



September 2021

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 reopening notice

Council voted in favour of re-opening for services on Sunday September 12 subject to any changes to the health guidelines in the next week or two. We would open up with all the safety protocols that we had in the past such as mask wearing, hand sanitization and physical distancing. As in the past, the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month will be communion Sundays.

Praying in Times of Distress

King Hezekiah prayed, "Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear;
open your eyes, O Lord and see." (2 Kings 19:16)

Our faith is regularly put to the test. Times of distress, it seems, teach us to pray. And we've certainly had our times of distress. There is this pandemic that still bugs us. Then there were, more recently, those natural disasters (the surging heat, wildfires, and floods) that caused even more destruction and cost many people their lives. How does one pray under these circumstances? What do you pray for? Or why pray *at all* if we can assume that God is omniscient (all knowing) and therefore already knows about the things that are coming our way?

The verse from 2 Kings 19 can teach us how King Hezekiah (he lived around 700 BC at the time of the Prophet Isaiah) once prayed when the Assyrian King Sennacherib and his army approached Jerusalem and threatened to destroy the city and to annex the land. Sennacherib sent messengers to King Hezekiah. He was boasting about their strength and that Judah would suffer the same cruel treatment that other nations had received before them. He mocked the Lord God, saying that their gods were stronger, and that there was nothing in the power of the God of Israel that could spare them the promised destruction. You could say that this was Sennacherib's way of telling King Hezekiah, "Pray all you want. It won't help."

But this is what the King did anyway. In that moment of national distress, Hezekiah prayed to the Lord with simple but honest words, "Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see." He described what the Assyrians were doing to their enemies. Still, he was confident that his God, the God of Israel, was stronger than their gods – who were mere idols because they were "the work of men's hands, wood and stone." He put his trust in the Lord that he could save them from their enemy's hands.

As I see it, we can learn a few things from Hezekiah's prayer: First of all, he surrendered to the Lord. Although he was hoping for a specific outcome (freedom from the Assyrians), he left the workings to God. Nor did he pray in such a way (as it happens quite often with our own prayers) that he thought that his prayer might solve

the problem, that he could manipulate the Lord with his words, so that things would turn out the way he wanted them to be. Even though God in his omniscience already knows what's on our mind or what might weigh down our hearts, he still wants to hear from us - out of our own mouths - what we have got to say to him. We can compare that to parents who already know what their children want to tell them. But instead of finishing the story for their children they allow them to tell the story themselves because they want to hear it directly from them. Hezekiah also teaches us about humbleness that we can pray in such a manner that we know that God is with us – no matter the circumstances, no matter what might happen to us.

Sennacherib sent a message to King Hezekiah that prayer in light of the likely destruction was futile, that prayer wouldn't save him (or his people). Good thing that Hezekiah did not listen to this hostile ruler. Good thing that he decided to pray in his time of distress anyway. In the end, there was a turn of events and Sennacherib had to retreat and return home to Assyria. As it was prophesied, foretold by the Prophet Isaiah. It doesn't mean that adverse circumstances will turn out fine all the time. That's surely not the case. We know that. After all, we do not control God. Rather we can be assured that God holds us in his loving hands. So that even when things turn out differently than hoped for, we can still pray that God may give us the strength that we need to go through tumultuous times. Even in a desperate situation, we can trust the Lord. It's good to know that we can talk to the Lord about the things that have us concerned.

Keep praying in Christ's name.
Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor

Beten in Zeiten der Not

König Hiskia betete: „Herr, neige deine Ohren und höre;
Herr, tu deine Augen auf und sieh.“ (2. Könige 19,16)

Unser Glaube wird immer wieder auf die Probe gestellt. Zeiten der Not, so scheint es, lehren uns zu beten. Und in letzter Zeit haben wir sicherlich einige Notlagen mitgemacht. Da ist diese Pandemie, die uns immer noch nicht losgelassen hat. Dann sind da in jüngerer Zeit einige Naturkatastrophen (die Waldbrände, die Hitzewelle, mehrere Überflutungen), die noch mehr Zerstörung verursachten und weitere Menschenleben forderten. Wie betet man unter diesen Bedingungen? Wofür betet man da? Oder warum soll man *überhaupt* beten, wenn ein allwissender Gott doch sowieso schon weiß, welche Dinge uns widerfahren werden?

