

# TÕE TERA / THE SOWER - FEBRUARY & MARCH

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



## What is the origin of Valentine's Day? Is it biblical?

Valentine's Day, observed February 14<sup>th</sup> widely across the globe, is characterized by expressions of love, affection and romance.

The roots of St. Valentine's Day are pagan in their original form and may lie in the ancient Roman fertility festival of Lupercalia, which was celebrated on February 15<sup>th</sup>. For 800 years, the Romans had dedicated this day to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture and the fertility god Lupercus. On this day, young bachelors would draw the name of a young woman in a lottery and would then keep the woman as a companion for the year. These matches often ended in marriage.

Some claim that the Christian church may have decided to associate the death or burial of St. Valentine, a Roman priest that was martyred around 270 CE, with the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia.

The details of Saint Valentinus of Rome's life are shrouded in legend, with multiple accounts attributing acts of compassion and defiance to him. In fact, there are several Roman Catholic Saints that carry the same name along with several stories about who Saint Valentine was.

Likely, he was a Christian leader or priest who lived in ancient Rome during the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. At that time, Emperor Claudius II was determined to eradicate Christianity from his empire and so he began putting to death highly visible and important Christian leaders. One such leader was Father Valentine. Emperor Claudius II had also banned marriage to prevent men from refusing to go to war. Father Valentine, however, secretly continued to marry couples.



The emperor seized Valentine, beat him, and threw him in jail. During his trial, he was asked about what he thought of the Roman gods Jupiter and Mercury. He responded that Jesus Christ was the one and only true God. The emperor said to Valentine: "Either renounce the Lord Jesus in front of all the people or be executed." Valentine refused to deny his faith.

817 Mount Pleasant Road  
Toronto, Ontario M4P 2L1



416-483-5847



[stpeterstoronto@rogers.com](mailto:stpeterstoronto@rogers.com)



[www.youtube.com/  
@eelktorontopeetri  
kogudus8966](http://www.youtube.com/@eelktorontopeetrikogudus8966)



[www.stpeterstoronto  
estonianchurch.ca](http://www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca)



[www.facebook.com/  
Toronto.St.Peters](http://www.facebook.com/Toronto.St.Peters)

## 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](mailto:vainoeinola@sympatico.ca)

Toomas Arget, Vice-Chairman  
416-802-8551  
[argett@interlog.com](mailto:argett@interlog.com)

Toomas Trei, Treasurer  
416-698-8555  
[ttrei@sympatico.ca](mailto:ttrei@sympatico.ca)

Markus Alliksaar, Board Secretary  
416-287-5761  
[malliksaar@sympatico.ca](mailto:malliksaar@sympatico.ca)

Anne Liis Keelmann, Events Planning  
[akeelmann@rogers.com](mailto:akeelmann@rogers.com)

Mary Donaldson, Member  
416-268-0668  
[marvots156@gmail.com](mailto:marvots156@gmail.com)

**Please donate to secure the future of  
St. Peter's – cash, cheques,  
and e-mail transfers accepted at  
[stpeterstoronto@rogers.com](mailto:stpeterstoronto@rogers.com)**

When the Roman emperor heard that Valentine was still speaking about Jesus while in prison and that people were turning toward Christ, he was furious and sentenced Valentine to death.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, soldiers came to take Valentine to be put to death by beheading. According to some stories, before his execution Valentine wrote a letter to a young girl he had befriended. The woman he fell in love with was possibly the jailer's blind daughter, whom it is thought he also healed. Some accounts say it was a letter, others say it was a piece of paper torn into the shape of a heart, but the signature said "From your Valentine".

Years later, the Roman Catholic Church made Valentine a saint and dedicated February 14<sup>th</sup> as a time to remember this Christian who was willing to die for his love of Jesus. It's easy for us to praise the Lord and attend church on Sunday, but if we were tested in this way, would we stand firm for Christ?

While the Bible doesn't have any specific messages about Valentine's Day, it does have a lot to say about love since "love" is mentioned in the Bible over 759 times in the New Living Translation (KJV-442 times; NASB-479; ESV-684; NIV-686).

There are many "love" stories in the Bible - the story of Adam and Eve, who had the first romance. The story of Abraham and Sarah, from whose love there arose a whole nation. There is the story of Rebekah and Isaac, who exemplify faithfulness. What about the story of Ruth and Boaz whose love began as a business deal and ended like a fairy tale. There is the story of Hosea and Gomer, whose love was adorned with both grace and forgiveness. But of all the love stories in the Bible, the best may be the love story of Jacob and Rachel.

