



# St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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May 2021

**Council and Worship & Music Committee made the decisions to once again suspend our in-person services until further notice. We will commence taping the service on Thursday and the service will be posted and available for you first thing on Sunday morning. We encourage everyone to join in virtually, or by e-mail and mail-outs.**

## **Do not Disbelieve, but Believe: On Faith and Doubts**

Quite often we have doubts – about things that we cannot know with certainty.

When it comes to faith and doubts, it seems to be the standard expression that doubts are something bad. That doubts and faith do not go together. A person of faith, some say, must not have doubts.

Although ... it does make sense to have doubts, for instance about Jesus' resurrection. After all, unlike the first disciples, we haven't seen or touched the risen Jesus. But have you noticed that even in the Easter stories about the risen Lord there is a lot of talk about doubts?

- In John 20, we hear the story about the most prominent doubter, the disciple who was dubbed “doubting Thomas.” I think we do Thomas injustice by calling him that. Thomas' other nickname was “Twin.” Aren't we more like Thomas's twin siblings because we are not free from doubts?
- In Matthew 28 we hear that, when the eleven disciples saw the risen Lord in Galilee, “they worshipped him; but some doubted.”
- And in Luke 24, Jesus asked his disciples why doubts were arising in their hearts.

Do doubts negate our faith? Can't we, as believers, not have doubts? I think it is okay to have doubts.

I agree with what a theologian (M. Holmes Hartshorne) has to say about the relation between faith and doubt. Listen to him. He says, “Faith without doubt is dead; but doubt without faith is death ... Where doubt is rooted in faith, it becomes the source of honesty, humility and joy.”

I think it is this kind of humility that the ancient Church Father Augustine puts for us in place when he said, I am a doubting person, therefore God is. Very true. Despite – or maybe because – of our doubts we are invited to worship God and to pray to God.

Yours in Christ,  
Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor

## Sei nicht ungläubig, sondern gläubig: Über Glaube und Zweifel

Immer wieder haben wir Zweifel. Gerade dann, wenn es Dinge gibt, die wir nicht mit Sicherheit wissen können.

Wenn es um Glauben und Zweifel geht, dann hat es den Anschein, dass die beiden nicht zusammen passen. Als ob Zweifel etwas Schlechtes wären. Eine Person, die glaubt, so kriegen wir zu hören, darf nicht zweifeln.

Und doch leuchtet es irgendwie ein, Zweifel in Glaubensangelegenheiten zu haben. Etwa, was Jesu Auferstehung angeht. Schließlich können wir den Auferstandenen nicht sehen oder anfassen – im Gegensatz zu den Jüngern damals. Aber ist euch aufgefallen, wie oft von Zweifeln im Zusammenhang der Ostererzählung geschrieben wird?

- Das prominenteste Beispiel ist der Jünger, den wir den „ungläubigen ... zweifelnden Thomas“ nennen. Ich denke, wir tun ihm Unrecht, wenn wir so von ihm reden. Thomas wird auch Zwilling genannt. Sind wir nicht seine Zwillingsgeschwister, da auch wir nicht frei von Zweifeln sind?

- Dann heißt es in Matthäus 28, als Jesus vor den Elfen in Galiläa erschien, dass sie „ihn anbeteten; einige aber zweifelten“.

- Dann ist da noch der Text in Lukas 24, wo Jesus seine Jünger fragte, warum sie zweifelnde Gedanken in ihren Herzen trugen.

Machen Zweifel unseren Glauben wertlos? Dürfen wir, als Glaubende, keine Zweifel haben? Ich bin der Ansicht, es ist in Ordnung, Zweifel zu haben.

Ich stimme dem zu, was mal ein Theologe (M. Holmes Hartshorne) gesagt hatte mit Blick auf Glaube und Zweifel. Hört seine Worte: „Glaube ohne Zweifel ist tot; aber Zweifel ohne Glaube ist der Tod. ... Wo Zweifel im Glauben begründet sind, werden sie zu einer Quelle der Aufrichtigkeit, der Bescheidenheit und der Freude.“

Ich denke, es ist diese Art Bescheidenheit, die auch der Kirchenvater Augustinus meinte, als er sagte: Ich zweifle, daher ist Gott. Sehr wahr. Trotz, oder sollte ich nicht eher sagen: *wegen* unserer Zweifel sind wir dazu eingeladen, Gott mit unserem Gottesdienst zu ehren und zu ihm zu beten.

In Christo, euer  
Björn E. Meinhardt, Pfarrer

## **Council Update**

*Submitted by Barb Schott*

### **Our Services:**

We are grateful that we were able to celebrate Holy Week and Easter together this past month and thank Pastor Meinhardt for his inspired services throughout this full week. As well, we extend our thanks to everyone who participated in the services, to Linda Lurvey who organized the musical contributions that were brought to us by Emily and Nancy Lange, Shanlyn Parkhill, Kirsten Bunge and Dennis Henney. Everyone was very pleased to receive the beautiful palm crosses on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. A reminder too that the Holden services are available on-line on the church website and the meditation changes each month, so please check in on a regular basis.