Der Vers aus 2. Könige 19 kann uns lehren, wie König Hiskia einst betete (er lebte um das Jahr 700 v.Chr. zur Zeit des Propheten Jesaja), als der assyrische Herrscher Sanherib sich mit seiner Armee Jerusalem näherte und drohte, die Stadt zu zerstören und das Land einzunehmen. Sanherib sandte Boten zu König Hiskia. Er prahlte mit der Stärke seiner Armee und deutete an, dass Juda dasselbe gewaltsame Schicksal erleiden würde wie andere Nationen vor ihnen. Er verhöhnte ihren Gott und behauptete, dass ihre Götter stärker wären und dass der Gott Israels nichts tun könne, um die angedrohte Zerstörung abwenden zu können. Man könnte sagen, dass dies Sanheribs Art war, König Hiskia mitzuteilen: „Bete so viel du willst. Es nützt doch nichts.“

Aber der König tat es trotzdem. Im Moment der nationalen Bedrohung betete Hiskia zu Gott mit einfachen, aber ehrlichen Worten: „Herr, neige deine Ohren und höre; Herr, tu deine Augen auf und sieh.“ Er schilderte, was die Assyrer ihren Feinden antaten. Und doch war er zuversichtlich, dass Gott – der Gott Israels – stärker war als ihre Götter, denn sie waren ja nichts als Götzen – das „Werk von Menschenhänden (aus) Holz und Stein“. Er vertraute darauf, dass Gott sie aus des Feindes Hand erretten könne.

So wie ich die Sache sehe, können wir ein paar Dinge von Hiskias Gebet lernen. Als erstes überließ er sich der Macht Gottes. Obwohl er einen bestimmten Ausgang erhoffte (die Befreiung von den Assyrern), überließ er Gott die Vorgehensweise. Zudem betete er nicht, wie es allzu oft in unseren eigenen Gebeten geschieht, in einer Weise, dass er dachte, sein Gebet könne das Problem lösen bzw. dass er Gott mit seinen Worten manipulieren könne, auf dass die Dinge so ausgingen, wie er sie haben wollte. Obwohl Gott allwissend ist und bereits weiß, was unsere Gedanken belastet oder unser Herz betrübt, möchte er immer noch – aus unserem eigenen Mund – hören, was wir ihm sagen wollen. Dass kann man mit einem Kind vergleichen, das seinen Eltern etwas erzählen möchte, von dem sie bereits wissen, was es ist. Anstatt dem Kind das Wort abzuschneiden und die Geschichte an seiner Statt zu erzählen, hören sie zu, wie das Kind ihnen das Erlebte berichtet, weil sie es direkt von ihm hören möchten. Schließlich können wir von Hiskia etwas über Demut lernen, dass wir nämlich in einer solchen Weise beten, mit der wir zu erkennen geben, dass wir wissen, dass Gott bei uns ist – ganz gleich, was unsere Umstände sein mögen oder auch, was uns passieren möge.

