



June 2022

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Becoming "Another John"

In 1515, artist and painter Matthias Grünewald completed the **Isenheim Altar**. Today, you can see this masterpiece of pre-Reformation art in the Musée d'Unterlinden in the Alsatian town of Colmar (France).

The centrepiece of the altar depicts Jesus' death on the cross. On the left side of the cross, we see a small group of people: Mary, the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and the disciple whom Jesus loved. But I want to focus on the person to the right: **John the Baptist**.

Of course, historically, his presence at Jesus' crucifixion is an anachronism. But theologically, it is quite fitting and significant since John pointed during his ministry to Jesus, the coming Messiah, who would proclaim the righteousness of God.

The Church's calendar commemorates the birth of John the Baptist on **June 24**. Once Jesus' birthday was established in the fourth century, all one had to do was to count six months backwards in order to arrive at John's birthday. Usually, the Church remembers saints and martyrs on the day of their death – the day on which they entered into eternal glory. In addition to the celebration of John's birthday, there are only two other birthdays on the Church's feast-day calendar: that of Jesus' mother Mary (on September 8) and of Jesus himself, of course (on December 25).

John the Baptist is typically recognized as the last of the prophets, and in this role he connects the Old and the New Testaments.

According to Luke's Gospel, John and Jesus were related to each other through their mothers. The birth of John was wondrously foretold to his parents Elizabeth and Zechariah, who came from a priestly family (see Luke 1). When he was born, the name John was given to him; it means "God has been gracious." When John grew up, he went into the wilderness near the Jordan River. There he began to preach about repentance and the importance of baptismal washing.

John was not only the forerunner of Jesus' ministry. He also was Jesus' precursor in death. They both share the fate of a violent death. Because he criticized the immoral life of King Herod Antipas, John was arrested, imprisoned, and eventually beheaded. (The commemoration of John's death is observed on August 29. The relic of his right hand, with which he had baptized Jesus, is kept at a Serbian Orthodox monastery in Cetinje, Montenegro.)

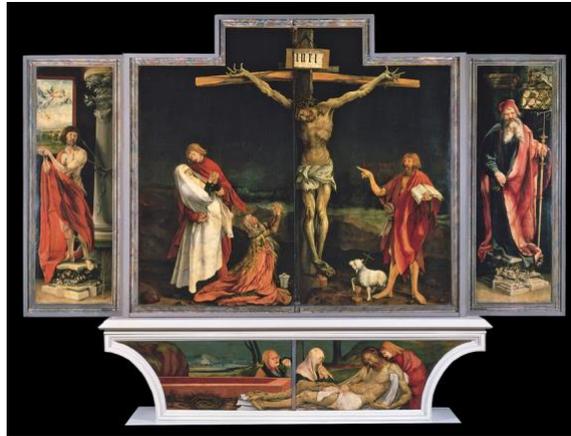
John's ministry began before Jesus' public ministry. Jesus has given us the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can continue his ministry until he comes again.

In the meantime we do right to consider **John's attitude** for our own ministry as it is depicted in Matthias Grünewald's altarpiece. The text from John 3:30 is inscribed above John's index finger; words with which he said about himself, "I must decrease", and about Jesus, "He must increase." By decreasing in rank, we also assume **John's posture**, as we too are to point to the One who has called us with these words, "Follow me!"

Jesuit scholar John R. Donahue summarizes it quite well when he suggests that we as Christians should become "**another John**," favoured by God, called to become strong in the spirit, to speak with courage against evil in the

world and, perhaps, even as we complete our course, to ponder if we really did prepare for the one who is to come.”

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor



Matthias Grünewald, centrepiece of the Isenheim Altarpiece, 1515 (Photo: public domain)

Ein „weiterer Johannes“ werden

Im Jahre 1515 vollendete der Künstler Matthias Grünewald den **Isenheimer Altar**. Heute kann man dieses Meisterwerk vorreformatorischer Kunst im Musée d'Unterlinden in der elsässischen Stadt Colmar (in Frankreich) bewundern.

