



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Was wäre, wenn es keine Auferstehung gäbe?

*Nun aber ist Christus auferstanden von den Toten
als Erstling unter denen, die entschlafen sind. (1. Korinther 15,20)*

Ostern kommt bald. An Ostern feiern wir und erinnern uns daran, dass Jesus von den Toten auferweckt wurde. Was aber wäre, wenn es keine Auferstehung gäbe? Dies ist keine neue Frage. Sie geht zurück bis zu den Anfängen des christlichen Glaubens. Paulus nimmt die Frage in 1. Korinther 15 auf und zerlegt sie, indem er uns versichert, dass es die Auferstehung der Toten gibt.

In 1. Korinther 15 sagt Paulus, dass „wir die elendesten unter allen Menschen (sind)“. Wie kann er das nur behaupten? Wie kann er schreiben, dass wir die elendesten Menschen sind? Seiner Meinung nach kommen wir zu dieser Auffassung nur, wenn wir einer Anreihung von negativen Aussagen folgen. Paulus beschreibt also, was passiert, wenn wir davon ausgehen, dass es keine Auferstehung gibt:

(1) Menschen sind sterblich und können nicht auferstehen. (2) Daraus folgt, dass der *Mensch* Jesus nicht auferweckt werden kann. (3) Das bedeutet wiederum, dass unsere Predigt auf einer Lüge aufbaut. (4) Damit hat unser Glaube kein Fundament. (5) Sollte das alles wahr sein, dann sind wir immer noch in der Sünde gefangen und damit weiterhin unerlöst. (6) Wir sind also die elendesten Menschen, weil wir verloren sind.

Dieses logische Gebilde erinnert mich daran, was passiert, wenn wir mit Domino-Steinen spielen, die wir in einer langen Reihe aufstellen: Fällt ein Stein, fallen auch alle anderen.

Hier spielen wir aber nicht mit Domino-Steinen. Hier geht es um unser Heil.

Paulus glaubt nicht, dass es keine Auferstehung gibt. Vielmehr möchte er uns aufzeigen, was geschieht, wenn wir in diesem negativen Denken verhaftet sind. Auf diese Weise möchte er uns seinen eigentlichen Punkt vermitteln. Denn wenn dieses Denkmuster wahr wäre, dann wäre auch unser Glaube – in der Tat – vergeblich ... nichtig.

Wir sollen daher nicht in diesen negativen Strukturen verweilen. Wir müssen die Sache von einem anderen Blickwinkel aus betrachten, mit der wir ihr eine positive Ausrichtung geben. Wenn wir dabei von der Annahme ausgehen, dass Jesus von den Toten auferstanden ist, dann kommt auch alles andere zusammen:

(1) Jesus ist nicht nur ein Mensch, sondern auch der Sohn Gottes, der den Sieg über die Mächte des Todes durch seine Auferstehung gewann. Jesus erstand tatsächlich von den Toten. (2) Das ist eine gute Nachricht, die von vielen Zeugen bestätigt wurde. Die zentrale Aussage unserer Verkündigung ist wahr. So, wie Jesus von sich sagte: „Ich bin die Wahrheit.“ (3) Damit steht unser Glaube auf einem soliden Fundament. (4) Wegen Jesu Tod und seiner Auferstehung sind wir von der Sünde Sold gerettet. (5) Wir dürfen darauf vertrauen, dass auch wir zu neuem Leben auferweckt werden. Wir glauben an die Auferstehung der Toten. (6) Weil wir gerettet und

erlöst sind, haben wir allen Grund fröhlich zu sein. Wir sind die glücklichsten Menschen. Und diese Freude soll sich auch auf unseren Dienst auswirken.

Dieses Denken gleicht mehr einem Pfad, auf dem wir uns auf dem Weg nach Hause befinden. Es ist ein sicherer Weg. Paulus hat recht: In Christus haben wir nicht nur Hoffnung für dieses Leben allein. Weil wir glauben, dass nach dem Tod unser Leben weitergeht, sollte uns das dazu anspornen, schon im Hier und Jetzt mit unserem Dienst einen Unterschied zu machen.

Im Namen Jesu, unseres gekreuzigten und auferstandenen Herrn,
Björn E. Meinhardt, Pfarrer

What If There Were No Resurrection?

*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (1 Corinthians 15:20)*

We are getting ready for Easter. On Easter we celebrate and remember that Jesus was raised from the dead. But what if there were no resurrection? This is not a new question. It goes back all the way to the beginnings of the Christian church. Paul addresses this question, and dismantles it, in 1 Corinthians 15 by assuring us that there *is* a resurrection from the dead.

