



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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October 2024

The Cross of Jesus: The Centre of Our Faith

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)

Jesus points out that he will be lifted up with his death on the cross. His death and resurrection are central to our Christian faith.

We believe that Jesus died for our sins on Good Friday on a cross on Golgotha. Three days later – the day we celebrate today as Easter Sunday – God raised him from the dead. Our Saviour did not remain in the realm of death. Rather, he triumphed over the powers of sin and death.

On September 14, the church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Cross. The origins date back to the first half of the 4th century, when Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena claimed to have found the “true cross” on which Jesus died. On the site of the excavations they then had the Church of the Holy Sepulchre be built in Jerusalem.

“Crux probat omnia.” This is what one of my professors once wrote to me in an edition of Luther's works that he had co-edited. This Latin saying goes back to Martin Luther himself and means that the cross is the test of everything. A thought that Luther explained in the Heidelberg Disputation (1518) when he pointed out that in faith we are dependent on God's grace. Our sin and wrongs are exposed in the cross. In contrast, the theology of glory (theologia gloriae) falsely emphasizes that we humans can participate in our salvation.

At our baptism, we are marked with the sign of the cross on our foreheads. This expresses that we belong to Christ in baptism. In baptism, we die with Jesus, but are also raised to new life, just as Jesus rose from the dead. This is also at the centre of the ritual that my daughter and I have been practising for many years: At the end of each day, we trace the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads. I on her forehead, she on mine. There was a time when my daughter first drew a heart on my forehead with her little index finger before she inserted the cross into this heart. She came up with it herself. In doing so, she very aptly reflected the core message of the Lutheran faith. Cross and heart. The cross in the heart.

This sounds familiar to us. We know this from somewhere, namely from the Luther rose. There, too, a cross is placed in the middle of the heart. In a letter to Lazarus Spengler from July 8, 1530, Martin Luther wrote that this rose was “a symbol of my theology,” and described the seal in the following words,

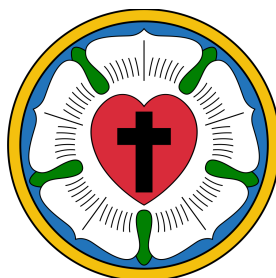
“The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural colour, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. 'For one who believes from the heart will be justified.' [...]

“Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the colour of the spirits and the angels. Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. And around this field is a golden ring,

symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal.”

In a wonderful and astonishing way, God expresses with the cross that he loves us. This love comes to us. By grace. Without our merit. We may – we should – accept his gift, so that all who believe in Jesus as God's only begotten Son “should not perish but have eternal life” (see John 3:16).

In Christ, our crucified, risen, and life-giving Lord,
Bjoern E. Meinhardt, Pastor



Das Kreuz Jesu: Die Mitte unseres Glaubens

Und wie Mose in der Wüste die Schlange erhöht hat, so muss der Menschensohn erhöht werden, auf dass alle, die an ihn glauben, das ewige Leben haben. (Johannes 3,14-15)

Jesus deutet darauf hin, dass er mit dem Tod am Kreuz erhöht werde. Sein Tod und seine Auferstehung sind zentral für unseren christlichen Glauben.

Am Karfreitag starb Jesus auf Golgatha am Kreuz für unsere Sünden, wie wir bekennen. Drei Tage später – dem Tag, den wir heute als Ostersonntag feiern – erweckte Gott ihn aber von den Toten. Der Heiland blieb nicht im Reich des Todes. Er siegte vielmehr über die Mächte von Sünde und Tod.

Am 14. September begeht die Kirche das Fest der Kreuzerhöhung. Die Ursprünge gehen in die erste Hälfte des 4. Jahrhunderts zurück, als Kaiser Konstantin und seine Mutter Helena bei Ausgrabungen in Jerusalem das „wahre Kreuz“ gefunden haben wollen, an dem Jesu starb. Über dem Fundort ließen sie die Grabeskirche errichten.

„Crux probat omnia“, schrieb mir einmal einer meiner Professoren in eine Ausgabe von Luthers Werken, die er mir herausgegeben hatte. Dieser lateinische Ausspruch geht auf Martin Luther zurück und besagt, dass das Kreuz der Prüfstein für alles ist. So hatte Luther es auch bei der Heidelberger Disputation (1518) entfaltet, als er darauf hinwies, dass wir im Glauben auf Gottes Gnadenhandeln angewiesen sind. Im Kreuz kommen unsere Sünde und Fehler zur Sprache. Dagegen betont die Theologie der Herrlichkeit (theologia gloriae) fälschlicherweise, dass wir Menschen an unserer Erlösung teilhaben können.

