



# St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

65 Walnut Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 1N9  
Tel: 204-775-6477

Email: [stpetersoffice@mymts.net](mailto:stpetersoffice@mymts.net)  
Website: [www.stpeterslutheran.ca](http://www.stpeterslutheran.ca)

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

November 2022

---

## As If There Were No Resurrection

*"If Christ has not been raised [from the dead] ... then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished"*  
(1 Corinthians 15:17-18).

At the end of the church year, we are invited to think about the things that come after this life. In theological terms this teaching is called "eschatology."

When a loved one dies, we experience sadness. When a loved one dies, we are also confronted with our own mortality because it reminds us that everybody must die. Dealing with the reality of death can be a difficult matter. Depending on the severity of the circumstances of death, it can be quite unsettling. I can see how we wish to not focus so much on the reality of death but look at the joys of a life well lived, instead.

There seems to be – more and more – a tendency of offering "celebrations of life" at which we hear a lot of good things about the deceased. Don't get me wrong, it is a good thing to do. But there is little to no focus on the person's faith, on how God has guided them in their lifetime, or on God's promise to be with them after their death. While there are a few references to Scripture and words of prayer, they don't necessarily declare the "sure and certain hope in the resurrection." Many of these ceremonies are void of the message of resurrection. If we don't talk about death, then there is no need to talk about the resurrection, either. It is almost as if there were no resurrection.

With a strong emphasis on this life only, it leaves me wondering: What happens to the dead after they die? Let us follow the lead of the Apostle Paul. When the early Christians asked what happened to their loved ones once they had fallen "asleep," Paul did not want to leave them "uninformed."

In 1 Thessalonians 4, he assured them, "For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep." Because Jesus is the firstfruit of those who have fallen asleep, we can find comfort in the promise of the bodily resurrection of our beloved dead. Therefore, as Christians we do not need to "grieve as others do who have no hope."

This is also the stance that can be found in many hymns. Here is an example from the hymn "In Thy Service Will I Ever," in which the German theologian and religious poet Philipp Spitta (1801-1859) expresses that the preparation for the next life already starts in this life, "He is best prepared for dying who in life is thine in heart" (verse 4) so that those who die in faith get to experience and hear, "Here thy day is ended, yonder live the faithful dead" (verse 5).

Are we no longer talking much about the resurrection at funeral services because we assume that we will go to heaven – automatically? As I look in Scripture, here in particular the book of Revelation, we learn that heaven is not a geographical spot that we can find on a map but a place where we offer our continuous worship in the presence of God and his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

At the end of the church year, we do not only have an opportunity to remember our loved ones who died during this past year. We also have an opportunity to reclaim the hope in the resurrection and proclaim boldly that those who died in the Lord will live with the Lord. Or, in the words of the Apostle Paul, "Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Yours in Christ,  
Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor

### **Als ob es keine Auferstehung gäbe**

*„Ist Christus aber nicht auferstanden [von den Toten], ... dann sind auch die, die in Christus entschlafen sind, verloren“ (1. Korinther 15,17-18).*

Am Ende des Kirchenjahres sind wir dazu eingeladen, über die Dinge nachzudenken, die nach diesem Leben kommen. In theologischer Begrifflichkeit spricht man hier von „Eschatologie.“

Wenn eine geliebte Person stirbt, ist dies mit Trauer verbunden. Wenn eine geliebte Person stirbt, werden wir mit unserer eigenen Sterblichkeit konfrontiert, weil wir erkennen, dass jeder sterben muss. Es kann schwierig sein, sich mit der Realität des Todes auseinanderzusetzen. Auch können sich dabei die Umstände des Todes erschwerend auf unsere innere Befindlichkeit auswirken. Ich kann daher erkennen, weshalb einige Leute es bevorzugen, sich lieber nicht mit der Wirklichkeit des Todes zu befassen, sondern vielmehr den Blick auf ein erfülltes Leben zu richten.

Es scheint mir, dass die Tendenz mehr und mehr dazu übergeht, „Feiern des Lebens“ abzuhalten, bei denen wir eine Menge (guter) Dinge über die verstorbene Person hören. Versteht mich nicht falsch, das gehört sicherlich mit dazu. Dagegen erfahren wir aber wenig über den Glauben der Verstorbenen, wie Gott sie in ihrem Leben bewahrte oder von Gottes Versprechen, dass er auch nach ihrem Tod bei ihnen sein wird. Auch wenn man hin und wieder Verweise auf Bibelstellen und Gebete zu hören kriegt, heißt das noch lange nicht, dass sie auch auf „die sichere und verlässliche Hoffnung in die Auferstehung“ verweisen. Viele dieser Zeremonien bleiben ohne Bezug auf die Auferstehung. Wenn wir nicht über den Tod reden, brauchen wir auch nicht über die Auferstehung zu reden. Es ist fast so, als ob es keine Auferstehung gäbe.