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul expresses that of all people, “we are the most to be pitied.” How can he say that? How can he write that we are the most to be pitied? In his mind, you can come to this conclusion only if you follow a string of negative statements. Paul describes what happens when we start with the assumption that there is no resurrection:

(1) Dead people can’t be resurrected. (2) Then: The *human* Jesus did not get resurrected. (3) This means: Our preaching is based on a lie. (4) Ergo: Our faith has no foundation. (5) If all of this happens to be true, then we – who are still in sin – remain unsaved. (6) Therefore: We are to be pitied because we are lost.

This whole logical construct reminds me of playing with dominoes that you line up: When one piece falls, all the other pieces fall as well.

However, we are not playing with dominoes here. We are dealing with a matter of salvation.

Paul does not believe that there is no resurrection. Rather, he presents us with the consequences of this negative train of thinking. He mentions it to make a point: If this thinking were the case ... if this were true, our faith would be in vain, it would be naught. Indeed.

Let us, therefore, not draw on the negative. We need to look at the matter, the evidence, by giving it a positive spin. By starting with the assertion that Jesus rose from the dead. Then all else falls in place as well:

(1) Jesus, who is not just a human being but also the Son of God, won victory over the forces of death through his resurrection: Jesus was raised from the dead. (2) This is good news. It has been confirmed by many witnesses: The central message of our preaching is true. Just as Jesus said about himself “I am the truth.” (3) With this, our faith stands on a solid foundation. (4) Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we are saved from the wages of sin.

(5) We can trust that we will be raised to new life as well. We believe in the resurrection of the dead. (6) Because we are saved and redeemed, we have reason to rejoice. We are the most joyful people. And this joy should show in our ministry.

This line of thinking is more like a path that is meant to take us home. Safely. Paul is right: In Christ, we do not have hope in this life only. Because we believe that after death there is another life to come, we are encouraged to make a positive difference already in the here and now.

Yours, in the name of the crucified and risen Lord,
Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor

Welcome New Council Members

Submitted by Michael Zacharias

On behalf of St. Peter's, I would like to congratulate and welcome our newest council members who are Carla Betker, Alison Erhardt, and Linda Lurvey. Welcome to church council and thank you for your willingness to serve. Leaving council this year are Dr. Martin Bunge, Erin Horton, and Andreas Steineker. We thank you for your dedication and service to St. Peter's.

Our Church Council members for 2022 -2023 are:

Michael Zacharias – President

Jerry Roehr – Vice President

Allison Erhardt – Secretary

Ralf Oppitz – Treasurer

Paul Bergsagel

Carla Betker

Dylan Grymonpre

Anneliese Hartfiel

Edith Herbst

Linda Lurvey

Georg Schreckenbach.

Gottesdienste in der Karwoche. Holy Week Worship Schedule

April 10: Palmsonntag / Palm Sunday - Gottesdienst / Worship. 9:15AM (German), 11AM (English)

April 14: Gründonnerstag / Maundy Thursday - Gottesdienst (zweisprachig) / Worship (bilingual). 7PM

April 15: Karfreitag / Good Friday - Gottesdienst / Worship. 9AM (German), 11AM (English)

April 17: Ostersonntag / Easter Sunday - Gottesdienst / Worship. 9AM (German), 11AM (English)

"Since Covid infections seem to be on the rise, we will not be hosting an Easter Breakfast this year."

Special April Birthdays

Doreen SCHORN, 81 on April 5

Louise BUTZ, 88 on April 9

Helga ROSSOL, 91 on April 10

Edith ERHARDT, 81 on April 11

Wanda MARTEN, 96 on April 16

Monika KRAMPETZ, 82 on April 17

Helga ROEHR, 80 on April 18

Adolf GESELL, 84 on April 24

Frieda SCHWING, 87 on April 26

Frieda PRETZER, 82 on April 30

We wish you a happy birthday! May the Lord continue to bless and keep you!

Honouring our Volunteers

At St. Peter's we recognize members for their long-time service and those who have gone above and beyond. This year the focus was on our youngest members and on our youth work. At our 2021 AGM, which took place on March 20, 2022, acknowledgements for service to the congregation were presented to the following individuals:

Emily Lange – for sharing her beautiful voice in her solo performances that have enhanced our live and virtual worship services. And, for her dedication in taking over the birthday cards a number of years ago from Mrs. Charlotte Stach. We've heard back from many seniors who are delighted with the creativity and how Emily personalizes the cards. Thank you Emily!