### **Covid Update:**

As you're all aware, Manitoba has entered the "third wave" and our Covid infection rate has been climbing once again, with the different and more dangerous variants great cause for concern. The Manitoba Medical Officers are encouraging all individuals to stay home and to limit their contacts in order to avoid heading into another lock down. They also encouraged leaders, in all fields, to not wait for government restrictions to tighten, but to make tough decisions now.

**As such, Council and Worship & Music Committee made the decisions to once again suspend our in-person services until further notice. We will commence taping the service on Thursday and the service will be posted and available for you first thing on Sunday morning. We encourage everyone to join in virtually, or by e-mail and mail-outs.**

### **AGM Update:**

The AGM booklets have been completed and distributed. If you have not received yours, please contact the church office at 204-775-6477. We also want to remind everyone that the plans for the in-person May 30<sup>th</sup> AGM remain tentative and we are not sure whether the regulations will allow us to hold an in-person AGM. Council will continue to evaluate the situation and make a final decision as to how we will conduct the AGM. (Alternatives that have been discussed are a virtual AGM by ZOOM, or simply a ballot sent out to you with categories to vote on.) Again, please watch for information and we thank you for your patience as well as your ongoing support to St. Peter's during these uncertain times.

**To register for the Covid Vaccination and instructions, please see page 8.**

Today's article is a picture report showing the final construction phase of the exterior St. Peter's Assembly Hall and one of the existing classrooms.



With our help, Kuwala is becoming a first-rate facility.



The pictures below show some unsolicited information we received about another school which we are unable to support. Nthanda Primary School in Balaka, Neno District, Malawi  
 Classroom for Standard 1&2      Classroom for Standard 3&4      Inside Classroom Standard 3



**St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church**  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

WEEKLY BUDGET .....	\$ _____
MISSIONS .....	\$ _____
DEVELOPMENT & BUILDING FUND .....	\$ _____
OTHER (please specify) .....	\$ _____

*"All things come of Thee O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee."*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT

Because Easter was one month earlier this year, our donations reflected that, as we received our Easter offering early as well. We can report that the income for March exceeded our expenses for that month. That means we received \$2,154.35 above our costs of \$15,511.43. Our deficit for the first three months of this year is \$7,499.05. Please remember your congregation as you plan your summer months offerings.

**Here I am, Lord.** That was the title of an article in last month's Newsletter. It asked you to consider being part of our Church Council. The report also asked us to examine what the future of our congregation may look like in the years to come. In order to evaluate the faith community in Winnipeg and around the world, we provide financial support to the Saturday Winnipeg Free Press Faith Page. We ask you to look at what John Longhurst and Brenda Suderman write. It will give you a unique perspective which may help us chart a future plan for our congregation. Goals for the future of St. Peter's will be discussed in several meetings, once we are able to meet in **person again**.

**Kesete Family.** As reported in the last Newsletter, the Kesete family, consisting of Geytome, Shawit, Furtona and Denait, has moved to a new three-bedroom Manitoba Housing suite. We had encouraged our members to write a "Welcome to your new Home card." Unfortunately, our mail is being returned because the Kesete's have not received their community mailbox key. We will inform you when their mail box is "operational". Please note the correct address is **#89-629 St. Anne's Road Winnipeg, MB., R2M 5B1**.

**St. Aidan's Christian School.** We support this Christian school which has two Winnipeg locations. They are inviting interested parties to a virtual fundraiser on May 7 and 8, 2021. The school will provide a Bannock meal to those who register. Please contact Gudrun at the office for the zoom formation.

**Special Donations.** Outside our Mission budget, we are pleased to report that we received extra donations to support two Christian agencies. We are thankful to be able to submit \$2,000.00 to the Canadian Lutheran World Relief and \$1,000.00 to the Canadian Lutheran Bible Translators.



**Calling all Grandchildren.** As we all know, attending in-person services is not always possible, and as most of us know, our worship services are also recorded on YouTube. We encourage all grandchildren to take their laptop or i-phones and visit their grandparents and ask if they would like to view some of the recorded services. Please visit: [stpeterslutheran.ca](http://stpeterslutheran.ca) and select any one of the services recorded. The latest 11:00am Sunday service is available either late Sunday afternoon or the next day. Grandkids, your grandparents will love to spend time with you. Grandparents, tell your grandkids that you want to see them.

## **A reminder on options for making donations.**

(1) For those of you using the **PAR system**, we would request that you continue with it, as PAR provides excellent documentation for our office and records.

