



October 2020

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

65 Walnut Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 1N9

Tel: 204-775-6477

Email: stpetersoffice@mymts.net

Website: www.stpeterslutheran.ca.

Pastor: Rev. Bjoern Meinhardt ~ 204-792-3346

Important Announcement: Taking into account the Manitoba Government's Code Orange revised guidelines, and after careful consideration by Council and Worship & Music Committee, the decision was made to continue in-person church services at St. Peter's Lutheran Church for the next two weeks, which will include Thanksgiving. Services are planned for the Sundays October 4th and 11th (Thanksgiving) and only if the current recommendations remain in place. We can plan no further than that, and we'll keep everyone informed as best as we can.

We will maintain, and even tighten, the present protocols we have in place at church: masks are mandatory as you enter the building, sanitizing on arrival, social distancing of 2 metres, restricted seating and movement through the building, and we will ask that you leave the narthex as efficiently as possible for distanced visiting in the church parking lot.

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

At the beginning of our worship service, we are assured that we gather in God's holy name, in God's time (“15th Sunday after Pentecost”), and in a sanctuary that has been set aside for this purpose.

While the whole worship service can be quite lengthy, at the end everything goes rather quickly when we are dismissed with the blessing. There may be those who check off all the parts of the liturgy in their mind on the way to that final blessing, which indicates to them: 'Now the worship is ended. I can go home to have lunch.' While the blessing is short and unsuspecting, it is an essential element – full of meaning.

The blessing brings to an end what has happened before during worship. In the words of Joanna Harader “Worship is the sacred space of words that simply bless.” At the same time, the blessing takes us beyond this hour; it takes us back to our “regular” world with a renewed sense of purpose and mission. As such, the blessing functions much like a prism: Worship takes in and bundles the Light of God and disperses it at the end as we go in all directions to bring a glimpse of this divine Light to the word around us.

Let us not underestimate what God's blessing means. Rather let us explore its depth(s).

The German word for blessing, “Segen,” comes from the Latin *signare*, which means “to make the sign [of the cross].” As the minister blesses the assembly, he (she) makes the sign of the cross over them. And the assembly may respond by tracing the sign of the cross upon themselves. This is a proper gesture. For the whole worship has taken place under the sign of the cross. As we are about to leave, we are reminded that our daily worship continues under the sign of the cross.

In the Early Church, the assembly was dismissed with the words, *Ite missa est* (Go, the Mass is ended). The **dismissal** is a sending forth into the world, where we serve as ambassadors of the crucified and risen Lord, who has welcomed, met, and fed us in worship. The blessing brings to an end the Sunday liturgy but starts our daily liturgy. Between Sundays, we are at work as God's people, doing God's work in the world.

For this is the literal meaning of “liturgy”: the work of the people [of God].

After the blessing, we usually hear these (or similar) words, **“Go in peace. Serve the Lord.”**

“Go” is a “joyful imperative” that tells us that our ministry lies ahead of us. The primary venue for our ministry is not inside the church building, but outside in the world. Yet another reason why we should not refer to the “church” as a building but more so as the people of God, who are “called out” – which is the meaning of the Greek word for church, *ekklesia*. It indicates that we are a people that has been called out (set apart) by God to do God's work in the world.

We go “in peace.” Earlier in the service, we have prayed “in peace” to the Lord. We have extended a sign of peace with our neighbour(s). The peace that Christ has given us, leads us back into the world – which is not always a peaceful place, as we know.

“Serve the Lord.” This is what we are called to do. To serve others in the name of Christ. A variation can be the charge to “Feed the hungry.” In the Early Church, this was a literal invitation to take the bread and wine (of the Meal) to those who were absent.

Those gathered for worship respond by saying, **“Thanks be to God.”** Very appropriate words! Just about an hour before that, we heard God's word of forgiveness at the baptismal font. We heard God's Word in the Scriptures. We heard the invitation to come to the Table to be fed by God's grace. God provides for us in worship! It is right to give our thanks to God.