Das Kernstück des Altars zeigt den Tod Jesu am Kreuz. Zur Linken des Kreuzes kann man eine kleine Gruppe von Leuten sehen: Maria, die Mutter Jesu, Maria von Magdala und den Jünger, den Jesus lieb hatte. Ich möchte jedoch auf die Person zur Rechten aufmerksam machen: **Johannes den Täufer**.

Natürlich ist die Anwesenheit des Johannes bei Jesu Kreuzigung historisch gesehen ein Anachronismus. Aber theologisch ist es durchaus treffend, ihn in die Szene einzufügen, denn während seines Dienstes wies Johannes auf Jesus als den kommenden Messias hin, der die Gerechtigkeit Gottes verkündigen würde.

Der Heiligenkalender der Kirche gedenkt an die Geburt von Johannes dem Täufer am **24. Juni**. Als die Geburt Jesu im 4. Jahrhundert festgelegt worden war, musste man von dem Datum nur noch sechs Monate zurückgehen, um den Geburtstag des Täufers zu ermitteln. Normalerweise erinnert die Kirche an Heilige und Märtyrer an deren Todestag – also dem Tag, an dem sie in die ewige Herrlichkeit Gottes Eingang gefunden haben. Neben dem Geburtstag von Johannes dem Täufer werden im kirchlichen Festtagskalender nur noch zwei weitere Geburtstage erwähnt: der von Maria, der Mutter Jesu (am 8. September), und selbstverständlich der von Jesus (am 25. Dezember).

Für gewöhnlich gilt Johannes der Täufer als der letzte der traditionellen Propheten. In dieser Funktion verbindet er das Alte und das Neue Testament miteinander.

Nach Auskunft des Lukasevangeliums waren Johannes und Jesus durch ihre Mütter miteinander verwandt. Die Geburt des Johannes wurde auf wundersame Weise seinen Eltern Elisabeth und Zacharias, der aus einer priesterlichen Familie kam, angekündigt (siehe Lukas 1). Als er geboren wurde, erhielt er den Namen Johannes, was „Gott ist gnädig“ heißt. Als Erwachsener ging Johannes in die Wildnis am Jordan, wo er mit seinen Predigten die Leute zur Buße und zur Wassertaufe aufforderte. Johannes war nicht nur ein Vorläufer Jesu. Er ging ihm auch

im Tod voraus. Beide erlitten einen gewaltsamen Tod. Weil er den unsittlichen Lebenswandel von König Herodes Antipas kritisierte, wurde Johannes verhaftet, eingesperrt und schließlich geköpft. (Der Todestag des Johannes wird am 29. August begangen. Die Reliquie seiner rechten Hand, mit der er Jesus getauft hatte, ist in einem serbisch-orthodoxen Kloster in Cetinje, Montenegro, aufbewahrt.)

Johannes war bereits tätig, bevor Jesus mit seinem öffentlichen Dienst anfang. Jesus hat uns die Gabe des Heiligen Geistes versprochen und vermacht, damit wir seinen Dienst fortführen können, bis er wieder kommt.

In der Zwischenzeit tun wir gut daran, etwas von der **Gesinnung des Johannes** für unseren Dienst zu übernehmen, wie sie beispielsweise auf dem Altarbild von Matthias Grünewald abgebildet ist. Der Text aus Johannes 3,30 ist über dem Zeigefinger von Johannes dem Täufer angebracht, wo er über sich selbst sagte: „Ich muss abnehmen.“ Und von Jesus sagte er aus: „Er muss zunehmen“. Indem auch wir an Bedeutung abnehmen, übernehmen wir auch die **Haltung des Johannes**, damit auch wir auf Jesus als jenen hinweisen, der uns mit den Worten „Folge mir nach!“ in die Nachfolge rief.