The Bible tells us that when Rachel died Jacob buried her in a place called Ephrath. Years later, there was born in that same place, the mightiest descendant of Jacob and Rachel. Ephrath is the Old Testament name for Bethlehem. And the mightiest descendant of Jacob and Rachel was named Jesus. The most beautiful thing of all about the enduring love of Jacob and Rachel may be that out of their love came the One whose love would save the world.

That's a love story worth remembering on this St. Valentine's Day.

While the holiday has undergone secularization over time, its origins in Christian martyrdom and acts of love align with broader spiritual themes of compassion, selflessness, and devotion. For some, Valentine's Day serves as a reminder of the importance of love in both human relationships and spiritual practice.

### Bible Verses on Love

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." – John 4:9-12

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." – 1 John 4:7-8

### Piiblisalmid armastusest

*"Uue käsusõna ma annan teile, et te üksteist peate armastama, nõnda nagu mina teid olen armastanud; et teiegi üksteist armastaksite! Sellest tunnevad kõik, et teie olete minu jüngrid, kui teil on armastus isekeskis!" Johannese 13:34-35*

*"Missugune käsk on kõige esimene? Jeesus vastas talle: 'Esimene on see: Kuule Iisrael, Issand sinu Jumal, on ainus Issand. Ja sina armasta Issandat, oma Jumalat, kõigest oma südamest ja kõigest oma hingest ja kõigest oma meelest ka kõigest oma väest. Teine on see: Armasta oma ligimest nagu iseennast. Neist suuremat muud käsku ei ole!'" - Markuse 12:28-31*





## UUDISED / NEWS

### Christmas Eve 2024

On a snowy December 24th, St. Peter's held two Christmas Eve services. Presiding at the 12 noon English-language service were Reverend Ando Kass and Deacon Karl Paju. Erik Kreem did a magnificent job as the organist, also accompanying guest soloist Heidi Breier who sang Ave Maria and O Holy Night.



The Advent candles were lit by Vello and Srishtie Srivastava Keelmann and their two-month old daughter Hailey Sri Keelmann.



The service consisted of Nativity Gospel readings, interspersed with Christmas carols. The sermon by Reverend Kass dealt with allowing the light of Christmas to shine in our hearts and all year through.

The two-o'clock Estonian-language service was also presided by Reverend Ando Kass and Deacon Karl Paju. Erik Kreem was again on the organ and piano with soloist Heidi Breier.



Lighting the Advent candles this time were Markus and Kalle McFarlane, Eneli Mölder, and Sienna and Sachin Tralla.



The Estonian sermon by Deacon Paju explained the prophecies of Jesus' birth and the historical context during which the birth of Jesus took place. He spoke about listening to God to discover His plan for each of us.



### Dec. 29 at Ehatare

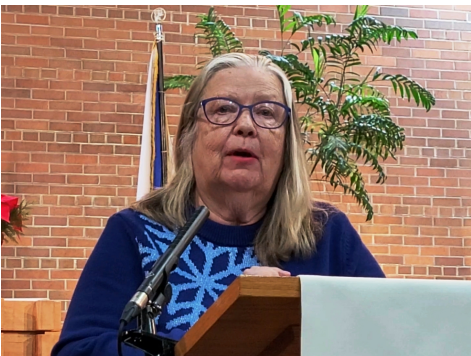
Deacon Karl Paju held a Christmas service at Ehatare at the end of the year. Christmas greetings and chocolates were distributed by St. Peter's to everyone attending.





## Kolmekuningapäev - Epiphany

An Estonian service was held by Deacon Karl Paju and organist Erik Kreem on January 5th. Prior to the service, confirmation classes continue in earnest.



Anne Liis Keelmann announced upcoming events. The service was followed by fellowship and coffee in the Guild Room.

## UPCOMING/ EELTEADE

Tulge jumalateenistusele -

2. veebruaril on väikeste kirikupühade hulka kuuluv küünlapäev ehk Issanda templissetoomise püha. Luuka evangeeliumis kirjeldatakse, kuidas Jeesuse vanemad viisid ta 40 päeva pärast sündi Jeruusalemma templisse.

Küünlapäev lõpetab jõulusündmustega seotud perioodi kirikuaastas.

Püha piibellikuks aluseks on kirja-koht Luuka evangeeliumist (Lk 2:22–38), kus kirjeldatakse, kuidas Jeesuse vanemad viisid ta 40 päeva pärast sündi Jeruusalemma templisse.