Andrea Budnick – for all the participation and work she has done as a youth and young adult, with our Sunday School, youth, and VBS. These past few years she has been instrumental in organizing events for our young adults and keeping them engaged and connected. Thank you Andrea!

Ulrike and Georg Schreckenbach – for their inspired leadership of our youth, for creating events and activities that kept them together and engaged with one another, but also in the spiritual life of our church and the wider community. Who can forget the great Izzy Doll Project, or the "Keep Winnipeg Warm" that brought together our entire church community, from youngest to oldest. We also thank them for their musical contributions to our worship services. Thank you Ulrike and Georg!

Thank you Erwin Erhardt for installing the beautiful new kitchen faucet. This makes washing up a pleasure!!



The work to refurbish our organ – to replace the felt pads under the keys, and to replace the speakers that had disintegrated - took place on March 17th. It was very dramatic, involving our biggest ladder and we thank Brian Thompson from Allen Organ for his bravery and thoroughness. Jordan was very pleased with the results.

NALC is looking for board members

The North American Lutheran Church (NALC), our affiliation, is looking for “Quality Candidates” to serve on several boards which are listed below. If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, please let the office know by Thursday April 14. There will be a brief biographical form that you would need to fill out as well. More info and forms can be found here: <https://thenalc.org/gallery/2022-nomination-materials-now-available/>
The different positions available are:

Executive Council: two positions (one clergy, one lay); 3-year term

The Executive Council functions as the board of directors for the NALC, providing leadership for the church between Mission Convocations. The Executive Council consists of the bishop, four clergy and four lay members who are elected to 3-year terms. Terms begin on October 1 in the year elected and end on September 30, three years later. The council meets quarterly, usually in Jan, Apr or May, July and Oct. The meetings occur on weekdays and do require some time away from one’s day job. These in-person meetings require two days, they are held in Dallas/Fort Worth. Participation in the biennial convocation is also expected, which is another three to four days away from home and work.

Court of Adjudication: two positions; 3-year term

The Court of Adjudication hears appeals from disciplinary decisions; resolves questions of interpretation of NALC governing documents; and decides claims that a person or entity has violated these governing documents. The Court of Adjudication consists of seven members, each elected to a 3-year term by the Mission Convocation. Terms begin on October 1 in the year elected and end on September 30, three years later. Any member of a NALC congregation shall be eligible for election and service. Usually, the court is able to meet online or via a conference call, but an occasional face-to-face meeting may be needed.

Board of Regents for North American Lutheran Seminary: three positions; 5-year term

The seminary Board of Regents is made up of nine members (clergy or lay), the bishop and the seminary president. Its chief responsibilities are to provide oversight, supervision and direction for the NALS Network and president, including fiscal plans, new programs and initiatives, resolution of disputes and fund raising. The board is accountable to the Executive Council and the Mission Convocation. The board meets at least four times a year. Meetings will usually require members to be away from home or work for at least two full days. Members may be re-elected twice.



Submitted by Jerry Roehr

It is interesting to note that the school provides the students not only with academic instructions but also provides practical life skills instruction like gardening/farming, irrigation and a new addition - carpentry.



The desks you see in the St. Peter's Hall, which also has a wide screen TV monitor, were recently built by the students in the old cafeteria. The new desks are in the St. Peter's Hall since the original desks are in the classrooms already built.



St. Peter's Hall after the rain.

Following, for your information, is the presentation Jerry Roehr made at the Congregation's Annual Meeting on March 20, 2022.

*As we look at the world around us, we see nations in conflict. Those who experienced World War II are scared and asked: will I be affected again? And suddenly, we realize how blessed we are to live in the greatest country in the world, Canada. Indeed, we **live** in this great nation, and with all our perceived differences, real or imagined, we live in a compassionate country, ready to help others in need, personally and through our church.*

We read in the 126th Psalm "The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad".

When we look at our financial history, we thank God that our income has exceeded our expenses. Just last year, not counting surpluses in our Building and Development Fund, our Memorial Fund as well as our Operational (Current) Funds exceeded our spending requirements.

Indeed, as our treasurer will report shortly, in 2021, we exceeded our income in current by \$ 81,741.00 over our necessary expenses.

*Some discussion took place between our president, Michael Zacharias, our treasurer Ralf Oppitz, our pastor Bjoern Meinhardt and our Mission Committee to ask the church council and the congregation to allow **half** of the \$ 81,741.00 to be spent on "Mission Projects".*

The allocation is to be as follows:

To add to the \$ 2,350.00 already received, provide \$ 10,000.00 to the Canadian Lutheran World Relief to support humanitarian relief in Ukraine.