Der jesuitische Gelehrte John R. Donahue fasst dies treffend zusammen, wenn er vorschlägt, dass wir als Christen „**ein anderer Johannes**“ werden, von Gott favorisiert; berufen, stark im Geist zu werden; mit Mut ausgerüstet, das Übel in der Welt anzuprangern; und, wenn wir unsern Gang vollenden, vielleicht auch darüber nachzudenken, ob wir wirklich den Weg für jenen vorbereitet haben, der da kommt.“

In Christo, euer
Björn E. Meinhardt, Pfarrer

Special June Birthdays

Ruth Rehberg 87 on June 1
Harry Lehmann 86 on June 6

Rudi Mathwig 83 on June 15
Helmut Jaeger 92 on June 19

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

Special May and June Wedding Anniversaries:

Helmut and Eleanor Jaeger – married 62 years on May 28.
Gisela and Walter Kunkel – married 65 years on June 15.
Sabina and Wolfgang Oppitz – married 53 years on June 21.

**Congratulations! We wish you continued blessings.
Thank you for being such a good example to all of us!**

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences go to Pastor Meinhardt, Lynn and Solveig on the passing of Pastor's mother on May 2, 2022.

Church Picnic – June 12, 2022
Please don't forget to sign up if you are coming!

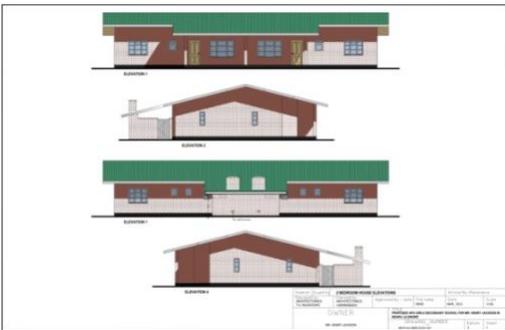
We are excited at the prospect of having a church picnic this year and hope to see many of you there!

- The picnic is planned for June 12 at the Assiniboine Park. Picnic spot #3. The picnic spot is just past the Zoo when heading west on Roblin - make a right turn off Roblin.
- Sausages, hot dogs, buns, soft drinks, juice, and water, as well as paper plates, disposable cups and plastic cutlery will be provided.
- In order to plan for the right amount of food and you plan to attend please sign up at church or phone: 204.775.6477 or email stpetersoffice@mymts.net.
- We request that each family bring a dish (a salad or dessert) to share.
- Each person attending is asked to bring their own chair.



Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Two important meetings concerning the administration of the school are scheduled for June. As previously announced, there will be a meeting immediately following the bilingual Pentecost service on June 5, 2022, at which our congregation is asked to approve Church Council's recommendation to fund one of four \$60,000.00 Duplex Teacher's residences. \$30,000.00 of the anticipated construction has been allocated from the St. Peter's 2021 surplus of \$81,000.00. The balance comes from surplus funds in our Mission and Kuwala accounts. More specifically, it is recommended that funding is to come from the following sources:



- \$30,000.00 from last year's surplus
- \$14,401.76 from the Mission surplus
- \$13,135.34 from the Kuwala Mission on hand
- \$1,600.00 from the current Mission Budget
- \$862.90 from individual donations

Please plan to attend the 10:30 am Pentecost service on **June 5, 2022** following which there will be a short presentation on Kuwala and an opportunity to ask questions before the congregation votes on Church Council's recommendation.

Another important date is June 16, 2022, at 7:00 pm. Kuwala Christian Girls Charity will hold their annual meeting in our church. The annual report, including a message from Pastor Meinhardt, will be available at that time. There will also be video presentations from Memory and Henry Midzetseni as well as one or two students. The meeting will be live-streamed and when available we will provide our congregation with the link. But please, please plan to attend and show your support for the school of which we are a founding partner and a substantial financial supporter.