Auch bei unserer Taufe wird ein Kreuzeszeichen auf unserer Stirn aufgetragen. Damit drücken wir aus, dass wir in der Taufe zu Christus gehören. In der Taufe sterben wir mit Jesus, werden aber auch zu neuem Leben erweckt, wie ja auch Jesus von den Toten auferstand. Das sagt auch das kleine Ritual aus, mit dem meine Tochter und ich schon seit vielen Jahren praktizieren, wenn wir uns gegenseitig am Ende eines jeden Tages das Zeichen des Kreuzes auf der Stirn nachzeichnen. Ich auf ihrer Stirn, sie auf meiner. Es gab eine Zeit, da zeichnete meine Tochter mit ihrem kleinen Zeigefinger erst einmal ein Herz auf meine Stirn, bevor sie das Kreuz in dieses Herz einfügte. Darauf kam sie selber. Damit hat sie die Kernaussage des lutherischen Glaubens sehr treffend wiedergegeben. Kreuz und Herz. Das Kreuz im Herz.

Das kennen wir doch irgendwoher, nämlich von der Lutherrose. Auch dort ist ein Kreuz mitten im Herz angebracht. In einem Brief vom 8. Juli 1530 an Lazarus Spengler hat Martin Luther die Lutherrose als „Merkzeichen meiner Theologie“ wie folgt beschrieben:

„Das erste sollte ein Kreuz sein, schwarz im Herzen, das seine natürliche Farbe hätte, damit ich mir selbst Erinnerung gäbe, dass der Glaube an den Gekreuzigten mich selig macht. Denn so man von Herzen glaubt, wird man gerecht. [...]

Solch Herz aber soll mitten in einer weißen Rose stehen, anzeigen, dass der Glaube Freude, Trost und Friede gibt. Darum soll die Rose weiß und nicht rot sein; denn weiße Farbe ist der Geister und aller Engel Farbe. Solche Rose steht im himmelfarbenen Feld, dass solche Freude im Geist und Glauben ein Anfang ist der himmlischen Freude zukünftig. Und um solch Feld einen goldenen Ring, dass solche Seligkeit im Himmel ewig währet und kein Ende hat und auch köstlich ist über alle Freude und Güter, wie das Gold das edelste, köstlichste Erz ist.“

Auf wunderbare und erstaunliche Weise bringt Gott mit dem Kreuz zum Ausdruck, dass er uns liebt. Diese Liebe kommt zu uns. Aus Gnaden. Ohne unser Verdienst. Dieses Geschenk dürfen – sollen – wir annehmen, auf dass alle, die an Jesus als Gottes eingeborenen Sohn „glauben, nicht verloren werden, sondern das ewige Leben haben“ (s. Johannes 3,16).

In Christo, unserem gekreuzigten, auferstandenen und Leben schaffenden Herrn,
Björn E. Meinhardt, Pfarrer

Pastor's Bible Study

Our next Bible study will be held on *Thursday, October 10*. We start at 7PM.

We want to discuss the matter of “holy war” in the Old Testament. In preparation, please read Joshua 6 (The Fall of Jericho).

You can join the study in person or through Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82944297870?pwd=tW7YgaTgjydX1Ys7OpFYgUVXmhmM1s.1>

Meeting ID: 829 4429 7870

Passcode: 668535

Scripture Lessons for October Worship

Pentecost 20 (Trinitatis 19) – Oct. 6

Genesis 2:18-25

Psalms 128

Hebrews 2:1-18

Mark 10:2-16

Thanksgiving (Erntedank) – Oct. 13

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Psalms 67

Philippians 4:6-20

Luke 17:11-19

Pentecost 22 (Trinitatis 21) – Oct. 20

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Psalms 119:9-16

Hebrews 4:1-16

Mark 10:23-31

Reformation Sunday (Reformations-Sonntag) – Oct. 27

Revelation 14:6-7

Psalms 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

IMPORTANT: There is a joint service on Oct 20 at 10:30 with dinner afterwards. **Please sign up by Oct 10 if you plan to attend the dinner as numbers are needed by the caterers.**

Oct 27th is Reformation Sunday with services at 9:15am (German) and 11am (English).



The next **St. Peter's Eaters** breakfast will be held in the church basement on Saturday, October 26 at 8AM. It's a men's breakfast group to which all men are invited for food and fellowship. If you plan on coming, please sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the church or contact the church office by phone (204.775.6477) or email stpetersoffice@mymts.net.

The next **Women's Circle** will meet on October 27 after the 11 am service. All women are welcome!!

Financial Update - Not audited

Submitted by Ralf Oppitz – Treasurer



“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus..”— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. NIV

As of August 31st:

- Congregational Income [\$40,100] is \$12,030 lower than last year.
- Congregational expenses are \$1,800 higher than last year. Overall we are \$55,870 short, year to date.

