for quiet, silent meditation;
A feeling of the presence of God; The patience to wait for the coming of these things;
The wisdom to recognize them when they come.



Olev Wain Ph. D.

Jun 6th 1948 — Nov 21st 2023 (75 years)



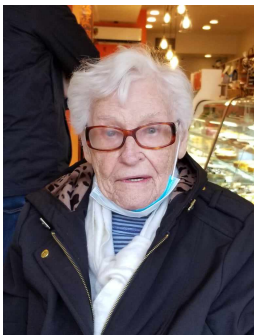
Born in Stockholm Sweden, Olev Wain was just three years of age when he emigrated to Canada with his parents and sister. He left this world on Tuesday, November 21 2023 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Against all odds, Olev remained optimistic, hoping for a miracle until the very end.

Well-read, well-travelled and well-respected for his marketing and research expertise, Olev will be missed by friends, family and business associates around the world.

Olev is survived by his loving wife, Anne Wain (nee Miner), his daughters Emma and Meredith, granddaughters Kay, Eve and Grace, and his sister Kersti. He is predeceased by his mother, Ellett Wain (nee Olesk), his father, Jaan Wain and his grandmother, Emma Olesk (nee Salit).

Linda Leppik

August 3, 1923 — December 16th, 2023 (100 years)



After recently celebrating her 100th birthday, God called home long-time church volunteer on December 16th. Linda is mourned by her daughter Tiiu Keefer with her sons Justin and Brendan, and grandsons Tristan and Jackson; and her son Ants Leppik, his wife Elizabeth, their daughter Kimberly, and grandson Stephen. Memories of their mother's tender heart will remain with them forever.

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:4

If you have a happy occasion such as a christening or wedding, or would like to honour the passing of a loved one, please advise the office in order to have them included in our newsletter. We do not automatically list such events.