St. Aidan's Christian School. As you can see above, our newsletter reports on the planned support for the Kuwala Christian Girls School. But we also support a Christian school right here in Winnipeg. The school was started about eight years ago with approximately 20 students in the lower grades. Now it has an enrollment of over 150 students and will soon offer grades K to Grade 11 with Grade 12 to be added next year. The school has two campuses, one at 418 Aberdeen Avenue and one at the Calvary Temple on Hargrave Street. We have supported the school for many years and just sent them our 2022 donation of \$2,000.00. As we know, Christian education is so important in today's world where religion is no longer respected in the school system and as a result seems to erode the moral fabric of our society. Please learn more about St. Aidan's Christian School by watching their fundraiser video at: https://youtu.be/D-fjOHg_Jag, you will enjoy it.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Lutheran Bible Translators. As you saw from the two articles above, education, more specifically Christian education, is vital for the well-being of a nation. Through a special donation from one of our members, our congregation has supported the Lutheran Bible Translators (of Canada). Missionaries from Canada and the US work on five continents and in 50 different languages.

We thought we'd highlight the work of this organization because it was just announced that the Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske has accepted a call to be the next executive director.

Without access to Scripture in their language, millions of people do not know Jesus as their Saviour and as a result remain in the 'dark'. Lutheran Bible Translators, through literacy partnerships in communities throughout the world, translate the Bible into the languages of these communities so that they too can get to know Jesus. When God's Word is understood in the language of the heart, hope is found. Put God's Word in their hands. Please check out the Lutheran Translators website www.lbtc.ca

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

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

Financial update: Our treasurer, Ralph Oppitz, reported that at the end of April our donations increased over what we had received last year, to \$56,692.96. Unfortunately, our expenses also increased to \$64,859.66. This has resulted in a deficit of \$8,166.72 over the first four-month of this year.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

John Longhurst. The following list of 18 religious articles appeared in the Free Press in April.

1. Survey examines Canadian attitudes to religion.
2. Winnipeg siblings add voices to Holocaust remembrance.
3. Author paints clearer picture of Christian beliefs.
4. New federal legislation deemed benefit to local faith-based aid groups.
5. Federal grant gives Foodgrains Bank 'extra heft'.
6. Hedgehogs popular as Manitobans open wallets to help Ukraine.
7. Papal visit to centre on three cities: report.
8. 'We have to own our past'" Catholic Bishops.
9. Manitoba Muslims target of local Islamophobia: report.
10. Archbishops to join Métis on papal visit.
11. Holocaust and human rights symposium open to all online.
12. Special human moment at papal visit made everyone smile.
13. Oblates work to enable process of healing, reconciliation.
14. Muslims celebrate Eid in person for first time in three years.
15. Important land acknowledgements workshop to be held.
16. Storm results in flurry of decisions around Passover and Easter.
17. A focal point to pray for peace.
18. 'We are aching to hug each other'.

Mission Renewal of St. Peter's. This initiative was announced at the 2020 annual general meeting and referred to at the 2021 annual general meeting. With the proper ventilation in the Griebing Hall (lower level of our church), a meeting can now be held in person. A Saturday vision planning session has been scheduled for June 4th, 2022 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (with lunch). The Church Council invites other interested persons to join them in planning the future of our congregation. If you would like to participate, and/or receive more information, please contact the organizer Jerry Roehr at 204-981-4239 or roehr@mymts.net.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

**Jerry Roehr attended the Rocky Mountain Theological Conference and the NALC
Canadian Mission District meeting, during April 26 -30, 2022.**

This is his report.

The guest speaker during the three days of the conference was Chad Bird. He has served as a pastor, professor, and guest lecturer in Old Testament and Hebrew. He holds master's degrees from Concordia Theological Seminary and Hebrew Union College.

The theme, "Unlocking the Centrality of Christ explored Christ in the Old Testament", introduced us to these old books as an ever-new testimony of Jesus. It examined what this old world had to do with us who are modern followers of Jesus. While I certainly could not keep up with all the questions of the pastors around me, we found the conversations stimulating and thought-provoking.

The conference also provided me with the opportunity to discuss Canada Mission District's concerns with NALC Bishop Dan Selbo, NALC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Amy Little and Canadian leadership.

I found the one-day Canadian Mission District somewhat disappointing. The agenda did not provide enough (written) background information on the topics to be discussed. Persons to be elected (besides stating their name) were not introduced and, unfortunately, were only known to the Alberta delegates. I was nominated for election to the Mission Board by our church council but was not contacted by the election committee, introduced, or elected.