*Armuline Jumal, halastaja Isa, täna toodi Sinu ainusündinud Poeg inimlapsena puhta ja püha ohvrina templisse Sinu ette. Puhasta meie mõistus ja meie süda, et ka meie võiksime saada elavaks, pühaks ja meelepäraseks ohvriks Sulle. Seda palume Jeesuse Kristuse, Sinu Poja, meie Issanda läbi.*

(<https://eelk.ee/kirikukalender>)

## Jesus is Presented in the Temple

“When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every first-born male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

Luke 2:22-24 NIV

Estonian-language service commemorating Jesus' presentation will be held on February 2nd.

## God Hath Not Promised

*God hath not promised  
skies always blue,  
Flower-strewn pathways  
all our lives through;  
God hath not promised  
sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow,  
peace without pain.  
God hath not promised  
we shall not know  
toil and temptation,  
trouble and woe;  
He hath not told us  
we shall not bear  
many a burden,  
many a care.  
God hath not promised  
smooth roads and wide,  
swift, easy travel,  
needing no guide;  
never a mountain  
rocky and steep,  
never a river  
turbid and deep  
But God hath promised  
strength for the day,  
rest for the labor,  
light for the way,  
grace for the trials,  
help from above,  
unfailing sympathy,  
undying love.*

- Annie Johnson Flint-

Deacon Karl Paju's new office hours are from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Wednesdays.

Diakon Karl Paju kõnetunnid kantseleis kolmapäeviti kl 11:00 - 14:00.

EESTPALVED võib igal ajal kirjalikult esitada kiriku kontoris: [stpeterstoronto@rogers.com](mailto:stpeterstoronto@rogers.com)

If you have not already done so, please ensure that the church has your correct contact information.

**Calling all volunteers** - If you would like to help with setting up the church services, doing scripture readings, lighting candles, greeting people at the door, or taking offering collections, please contact Anne Keelmann at [akeelmann@rogers.com](mailto:akeelmann@rogers.com)



Palve I

Issand, kes sa meie abi  
Igal pool ja alate:  
Sinu halastuse läbi  
Avita meid edasi,  
Et so tahtmine meil olgu  
Kujumärgiks, et meil tulgu  
Sinu riigi õnnistus,  
Sinu vaim ja vagadus.

Lase oma helde sõna  
Jääda meie keskele,  
Et meil enne nii kui täna  
Õige tee jääks selgele:  
Et me kohe rada rändes,  
Paranduse poole kõndes,  
Tõe poole hoiame,  
Vaimuabi leiame!

Valguses sa valitseja,  
Valgust anna mulle ka!  
Kes ma, põrmus talitseja,  
Püüan õigust otsida!  
Lahuta mo vaimusilma,  
Et, mis läbi siit maailma,  
Tõeteed mul näitab eel,  
Nõuaksid mo hing ja meel!

Lydia Koidula  
1873-1886



St. Peter's Estonian Evan. Lutheran Church of Toronto

Pühapäeval, 2. veebruaril

11:30 künnapäev

*Eestikeelne jumalateenistus armulauaga*

Teenivad Õpetaja Ando Kass & Diakon Karl Paju - Organist Erik Kreem  
Leeritund enne teenistust kell 10-11 el.

Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Confirmation class 10-11 a.m.

11:30 a.m. Estonian-language service with communion.

Pastor Ando Kass & Deacon Karl Paju, organist Erik Kreem.

Toronto Eesti Seltsi

*Eesti Vabariigi 107 aastapäeva tähistamine*

Kontsert-aktus

Pühapäeval, 23. veebruaril

Kell 1:30 - Agricola kirikus

25 Old York Mills Road, North York

Piletid saadaval eelmüügil \$40 (sisaldab külmlaud lõunasööki pärast kontsert-aktust); sõjaveteranid ja õpilased alla 18 tasuta.

Palume registreerida enne 15. veebruari

Epp Aruja 416-447-8958 - epp.aruja@sympatico.ca

**Crazy for You Theatre Outing**

Our apologies for the quick deadline for making reservations, **tickets are selling out very, very fast.**

The show is a multiple Tony Award winning, romantic musical comedy with sublime songs, a snappy script full of one-liners, and dynamic tap routines.

New York banker bobby Child is sent to Nevada to foreclose on a rundown theatre where he falls for spunky Polly, the theatre owner's daughter. She takes an instant dislike to the city slicker, so Bobby vows - through cunning, razzmatazz, and a hilarious case of mistaken identity - to win Polly's heart, save the theatre, and renew the town. A celebration of musical theatre at its finest.