The Sunday worship has ended. We leave in the assurance that God is with us and walks with us during our daily worship. An assurance that we want to share with those around us. Truly, worship is beautiful for God has blessed us in many ways so that we can become a blessing for others – even in these trying times!

Bjoern Meinhardt, Pastor

„Der Herr segne und behüte dich ...“

Zu Beginn des Gottesdienstes versammeln wir uns in Gottes Namen, in Gottes Zeit (am „14. Sonntag nach Trinitatis“) und in einem Raum, der zu diesem Zweck bereit gestellt wird.

Während sich der Gottesdienst zeitlich in die Länge ziehen kann, geht alles am Ende ziemlich schnell zu, wenn wir mit dem Segen entlassen werden. Es gibt Leute, die die einzelnen Teile des Gottesdienstes in Gedanken abhaken; der Schlusssegen vermittelt ihnen dann: 'Der Gottesdienst ist zu Ende. Jetzt wartet das Mittagessen auf mich.' Auch wenn der Segen kurz und knapp ist, ist er wesentlicher und bedeutungsvoller Teil des Gottesdienstes.

Der Segen bringt zum Ende, was vorher schon im Gottesdienst passiert ist. In den Worten von Joanna Harader: „Gottesdienst ist der heilige Ort von Worten, die schlicht und ergreifend segnen.“ Gleichzeitig geht der Segen über diese Stunde hinaus; er führt uns zurück in die „normale“ Welt mit einem erneuerten Sinn von Aufgabe und Mission. So gesehen, fungiert der Segen ähnlich wie ein Prisma: Der Gottesdienst nimmt das Licht Gottes auf und bündelt es, um es dann am Ende in alle Richtungen auszustreuen, womit wir der Welt um uns herum einen Eindruck des göttlichen Lichtes vermitteln.

Wir wollen also nicht unterschätzen, was Gottes Segen bedeutet. Vielmehr lasst uns seinen Reichtum und seine Tiefe(n) ergründen.

Das deutsche Wort „Segen“ kommt vom Lateinischen *signare* und bedeutet: „ein Zeichen (des Kreuzes) machen“. Wenn ein(e) Pastor(in) die Gemeinde segnet, macht er (sie) über ihr das Zeichen des Kreuzes, die sich nun wiederum selbst beim Hören der Worte bekreuzigen können. Das ist eine angemessene Geste. Denn der ganze Gottesdienst stand unter dem Zeichen des Kreuzes. Und wenn wir uns daran machen, zu gehen, tut es gut, dass wir daran erinnert werden, dass unser täglicher Gottesdienst (ebenfalls) unter dem Zeichen des

Kreuzes steht.

In der Frühen Kirche wurde die Gemeinde mit den Worten *Ite missa est* (Geht, die Messe ist beendet) entlassen. Es ist ein Zurückschicken in die Welt, in der wir als Botschafter unseres gekreuzigten und auferstandenen Herrn handeln, der uns im Gottesdienst willkommen geheißen, uns angetroffen und gespeist hat. Mit dem Segen hört unser Sonntagsgottesdienst auf, aber unser täglicher Gottesdienst fängt an. Wir sind dann zwischen den Sonntagen als Gottes Volk tätig, die Gottes Werk in der Welt fortführen. Das ist die wörtliche Bedeutung des Wortes „Liturgie“: das Werk vom Volk (Gottes).

Nach dem Segen hören wir dann diese (oder ähnliche) Worte: **„Gehet hin im Frieden des Herrn.“**

„Gehet“ ist eine „freudige Aufforderung“ zum Dienst, der vor uns liegt. Der eigentliche Ort unseres Dienstes findet nicht im Kirchengebäude, sondern draußen in der Welt statt. Ein weiterer Grund, warum wir, wenn wir von „Kirche“ sprechen, nicht das Gebäude meinen, sondern das Volk Gottes, das „herausgerufen“ wurde – die Bedeutung des griechischen Wortes für Kirche, *ekklesia*. Es bringt zum Ausdruck, dass wir ein Volk sind, das von Gott herausgerufen (ausgesondert) wurde, Gottes Dienst in der Welt zu versehen.