On a positive note, the Kuwala Christian Girls School has now been included in the budget (\$2,000.00) as one of eight official "Partners" in the Canadian Mission District.

The Mission District relationship is through the registered charity called the NALC-Canada Section. All money raised in Canada stays in Canada and this group can officially deal with the US to facilitate the exchange of money. In my view, this area needs some work so that Canadian congregations are better incorporated into the NALC-US administrative organization.

Twenty-three, out of twenty-seven congregations in the Mission District contributed \$94,695.00 in 2021. \$5,630.00 was received for internship and seminary. \$148,878.00 was contributed from NALC mainly in support of the Assistant to the Bishop who lives in St. Albert, Alberta.

The Mission District listed thirty-six pastors, ten of which are recorded as retired. The total NALC membership in North America consists of 470 congregations with a membership of 145,000. There are seventy vacant congregations in the US and five in Canada.

It is my intention to submit a critique of this year's meeting to organizers in January 2023 to be considered, as plans are formalized for next year's event.



Your Stories, Our Church:

Hannelore Luedtke

In her own words, Hannelore says: “I am the little girl from the Rheinland. I was born in Düsseldorf... on August 29, 1935.” Düsseldorf is situated on the northern part of the Rhein River in the industrial area known as the Ruhrgebiet. Hannelore was the fourth of five children and the only daughter in the Kleinholz family. Her father was a Malermeister (master painter & decorator) and owned the business which her grandfather had started. If the Kleinholz name seems familiar, Hannelore’s older brother Wilfried and his wife Vivian are long time members at St. Peter’s.

Hannelore had just turned four when World War II broke out, disrupting her childhood. Since Düsseldorf was a major industrial city, known for its iron and steel industries, it became a target for bombing attacks. Hannelore recalls how they frequently had to flee into the basement of their housing block which served as a bunker during the air raids. The cellar was set up with bunk beds for the children to sleep in and they were dressed in sweat suits, rather than pajamas, so they would always be ready to run. In 1943, their Wohnhaus (apartment building) was inevitably struck by a phosphorous bomb. Hannelore describes how the family fled the building and how she stood in the middle of the street and watched their building burn and collapse from the inside. “The whole street was burning!” To this day Hannelore is afraid of the sound of sirens and fire. Even now, when she hears the wail of an ambulance she automatically begins to pray for the patient(s) in the ambulance.

After losing their home, someone came to look for them and told them to go to a certain “Milchladen” (milk store) where an aunt and uncle had left the message that they were looking for them and would take them in, despite having 7 children of their own. Hannelore recalls sleeping under the kitchen table in their home. A short while later, Hannelore’s mother, her maternal grandfather, and three of her siblings relocated to Hammelburg in Gau Mainfranken in northern Bavaria where they would live until 1945. This was a more rural and safer area than Düsseldorf and provided housing, essentially barracks, for “Kinderreiche Familien” – families with 4 or more children. At this time the Kleinholz children were able to once again attend school and resume a more normal life where Hannelore said they felt safe.

Hannelore’s father was unable to join them since he served as a paramedic in the army. Because he had sustained substantial injuries during World War I, he was exempt from serving as a soldier. Her parents were able to keep in touch through the exchange of letters. Her oldest brother Hermann, who also served in World War II, was shot in the upper leg. Only later, once the family had come to Canada, was it discovered that shrapnel had migrated down the entire length of his leg to his calf where it was removed. When the war was finally over, Hannelore’s father was intent on rebuilding. The reunited family returned to Düsseldorf. A friend of her father’s, a photographer who had an atelier that had been partially destroyed, let them live there after her father built an extension of 3 rooms which included a kitchen and two rooms. Hannelore was 10 years old at this time and remembers a “bridge” between the atelier and their unit.