To add up to \$ 30,000.00 to the Mission Committee's existing surpluses of \$ 30,000.00 to build a \$ 60,000.00 teacher's duplex at the Kuwala Christian Girls School in Malawi.

I believe the rationale to support Ukraine does not need any further explanation.

At Kuwala, all current buildings, the St. Peter's Hall, two classroom buildings, two teacher's residences, greenhouses, gardens, soccer fields, electricity, solar panels, natural gas, water, sewer and perimeter fences etc, etc are fully funded in an area where villagers don't have electricity, running water or toilets.

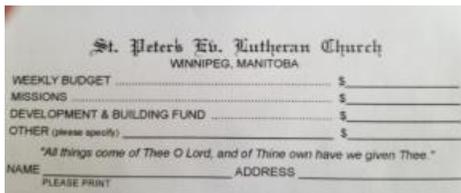
Currently, the school will be limited to providing quality education for 120 girls, graduating 30 students per year. But quality education needs quality teachers.

To attract quality teachers, the headteacher and the senior teachers are provided residences on the school grounds. Other teachers could live in Lilongwe, the capital city, but that is at least an hour away on often washed-out dirt roads. Teachers have to live in nearby villages in, certainly not ideal conditions.

At least four teacher duplexes are needed to attract quality teachers. Under this funding proposal, St. Peter's will provide a construction cost of \$ 60,000.00 for one of these duplexes.

As I said earlier this project came to light when the \$ 81,000.00 surplus became fully known, was discussed with the Mission Committee and our president and will be presented to the church council at their next meeting for further action.

The report was adopted.



Financial update: At the last council meeting, our treasurer Ralf Oppitz reported our operational (current) donations are \$4,422.96 higher than last year, Unfortunately, our expenses were also \$4,817.17 higher for these first two months, Therefore at this time, our deficit of \$ 9,448.61 is about the same as last year.

As adopted at the March 20, 2022, annual meeting, we donated \$10,000.00 to the Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) for the Ukrainian Relief efforts from the 2021 surplus. That was in addition to \$3,500.00 received from our members for the same humanitarian relief effort. At the time of this writing, CLWR had received over \$ 550,000.00 in Ukrainian donations. *Submitted by Jerry Roehr*

John Longhurst writes: These are tough times, with the invasion of Ukraine. So many thoughts and worries and concerns! And prayers—for Ukraine, for the people of Russia who are protesting this war, for Ukrainians in Manitoba who are worried for relatives in that country, for peace. At the same time, it's great to see so many faith groups stepping up to help refugees and others in Ukraine through their aid groups and other ways.

If travel plans remain the same, John will be accompanying the Manitoba Indigenous delegation on their visit to Pope Francis in Rome.

Your Stories, Our Church:

recording the Oral Histories of the Members of St. Peter's

an invitation from Ortrud Oellermann and Barbara Schott

The two of us are working on a new series that is based on the oral history of the members of St. Peter's. Oral history is defined as "a field of study and a method of gathering, preserving and interpreting the voices and memories of people, communities, and participants in past events" (OHA Oral History Association). Our plan is to have conversations with willing members of St. Peter's that immigrated to Canada; we would then write an account - with your final approval - that would be featured in the newsletter each month. Our plan is to begin with the oldest members - and unfortunately many of our immigrant members are no longer with us and we regret not having worked on this sooner. From there we may subsequently branch out to the children of the immigrants who are no longer with us and work with their memories.

Why are we doing this? First of all, we are both fascinated by the accounts we have already heard of the lives and experiences of our members, and we feel that it would be a service to our community to record and share these accounts with you and especially our younger generation. We also believe that knowing the history of our members is valuable in that it helps us understand what shaped the remarkable St. Peter's community.

We will structure our conversations around the following key questions:

1. When did you come to Canada?
2. Where did you come from?
3. Why did you come to Canada?
4. Could you please tell us a bit about your life before coming to Canada?
5. Could you please tell us what challenges you faced when you came to Canada and how life in Canada differed from your life before coming here?
6. How did you connect with St. Peter's.
7. How did St. Peter's support you and your family?

If you are interested in participating in this project and speaking with us and having your information shared and published in our newsletter, please let one of us know at b.schott@shaw.ca (204-257-3531) or stpetersnewsl@gmail.com (204-487-2175)

Any submissions for the May 2022 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon Thursday, April 21, 2022. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnewsl@gmail.com