Wir gehen „im Frieden“. Vorher haben wir im Gottesdienst „in Frieden“ zum Herrn gebetet. Wir haben ein Zeichen des Friedens mit unseren Nachbarn vor dem Abendmahl ausgetauscht. Christus gibt uns seinen Frieden und geleitet uns in eine Welt, in der es, wie wir wissen, nicht immer friedvoll zugeht.

In der englischen Sendungsformel folgt für gewöhnlich noch ein Auftrag: „Dienet dem Herrn.“ Das ist es, was wir tun sollen: anderen im Namen Christi zu dienen. Eine andere Aufforderung lautet: „Speiset die Hungrigen.“ In der Frühen Kirche war dies eine wörtliche Einladung, das Brot und den Wein (vom Abendmahl) zu denen zu bringen, die nicht am Gottesdienst teilnehmen konnten.

Und die Gemeinde antwortet mit: **„Gott sei ewiglich Dank.“** Diese Worte sind sehr passend. Etwa eine Stunde davor haben wir am Taufbecken Gottes Wort der Vergebung über uns gehört. Wir haben Gottes Wort aus der Schrift gehört. Wir haben die Einladung gehört, zum Tisch des Herrn zu kommen, wo wir in Gottes Gnade gestärkt werden. Gott gibt sich uns hin im Gottesdienst. Es ist rechtens, Gott Dank zu sagen.

Der Gottesdienst ist zu Ende. Wir gehen in der Gewißheit, dass Gott in unserem täglichen Gottesdienst bei uns ist und mit uns geht. Eine Gewißheit, die wir denen kundtun, denen wir in unserem Alltag begegnen. Wahrlich, der Gottesdienst ist schön, denn Gott hat uns auf vielfältige Weise gesegnet, damit wir für andere zum Segen werden können – selbst in diesen schwierigen Zeiten.

Björn Meinhardt, Pfarrer



St. Peter's 90th Anniversary momentos

Living in God's Grace for the Journey

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The first 90 Years

1930: A New Beginning

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church was founded on September 16th, 1930, by a group of individuals from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Cross. St. Matthew's Anglican Church, built in 1908 by Anglicans at the corner of Ellice Avenue and Sherbrook Street, was purchased with a large mortgage.

1939 to 1946: The War Years: a time of great uncertainty

World War II found our congregation in financial crisis. Sunday School, Ladies Aid and Augustana Verein were functioning smoothly. St. Peter's received generous assistance from the United Lutheran Church of America which made it possible to meet financial obligations. When the war finally ended, services of Thanksgiving were held.

1946 to 1960: Immigration: a time of growth for St. Peter's

Among the denominations, the Lutheran Church was the first to respond to the news of chaos and hunger in Europe. Through initiatives of caring, Lutheran World Action and Lutheran World Relief helped many Lutherans come to Canada. The bilingual nature of St. Peter's allowed the church to communicate and support the new immigrants and refugees as well as their children as they became anglicized and integrated.

1960 to 1982: A New Location: a time of rampant growth leads to a new church building

Our congregation determined that the church building had become too small to house the ever-expanding membership. The corner of Wolseley Avenue and Walnut Street was selected as the location for our new church which was dedicated in October of 1969. Over time, modifications and improvements were made: a second office was constructed, the roof was replaced, a bathroom was added on the main floor, an elevator was installed to serve those with mobility issues, and a new Allen organ was purchased.

1982 to 2004: Searching for an Identity: a time of shifting from an immigrant-based church to a community minded church

Youth Ministry and National Youth Gatherings were highlights. Community BBQ became an annual event. New church signs provided relevant messages. "*Grace for the Journey*" was the 75th Anniversary's theme. St. Peter's focused on its future by embracing a new Mission Statement: *Celebrating God's Grace and Our Lutheran Heritage in a Changing World*.