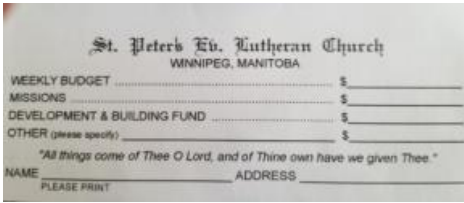
Sanherib sandte seine Botschaft zu König Hiskia, dass ein Gebet in Anbetracht der bevorstehenden Zerstörung nutzlos wäre, dass das Gebet ihn (und das Volk) nicht retten könne. Es ist doch gut, dass Hiskia nicht auf diesen feindlichen Heerführer hörte. Es ist gut, dass er sich entschloss, in der Zeit der Not dennoch zu beten. Letzten Endes sollte sich die Situation ändern, denn Sanherib musste sich zurückziehen und nach Assyrien zurückkehren, wie der Prophet Jesaja es vorhergesagt hatte. Das heißt nun nicht, dass sich alle schlechten Dinge immer zum Guten wenden. Das ist mit Sicherheit nicht der Fall; das wissen wir. Auch können wir Gott nicht kontrollieren. Wir erkennen aber, dass Gott die Kontrolle über alles hat. Wir dürfen beruhigt annehmen, dass wir in Gottes liebenden Händen geborgen sind. Und sollten die Dinge doch nicht so eintreffen, wie wir sie erhofft haben, dann können wir immer noch Gott im Gebet bitten, dass er uns die Kraft gebe, die wir brauchen, um diese stürmischen Zeiten zu überstehen. Selbst in einer scheinbar aussichtslosen Situation können wir dem Herrn vertrauen. Es ist gut, dass wir dann mit ihm über all die Dinge reden können, die uns bedrücken.

Haltet an im Gebet in Jesu Namen.
Björn E. Meinhardt, Pfarrer

Assistance needed: I received an inquiry from a person in Germany who is looking for her aunt and her cousin who moved to Winnipeg in 1962. The aunt's name is Hedy (Hedwig) Medwid, née Vogel, who – if still living – would be 100 years old. Until around the year 2000, she lived on Ottawa Ave. Please send me an e-mail or call me at 204.792.3346, if you know anything about Hedy Medwid or her daughter. (Unfortunately, the person did not recall her cousin's first name).

Bitte um Mithilfe: Ich habe eine Suchanfrage aus Deutschland von einer Dame erhalten, die nach ihrer Tante und Cousine sucht, die 1962 nach Winnipeg kamen. Der Name der Tante ist Hedy (Hedwig) Medwid, geborene Vogel, die – sollte sie noch leben – 100 Jahre alt wäre. Bis zum Jahr 2000 wohnte sie auf Ottawa Ave. Bitte senden Sie mir eine E-Mail oder rufen Sie mich unter 204.792.3346 an, falls Sie etwas über Hedy Medwid oder ihre Tochter wissen. (Leider kann sich die Dame nicht an den Namen ihrer Cousine erinnern.)

Pastor Bjoern Meinhardt



Financial Update: This time we need to report that our financial statement for July changed dramatically from June. We had to overspend our income by \$12,542.03. That is our current deficit for the year. Unfortunately, we also face substantial expenses for the coming months.

Our heating system's summer maintenance was carried out at the cost of \$1,682.00. In addition, based on the Fire Commissioner's report, \$784.20 will need to be spent on replacing a boiler relief valve.

Our sprinkler system had to be inspected, and the City of Winnipeg's mandated backflow preventor valves have to be professionally installed at the cost of \$ 2,486.00.

Our hot water tanks need to be replaced at the cost of \$1,500.00. Further investigation also indicates that our water meter may be the wrong size, and the galvanized pipes should be replaced with brass piping and ball-joint valves.

Some of our emergency lights had to be replaced at the cost of \$997.96. In addition, as per the Winnipeg Fire Department, additional work has to be done at the cost of \$966.44.

This year or next, work needs to be done, Landscaping, painting of windows and reroofing the small roof on the west side of the building.

After 52 years, the building shows some wear and, as with all our own houses, it requires a facelift.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

John Longhurst:

- John reported that members of at least two faith communities, Muslim and Mennonite, prayed for rain.
- Twenty-six articles were published in the faith column of the Winnipeg Free Press during July.
- The crowdfunder goal of \$10,000 received a total of \$10,436.99. St. Peter's contributed \$500.00.

Important Information

While our in-person worship services will resume on September 12, it is our intention to continue to post a (shortened) version of our worship services on our website: stpeterslutheran.ca. (You can access the archived versions of older recordings by clicking on "View More Services.") If you don't have a computer but wish to watch a worship service online, you can perhaps ask a family member to assist you. Also, in case you weren't aware: The online services are not only available during our regular worship times, but you can view them any time when it is convenient for you.