Collecting Donations for “The Madison”

The Madison building is a part of the Siloam Mission and offers help and services to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. It is located in the Wolseley neighbourhood on 210 Evanson Street. With fall and winter just around the corner, the administration has provided us with a concrete list of seasonal clothing – new or used. Their residents (men and women) are in need of:

- mittens, hats, scarfs, and socks;
- long underwear (medium and large);
- coats (in medium, large, extra large);
- boots (for men in sizes 8-13, for women in sizes 6, 7, and 9);
- one female resident needs snow pants.

Hygiene items are also in demand, for example: toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, shaving cream, shavers, lotion ...

Please drop the items off at the church when you come to worship or during office hours. Thank you for your assistance.

Special October Birthdays

Jake Wiens, 78 on Oct 5
Philip Kitsch, 94 on Oct 19

Margot Hillus, 83 on Oct 7

We wish you a Happy Birthday and the Lord's blessings for the coming year!

Special October Wedding Anniversaries

Patricia and Helmut Augst, 56 years on Oct 19
Congratulations! We wish you the Lord's continued blessings!

A Shared Celebration...

Submitted by Linda Lurvey

On September 15th, St. Peter's celebrated 94 years as a congregation by inviting the neighbourhood to worship and a barbeque. Thank you to all who made the event happen!



The Neighbourhood Barbeque

Submitted by Elli Kitzmann

The neighbourhood Barbeque on Sunday, September 15th was a wonderful success with approximately 60 people in attendance. A big thank you for the inspired service & music, to those who helped with set-up and clean-up, with grilling and food prep and serving - and to everyone who came out on this beautiful Sunday morning.

Tabs for Wheelchairs

Submitted by Barb Schott

Thank you to everyone who has been collecting aluminum can tabs and bringing them to the church. The tabs are then passed on and pooled with those of other organizations, schools, businesses, groups all doing the same thing. Eventually there are enough tabs to purchase specialized wheelchairs for children.

Here are some statistics that were cited in the June 26, 2024 Free Press Community Review East Newspaper:

- the program is in its 26th year and highly successful
- 61 wheelchairs have been presented to date
- 1,500 tabs = 1 lb in weight which garners 60 cents
- This year approximately 19 million tabs were collected!

While these statistics may seem overwhelming, it's because of the many generous people committed to this program, that those small tabs add up and make a big difference in someone's life. Thank you Elli Kitzmann, for initiating and looking after this program at St. Peter's.

Our Safety & Security

Submitted by the Property Committee

On two separate occasions over the past two months, our church building was left unlocked, though the alarm had been set. Most recently, this was brought to our attention by a staff member from Villa Rosa, who stopped by on a Monday, mid-day, to drop off a thank you card. She opened the back door and saw that no one was in the office. She then went to the front doors and opened them, and saw that everything was dark. By this time, the alarm, which had been set, but was now breached was going off. Protelec then contacted Pastor, the first person on our call list, and he came down and together with the security detail, did a walk-through of the building.

Our primary concern is for the safety and security of our staff, parishioners, groups, as well as our church building.

We would like to remind everyone, all groups, and the Sunday morning services, to please take responsibility, and perhaps share that responsibility and check with one another, to ensure the entire building - all 3 doors - are not just **CLOSED** but also **LOCKED - BEFORE** setting the alarm. The alarm can be set as long as the doors are closed and the contacts on the doors touch. However, that does not mean the doors are locked.

Another reminder to everyone to also make sure your cars are locked. Gudrun has witnessed on several occasions on our security monitor, individuals walking amongst the cars, lifting handles, and we have had incidents of theft in the past.



Submitted by Jerry Roehr The Kuwala Annual General Meeting was held at our Church on September 12, 2024, and those in attendance were impressed with the progress made, not only for the last nine years, but also in the past year.

The reported income came in the form of donations totalling \$578,806.00. (Mark Kinzel said it took a lot of door-knocking.) With all the expansion and new construction, there was a small deficit of \$22,167.00, which reserve funds covered. The amount from fundraising was \$1,101.00, and administration accounted for 1%. There are 105 donors in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario and the United States. The 2023 Annual Report can be found on the kuwla.org website under operations; click the + sign.



The school principal, Memory, reported that 100% of the students in Form One and Two passed their statewide exams. Results of the higher grades were not available at the time. The end of the school year was celebrated with a festive dinner.



Opposite is an earlier picture of the workshop construction. The group travelling to Malawi earlier in the year brought along not only donated communication equipment (Cameras, microphones, projectors, etc) but also lots of DeWalt power tools. The next construction project will be a \$170,000.00 administration building to house a medical clinic, sewing and other trades skills, as well as a teacher's gathering place.