2004 to 2020: Finding a New Identity

To articulate the congregation's relevance in a changing world a revised Mission Statement was adopted: *It is the Mission of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church to build, support and serve a changing community through God's grace*. To further that mandate the congregation affiliated itself with a new church body, the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) whose four core values are: *Christ Centered | Mission Driven | Traditionally Grounded | Congregationally Focused*. Our congregation is involved in local, domestic and international mission and as a major project supports the Kuwala Christian Girls School in Malawi, Africa.

Announcements

Submitted by Barb Schott on behalf of Church Council

- Despite the fact that we could not celebrate the **90th Anniversary** of St. Peter's in the way we had hoped to, we did have a beautiful service on September 13th and we thank Pastor Meinhardt and the volunteers who made it special: Jerry Roehr for creating the retrospective of the church's long history, Michael Zacharias for the graphic design work, Tom and Linda Lurvey and Dennis Henney for their musical contribution, Angie Neeth for creating the wonderful cookies that were handed out, and Elli Kitzmann for the fall floral display.

Pastor Meinhardt, on his very first day of holidays, personally delivered cookies and scroll souvenirs to our shut-ins who phoned the church office to say how happy they were that "the church remembers them." That was the best reminder of what those 90 years are all about!

- The **Thanksgiving** service that is being planned for Sunday, October 11TH (Canadian Thanksgiving Weekend) will follow a similar format to our 90th anniversary service, with two services at 9:00 am in German and 11:00 am in English. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have that wonderful catered luncheon that we've enjoyed in previous years, but the service that is planned will be special and meaningful, and as Pastor Meinhardt shared with us in his devotions at Council, even during this time of restrictions and anxiety, we want to focus on God's blessings.
 - The passing of **Kathleen Thorsteinson** was not only a big loss for our church community, but has left an irreplaceable void in council. We are grateful for Kathleen's contributions and generous and joyful spirit. You will be missed!
 - Lastly, we want to thank **Pastor John Cobb and Pastor Tom Lurvey** for ministering to us while Pastor Meinhardt was on holidays.
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Michael Zacharias in action, working on editing the video files for the church services. Michael, we thank you for this ongoing (much longer than any of us ever thought) service to our church community that is only possible because of your expertise and talent. We know you tell us you love doing it and we want you to know that we love that we have you.



Roland Schott in action, having done some serious pruning and grooming. Thank you for your labour and your skill with the chain saw. We can now actually see the church sign from the south side!

Youth Mission Project

Submitted by Ulrike and Georg Schreckenbach

In memory of Kathleen Thorsteinson

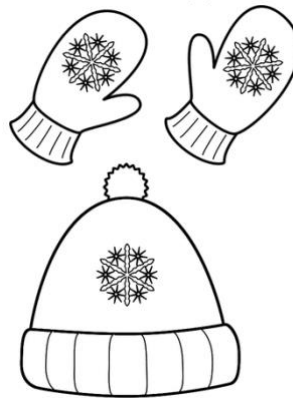
As our new Mission project, the Youth will help to “*Keep Winnipeg Warm*”.

Once again, we would like to ask for help from the congregation. Knitters and crocheters, please get our needles, hooks and yarn, and start making hats and mittens to help keep homeless people warm in the winter.

The Youth will fabricate polar fleece into scarves for the very same purpose.

Credit for this idea goes to Kathleen Thorsteinson who also helped in procuring the polar fleece fabric.

Kathleen has been very active in the Youth ministry. Her strong faith was an inspiration to others. Her insights and practical help, her wisdom and keen sense of humor, her listening as well as her storytelling skills will be greatly missed.



