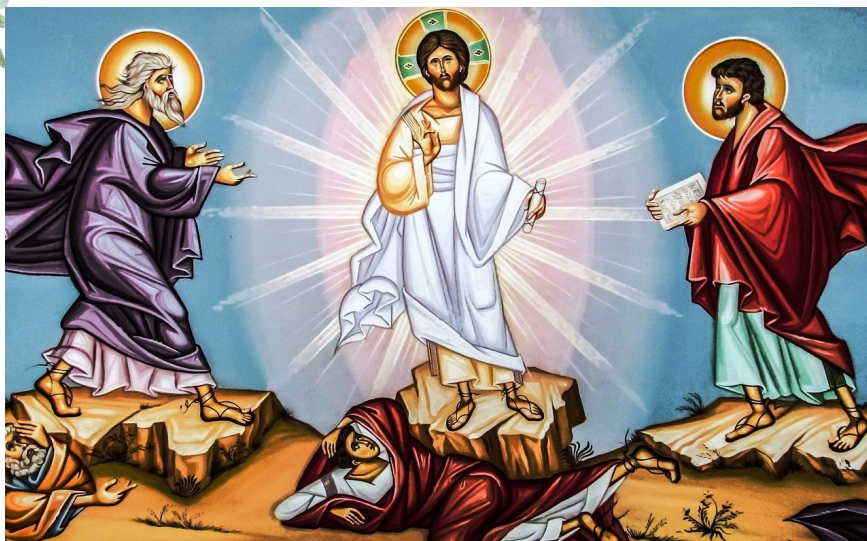


# TÕE TERA / THE SOWER - JULY

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



**Pühapäev, 14. juuli on Issanda muutmise püha ehk kirgas-tamispuha.**

“Ent arvata kaheksa päeva pärast neid kõnesid sündis, et Jeesus võttis kaasa Peetruse ja Johannese ja Jaakobuse ning läks üles mäele palvetama. Ja palvetamise ajal ta näoilme muutus ja tema riided läksid kiirgavalt valgeks.

Ja ennäe, kaks meest kõnelesid Jeesusega, need olid Mooses ja Eelija, kes kirkuses ilmudes rääkisid tema eluotsast, sellest, mis tal Jerusalemmas tuli täide viia. Aga Peetrus ja tema kaaslased olid suikunud raskesse unne. Ent virgudes nägid nad Jeesuse kirkust ja neid kahte meest tema juures seismas.

Ja see sündis, et kui need mehed tema juurest olid lahkumas, ütles Peetrus Jeesusele: ‘Õpetaja, siin on meil hea olla, teeme õige kolm lehtmaja: ühe sinule ja ühe Moosesele ja ühe Eelijale.’ Ta ei teadnud, mida ta ütleb. Aga kui ta seda ütles, tekkis pilv ja varjas nad, nemad aga kartsid pilve sisse jäädes. Ja pilvest kostis hääl: ‘See on minu äravalitud Poeg, teda kuulake!’ Ja kui see hääl oli kostnud, selgus, et Jeesus oli üksi. Ja nemad vaikisid ega kuulutanud kellelegi neil päevil midagi sellest, mida nad olid näinud.”

Lk 9:28-36

Palve: Taevane Isa, Sina oled käskinud meil kuulata Sinu armast Poega. Toida meie vaimu oma sõna läbi ja puhasta meie silmad, et me alati rõõmustaksime Sinu kirkuse nägemisest. Jeesuse Kristuse, Sinu Poja, meie Issanda läbi. [eelk.ee/kirikukalender/](http://eelk.ee/kirikukalender/)

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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.  
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**Sunday, July 14, is the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, or the feast of glorification.**

"About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, 'Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' (He did not know what he was saying.) While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.' When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen."

Luke 9:28-36

*"All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of our God shall stand forever." Isaiah 40:6-8*

## UUDISED / NEWS

### Welcome to Toronto!

After arriving in Toronto on the 13th, a meet & greet luncheon was held with Intern Pastor Karl Paju at the church on June 14th.



After a light luncheon, combined services were held with Vana Andres congregation by Pastors Kalle Kadakas and Karl Paju at Mt. Pleasant cemetery and then at York Cemetery. Keyboard music by Juha Tikkanen and Liina Purje-Lepik.



