<u>TÕE TERA / THE SOWER</u> - APRIL/MAY





LIHAVÕTTEPÜHADE PALVED/KIRJAKOHAD ESTONIAN EASTER PRAYERS

6. april on paastuaja 5. ehk kannatuse pühapäev.

"Inimese Poeg ei ole tulnud, et lasta ennast teenida, vaid et ise teenida ja anda oma elu lunaks paljude eest!" Mt 20:28



Jumal, Sina tõid oma Poja ohvriks maailma patu eest. Aita meil Tema kannatust meeles kanda ja Tema lunastustöö varal 🔰 elada. Jeesus Kristuse, Sinu Poja, meie Issanda läbi.

Ülempreester Kaifas ütles Jeesuse kohta: "Teil on parem, et üks inimene sureb rahva eest, kui et kogu rahvas hukkub." Jh 11:50

Pühapäev, 13. aprill - Palmipuudepüha Palmarum

Issand Jeesus, meie Päästja. Inimesed tervitasid pidulikult Sinu saabumist Jeruusalemma, kuid jätsid siis Sind üksi kannatama. Anna meile julgust ja vaprust järgida Sind ka raskuste ja ebaõnnestumiste hetkedel. Kuule meid, kes Sa koos Isaga Püha Vaimu ühtsuses elad ja valitsed igavesest ajast igavesti.

Jeesus ütles: "Tund on tulnud, et Inimese Poeg kirgastataks. Tõesti, tõesti, ma ütlen teile, kui nisuiva ei lange maasse ega sure, siis see jääb üksi, aga kui see sureb, siis see kannab palju vilja." Jh 12:23-24

Suur Neljapäev - 17. aprill

Issand Jeesus Kristus, toida meid eluleivaga ja anna meile juua õnnistuse karikast pühal armuļaual, mille Sa oled meie jaoks



817 Mount Pleasant Road Toronto, Ontario M4P 2L1



416-483-5847



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www.stpeterstoronto estonianchurch.ca



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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.

Church Administrator

Tiina Jenkins 416-483-5847

Juhatuse Liikmed / Executive

Väino Einola, Chairman 416-391-4398 vainoeinola@sympatico.ca

Toomas Arget, Vice-Chairman 416-802-8551 argett@interlog.com

Toomas Trei. Treasurer 416-698-8555 ttrei@sympatico.ca

Markus Alliksaar, Board Secretary 416-287-5761 malliksaar@sympatico.ca

Anne Liis Keelmann, Events Planning akeelmann@rogers.com

Mary Donaldson, Member 416-268-0668 maryots156@gmail.com

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TõeTera / The Sower - April & May 2025

seadnud. Liida meid selle sakramendi kaudu üha täielikumalt Sinu osadusse ja aita kasvada Sinule meelepärases pühitsetud elus. Luba meid kord taevasesse lauda Sinu juurde, kes Sa koos Isaga Püha Vaimu ühtsuses elad ja valitsed igavesest ajast igavesti.

Jeesus võttis leiva, tänas ja murdis ja andis apostlitele, öeldes: "See on minu ihu, mis teie eest antakse. Seda tehke minu mälestuseks!" Lk 22:19

Suur Reede - 18. aprill - Jumala Tall

Nõnda on Jumal maailma armastanud, et Ta oma ainusündinud Poja on andnud, et ükski, kes Temasse usub, ei hukkuks, vaid et tal oleks igavene elu. Jh 3:16

Issand Jeesus Kristus, Sa Kõigekõrgema Poeg, tänu olgu Sulle igavesti, et Sa oled saanud meie Päästjaks ja Õnnistegijaks. Aita meil Sinu valatud vere läbi pattudest puhastatuna ja Sinu ristisurma läbi igavesest surmast päästetuna osa saada Sinu taevariigi rõõmust, kes Sa koos Isaga Püha Vaimu ühtsuses elad ja valitsed igavesest ajast igavesti.

Jeesus hüüdis valju häälega: "Isa, Sinu kätte ma annan oma vaimu!" Seda öeldes heitis Ta hinge. Lk 23:46



Kõigeväeline igavene Jumal, Sinu ainusündinud Poeg on läinud alla surmvalda ja auliselt surnuist üles tõusnud. Aita, et Sinu vagad, kes on ristimises koos Temaga maetud, päriksid Tema ülestõusmise väel igavese elu. Seda palume Jeesus kristuse, Sinu Poja, meie Issanda läbi.