Missionsprojekt der St. Petri Jugendgruppe

Zum Gedenken an Kathleen Thorsteinson

„*Winnipeg warmzuhalten*“ ist das neue Missionsprojekt der St. Petri Jugendgruppe. Wiederum möchten wir die Gemeinde um Unterstützung bitten. Bitte setzen Sie Ihre Strick- und Häkelnadeln – und natürlich Garn/Wolle – in Aktion. Gebraucht werden Handschuhe und Mützen für Obdachlose.

Die Jugendgruppe selber wird Polarvlies zu Schals verarbeiten – für denselben Zweck.

Die Idee für dieses Missionsprojekt stammt von Kathleen Thorsteinson; sie hat auch bei der Beschaffung des Polarvliesmaterials geholfen.

Kathleen war sehr aktiv bei der Jugendarbeit beteiligt. Ihr fester Glaube wirkte beispielgebend und ermutigend für Viele. Ihr tiefgehendes Verständnis und ihre praktische Hilfe, ihre Weisheit und ihr feiner Humor, ihre Fähigkeit zuzuhören ebenso wie ihre Fertigkeit beim Erzählen werden wir sehr vermissen.



You always hear him, but most of the time you don't see him.

Who is Jordan O'Brien-Moran?

Jordan O'Brien-Moran was born 67 years ago in Vernon, British Columbia. He had 3 siblings, but unfortunately one brother and his only sister have passed away.

His parents instilled in him a love of music and he began playing the piano at the age of 8. In high school he picked up the trombone. After high school, and because of his ability to read and understand written music, he was readily accepted into the Bachelor of Music program at the University of British Columbia. There he not only furthered his studies of the piano and trombone, but gained familiarity with the trumpet, oboe, flute, bassoon, violin, cello and other instruments. After graduating from the university in 1977 with a Bachelor of Music degree, Jordan found work playing with various rock bands, was based in Vancouver and traveled throughout the Northwestern US and Western Canada. He had to learn a new song almost every night and sang and played various instruments. During that time, when the sun went down, Jordan went to work six nights a week.

Jordan has always been attracted to classical music. When he became the organist at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Regina, Saskatchewan in 1989, it was a job closely related to that type of music. In 1999 the family moved to Winnipeg and Jordan had to find a new job, so he put an ad in the Yellow Pages. When David Schmidt, the Music Director of St. Peter's Lutheran, resigned in 2000, he asked Jordan to apply for the job and that was the start of Jordan's 20-year relationship with our congregation. Pastor Heimo Bachmeyer wrote in his 2000 annual report: "I am thankful that by the grace of God we have been blessed with a dedicated Music Director Jordan O'Brien-Moran."

You only get to know Jordan if you are able to spend a little time with him and explore his love for music. He loves the new piano, the sound of the strings and the touch of each key. When you listen to him play you appreciate the passion and the variety he brings to 'always do better'. He taught himself to play the organ and he likes to play all those foot pedals with his bare feet because even the socks do not give him that intimate feeling of connection with the instrument. (Sometimes we see this at the piano too.)

When he's not at St. Peter's, Jordan enjoys playing the trombone in the Ron Paley Big Band. Now, with the COVID-19 restrictions, most of the "gigs" have been cancelled and Jordan will enjoy the first New Year's Eve in many years, at home.

To give a little more insight into Jordan's personality, we would like to take you back to 2001 and Jordan's first Music Director's report when he wrote: "I would like to thank the congregation for their warm, lively and extremely competent congregational singing during all of the services. Life on the organ loft is thereby rendered exceedingly peaceful".

Jordan lives almost within walking distance of our church and has been married to Louise for 25 years. Louise works in the Manitoba film industry with locally and internationally produced film and television productions and is also involved in attracting the wider film industry to Manitoba.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

A very **Happy Birthday** to **Ewaldine GUTTEK** who turned 90 on Sept 2, **Philip Kitsch** who will turn 90 on October 19, and **Elsie Knoblauch** who will turn 90 on October 29!