Mission Budget. With your donations, we were able to provide funds to seven budgeted and unbudgeted organizations. To reach our \$31,000.00 budget goal, adopted at the annual meeting, we still need \$4,500.00 to fund three agreed-upon projects. As you prepare your Thanksgiving offering, please consider supporting Missions in your offering envelope.

Submitted by Jerry Roehr

Kesete Family. Jerry Roehr was able to meet Mahari in Addis Ababa in June, and Mahari appreciated the visit. Mehari has qualified as a refugee, passed his medical and is awaiting his security interview. We have now been informed that Mehari is waiting for his security clearance (fingerprinting etc). He should be arriving in Winnipeg sometime later this year.

Barbara Schott and Linda Lurvey attended Denait's graduation from Windsor Park Collegiate, and Linda also attended the graduation celebration organized by the Eritrean community. *Submitted by Jerry Roehr*

Rev. Peter J. Sterling. Jerry Roehr recently learned that Pastor Sterling passed away after a long stay in a convalescent home. Pastor Sterling was our Pastor for six months in 2013. In a letter sent, to be read at his funeral, we expressed that we were reminded that God uses the gifts of many individuals to make us gain knowledge and deepen our understanding of the life-saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. *Submitted by Jerry Roehr*

Cluster Groups

At the mission renewal meeting with Pastor Wendel in June 2022, one of the action points that was identified was the formation of cluster groups. These are smaller groups with about 3-8 participants that will meet at regular intervals in a member's home to discuss topics relevant to our Christian faith (this could for example be a book study, or watching and discussing a Christian documentary/movie or sharing devotions).

If you are interested in participating in a cluster group, please complete the given form below and either

1. email it to oellermann@gmail.com with "Cluster Group" in the Subject line or
2. call Ortrud Oellermann at 204-487 2175 with the requested information (leave a message if necessary) or
3. complete this form and deposit it in a box that will be available in the Narthex by October 13.

If you sign up to be a part of a cluster group, we will assign you to a suitable group - preferably one that meets close to where you live. Meeting times and topics will be decided after cluster groups have been formed and leaders have been identified.

I wish to participate in a Cluster Group:

- My Name (if more than one member from a household wish to participate, include all relevant names):
.....
- Your address and part of the city where you live:
- Your telephone number:
- Your email (if applicable):
- If there is a member you'd like to be in a cluster group with, please give us their name.
.....

**Any submissions for the November 2024 edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter should be made by noon
Thur, October 24, 2024. Submissions should be sent to Ortrud Oellermann at stpetersnewsl@gmail.com**

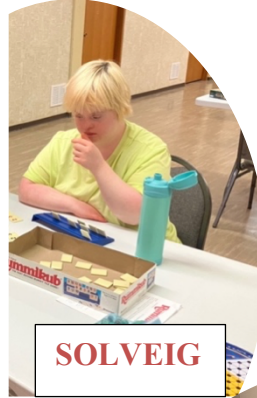
Young Adults News

August 2024 – Issue #2

By Emily Adams



KYLIE, KELE, ANDREA, MAX



SOLVEIG



PATIENCE

FRIENDS SURVIVING THE WEATHER TOGETHER!

Pictures taken by Nancy Lange during the “Not croquet, at the not park” aka board games at the church basement.



THE GROUP

Coffee and cake served by Emily Adams and Patience Saabon, was a smashing success. This was due in part to the overwhelming number of options to choose from for cake - there were four. Not to be outdone by Emily’s coffee and cake, Patience served up fresh flowers and homemade bookmarks. The congregation appreciated the opportunity to visit together, and everyone was certainly well provided for on that sunny August morning.

If only the weather in Winnipeg would hold more than 5 minutes. The planned event of Croquet in Assiniboine Park was cancelled by both rain and extreme heat...in the same day. What a city. Just as God offered a rainbow as a promise, we promised board games and snacks in the church basement, and what a smash they were. Although everyone won something that hot, rainy, humid afternoon, there was one person in particular who won so many times, that she sprouted plants of good fortune!

Last but not least, the Red River Circuit invited our Young Adults to a gathering at Beautiful Saviour Lutheran Church in St. Vital. It was a good thing the croquet game was cancelled and board games were played instead, as they turned out to be good practise for this event when Kele and Max went up against other local Lutheran Churches in various contests of skill and luck.



There are two Schreckenbachs in this picture. How fast can you spot them?

Picture was taken by Nathan Friesen, a YA who attended the Red River Circuit Young Adult meet.

A big congratulations goes out to Andrea and Paul on the occasion of their wedding on August 10, a day warm with gentle love.