Worship and Music Committee



Submitted by Jerry Roehr

There are lots of updates to report. Unfortunately, it is impossible to fit it into our monthly newsletter. For a complete update, we encourage you to visit the www.kuwal.org website. In particular, click on the + (plus) sign next to Operations, click on the 2020 Annual Report and click on the Download button. You can also go to our congregation's website www.stpeterslutheran.ca, if necessary refresh the setting, and click on Kuwla 2020 Annual Report. Here you will see valuable information and some videos. In particular, on page 30, a greeting is specifically addressed to our congregation.



The windows are finally on site. They are being installed at the St. Peter's Hall.

The next step will be to get the kitchen equipment organized when it arrives.

Construction on the second teacher's residence, sponsored by our congregation, is well on the way. The roof trusses are next.



Now for some general news. Memory and Henry are fully Covid vaccinated, but the students are not, as no one under 18 is eligible to receive the vaccination.

Of interest is also that the computer training is going well and that Kuwala is among the less than 1% of all schools with a 1:1 student to computer ratio.

Finally, we are exploring having a formal relationship with a Pastor for chaplain support and how the dining hall area can be used - possibly how we might even host the villages (currently, the girls have chapel Sundays from 8:00-9:00 a.m. with staff leading). It would be fascinating and shows how the impact of having a large meeting area might be of significant benefit. Equally important is that other schools can use this hall for the final Grade 12 examinations.

Currently Henry is creating pricing and budgets for two significant target education buildings for next year, a second classroom building with three more classrooms and a laboratory building with two rooms, one a science laboratory and one to house the computer laboratory.

As reported earlier, a second dormitory is presently also under construction and is to be completed later this year. We are submitting our 2021/2020 \$1,200.00 sponsorship money received from congregational members and friends this week. If you consider becoming a sponsor, please refer to Jerry Roehr (204) 981-4239 or roehr@mymts.net.

Special Birthday wishes

for August

Christa Bures	August 14, 86	Lilli Mathwig	August 21, 81
Wally Tolkmitt	August 24, 85	Adolf Krampetz	August 25, 89
Hannelore Luedtke	August 29, 86		

for September

Erna Schuppe	September 13, 89	Gerhardt (Jerry) Roehr	September 23, 83
Marlene Hurta	September 26, 81		

May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you!

Wedding Anniversaries

for August

Erwin & Edith Erhardt	August 3, 58 yrs	Ursula & Erich Hartfiel	August 11, 65 yrs
Hans & Hannelore Luedtke	August 30, 64 yrs	Helga & Gustav Rosso	August 30, 64 yrs

for September

Vivian & Wilfried Kleinholz	September 3, 55 yrs	Elli & Siegi Kitzmann	September 13, 52 yrs
Erika & Ferdinand Schmidt	September 14, 58 years	Frieda & Frank Schwing	September 29, 65 yrs
Gisela & Egon Knudsen	September 30, 60 years		

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

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, 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 redacted or changed the names to ensure the anonymity of the donor, but everything else looks like what you would encounter.

[View in browser](#)

| [Français](#)

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.

[FAQs](#) | This is a secure transaction

If you have Eastern European Ancestry it may interest you to know that, the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe offers this year's annual convention online, which takes place on September 18-19. Registration is open for members and non-members (at a registration fee of \$20). For more information, go to sggee.org.

Das könnte Sie vielleicht interessieren, denn viele Familien haben ihre Wurzeln in Osteuropa. Die **Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe** hält ihre diesjährige Versammlung Online am 18. und 19. September ab. Die Anmeldung ist offen für Mitglieder und Nichtmitglieder (gegen eine Gebühr von \$20). Weitere Informationen finden Sie hier: sggee.org.

Submitted by Pastor Meinhardt

Any submissions to the October 2021 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made 10 days prior to the first Sunday in October. So, submissions for the October Newsletter should be made by noon Thursday September 23, 2021. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnewsl@gmail.com