Kristus kannatas pattude pärast üheainsa korra, õige ülekohtuste eest, et Ta teid juhiks Jumala juurde. 1Pt 3:18

Ülestõusmispüha - 20. aprill

Kristus ütleb: "Ma olin surnud, ning ennäe, ma elan igavesest ajast igavesti ning minu käes on surma ja surmavalla võtmed!" Ilm 1:18

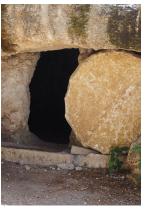
Kõigeväeline, igavene Jumal, Sa oled [tänasel päeval] oma Poja läbi võitnud surma ja avanud meile ligipääsu igavesele elule. Seepärast pühitseme rõõmuga Tema ülestõusmise püha. Loo meid oma Vaimu Väega uueks, et ka meie ärkaksime elule ja käiksime ülestõusmise valguses. Seda palume Jeesus Kristuse, meie Issanda läbi, kes koos Sinuga Püha Vaimu ühtsuses elab ja valitseb igavesest ajast igavesti.

Tuletage meelde, mida Ta teile rääkis juba Galileas, öeldes, et Inimese Poeg peab antama patuste inimeste kätte ja risti löödama ja kolmandal päeval üles tõusma. Lk 24:6-7

https://eelk.ee/kirikukalender/









UUDISED/NEWS

February 2 – Küünlapäev



The Estonian-language Candlemas service was led by Reverend Ando Kass and Deacon Karl Paju – on the piano and organ was Erik Kreem. Candles were lit by confirmation students Leena Gates-Kass and Silje Leppik.



Markus Alliksaar spoke about the February 1920 Peace Treaty ending the Estonian War of Inde-



pendence.

Helping with the service readings were Eda Oja and Susan Pruvli. Announcements by Anne Keelmann.

Generous donors were recognized and leaves added to the memorial tree.



The service was followed by fellowship and a luncheon organized by the Guild, headed by Aida Shelton.

Anyone wishing to honour a loved one may make a contribution to the church and have their name engraved onto a memorial leaf.

February 6 - Guild meeting

The February Guild meeting was a special soup-tasting day - very apropos considering the cold winter weather. Soups sampled included cream of broccoli, lentil, and kale. Yummm!





TõeTera / The Sower – April & May - Ihk. 3

February 9

This English-language Service by Deacon Karl Paju was all about "Weeds Among the Wheat". Organist Chung Lee. Fellowship and coffee following the service.







Scripture readings by Tiiu Keefer and Kristina Leis. Ethan Shkut was our guest lead singer/cantor. Announcements by Thomas Arget.

Read more about the new English-language liturgy and music on page 7.

February 15th - Friendship Day

Although there was a snowstorm outside, for those who attended, there was a lot of fun at Saturday's Valentine's Friendship Day afternoon event.



Contributing to the success of the event, we thank Deacon Karl Paju for his speech, Tiina Sermat for the beautiful flowers, Eda Oja as MC and for her speech about love.



Thanks to Enno Õunapuu for accompanying songs and for the dance music, and Eneke Mirka for her donation of sandwiches. Inna Sooäär introduced us to Muhu bread.



We also thank Ester Kivi and Vivi Kivi for helping with decorating and organization.

We thank Ehatare Foundation as the sponsor for this event organized by Maimu Mölder with Erika Jõgi assisting.

Participants enjoyed the refreshments, and sang and danced! This event is a keeper.

Photos: Maimu Mölder, Siina Kasekamp, Eda Oja, Tiina Jenkins.





The first Estonian service in March was with Deacon Karl Paju and organist Erik Kreem.











Scripture readings by Susan Pruvli and Eda Oja. Announcements by Thomas Arget.

Fellowship, crepes and coffee followed the service served by the Guild.

Photos: Thomas Arget & Tiina Jenkins.

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Volunteering at the Church

There are two ways to look at the "cost" of volunteering at the church.



First, there are savings for the **Church** - Think of the expense if our church had to pay in salaries for all the things our volunteers do as they donate their time skills: as accountants, and experts in charity requirements, church administration, computer tech skills, social media and marketing, translation services, building maintenance; repairs; member communications: social event planning; community outreach; columbarium administration; planting flowers; employee labour relations; dealing with insurance; rentals; public relations; organizing worship services; serving as areeters and ushers; collecting and recording donations; scripture readings; assisting with fundraising activities; serving as trustees or on committees: or social event food prep? This is only a partial list of all the things our volunteers do for St. Peters.