Congratulations to Kirsten and Wojtek Koch and the Bunge-Oellermann family on the arrival of Baby Oliver on August 29.



Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Two weeks ago, the teachers were waiting for just two more students to return. Hopefully they are all back now. The girls are excited to be back but are taking precautions with masks and regular washing.

The 2020/2021 sponsorship money of \$ 16,800.00 received has been forwarded to the school. The 2019 Kuwala Annual Report with a St. Peter's comment and a picture of our own annual meeting is available on our St. Peter's website. There are also some hard copies of the report available for the asking. Other information is also available on the Kuwala website: www.kuwala.org, please check it out.



The construction of the last phase of the St. Peter's Hall is now progressing. The part of the building already completed houses the kitchen, storage area, washroom etc. What is visible in the picture is one of the walls extending from the existing part of the building.

On a last note, travel restrictions still apply in Malawi. While travel is permitted from Canada, travellers are subject to a 14-day quarantine in Malawi and of course also when returning to Canada.

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church WINNIPEG, MANITOBA	
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ _____
MISSIONS	\$ _____
DEVELOPMENT & BUILDING FUND	\$ _____
OTHER (please specify)	\$ _____
<i>"All things come of Thee O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee."</i>	
NAME	ADDRESS
PLEASE PRINT	

Gifts to our Congregation. It has been said that: *"Most of the world does not care, but those who do, care a lot"*. This is certainly true for our St. Peter's members and friends. The support to our financial

needs during this COVID-19 pandemic is been great and is very much appreciated by all who have been charged with managing our budget. Compared to last year, for the first eight months in 2020, we were able to reduce our congregational spending by \$ 20,729.84 while our income increases by \$ 894.37. The figures indicate that, as of the end of August, we have a deficit of \$ 6,031.57. With your continued support we hope to be able to eliminate our current deficit.

Any submissions to the November 2020 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made 10 days prior to the first Sunday in November. So, submissions for the November Newsletter should be made by noon Thursday October 22, 2020. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnews1@gmail.com

**Ratification of Changes to the North American Lutheran Church
Constitution.**

Below you will find a one-page ballot which should be self-explanatory. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Jerry Roehr at 204-981-4239 or e-mail; roehr@mymts.net. We encourage you to return the ballot as soon as possible, but not later than October 15, 2020.

**Constitutional Changes Ratification Vote
St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church**

The NALC at the Mission Convocation August 7th & 8th 2020 approved certain amendments to the constitution. This action is to be ratified by each congregation. The full text and additional information is available from Jerry Roehr at 204-981-4239, or roehr@mymts.net.

In brief, the constitutional changes are as follows:

1. To change convocation dates from annual to bi-annual (every second year).
Article 7.01.
2. To change election terms to correspond with bi-annual convocation dates.
(every second year). Article 10.01.
3. To adopt a two year budget at each bi-annual convocation (every second year).
Article 7.04
4. To ensure equal representation of pastor and lay at the convocations. Article 7.02
5. To report all NALC actions quarterly and at convocations. Article 10.05,1

At its meeting, September 21, 2020 the Church Council passed a resolution to recommend to the congregation adoption of these proposed NALC constitution changes as part of the ratification process. As a singular voting method in the present COVID pandemic circumstances, a vote on these changes is to be conducted either by return e-mail-in ballot, or mail-in ballot or by dropping off at church, by the congregational membership to Mr. Jerry Roehr for collation and presentation to Church Council.

BALLOT

I, _____ vote to ratify the amendments to the North American Lutheran Church Constitution, which were approved by the NALC 2020 Convocation on August 8th, 2020.

Yes _____

No _____

Your name must be inserted for an accurate ballot count. This ballot may be duplicated for the use by other eligible voting members.

Completed ballots must be mailed or dropped off at the St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, 65 Walnut Street, Winnipeg, MB, R3G 1N9 or e-mailed to Jerry Roehr at roehr@mymts.net as soon as possible but **no later than October 15, 2020.**