Wenn wir den Blick zu sehr auf dieses Leben hier werfen, dann lässt es die Frage unbeantwortet, was mit uns nach dem Tod geschieht. Wir sollten hier den Hinweisen des Apostels Paulus folgen. Als die frühen Christen sich fragten, was mit ihren geliebten Geschwistern im Glauben geschieht, die im Tod „schlafen“, wollte sie Paulus „nicht im Ungewissen lassen“.

In 1. Thessalonicher 4 sicherte er ihnen zu: „Denn wenn wir glauben, dass Jesus gestorben und auferstanden ist, so wird Gott auch die, die da entschlafen sind, durch Jesus mit ihm führen.“ Weil Jesus der Erstling unter denen ist, die entschlafen sind, finden wir Trost in der Zusage der leiblichen Auferstehung. Deshalb brauchen wir als Christen „nicht traurig [zu sein] wie die andern, die keine Hoffnung haben“.

Diese Haltung lässt sich auch in vielen Kirchenliedern finden. Hier ist ein Beispiel aus dem Lied „Bei dir, Jesu, will ich bleiben“, mit dem der deutsche Theologe und religiöse Dichter Philipp Spitta (1801-1859) ausdrückte, dass die Vorbereitung auf das nächste Leben schon in diesem Leben beginnt: „Denn der ist zum Sterben fertig, der sich lebend zu dir hält“ (Strophe 4), auf dass diejenigen, die im Glauben sterben, zu hören bekommen: „Mein Kind, hier geht’s zu Ende; aber dort lebt, wer hier glaubt“ (Strophe 5).

Sprechen wir nicht mehr über die Auferstehung bei Trauerveranstaltungen, weil wir davon ausgehen, dass wir in den Himmel kommen – automatisch? Wenn ich in der Bibel nachschaue, hier besonders im Buch der Offenbarung, erfahre ich, dass der Himmel kein geographischer Punkt ist, den man auf einer Karte ausfindig machen kann. Vielmehr handelt es sich beim Himmel um einen Ort, an dem wir unseren ewigen Gottesdienst

halten in der Gegenwart Gottes und seines Sohnes, Jesus Christus, unseres Heilands und Herrn.

Am Ende des Kirchenjahres haben wir nicht nur die Gelegenheit, unserer geliebten Angehörigen zu gedenken, die im vergangenen Jahr gestorben sind. Wir haben auch die Gelegenheit, die Hoffnung von der Auferstehung neu für uns zu beanspruchen und klar zu verkündigen, dass alle jene, die im Herrn sterben, auch mit dem Herrn leben werden. Oder, um es mit den Worten des Apostels Paulus auszudrücken: „Gott aber sei Dank, der uns den Sieg gibt durch unsern Herrn Jesus Christus!“ (1. Korinther 15,57).

In Christo,  
Björn E. Meinhardt, Pfarrer

### Special November Birthdays

Frank Schwing, 92 on Nov 1

Edeltraud Gesell, 81 on Nov 10

Wilfried Kleinholz, 92 on Nov 16

Erich Hartfiel, 90 on Nov 28

Gerhard Hammerling, 89 on Nov 5

Steve Herbst, 82 on Nov 14

Meta Pohl, 87 on Nov 24

Adele Behlke, 94 on Nov 29

**We wish you a Happy Birthday and the Lord's continued blessings!**

### Birth Announcement

We are delighted to announce that Erin Horton and her husband Danny were blessed with a beautiful daughter.

**Leah Horton** was born on October 20. She weighed 5lb 10oz and was 19-1/4 inches long.

Congratulations Erin and Danny! We wish you the Lord's blessings as you raise your daughter and much joy as you watch her growing up!

### A special invitation to join St. Peter's Singers

*Submitted by Linda Lurvey*

Singers of all ages are welcome to join us Sunday mornings at 10:15 (in the basement) to prepare Advent and Christmas music.

We'll also be reviewing the *Holden Evening Prayer* Service music by Marty Haugen

Our two Wednesday Evening Advent Services will be on November 30th and December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

*Please mark your calendars to attend these meditative, candlelit prayer services as we await the birth of the Christ Child.*

## Announcements

- **The ministry report video of the NALC (20 min)** will be shown at the end of both services on November 6.
- **Flu shot** being offered at church / basement on Tuesday, November 8, 3-7 pm (offered to public by Healthy Start for Moms). Health nurse Nicole advises that flu season is anticipated Oct-April.