Cost for the Volunteer – Yes, there is a cost to volunteering – there is always a cost to doing anything. According to economist Milton Friedman, there is no such thing as a "free lunch". This holds true when one decides to "freely" volunteer, for when volunteers give up their time to

help the church - they are foregoing the opportunity to do something else. During their volunteering time, they could have been earning money, working on something elsewhere, spending time with their family, or resting to charge up their own battery.

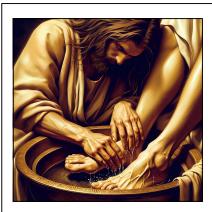
Not only is there the opportunity cost, quite often there are finances also spent in order to volunteer. Think of the gas money one may spend to come to the church or run church errands, personal donations of



goods – I'm thinking in particular of Guild members who donate so much of not only their time, but of food items as well. Yes, churches rely heavily on volunteers for their operations and ministry, as they provide critical support and enable the church to achieve its purpose and serve its people.

In a Biblical context, volunteering is about serving others and God, reflecting principles of





"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. John 13:15-16

charity, compassion, and sacrificial love, with numerous scripencouraging tures acts service and helping those in need even at times at the expense of one's own comfort or convenience. The Bible encourages believers to use their talents and abilities to serve others, recognizing that these gifts are from God. Jesus himself was a servant leader, prioritizing the needs of others, and Christians are called to follow his example.

The Bible reminds us: "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

To all the volunteers of St. Peters – we see you, we appreciate your time and dedication in supporting the work of the church. The sacrifice of your contributions of time, dedication and service are essential for the church's success. We thank you all most sincerely and welcome new volunteers.

The Epitome of a Volunteer -

Lehta Greenbaum (n. Kauber) April 25, 1936 - February 27, 2025

Had I been able to attend Lehta's funeral – this is the eulogy I would have liked to have given.

When my mother passed, Lehta Greenbaum and I became even closer than we were before my mother's death. She sort-of became a second mother to me and we talked about things I missed talking to my own mother about. We would discuss all sorts of things like community history and future plans. We bounced ideas off each other.

I saw up front and personal her dedication to the church and our Estonian community. worked tirelessly to ensure that anything she committed to, she followed through to the very best of her abilities - often to her own detriment and lack of sleep. Unbeknownst to most, she donated not only her time, but also a lot of her personal finances to St. Peters. While preparing church social events, when decorations or costs went beyond what she thought a reasonable budget. Lehta would



wave her hand, scoff, and pay for the overages herself. She always said, "I don't mind paying, I just want everyone to enjoy themselves and have a good time." As a result, there was often smoked salmon, or expensive decorations at events, that suggested entry donations did not cover - Lehta paid for them herself.

So many tasks she and I worked on together come to mind how excited Lehta was to do an Easter craft where we wrapped glue-soaked string around balloons to make Easter Egg decorations. Her kitchen was a mess, and her husband had to keep running to the store to buy more and more glue. Or the terrible snow storm when no sane person was out on the streets and she and I drove in the night to shop for Christmas table decorations. Lehta loved working on the Guild Cookbook and we spent hundreds of hours going through recipes, making food items, and then assembling the book. She was beyond thrilled when the project was completed and as she said, "the book was born".

At my last visit with her in the hospital a few weeks prior to her passing, the church was uppermost on her mind and despite her personal hardships, she asked about what was going on and future plans.

Lehta lived her life according to her favourite prayer from the Väike Palveraamat (Fenelon) which she recited at every Ladies Guild meeting:

"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 järele ja võtad mind viimaks auga üles enese juure." God has now taken her "enese juure".

Lehta leaves behind a daughter, son-in-law, former son-in-law, two grandchildren and a great-grandchild, all to whom we offer our deepest condolences. She was predeceased by her sister, husband Aare and daughter Anita Paju.

In her memory, donations to St. Peter's Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church are welcomed.

Dear Lehta, you are now at peace and together with your dear Aare and Anita. May your life serve as an example for others so that we may serve God and our community as you did. I will miss you terribly.

"Mis tulema peab, see tuleb. Kui otsa saab aeg, see läheb. Minnes võtab ta lambist tule, ja süütab taevasse tähe."

Tiiu Roiser

UUDISED/NEWS

New English-language Church Service Liturgy and Music

English-language services were started at St. Peter's during the time of Pastor Puhm when he recognized a need to serve our congregation's

non-Estonian speaking members. There have been a number of ministers who have led English using various services English Lutheran service books. Our members have remarked that the liturgy and music is different than that of our Estonian services. Wouldn't it be nice to have our typical Estonian service, but held in English so that it is familiar to us?