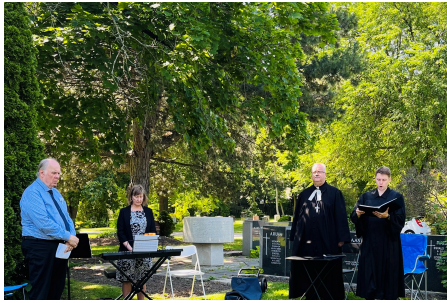
### June Deportation Commemoration Service / Juuniküüditamise aastapäev - June 16

The service at St. Peter's was held by visiting Intern Pastor Karl Paju, with organist Erik Kreem. Prayers were said in the columbarium.





York Cemetery



**Want to share an event?**

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 to have them included in our newsletter. We do not automatically list such events unless you have asked us to do so.

**Congratulations Pastor Pamela**



We congratulate Pastor Pamela Kormano in her full-time call to serve Faith Lutheran Church in Oshawa. We thank her for being such a great example of living a life of faith, and for her contributions and sage advice while serving St. Peter's. Although she will be devoting all her attention to serving her new congregation, she has agreed to endeavour to accommodate requests should you wish to ask her to do a wedding, baptism, or funeral. Blessings and congratulations Pastor Pamela!

**Piiskop Ove Sander hakkab juhtima diasporaa piirkonda**

1. mail toimus pidulik jumalateenistus kus seati piiskop Ove Sander ametisse Põhja-Eesti piiskopkonna piiskopina.

Konsistoriumi 11. juuni istungilt teade: Diasporaa valdkond on antud piiskop Ove Sanderi juhtida. Piiskop Sander määrati ka s.a. EELK Misjonikeskuse nõukogu liikmeks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMHSTpkiGA4&t=3538s>



**The Hess family shares their happy Christening news.**

On May 25 2024, the Holy Baptism of the children of Katherine Kelly Hess (nee Withers) & Laas Toomas Hess of St. Peter's Estonian Lutheran Congregation, Toronto, was held at Seedrioru Estonian Summer Camp. The Baptism was presided over by Rev. Hannes Aasa, of the First Estonian Ev. Lutheran Church, Hamilton.

- Heikki Edward Hess - born Aug. 15th, 2013
- Viive Õnnela Hess - born Jan. 27th, 2016
- Helve Eha Hess born - July 29th, 2017
- Raivo Alfred Hess born - Nov. 13th, 2019
- Maila Barbara Hess born - Oct. 4th, 2021



**St. Peter's Congregational Council Updates – Membership List**

To inform our congregation's membership and the community, St. Peter's Congregational Council will be publishing a series of articles to update and inform you about ongoing church business and upcoming events.

In this article:

- Congregation membership list defined;
- Member contact information is missing for 70% of members;
- Court intervention required to legally give Notice of Meetings to members;
- Awaiting Court decision to call next AGM and Special Meeting.

**Congregation's Membership List**

What is our church membership? This question is one that successive Congregational Councils and even the Church's auditors have struggled with repeatedly in the past. Widely different numbers have been used for our list of members, ranging from a few hundred to several thousand.

All members of St. Peter's congregation are honoured and valued by this Congregational Council, and as such, when we took office, we immediately turned to addressing the question of who are our members – who are those who have the right to vote to determine the future of our congregation?

It has taken extensive time and effort to unravel the variety of prior decisions on this issue, to examine the different approaches which had been used in the past to determine membership, and to understand how such widely differing answers were given to this central and important question – of who we are.

In the course of this effort, we reviewed past Synodic, executive and other opinions on the issue, requested further input from the Synod, and obtained legal advice and analysis. We found that the different conclusions on the numbers of members arose both from deficient record-keeping, as well as from the fact that several different yardsticks of membership had been used in the past.

According to our current Bylaws (Part I, Section 2), which came into effect in December, 2020, the

membership of this congregation consists of those persons who:

- a) have been baptized in this congregation;
- b) having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by:
  - i. Transfer from another Lutheran congregation, or another congregation of a church in full communion with the ELCIC,
  - ii. Confirmation, or
  - iii. Affirmation of faith.

After clarifying the applicable standards of membership under our bylaws, the Congregational Council spent hundreds of hours scouring church records to ensure that all individuals who meet this definition in the by-laws and remained alive, were included on our membership roster.

We found two important things:

- The church has records for well over 3200 members who met these membership qualifications – far more than the most recent working list.
- The church has no contact information – no mailing addresses or email addresses – for well over 2000 of these members.

Our prior Constitution had a mechanism to remove individuals from the membership list for whom the church had no contact for an extended period of time, however, the Council has found no record of any membership terminations, other than by members passing from this life. With our new Constitution accepted in December 2020, the power to remove members was changed to a formal two-year process, using a Responsibility list. Although a Responsibility List was started, there is no written record that any member was removed using this method.

