

TÕE TERA / THE SOWER - DECEMBER

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



Grace and Peace to each of you!

We are journeying towards the season of Advent and then into the Christmas season!

Did you know the church year ends on Sunday, November 26th and we start into a new church year with the beginning of Advent? The season of Advent is the four weeks before Christmas, from Sunday December 3rd until December 24th. The word Advent, from Latin means "to come". Advent means "coming" or "entrance" or "arrival". It refers to the expectation of Jesus' coming, who is Saviour of the world first as a baby in Bethlehem on Christmas, and also the anticipation of the fullness of time at Christ's second coming.



During this season we yearn and prepare for the presence of Christ! We are invited to slow down and breathe. I read that "We sit with Isaiah and his people who longingly

Promised One. We stand with John the Baptist as he calls God's people to prepare the way of the Lord. This slowing down makes room for the Spirit to show us those things in our own hearts and in our own congregations and systems that we might rather leave undisturbed and unacknowledged." There are many themes during this season: hope, darkness/light, repentance, watchfulness, preparation, expectation, and anticipation.

The season of Christmas begins on December 24th. What brings you joy, peace, and hope, at Christmas? Please take a few moments to reflect on this question over the coming days and weeks. I also invite you to take the time to read through Luke 2:1-20, the birth of Jesus. Each of us will read and hear this story through a unique lens. It may help center us within this challenging and uncertain world around us. It may gift us a renewed lens of love and hope for the world we live within and then move us into action as the hands and feet of Christ for our neighbour.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of

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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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Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they

made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Luke 2:1-20

Please remember those in need!

I pray each of you, your family, and friends, experiences the joy, peace, hope, love, and mystery of the Lord during the Christmas Season!

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Pamela



JÕULUAEG

"Vaata, pimedus katab maad ja pilkane pimedus rahvaid, aga sinu kohal koidab Issand ja sinu kohal nähakse Tema auhiilgust." Jesaja 60:2

Jõulud, meie Issanda, Jumala ja päästja Jeesuse Kristuse sündimise püha, sisaldavad sedavõrd palju rõõmu, et ei mahu ära ühte päeva, vaid kestavad kuni k o l m e k u n i n g a p ä e v a ehk ilmumispühani välja.

Issanda sündimise tähistamist alustatakse jõululaupäeva õhtuteenistusega. 25. detsembril on Kristuse sündimise püha. Teist jõulupüha on peetud esimärter Stefanose mälestuspäevana, kolmandat evangelist Johannese ja neljandat süüta-lastepäevana Petlemmas mõrvatud laste mälestuseks. Jõuluaja pühaderingis mõtleme ka pühale perekonnale (1. pühapäev pärast jõule) ja Jeesuse pühale nimele (kaheksas päev jõuludest, uusaasta).

Vanasti toodi jõuludeks õled tuppa ja lapsed magasid siis õlgede peal nagu jõululaps sõimes. Jõuluõöl valvame koos karjastega, laulame koos inglitega, oleme sõime juures koos Maarjaga ning rõõmustame Önnistegija sündimise üle koos kogu ristirahvaga. Me ei pea selleks ette võtma pikka teekonda Petlemma – Kristuses tuleb Jumal ise meie juurde.

Palve jõuluajal:

Armas Taevane Isa, me täname Sind, et Sa oled maailma nõnda palju armastanud, et oled andnud oma Poja meile päästjaks! Meie Issand Jeesus Kristus, me avame oma südamed Sinu ees ja palume, sünni meiegi südames! Ole kõigi nendega, kes on üksinduses või vaesuses, haiged või õnnetud. Ole väikeste ja suurte, rikaste ja vaestega. Sina tead meie südame igatsusi, Sina kuuled meie palveid, Sinule olgu au ja kiitus nüüd ja igavesti!

EELK.ee

UUDISED / NEWS

Jõululaat/Christmas Craft Sale



It was a truly joyous occasion for the community that participated in St. Peter's Craft Show and Sale on November 12, 2023. The lower level community hall had been decorated with Christmas lights and ringed with an outstanding collection of presentations by crafters and gourmet bakers. The upstairs Guild room was designated for the sale of our traditional Christmas sausages – (*verivorstid*) that had been prepared by our organist Erik Veski. No-one was surprised by the long line-ups and that they were soon sold out.



The stage in the hall was loaded with gifts collected for the traditional lottery. Extra special gift baskets were however available only by silent auction.

Many outstanding bargains were up for grabs to the enterprising bidders.

Most important, however, were the number of familiar faces that were seen for the first time in a long while. It seemed like every part of our community had representation either at the craft table, or the bake sale, or as customers socializing with old and new friends.



Live Christmas music was provided by Enno Agur and his accordion. Our Guild women could not resist the opportunity to lead the singing from the stage. The highlight of the musical entertainment was the swinging sounds of the Northern Secondary School Jazz Band. This was made possible by Ene Lomp, the former music teacher at Northern, for whom



the school actually renamed their auditorium.

It has to be said that this was more than a simple craft show. It was a special community event. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the Guild Café and the socializing that went with the excellent baked goods presented by the Guild. It brought to light how much we have missed during the pandemic. We are truly people that enjoy camaraderie and a good time. We eagerly look forward to many more get-togethers.

A Sign of the Times

As a little girl climbed onto Santa's lap, Santa asked the usual, "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: "Didn't you get my email?"



UUDISED / NEWS

Maintenance and Repairs

In order to reduce our expenses, volunteers have been working on maintaining our appearance.

Have you noticed the newly-painted lines in our parking lot? Chairman Väino Einola saved the church almost \$1800 in costs, painting the lines himself. He also repaired a lose sink in the church apartment and repaired a leaky kitchen faucet in the basement kitchen.