**Inviting all Theatre Lovers**

**The St. Peter's Guild is organizing an outing to go see live theatre**



**Crazy for You**

The Gershwin Musical Comedy



**Hamilton Family Theatre in Cambridge**

**Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** (Subject to ticket availability)

Price will depend upon how large a group we will have:  
Regular price \$ 67.24  
Group rate (10+) \$61.02  
Group rate (20+) \$54.81

Should the group want a bus rental, there will be an extra charge, otherwise, our intent is to try to arrange volunteer car pooling. A late lunch/early dinner will follow the show at a yet undetermined restaurant. Food orders will be your choice off the menu. (Food cost not included in show ticket price.)

To reserve your ticket, please call Aida Shelton at 416-483-3761. The deadline for ordering tickets is **Friday, January 24.** (TICKETS ARE SELLING OUT FAST!) Please advise if you can volunteer to drive, or need a lift.

## A LOOK BEHIND THE "SCENES"

Are you interested in the technical side of things happening at St. Peter's? Do you know that the congregation has a [website](#), [Facebook Page](#), and a [YouTube](#) channel? Ever wonder how the video material gets created?

The next time you are at a church service, take a look up on the balcony. Most likely you will see sound technician Margus Jukkum behind a large computer soundboard adjusting dials and flipping and sliding switches.



We are beyond fortunate to have Margus volunteering his talents to St. Peter's. Did you know that Margus has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film/Cinema/Video Studies from York University and has worked as a Sound Recordist for film and television at numerous companies all around the world? In fact, he is one of Canada's leading sound recordists for film and television having worked on projects for international clients such as the CBC, BBC, Discovery, PBS, ZDF, NHK, and many others,

In 2013 Margus won a *Canadian Screen Award* for the Best Sound in an Information/Documentary Program or Series for History Television's *Museum Secrets*, Episode: The Imperial War Museum in London, England.

During services Margus sometimes relies on help from his wife Marika Kull who is a retired pharmacist and others, including Allan Meiusi. From an audio/video perspective the services and concerts are an evolving work in progress trying to unobtrusively cover the vast area of the nave, more particularly the sanctuary, so not only can the parishioners in the pews distinctly hear, but also the audio in the video releases is audible.



It is Margus who sets up the microphones at the front of the church and adjusts and monitors their volume during services to ensure that music, readings, and the sermon is well-recorded and the sound well modulated.

For special services and occasions, Tauno Mölder, Maimu Mölder and others have assisted.

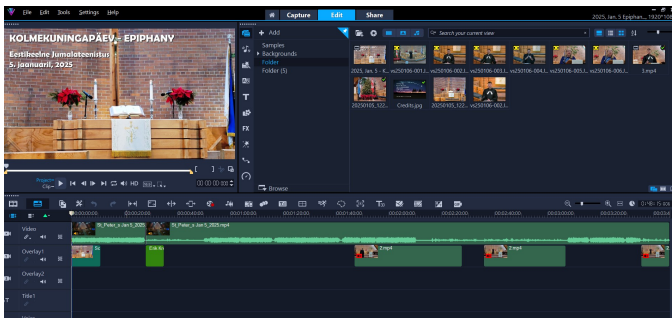
Tauno's first introduction to video production happened about 25 years ago when EWR's late editor-in-chief Vaado Sarapuu needed a volunteer to man a second video camera during a community event at the Estonian House. The camera's footage ended up mostly in trash, but the foundation was laid, and Tauno has since produced numerous videos of community events and corporate promos; and conducted in-camera interviews with community leaders, artists, politicians, prime ministers and presidents. Tauno's help is particularly valuable with special events taking place at St. Peter's, such as with Easter and Christmas services, visiting choirs or most recently, with the introduction and ordination of our new deacon/diakon Karl Paju. Tauno's volunteer activities are a welcome break from his day job. He is a Chemical Engineer and works for the world's largest integrated wax producer.





The more camera angles there are, the more polished and rich a video can be produced ensuring all angles are covered. Tiiu Roiser can be seen videotaping from the floor to get more of those close-up shots and acting as a back-up for sound and video. With several camera angles and sound options, most of every service has been well-captured.

Next comes the editing process, where the sound, video recordings, and photos are edited together to make a final video product. The best video and sound clips are reviewed, the sound checked, and the best video angles and sound clips chosen, edited together, and photographs, titles, and credits added to create a seamless final product to archive our congregation's history. Editing is done by Tauno Mölder when posted to the EWR website, or Tiiu Roiser when posted to the church YouTube channel.