“I have no fond memories from the age of 10 to my early teenage years, which were interrupted,” Hannelore shared. But she always loved babies and was happy to be able to help care for the baby that lived across the street from the apartment building on Schützenstr. where they were now living. At 15 Hannelore finished her primary school education. For two years she worked for a family in their household, while at the same time training to become a Hausgehilfin (housekeeper/home economics). She was certified as “staatlich geprüfte Hausgehilfin” at age 17. After completing this certification, she entered a 3-year program in kaufmännische Lehre (commercial/retail

apprenticeship). Hannelore then worked at C&A, a Dutch multinational retail clothing chain that still has one of its European offices in Düsseldorf. Hannelore described how she had to work her way up in this business: from dusting and cleaning, then as a store greeter, eventually working with customers, then as a team leader.

Always strong and independent, Hannelore had her own place, a small one-room attic suite that had a hotplate on which she cooked, and no running water. It felt like luxury when her uncle installed a connection from the water supply in a neighbour's apartment, and she was able to wash dishes. She was a working girl with a job she loved. She was established and her good friend Marianne, who also worked with her at C&A, introduced her to her boyfriend Klaus's brother, Hans Luedtke, who was living in Duisburg at the time. Hannelore and Hans's first date was a double-date with Marianne and Klaus at the zoo. They connected immediately and their relationship flourished. In 1957 they got engaged and as a result any plans for her to immigrate to Canada with her family members were put on hold.

Neither Hannelore nor Hans wanted to leave Germany. They married in August of 1957 and had a small wedding. Marianne and Klaus were in the wedding party and would eventually become their in-laws. Hannelore's family had left for Canada earlier that year. At least initially, the newlyweds had hoped to live in Hannelore's small attic suite, but the landlady would not permit this and they had to move. Since Hannelore missed her family and because they struggled to find suitable accommodations in Düsseldorf – an ongoing challenge years after the war - they made the decision to apply to immigrate to Canada. Their application was successful and they embarked on their rocky 7-day journey on the luxury liner "Italia," from Cuxhaven to Halifax in July 1958. From there they took a tiring 2 to 3-day train trip (without any sleeping arrangements) to Winnipeg.

After arriving in Winnipeg, and reunited with the family, Hannelore's father had hoped the young Luedtkes would buy a house with them but Hannelore wanted her own Haushalt (household). Their first home in Winnipeg was the second storey suite of the house at 23 Bannerman Avenue, following which they moved to a newly built house on McLeod where they lived for 15 years. From there, they moved to a house on Glenway where they spent 27 years and in 2005 they moved to their bungalow at 74 Bunn's Grove where they still live.

Hannelore remains a witness and spokesperson for the painful loss of their first child, a still birth. She has shared how there was no support at that time and that grief was not recognized or acknowledged which made the loss all the more heart-breaking. Shortly after this sad loss, Hannelore and Hans were blessed with three children, Ralph (1960), Claudia (1963), and Brian (1967).

Hannelore's training and experience in Germany served her well for the jobs she held in Canada. During her first year in Winnipeg, Hannelore worked for Richlu Manufacturing (a company that remains in business in Winnipeg to this day) sewing the inseams of jeans which she describes as hard work. She also worked at other sewing factories even after her first two children were born since her mother looked after the childcare while she was at work. Through her friendship with Helga Roehr, Hannelore got a retail position as a sales lady at Ricki's, a ladieswear fashion chain. At first she worked at the Polo Park location and later she oversaw the opening of the Portage Avenue branch. She loved fashion and working for Ricki's but after Brian was born, it was her wish to spend more time with the baby, something she hadn't been able to do with the first two, and so she gave up her position with Ricki's. Once Brian was at school, she took on several cleaning jobs, one of which was facilitated through her friend Irene Schott, a job that lasted 25 years, and turned into a lasting friendship. Her biggest challenge, after coming to Canada, was that she couldn't speak English. Since they spoke mainly German with their family and friends, it was difficult for her to get enough practice. It was at St. John's High School, at night school where she learned English.