## An Invitation to Participate in the St. Peter's Women's Circle

*Submitted by Angela Budnick*

The Women's Circle would like to welcome all women of St. Peter's Lutheran Church to join us in Fellowship, Friendship, Food and Fun. We are planning to meet for the 1st time on Sunday, November 27th following the 11 a.m. Worship Service. Please bring lunch for yourself and, if you are able, food to share with the group. Please call Christel Parkhill at 204 489 1634 or Angela Budnick at 204 488 9837 if you are planning to attend. **We hope you can join us on Sunday, November 27th.**

## Lessons for Worship in November

### All Saints (November 6)

Revelation 7:2-17  
Psalm 149  
1 John 3:1-3  
Matthew 5:1-12

### Christ the King (November 20)

Malachi 3:13-18  
Psalm 95:1-7a  
Colossians 1:13-20  
Luke 23:27-43

### Pentecost 23 (November 13)

Malachi 4:1-6  
Psalm 98  
2 Thessalonians 3:1-13  
Luke 21:5-36

### Advent 1 (November 27)

Isaiah 2:1-5  
Psalm 122  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 24:36-44

## Your Stories, Our Church

For this month there will be no installment though we are preparing a piece for the December newsletter. Many of you have told us how much you enjoy reading the profiles. It is our privilege to meet with members, have a visit, get to know you better and to be inspired by the strength, courage and steadfastness of you and your family. We are looking for more volunteers to participate in this project. If you are willing please contact Ortrud Oellermann at 204-487-2175 or Barbara Schott at 204-257-3531.

**Any submissions for the December 2022 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon Thursday, Nov 24, 2022. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at [stpetersnews1@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersnews1@gmail.com)**



*Submitted by Jerry Roehr*

In October we reported that we were asked to name our sponsored Duplex Teacher Residence and had requested suggestions by October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The church council submitted the name **Manitoba House**. It comes from the Cree term “Man-into-wahpaow,” meaning “the narrows of the Great Spirit,” and it refers to the narrowing of Lake Manitoba. It also follows the theme of our previous naming Kanata House for the second teacher residence. The dedication inscription should read: “With Power comes Great Responsibility”. It is meant to emphasize that teachers have power and therefore great responsibility.

We know that the roof of the new Teacher Residence was installed, but don’t yet have any pictures of the current construction site.



Further updates can be found in the Kuwala Newsletters on the Kuwala website; [kuwala.org](http://kuwala.org).

Jerry Roehr got all his travel documents and vaccinations and ordered a Malaria prescription for the trip to Malawi on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.



Jerry Roehr attended his first meeting of the Executive Council of the NALC. The Council constitutes the governing body (Board of Directors) of the NALC. As such, its focus is to serve as faithful stewards of the Church’s mission, values and resources. During the year, the Council meets several times by zoom for specific topics and three times in person.



Jerry Roehr (St. Peter’s Lutheran, Winnipeg, MB, Canada), far left, and Pastor Theresa Jacobson (Thornville, Ohio), far right, were installed as members of the Executive Council. The middle three, from left to right, Richard Jansak (Gastonia, North Carolina), Lynnae Douglas (Export, Pennsylvania) and Pastor Stephane Kalonji (Rosenberg, Texas) were installed on the Board of Regents of the North American Lutheran Seminary.

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 monthly financial record had not improved through the first 9 months of this year. As of the end of September, we had spent \$40,333.11 more than we received in donations. We are grateful for the Thanksgiving offering of \$ 18,705.00 which has helped to address this deficit.

*Submitted by Jerry Roehr*

## ***Christ the King Sunday - November 20, 2022***

Another church year is gradually coming to an end - another year under the guidance of Christ.

In German "Christ the King" Sunday is called Ewigkeitssonntag. A direct translation is "Eternity Sunday". On this day we remember that Christ has gone before us to prepare a place for us, we also remember loved ones who have preceded us in death; also a reminder that one day we too must die.

If you have a family member and/or friend who has passed since November 21, 2021 and you would like them to be remembered during the November 20, 2022 worship service, please fill out this form and place the form in the offering basket or call the office at 204.775.6477.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the deceased: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of death: \_\_\_\_\_

**So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

Psalm 90:12

## ***Ewigkeitssonntag - 20. November 2022***

Das Kirchenjahr neigt sich dem Ende zu. Ein Kreis schließt sich: was mit der Erinnerung Jesu Christi begann, endet mit der Erinnerung an alle, die gestorben sind. Und mit der Erinnerung daran, dass auch wir selbst sterben müssen.

Am Ewigkeitssonntag, auch Totensonntag genannt, werden die Namen derer vorgelesen, die seit dem letzten Ewigkeitssonntag (21. November 2021) verstorben sind.

Wenn Sie eine(n) Familienangehörige(n) oder eine(n) gute(n) Bekannte(n), haben die/der im vergangenen Jahr heimgerufen wurde, dann füllen Sie bitte dieses Blatt aus und legen es in den Opferkorb. Sie können auch das Büro anrufen: 204.775.6477.

Ihr Name (ausgefüllt von): \_\_\_\_\_

Name des Verstorbenen: \_\_\_\_\_ Todestag: \_\_\_\_\_

***Lehre uns bedenken, dass wir sterben müssen, auf dass wir klug werden.***

Psalm 90,12