Legally, memberships cannot be terminated except in accordance with our bylaws and the provincial legislation, the *Not-for-Profit-Corporations Act*.

Continues....



As a result, the congregation now finds itself in the position of having over 3200 members, but with no contact information for over 70%. We cannot call a meeting because we cannot give a Notice of Meeting to all our members as required by our by-laws and provincial legislation – under which every member must be given written notice of meetings by mail or email. Unfortunately, the current bylaws do not make an exception for those on our membership roster for whom we have no contact information.

Based on legal advice, the Council has retained a specialized litigation lawyer who has prepared and filed an application in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice under Section 196 [4] of the *Not-for-Profit-Corporations Act* requesting relief from the court concerning the manner of giving notice to members — a specific remedy offered by the Act for corporations facing this very problem.

At the same time, the application requests the court to modify the 10% of membership quorum requirement to ensure that the next annual and special meeting of the members can validly proceed.

The procedural relief requested from the court is in the discretion of the judge hearing the matter.

The Council believes that there are good and sufficient grounds for the court to intervene as requested, to facilitate St. Peter's proceeding with its business and affairs in accordance with its bylaws and the governing law.

### Annual General Meeting and a Special Meeting of the Members –

Notice of our Annual General Meeting will be given in due course subject to the decision of the court on the application. At that time, all regular AGM matters will be dealt with including the sharing of our audited financial statements, introducing a new auditor for confirmation, discussing a new Advisory Committee and Audit Committee, and other matters. At the same time, the Congregational Council intends to call a special meeting of the members to amend our bylaws appropriately, so that we do not face this quandary going forward.

Please look for notification of the Annual General Meeting and Special Meeting on our website, our Facebook, in your email, or by notification sent to your mailing address. **We ask again, that all members of St. Peters within the definition outlined above, please ensure that the church has your most recent contact information.**

#### Life Is But A Weaving

My life is but a weaving, between my God and me.  
I cannot choose the colors, He weaveth steadily.  
Of't times He weaveth sorrow; and I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper, and I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent, and the shuttles cease to fly  
Will God unroll the canvas, and reveal the reason why.  
The dark threads are as needful, on the weaver's skillful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver, on the pattern He has planned  
He knows, He loves, He cares; nothing this truth can dim.  
He gives the very best to those, who leave the choice to Him.

Corrie ten Boom

#### Sünnipäeva Palve

*Issand, sina oled annud mulle, mis ma vajan, ja armastad mind enam, kui ma suudan mõista. Nüüd ei igatse ma sinult ei rõõmu ega kurbust, ma tulen ainult sinu palge ette ja avan oma südame: Sina tead paremini kui ma ise, mis mul tarvis läheb. Anna mulle rõõmu või valu, pane peale koormad või säästa mind nendest - niikaua kui sina mul oled, olen ma rikas, ja mul ei ole millestki puudu. Ma annan ennast täiesti sinu kätte, sina juhid mind oma nõu järel ja võtad mind viimaks auga üles enese juure. Aamen.*

Fenelon - Väike Palveraamat

## CHURCH SERVICES & EVENTS / JUMALATEENISTUSED & ÜRITUSED\*

\*New events may be added to the calendar—please check our church website for any additions. [www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca/event-calendar](http://www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca/event-calendar)

### Summer Break

There will be no regularly scheduled English-language or Estonian services during the months of July, and August.

### Annual General Meeting

Notice of our Annual General Meeting will be given in due course upon the anticipated receipt of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice application relief, at which time all regular AGM matters will be dealt with including the sharing of our audited financial statements, introducing a new auditor for confirmation, discussing a new Advisory Committee and Audit Committee, and other matters.

### Advance Notice

**September 22** - There will be a combined service at St. Peter's with Vana Andres congregation to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Great Escape where more than 90,000 Estonians escaped in a mass flight from Soviet occupation in 1944.



The preacher, arriving in a small town to be guest speaker at a local church, wanted to mail a letter to his family back home. He stopped a young boy on a bike and asked him where the post office was. The boy gave him directions, and the preacher thanked him.

"If you come to church this evening," the preacher said, "I'll tell you how to get to heaven."

"I don't think I'll be there," the boy said. "You don't even know your way to the post office."

## The Train of Life



*At birth we board the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side.*

*However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.*

*As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant - our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life.*

*Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats.*

*This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.*

*The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are.*

*It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.*

*I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, thank God for the journey.*

*James S. Tippett (1885-1958)*