Next, the video is rendered, compressed, and uploaded to the congregation's YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/@eektorontopeetrikogodus8966](http://www.youtube.com/@eektorontopeetrikogodus8966) where it goes through a copyright check. YouTube is stringent with what music it allows to be uploaded. Once the music is approved, the video is rendered to high definition, and a link created.

Our YouTube channel has videos dating as far back as 2020. Posting to YouTube became popular during Covid whereby congregants could participate in church services from the safety of their homes. With our congregation spread throughout the world, it is now a platform for everyone to access services, no matter where they live.

The YouTube link is next posted to the church FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/Toronto.St.Peters> and finally onto the church website <https://www.stpeterstorontoestonianchurch.ca/> for members and others to view.

We thank all the volunteers who donate their time attending and videotaping the services, setting up microphones, monitoring sound levels, donating photographs, editing, and posting to make our online services available to you.



Väino Einola thanking some of the sound and video volunteers. Marika Kull, Tauno Mölder, Väino Einola, Margus Jukkum, and Allan Meusi.

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of religious service when she was startled by an intruder.

As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, "Stop - Acts 2:38!" (Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins)



The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar, "She said she had an AXE and two 38's!"

## 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)

**Feb. 2** - Pühapäeval, 2. veebruaril kell 11:30 küünlapäeva eestikeelne jumalateenistus armulauuga. Teenivad õp Ando Kass ja diakon Karl Paju, oreil ja klaveril Erik Kreem. Tartu Rahulepingust kõneleb Markus Alliksaar. LEERITUND enne teenistust kell 10-11 el. Järgneb kohv Gildi ruumis.



Sunday - 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Confirmation class. 11:30 a.m. Estonian-language Candlemass (Küünlapäev) with Reverend Ando Kass and Deacon Karl Paju with communion. Organist Erik Kreem. Tartu Peace Treaty speaker Markus Alliksaar. Coffee and fellowship in the Guild room after the service.

**Feb. 5** - Wednesday - 12:00 noon. Guild meeting. New members always welcome. It's SOUP MONTH! We are continuing our work on our new cookbook and will be reviewing and tasting recipes. At this meeting we will be tasting soups! If you have a favourite soup that is not in our current cookbook, please bring it along.

*Kolmapäeval, 5. veebruaril kell 12 GILDIRING. Uued liikmed teretunud!*

**Feb. 9** - Sunday - 11:30 a.m. English-language service with Deacon Karl Paju and organist Chung Lee. Fellowship and coffee to follow.

*Pühapäeval, 9. veebruaril kell 11:30 ingliskeelne jumalateenistus. Teenib diakon Karl Paju, oreil Chung Lee. Järgneb kohv Gildi ruumis.*

**Feb. 16** - Pühapäeval kell 3:00 p.m. Jumalateenistus Ehatares teenib Diakon Karl Paju.

**Feb. 23** - Sunday - Toronto Eesti Selts invites everyone to attend the commemoration of Estonian Independence Day (Eesti Vabariigi Aastapäev) at the Agricola Church. Tickets are \$40 which includes a cold buffet luncheon in the downstairs hall after the concert-assembly. Veterans and students under 18, free. Please reserve your seats by contacting Epp Aruja at 416-447-8958 or [epp.aruja@sympatico.ca](mailto:epp.aruja@sympatico.ca) by February 15th.



**March 2** - Estonian-language service with Deacon Karl Paju. Organist Erik Kreem. Fellowship, crepes, and coffee will follow the service in the Guild Room. Please register for coffee by February 26th.

*Eestikeelne jumalateenistus, teenib diakon Karl Paju. Järgneb kohvilaud pannkookidega. Palun registreerige kohvi ostavõttust kantseleisse 416-483-5847 enne 26. veeb.*

**March 5** - Wednesday - 12:00 noon. Guild meeting. New members always welcome. We are continuing our work on our new cookbook and will be reviewing and tasting recipes. Kolmapäeval, 5. märtsil kell 12 Gildiring. Uued liikmed teretunud!

**March 16** - Pühapäeval kell 3:00 p.m. Jumalateenistus Ehatares teenib Diakon Karl Paju.

**March 23** - Sunday - 11:30 a.m. English-language service with Deacon Karl Paju and organist Chung Lee. Fellowship and coffee to follow.

*Pühapäeval, 23. märtsil kell 11:30 ingliskeelne jumalateenistus. Teenib diakon Karl Paju, oreil Chung Lee.*