With Deacon Karl Paju's arrival in Toronto and his opportunity to begin holding English services, he noted the issue with the English liturgy being different in terms of structure and style. He searched the archives and reached out to former St. Peter's

Pastor Gustav Piir, currently serving in Estonia, looking to see if any Estonian-style liturgy with music had ever been used at St. Peters. Unfortunately, it seemed that no such liturgy existed.

Karl earnestly began working towards having a more familiar Estonian service led in English. He began with translating our Estonian liturgy. That, Karl reports, was the easy part since it mainly involved finding corresponding lines and verses that matched the meaning of the Estonian ones. Karl notes that "both the Anglican and local Lutheran liturgical books came in handy, with some direct word-for-word translations sprinkled in here and there."

Next came the more difficult part - to find someone who could harmonize the new liturgy, but for most, this proved either too demanding or too difficult. However, we have a musical genius in our midst and we were fortunate that Erik Kreem agreed to take on the project. With his great musical abilities, he did a phenomenal job of adapting the music of the Estonian liturgy as close as possi-

> ble to fit the English text, slightly modifying both the text and the music where necessary. Erik explains: "For example, one part which in Estonian is in 4/4 time, 'Issand halasta! Kristus halasta! Issand halasta!' I changed into 3/4 time for the English 'Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.'"

It is not completely clear as to who composed the original music for the Estonian liturgy - if anyone has any knowledge about this, it would be interesting to know so that the original music could be correctly attributed.

Helping Karl and Erik with this project were Rev.

Ando Kass, Anne-Liis Keelmann, and Tiina Jenkins.

To assist our congregation to get used to the new liturgy and singing the music, a young gentleman named Ethan is helping out at services. He is leading the singing as our cantor to help with the learning and transition process.

Come on out to the next English service and tell us how you like the changes.

"There are, without doubt, in the human heart many seed-grains of precious virtue which are stirred up by music." - Written in a letter to composer Ludwig Senfl, this quote by Martin Luther reveals his belief in music's ability to positively influence the human soul.



ANNOUNCEMENT/TEADAANNE

Deacon Karl Paju now authorized to Baptize



On Februry 28th, 2025, the Eesti Evangeelne Luterlik Kirik - Piiskoppide kogu in Tallinn, Toompea, granted to Deacon Karl Paju the right to baptize based on 151, Section 2, clause 2 of the Church Code in order to better organize the spiritual service in the diaspora region. Digitally signed by Archbishop Urmas Viilma.

Our congratulations to Deacon Paju!

If you are interesting in being baptized, or having your child baptized, please contact the church to make arrangements. Being fluent in both languages, Deacon Paju can perform the ceremony in either English or Estonian. või inglise keeles. Tundub, et meil on mitmed noorpaarid, kellel kodune keel on inglise keel. See ei tohiks takistuseks olla lapse ristsetel.

Meil on viimase kahe aasta jooksul sündinud rohkearvuliselt uusi pereliikmeid. See laste kasv teeb meile palju rõõmu. On isegi lootust, et saame jälle varsti ellu tuua oma pühapäevakooli.

Ristsed on meie koguduse tuleviku alusmüür. Oleme igati valmis teie soove täitma. Palun võtke ühendust Tiinaga kiriku kantseleis 416-483-5847 ja ta saab teie soovi kalendrisse panna.

Väino Einola





Diakon Karl Pajule anti ristimisõigused.

Peetri kogudusel on lõpmata hea meel, et EELK Piiskoppide kogu on otsustanud anda meie diakon Karl Pajule ristimisõigused. Täname Piiskop Ove Sander'it, kes on seda erakorralist õigust esitanud Piiskoppide kogule ja selle täide viinud.

Teame, et eelolevatel aastatel on meil mitmel perel ristsed tegemata jäänud mitmel põhjusel. Nüüd on võimalus neid korraldada. Karl Paju saab ristseid pidada eesti



NEWS RELEASE

November 30, 2024 Special Meeting: Voting Results

March 15, 2024

November 30, 2024 Special Meeting Outcomes

At the Special Meeting of St. Peter's congregation on November 30, 2024, three resolutions to amend our Letters Patent and Constitution & Bylaws were proposed to formalize our compliance with the recently amended Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA).

Two hundred and fifty-seven (257) members of the congregation were eligible to vote at the meeting with 138 attending in person and 119 assigning proxies to voting members in attendance.