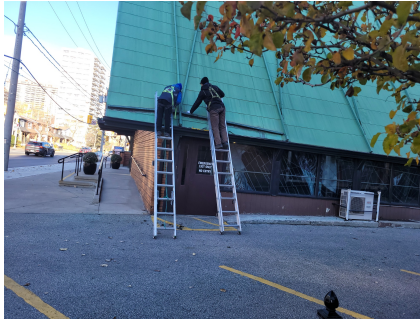


To beautify our church, Linda Laikve and Rita applied some temporary stain on the benches for upcoming services!

For some repairs, however, we have had to use professionals. Have you noticed the sanctuary's exterior walls? They have been repaired, sealed, painted, and caulked.



Repairs to fix some leaks in the church roof have also commenced.



New dishwasher needed!

The used dishwasher in the basement kitchen is no longer fixable. The Guild has generously donated money towards the purchase of a new commercial dishwasher, but more funds are needed.

Please consider donating towards the dishwasher purchase and installation.



Fred and Johnny are standing by the side of a road holding up a sign that reads: "The end is near! Turn around now before it's too late!" A passing driver yells, "You guys are nuts!" and speeds past them. From around the corner, they hear screeching tires, then a big splash. Fred turns to Johnny and says, "Do you think we should just put up a sign that says "Bridge Out" instead?"

A HERITAGE MOMENT IN HISTORY

Have you noticed the little bronze plaque on the interior doors leading to the sanctuary which reads:



"Albert Kõöp 1907-1963, Mälestab abikaasa Lydia"

If any of our members know of this couple, please advise the office so that we may update our records. From what we've been able to find, Albert Kõöp, was born in Harjumaa, Estonia. He passed away in Toronto at the age of 56 from a brain tumour (Geni.com).

Hi wife Lydia created at the Jaan Tõnison Fund, the Albert and Lydia Kõöp fund to support students in the Estonian fraternity Eesti Üliõpilaste Seltsi who were studying music and accounting.

Lydia Kõöp (Johannson) passed away in January 1999.

May they both rest in peace and their memory and contribution be a blessing to all who pass through our doors.

Farewell

With sadness, we bid farewell to Helmi Viksten, who is retiring and moving out-of-town, and will no longer be an active member of the Archive and Guild Groups. There will be a great hole to fill in Helmi's capacity working in our Archive. If you needed a photograph, she knew exactly where to locate it.

Helmi has been an outstanding volunteer for many, many years in several capacities. Many of you will remember her as a church health volunteer, singing with Cantate Domino, pouring coffee or making sandwiches with the Ladies Guild, contributing recipes to our cookbook, or proofreading the annual church Elu. Her calming demeanour and wisdom in all matters, has contributed to the harmony of our working groups.

We hope to see her visiting the church often, and wish her health and good fortune in her new home. Thank you, thank you Helmi, for all you have done!

1 Peter 4:10, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."



Far left, Helmi's son-in-law, daughter, and Helmi at a Ladies Guild summer outing 2018.



Congratulations to the Keelmann family! Their son Vello Keelmann married Srishtie Srivastava on August 26, 2023. Pictured from L-R: August, Lehti, Väino, Srishtie & Vello, Anne Liis, Dane, and Everett in front.



Congratulations also to family Hannus! Daughter Emma Helene Anne Mitchener, born May 21st, 2023, was christened on November 25, 2023, by Pastor Ando Kass. Mother - Amanda Mitchener (Hannus), father - Joshua Mitchener.



The Salonius family shares their happy Christening news. Scarlett Myracle Liis Salonius was baptized on June 25th, 2023. Parents: Sarah Kristen Liis Jones Salonius and Mark Salonius. Godparents Heather Barnes and Melissa Jones & John Mullally.

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.

CHURCH SERVICES & EVENTS / JUMALATEENISTUSED & ÜRITUSED

DECEMBER 3 - 11:30 a.m.

1st Advent Service with Pastor Pamela Korman, organist Chung Lee. Potluck luncheon to follow.

DECEMBER 17 - 1:00 p.m.

Combined service with Vana Andres Congregation at Agricola Lutheran Church, 25 Old York Mills Road, Toronto, at York Mills Road and Yonge Street. Soloist Kristiina Agur visiting from Austria.

CHRISTMAS EVE -

DECEMBER 24 - 11:30 a.m.

English Christmas Eve Service with Pastor Pamela Korman, organist Chung Lee.

December 24 - 2:00 p.m.

Estonian Christmas Eve Service with Pastor Peeter Vanker, organist Erik Veski. Christmas carol sing-along led by Laikve family and others.

The spirit of Christmas is Christ-like love.

The way to increase the Christmas spirit is to reach out generously to those around us and give of ourselves.

The best gifts are not material things but gifts of listening, of showing kindness, of remembering, of visiting, of forgiving, of giving time.

—Bonnie L. Oscarson

*Õnnistatud jõulupühi,
kaunist aastavahetust
ja head uut aastat!*

*Soovib EELK Toronto Peetri
koguduse
juhatus, nõukogu ja teenistujad.*



*Jõua jälle, jõuluime,
Küünlad, kuldsest särage.
Huuled, kuulutage nime,
mis meil' toonud õndsuse.*

*Aasta läheb, aasta tuleb,
nõnda ikka olnud see.
Mõnel avab, mõnel sulleb
tema mäise elutee.*

*Kõik on mööduv, kaduv, hajuv,
ajamerra vaikselt vajuv.
Mis meil tuleb, see ka lä'eb,
Jumal üksi on kes jääb.*

Autor teadmata, võibolla Viktor Karl