It was Erich Euteneier, who worked with Hans, who invited them to St. Peter's where they became members and soon made lifelong friends. Their very first friends were Gerhard Roehr and Helga Roehr (nee Steiner). Hannelore served both in the church and in her neighbourhood in significant ways. Pastor Schwabe was pastor at St. Peter's when Hans and Hannelore joined the church. When he learned that Hannelore had an Evangelical background, he immediately enlisted her as a Sunday school teacher. Hannelore recalls that Mrs. Schwabe was very active in the life of the church. She played the organ, she directed the choir and held Sunday school preparatory sessions every Saturday for the teachers. This is where she met Heinrich Schott, Ludwig Schäfer and Helga Roehr (nee Steiner) all of whom became good family friends. The Schwabes also remained life-long friends of the Luedtkes.

Hannelore continued to be active in church life. She sang in the church choir for over 40 years, served in the Frauen Gruppe (Ladies Aid) as a member and as president, and she led the senior's group for several years. Hannelore also served in the Stephen Ministry, providing one-to-one care for members facing challenges. In this capacity, she cared for a woman who had mental health issues: she would call and visit her, have her over to her home, remember her birthdays and she would also help her in other areas where she needed assistance. Outside the church she volunteered with the ex-offenders program through a Baptist church, and she volunteered for about 25 years at the Kildonan Personal Care Home, assisting with birthday celebrations and outings for residents.

Hannelore has maintained her relationships with the St. Peter's church family. She has a warm personality and makes newcomers to St. Peter's feel welcome and embraced. She is the proud and supportive grandmother of 4 lovely young adults and never misses an occasion to celebrate their graduations and weddings. Apart from nurturing all these relationships she is an avid reader, and her favourite genre is biography. We hope you have enjoyed hers.

Your Stories; Our Church

an update:

We hope you have enjoyed reading the first two features as much as we enjoyed visiting and speaking with those first two members who were willing to share their lives and experiences. There has been much positive feedback so far, even more than we might have anticipated, and one of the outcomes is that it's opened opportunities for members to connect. Even though many of us have known one another for a long time, there is much we don't know. Heinrich shared with us that a number of individuals called him for a phone visit after receiving their newsletter, which led to enjoyable conversations.

Now that you see how this project is shaping up, we hope it might encourage you to participate. Even if you do not wish to publish your story, we would still welcome a visit and hearing about your life's journey. A few of you have told us that you are reluctant to talk about yourself: "my life is not that interesting," or "who would be interested in my life?" To that we would like to say, each life is a unique gift and your experiences are valuable in how they shaped not only you, but your family, and this powerful faith community. Towards that, we are better equipped to care for one another, as Jesus cares for us, if we know each other well.

Please contact either one of us if you would like to share your story: Barb Schott b.schott@shaw.ca (204-257-3531) or Ortrud Oellermann stpetersnews1@gmail.com (204-487-2175)

Any submissions for the July 2022 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon Thursday, June 23, 2022. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnews1@gmail.com

A Visit From the Latvian Ambassador

On Saturday, May 28, the Ambassador of Latvia to Canada, His Excellency Kaspars Ozoliņš paid a visit to St. Peter's with his wife, Ina, to view the plaque and tree that were placed on our premises in the fall of 2018 to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the independence of Latvia. The meeting was arranged by Ken and Valery Villainis. Pastor Indra Grislis, who participated in the worship service in November 2018, came as well. From St. Peter's Michael Zacharias, Jerry Roehr and Pastor Bjoern Meinhardt were present.

After a photo op at the commemorative site, we showed the guests of honour the inside of St. Peter's (the Latvian Lutheran community worshipped at St. Peter's from the late 1940s until 2008) and sat together for refreshments in the basement.

While Ambassador Ozoliņš' visit to St. Peter's was more informal, he came to Manitoba on official business. He was part of a deployment ceremony of Canadian troops to Latvia. In light of the war in Ukraine, he shared that the people in Latvia feel the support of NATO and the international community. Latvia has not only reached out in support to Ukraine but many citizens there have taken in refugees from Ukraine into their homes. Pastor Indra presented the Ambassador with a gift reflective of Manitoba and the presence of Latvians in our Province.

Pr. Bjoern Meinhardt