Voting results for the three resolutions are summarized below:

1. **Letters Patent**: The resolution as voted upon was that the Articles of Amendment of the Letters Patent be approved as amended. One amendment was accepted by members present by a show-of-hands vote.

Two hundred and forty-six (246) properly completed ballots were cast. Of these, 134 or 54.5% voted "yes", falling short of the two-thirds majority (66.7%) required for passage of the resolution.

2. **Constitution & Bylaws**: The second resolution was that the Constitution and Bylaws be approved as amended. One amendment was ruled in order and accepted by members present by a show-of-hands vote.

Two hundred and twenty-eight (228) properly completed ballots were cast. Of these, 134 or 53.5% voted to accept, falling short of the two-thirds majority (66.7%) required for passage.

3. **New Member Contact & Voting Protocols**: A resolution with amendments adopted during the meeting states that All members for whom we have no contact information will have no further rights to receive notices of members' meetings or any right to vote thereat. And shall no longer be voting members.

This was put to a vote by a show-of-hands and received unanimous acceptance by the congregation.

Minutes of the November 30, 2024 Special Meeting are available to St. Peter's congregation members upon request from the church office.





"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25

TõeTera / The Sower - April & May 2025









We are saddened to share the news that Irje-Ann Pihlberg passed away on Monday, February 3rd. She was a long-time congregation member, church volunteer, member of the archive committee almost since its inception, the advisory council, and the Ladies Guild. A devoted elementary teacher before her retirement, Irje-Ann loved tending to her garden in the beaches. She supported and was very active in many Estonian community causes including the Estonian Girl Guides and the Estonian War Invalids Relief Society in Toronto. She leaves behind a son to whom we offer our deepest condolences.

Üürike on maine elu, Kaduv, kõikuv inimarm; Möödaminev room ja valu, Siin me viimne osa - surm.

Need, kes enne päiksekullas, Rõõmurada rännanud, Magavad nüüd külmas mullas, Kus kõik soovid kustunud.

> Aga igaviku kaldalt, Kodutuled paistavad. Sinna kaduviku rannalt, Rändajad kord jõuavad.

Meid, oh Issand, eluõhtul, Viimses valus kinnita. Võõrsilt meid, kui teekond lõpul, Kodumaale taluta.

Üürike Elu - "Eluallikal" - Aleksander Abel

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9

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 so that they may be included in our newsletter. We do not automatically list such events.

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

- April 2 Wednesday Guild Meeting at 12:00 noon. New members always welcome!
- April 18 Good Friday Service 11:30 a.m. English-language Service with Deacon Karl Paju; organist Chung Lee. A film about the life of Jesus will be shown after the service. Please register for coffee/sandwiches during the film by calling the church office by April 15th. 416-483-5847.
- April 20 Easter Sunday. 11:30 a.m. Estonian-language service with communion Rev. Arho Tuhkru (visiting from Estonia), Rev. Ando Kass, and Deacon Karl Paju. Organist Erik Kreem. Soloist Monica Zerbe. The service will be followed by a cold buffet Easter Brunch catered by Inta and Rita. Please register your attendance for the \$25 brunch by calling the office at 416-483-5847 by April 15th.



April 27 - Estonian service at 3:00 p.m. at Ehatare. Deacon Karl Paju.



- May 4 Bilingual Confirmation Service. Rev. Ando Kass and Deacon Karl Paju; organist Erik Kreem. Soloist Avo Kittask.
- **May 7** Wednesday Guild meeting at 12:00 noon. New members always welcome!
- May 11 Sunday Mother's Day Estonian Service. Deacon Karl Paju; organist Chung Lee. Fellowship & coffee in Guild Room after the service.
- May 18 Estonian service at 3:00 p.m. at Ehatare. Deacon Karl Paju.
- May 24 Toronto Doors Open (Saturday) 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. Last Admittance 4:30 p.m. Estonian Male Choir Concerts at 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Organ recital by Erik Kreem at 12:30 p.m. Stained glass artist Ernestine Tahedl presentation at 3:00 pm. Tours available throughout the day.
- May 25 Toronto Doors Open (Sunday) 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. Last Admittance 4:30 p.m. Salvation Army Service with music at 10:00 a.m. Organ recital at 12:30 p.m. to be confirmed. Korean One Church Service with music at 3:30 p.m. Tours available throughout the day.



A woman was driving down the street in a sweat because she had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking space. Looking up toward heaven, she said, "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I'll go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up drinking wine." Miraculously, a parking space opened up right in front of her destination. The woman looked up to heaven again and said, "Never mind, Lord; I found one on my own."