(2) For those of you wishing to use **e-transfer** for donations, please follow these instructions and let us know if you encounter any difficulties:

- e-transfers can be sent from your bank to giving@stpeterslutheran.ca . Your donation will be automatically deposited without a password being required.
- An e-mail notification is then sent to the church office, letting us know that your donation has been sent.
- Please note that your bank might charge you a fee to do this, but that fee would be equivalent/similar to cheque cashing charges and/or postage if you are mailing in your donation.
- the e-transfer option provides you with a “notes” or “message” section. We would ask that you use this to indicate:

- a) where you would like your donation to go: weekly budget, mission, building, memorial, etc.
- b) please indicate your envelope number, in order to make the work of our envelope secretary, Steve Herbst, so much easier.
- c) With the help of David Budnick, who manages our church website, we will also add a link on our website, to this donation option.
- d) Here is a sample of a real-e-transfer donation. We have re-enacted or changed the names to ensure the anonymity of the donour, but everything else looks like what you would encounter.

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## **Hi ST PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

MR. [Peter Walnut] has sent you \$100.00 (CAD) and the money has been automatically deposited into your bank account at RBC Royal Bank.

**Message:** Hi Steve.

Please allocate \$50 to Weekly Budget and \$50 to Building Fund.

My envelope number is 104.

Thank you.

[Peter]

**Reference Number:** CA7u5y9S

Please do not reply to this email.

**This is a secure transaction**

## Wedding Anniversaries of note

Congratulations to

**Frieda and Arthur Kreis** who are celebrating their 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 1

**Elsie and Guenther Knoblauch** who are celebrating their 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 21

**Richard and Lottie Mann** who celebrated their 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

(Elli Kitzmann provided the following additional information on Richard and Lottie. They came to Canada from Braunschweig, Germany in October 1949, they have four children, Fred, Ed, Harry and Kenneth, 9 Grandchildren, and 11 Great Grandchildren. They live in Assisted living and are enjoying it.)

We thank our heavenly father for the way he has blessed you and pray that he will continue to sustain you.



## Special Birthday Wishes go to



**Erich Eutenier** – 90 on May 1,  
**Linda Heckert** – 84 on May 13  
**Elfriede Hammerling** – 84 on May 14  
**Richard Mann** – 97 on May 21  
**Edith Fanslau** – May 22  
**Maria Streu** – 84 on May 27

**Patricia Augst** – 88 on May 11,  
**Hans Luedtke** – 88 on May 13  
**Wolfgang Oppitz** – 84 on May 16  
**Lilli Makus** – 85 on May 22  
**Helmut Augst** – 84 on May 25  
**Hedwig Scham** – 95 on May 31

May the Lord continue to bless and keep you.

**Effective this month, and going forward, we will start listing the birthdays of everyone over 80, and encourage members to reach out to one another in celebration:**



## Congratulations!

We want to congratulate Pastor Tom and Linda Lurvey and their daughter Tina and son-in-law Louie Kennedy on the arrival of their daughter and granddaughter, Nora Susan, born on March 31<sup>st</sup>! Linda is now Oma and Tom is Ukki, Finnish for grandfather! Congratulations to your family.

**Thank you Emily Lange**, for your ongoing work sending birthday cards out to our members. We want you to know that we have heard back from a number of parishioners who are simply delighted with the creativity and personal touches that you add to the cards!



### Bible Study Announcement

Please join us for Bible study (via ZOOM) on Saturdays at 10:00 am: May 8 and May 22.

Instructions for accessing Zoom:

1. Go to website [stpeterslutheran.ca](http://stpeterslutheran.ca)
2. Click on "Bible Study".
3. Follow the link, enter the pass code 455619.

Or you can join by phone: 204.272.7920



The Study will take about an hour. In the weeks and months to come we want to take a look at the beginnings of our faith:

- What life was like in the times of Jesus.
- The Apostle Paul and the early church.

Please watch the Newsletter and the weekly mailings for an updated schedule on the Bible Study.

### Vaccination Information (from the gov.mb.ca website)

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/index.html>

Appointments are required for these sites, and can either be made online or by calling the **vaccine call centre at 1-844-626-8222 (1-844-MAN-VACC) from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. Have your health card ready. Make sure that you are eligible.**

Super-site/**Winnipeg** RBC Convention Centre, 375 York Avenue

Enter through the main doors on York Avenue. Free indoor parking is provided in the main underground parkade. Free outdoor parking will also be available, as of February 1, in the lot located on York Ave, just southeast of the main entrance. Parking patrols will be on-site to direct people to the correct stalls.

#### General Instructions & checklist:

- bring the following: consent form (available on website listed above or at [ProtectMB.ca/Resources](http://ProtectMB.ca/Resources)), your personal ID (photo), Manitoba health card;
- wear a mask; wear a short sleeve garment;
- you may bring a family member with you if you need support;
- come 10-15 minutes early, but no earlier than this in order to avoid congestion;
- be prepared for at least a 45 minute stay at the facility.



**IMPORTANT: If anyone needs assistance with (i) booking an appointment for the Covid vaccine or (ii) with accessing/getting a copy of the consent form or (iii) needs transportation to the Convention Centre please call the Church office at 204-775-6477 and we will arrange for someone to assist you.**

**Any submissions to the June 2021 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made 10 days prior to the first Sunday in June. So, submissions for the June Newsletter should be made by noon Thursday May 27, 2021. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at [stpetersnewsl@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersnewsl@gmail.com)**

